SUBSCRIPTION

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Amir meets Olympians, fetes Deehani, Rashidi

Medalists hail honor, dedicate wins to leadership

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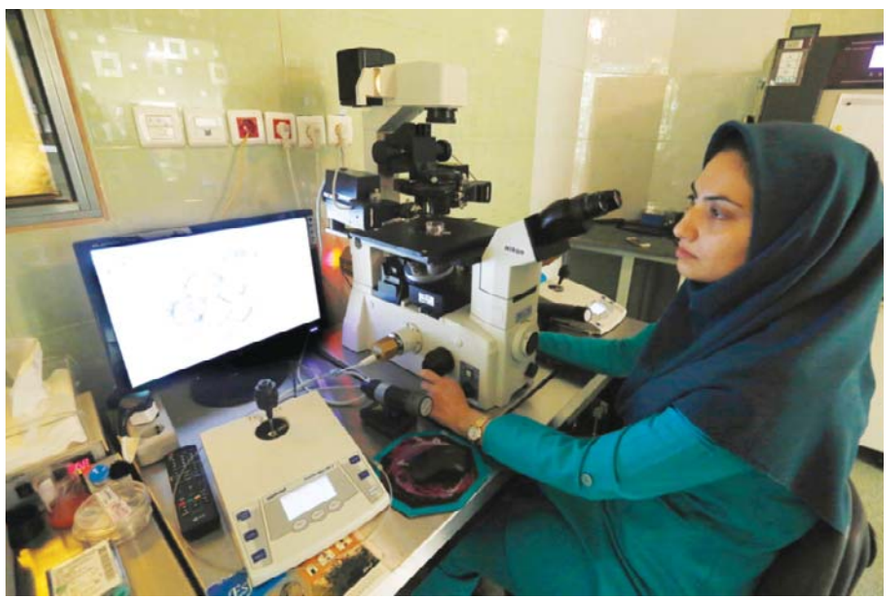
KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honors Olympic medalists Fehaid Al-Deehani (left) and Abdullah Al-Rashidi (right) at Bayan Palace yesterday. — KUNA

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday shooters Fehaid Al-Deehani and Abdullah Al-Rashidi, who won gold and bronze medals respectively at the Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympic Games. The meeting, which saw HH the Amir also receiving a number of other athletes who took part in the Games, was held in the presence of HH the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Director General of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah.

The Amir lauded the achievements of Deehani and Rashidi and called on all Kuwaiti athletes to follow the examples set by them, affirming that the two sportsmen made Kuwait as well as Arab and Muslim nations proud. HH Sheikh Sabah honored Rashidi with a medal in recognition of his achievement. Deehani previously received a similar honor. The Amir also gifted Deehani KD 100,000 and a plot of residential land, while Rashidi received KD 50,000 and a plot of industrial land.

In statements to KUNA, Deehani and Rashidi said they are honored to have been feted by HH the Amir, adding they dedicate their sporting accolades to the Kuwaiti leadership. Moreover, Deehani, who emerged victorious in the men's double trap event in Rio, said that he is "honored to have amassed three Olympic medals for Kuwait". He previously won bronze medals at the 2000 and 2012 Olympics. Meanwhile, Rashidi, who won bronze in the men's skeet competition in Rio, echoed his compatriot's sentiments, thanking the Amir for his support of the nation's athletes. Chairman of the Kuwait Shooting Club Duaij Al-Otaibi noted that athletes have grown accustomed to being honored by the country's leadership for any sporting feat they achieve. — KUNA



TEHRAN: An Iranian doctor works with samples at the Avicenna embryology and infertility center in the capital on June 29, 2016. — AFP

Iranians fight rising infertility and taboos

TEHRAN: With infertility rising in pollution-plagued Iran, a growing number of couples must navigate the country's web of social and religious taboos as they seek treatment. After years of struggling for a second child, Mohammed and his wife made the difficult decision to visit a fertility clinic in Tehran. Waiting anxiously in the corridor while his wife underwent in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), the 45-year-old said his biggest concern was that his family might find out.

"Some people don't like to admit they are receiving a donation because family members might later say that the sperm was not his and the child cannot inherit anything as he or she is not part of the family by blood," he said. In fact, the doctors were using Mohammed's own sperm, but he was worried his family might not believe that. This happened to one of his cousins who was born through IVF treatment and later became embroiled in a bitter inheritance dispute with his family.

Continued on Page 13

15 from Gitmo sent to UAE in major transfer

WASHINGTON: Fifteen Guantanamo Bay detainees have been transferred to the United Arab Emirates, the largest such release in years, the Pentagon announced yesterday. The latest transfers bring the remaining population of the detention center down to 61. Since the Sept 11, 2001 attacks, about 780 inmates have been housed in the US military-run facility. According to a State Department official, speaking on condition of anonymity, 12 of the men are from Yemen and three are Afghans.

The Pentagon has previously struggled to find a third country to take Yemeni detainees, given that they can't go home because of the civil war in their nation. "The United States is grateful to the government of the United Arab Emirates for its humanitarian gesture and willingness to support ongoing US efforts to close" Guantanamo, athe Pentagon said in a statement. Once transferred, former inmates are usually freed subject to supervision and undergoing rehabilitation programs.

Amnesty International USA welcomed the announcement as a sign President Barack Obama is serious about closing the controversial facility before he leaves office. "It's a significant repudiation of the idea that Guantanamo is going to be open for business for the indefinite future," Naureen Shah, Amnesty International USA's security and human rights program director, told AFP.

According to Amnesty, one of the Afghans released to the UAE alleged that he was "tortured and subjected to other cruel treatment" while in US military custody.

Continued on Page 13

Russia launches Syria raids from Iran

MOSCOW: Russia said yesterday its warplanes flew out of an Iranian airbase for the first time to bomb militant groups in Syria, as fighting raged for control of the ravaged city of Aleppo. The deployment marks a major switch in the bombing campaign the Kremlin launched in September to support Syrian leader Bashar Al-Assad, as until now Moscow had only flown raids out of its bases in Syria and Russia.

It is thought to be the first time that Iran has allowed a foreign power to use its territory for military operations since the 1979 Islamic revolution, as it is virtually unheard of in Iran's recent history to allow a foreign power to use one of its bases to stage attacks from. Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi said yesterday Iraq, which lies between Iran and Syria, had granted Russia permission to use its airspace, on the condition the planes use corridors along Iraq's borders and not fly over Iraqi cities. Abadi told a press conference the same permission has been given to air forces of a separate US-led coalition against Islamic State flying to Syria from Kuwait.

Continued on Page 13

ALEPPO: Syrian men stand next to a body bag in front of a makeshift hospital in the Tariq Al-Bab neighborhood following air raids that targeted rebel-held areas in this northern city yesterday. — AFP

Former FIFA president Havelange dies at 100

Joao Havelange

RIO DE JANEIRO: Joao Havelange, who was president of FIFA for two decades transformed soccer's governing body into a multibillion-dollar business and a hotbed for subsequent corruption that damaged its reputation, has died. He was 100. Havelange, who was suffering from a respiratory infection, died early yesterday while Rio de Janeiro was hosting the Olympic Games, according to the Samaritano Hospital.

In 2009, Havelange led off Rio's bid presentation to the International Olympic Committee in Copenhagen by inviting the members to vote to "join me in celebrating my 100th birthday'" at the 2016 Games in Brazil. — AP (See Page 16)

This image provided by Google shows its new video chatting app Duo on mobile devices. — AP

Knock, knock! Google Duo video call is here

SAN FRANCISCO: Knock, knock, Google's video chatting app has arrived. The app, dubbed Duo, represents Google's response to other popular video calling options, including Apple's FaceTime, Microsoft's Skype and Facebook's Messenger app. Duo isn't much different from the other video chatting services, except that it gives a glimpse at who is making the call, helping the recipient decide whether to answer. Google calls this feature "Knock, knock".

The new app, announced in May, was being released yesterday as a free service for phones running on Google's Android operating system as well as Apple's iPhones. Like FaceTime for iPhones, Duo only requires a person's phone number to connect. Many other services require both participants to have account logins to use their video calling options. Google has been offering video calling through its Hangout feature for several years, but the internet company is now tailoring that service for business meetings.

Duo is being billed as a simpler, more reliable way to see friends and family as you talk to them. Google said video calls would work even on slower networks by "gracefully" reducing the resolution to keep the call going smoothly. "For video calls on the go, Duo will switch between Wi-Fi and cellular data automatically without dropping your call," Justin Uberti, principal software engineer, wrote in a blog post. — Agencies

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meet with members of the Public Authority for Sports and Public Authority of Youth, in the presence of Information and Youth Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

Amir, Crown Prince receive five-year youth strategy

'Smart Brain' students meet Amir

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, alongside His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday.

His Highness the Amir also received Director General of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, along with a contingent from PAS, who presented to His Highness the Amir the youth strategy for the years 2016/2017-2020/2021.

Moreover, His Highness the Amir underscored the importance of catering to the youth to help them realize their aspirations. The meeting was attended by Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Mohammad Daifallah Sharar.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meet with Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences officials and students.

Firm support

Meanwhile, Director General of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi said that His Highness the Amir stands firmly in support of all efforts to serve the best interests of youth. In a statement, Mutairi said that His Highness the Crown Prince, in a meeting with a PAY team, underscored the importance of engaging the youth in ways that would bring development plans to fruition.

Moreover, Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs Yousef Al-Yatama noted that His Highness the Amir received a document detailing PAY's youth strategy, one of the key issues the ministry has been tasked with.

Speaking on the strategy for the years 2016/2021, official spokesperson for the Minister of State for Youth Affairs' office Anwar Al-Azmi said that all measures that cater to the youth are embedded in this strategy. Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah later met with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and presented to him the PAS's strategy for the next five years. On Thursday, PAY unveiled its five-year youth strategy in a gala that coincided with International Youth Day.

Students' achievement

Also yesterday, His Highness the Amir and His Highness the Crown Prince received Director General of Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) Dr Adnan Ahmad Shihab Eldin.

His Highness the Amir also received members of a KFAS creativity center and students who had recently won the 'Smart Brain' international quiz competition held in Thailand. His Highness the Amir extolled the feat, describing the students as the pride of the nation and calling on them to carry on their efforts in the future.

After the meeting, Shihab Eldin lauded the unconditional support by His Highness the Amir to the students of science in Kuwait. The KFAS chief further stated that the students, were very pleased to have met with His Highness Sheikh Sabah, affirming that the meeting will boost their strive for scientific achievement in the future. — KUNA

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets student Al-Aliya Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives the youth strategy from Public Authority for Sports and Public Authority of Youth members.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets student Latifa Al-Khuzaim.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets student Al-Aliya Al-Sabah.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets student Ibrahim Al-Khashti.

His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets student Hadeel Khalaf.

His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets student Aiysha Al-Ajmi.

Preparations underway for 2nd anniversary of Amir's UN honoring

Ministry of Information's Undersecretary Mohammad Al-A'wash

KUWAIT: Preparations are underway for the second anniversary celebrating the UN honoring of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as a global humanitarian leader, the Ministry of Information said in a statement yesterday. The celebrations, to be held on September ninth, will highlight this glorious occasion, undersecretary at the Ministry of Information Mohammad Al-A'wash said. Special programs on Kuwait television and radio will air soon during the anniversary, said the official, adding that several reports will highlight Kuwait's humanitarian efforts in the region and around the globe. He noted that a special feature was in production depicting His Highness the Amir's humanitarian role, adding that the movie will also touch on the honoring by the UN of His Highness Sheikh Sabah. — KUNA

Assembly continues issuance of youth supporting laws: Speaker

National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem

KUWAIT: The National Assembly will continue to issue laws to support and encourage youth to engage in different fields, said Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem yesterday. In a press statement on the occasion of the International Youth Day, Ghanem stressed the importance of the recently-issued laws for youth in sports, small-enterprises fund and establishing an independent authority for youth. He also noted that the assembly is adopting policies to grant youth the opportunity to take part in leading and supervisory jobs. The assembly also holds an annual session for youth where they can freely discuss different issues and challenges they face in order to resolve these matters, he added. — KUNA

Diwan minister receives new German Ambassador

KUWAIT: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah yesterday received the new German Ambassador Karlfried Bergner, discussing issues of common interest and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Nasser held a luncheon at Bayan Palace in honor of visiting Governor of Basra Dr Majid Al-Nasrawi and his delegation. The luncheon was attended by members of the Supreme Planning Council, Adviser at the Amiri Diwan Dr Yousef Al-Ibrahim, Governor of the Capital Retired Lieutenant General Thabit Al-Muhanna and Kuwait's General Consul in Basra Yousef Al-Sabbagh. — KUNA

KUWAIT: Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah meets with the new German Ambassador Karlfried Bergner. — KUNA

State to dismiss doubts of legality of Kuwait's sport participation abroad: Cabinet Minister

Hope law implementation lifts suspension

KUWAIT: The government is keen on implementing a 1978 sport law, which was amended by parliament last June, in order to dismiss doubts about legality of Kuwait participation in international sport event, a minister said Monday. The government "seeks to implement law number 42 which was implemented since 1978 until 2006 in order to dismiss all claims about legal status of Kuwait's international participation in all sports," Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah said.

Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah

He was speaking to reporters on sidelines of a reception at Kuwait airport of Abdullah Al-Rashidi, the Kuwaiti shooter who won the bronze medal in the skeet competition of the Rio 2016 Olympic games. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended Kuwait in October 2015 due to what it claimed was the government's interference in sport.

"It was a local (Kuwait-originated) complaint that caused suspension of Kuwait under pretext that Kuwait laws are non-complying with international laws and Olympic Charter," he said, but did not elaborate on the source of the complaint. "It is hard to imagine that some of our countrymen seek to block the lifting of suspension on Kuwait sport and thus hoisting Kuwaiti flag in international events," he said.

Sheikh Mohammad said Kuwait's participation in the Olympics in 1980 and the FIFA 1982 World Cup was through the very laws the country was following. "We are waiting to see how credible the international sport authorities are in order to do Kuwait justice," he said.

If these authorities fail to accept these laws, added Sheikh Mohammad, "then this will raise a big question as to what these authorities were doing during previous competitions." "Kuwait's suspension will be lifted sooner or later along with respect of international laws," he said. The amended law that Sheikh Mohammad talked about provided financial allocations for supporting sports institutions, which conducted their activities within the general policy defined by the relevant ministry. In addition, a sports club is managed by a board of directors, and has a general assembly. The statute will identify the formation, as well as domains and powers.

A club member is not allowed to have the membership of another club. No board member is allowed to do an additional job in the club. A member of a club's general assembly is allowed to give his vote for just one candidate running for the elections of the board of directors. A lot will be held for candidates who receive equal votes, to decide a single winner. In addition, no person is allowed to have the membership of more than one board of directors in a club or a federation, the Olympic Committee or the Public Authority for Sports.

Once this happens, the member is given a 10-day period to make a choice. If the member does not decide within the grace period, he will be considered to have chosen the recent post, and resigned from the old one. According to the bill, the general assembly or the relevant minister can dissolve a club's board, through a causative decision, and a put in place an interim committee that takes over the board's powers in line with the statute, for a renewable period of six months.

The dissolution can take place in case the board violates the provisions of this bill, the club's statute or the resolutions, memos or bylaws of the Public Authority for Sports; Or if the decision is for the good of the club and its members.

Sports dispute

In case a sports dispute arises between a club and the relevant federation, the issue must be referred to the Olympic Committee. Once the Committee issues a ruling, each has 15 days to appeal. If a dispute takes place between a sports federation and the Olympic Committee, the whole matter has to be referred to the relevant minister. The minister's decision is final, and can be challenged in court.

Article 30 of the new bill law provides that, without prejudice to any more severe penalty in the Penal Code or any other law, penalties will be rendered to whoever conducts an activity for a sports institution that opposes the purpose it was created for, or causes a disruption of its sports activities, or spends money away from the purpose or uses its funds in financial speculations or causes it a financial loss to the body. Penalties include imprisonment for not less than a year, or more than three years and a fine of minimum KD 5,000, and maximum KD 10,000, or one of them. — KUNA

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meet with shooters Fehaid Al-Deehani and Abdullah Al-Rashidi, in presence of other athletes and state officials. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos

Kuwait loaded with talented, qualified individuals: Premier

Olympic medalists meet top state figures

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Kuwaiti athletes who participated in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday at Bayan Palace the Kuwaiti athletes participated in the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Summer Olympic Games.

The athletes were accompanied by Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Director General of the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and Deputy Director General of Sports Affairs at PAS Dr Humoud Flaiteh.

Moreover, His Highness the Prime Minister congratulated shooter Fehaid Al-Deehani on his gold medal in the men's double trap competition and his compatriot Abdullah Al-Rashidi on his bronze in the men's skeet contest. Though diminutive in size, Kuwait is loaded with talented and qualified individuals, His Highness the Prime Minister said. The two Olympians had met earlier yesterday with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as well. — KUNA

EPA points to significance of key environmental project

National grid to inspect marine environment

KUWAIT: A key project to create a national grid to inspect marine environment holds much significance since it reinforces the new environmental protection law, the Environment Public Authority (EPA) said yesterday.

EPA Director General Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah made those remarks in a statement after meeting with His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah to launch the project. Moreover, the EPA Director General noted that discussions with His Highness the Prime Minister ran the gamut from the grid project to an impending Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) environmental portal and the United Nations (UN) Information Society 2016 Prize, recently won by EPA. Speaking on the grid project, Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad revealed that it consists of 15 stations interspersed throughout marine environments, designed to instantaneously administer chemical and biological details of these environments. The stations, he added, would help EPA better respond to maritime emergencies as they feature the latest breakthrough technologies.

KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah is pictured during a ceremony organized by the Environment Public Authority yesterday to launch a national grid to inspect marine environment. — KUNA

Meanwhile, on wining the UN Information Society 2016 Prize, the EPA Director General described it as a momentous achievement, as it was the 15th award EPA had amassed in the last six years. He also noted that a planned GCC environmental portal will be launched in October, set to be a comprehensive source on environmental information in the region.

In other news, His Highness the Prime Minister received the United Nations (UN) Information Society 2016 Prize, won by EPA at the World Summit on the Information Society held recently in Geneva. Moreover, His Highness the Prime Minister was briefed on a planned Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) environmental portal, set to be launched in October. His Highness the Prime Minister highlighted the need of rigid environmental protection laws to conserve the environment. — KUNA

VIVA Recognizes the Olympic Golden Champion Deehani

Lifetime free calls and data

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announces the recognition of the Olympic Kuwaiti Champion Fehaid Al-Deehani, who won for the first time during Kuwait's participations in Olympics the gold medal in the double-trap competition in Rio 2016.

Abdelrazaq Bader Al-Essa, Corporate Communications Director at VIVA, offered Deehani a free platinum number costs KD 10,000 with lifetime free calls and data, in addition to his membership in VIVA Elite program for distinguished customers.

Commenting on this occasion, Essa said: "We are keen at VIVA to support sport and Kuwaiti athletes, through our initiatives in VIVA's CSR program that embraces those who represent the State of Kuwait, inside and outside, and make achievements, in addition to our sponsorship for many sport activities."

He added: "We are all proud of the champion Fehaid Al-Deehani, and VIVA honors him for the second time, in recognition of winning the gold medal in Rio 2016, and his participation in VIVA Elite program, is an appreciation for such big accomplishment and an urge to continue his mission of success, in order to enthusiast his peers."

Kuwait capital of Islamic culture '16 event important: Info Minister

KUWAIT: The success of the Kuwait as capital of Islamic culture for 2016 is very important for our country's reputation, said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday. This statement came after Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud met with members of the planning committee tasked with coordinating and supervising the celebrations. The meeting touched on the preparations for the finale of event and how to "end it on a high note", said the minister.

Events such as the 41st Kuwait international book fair, preparations for the Islamic moderation conference in Egypt in March 2017, as well as inviting figures and officials to partake the finale of the Kuwait as capital of Islamic culture will hopefully contribute to the success of the event, said the minister. The Islamic Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) chose Kuwait as capital of Islamic culture for 2016 during a meeting for Islamic cultural ministers held in Baku, Azerbaijan 2009.

In other news, Sheikh Salman said that a summer camp, which kicked off activities at Al-Ardhiya Youth Center Sunday, aimed at exploring potentials of youth to develop them. The summer camp is designed to enabling the youth use their free time during the summer in several activities that would develop their skills, Sheikh Salman, also Minister of Information, said in a statement as he was visiting the camp.

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah is pictured with youngsters during his visit to the Summer Camp at Al-Ardhiya Youth Center. — KUNA

The Ministry of Youth, the Public Authority for Sport (PAS) and the Public Authority for Youth (PAY), in collaboration with the National Council for Culture, Art and Letters (NCCAL) are keen on having a fully-fledged summer program for the youth, he noted.

Sheikh Salman said the summer camp - which includes cultural, cooking, technical and sport activities - was held in collaboration of state institutions, private sector and civil society organizations. Sheikh Salman announced that an aqua park would be opened in Fahaheel and the admission would be for free for a month. He did not set a date of the opening.

Awareness activities

Yusuf Al-Yetama, Acting Undersecretary of the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, said the summer camp also included awareness and entertaining activities. Abdulrahman Al-Mutairi, Director General of PAY, said the ministry of youth, PAS and PAY have prepared a bundle of programs lucrative for the youth. "We are keen to have a safe environment" for the youth, he said.

"The aim is to invest in their (youth) energies and time with the objective of benefiting the Kuwaiti society," said Mutairi, noting that the youth have plenty of free time during summer "therefore we were keen on launching these summer programs." The summer camp - targeting 14-34 years old age group - includes training courses in cooking, diving, marine rescue, painting, fundamentals of photography and making short movies. — KUNA

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No increase in cooking gas cylinders' price

Top security chief denies transfer rumors

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: The finance ministry denied reports that the price of cooking gas cylinders were soon going to be raised six- or threefold above the current price, adding that a report published yesterday on that regard is incorrect. The ministry said that it has arrangements with regards to subsidies and redistributing them in a way that does not affect middle- and limited-income groups. The government had decided last month to reduce subsidization of gasoline starting from September 1.

Prices

Meanwhile, MP Faisal Al-Kandari demanded that Commerce Minister Yousuf Al-Ali cancel the decision of liberalizing prices immediately and operate according to the previous decision that froze prices of all products. Kandari said it is not realistic for the minister to reverse his initial decision he took in April by issuing a decision a few days ago to cancel the price-freeze decision, adding that it is strange to stop the decision at the time when the petrol price increase will come into effect at the start of next month.

Not retiring

Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Passports Major General Mazen Al-Jarrah denied rumors about moving him from his post as undersecretary for nationality and passports to the ministry diwan, confirming that he is still at work. "I am a uniformed person and serve in the Interior Ministry in any sector, and whenever they decide my time is up, then I will move aside, but so far I am still at work," he said.

Overhead power lines

Minister of Electricity and Water Ahmad Al-Jassar will visit today the site of the overhead power lines' project in Mutlaa near the kilo 18 (Al-Liyah), which covers the line connecting Rawdatain and Jahra. In other news, a Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) official denied reports claiming that the ministry's judicial jurisdiction team is ignoring commercial, farming, investment and industrial water wastage violations and concentrating on residential water consumption only. MEW Undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri said the team works hard with the same standards by citing violators regardless of whom they may be, adding that all are equal in front of the law. He said the team issues warnings and citations to all users without exception.

'Kout' crackdown

The Ministry of Commerce and Industry said the commercial supervision and customer protection sector discovered violations at the vegetables and fish market in Al-Kout complex in Fahaheel. The ministry said the violations included increasing prices, cheating in weighing, not placing prices, changing the country of origin, declaring sales without a license from the ministry, and cheating by selling moldy meat and clearly spoiled fish. The ministry asked consumers to call the hotline 135 in case of any cheating, and the ministry will take necessary action.

Case adjourned

The criminal court adjourned its first hearing to try suspects of the Abdaly cell to call the rest of suspects. Only five suspects were present at yesterday's session, which was held behind closed doors, and they denied charges of being trained on the use of weapons outside the country. The rest of charges will be discussed at the cassation court, and the date of its session has not been announced yet.

The man who confessed of dumping the victim's body after she died from a drug overdose.

Officials inspect the drugs.

Construction site body identified, died of overdose

Man shoots self inside Mubarakiya office

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Criminal detectives were able to determine the identity of a woman who was found dead in Jaber Al-Ahmad, and determined the cause of death was a drug overdose. Fingerprints of the woman were taken and she was identified. Investigations showed the woman was with a bedoon man named Nasser Ali. The man was arrested and confessed to dumping the body in Jaber Al-Ahmad after the woman died of a heroin overdose. He was sent to concerned authorities.

The body of the victim, who was identified as a Palestinian woman born in 1980, was found outside a building under construction in Jaber Al-Ahmad Monday wrapped in a blue sheet. Construction workers who went to a building they were working and found something wrapped up, and discovered that it was a dead body. Police found her residency permit had expired, and owed KD 50,000 to an investment company. The body was recovered by the coroner.

Suicide

Meanwhile, the Relations and Security Information Department said preliminary information about the death of a citizen in his office indicated that he committed suicide. The forensics report said blood was scattered on the deceased's clothes from top to bottom without signs of violence or resistance, in addition to the weapon's position.

Earlier reports had indicated that an ex-convict suffering from depression killed himself in his Mubarakiya office. Police received a call about the incident, and when they went to the scene, they found a bloodied man with a shotgun next to him. A security source said the deceased was born in 1956, and was convicted for various cases including possession of unlicensed firearms, and suffered from depression. Several new shotguns were found in his office.

Smuggling foiled

Farwaniya detectives discovered marijuana sent in a parcel from India via the UAE. Tips indicated that a postal parcel will arrive claiming it contains tealeaves, imported by a Pakistani man named Fakhruzzaman. Detectives arranged with the air cargo department to trace the parcel, and waited until the suspect received it. The suspect said he ordered the drugs for trade, taking advantage of the company he owns with a partner. He said he has been bringing this drug this way for some time. He was sent to concerned authorities. Separately, acting director of the customs department said with coordination between the detectives' sector and northern ports customs, a container arriving from an Arab country was busted with a large quantity of illicit pills in it.

Campaign

Jahra municipality carried out an inspection campaign in a mall to make sure about signboard licenses as part of an ongoing campaign. The campaign resulted in issuing 25 citations - 13 for non-renewal, seven for having unlicensed signs, one for lack of maintenance and three for making signs without permission.

KUWAIT: This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows a man arrested for attempting to smuggle marijuana into Kuwait inside a parcel imported from India via the UAE.

A syringe filled with drugs found with the suspect.

The suspect's vehcile.

Iraq's Basra Governor lauds Kuwait's support

Desire to integrate Al-Faw, Mubarak Al-Kabeer ports

KUWAIT: Visiting governor of the Iraqi city of Basra Dr Majid Al-Nasrawi has extolled Kuwait's stance supporting his country at donors' conference held in Washington last month, stressing Kuwait has always been backing its Arab sister states.

Speaking at a news conference on Monday, he said "this is the second visit for me to Kuwait since I became Basra's governor," adding that he is accompanied by a high-level delegation of businessmen and parliamentarians. He also praised Kuwait's projects and the inauguration of its consulate in Basra that opened horizons before Kuwaitis and Iraqis to achieve mutual interests.

He said meetings with the Kuwaiti officials discussed means of opening new horizons of cooperation and a possibility of signing agreements between Basra and Kuwait. He added that he discussed with Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah measures of granting Iraqis, especially businessmen, visas to facilitate the movement of Iraqi goods to Kuwait.

The Iraqi official stressed that the security dossier was on the top priority of the meeting, indicating that there have been efforts exerted by the two countries to safeguard borders and combat drug as well as exchange security information. He stressed that both Iraq and Kuwait have a desire to achieve integration on the ports of Al-Faw and Mubarak Al-Kabeer to get the utmost benefit.

KUWAIT: Governor of the Iraqi city of Basra Dr Majid Al-Nasrawi speaks at the news conference. — KUNA

On Kuwaiti people's properties in Basra, the governor emphasized this matter was handled by a commission, noting that every Kuwaiti owning properties in the governorate can deal with the Kuwaiti consulate and the governorate so as to document his/her property, warning of dealing with bodies issuing fraud documents.

The governor and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kuwait Sunday on an official visit which concluded yesterday. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and Minister of Amiri Diwan Affairs Sheikh Nasser Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah received the Iraqi official. — KUNA

Kuwait's Yemen relief efforts continue: KRCS

KUWAIT: Kuwait is playing a key role in aiding displaced and Yemeni refugees affected by the ongoing civil war. As part of their role in providing humanitarian aid to Yemenis, Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS), Al-Najat Charity and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in GCC states' meetings on relief operations for Yemen, held in Saudi Arabia this month. Speaking yesterday, KRCS' Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi said the society is facing a challenge to deliver aid to all Yemenis in need inside Yemen or in neighboring countries.

These people, including millions of women, children and elderly are living in severe conditions, he said. Kuwait's governmental and other charity organizations continue to deliver all types of aid under direct orders of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. KRCS has delivered 60,000 baskets containing health-care and other necessary survival items in different Yemeni cities, and will also provide education for 200 orphans in the upcoming academic year, said Hasawi.

Meanwhile, he noted that GCC states are cooperating with the Supreme Yemeni Committee for Relief to boost joint-aid efforts through King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center in Riyadh. Hasawi also called on philanthropists to donate to ease the suffering of Yemenis, adding that donations can be made through KRCS' official website or by visiting the society's headquarters. — KUNA

Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia meets with local senior officials

KUWAIT: Kuwait's Ambassador to Australia Najib Abdulrahman Al-Bader held a series of bilateral meetings with a number of Queensland's local officials in order to enhance bilateral ties between both nations. He met with Speaker of the Queensland Parliament Peter Wellington, Chief Justice Catherine Holmes, as well as Councilor Angela Owen, Minister of Labor and Industry, and head of the opposition, as they tackled means of enhancing and developing cooperation between Kuwait and Queensland state.

During the diplomat's official visit to the state, he discussed a number of issues of common interest, inviting Kuwaiti investors to initiate commercial exchange with Queensland to benefit from the attractive economic environment. Bader also met with officials in charge of commerce, international cooperation, investments, education and mining, as well as Australia-Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AACCI).

Bader stressed the importance of boosting bilateral cooperation in all domains, especially in the fields of mining, natural gas, energy, agriculture, and tourism. He also met later Presidents of universities in which Kuwaiti students are enrolled, tackling means of enhancing partnership between the academic and research institutions in Kuwait and Queensland in the field of education and medical researches, innovation and Nanotechnology. The Kuwaiti diplomat met later with Kuwaiti students studying in nine Australian states and became acquainted with their needs.

Meanwhile, Bader met with the General Governor of Queensland Paul de Jersey, discussing with him issues of common interest, especially means of boosting bilateral relations. He conveyed to De Jersy greetings and appreciation of the Kuwaiti political leadership and its keenness to bolster ties between both nations. Kuwait is among 20 vital commercial partners to Australia as a number of Kuwaiti investments are present in Queensland.

Queensland is the second-largest and third-most-populous state in the Commonwealth of Australia. Situated in the north-east of the country, it is bordered by the Northern Territory, South Australia and New South Wales to the west, southwest and south respectively. To the east, Queensland is bordered by the Coral Sea and Pacific Ocean, with a population of 4,750,500. — KUNA

Court acquits man of swindling, 2-year jail sentence annulled

KUWAIT: The misdemeanors court ruled a citizen is innocent of swindling and annulled a previous ruling to jail him for two years. The court accepted the civil complaint submitted by the victim for KD 5,001 as temporary compensation, and to rule again in canceling this ruling. The court case began when the victim gave KD 33,000 to the suspect after an agreement with his father to exchange the land lots allocated to them by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare. The suspect's father traveled abroad, so the victim filed a complaint with the public prosecution, which in turn sent the case papers to the penal court, which issued the above mentioned sentence in absentia.

The suspect was later arrested at Kuwait airport, so he appointed lawyer Suleiman Al-Duwaisan of the International Justice Group, who contested the ruling to jail the suspect. The lawyer presented his defense during the trial based on the lack of capacity, as the suspect could not handle his bank accounts, especially at the time of the incident, and the lack of swindling components, because the suspect did not participate in the fraud process that must be part of that crime - rather he was the victim of his father who used his bank account and escaped.

At the end of the argument, which was oral, Duwaisan asked the court to cancel the previous ruling which sentenced the suspect to two years in jail and reject the temporary civil compensation of KD 5001, and rule him innocent once again.

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Crime Report

COP ARRESTED

KUWAIT: Drugs Control General Department arrested a policeman who confessed to using drugs. Authorities found drug paraphernalia, and blood tests revealed drugs in his blood. The arrest was made following tips about his drug use and the danger of him being at work in this condition. Meanwhile, criminal detectives arrested two firemen for using drugs at work. Detectives found 10 bags of shabu and drug paraphernalia. They were sent to concerned authorities.

Body found

Forensic officers are working on identifying a body that was found in front of the land cargo customs in Sulaibiya. The interior ministry received a call from an Egyptian man who told them about the body, so they rushed there. They believe it belongs to an Asian, but he did not have any ID with him.

Crackdown

The General Security Department carried out a campaign against suspicious places used for vice acts, violations and liquor brewing. The campaign including raiding six brothels with 28 women and 23 men and 40 residency violators were arrested, in addition to four selling liquor in Ahmadi and Farwaniya. The acting assistant undersecretary for general security ordered all those found in the brothels to be deported.

Heads shaved

Farwaniya Security Director Brig Saleh Matar Al-Enezi ordered that two Kuwaitis and a Bahraini to have their heads shaved bald after they were caught dressed as women in a Rai mall. A police patrol noticed three persons who appeared to be women walking provocatively, with young men harassing them, so they were stopped and were discovered to be male cross-dressers. The three were taken to Shuwaikh police station and their heads were shaved, then were sent to concerned authorities.

Waiter assaulted

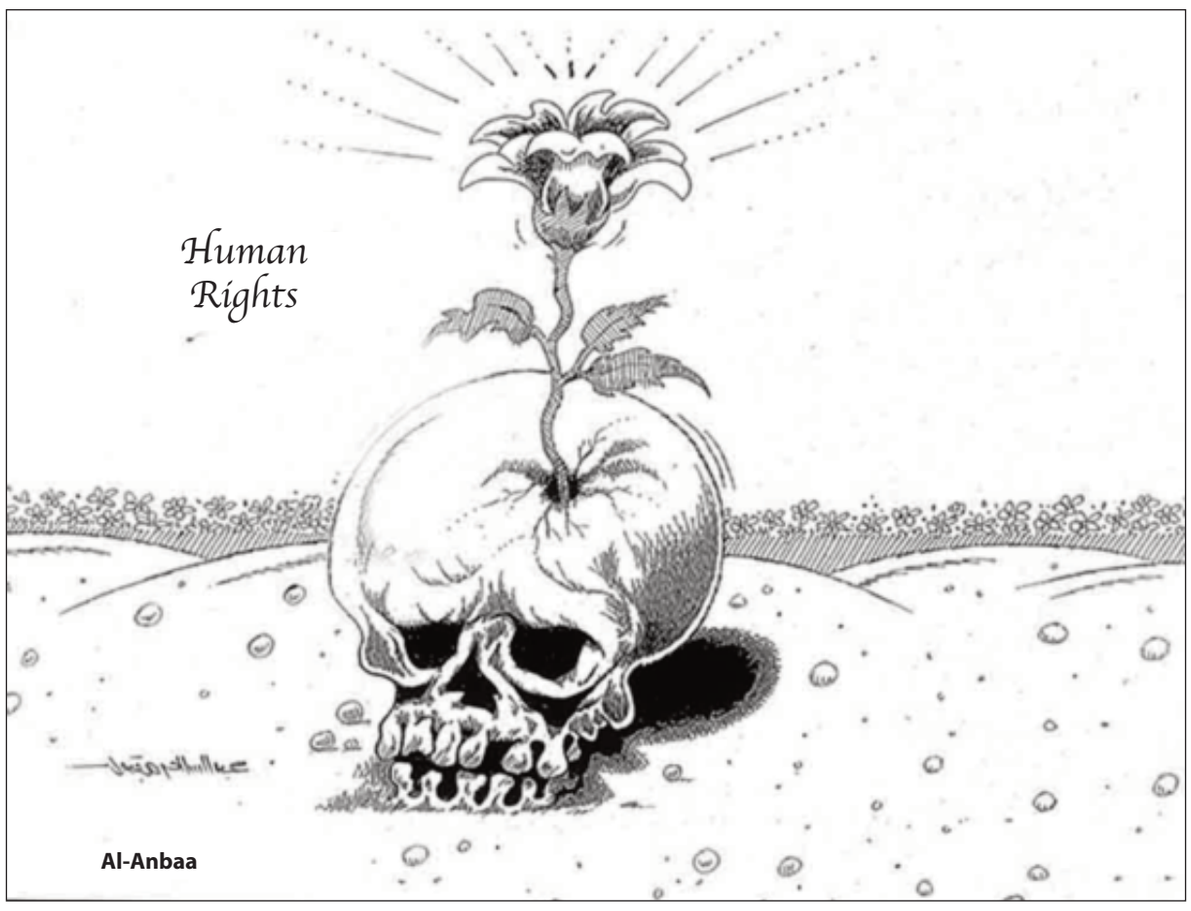
A citizen beat an Egyptian waiter in a cafe when he spilled coffee on his dishdasha. The citizen ordered coffee, and when the waiter brought it, his hand was shaking, spilling coffee on his clothes. The waiter apologized, but the citizen beat him and left. The waiter went to Nugra police station and complained against the citizen, who is being summoned for questioning.

Old disputes

A citizen and her sister beat another citizen inside her Rumaithiya home over prior differences. The woman was taken to Mubarak Hospital, then produced a medical report and filed a complaint at the police station. Police are investigating, and summoned the two for questioning.

Thieves caught

Three citizens broke into a car and stole its contents in their first theft, but were arrested by police. An Ahmadi patrol in Mahboula became suspicious of three persons, and when they approached them, they fled, so they were chased and arrested. The three confessed to breaking into a car and stealing its contents, adding that this was their first theft ever. The three were sent to concerned authorities for questioning. — Al-Rai



Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

POSTPONING LIFTING OF PETROL SUBSIDY

By Khalid Al-Arrafah

The government's announcement about raising gasoline prices at the start of September was considered by several MPs as targeting citizen's pockets. All are with rationalizing, and all back the country in all it wants, but there should be a comprehensive study to implement the policy of lifting subsidies.

What we notice is that squandering continues despite the government's rush to increase gasoline prices, as rewards for outstanding jobs are still being paid to leaders, committees are still functioning and large amounts of money are allocated for them, in addition to vehicle contracts. It was better for the Cabinet to start rationalizing these expenses that burden the state budget, and which made some to cling to their posts for years because of these advantages, for which millions are spent.

MPs are denying any link with the petrol price hike and are threatening the government that if it is put into effect, they will have a stand, but the tragedy is that the new gasoline prices approved by the government came out of one of the National Assembly committees, and informed citizens of its implementation in the coming period. So why attack the government, as long as the decision was "cooked" in the parliament against the people?! Deputies of the nation must wake up and tone down their provocative statements to citizens, because an MP comes out to say if citizens do not have money, we would not see them at the airport every weekend, while another says hiking gasoline prices creates a deterrent for youth to reduce messing around.

The situation now cannot bear statements and playing with emotions and getting in the crowds of tweeters on social media by some MPs and make calls to halt the increase decision. Our government... the people are asking you to be patient with implementing the fuel price hike because it will burden citizens due to their financial commitments, payments and other financial matters. The Cabinet will not protect citizens from price increases with the pretext of the gasoline price hike and the losses it causes, and we should take the example of setting delivery charges and witness the non-commitment of some restaurants to it. The commerce ministry tells everyone that prices will not be raised when gasoline prices go up, while I personally doubt this because these are statements without any study or in touch with reality.

Our government...the Kuwaiti will not oppose anything concerning his homeland and dealing with some subsidies, but the declared prices are exaggerated and need further study, as a mercy towards the people's financial situation, and we all hope that the decision will be postponed and not implemented in the present time, until a compromise is reached.

The proposal to have gasoline coupons for citizens will not solve the problem in my view, rather it will complicate matters further because of the official increases in the prices of commodities because of this hasty decision, and it is required to find a clear mechanism to solve the problem before it's too late.

Deputies of the nation promised and held the government responsible, and we are in need of an urgent government solution. Citizens are waiting for relief, and only a few days are left, then the decision will come into effect, as the case was with the decision to reduce allocations for actual patients and not tourists, who were promised that their allocations will not be affected, but regretfully, the decision was implemented despite its effect on the patient and his companion.

It is hoped that Cabinet members review the decision of raising gasoline prices and restore patients' allocations back to where they were, then begin rationalization. This is from us to officials. — Translated by Kuwait Times

Al-Anbaa

THE FAMILY'S ROLE

By Nermin Al-Houti

It is really difficult for a mother to raise her children, then hand them to police. This is what happened and this is the way to right the wrong. A news item that was published last week said: "A mother of a woman on drugs handed her to a police station and sought their help to treat her daughter from this deadly addiction, so she does hurt herself or those around her."

That is the way to start treatment from anything harmful to the human being and destructive to society. That woman, when she sought the help of legal authorities, does not mean she did not raise her daughter correctly, but when she felt the danger was more powerful than her, and she couldn't face it alone, she approached police for help to remove this danger from her daughter to safeguard the entity of her family.

If each head of the family takes the same stand, we will find that we are taking the right path to build a sound society

If each head of the family takes the same stand, we will find that we are taking the right path to build a sound society and correct all the mistakes of our society. How many families are there with an addict son, how many of our children are infected with the thieving disease, how many mothers are keeping secrets from their children, how many? How many? And finally at the end we find that the majority of the society is sick, and we must put a full stop, then start from the beginning of the line towards correction.

Away from that courageous woman who sought the help of police to protect her daughter, there is the mother who knows that one of her children is an addict and also trades in drugs, but we do not see any positive stand from her to correct one of her family members. Rather all what she does is turn a blind eye, and when someone asks about that son or daughter, the answer will be he/she is sleeping, while she knows that her child is taking those poisons, so which stand is better for our society, respected people?

We are not saying that we hand over our children to police, but there must be solutions to what has taken place in the form of tragedies in our societies, be it drugs or otherwise, which makes the defect be in the family, and we become a sick society that is dangerous for its individuals. If cooperation exists between the family and government authorities, not only in the interior ministry, but also education, we will find ourselves that we put a period and start from the beginning of the road of treatment and correction in the right way. — Translated by Kuwait Times

Badria Ali Abdul Raheem, Deputy CEO at KOC.

OIL INDUSTRY RESILIENCE DEPENDS ON INNOVATION, SAYS SENIOR KOC EXECUTIVE

NATIONAL FIRMS DISCUSS STRATEGIC RESPONSE AT PETROLEUM CONFERENCE

ABU DHABI: A senior manager at the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) says the GCC petroleum industry must focus on innovation and efficiency to maintain the value of the region's natural resources. The recent market has been challenging for the industry, with global oversupply and a constrained economic outlook in several key markets impacting on prices. Badria Ali Abdul Raheem, Deputy CEO (North Kuwait) at KOC, says she expects the GCC's strategic response to future shifts in the market will be an important point of discussion when industry leaders meet for the Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (ADIPEC) in November.

"The petroleum industry in the GCC states carries a significant responsibility for national development, and we need to be as efficient as possible, as innovative as possible, and maximise the utility we derive from our natural resources," said Abdul Raheem, who is responsible for the conventional and heavy oil fields of the North Kuwait asset. "ADIPEC is an important forum for us to achieve this, both as a discussion of industry issues and best practice, and through displays of new methods and technology."

ADIPEC is the global meeting place for oil and gas professionals, the largest event for the industry in the Middle East, and one of the most influential oil and gas exhibitions and conferences in the world, with a track record of attracting key decision makers from the petroleum industry.

The event is expected to attract more than 2,300 exhibiting companies, 8,500 delegates, 700 speakers, and 100,000 trade professionals from 135 countries. Increasingly, ADIPEC considers petroleum's role as part of a broader energy mix, with the theme 'Strategies for the New Energy Landscape' setting the agenda for a distinguished conference program in 2016.

Resilience has emerged as a critical issue for decision makers, and investors, in the petroleum industry. According to the OPEC World Energy Trends Report 2015, the oil industry has faced a challenging year, with a cooling economic outlook in non-OECD markets, particularly China, where rapid increases in demand appear to be maturing. However, forecasts show continued growth in the global economy, and oil is predicted to remain the most significant energy source.

GCC suppliers can expect to benefit from this growth as the balance between supply and demand in the oil market stabilises, while the development of high-cost petroleum resources, such as shale oil, is likely to be more subdued as investors question their long-term viability. "The current market is challenging, but the forces driving the oil and energy markets are positive for Kuwait and other Gulf producers," said Abdul Raheem. "The emergence of tight oil, particularly shale oil, created an expectation that demand would be met at all times, but these very high-cost resources are only profitable with very high prices.

"There is now a clear recognition that suppliers with a large resource base of easily accessible crude oil are the most reliable. Kuwait is one of those suppliers, with a long tradition as a reliable supplier in global markets, and with the plans in place to hold that role for a long-term timeframe," Abdul Raheem concluded.

KOC's stand at ADIPEC.

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International
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Earthquake kills at least 4 in Peru
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Israel arrests Palestinians 'recruited by Hezbollah' via Facebook
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KASHMIR: Kashmiri mourners shout anti-Indian and pro-freedom slogans during the funeral of four civilians at Aripanthan Magam village in Budgam district on the outskirts of Srinagar yesterday. — AFP

Protests intensify in Kashmir; five killed

Amnesty India charged with sedition over Kashmir slogans

SRINAGAR: Indian security forces yesterday killed five protesters and injured 10 in clashes that erupted after crowds angered by the killing of a separatist militant in disputed Kashmir pelted them with stones and defied a curfew, officials said. Indian-ruled Kashmir has witnessed violent protests since July 8, when security forces killed a field commander of Pakistan-based Islamist militant group Hizbul Mujahideen who enjoyed widespread support in the Muslim-majority region. Kashmir also saw an upsurge in violence around India's Independence Day holiday on Monday, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the country would not bow to terrorism and accused neighbor and archrival Pakistan of glorifying it.

A senior police official said hundreds of protesters threw stones at security forces as they tried to restore order on the streets of Budgam, a district 30 km south of Srinagar, the state's summer capital. The latest casualties came as security forces opened fire with automatic rifles, a step up from their earlier use of shotguns, whose pellets are meant to incapacitate but not kill. Locals say the shotguns have inflicted severe injuries, and even blinded, hundreds of people, among them innocent bystanders.

Indian troops killed a total of seven militants on Monday in two incidents, five of them gunmen who had attempted a cross-border incursion and two more, who had attacked a Srinagar police station. One officer died in the police station shootout. At least 64 people have been killed and thousands injured during 39 days of protests, while schools, shops, banks and offices remain closed in much of Kashmir as paramilitary troops patrol arterial roads, residential areas and mosques. Kashmir is at the center of a decades-old rivalry between India and Pakistan, which also rules its northern part, and backed an insurgency in the late 1980s and 1990s that Indian security forces largely crushed.

Both countries claim Kashmir in full. New Delhi has rejected Pakistan's invitation to hold talks on the future of Jammu and Kashmir, India's northernmost state, and Modi said he had received messages of support from leaders in restive parts of Pakistan. In a speech on Monday, Modi accused Pakistan of committing atrocities in its own province of Baluchistan, escalating a war of words that Islamabad said was intended to divert attention from the troubles in Indian-administered Kashmir. Modi's defense minister, Manohar Parrikar, raised the temSperature further yesterday, saying Indian troops had "sent back five terrorists yesterday". He told a rally, "Going to Pakistan is the same as going to hell."

Amnesty India charged

Meanwhile, Indian police have charged Amnesty with sedition after several Kashmiris allegedly called for independence for the troubled region at an event organized by the rights group, an officer said yesterday. Police in the southern city of Bangalore filed the initial charges against Amnesty following complaints by a Hindu nationalist student organization whose members recorded the event. "We have booked a case of sedition and rioting under various sections of the Indian penal code against Amnesty on a complaint that anti-India slogans were raised at an event it organized," said deputy police commissioner TR Suresh. — Agencies

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Israel arrests Palestinians 'recruited by Hezbollah' via Facebook

JERUSALEM: Israel's Shin Bet security service announced yesterday it has arrested a network of Palestinians allegedly recruited via Facebook by Lebanon's militant Hezbollah movement to attack Israelis. "Along with the orders to carry out shooting attacks and suicide bombings against Israeli targets, the agents were ordered to help recruit more (Palestinians) for the organization's activities," a Shin Bet statement read.

In one case, a Hezbollah agent had used Facebook to recruit a resident of Qalqilya who in turn recruited four others from his city in the north of the occupied West Bank, it said. The five allegedly began gathering intelligence on Israeli army activities in the area and to conduct weapons training, before being arrested in June. Shin Bet also said a Gazan recruited by Hezbollah through Facebook recruited three Palestinians from the West Bank who had started to train and plan attacks.

The four were also arrested before carrying out any action. The nine Palestinians have been charged in a military court in the West Bank, the agency said, without giving a date. The Shin Bet said Hezbollah was also reaching out to Arab Israelis through Facebook in an attempt "to recruit them to carry out terror attacks". "Hezbollah is determined to continue encouraging the recent terror events from a distance and in an attempt to not let its involvement be seen," the Shin Bet said.

A wave of deadly unrest has rocked Israel and the Palestinian territories since last October. The violence has killed 219 Palestinians, 34 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese, according to an AFP tally. Most of the Palestinians killed were carrying out knife, gun or car-ramming attacks, Israeli authorities say. In January, Israel announced the arrest of a five-member cell based in Tulkarem in the West Bank, recruited online by Jawad Nasrallah, son of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah.

Israel fought a devastating month-long war in 2006 against Hezbollah that killed more than 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 Israelis, most of them soldiers. The powerful Shiite Muslim group has targeted Israeli army patrols along the border in southern Lebanon in response to strikes against its members, most recently on January 4. In July, Israel announced it had outlawed a Palestinian group it said acted as a front for Iran-funded militant actions against Israelis and the Palestinian Authority of president Mahmud Abbas. — AFP

Iran's police dismantle terror cell linked to IS

Dual national arrested on security-related charges

DUBAI: Iranian security forces killed three militants linked to Islamic State in a city close to the Iraqi border yesterday, confiscating a weapons cache and belts armed with explosives, a senior official said. The trio were shot dead in the house they were staying in Kermanshah city, the governor of Kermanshah province, Asadollah Razani, was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA. The city is around 100 kilometers from the Iraqi border. A senior member of Islamic State was killed on Monday night in an operation in another city in the province, during which other supporters of the group were arrested, Razani said. A mountainous area bordering Iraq, Kermanshah has a largely Sunni Kurdish population and a history of insurgency against the Shiite Muslim Republic of Iran. Sunni Islamic State, whose members view Shiites as heretics, controls large areas of Iraq and Syria. Iranian officials say Islamic State militants have been targeting the country in recent months, while Tehran has ramped up its military presence in both Iraq and Syria following Russia's entry into the conflict in Syria. In June, Iranian intelligence authorities said they arrested 10 IS militants and seized about 100 kilograms of explosives intended to be used in car and suicide bombs and other attacks in busy public places.

Security-related charges

In another development, Iran has detained an Iranian with citizenship in another country over allegations the person had links to British intelligence services, a prosecutor said yesterday, the latest dual national arrested in the country. The circumstances surrounding this most-recent detention were unclear, but they come as hardliners in Iran's security forces increasingly target those with foreign ties in the wake of the country's nuclear deal with world powers.

Speaking to journalists, Tehran prosecutor Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi described the individual arrested as being "active in the economic field, related to Iran," the official IRNA news agency reported. Dolatabadi didn't elaborate, saying only that the arrest took place last week. He also did not identify the individual's second nationality. Iranian hard-liners have criticized a planned meeting in September called "Iran Connect 2016," sponsored in part by Iran's Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and the British-Iranian Chamber of Commerce. A flier for the event notes it is "strictly prohibited to Iranian individuals and entities that are sanctioned by the UK government and/or the EU."

The hard-line daily newspaper Javan, which has links to Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard, criticized the restrictions yesterday. "The administration, indeed, has allowed the British Embassy to implement European sanctions in Tehran," the newspaper said. The British-Iranian Chamber of Commerce and those organizing the event did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The British Foreign Office, Iranian officials in Tehran and Iran's mission to the United Nations also did not immediately comment.

Iran does not recognize dual nationalities, meaning those detained cannot receive consular assistance. In previous cases involving dual nationals, like the detention of Washington Post journalist Jason Rezaian, officials initially announced indictments had been handed down without providing specifics. Later, news organizations with close ties to security services offered details of the charges.

Those detained typically face trial in Iran's Revolutionary Court, a closed-door tribunal which handles cases involving alleged attempts to overthrow the government. Rezaian was convicted but later released in January as part of a prisoner swap between Iran and the US. It's unclear why Iran is increasingly detaining dual nationals, but analysts and others have suggested hard-liners want concessions from the West in exchange for releasing them. Those recently detained in Iran include:

Homa Hoodfar , an Iranian-Canadian woman who is a retired professor at Montreal's Concordia University. Siamak Namazi , an Iranian-American businessman who has advocated for closer ties between the two countries and whose father is also held in Tehran; Baquer Namazi , a former Iranian and UN official in his 80s who is the father of Siamak; Robin Shahini , an Iranian-American detained while visiting family who previously had made online comments criticizing Iran's human rights record; Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe , a British-Iranian woman held in Iran for months over accusations she planned the "soft toppling" of the government while visiting relatives with her young daughter; and Nizar Zakka, a US permanent resident from Lebanon who has done work for the American government.— Agencies

Exiled Turkish Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen

Turkish prosecutors seek 2 life sentences for Gulen

ANKARA: Prosecutors in western Turkey have demanded a life sentence for US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Turkey accuses of masterminding the failed coup, the state-run news agency reported yesterday. Concluding a yearlong investigation into his movement's financial dealings, prosecutors in the city of Usak demanded that Gulen be punished with two life sentences plus 1,900 years in prison, the Anadolu Agency reported.

In the more than 2,500-page indictment accepted by the court in Usak yesterday, Gulen and 111 other suspects are accused of transferring funds obtained through charities or donations to the United States via "front" companies, Anadolu said. It said the indictment also makes reference to Gulen's alleged role in the July 15 coup. Gulen, a former Erdogan ally who lives in self-imposed exile in Pennsylvania, is already on trial in absentia in Turkish courts, facing life terms over accusations of plotting to overthrow the government and leading an armed group. He has also been indicted on a charge of leading a terror organization and faces another trial in absentia in November.

Yesterday, police in Istanbul launched simultaneous raids on 44 companies suspected of providing financial support to Gulen's movement while authorities issued warrants to detain 120 company executives, Anadolu reported. The private Dogan news agency said the companies searched included a supermarket chain. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has refused to rule out bringing back the death penalty in order to punish the coup plotters - a move that would further jeopardize Turkey's faltering European Union membership bid. But yesterday, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim appeared to move away from reinstating capital punishment.

"Anyone who spilled the blood of our martyrs will be held to account. But, my valuable citizens, we won't act in the spirit of vengeance," Yildirim said during his weekly address to his ruling party's legislators. "Death penalty is death for one time. But there are worse ways of dying. This is through an objective and fair trial." Meanwhile, Turkey made a formal request to Greece for the extradition of eight Turkish officers who fled to the neighboring country after last month's attempted coup, the state-run news agency reported.

A Justice Ministry file had been delivered to Greece requesting the officers' return over charges that include breaching the Constitution through the use of force, plotting to kill the president and crimes against the parliament and government, Anadolu reported. The six pilots and two engineers fled to Greece aboard a military helicopter after the July 15 attempt. Turkey wants them returned to stand trial on charges of participating in the violent attempt by renegade officers within the Turkish military that resulted in at least 270 deaths. Parliament was bombed, while Erdogan escaped an attack on his hotel at a seaside resort. — AP

DULAB, Iraq: Members of the Iraqi government forces keep watch 2016 in Dulab, in Haditha, west of Ramadi after pro-government forces recaptured the area from Islamic State (IS) group jihadists. — AFP

Iraq Kurdish troops take more ground east of IS-held Mosul

QARQASHAH: A small unit of Kurdish peshmerga forces huddled in an abandoned home on the edge of Qarqashah, one of a dozen villages east of the Iraqi city of Mosul that the peshmerga captured from the Islamic State group this week. The advance aims to lay the groundwork for the battle for Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, which has been held by IS militants for more than two years.

Like almost all of the villages retaken this week, Qarqashah is small and was almost entirely empty of civilians. This allowed the US-led coalition to clear territory using air strikes, rather than relying on ground troops to engage in street-to-street battles. But peshmerga military leaders said their forces still took significant casualties. In Qarqashah village alone, peshmerga commanders estimated they lost 10 men. Even after the operation was declared complete on Monday, fighting was ongoing. Maj Gen Hama Rasheed sat on a plastic chair inside the simple home his men were using as a base. Outside, his fighters exchanged fire with IS militants holed up in a neighboring village.

Fields of dead grass burned from IS-launched mortar rounds. Kurdish and coalition forces stationed atop a nearby hill responded with volleys of artillery fire onto the IS fighters below. "The main aim of the operation was to open a strategic road to the Christian areas of the Nineveh plain," said Brig. Gen. Dedewan Khurshid Tofiq, one of the peshmerga commanders overseeing the operation. The Nineveh plain stretches north and east of Mosul. Tofiq added that a bridge, taken on Monday and leading to southeastern Mosul, could facilitate a troop buildup along an eastern Mosul front once it is repaired.

The operation, which lasted just under 48 hours, is expected to be one of many operations aimed at encircling Mosul, the last major IS urban stronghold in Iraq. The Islamic State group captured large areas of northern and western Iraq in a 2014 shock offensive. It is estimated that IS-held territory in the country has now shrunk by two thirds, following an Iraqi campaign backed by the US-led coalition. The fighting has displaced millions of civilians. Along berms marking the peshmerga's new front line with IS, convoys of hundreds of civilians fleeing villages outside Mosul drove through the fine desert sand in the intense summer heat.

In one convoy, most of those fleeing were farmers. When Hameeda Muhammed's family was stopped by security forces to search their belongings for weapons she unloaded the animals that had died of thirst along the trip. A dead calf's body was dumped on the side of the road along with seven chickens. "Under Daesh, we stayed alive thanks to these animals," Muhammed said looking over her dead livestock. She used an Arabic acronym for IS. Under IS, Muhammed's family quickly became too poor to buy food and was forced to turn to subsistence farming, she said. "I hope at whatever camp we go to there will be more chickens there," she added.

At Kalak base, from where the offensive was launched, peshmerga reservists were arriving in civilian cars on Monday to reinforce troops at the front. "Normally we guard oil facilities," said Islam Tamar Khan, a 28-year-old from Dohuk, a city in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region. "But we got a call last night saying to come here immediately." Behind him four Iraqi police helicopters stood parked on the highway.

The pilots said since 2014 they have been evacuating soldiers injured during peshmerga operations because the Kurdish forces are short of military helicopters. "All that matters is that you have the will to fight," said Khan, the Dohuk reservist. "It doesn't matter if you show up in boots or in slippers."— AP

Trump vows 'Cold War' terror fight and immigrant controls

NEW YORK: Donald Trump on Monday laid out a US blueprint for defeating global terrorism in partnership with NATO and Middle East allies, demanding extreme restrictions on immigration and likening the fight to the Cold War. The Republican nominee, who is tanking in the polls following weeks of self-inflicted disasters, made his pitch to be a security strongman as the Democratic vice president accused him of imperiling the lives of Americans. "We will defeat radical Islamic terrorism just as we have defeated every threat we faced at every age," said Trump in Ohio, a battleground state considered essential to winning the US presidential election.

His foreign policy address marked the latest attempt by the Trump campaign to get their maverick candidate back on message as his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton surges ahead in the polls. Watering down his highly contested assertion that Barack Obama and Clinton created the so-called Islamic State extremist group, Trump said IS was "the direct result of policy decisions" made by the president and former secretary of state, referencing chaos in Iraq and Libya. He claimed the extremist group, which is the target of US-led air strikes and Special Forces operations in Iraq and Syria, was "fully operational" in 18 countries and had "aspiring branches in six more." The real-estate tycoon and former reality TV star promised to end the US policy of "nation building" and called for a "new approach" in partnership with foreign allies to "halt the spread of radical Islam." Trump vowed to work "very closely" with NATO, sidestepping previous criticism of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization after saying that a Trump presidency would not automatically leap to members' defense.

Temporary suspension

"I have previously said NATO was obsolete because it failed to deal adequately with terrorism. Since my comments, they have changed their policy and now have a new division focused on terror threats, very good," he said. Trump said he believed the United States could find "common ground with Russia" in the fight against the IS group-a claim bound to do little to silence critics who accuse him of being soft on Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He said his administration would "aggressively pursue joint and coalition military operations to crush and destroy ISIS," another name for IS, and be a "friend to all moderate Muslim reformers in the Middle East." At home he demanded new immigration screening, saying that the perpetrators of a series of attacks in the United States-including the September 11, 2001, hijackings, the 2013 Boston bombings and the recent mass shooting in an Orlando nightclub-involved "immigrants or the children of immigrants." — AFP

YOUNGSTOWN: Republican candidate for President Donald Trump holds a campaign event at the Kilcawley Center at Youngstown State University. — AFP

CALIFORNIA: A destroyed bicycle lays amid the rubble of a burned property in Lower Lake, Calif. — AP

Man arrested for arson

MIDDLETOWN: A man has been arrested on suspicion of arson, officials said, over a wildfire in Northern California that has destroyed more than 175 homes and businesses and forced hundreds of residents to flee. The conflagration is one of two dozen major wildfires across the drought-parched US West that have all together charred nearly 300,000 acres (120,000 hectares). Damin Pashilk, 40, faces 17 counts of arson over the so-called Clayton Fire, in the foothill community of Lower Lake, and other fires nearby over the past year, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) said.

"Mr Pashilk committed a horrific crime and we will seek prosecution to the fullest extent of the law," Cal Fire Chief Ken Pimlott said in a statement. The fire, burning some 80 miles (130 km) north of San Francisco, was driven by fierce winds after sparking on Saturday evening. It threatens 1,500 structures besides the more than 175 destroyed, Cal Fire said on Monday. There were no reports of casualties, however. The Clayton fire, which had blackened about 4,000 acres (1,600 hectares) by late Monday afternoon, was about 5 percent contained, fire officials said.

More than 1,600 firefighters were battling the flames, Cal Fire spokesman Daniel Berlant said, adding that receding winds on Sunday evening had allowed crews to make progress cutting containment lines around the flames and putting out hot spots. The nearby community of Clear Lake was evacuated, and sheriff's deputies in Lake County were investigating burned-out structures. On Monday afternoon, California Governor Jerry Brown, a Democrat, declared states of emergency for the Clayton fire and another in San Luis Obispo County, the so-called Chimney fire, allowing local officials to get help from emergency response agencies statewide.

The Chimney fire was just 10 percent contained by Monday evening. It had scorched more than 5,400 acres (2,185 hectares) within less than 48 hours after erupting on Saturday afternoon, destroying a dozen structures and threatening about 200 more, with hundreds of residents being told to evacuate.

One of the season's largest fires so far, the Soberanes blaze, was 60 percent contained by Monday. It burned through more than 74,600 acres (30,189 hectares) near scenic Big Sur, destroying 57 homes after it began on July 22. A bulldozer operator died on July 26 when his tractor rolled over as he helped property owners battle the flames, this year's sixth wildfire fatality in California. Authorities have traced the Soberanes fire to an illegal campfire left unattended in a state park. —Reuters

US seeks Latin American help amid rise in Asian and African migrants

6,342 migrants apprehended — trying to enter Mexico

WASHINGTON: Washington is seeking closer coordination with several Latin American countries to tackle a jump in migrants from Asia, Africa and the Middle East who it believes are trying to reach the United States from the south on an arduous route by plane, boat and through jungle on foot. US agents deployed to an immigration facility on Mexico's southern border have vetted the more than 640 migrants from countries outside the Americas who have been detained at the center since October 2015, according to US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) documents reviewed by Reuters.

The migrants often fly to Brazil, obtain fake passports there, and are smuggled to Panama before heading through Central America to Mexico's porous southern border, according to transcripts of 14 interviews conducted at the center and other internal briefing documents seen by Reuters. The US agents' findings come as Mexican immigration data show 6,342 Asian, African and Middle Eastern migrants were apprehended trying to enter Mexico in the first six months of this year. That was up from 4,261 in all of 2015, and 1,831 in 2014. US border apprehensions point to the same trend. Between October 2015 and May 2016, US agents apprehended 5,350 African and Asian migrants at the U.S. Southwest border. That's up from 6,126 in all of fiscal year 2015 and 4,172 in all of fiscal year 2014.

US concerns about potential security risks from migrants using the unusual and circuitous southern route have been growing in recent years, following a string of Islamic State-inspired attacks in the West and the surge in Syrian refugees fleeing that country's civil war. Five Syrian nationals detained in Honduras last November were part of a wider group of seven Syrians who acquired forged passports in Brazil and then went by land to Argentina on their way north, a US government source familiar with that case said. There was no evidence to suggest the men were militants.

"The reality is that the vast majority of the people that Mexico encounters that are extra-continental will eventually end up on our border," a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) official said. At the detention camp in Tapachula, near Mexico's border with Guatemala, US Customs and Border Patrol agents have been training their Mexican counterparts on interview techniques, and using US criminal databases to investigate detainees, according to internal documents seen by Reuters.

Two to three U.S. agents have been stationed there since at least October, according to the documents and U.S. officials. Mexican officials have previously acknowledged the presence of U.S. agents at Mexico's southern border, but few details of the cooperation have been reported.

US Customs and Border Patrol began a pilot program for a similar operation in Panama earlier this fiscal year, according to an internal memo sent in May that has not previously been reported. Homeland Security officials told Reuters that Panama requested US training. A spokesman for Panama's National Migration Service said Panama accepted an offer from the US embassy for training on subjects like "defense techniques" and "management of persons." US proponents of the program have pushed for a greater US footprint to build a "comprehensive intelligence picture" of migration patterns across the Colombia-Panama border, according to the memo sent in May. Panama is leading the effort in Central America to detain illegal migrants, DHS assistant secretary for international affairs Alan Bersin told a House committee in March, but it stymied by lack of detention space and the difficulty of deporting migrants to countries with whom they have no diplomatic ties. As a result, most are released after 30 days.

Bersin acknowledged the rise in migrants from outside the Americas and the potential security threat they pose. "While many citizens of these countries migrate for economic reasons or because they are fleeing persecution in their home countries, this group may include migrants who are affiliated with foreign terrorist organizations, intelligence agencies, and organized criminal syndicates," Bersin told the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

DHS has deployed additional "mentor" teams throughout South and Central America to professionalize immigration authorities and gain intelligence about potentially threatening migrants, said DHS officials, who declined to specify which countries host US agents. Another DHS official said the agency is asking Brazil through diplomatic channels to put a stop to fake passport manufacturing. Brazilian officials did not respond to Reuters' request for comment. The US Customs and Border Patrol, a unit of DHS, is "actively working to enhance regional collaboration with border and customs authorities from Mexico all the way down to Argentina," a DHS official said.

ON FOOT IN THE JUNGLE

The apprehension documents from the Tapachula center show how migrants are willing and able to pay thousands of dollars to obtain flights and fake passports and then make grueling journeys on buses, boats and on foot. It was not clear how many of those apprehended at the center were deported, claimed asylum or simply released. Several of the 14 migrants-in testimony given from May 18-23 this year-said they paid more than $10,000 to smugglers, walked for days through jungles, and were temporarily detained by various countries before being stopped in Tapachula. Six of the men-who included Pakistanis, Syrians and Afghans-had obtained fake passports, claiming to be from Israel, Morocco, Belgium or Britain. In Panama, several of the men said they were kept in a migration detention camp for about a month. From Panama, the migrants described traveling in larger groups, sometimes as many as 50 men. One Pakistani national-whose identity US officials asked not to be revealed because he is still under investigation - told US and Mexican officials that he paid a smuggler in Pakistan $9,000 to be smuggled to Brazil where he received a fake Belgian passport.

In Brazil, he paid $4,000 to a woman to be taken on bus, boat and on foot through across Colombia and into Panama. He said he was detained in Panama but then released. From there, a smuggler from Lebanon took the man and 35 other migrants of different nationalities to Honduras, where he said he was robbed of all of his belongings. His family wired him more money from Pakistan and the man was able to pay $40 to be smuggled into Guatemala. He paid $5 to be taken by raft into Mexico. There he got a taxi, which was halted by authorities who took him to the Tapachula center.

Sensitive topic for Mexico

Accepting US help on immigration issues is politically sensitive for Mexico, said Adam Isacson, a security and border policy analyst at The Washington Office on Latin America, a non-profit human rights advocacy group. "But the Mexicans have quietly been open to the equipment and training they have received," he said. A CBP spokesman said the agency deployed to Tapachula at the Mexican government's request. Mexico's immigration agency is the Instituto Nacional de Migracion (INM).

"CBP personnel train INM officers in the collection of biometric information, and review and share biometric information on people of interest," the spokesman said. INM declined Reuters' request for comment and access to the Tapachula facility. In testimony before the Mexican Senate on Aug 3, Mexico's chief immigration officer Ardelio Vargas Fosado said his agency was aware of the influx of migrants from outside the Americas. But the lack of diplomatic relationships between Mexico and many African countries has made it difficult to deport those apprehended, he said.

Under law, US agents cannot arrest or deport migrants from other countries, but as foreign-based trainers, they can gather intelligence on who may be headed for the US border. Isacson said most of the migrants taking the Latin American path northward are seeking economic opportunity in the United States. But DHS is focused on security risks. — Reuters

Seven dead, 30,000 rescued in record Louisiana floods

BATON ROUGE: Louisiana faced epic flooding Monday, with seven people killed and thousands evacuated to emergency shelters after waterways in the southern part of the state overflowed their banks. Some areas have received more than 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain since late Thursday, submerging vast swaths of southern Louisiana in muddy waters. "Our state is currently experiencing a historic flooding event that is breaking every record," Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards said in a statement late Monday.

"This event is ongoing, it is not over," he said. "We do not know when the floodwaters will recede, and they will continue to rise in some areas." About 30,000 people had been rescued, including a 78-year-old woman who spent a night in a tree, Louisiana State Police Superintendent Colonel Mike Edmonson told CNN. There were 14,000 people staying in shelters, mostly in the state capital Baton Rouge and surrounding communities, he said. Police said the Louisiana National Guard would assist evacuees in the massive shelters, which included a Baton Rouge film studio complex and an entertainment center in the city's downtown area. A helicopter survey late Monday by the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office showed large areas of submerged land. Muddy water covered roads, forested areas, and residential zones, cars and even the better part of some dwellings. Seven people were confirmed dead, Edmonson said, noting the toll could rise in coming days. "Once the water recedes, all these homes that are completely covered with water, we got to go to every single one of those and go inside of them and check for anybody who might be in those areas," he told CNN. Some 40,000 homes and business were reported without power.

Disaster areas

The White House declared four parishes-equivalent to counties in other states-major disaster areas. "I fully expect that more parishes will be added to the declaration on a rolling basis," Edwards said. Floodwaters appeared to be receding in some areas, but were flowing into others. The National Weather Service continued to issue flood warnings in effect through early Tuesday, saying water in many areas would not recede at least for another day. The Amite River, the source of flooding for many areas, had risen 14 feet (4.3 meters) above flood level in one reading, besting a previous record flood in April 1983, the NWS said. The agency forecast the river would not fall below flood level until Wednesday morning. Officials reported that hundreds of roads, mostly in the southern parts of the state, were closed. "That's going to be the case over the next couple of days," Edwards said. In some areas, clean-up work was already beginning. Members of the Life Tabernacle Church in Baton Rouge dumped water-damaged pews on a growing pile outside. Inside, a young boy rode his bicycle around the now-empty church.

Offers of aid

The White House action makes emergency federal funding available to support rescue crews and recovery efforts. The Federal Emergency Management Agency on Monday began asking those affected by the floods to apply for assistance, and officials said 11,000 people had already registered early in the day. The American Red Cross said it was responding to the disaster, which it called the worst since Superstorm Sandy flooded coastal areas in New York and New Jersey in 2012. Many parishes in Louisiana were collecting donations for flood victims, including food, water, blankets, school uniforms, bedding and hygiene products. In Plaquemines Parish, officials said two airboat teams working in East Baton Rouge rescued more than 200 people and pets over a 24-hour period.

Dramatic rescues

The Louisiana National Guard reported that its soldiers rescued nearly 500 people and 61 pets in the 24 hours between Friday and Saturday, by boat, helicopter and high-water (high-clearance) vehicles. "We've literally had hundreds of people who've brought boats in and have wanted to help," Edmonson said. In one dramatic rescue in Baton Rouge captured on video, rescuers on a boat pulled a woman from a car that had just slipped under water. The woman shouts, "Oh my God, I'm drowning!"

A rescuer jumps into the murky brown water and pulls her out by the arm. When she tries to dive under for her dog, the rescuer goes underwater and reappears holding the animal. The NWS said other areas of the United States faced threats of flash floods this week-from the Texas coast all the way up to the Ohio River Valley. The storms threatening Texas are part of the same system that deluged Louisiana, although it is now less potent, said NWS meteorologist Gavin Phillips. — AFP

LOUISIANA: Richard Schafer navigates a boat past a flooded home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. — AFP

HCA NHS Ventures

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Committed to collaboration

HCA NHS Ventures is a subsidiary of HCA International which was set up in 2006, the HCA NHS Ventures division leads on private partnerships with NHS Trusts across the country.

Harley Street at UCH is a joint partnership with top teaching hospital University College London Hospital, formed in 2006. Based on level 15 in the tower at UCLH, the 18 bed acute facility is a specialist cancer centre for complex and rare conditions. Patient rooms are private and en-suite offering panoramic views across London. We offer medical and surgical care including day case chemotherapy and a comprehensive JACIE accredited bone marrow and stem cell transplant service one of only a few in the UK. The centre offers the pioneering cord blood transplant; this treatment significantly widens the opportunity to find a suitable unrelated donor particularly beneficial for international patients.

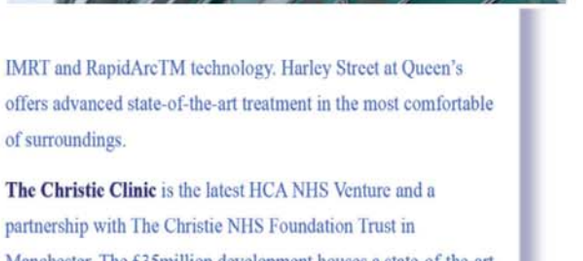
The Young Person's Unit at Harley Street at UCH is the only private teenage cancer unit in Europe, treating any form of cancer in 13-19 year olds and further establishes the relationship with UCLH. The 6 bedded Unit treats all kinds of cancers and provides high quality care. All rooms are private and en-suite with views across central London. There are facilities in each room for a parent or guardian to stay with patients throughout their treatment and international entertainment packages, including internet access to keep in touch with friends and family abroad. Patients also have access to educational facilities and an entertainment lounge. 5* catering is provided with specially adapted menus to suit international patient requirements.

State-of-the-art technology includes the revolutionary TrueBeam STxTM, the latest radiotherapy and radiosurgical equipment which the most advanced linear accelerator in the world and is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK.

Harley Street at Queen's is a joint partnership with Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals Trust, based at Queen's Hospital Romford, offering advanced cancer, neurosurgical and general surgery treatment. It is the only centre of its kind in Essex and includes a dedicated High Dependency Unit, Chemotherapy Day Care Unit and advanced radiotherapy through a dedicated linear accelerator including

IMRT and RapidArcTM technology. Harley Street at Queen's offers advanced state-of-the-art treatment in the most comfortable of surroundings.

The Christie Clinic is the latest HCA NHS Venture and a partnership with The Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester. The £35million development houses a state-of-the-art cancer clinic with 34 inpatient rooms, 10 chemotherapy chairs, advanced radiotherapy, sophisticated operating theatres and private patient pharmacy. This impressive facility takes the HCA standard of care outside of London to Manchester and the North of England. Located in the heart of Manchester The Christie Clinic offers light and airy private en-suite rooms, with international entertainment packages and is in close proximity the city centre.



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Pakistani girl, parents drown in latest selfie deaths

PESHAWAR: An 11-year-old girl drowned yesterday after falling into a river in northern Pakistan while attempting to take a selfie and her parents also died trying to save her, officials said. The drownings occurred in the Kunhar river that flows through Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, at a hilly tourist spot in Beesian village, some 200 kilometers north of Islamabad.

The deep, rocky and fastflowing river is popular for white-water rafting. "The girl, Safia Atif, was trying to take a selfie along the river when she slipped and fell," local police official Arshad Khan told AFP, explaining the incident was witnessed by other tourists.

Safia's mother Shazia Atif then jumped in to save her daughter but was swept away. "Seeing both his wife and daughter drowning, the father Atif Hussain also jumped in to rescue them but he met a similar fate," Khan added.

"The dead bodies of the mother and daughter have been recovered while we are still looking for the body of Hussain," he added. He said the parents were doctors from Punjab province and had taken their family to the area on holiday. They are survived by a nine-year-old daughter and six-year-old son who witnessed the event. "Both of them are in the protective custody of the local administration and they will be handed over to their family members when they arrive," he said. The incident was confirmed by other administration officials and family members of the deceased.

One official said the government had put up signs warning people not to go near the river. "Each year around a dozen people drown here," he said requesting not to be named. "This is a tourist spot and people usually come here for picnic and most of them are outsiders who have no idea about the depth of the river," he said. So-called "selfie deaths" have surged with the global rise of smartphones.

On July 5, Peruvian police recovered the body of a South Korean tourist under a waterfall in the Amazon jungle, days after he fell in while taking a photo of himself. A week earlier a 51-year-old German tourist plunged 200 metres (650 feet) to his death while posing for a photo on a mountainside at Peru's top archaeological site, Machu Picchu.— AFP

Bollore's raider reputation rattles Berlusconis in battle of billionaires

Bollore clashes with Berlusconis over Italy's Mediaset

PARIS: When French tycoon Vincent Bollore backed out of a deal to buy the pay-TV business of Italian broadcaster Mediaset, and instead proposed to take a large slice of the parent company itself, investors feared he was plotting another stealth raid. The family of former Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi, which controls Mediaset, suspected Bollore would seek to loosen their grip on the company - concerns based on his history as a skilled and aggressive corporate tactician.

Through shrewd investments and creeping control methods, over three decades he has turned his Bollore group from a family-owned maker of thin papers into a global conglomerate that spans transportation and logistics, energy storage, communications and media assets including Vivendi. Bollore's Vivendi had agreed in April to acquire all of Mediaset's pay-TV unit, Premium, as part of a deal that would also see the two media groups take a 3.5 percent stake in each other.

But late last month it proposed new terms: it would buy just 20 percent of the unit, and also take bonds that could be converted to give it a total 15 percent stake in parent Mediaset. It said its change of plan was a result of differences with Mediaset in the analysis of Premium's financial forecasts. The Berlusconis saw the situation very differently. Their holding company Fininvest said Vivendi's real reason for the U-turn was to covertly build up a big stake in Mediaset, denouncing the "total impropriety" of its conduct.

Vivendi declined to comment for his article. Its CEO Arnaud de Puyfontaine told Italian daily Corriere della Sera on July 30 that it had no plans to take over Mediaset. Bollore has not spoken publicly about Mediaset, and could not be reached for comment. Mediaset, which has repeatedly rejected Vivendi's alternative proposal, did not respond to requests for comment. Fininvest, which owns about 35 percent of Mediaset, did not provide fresh comment but has previously made clear it is opposed to Vivendi's proposed new terms.

Strictly business

Bollore is a long-time friend of fellow billionaire Silvio Berlusconi. But for the 64-year-old Frenchman,

Silvio Berlusconi

dealmaking is never personal, it's strictly business. "His reputation precedes him and, indeed, it frightened them (the Berlusconis)," said a source close to the negotiations. "They fretted that this 15 percent stake could make Fininvest lose its blocking minority in Mediaset following a capital increase." Bollore's corporate career is strewn with examples of the tycoon wresting control of companies via minority stakes. Vivendi itself is a case in point.

Bollore initially received a 4.4 percent stake in the media group in exchange for the sale of the two TV channels he had created to Vivendi's pay-TV arm Canal Plus. He has since built that stake up to over 15 percent. He is Vivendi's biggest shareholder and its chairman. With his wealth of business success and political contacts, he is the undisputed kingpin. Corporate raids might be resented by those who lose power, but they are a perfectly legitimate part of business, said Colette Neuville, who is the head of a French association that champions the interests of small shareholders and has known Bollore for over a decade.

"Bollore has shown his capacity to turn businesses around and he's playing by the rules," she told Reuters in an interview. "If you want no risk of being taken over, don't list your shares on a financial market." Bollore has hired and fired top management and imposed his vision of turning Vivendi into a European media powerhouse - a reversal of its previous course of focusing on core assets - and taken key strategic decisions, including the company's big bet on Telecom Italia. Vivendi initially acquired just 1.9 percent of the Italian telecoms firm in June last year. In under a year it had increased that to almost 25 percent, making it the biggest investor and giving it effective control. It pushed for the resignation of Telecom Italia's former CEO Marco Patuano, who stepped down in March. "As soon as he buys shares of a company, he tends to think that it's badly managed," said a senior French banker who has knowledge of Bollore's business dealings in Italy. "He was absolutely convinced that Telecom Italia was a lame duck and that everything needed to be changed."

Countdown

The dispute with the Berlusconis is not the first time Bollore's business methods have tested personal relationships. When his family conglomerate bought almost 9 percent of the Bouygues construction group in 1997, he assured company boss Martin Bouygues - his former school classmate - by phone that it would be a friendly move and that he would support Bouygues and not interfere with strategy. A year later, he had about 13 percent and opposed a strategic decision taken by Bouygues to diversify the activities of the group into telecoms. "Bollore took me for an idiot," Bouygues told a French magazine in 2013. "He fooled, deceived and humiliated me. I'll never forget it."

In a rare reversal, Bollore backed off from the confrontation and sold all his Bouygues shares in 1998 following a big backlash by supporters of his rival industrialist both inside and outside the Bouygues group. He defended his dispute with the Bouygues boss by saying he had no choice but to speak out against the telecoms strategy because he believed it would damage the company's finances. Two decades on, and several deals later - including raids on the likes of advertising firm Havas and shipowner Delmas-Vieljeux - Bollore's appetite appears undiminished. As well as the proposed Mediaset deal, he has set its sights on the video games market - in a tussle that might be closely watched by the Berlusconis.

Vivendi took over mobile games maker Gameloft in June and has built up a 22 percent stake in its bigger sister company Ubisoft. Both companies were founded by the Guillemot family, which considers the move on Ubisoft to be hostile and has refused to allow Vivendi board representation. Vivendi has said it does not intend to launch a takeover bid for Ubisoft, saying it wants to collaborate with the existing management so that synergies can be found with Gameloft. "I don't believe the synergy argument," said Vikram Kumar, a hedge fund manager at London-based TT International, which owns more than 1 percent of Ubisoft shares. "If Vivendi wants to get the hands on the company, it has to be a purely financially based outcome." Ubisoft declined to comment for this story. Even though he has assembled an empire that stretches from Dakar to Dunkirk, and amassed an estimated net worth of more than $5 billion, Bollore is unlikely to disappear into retirement any time soon. His publicly stated plan the idea is to hand over the Bollore group to his four children in six years' time. He has even set a countdown on his smartphone for Feb. 17, 2022, the date that will mark the bicentenary of the family group and supposedly end his career as pater familias for the company. But not even his family is convinced. "I don't believe one second in this countdown," his son Yannick told French newspaper L'Opinion last month. "The more the deadline approaches, the less he looks at it." — Reuters

Britons eying ancestry, love to secure post-Brexit rights

LONDON: From looking up their European ancestry to seeking out a continental soulmate, some Britons are leaving no stone unturned in their bid to keep ties with Europe after the nation's vote to leave the union. So far, nobody knows whether British citizens will face curbs on living and working in the European Union post-Brexit but the uncertainty has led many with as-yet-unfulfilled claims to both British and EU rights to file their paperwork.

The easiest way to obtain an EU passport is through an ancestral link to a country within the bloc and Ireland is the most likely choice for Britons. An estimated 10 percent of British citizens have claims to Irish citizenship, which can be granted to grandchildren of its citizens. "Before the referendum, I was thinking about applying for Irish citizenship but I wasn't going to do it unless we voted to leave because I felt it was dishonest," journalist Johanna Derry told AFP.

Since the vote, Derry has gathered the documents needed to be placed on the Irish foreign birth registry, opening the way for a full application. "I feel like I'm European, so in order to stay European... it just makes sense," she said. "I have been accused of maybe betraying my English roots... but I have so much Irish culture in my family life that it doesn't jar with me." Such was the demand for Irish passports in the wake of the June 23 shock vote that Ireland's foreign minister Charlie Flanagan pleaded for a slowdown, warning consular offices were under "significant pressure".

Unearthing the family tree

Meanwhile, Germany's embassy in London told AFP there had been "a spike in information requests regarding German citizenship" immediately after the vote. More surprisingly, around 400 British Jews whose ancestors were forced to flee Portugal five centuries ago were reported to have applied for citizenship in the southern European country. "We are receiving a dozen requests a day," Michael Rothwell, a spokesman of the Jewish community in Porto said. Until the Brexit vote, only five Britons had applied for Portuguese citizenship under a law passed in March 2015 offering Sephardic Jews nationality as a form of reparation for the persecution their ancestors suffered. Family tree finding website ancestry.co.uk said it had reported a "significant upturn" in people researching their family history following the referendum result. "Ancestry has seen trial memberships for new users go up 40 percent," said Sue Moncur, UK manager for the website. "At the same time searches for Irish records have gone up by 20 percent week on week," she added. For those without a genetic claim, love could be the answer. Britons with EU spouses will retain the right to live and work on the continent under EU law, although the right to citizenship is up to the individual country. To give matters a helping hand, British students Katy Edelsten and Chloe Cordon have set up a dating site called Idbenothingwithouteu.co.uk, which aims to "match up as many lovely couples as possible, who we hope will fall so madly deeply in love that they can't help but get hitched." — AFP

Earthquake in Peru kills at least four

LIMA:- A moderate 5.3-magnitude earthquake in Peru killed at least four people including a US tourist and left 68 injured, crushing villagers under rubble and blocking roads, officials said Monday. The quake late Sunday knocked down about 50 homes and cut off roads and power in the southern Arequipa region. "It was tragic. They got wounded people out as best they could," said John Rivera, a resident of Yanque, a hard-hit rural village of mud huts. "The electricity has got cut off. We still have water but we don't know what will happen next," he told RPP radio.

Authorities used a military plane to transport about 7.5 tons of food to meet the basic needs of the more than 1,200 people affected by the disaster. The civil defense service said one of the victims was a 66-year-old American who died in a hotel in Yanque that was badly damaged. Earthquakes are fairly common in Peru but this one hit at a shallow depth of eight kilometers (five miles) so damage could be heavy near the epicenter. The epicenter was 10 kilometers from the city of Chivay, capital of Caylloma province, according to the Geophysical Institute of Peru.

Several aftershocks struck Monday. The quake caused damage throughout an area of Arequipa called the Colca Valley, and several villages have been cut off. "We felt a very strong tremor. It has caused devastation in the whole Colca Valley," the mayor of Caylloma, Romulo Tinta, told RPP. "We have no communication links between the surrounding villages," he added. "We are asking for heavy machinery to gain access." The governor of Arequipa, Yamila Osorio, called for food and clothing to be airlifted to people left homeless by the quake. "We are taking aid to Caylloma and the other districts affected by the earthquake," Peru's President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski said in a message on Twitter.

CHIVAY: A woman looks at the ruins of her home destroyed by an earhtquake in Chivay, Peru. — AP

Killed by walls

More than 80 homes have been left uninhabitable, but crews cannot reach the epicenter, Osorio said. "We will have to declare an emergency in this zone," said Prime Minister Fernando Zavala. Among the worst-hit spots was Yanque, where about 60 percent of the buildings in the village-home to some 1,200 inhabitants-were destroyed, said local mayor Anastasia Suyco. She said land access to the area was cut off. "What we most need is to evacuate the wounded," she told RPP. "There are people who have been crushed by walls. The buildings here are rustic." Highway police official Leandro Flores told reporters work was under way to clear two major roads in the Chivay region.

The blocked roads were making it difficult for rescue teams to reach the region, Civil Defense chief Alfredo Murgueytio said. Peru lies on the so-called "Ring of Fire"-an arc of fault lines that circles the Pacific Basin and is prone to frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. The last serious quake in Peru-with a magnitude of 7.9 - struck on August 15, 2007. Its epicenter was on the central coast, just west of the major city of Pisco. It killed 595 people. Two major 7.6-magnitude earthquakes jolted eastern Peru near its border with Brazil in November. They were felt across several South American nations, but no major damage was reported. — AFP

British Prime Minister Theresa May

Amid nuclear spat, Britain's May seeks strong China ties

BEIJING: British Prime Minister Theresa May has written to China's president and premier seeking to enhance trade and cooperation, amid a dispute over London delaying a $24 billion nuclear project due to security concerns over Chinese financing. China has cautioned Britain against closing the door to Chinese money, warning relations are at a crucial juncture after May last month delayed signing off on the Hinkley Point nuclear project in Somerset, England.

In a statement late on Monday, China's foreign ministry cited a British envoy as telling Foreign Minister Wang Yi that Britain attached great importance to Sino-British cooperation. Alok Sharma, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, told Wang that May had written to President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang saying she looked forward to attending next month's G20 summit in China. Britain "looks forward to strengthening cooperation with China on trade and business and on global issues", China's foreign ministry said, citing the letter. Wang told Sharma that China believes Britain will continue to have an open policy towards China, the ministry added. Sharma tweeted that he had a "great" first meeting with Wang. "A warm welcome and forward looking approach." May's predecessor, David Cameron, said the Hinkley Point project was a sign of Britain's openness to foreign investment, but May is concerned about the security implications of the planned Chinese investment and has called for a review, according to a former colleague.

China has called for the project to proceed. The plan would see France's EDF build two reactors, with partial financial backing from the Chinese state-owned company China General Nuclear Power Corp. Britain and France's EDF first reached a broad commercial agreement on the Hinkley Point project in 2013. China got involved two years later when Downing Street laid on a state visit for President Xi Jinping, designed to cement a "Golden Era" of relations between the two countries. China General Nuclear Power, which would hold a stake of about a third in the project, has said it respected the decision of the new British government to take the time needed to familiarize itself with the program.— Reuters

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Bombings draw attention to forgotten war in Thai south

Insurgents launch armed bid for greater autonomy

BANGKOK: It happens with horrifying frequency in southern Thailand, a country much of the world associates with pristine beaches and alluring, sapphire blue seas: a bomb goes off. Victims are maimed or killed. Security forces comb through blood-spattered wreckage and debris. On Thursday and Friday, 11 more bombs rattled seven Thai provinces, killing four people and wounding dozens more.

But this time was different: the targets were not in the country's three southernmost provinces, where a bitter war waged by Muslim separatists has flared for more than a decade. Instead, they shook towns filled with tourists further north, places like Hua Hin, where 11 foreigners were injured, most by a small explosive device that detonated in a narrow alley filled with bars, restaurants and massage parlors.

Ethnic Malay insurgents launched their armed bid for greater autonomy in Thailand's so-called "deep south" in 2004. But more than 6,700 dead and 12,000 wounded later, the struggle seems more forgotten than ever - a reality illustrated by a flood of weekend media coverage that dwarfed the usual trickle of reporting about the far-southern conflict. "Sadly, people get used to violence. The media gets bored with it. The story becomes mundane," said Rungrawee Chalermsripinyorat, an independent analyst and expert on the insurgency.

BANGKOK: Thai soldiers patrol near the Erawan Shrine, a popular tourist landmark in Bangkok on the eve of the first anniversary of a bomb attack that killed 20 people. The August 17, 2015 blast at the Erawan shrine in downtown Bangkok killed 20 people, mainly ethnic Chinese tourists, and injured another 125 in the deadliest such attack in the country in recent years. — AFP

Low-level war

If it turns out insurgents were responsible for last week's bombings, it would mark a dangerous new expansion of the low-level war that has plagued the mostly Buddhist country's southern border region with Malaysia. It could also prove a dangerous incentive to carry out more violence. With few exceptions, the militants have so far avoided attacking known tourist destinations because "they didn't want to be seen as a terrorist group," Rungrawee said. "But that could change if attacks like this prove effective" by attracting more attention to the war or pushing the government to make concessions at peace talks, she said. While there has been no claim of responsibility and authorities have yet to blame any specific group, police investigators and analysts say the latest violence bears striking similarities to the methods used by the separatist militants who have traditionally limited operations to the Muslim-dominated provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat.

The attacks Thursday and Friday took place in seven locations south of Bangkok, including the island of Phuket. The bombs were small and appeared designed to shock rather than induce mass casualties, and left no immediate major impact on Thailand's lucrative tourist industry.

Bomb-making methods

Asked Monday about the possibility that insurgents orchestrated the latest violence, police commissioner Chakthip Chaijinda reiterated words spoken by other top officials over the weekend, saying "there are similarities in bomb-making methods and the equipment." Authorities say some of the homemade bombs were triggered remotely by cellphones - a tactic used by insurgents. Some of the phones, recovered by police, were reportedly purchased in Malaysia, into which Thai militants are known to cross with ease.

Malaysian police chief Khalif Abu Bakar confirmed Thai authorities have reached out, and officials on his side of the border were searching for those who purchased and sold the phones. What had been decades of scattered acts of violence by separatists escalated sharply in January 2004, when militants raided an army depot, killed four soldiers and made off with hundreds of weapons. By April, the insurgents were launching coordinated attacks across the three southernmost provinces, and more than 100 people were killed when one group staged a showdown in a mosque to which they had retreated.

A heavy-handed response by government forces resulted in seven Thai Muslims being killed in October during an anti-government protest in Tak Bai in Narathiwat province, and 78 others died of asphyxiation when they were piled tightly into trucks after being arrested. Muslims in the south say they don't feel like full members of Thailand's majority Buddhist society and complain of discrimination, rights abuses and arbitrary detention. The provinces in the south once belonged to a Malay sultanate which Thailand annexed in 1902.

Several factions

The insurgents are split into several factions, the strongest of which is the Patani-Malay National Revolutionary Front, or BRN. The groups' leadership, organizational structure and membership are secretive, so much so that Rungrawee said some recruits who have taken part in attacks were not even aware of which faction they belonged to. The government of former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra began peace talks with separatists in 2013, although there was some doubt about whether the leaders attending fully represented insurgents on the ground. Yingluck's government was toppled in a coup a year later, and the junta that rules Thailand has continued the effort. Talks, however, have gotten bogged down in such basic parameters as identifying the insurgents. Thailand's government insists on referring to them simply as "people with different opinions from the state," a position the militants reject. John Blaxland, a senior fellow at Australian National University, said he believed militants could have launched last week's bombings to increase their bargaining power at the negotiating table. — AFP

Two injured Afghan refugees (right and 2nd left) from the Manus Island detention centre are being helped after allegedly being attacked by a group of Papua New Guinean men whilst out on a day release. Australia is facing growing opposition demands for an inquiry into its treatment of asylum-seekers on remote Pacific islands after further allegations emerged of abuse against refugees. — AFP

Refugee 'abuse' claims fabricated, Nauru says

SYDNEY: Nauru yesterday dismissed as "fabricated" claims that asylum-seekers faced violence, abuse and humiliating treatment while living in Australian immigration facilities on the Pacific island, saying refugees had become political pawns. The release of more than 2,000 leaked reports of incidents on Nauru detailing allegations of widespread abuse and self-harm, including children wanting to kill themselves, have sparked new calls for a parliamentary inquiry.

Hitting back at the claims contained in the leaked documents, which date from 2013 to 2015, the Nauruan government said asylum-seekers had made up most of them in hope of being relocated to Australia. "Most refugee & advocate claims on Nauru fabricated to achieve goal to get to Aust. So called "reports" based solely on these claims," the government tweeted on Tuesday. In a second tweet, the republic accused the Australian left-wing media, Greens MPs and refugee advocates of "using refugees as pawns for their political agendas. Very sad".

Australia, which since 2013 has denied asylum-seekers arriving by boat resettlement even if they are found to be refugees and sends them instead to Nauru or Papua New Guinea's Manus Island, has also expressed skepticism about the reported incidents. Australia's Immigration Minister Peter Dutton last week said some of events reported in the leaked files involved "false allegations of sexual assault". "Because in the end people have paid money to people smugglers and they want to come to our country," he said.

"Some people have even gone to the extent of self-harming and people have self-immolated in an effort to get to Australia and certainly some have made false allegations." But the documents have sparked demands for greater scrutiny of operations in Nauru, where some asylum-seekers have lived for three years, with refugee advocates and journalists rarely granted access. A report based on interviews last month with those detained on Nauru conducted by researchers from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch found that asylum-seekers and refugees on the island suffered "severe abuse, inhumane treatment, and neglect".

The report accused Australia's government of failing to address serious abuses as it pursued what appeared to be a "deliberate policy to deter further asylum seekers from arriving in the country by boat". Offshore detention has bipartisan support in Australia, but doctors, lawyers and refugee advocates have strongly criticized the camps, arguing that some asylum-seekers suffer from mental health problems due to their prolonged and indefinite detention. In April, a young Iranian refugee died after setting himself on fire on Nauru. Canberra has long defended its policy of denying asylum-seekers resettlement in Australia, saying it has prevented deaths at sea and secured the nation's borders. — AFP

In a shift, Bangladesh Bank says no plans to sue US Fed and SWIFT

DHAKA: Bangladesh's central bank said it has reversed its plans to sue the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the SWIFT money transfer network, and instead intends to seek their help recovering $81 million stolen by cyber thieves in February. "At the moment we have no plan to go for any legal action against the Fed bank or SWIFT; rather we will seek their assistance," said Subhankar Saha, the spokesman for Bangladesh Bank. He declined to provide reasons for the turnabout.

A source close to the Asian central bank last month said it was preparing litigation to seek compensation, claiming errors by the New York Fed and SWIFT had made Bangladesh Bank vulnerable. In the February heist, hackers issued false transfer orders on the SWIFT network to move funds out of Bangladesh Bank's account at the Fed. Bangaldesh's finance minister had also said in March he was weighing legal action. "We only assessed different options, including the legal (option)," Saha said on Tuesday. "We look forward to cooperation both from the Fed and SWIFT." Officials from the Fed and Bangladesh Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith were not immediately available for comment.

The shift came as meetings were to begin in New York on Tuesday between officials from Bangladesh Bank, the New York Fed and SWIFT. It also comes after the New York Fed last week published its standard contract with correspondent banks, which spells out that the burden of preventing and reporting breaches lies largely with the correspondent bank, in this case Bangladesh Bank. Saha said there was no link between the decision not to pursue a lawsuit and the contract. "We were assessing options, and we prefer cooperation," he said. Deputy Governor Abu Hena Mohammad Razee Hassan, who is heading the Bangladesh Bank team in the New York meetings, said the bank operates under the standard Fed contract. He did not comment on any possible lawsuit.

The standard contract includes a requirement for the correspondent bank to "immediately" notify the US central bank when it learned it was hacked, and to give the Fed "a reasonable opportunity to act" on cancellation requests. The Fed was bound to then "make reasonable efforts" to halt any fraudulent payments it had made. The New York Fed is liable for acting on unauthorized payments only if it does not comply with agreed authentication messages, or fails to exercise good faith when filling a payment request, according to the contract.

The published contract notes litigation must be heard in a US court. In the Feb 4 heist, the hackers peppered the Fed with payment requests, four of which were filled. Much of the money disappeared into casinos in the Philippines. Reuters reported last month that Bangladesh Bank did not realize it had been hacked and d id not attempt to alert the New York Fed until two days after the money had been sent. By that time, a weekend in New York, the Fed took two more days to respond. Reuters also reported that the New York Fed attempted and failed to cancel the payments and did not immediately inform

News in Brief

Three soldiers dead as tank plunges into river

TAIPEI: Three soldiers were killed when a tank slipped and plunged into a river during heavy rains following an annual firing drill in southern Taiwan, officials said yesterday. The CM11 armored vehicle carrying five soldiers was returning to camp in southern Pingtung county around 10:30 am (0230 GMT) after completing the firing test when it slipped from a bridge and fell upside down into the Wangsha river, the army said. The driver managed to escape with light injuries but four others were trapped inside the vehicle and showed no signs of life when they were rescued. The army initially said they were all killed but later revised the death toll to three as one soldier was revived after emergency treatment and was transferred to a military hospital in neighboring Kaohsiung city. "We are still investigating the cause of the accident," said Alfonso Yang, a military spokesman. According to the army, the driver was unable to make a left turn when the vehicle possibly malfunctioned and then fell into the river.

Indonesian Energy Minister sacked for dual citizenship

JAKARTA: Indonesian President Joko Widodo sacked his Energy Minister late Monday just weeks after filling the key cabinet post, following revelations his new appointee improperly held Indonesian and United States passports. Arcandra Tahar, a former oil and gas executive who lived in the US for 20 years, was dismissed as a cabinet minister following days of controversy surrounding his dual citizenship. Indonesian law does not allow for dual nationality. An Indonesian must renounce their citizenship should they take another passport. Questions about Arcandra's citizenship began swirling at the weekend when it emerged that he possessed US and Indonesian passports. Tahar held US citizenship since being naturalized four years ago, but had not surrendered his Indonesian passport. "To respond to public questions regarding the citizenship of energy and mining minister Arcandra Tahar, and after obtaining information from various sources, the president has decided to honorably remove Arcandra Tahar," State Secretary Pratikno said. Pratikno, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, said in a televised address that Tahar's dismissal took effect yesterday.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

Philippines' Duterte jacks up budget to fight crime

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has announced a sharp increase in next year's national budget to fund his controversial war on crime, with security forces to get big pay rises. The political outsider swept to a landslide election victory in May and immediately implemented an anti-drug crackdown that has seen police and vigilantes kill more than 1,000 people, according to media tallies. In announcing a 3.35-trillion-peso ($72.3 billion) 2017 budget, up 11.6 percent from this year, Duterte said late on Monday a top priority for the increased government spending would be "more effective crime suppression". The police budget will increase by 24.6 percent, to 110.4 billion pesos, with the money to be spent on hiring more officers, raising their salaries and buying them more guns, according to a government statement. The judiciary's budget will rise by 21.5 percent to help them handle more cases, it said. Duterte is also planning a 15-percent rise in the military budget, to 130.6 billion pesos.

South Korea releases restaurant defectors

SEOUL: South Korea said yesterday that its intelligence service had finished investigating 13 North Korean restaurant workers whose joint defection triggered accusations from Pyongyang that they were kidnapped. A Unification Ministry official said the dozen waitresses and their manager had been "released into society" last week. They had all been working at a North Korea-themed restaurant in China. Their arrival in the South in April made headlines as the largest group defection for years. While Seoul said they fled voluntarily, Pyongyang claimed they were kidnapped by South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) and waged a vocal campaign through its state media for their immediate return. For all North Korean defectors, life in the South begins with intensive NIS interrogation that can last for months and is aimed at weeding out possible spies.

Yemen rebels used talks to rearm: Saudi-led coalition

RIYADH: The Saudi-led coalition battling rebels in Yemen accused the militants yesterday of using three months of peace negotiations to rearm, after an escalation of fighting following the talks' suspension. "They were deceiving people by this negotiation, to re-organize their force, re-supplying their forces and getting back to fighting. They don't have any political agenda," Brigadier General Ahmed Assiri, the coalition's spokesman said. He said the coalition, which launched strikes against the Shiite Houthi rebels in March last year, would do "whatever it takes" to restore security in Yemen. Coalition warplanes resumed major strikes around the rebel-held capital Sanaa last week following the suspension of the three months of talks in Kuwait. Since then bombing has continued, with the coalition accused of deadly strikes on a school and a hospital over the last four days. The coalition says the suspension of talks followed increased ceasefire violations by the rebels, who are allied to forces loyal to former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

NYC man charged with killing imam, assistant

NEW YORK: A New York City man was due in court yesterday to face charges he gunned down and killed a Muslim imam and his assistant on a street in the borough of Queens over the weekend, police said. Oscar Morel, 35, of the borough of Brooklyn, was charged with second-degree murder just hours after hundreds of mourners gathered for the outdoor funeral of the two men on Monday. The killings shocked the neighborhood's Bangladeshi community.

Morel has been charged with one count of first-degree murder, two counts of second-degree murder and two counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon, Queens District Attorney Richard A Brown said in a statement yesterday. Morel faces the possibility of life in prison without parole if he is convicted of killing Imam Maulama Akonjee, 55, and Thara Uddin, 64.

"The defendant is accused of the murder of a highly respected and beloved religious leader and his friend," Brown's statement said. "Their deaths are a devastating loss to their families and the community that they served as men of peace." Brown said Morel's motivation remained unclear and that the possibility it was a hate crime was one theory being explored.

Speaking to reporters at Queens County Criminal Court ahead of Morel's appearance, Uddin's brother, Mashuk Uddin, said the families of both victims were devastated by their deaths. "Everybody is very upset," Uddin said, adding that he believes it was a hate crime. "These two people here being killed at one time? What's the reason? There's only one reason (and) that's the hate crime." Outside court, several relatives of the dead men as well as friends and locals held signs reading "We demand justice."

Suspect Caught on Camera

Robert Boyce, the New York Police Department's chief of detectives, told a news conference on Monday that surveillance video showed the suspect getting into a black GMC sport utility vehicle after the shootings. That vehicle was then involved in a hit-and-run three miles away in Brooklyn shortly afterward. After officers located the SUV, the suspect rammed a detective's car several times in an attempt to escape, but was arrested, Boyce said. He said the suspect is believed to have worked at a warehouse in Brooklyn.

Citing unnamed police sources, the New York Times, the New York Daily News and other outlets reported yesterday that detectives who searched Morel's basement apartment in Brooklyn found an unlicensed revolver hidden in a wall that authorities believe he used in the execution-style killings. Police also found clothes in his apartment that matched what the gunman had been wearing, according to the media reports.

Akonjee and Uddin were shot in the head at close range after leaving Saturday prayers at the Al-Furqan Jame Mosque in the Ozone Park neighborhood of Queens. Police said there was no known connection between the man being questioned and the murder victims. Mayor Bill de Blasio, addressing the funeral, promised the city would bolster the police presence in the neighborhood even though the motive behind the killings was still unclear. Police had said there was no evidence the men were targeted because of their faith but nothing was being ruled out.

Akonjee, 55, was a devout and humble preacher beloved by the area's Bangladeshi Muslim community, according to those who knew him. Many locals wondered what could have prompted his killing. A father of seven, Akonjee emigrated to the United States from Bangladesh several years ago, said Badrul Khan, the founder of the Al-Furqan Jame Mosque. He described the slain imam as a man who lived and breathed his religious faith. "His whole life was his job, praying here, then going home," Khan said. — Reuters

In this video image, New York police officers walk with Oscar Morel (center) of Brooklyn in New York on Monday. — AP

Russia launches Syria raids from Iran

Continued from Page 1

Washington, which heads a separate coalition fighting IS jihadists in Syria and Iraq, said it was warned of the raid ahead of time as required by a mutual agreement on flight safety. "They did not impact coalition operations in either Iraq or Syria during the time," US military spokesman Colonel Chris Garver told journalists.

Russia's defense ministry said long-range warplanes took off from the Hamedan base in western Iran and "conducted a group air strike against targets of the Islamic State and Jabhat Al-Nusra terrorist groups in the provinces of Aleppo, Deir Ezzor and Idlib". The strikes destroyed jihadist targets including weapons depots and command centers, "killing a large number of fighters", Moscow said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said air raids yesterday against two rebel-held districts in Syria's second city of Aleppo killed 19 civilians. Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said the strikes on Tariq Al-Bab and Al-Sakhur, which left three children among the dead, were carried out by either Russian or regime aircraft and had also wounded dozens of people.

Fighting for control of the shattered city, a former economic hub in northwestern Syria, has intensified after regime troops seized control of the last supply route into rebel-held areas in mid-July. An AFP correspondent in eastern districts of Aleppo said there were heavy air strikes throughout Monday night and into the day yesterday in Tariq al-Bab and Al-Sakhur. Men were seen pulling debris and rubble from the ground floor of a building, while others zipped corpses into black body bags.

The increased fighting has raised concerns for the estimated 1.5 million civilians still in Aleppo, including some 250,000 in rebel-held areas. Since mid-2012, Aleppo has been split between opposition control in the east and government forces in the west, with both sides exchanging accusations of indiscriminate attacks against civilians. The UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria said in a statement it was "gravely concerned for the safety of civilians" in Aleppo and called for "immediate attention and response" to their plight. Human Rights Watch accused Syrian and Russian warplanes of having repeatedly used incendiary weapons against civilians in northern Syria, saying it had documented their use at least 18 times since June.

Iran and Russia are the two firmest backers of the Assad regime, with Tehran commanding thousands of troops fighting for him on the ground as Russia provides airpower. Both oppose calls for Assad to step down in a bid to resolve the conflict that has killed more than 290,000 people since it erupted in March 2011. Moscow has so far used short-range craft stationed at its Hmeimim airbase outside the Syrian coastal city of Latakia, as well as ships in the Caspian Sea and a submarine in the Mediterranean, to bombard Syrian territory.

The use of the Iran base to launch long-range bomber raids could help boost Moscow's firepower by cutting the time it takes for its jets to reach their targets from their base in southern Russia, military analyst Pavel Felgenhauer told AFP. "Bombers can transport more bombs if their flight time is short," he said. Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told state news agency IRNA that Moscow and Tehran "exchange capacities and facilities" in the fight against terrorism in Syria.

An unnamed military source told Interfax news agency on Monday that Russia had also sent requests to Iran and Iraq to fire cruise missiles across their airspace. With Russia's military cooperation with Iran on full display yesterday, Moscow this week also evoked an increase of cooperation with Washington. Yesterday, US Secretary of State John Kerry discussed the situation in Aleppo with Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov, the Russian foreign ministry said.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said in comments aired Monday that Russia and the United States were close to joining forces in some form around Aleppo and "begin battling together so that there is peace on this territory". But US State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau refused to confirm any collaboration. A senior Russian diplomat in Geneva, Alexei Borodavkin, told Interfax on Monday that the Russian and American militaries were in the process of "agreeing some concrete practical issues" regarding humanitarian aid deliveries to the city. —Agencies

Iranians fight rising infertility and taboos

Continued from Page 1

"This is why people don't want to be photographed here. We worry it will cause problems," he said.

Iran has a broadly progressive attitude to modern medicine, and some of the most advanced facilities in the Middle East, but fertility treatment remains a sensitive issue. As well as social taboos, Iranians must contend with varying instructions from religious leaders. It is illegal, for instance, to directly insert into a woman the sperm of a man who is not her husband. Using another woman's eggs is less controversial, although a "temporary marriage" is recommended between the man and female donor that can be annulled after the operation.

There is a grey area, however, since some clerics say an egg that has already been fertilized in a lab - even with a third party's sperm - is considered to have its own identity and can therefore be implanted into the womb. These questions are becoming more acute in Iran as evidence emerges of rising infertility. A comprehensive study carried out in 2012 found that 20 percent of couples in Iran were failing to conceive after trying for a year. That is around five to eight percentage points higher than the global average reported by the World Health Organization.

An estimated three million couples are unable to conceive in Iran, but the country only has the capacity to administer around 40,000 IVF treatment cycles per year. "Male infertility has increased severely," said Mohammad Mehdi Akhoundi, head of Tehran's Avicenna fertility clinic as well as the Iranian Society of Embryology and Reproductive Biology that carried out the study. "In the past 25 years that we have been involved with treating infertility... the sperm quality of men has dramatically decreased and we also observe much more premature menopause."

Interviews with the heads of two other clinics in Tehran supported the findings. "We don't have precise figures, but we do see a rise in infertility among both men and women," said the head of a private hospital's IVF section, asking not to be named due to the sensitivity of the topic. All those interviewed said pollution was the most likely cause of the spike. Tehran is a heavily polluted city, home to around five million cars. Poor water treatment facilities, a worsening diet and smog-producing factories are also likely factors in infertility, the doctors said.

As well as social and religious taboos, there is also the question of money. Even the Avicenna clinic, which is a public facility, charges about 70 million rials (around $2,000) for one cycle of treatment - around five months' wages for the average worker - and success can never be guaranteed. Nonetheless, the clinic has seen a steady 15 percent increase in patients each year, prompting its directors to start building larger facilities.

Speaking in the lobby shortly after IVF treatment, 28-year-old Parisa, who did not want to give her full name, was highly emotional as she spoke of the difficulties she had faced during five years of trying for a child. It was an uphill struggle convincing her husband, who was embarrassed about his infertility, to try IVF. Their first procedure was successful, but the foetus died after three months. Now the doctors have taken three eggs to fertilize. "I would be happy with triplets!" she said, but her laughter quickly turned to tears. "I have gone through so much - I will take whatever God gives me." — AFP

15 from Gitmo sent to UAE in major...

Continued from Page 1

The man, identified only as Obaidullah, was captured by US special forces in July 2002 and allegedly admitted to acquiring and planting anti-tank mines to target US and other coalition forces in eastern Afghanistan. In clearing him for transfer, the review board said he hasn't expressed any anti-US sentiment or intent to re-engage in militant activities. However, a Pentagon profile from last year also said he provided little information and they had little "insight into his current mindset".

One of the Yemeni men sent to the UAE was identified as Zahir Umar Hamis bin Hamdun, who the Pentagon alleged traveled to Afghanistan in 1999 and after training at a camp acted as a weapons and explosives trainer. A Pentagon profile from Sept 2015 said he expressed dislike of the US, which they identified as "an emotion that probably is motivated more by frustration over his continuing detention than by a commitment to global jihad".

Monday's announcement represents the largest transfer of prisoners under the Democratic Obama administration. "The continued operation of the detention facility weakens our national security by draining resources, damaging our relationships with key allies and partners, and emboldening violent extremists," Ambassador Lee Wolosky, the special envoy for Guantanamo closure, said in a statement. "The support of our friends and allies - like the UAE - is critical to our achieving this shared goal."

Obama urgently wants to close the facility before he leaves office at the start of next year but has been continually thwarted by Republican lawmakers. Still, the United States has in recent months accelerated the rate at which detainees who have been approved for transfer are released from the facility. When Obama took office, there were 242 detainees at Guantanamo. Monday's announcement means 19 inmates will remain who have been cleared for transfer.

Obama wants to send the rest, deemed to be the most dangerous, for incarceration in the United States - but that is an extreme long shot given Republican opposition. In February, the president presented Congress with a new closure plan for Guantanamo, which he says serves only to stoke anti-US resentment and fuel jihadist recruitment. Republican Senator Kelly Ayotte recently renewed calls to keep Guantanamo open and published an unclassified report on 107 current and former detainees that she said highlighted their terrorist pasts.

November's election will likely help determine the future of the notorious prison, as Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has vowed to fill Guantanamo with "bad dudes" should he win the White House. Trump has said he would "bring back a hell of a lot worse than waterboarding". To date, just 10 of the detainees face criminal trial, including the "9/11 Five" - led by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed - who are accused of plotting the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Shah said it was important for Obama to push ahead with plans to shutter Guantanamo, or the next administration could start filling its cells with suspected jihadists captured in the campaign against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria. "We are at an extremely dangerous and pivotal point where if President Obama fails to close Guantanamo then the next administration could bring more detainees there," Shah said. Guantanamo is a US naval base carved out of a remote chunk of land on the tip of southeastern Cuba. The administration of George W Bush opened a prison there to hold terror suspects.— Agencies

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Focus

Olympic-goers get eyeful of Rio's beauty obsession

By Peter Prengaman

Each morning, 75-year-old Jose Rebamar works his biceps, triceps and quadriceps with stone weights at an outside gym that looks out on Rio de Janeiro's iconic Sugarloaf Mountain. Living in a city of near daily sunshine and warm weather, the ex-Brazilian Navy sailor says there is no excuse to ever slow down. And having the Olympics in town provides even more incentive to stay in shape. Rebamar has been watching the games on television every night. "If I don't work out one day, I feel like I didn't do anything, like the day didn't happen," he said, interspersing barbell sets with yoga-like stretches.

Visitors to South America's first Olympic games are getting an eyeful of the beauty- and fitness-obsessed culture that is synonymous with Rio, a land of muscle-taxing samba dancing, acrobatic capoeira martial arts and dental floss bikinis and Speedos that reveal more than they conceal. Remember it was Brazil that gave birth to the "Brazilian bikini wax" and even the "Brazilian Butt Lift," a type of plastic surgery that aims to put a little more oomph in your rump.

Beauty is also big business here: Brazil always ranks among the world's top-five cosmetic-buying countries. It's also the world's second-biggest consumer of plastic surgery, after the United States. Outside workout areas are ubiquitous, as are specialty shops with names such as "integrated center for aesthetics," which offer everything from nail work to detailed analysis of facial curves to determine the kind of haircut to make people look their best.

"People are running and cycling and working out all over the city," said Imke Bergmann, a 45-year-old nurse from Munich who came to watch the games. "It's impressive." And of course the glamour craze found its way into the Olympics. Consider this: Dr Ivo Pitanguy, one of the world's most-recognized plastic surgeons who helped make Brazil a popular destination for the rich and famous to get work done, carried the Olympic flame on the games' opening day that later lit the cauldron at Maracana Stadium. The next day he died of a heart attack at 93, and Brazilian broadcasters cut away from competition coverage for hours to focus on the life of one of the country's most important personalities.

Or this: Supermodel Gisele Bundchen was a headliner at the opening ceremony, swaggering to "The Girl from Ipanema," the famous Brazilian song that, you guessed it, is about falling in love with a beautiful girl at the beach. Away from the venues, there is plenty to gawk at. On Copacabana Beach, men with muscles out of an anatomy book play pickup soccer games while women sunbathe the way a rotary chicken gets cooked: methodically rotating around. In neighborhoods like Leblon, Rio's most expensive locale, men and women draped in designer threads strut around as if they were heading to a Vogue cover shoot.

"I think I need to get into the gym," joked Ed Bai, a 48-year-old physical education teacher from Los Angeles, branding the beach scene in Rio "incredible". Dr Carlos Alberto Jaimovich, co-director of the Brazilian Society of Plastic Surgery, said the country's obsession with beauty is driven by many factors: a tropical climate where it's simply more comfortable to wear less, and a show-all media environment that includes magazine covers plastered with the nearly naked and always buff. Attractiveness is also equated with class in Brazil. "Beauty is synonymous with social mobility," he said.

And social mobility is directly related to race, meaning that more affluent whites are more likely to have the money for expensive beauty-related measures such as plastic surgery. Still, thanks to a practice that Pitanguy started decades ago, several clinics in the city offer free cosmetic surgeries to thousands of poor each year - reconstructive procedures for cancer patients and burn victims, for example, but also operations for purely aesthetic purposes. Pitanguy, dubbed the "philosopher of plastic surgery," often said that helping people look better on the outside made them feel better on the inside. In that way, many of the doctors who have followed in his footsteps believe that beauty is a right, and not something that just the rich should aspire to. Last year, Brazil ranked second behind the US with 1.5 million plastic surgeries, the majority for aesthetic reasons. — AP

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Trump blasts nation-building but wants Iraq oil

By Robert Burns

Donald Trump says that as president he would end "our current strategy of nation-building and regime change" because they don't work. His dislike for nation-building is shared by many, including none other than the target of his criticism, President Barack Obama. In fact it was Obama's predecessor, Republican George W Bush, who committed the US to large-scale nation-building projects in Iraq and Afghanistan. Obama discarded that strategy while trying to keep enough US influence there to prevent those two countries from crumbling. Obama's approach may not have worked, but it's not Bush-like "nation-building."

And while the Republican presidential nominee argued against nation-building in a foreign policy speech Monday, he advocated for something even more grandiose: seizing Iraq's oil wealth in the aftermath of the US invasion in 2003 that toppled Saddam Hussein. "I have long said that we should have kept the oil in Iraq," he said in Youngstown, Ohio. "I said, 'Keep the oil. Keep the oil. Keep the oil. Don't let somebody else get it.'" It would have required US troops to protect the oil, he said, but the benefit would have been clear today. "If we had controlled the oil like I said we should, we could have prevented the rise of ISIS in Iraq, both by cutting off a major source of funding and through the presence of US forces necessary to safeguard the oil and vital infrastructure products necessary for us to have the oil."

Nation-Grabbing

Rather than nation-building, this would have been nation-grabbing, making Iraq a de-facto American colony. In the final months of his administration, Bush negotiated an agreement with the Iraqi government that called for all US troops to leave the country by December 2011. Obama stuck to that schedule, believing that the Iraqis needed to stand on their own while the US turned its attention to other pressing needs at home and abroad, what he called "nation building at home." Obama, supported by his first secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, saw Bush's nation-building effort as a proven failure.

Iraqi politics, however, never overcame sectarian divisions, undermining the Iraqi army and leaving an easy target for IS. Trump is right that the Islamic State capitalized on the political and security vacuum in Iraq in 2014, but it's not clear that a long-term US military occupation to hold and exploit Iraqi's oil resources would have led to a more stable outcome. Trump says he would have used money from the sale of Iraqi oil to pay for the care of wounded soldiers and the families of those Americans killed in the war. "This proposal by its very nature would have left soldiers in place of our assets," he said. "We would have had soldiers there guarding this valuable supply of oil. In the old days, when we won a war, to the victor belonged the spoils."

After major military victories, the 240-year-old United States has tended to pour money and aid back into countries it has fought to help re-establish governments and services. It was, in fact, a kind of nation-building approach. The US still has troops in Germany and Japan, with the permission of those nations, but it never confiscated their natural resources.

In his speech, Trump said that as president he would discard "nation-building". In its place would be what he called a new approach, which he described simply as halting the spread of "radical Islam." He said that if elected he would convene an international conference on the topic and work closely with Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Russia, the NATO alliance and "all others who recognize this ideology of death that must be extinguished."

Trump also called Monday for "extreme" ideological vetting of immigrants seeking admission to the United States, vowing to significantly overhaul the country's screening process and block those who sympathize with extremist groups or don't embrace American values. "Those who do not believe in our Constitution, or who support bigotry and hatred, will not be admitted for immigration into our country," Trump said. "Only those who we expect to flourish in our country - and to embrace a tolerant American society - should be issued visas." Trump's proposals were the latest version of a policy that began with his unprecedented call to temporarily bar foreign Muslims from entering the country - a religious test that was criticized across party lines as un-American. — AP

Milwaukee is toughest US city for blacks

By Sara Burnett

In the country's long history of racial strife, a few cities have become flashpoints: Los Angeles. Chicago. Ferguson, Missouri. Baltimore. But by many measures, there is no tougher place to be black in America than Milwaukee, where in recent days the shooting death of a black man by a black police officer has led to violent protests, riots that destroyed businesses and gunfire. The city of 600,000 along Lake Michigan is also the country's most segregated metropolitan area, surpassing larger, deeply divided Midwestern cities such as Chicago, Cleveland and Detroit, a 2012 Manhattan Institute analysis of census data found.

The overwhelming majority of the black residents who make up 40 percent of Milwaukee's population are concentrated on its north side - where the rioting and Saturday's shooting occurred - and away from the breweries and festivals that draw tourists to the waterfront. People living on the north side are far more likely to live in poverty, to be incarcerated or to be out of work than those in the city overall or the metro area, according to a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee report. Wisconsin also has the highest rate of black unemployment of any state, and it leads the country in the number of black men behind bars, with 1 out of 8 in prison or jail as of the 2010 census, another study found.

It is a reality that most people don't see or hear about, in part because Milwaukee's size often excludes it from nationwide rankings or news accounts of big-city problems. Some community leaders also have preferred not to publicize the issues, said state Sen Lena Taylor, who still lives on the same north side block where she grew up. "We've always been known as a city with a small-town mentality," Taylor said. "We're a destination. We don't want people to be afraid to come to Milwaukee." There's also a misconception among outsiders about Wisconsin, she said. "They don't also think we have black people."

The state is investigating the fatal shooting of Sylville Smith, whom Milwaukee police say was shot after he turned toward an officer with a gun in his hand. Police say the 23-year-old was fleeing after a traffic stop. Police Chief Edward Flynn has blamed protesters from outside of Milwaukee for much of the unrest, saying protests and prayer vigils had been peaceful Sunday until a group from Chicago showed up. But the protests of recent days follow decades of racial tension, particularly between the black community and police.

Cecil Brewer, 67, lives near the gas station rioters burned on Saturday night. He's lived in Milwaukee for the last 14 or 15 years, and said black people have a target on them. He's constantly afraid an officer will pull him over. "It's a form of racism that if you haven't lived it, you can't understand it," he said. "People look at me because of the color of my skin. It's messed up."

Many of Milwaukee's black families came to the area after World War II to work in the city's factories, where good-paying jobs were plentiful. Then came the fight for civil rights. After a 1967 riot turned deadly, a white priest, the Rev James Groppi, led 200 nights of marches to push for fair housing laws. Joining him on some of those marches was the Rev Jesse Jackson, a civil rights leader who participated in similar marches across the country.

Struggle

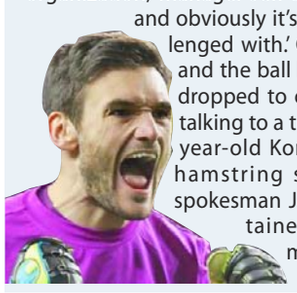
The story of struggle in Milwaukee's black community is similar to what has happened in other cities across the US, Jackson said Monday. The factories closed or moved jobs to the suburbs or overseas. A lack of transportation made it tougher for people to find work, and poverty led to violence and other problems, Jackson said. "This is another classic box car on the train of urban neglect," he said of Milwaukee. "You have a jobs desert. People have no place to work."

According to a 2015 study by the Economic Policy Institute, Wisconsin's black unemployment rate was nearly 20 percent in 2014. The numbers are even bleaker in Milwaukee's north side. A study of what's considered the most disadvantaged zip code found that just over a third of men ages 20 to 64 living there were employed, compared with 78 percent in the greater metro area. That 2014 study by University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee professor Marc Levine also found nearly half of residents lived below the poverty line, compared with 28 percent in the city overall. More than one of every five unit of housing was vacant.

Taylor also pointed to high rates of teen pregnancy and a crack cocaine epidemic that led to generations of "kids who raised themselves." There also have been incidents involving police, such as the shooting of a mentally ill black man by an officer in 2014. She said what may be most surprising is that the anger didn't simmer over sooner. "What you have are individuals who have been devalued, who have a lack of opportunity ... who don't see any hope," Taylor said. "When you put all that in one pot, it's like a pressure cooker. At some point, you have to have a release." —AP

A man speaks with police in a park in Milwaukee on Monday, following a night of violence that left half a dozen businesses in flames. — AP

Shin-Soo Choo hit by pitch, forearm broken



ARLINGTON: Texas right fielder Shin-Soo Choo faces the real prospect of missing the rest of the season with a broken left forearm after he was hit by a pitch during the Rangers' 5-2 win against Oakland on Monday. The news on Choo, who is headed to the disabled list for the fourth time this season, dampened celebrations for the AL West leaders. 'He's such a key part of this ballclub, this organization,' manager Jeff Banister said. 'You feel terrible for him personally and obviously it's a gut punch but one that we're going to be challenged with.' Choo checked his swing at a Ross Detwiler pitch and the ball hit an area near his left wrist, and he immediately dropped to one knee. He left after spending several minutes talking to a trainer and was replaced by Nomar Mazara. The 34-year-old Korean has been limited to 45 games by calf and hamstring strains and lower back inflammation. Team spokesman John Blake said the injury was similar to one sustained in April by catcher Robinson Chirinos, who missed two months. — AP

Asensio keen to press his Real Madrid credentials

MADRID: Spanish youngster Marco Asensio is confident he is ready to challenge for a place in Real Madrid's first team in the coming season after a successful loan spell with Espanyol. The 20-year-old playmaker was signed by Real in January 2014 for 3.7 million euros ($4.17 million) but remained in Mallorca before spending the 2015-16 campaign at Espanyol, where he scored four goals and set up 10 more in 34 La Liga appearances. But the Palma de Mallorca-born player is now back at Real and was unveiled to the media yesterday. He said in a news conference: "I don't fell vertigo, I'm just enthusiastic and eager to do the best I can." Asensio has taken full advantage of the opportunities handed to him by coach Zinedine Zidane during pre-season to show what he is capable of. "Zidane has always shown confidence in me," he said. "He told me that he was happy, that he wanted me to stay and I also wanted that. "He has told me he will be fair but that I would have to earn my minutes in training." Asensio played the full 120 minutes in last week's UEFA Super Cup final against Sevilla, scoring Real's opener in a 3-2 triumph, his first official game for the club. — Reuters

Injured Tottenham captain Lloris out for four weeks

LONDON: Tottenham Hotspur expect to be without injured captain Hugo Lloris for four weeks, the Premier League side confirmed in a statement yesterday. The goalkeeper injured his hamstring and was replaced by Michel Vorm 35 minutes into Spurs' opening 1-1 draw with Everton at Goodison Park on Saturday. "Following further assessment and scans of the left hamstring injury sustained by Hugo Lloris in the 1-1 draw at Everton on Saturday, we can confirm he is expected to be out of action for around four weeks," read a brief statement on the club's website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com). Lloris, who captained France to the final of the European Championship on home soil this summer, is set to miss upcoming home games against Crystal Palace and Liverpool, as well as the trip to Stoke City on Sep. 10. He could also be a doubt for Spurs' first Champions League group stage fixture on either Sep 13 or 14. — Reuters

Red Sox down Cleveland Indians 3-2

CLEVELAND: David Ortiz hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in a three-run sixth inning, and the Boston Red Sox defeated the Cleveland Indians 3-2 on Monday to extend their winning streak to four. Ortiz's 27th home run of his farewell season was the 530th of his big league career. Ortiz homered in all three games the Red Sox played in Cleveland this season. One out later, Jackie Bradley Jr also homered off Josh Tomlin (11-6), who has given up a major league-leading 29 home runs this season. Drew Pomeranz (1-2) allowed two runs in 7 2/3 innings to win for the first time since he was acquired from San Diego on July 14. He had been 0-2 in five starts for the Red Sox. Selected by Cleveland with the fifth overall pick in the 2011 amateur draft, Pomeranz gave up Rajai Davis' leadoff homer in the fourth and RBI double in the eighth. Craig Kimbrel escaped a ninth-inning jam for his 20th save in 22 chances. AL Central-leading Cleveland had won its previous four games. The game was a makeup of an April 7 postponement caused by snow and cold.

YANKEES 1, BLUE JAYS 0

Chad Green struck out 11 in six dominant innings, Aaron Judge delivered again with an RBI double and Dellin Betances escaped a big ninth-inning jam, leading New York over Toronto. Betances got major league RBI leader Edwin Encarnacion to ground into a game-ending, around-the-horn double play with runners at the corners. The Yankees won for the fifth time in six games, taking the first 1-0 decision between the teams since 2005. They dropped Toronto percentage points out of first place in the AL East and pulled within 5 1/2 games of new division leader Baltimore. Promoted earlier in the day from Triple-A for his fifth stint of the season with the Yankees, Green (2-2) was in complete control. He gave up two hits, walked none and outpitched RA Dickey (8-13). Tyler Clippard, Adam Warren and Betances combined for scoreless relief. Betances held on for his fifth save as the Yankees stopped a five-game losing streak to Toronto.

ROYALS 3, TIGERS 1

Ian Kennedy pitched effectively into the seventh inning to win for the first time since June 26 as Kansas City beat Detroit. The Tigers lost Miguel Cabrera after four innings to a strained left biceps. Cabrera appeared to injure himself in a first-inning collision with Cheslor Cuthbert at first base, but batted twice before leaving the game. Detroit said the slugger is day to day. Kennedy (7-9) ended an eight-start winless streak, allowing one run and five hits in 6 2/3 innings. Three relievers finished, with Kelvin Herrera pitching the ninth for his fifth save. Daniel Norris (1-1) gave up two runs - one earned - in 5 1/3 innings. He made the error that led to the unearned run. JD Martinez homered for Detroit.

RANGERS 5, ATHLETICS 2

Adrian Beltre hit a grand slam not long after Texas ended a 24-inning scoreless streak, and Martin Perez earned his first win since late June to lead the Rangers over Oakland. Beltre's 100th home run at Globe Life Park came against former teammate Ross Detwiler (1-1) in the fifth with Texas trailing 2-1. His 10th career slam came three batters after Shin-Soo Choo broke his left forearm when he was hit by a pitch. The AL West-leading Rangers were coming off consecutive shutout losses at home to Detroit. Perez (8-8) gave up two runs - one earned - in seven innings. He had gone 0-4 over his past eight starts. Sam Dyson closed for his 27th save. Beltre's 19th homer gave him 432 to break a tie with Cal Ripken on the career list.

DENVER: Colorado Rockies second baseman DJ LeMahieu (9) is late with the tag allowing Washington Nationals' Trea Turnera (7) a stolen base during the eighth inning of a baseball game on Monday, Aug 15, 2016. — AP

MARLINS 6, REDS 3

Chris Johnson drove in two runs with a homer and a double, former reliever David Phelps pitched into the sixth inning in his third start of the season and Miami won the opener of its four-game series against Cincinnati. Marcell Ozuna also homered and Dee Gordon beat Joey Votto's high toss to pitcher Blake Wood covering first base for a bases-loaded, two-run infield single. The wild card-contending Marlins have won two straight after a three-game skid. Both wins have come since Giancarlo Stanton was lost Saturday for what is expected to be at least six weeks with a groin injury. Phelps (6-6) struck out a season-high eight while allowing two runs in 5 1/3 innings. Fernando Rodney got three outs for his 21st save in 23 tries. Scott Schebler homered for the Reds to snap an 0-for-28 slump. Brandon Finnegan (7-9) allowed four runs in 5 2/3 innings.

CALIFORNIA: Los Angeles Angels' Ricky Nolasco pitches against the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game at Angel Stadium in Anaheim, Calif on Monday, Aug 15, 2016. — AP

RAYS 8, PADRES 2

Drew Smyly allowed just a solo homer over seven innings of one-hit ball, and Tampa Bay got home runs from Logan Forsythe and Kevin Kiermaier in its victory over San Diego. Alexei Ramirez hit his fifth homer and Derek Norris walked twice - those were the only baserunners against Smyly (5-11). Brad Boxberger and Kevin Jepsen completed the three-hitter, with Jepsen allowing a single to Wil Myers and a homer to Yangervis Solarte in the ninth. Forsythe hit his fifth homer in his last 13 games off Luis Perdomo (5-7). Kiermaier had a three-run drive in a five-run eighth that made it 8-1. He had three hits and two stolen bases.

NATIONALS 5, ROCKIES 4

Jayson Werth and Wilson Ramos homered, Bryce Harper doubled in the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Washington beat skidding Colorado despite a lackluster start from Max Scherzer. Washington's bullpen pitched five scoreless innings and Colorado-native Mark Melancon earned his 34th save in 37 chances. Sammy Solis (2-3) got the win. The NL East leaders have won three straight and four of five. Werth hit a two-run homer and reached safely three times to extend his on-base streak to a career-best 43 games. The stretch is the longest in the majors this season it ties Ryan Zimmerman for the Nationals record. DJ LeMahieu had four hits and Charlie Blackmon hit his sixth home run in four games. Still, the Rockies have lost eight of nine. Jordan Lyles (3-4) took the loss.

PIRATES 8, GIANTS 5

Gregory Polanco had a homer and four RBIs, Ryan Vogelsong won in his return to AT&T Park and Pittsburgh beat San Francisco. Andrew McCutchen added two hits, two RBIs and a spectacular catch in the eighth inning to help Pittsburgh move within one game of idle St Louis for the second NL wild card.

That was enough for Vogelsong (2-2) to win despite an up-and-down outing. Vogelsong, who spent parts of seven seasons with the Giants and won two World Series, allowed four runs over 5 2/3 innings. He received an extended standing ovation in the first inning and again when he left in the sixth. The right-hander won for the first time since coming off the 60-day disabled list after being hit in the face by a pitch on May 23. Denard Span had three hits, including a home run, and Eduardo Nunez also went deep for the Giants. Polanco hit a two-run double off starter Matt Moore (0-2) and drove in two more with his 17th homer. Tony Watson, the fourth Pirates reliever, retired three batters for his sixth save.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, METS 6

Welington Castillo, just back from a six-day leave due to complications with the birth of his son, matched his career high of four hits to lead Arizona over New York. Castillo doubled twice, drove in two runs and scored twice for the last-place Diamondbacks, who swept three games from the defending NL champions last week in New York. Bartolo Colon (10-7) drew the first walk of his 19-year major league career but lasted just four innings. Robbie Ray (5-11) allowed two runs in five innings for his first victory in five starts. One of his two walks went to the 43-year-old Colon on a 3-2 pitch. It came in Colon's 282nd career plate appearance. According to ESPN Stats & Info, no other player in major league history had that many plate appearances without walking. Paul Goldschmidt had three hits, including a triple and a double. He scored three times. Yasmany Tomas hit a two-run homer in the eighth.

MARINERS 3, ANGELS 2

Nelson Cruz hit his 30th home run to lead Felix Hernandez and Seattle past Los Angeles as the Angels matched a franchise record with their 11th consecutive defeat. Hernandez (7-4) struck out eight and pitched into the seventh inning to help the Mariners remain two games behind Boston for the second AL wild card. The Angels had lost 11 straight on three other occasions, but never under manager Mike Scioscia. Last in the AL West, Los Angeles (49-69) is a season-high 20 games under .500. The last time the team dropped 11 in a row was during the 1999 season. Ricky Nolasco (4-10) took the loss. Mike Trout homered and stole his 20th base, marking the third time he's reached 20 home runs and 20 steals in a season. Edwin Diaz earned his seventh save with a perfect ninth inning. — AP

MLB results/standings

Boston 3, Cleveland 2; NY Yankees 1, Toronto 0; Kansas City 3, Detroit 1; Miami 6, Cincinnati 3; Tampa Bay 8, San Diego 2; Texas 5, Oakland 2; Washington 5, Colorado 4; Arizona 10, NY Mets 6; Seattle 3, LA Angels 2; Pittsburgh 8, San Francisco 5.

American League

	W	L	PCT	GB
Eastern Division				
Baltimore	66	51	.564	-
Toronto	67	52	.563	-
Boston	65	52	.556	1
NY Yankees	61	57	.517	5.5
Tampa Bay	48	69	.410	18
Central Division				
Cleveland	67	49	.578	-
Detroit	63	55	.534	5
Kansas City	58	60	.492	10
Chicago WSox	56	61	.479	11.5
Minnesota	47	71	.398	21
Western Division				
Texas	70	50	.583	-
Seattle	63	54	.538	5.5
Houston	61	57	.517	8
Oakland	52	67	.437	17.5
LA Angels	49	69	.415	20

National League

	W	L	PCT	GB
Eastern Division				
Washington	70	47	.598	-
Miami	62	56	.525	8.5
NY Mets	59	59	.500	11.5
Philadelphia	56	63	.471	15
Atlanta	44	74	.373	26.5
Central Division				
Chicago Cubs	73	43	.629	-
St. Louis	62	56	.525	12
Pittsburgh	60	56	.517	13
Milwaukee	52	64	.448	21
Cincinnati	48	69	.410	25.5
Western Division				
San Francisco	66	52	.559	-
LA Dodgers	65	52	.556	0.5
Colorado	56	63	.471	10.5
San Diego	50	68	.424	16
Arizona	49	69	.415	17

FIFA ex-president Havelange dies at 100

Havelange turned FIFA into a global business behemoth

RIO DE JANEIRO: Joao Havelange, who died yesterday at 100, turned FIFA into a global business behemoth and helped bring the Olympics to Rio, only to resign in disgrace after a corruption scandal. The Samaritano Hospital in Rio de Janeiro confirmed that Havelange, who had been treated there in July for pneumonia, died early in the morning.

Plaudits for the footballing boss quickly came from his controversial successor Sepp Blatter, who was suspended last year as head of FIFA over ethics violations. "He had one idea in his head, to make football a global game with his slogan 'football is the universal language,' and he succeeded," Blatter said in a statement. "It's his development of football that made our sport the uncontested leader in society on the social, cultural and economic levels-and let's not forget its political influence," Blatter said.

Current FIFA supremo Gianni Infantino paid similar homage to Havelange and his legacy. "During his 24 years as FIFA President, football became truly global, reaching new territories and bringing the game to all corners of the world - something the whole football community should be grateful for," Infantino said. Thomas Bach, the president of the International Olympic Committee, said that flags would be flown at half mast at Rio Olympic venues. Brazilian interim president Michel Temer called Havelange one of the "important leaders" of world sport.

There's no doubting the impact of Havelange. As head of FIFA for 24 years and with half a century on the International Olympic Committee (IOC), Havelange thought and acted big, becoming a central figure in the evolution of today's sporting mega-events. Among his last achievements was to use his clout to help Rio win its bid to host this year's Olympic Games-the first held in South America. Havelange "sees the world through a telescope and not through a microscope," former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger said. Born to a wealthy Belgian immigrant family in Rio de Janeiro in 1916, Jean-Marie Faustin Goedefroid de Havelange graduated with a law degree, but sport was his true love. He represented Brazil in swimming at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin and again in Helsinki in 1952, where he was on the water polo team. His real calling turned out to be in management where he rose to the top echelons of sporting bodies, setting a standard for the kind of lengthy-and deeply entrenched-reigns that some critics blame for fostering a culture of corruption. Havelange was president of the Brazilian Sports Confederation for 15 years and joined the Brazilian Olympic Committee in 1955, then the IOC in 1963 where he would remain until 2011. In 1974 he got the job of FIFA president, succeeding Sir Stanley Rous as the first non-European in the role. Over the next quarter century Havelange would change the way the world experienced football.

Global game

Under Havelange the World Cup expanded from a 16-nation event focused on Europe and a few

File photo taken on August 06, 1997 shows then President of the Federation International Football Association (FIFA) Joao Havelange speaking during a press conference where he announced the participation of the Brazilian national soccer team in the 1998 World Cup competition in France. — AFP

South American sides to the planet-wide sporting festival it has become. By the time Havelange handed over the FIFA reins to Blatter in 1998, the number of competing nations had doubled to 32, with 12 coming from Asia, Africa or the CONCACAF region for North and Central America and the Caribbean. He also oversaw FIFA's inauguration of the Under-17 World Cup, the World Youth Cup, the Women's World Cup, the Indoor World Cup and also introduced the Confederations' Cup, played between continental champions. "I did not become president of FIFA just to watch good football and applaud," Havelange said just before making way for Blatter.

Disgrace

Havelange neither drank nor smoked and met with Pope John Paul II on no less than three occasions. However, a less savory side eventually overwhelmed his image as a clean-living powerbroker. Amid swirling allegations of corruption, Havelange resigned from the IOC in December 2011. Officially he left for health reasons, but his departure was two days before he was due to face an ethics investigation into allegations he had taken bribes to funnel contracts to a marketing company called ISL.

In 2013, Havelange resigned as honorary president of FIFA after confirmation of reports that he had taken bribes. Critics say that corruption was as much Havelange's legacy as the successful internationalization of football. His successor Blatter would himself announce his resignation in June 2015 after a massive corruption probe led to the arrests of seven top FIFA officials. Havelange still casts a long shadow over international sport. Athletes competing in the Rio Games race in a stadium which-despite complaints from some quarters-still bears the name: Joao Havelange Olympic Stadium. — AFP

Chelsea edge West Ham

LONDON: Diego Costa thrust himself back into the headlines with an 89th-minute winner as Chelsea edged West Ham United 2-1 in Antonio Conte's first Premier League game as manager on Monday. Eden Hazard, symbol of Chelsea's slump from champions to a 10th-place finish last season, opened the scoring at Stamford Bridge with a penalty early in the second half, before James Collins equalised in the 77th minute.

Costa arguably should have been shown a second yellow card after catching West Ham goalkeeper Adrian with a late challenge, but he stayed on to steer a dramatic winner into the bottom-left corner from 20 yards. "I think the team played a good game with a great intensity and spirit," Conte told Sky Sports. "It is important to find the right spirit and intensity. We know we can improve and we must improve a lot, but today I am pleased for my players." Asked about Costa's challenge on Adrian, Conte replied: "I did not see it."

The bruising Costa's goal made it a positive opening night for Conte, who handed a full debut to former Leicester City man N'Golo Kante and saw another debutant, substitute Michy Batshuayi, set up the winning strike. But it was a bitter defeat for West Ham manager Slaven Bilic, who lost debutant Andre Ayew to a thigh injury in the 34th minute. On Costa's challenge, Bilic said: "We are not happy with that. I don't think it was reckless, definitely not. "It was not deliberate. But it was very late. Nine times out of 10, when you see that kind of challenge on a goalkeeper, it's a booking. Unfortunately this was the 10th time." He added: "We were so close against a top side. But they deserved it."

Antonio storms off

With both managers spending the entire match on the edge of their technical areas, suited and gesturing animatedly, the game was characterized by hasty, imprecise football and full-blooded tackling. Kante started at the base of midfield in the only change to the Chelsea team that started last season's opening game-a 2-2 draw with Swansea City that gave the first hints of the rot that was about to set in. Bilic fielded two debutants in Ayew and left-back Arthur Masuaku, but the former was forced into a premature exit after injuring himself chasing after the elusive Hazard.

The hosts' high defensive line prevented West Ham bringing lone striker Andy Carroll into the game and the first-half chances were all Chelsea's. Branislav Ivanovic drew a save from Adrian at his near post, Hazard curled a shot a foot wide following a probing run and Willian obliged Adrian to palm a dipping free-kick over the bar. West Ham's resistance was broken two minutes into the second half after Cesar Azpilicueta charged down an attempted clearance by Michail Antonio on the edge of the visitors' box.

In seeking to atone for his error, Antonio succeeded only in blundering into Azpilicueta from behind, obliging referee Anthony Taylor to point to the spot. Hazard thundered the penalty into the roof of the net and within four minutes Antonio had been replaced by Sam Byram, the former Nottingham Forest player storming past Bilic and straight down the tunnel. With West Ham offering next to no attacking threat, Chelsea continued to attack, Willian working Adrian with a crisp shot and John Terry heading over.

But the hosts should have been reduced to 10 men when Costa, booked in the first half for dissent, caught Adrian with an ugly, high challenge as the West Ham goalkeeper dallied over a clearance.

West Ham looked to have pulled off a smash-and-grab with 13 minutes remaining when Chelsea failed to clear a corner and Wales international Collins lashed a left-foot half-volley past Thibaut Courtois. But with full-time looming, former Marseille striker Batshuayi flicked on a long ball to Costa, who steadied himself before guiding a shot between Collins's legs and beyond Adrian's despairing drive. — AFP

LONDON: Chelsea's Brazilian-born Spanish striker Diego Costa (right) stretches to reach the ball in the area during the English Premier League football match between Chelsea and West Ham United at Stamford Bridge in London on August 15, 2016. — AFP

Morsy sinks Enyimba again; Zamalek qualify

JOHANNESBURG: Zamalek striker Basem Morsy was again responsible for the downfall of Nigeria's Enyimba as his goal sealed a 1-0 win to hand the Cairo giants a CAF Champions League semi-finals place. The 24-year-old converted a 63rd-minute penalty awarded for handball at the Petro Sport Stadium late Monday in a Group B matchday 5 showdown. Morsy also scored when Zamalek won 1-0 at Enyimba two months ago in the first mini-league round of the premier African club football competition. Victory lifted the Egyptian White Knights to six points, three less than group winners Mamelodi Sundowns of South Africa and six more than eliminated Enyimba.

The section was reduced to three clubs after Entente Setif of Algeria were disqualified for a pitch invasion by supporters frustrated at the team trailing 2-0 against Sundowns.

Wydad Casablanca of Morocco, who hold a two-point lead, and Zesco United of Zambia have qualified from Group A and meet on August 24 to decide who tops the final standings.

Zamalek have been African champions five times and Wydad once, Sundowns were runners-up once and Zesco have reached the semi-finals for the first time. North African clubs have won 28 of the 51 Champions League competitions while only one from the south, Orlando Pirates of South Africa, have lifted the trophy. — AFP

TELFORD: British forensic officers attend the scene where former Aston Villa soccer player Dalian Atkinson died after he was tasered by police early in Telford, England. Atkinson (inset) died after he was shot with a Taser by police. — AP

Ex-soccer player dies after UK police use Taser on him

LONDON: Britain's independent police watchdog has opened an investigation into the death of a former Premier League soccer player who was shot with a stun gun by police. Dalian Atkinson, 48, went into cardiac arrest on the way to a hospital and died around 90 minutes after officers used a Taser on him, the West Midlands Ambulance Service said in a statement. Officers deployed stun guns after being called to an address in Telford, northwest of Birmingham, involving "the safety of an individual," West Mercia Police said.

"He had some health issues that he was trying to get through and that's why his heart was weak," his nephew Fabian Atkinson said. "When a Taser is deployed, as soon as a Taser is deployed, they need to automatically call an ambulance. How do they know the health of the guy or the girl that they are affecting?" The case immediately touched off a debate about the use of Tasers in a country where police rarely carry guns. Black people were three times more likely to be involved in Taser incidents than whites from 2011 to 2015, according to Home Office statistics obtained by the BBC in a Freedom of Information request. Atkinson was black.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission swiftly moved to take charge of the investigation into Atkinson's death. "I would like to assure people that we have begun a full and thorough investigation into police contact with Dalian Atkinson prior to his death, including the level and type of force used," said the IPCC's deputy chair, Rachel Cerfontyne. "Our investigation team have been securing and preserving relevant evidence, and identifying witnesses." Three of Atkinson's former clubs - Aston Villa, Ipswich and Sheffield Wednesday - all paid respects in posts on their websites. England's Football Association said it was "saddened to hear of the passing" of Atkinson, who represented England's 'B' team.

Atkinson scored 20 Premier League goals during his time at Villa from 1991-95. He also played for Ipswich, Wednesday and Manchester City in England, and had spells with Real Sociedad in Spain, Fenerbahce in Turkey and also in South Korea. Atkinson was most famous for a scoring a goal for Villa against Wimbledon in October 1992, when he ran from inside his own half, evaded a number of attempted challenges before chipping the ball over the goalkeeper and into the net. It was voted as goal of the season in the 1992-93 Premier League.

Atkinson also scored in the 1994 League Cup final when Villa beat Manchester United 3-1. "Aston Villa is saddened to hear of the death of our former striker Dalian Atkinson," the second-tier club said in a statement. "Dalian undoubtedly provided real memorable moments during his time in claret and blue." Wednesday said Atkinson was "widely regarded as one of the most exciting football talents to emerge during the mid-1980s to early 1990s." In an era when English players seldom played abroad, Atkinson scored 12 goals in 29 league games during one season with Real Sociedad, before returning to England to play for Villa. He scored 10 goals in 21 league games for Istanbul-based Fenerbahce after leaving Villa. — AP

Exclusive club bows out with Havelange

PARIS: A species on its way to extinction: Joao Havelange belonged to a group of all-powerful administrators who dominated the sporting world for decades. Here are five members of the exclusive club who ruled with an iron fist and bottomless pockets:

Football: Joao Havelange

President of football's world governing body FIFA from 1974 to 1998, Havelange who died yesterday at the age of 100, helped transform football into a global institution. Under his watch FIFA became a money making machine and the sport's most prestigious event, the World Cup, spread to new territories (United States, Asia) with a new format of 32 teams. Also a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), the former Brazilian international swimmer was accused of running FIFA with an opaque clique of loyalists and was eventually trapped in a web of corruption. He was forced to quit the IOC in 2011 and two years later vacated his seat as honourary member of FIFA.

Football: 'Sepp' Blatter

Entering FIFA in 1975 as development director, Blatter, 80, learnt his trade from the master, Havelange, whom he served as general secretary for 17 years. Blatter got the top job in 1998, following in his mentor's footsteps. "My biggest achievement is to have made football global" Blatter said of his time in office. He was the man who brought the first World Cup to the African continent for the South Africa tournament in 2010. His hold on FIFA slipped under a wave of scandal. He resigned on June 2 just four days after he was re-elected for a fifth term in office. Under investigation by the FBI, Blatter and FIFA are plunged, into the biggest corruption scandal to shake the sport. Blatter was banned for six year ban by FIFA for a 1.8 million euros (£900 thousand) payment to UEFA boss Michel Platini.

Athletics: Lamine Diack

During his 15-year career as head of the International Association of Athletics Federation (IAAF), Diack was a very successful and popular figure due to his past long jump national champion title and his roler as director of the Senegalese football team. Diack was the first vice-president of the IAAF, and aged 66 became head of the organisation after Primo Nebiolo death in 1999. Now 82-years-old, Diack's shady affairs are catching up with him: corruption, doping cover-ups and money laundering. He did not stand for re-election in August 2015, with British athletics legend Sebastian Coe taking over the IAAF.

F1: Bernie Ecclestone

The 'Big Boss' of Formula 1 celebrated his 85th birthday last October. Ecclestone has survived major scandals including the disappearance of the Caterham and Marussia teams alongside the death of French Formula One driver Jules Bianchi in Japan. Since the 1980s, the Brit has had an almost complete monopoly over F1. "Mr E" had briefly stepped into the shadows following charges of corruption filed in Munich two years ago and dismissed after a 100 million euro (£87 million) payment was made. He has since then returned to business with the blessing of the FÈdÈration internationale de l'automobile (FIA).

Olympics: Juan Antonio Samaranch

The Spaniard died in 2010 aged 89-years-old and was at the head of the IOC from 1980 to 2001. His successor Jacques Rogge branded him as "IOC's most influential leader since Pierre de Coubertin" the founder of the Olympic movement. Samaranch inherited a decaying organisation, and Franco's former sports secretary and diplomat, transformed the Olympics into sports biggest sport gathering through monumental sponsoring contracts. His fall came from corruption scandals, especially for the Salt Lake City's controversial winning bid for the Winter Olympics in 2002. — AFP

Misbah-ul-Haq keen to leave Pakistan legacy

LONDON: Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq has vowed to leave a Test legacy after a series-leveling win against England at The Oval. Pakistan marked the nation's Independence Day on Sunday with a 10-wicket victory over England in the fourth Test at The Oval in south London that saw them end the four-match series all square at 2-2. "The Oval win is not only pleasing as it is achieved on the Independence Day but it will also help us form a legacy for our future Test teams," Misbah said. "When I took over as captain that was my aim, so this win will help me leave a legacy for future Test teams," the 42-year-old veteran skipper added.

Misbah was recalled to the side and given the captaincy following the fall-out from Pakistan's infamous tour of England in 2010. That saw then Pakistan captain Salman Butt and pace bowlers Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir given five-year bans and jail terms for deliberately bowling no-balls as a part of a spot-fixing sting in the 2010 Lord's Test against England. But the past six years have not only seen Misbah unite the team but also keep it scandal-free. "It has been important for me to unite the team and unity always brings good results, even in challenging situations like in England," said Misbah.

"This series-levelling win will go a long way in establishing this team because in the next six months we have series against the West Indies, New Zealand and Australia," added the top-order batsman, who made a hundred in Pakistan's win over England in the first Test of this year's series at Lord's.

But after that match, Pakistan suffered heavy defeats-by 330 and 141 runs in the next two Tests at Old Trafford and Edgbaston respectively. Misbah said Pakistan had shown remarkable resilience to then level the series in convincing style at The Oval.

"I kept telling the team that we have to follow the example of great teams who never look behind and keep working hard and that's what we did," he said. "It was like the Pakistan Movement that even in the time of adversity Quaid-e-Azam never abandoned the hard work," said Misbah, using the Urdu term of 'Great Leader' for the founder of modern Pakistan, Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Misbah said he had told the young players in his squad never to lose hope.

'Gift for the nation'

"When you play cricket, you have a lot of difficulties and face a lot of challenges, but through hard work you can achieve the toughest of things.

"I remember that when we were coming here (to England) no one was ready to give us any chance but I and my players had the belief. "With a bit of luck, we could have won this Test series but even drawing a series in England against a team of quality players is a big achievement."

Misbah said he told the players before the Oval match how important it would be for them to mark Independence Day with a win. "I told the players that we will achieve more than one thing if we win and level the series, we will also give a gift to the whole nation." Pakistan have not played a Test in their own country since an armed attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in Lahore in 2009 and Misbah said: "Our people love cricket but they are not able to watch us at home. "So it is important that we keep winning and give youngsters and up and coming players the encouragement to take up the game and make their names."— AFP

Some athletes find grass is greener far from home

RIO DE JANEIRO: For Sale: One elite athlete, lightly used. Will swap citizenship, move to your country and even marry to compete for your Olympic team if the price is right. (Note: All marriage proposals must include a photo.) When it comes to the Olympics, a lot more mercenaries - er, athletes - change allegiances than you'd think. Here at the Rio Games, Bahrain's delegation of 30 athletes includes exactly four Bahraini natives. Twenty-three of Qatar's 39 athletes were born somewhere else. Its handball team of 14 players includes 11 foreign-borns, including Marko Bagaric, who helped lead the Qataris to an upset win over Croatia, the land of his birth.

He felt bad for Croatia but got over it soon enough. "The worst feeling was during the national anthem," Bagaric said. "Ah, but what can I do?" While oil-rich, Gulf states game the system most often, they're hardly the only nations that seek to flip athletes like used-car dealers. The 550-plus strong US delegation includes 46 athletes - about 8 percent - born elsewhere. China is so dominant in table tennis that one in five of the 140 competitors spread across 55 teams were born in the world's most populous nation.

The reasons for what noted Olympic historian David Wallechinsky calls a "braun drain" and others a "passport swap" or "transfer of allegiance" are varied. In some cases, like China's table-tennis players, American basketball and baseball athletes, or Kenya's long-distance runners, the talent pool at home is so deep that reserves with no chance to make the first team are still better than any other country's best.

Some athletes take advantage of their ancestry and others gain citizenship through marriage or relocation. But the International Olympic Committee rules governing such moves are so laughably lax that mercenaries in the games are every bit as prominent as in other big-time, big-money sports like soccer. All such moves require is agreement by both nations' Olympic committees, some of that consensus no doubt influenced by cash. Qatar, for example, bought the entire Bulgarian weightlifting team in 2000 for a reported $1 million, awarding citizenship and new names to all eight athletes involved.

But only one of them, Angel Popov - renamed Said Saif Assad just in time for the Sydney Games - returned to his new home with a bronze medal. That left some Qataris wondering whether the money would have been better spent making sure Bulgaria's notorious doping program was included in the deal. Undaunted, the Qataris bought Kenyan long-distance runners Stephen Cherono and Albert Chepkurui three years later. That didn't work out much better. "Nation shopping," yet another name for the practice, has become prevalent enough in track and field competitions that when the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) convenes Saturday, finding a way to tighten up the eligibility for the movement of athletes is near the top of their agenda.

Soccer's worldwide governing body, FIFA, may be the most corrupt outfit in sports, but their rules on "nation shopping" are both simple and effective: Once an athlete has played for a country in an internationally sanctioned tournament at the senior level, he's bound to that country for life. No exceptions. Both Wallechinsky and Bill Mallon, a historian and statistician with the US Olympic Committee, would like to see the IOC adopt a similar measure. Wallechinsky also thinks a limit on foreign-born athletes on each national team, or the number allowed to compete in any given sport, might work as well.

Mallon also said removing the exception allowing the national Olympic committees involved to override the rule already on the IOC books might turn the trick. It currently states athletes can switch countries "provided at least three years have passed since the competitor last represented his former country." "I think you could make very specific exceptions, for examples, like marriages," he said. But a moment later, Mallon pulls up a file on his computer screen and notes that of the 952 married couples that have competed in the games over the years, 190 have involved a couple where the husband or wife hails from a different country. He had no idea what the divorce rate for the group might be. But it seems someone who would walk away from his or her country wouldn't find it much harder to walk out on a spouse. — AP

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Kaushal Silva (left) plays a shot as Australia's wicketkeeper Peter Nevill (right) and fielder David Warnerreact during the fourth day of the third and final Test cricket match between Sri Lanka and Australia at The Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Ground yesterday. — AFP

Silva vows no let-up for Australia

COLOMBO: Centurion Kaushal Silva said yesterday Sri Lanka were determined not to let Australia off the hook after they took a commanding 288-run lead in the third and final Test in Colombo. Silva, who batted with six stitches in the webbing of his little finger after injuring himself while fielding on Monday, scored a composed 115 to dim Australia's hopes of a consolation win. Sri Lanka, who are pushing for a rare series whitewash after winning the first two Tests, were 312 for eight in their second innings at stumps on the fourth day at the Sinhalese Sports Club. First innings centurion Dhananjaya de Silva was unbeaten on 44, with Suranga Lakmal yet to get off the mark at close of play.

Silva said the hosts did not want to declare but to score as much as possible. "If we have a really good target like 350 or more then we put them out of the game, so that's what we need to do," he told reporters.

The 30-year-old, mixing dogged defense and controlled aggression, put together a crucial 90-run partnership with the other first innings century-maker Dinesh Chandimal to thwart the Australian attack. Silva, who regularly received treatment for his injured left finger during breaks, reached his century with a boundary off Adam Voges. "It was tough initially, because I had a split webbing also," he said.

"But I think that in a way helped me because I knew it wasn't easy for me to drive the ball. So I thought, let's focus on the balls that are coming into me and leave the away-going deliveries," said Silva. Off-spinner Nathan Lyon, who claimed four wickets, trapped Chandimal lbw for 43 in the final session to break the stand. Silva, who survived an lbw appeal against Lyon after a successful umpire review in the first session, finally fell to the left-arm spin of Jon Holland in the 87th over.

Spin rules

Australia made further inroads into the Sri Lankan line-up late in the day, but de Silva ensured that the hosts maintained their domination of the match heading into day five. Australian wicketkeeper Peter Nevill praised the Sri Lankan batsmen for their ability to play spin on turning tracks. "Our spinners have done their best to adapt, but I suppose their batsmen have played spin exceptionally well and made it very hard for a spinner to settle," he said.

"They swept well, they used their feet well, so a lot of credit should go to their batsmen." Lyon struck in the first hour of play to get opener Dimuth Karunaratne stumped for 22, as Nevill clipped the bails off when the batsman's foot was raised for a split-second. Australia also benefited from a review after Holland had Kusal Perera caught off a top edge which took the pads and went into the gloves of the wicketkeeper. Perera, who scored 24, was undone by a side angle replay after a front-on view had been inconclusive.

Kusal Mendis hit a quickfire 18 off 14 balls with two sixes and a four. But his counter-attack was halted when he was trapped lbw by Mitchell Starc, who has taken two wickets. Centuries from skipper Steve Smith and Shaun Marsh had given Australia hope of a big first-innings lead on Monday, but their departure saw the visitors lose their last seven wickets for 104 runs. Veteran spinner Rangana Herath led the Sri Lankan attack, snaring six wickets, with Australia all out for 379 in response to Sri Lanka's 355. Sri Lanka now have the chance to register their first whitewash against a major team since gaining Test status in 1981. — AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Tiffany Chan of Hong Kong hits onto the fourth green during a practice round for the women's golf event at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil yesterday. — AP

The golden oldie athletes show how to win medals

RIO DE JANEIRO: At 54, Argentinean Olympic sailor Santiago Lange is tired and in pain. And on the cusp of winning gold. The Olympics may resemble a celebration of youthful perfection, but sprinkled across a surprising variety of sports are veterans like Lange. There are over-40s in gymnastics and rowing, while equestrian events feature several over-50 year olds, topped by the oldest competitor in the Olympics, New Zealand rider Julie Brougham, 62.Lange has already been in five Olympics and won two bronze medals.

Now his Nacra 17 catamaran, crewed by 29-year-old Cecilia Carranza Saroli, heads the fleet ahead of Tuesday's medal race, meaning he has an excellent chance of boosting that haul. Sailing has not the same physical demands as running or gymnastics, but the fast Nacra catamaran requires agility, wits and the toughness to spend days bouncing around in the waves and weather.

"I'm hurting. It takes it out of me," Lange said at the Olympic sailing base Marina da Gloria, admitting to exhaustion after his latest victorious race. "It's painful just to pull the boat out of the water." It isn't just creaky joints he has to worry about. Lange underwent lung cancer surgery last year and spent months out of the sport. Adding to the weight of these Games, Lange has two sons on the Argentine team, sailing a 49er. "This has been a very emotional Olympics," he said. "I've been to many other Olympics but I never got to cry so much in the opening ceremony or after the opening ceremony the next morning alone."

Old dogs, new tricks

Brazil's Robert Scheidt, 43, is looking to add to his haul of five medals to become the most decorated Olympic sailor ever. And 40-year-old rower Katherine Grainger became Britain's most decorated female Olympian in Rio. Among other golden oldies are Kristin Armstrong, the US winner of the cycling time trial, who is 43, and Argentina and NBA basketball's Manu Ginobili, 39. Even athletics features over-40-year-olds.

Bernard Lagat is running for the United States in 5,000m at the age of 41. His first Olympics was back in Sydney in 2000. "I train with young guys and I don't believe I'm old," Lagat told AFP after the Olympic trials in Oregon last month. "If you believe you're old, you're going to run like an old man. These young guys push me every single day."The most age defying athlete must be Uzbekistan's Oksana Chusovitina, who at 41 is taking part in her seventh Olympics as a gymnast-a sport dominated by teenagers. But for senior friendliness, maybe nothing beats equestrian events, where the horse takes much of the physical load and experience counts. Brougham's New Zealander team mate Mark Todd, 60, made his Olympic debut 32 years ago in Los Angeles, where he won the first of his two golds. "I'm actually riding against children of my contemporaries," the legendary rider said cheerfully. Well, they're not all so green. The Kiwis' rivals include Great Britain's John Whitaker, 60, and his brother Michael just four years younger.

Asked for his secret, Lange notes that sailing is a more forgiving sport than some others. "I have a young lady who pulls all the ropes for me," he joked. Carranza said that Lange is no slouch on the physical side of things. "What I admire from him is that we are always the first ones to go in the water in the training. We are always the ones who sail the most in the day," she said. Lange says he fights to stay fit because strength may be less important than experience in sailing, but it's still vital. "It's a very mental sport and your being healthy and powerful helps a lot," he said. More than anything, though, staying at the top of the game comes from hunger to achieve more. "What I see with Santi is that when you have a passion and you love doing something, you can do it all day long," Carranza said. For him, even going on to the Tokyo Games in four years remains "a dream." "If my knees survive and my back, I will do it," he said. — AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Competitors sail during the 49er Men Race on Guanabara Bay at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. — AFP

Rio Games shine light on lack of sports for Brazilian girls

RIO DE JANEIRO: Every Friday after nightfall, teenage girls and young women make their way through a middle-class apartment complex and take over a field of emerald green grass. They put on their cleats, tie their hair into ponytails and test their speed with agility drills. The Friday night practice is the only time of the week when you will find women playing soccer here.

"Every day you see teams and teams of only men, and on top of it, we also had to fight for this slot," said Bruna Cavaliere, a 16-year-old girl who dreams of becoming a professional player. In a country where men's soccer is ingrained in people's psyche, women have found it difficult to find their place in sports because of the lack of athletic programs, funding shortfalls and what they call unfair marketing decisions that promote men. But Brazilian female athletes are shining at the Rio Olympics - and people here are paying attention, some for the first time.

Each victory of Brazil women's soccer team is savored with more enthusiasm, and female athletes in other sports are being celebrated in ways rarely seen in Brazil. When Rafaela Silva won gold in women's judo - Brazil's first gold medal of this Olympics - major newspapers splashed her photo on front pages. "All the love we are getting during the Olympics, we hope that it doesn't go away," Brazil's most famous female soccer player, Marta, said to reporters Monday ahead Tuesday's semifinal against Sweden. "We hope that it lives on, and with that much-needed support, women's soccer can grow and the love is not just a fleeting thing."

Cavaliere, like most girls interested in soccer in Brazil, grew up playing with boys. At 4, she chased her older brother and his friends down the street with a ball. Later, she attended after-school practice where she was the only girl among the boys training with a 90s soccer star. While boys could try out for dozens of under-17 clubs in soccer-mad Rio de Janeiro, she found only two places. At 14, she was chosen for the female youth squad of a famous Rio soccer club. After practices, her teammates passed around a tin to collect money in the dressing room. "It was so sad to watch. That money was for the bus fare or a bologna sandwich. Some girls had to choose between food and transportation," Cavaliere said. — AP

Brownlee and Jorgensen set high bar

TRIATHLON

RIO DE JANEIRO: Alistair Brownlee ended the "favorite's curse" when he triumphed on home soil in the 2012 Olympic triathlon and, due to the absence of Javier Gomez, the Englishman starts at even shorter odds in tomorrow's swim-bike-run event. The showdown between Brownlee and multiple world champion Gomez, second in 2012, disappeared when the Spaniard broke his arm in a bike crash last month, opening the way for Brownlee to become the first person to win back-to-back triathlon golds.

Brownlee has suffered with injury since his London triumph, eventually undergoing ankle surgery after finding he was running almost every race in pain. He still won most of them. Now fully fit and focused, he looks unbeatable. If something goes badly wrong, hyper-consistent younger brother Jonny, who took bronze four years ago, and strong runners Richard Murray of South Africa and Spaniard Mario Mola look best equipped to challenge him.

As in 2012, Britain has selected its third man to act as a domestique to the Brownlees, with Gordon Benson effectively sacrificing his own chances to give them a tow through the 40km bike leg that follows a 1.5km sea swim off Copacabana beach. The bike course contains two sharp climbs that have to be tackled eight times - just the sort of technical and physical challenge the Brownlees love, and which should break up the field. "It's a tough, hilly course and I'm excited about the race," said Alistair.

If the reigning champion goes into the 10km run anywhere near the front it is almost impossible to see anything but a second gold, though if he does have a weak spot, it could be racing in extreme heat. American Gwen Jorgensen should be an even bigger favourite in the women's race but, as the previous four Olympics have shown, things rarely go to plan in an event with so many variables. The double reigning world champion has totally dominated the International Triathlon Union (ITU) circuit since the last Games, going almost two years unbeaten, taking 13 races in a row, and winning the Rio test event last year.

Her long-striding run speed makes her virtually unbeatable if she reaches the second transition anywhere near contention - her chances were ended by a puncture in 2012 - so the rest of the field will be doing their utmost to do some damage on the bike. For the country that invented the sport, the United States has had a thin time since it joined the Olympic party in 2000, with Susan Williams's bronze in 2004 their only medal from the four races to date.

Britain has a trio of contenders in with a podium chance- double former world champion Helen Jenkins, one of the few in the field to have beaten Jorgensen, 2013 world champion Non Stanford, who has the run speed to challenge the American, and Vicky Holland.

Also in the field are all three medalists from London, when Switzerland's Nicola Spirig edged out Swede Lisa Norden in a photo finish. Spirig has taken time out to have a baby and has raced sparingly, while bronze winner Erin Densham completes the trio, hoping to maintain Australia's record of medalling in every women's Olympic triathlon. — Reuters

Netherlands, New Zealand, Britain, Germany book semis

HOCKEY

RIO DE JANEIRO: Defending champions Netherlands will face Germany, while Britain take on New Zealand in the women's hockey semi-finals of the Rio Olympics today. World number one Netherlands, who are seeking a third successive gold, beat Argentina 3-2 in the quarter-finals, while Germany dumped out the United States with a 2-1 victory on Monday. New Zealand hammered world number three Australia 4-2 in their quarter-final to set up a chance of a rare hockey medal, as Britain, who won the bronze medal in the 2012 London Games, ousted Spain 3-1.

Netherlands were quick off the blocks against world number two Argentina as they romped to a two-goal lead thanks to goals from Laurien Leurink and Lidewij Welten in the first half. Kelly Jonker opened up a three-goal gap after she scored from a penalty corner just six minutes into the third quarter but Argentina's Florencia Habif pulled one back ahead of the final quarter. Delfina Merino scored eight minutes from the final whistle to set up a nervy ending but Netherlands nullified Argentina's attacking threat to book their place in the final-four. Germany held off a late surge by the United States to advance to the semi-final. Germany's Marie Mavers opened the scoring with a goal midway through the first period. Lisa Altenburg knocked in a backhanded shot high over US goalkeeper Jackie Briggs to put Germany up 2-0 late in the first. Katelyn Falgowski's goal with four minutes left gave the Americans a glimmer of hope, but the Germans remained strong defensively to set up a semi-final clash with Netherlands. New Zealand took an early lead as Anita McLaren converted a penalty corner and Kelsey Smith handed her side a two-goal cushion prior to halftime when she added another penalty corner goal.

Australia's Kathryn Slattery scored to cut the lead to just one but Gemma Flynn and Olivia Merry struck for New Zealand in the third period to put the result beyond doubt as Slattery netted a late consolation. Goals from Georgie Twigg, Helen Richardson-Walsh and Lily Owsley gave Britain a comfortable three-goal lead heading into half-time. Britain continued their dominance in the third quarter as they did not give Spain a sight of goal. Spain piled on the pressure in the fourth period but left it too late as Georgina Oliva only managed to grab a consolation. — Reuters

RIO DE JANEIRO: Argentina's goalkeeper Belem Succi (left) dives to save the shot ball of Netherlands' Marloes Keetels (right) during a women's field hockey quarterfinal match at 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro on Monday, Aug 15, 2016. — AP

Miller dives over line to deny Felix in 400m

ATHLETICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Bahamian Shaunae Miller launched herself over the finishing line with a desperate dive to pip Allyson Felix to the women's Olympic 400 metres gold medal by the narrowest of margins on Monday. After flying across the line in a personal best time of 49.44 seconds, the 22-year-old lay prone on the track, shaken up and exhausted as she waited for the scoreboard to confirm she had clinched her first major title.

Felix, who finished in 49.51, also collapsed to the track after failing to win her fifth Olympic gold medal, let alone the 200-400 double she had originally planned in her fourth Olympics. The 30-year-old Californian's silver medal was, though, her seventh in four Games, making her the most decorated American female track and field athlete at the Olympics by bettering Jackie Joyner-Kersee's tally of six. Jamaica's Shericka Jackson took bronze in 49.85. Second behind Felix at the world championships in Beijing last year when her strong finish was not enough to rein in the American, Miller had clearly learned her lesson.

She exploded out of the blocks in lane seven and went for broke, her long stride giving her a good lead on the back straight as the shorter Felix powered away inside her. Miller retained her lead coming off the final bend but started tightening up as Felix surged about 50 meters from the line and the pair were neck-and-neck until the Bahamian's gold medal-winning dive. Americans Natasha Hastings (50.34) and Phyllis Francis (50.41) finished fourth and fifth. Felix was denied the chance to defend her 200m title, and bid for an unprecedented double, in Rio after failing to finish in the top three at the U.S trials while suffering the effects of an ankle injury she suffered in a gym accident. — Reuters

Bahamas's Shaunae Miller diving to cross the finish line to win the Women's 400m Final during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium. — AFP

Weertman makes it double Dutch gold

SWIMMING

RIO DE JANEIRO: Ferry Weertman won a ferocious battle for the men's 10km open water swimming gold at the Rio Olympics yesterday, edging Spiros Gianniotis in a frantic photo finish to cap a Dutch open water double. Weertman's triumph by the narrowest of margins-both he and Gianniotis were credited with a time of 1hr 52min 59.8sec-followed teammate Sharon van Rousendaal's victory in the women's race off Copacabana beach on Monday.

But his win bore little resemblance to van Rouwendaal's victory by a margin of more than 17 seconds. Weertman, the 24-year-old European champion, reached up to touch the timing board a nano-second ahead of Gianniotis, a former double world champion who has competed in all three editions since open water swimming was added to the Olympic program in Beijing in 2008. "Even after I touched the wall, I wasn't sure I'd won," Weertman said. "It took me a while. I called my friends back home and they said 'You won, you won!' and I'm like, 'Oh really?' I couldn't believe it. I still can't believe it." Gianniotis, 36, said he couldn't have wished for a better finale to his career, even if it ended in silver. "Every single metre of the training, every single day and hour, it's just come down to the perfect moment," he said. "That was my last race and I think that's a really good way to go." Seconds behind them there was an equally tight call for bronze with France's Marc-Antoine Olivier just beating China's Zu Lijun-both being timed in 1:53:02.0sec.

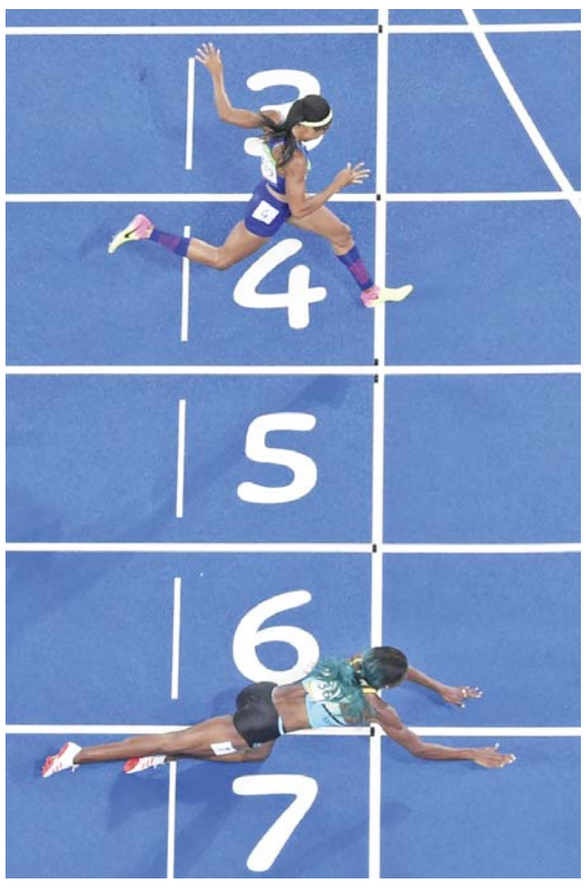
World champion Jordan Wilimovsky of the United States came home fifth, 1.2sec off the lead. Only five seconds separated the first 11 swimmers. Before the frenzy at the end, Australia's Jarrod Poort made a courageous solo bid for the title, leading for one hour and 39 minutes before he was overhauled by the field. Poort had arrowed away from the field from the start, opening up a 58-second lead on his 24 rivals after the first of the four 2.5km laps, showing a relentless rhythm as his opponents jostled for position and he increased his advantage to over a minute and a quarter by half-way.

For a while, it seemed the 21-year-old's daring might pay off but, almost inevitably, he began to tire on the third lap as the chase group rallied. Going into the fourth and final circuit of the course his lead had been trimmed to 40 seconds over a pack led by reigning champion Ous Mellouli of Tunisia-who was eventually swallowed up in the rush for home and finished 12th. Exhausted, Poort was unable to maintain the most efficient racing line, helping his pursuers reel him in. — AFP

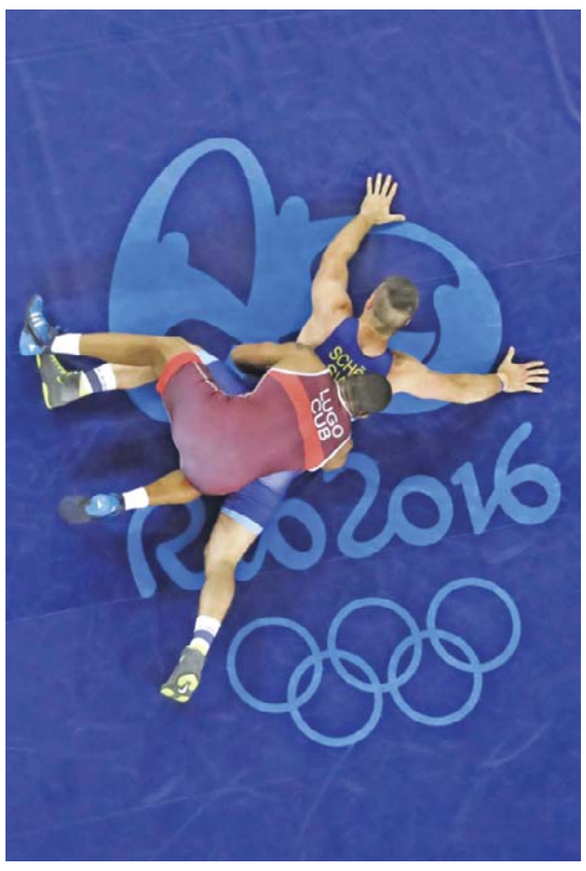
RIO DE JANEIRO: The Netherland's Ferry Weertman competes in the men's marathon swimming event at the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil yesterday. — AP

GALLERY

Puerto Rico's Grace Claxton warms up before competing in the Women's 400m Hurdles Round 1 during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium. — AFP



Bahamas' Shaunae Miller dives to cross the finish line ahead of USA's Chase Kalisz during the Women's 400m Final. —AFP



Sweden's Carl Fredrik Stefan Schoen, blue, competes against Cuba's Yasmany Daniel Lugo Cabrera, red, during the men's wrestling Greco-Roman 98-kg competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics yesterday. — AP

France's Renaud Lavillenie competes in the Men's Pole Vault Final during the athletics competition at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP

King Rudisha defends 800m in career high

RIO DE JANEIRO: Kenya's David Lekuta Rudisha (left) celebrates after winning the Men's 800m Final during the athletics competition at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro on August 15, 2016. — AFP

ATHLETICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Kenyan 800m king David Rudisha hit a career high when he produced a last-lap kick to defend his Olympic title in style on Monday. Rudisha, also the world champion and world record holder, timed a season's best of 1min 42.15sec to become the first man in 52 years to defend the 800m title."Running 1:42, it's just fantastic. I had no doubts before," said Rudisha after another imperious display.

"It is great to win such a big competition, my second gold," he said, having warned that he felt his form was almost hitting that high of his sublime 2010-12 period. "It's so great.

I am so excited. It is the greatest moment of my career." Turning to the injury problems that have bedeviled him in recent seasons, Rudisha said: "It's been very difficult. "I have stayed focused and positive. My coach has been great and given me hope." Algeria's reigning Olympic 1500m champion Taoufik Makhloufi took silver in a national record of 1:42.61, with American Clayton Murphy edging French hope Pierre-Ambroise Bosse for bronze (1:42.93).

There was a rip-roaring start to the race when Rudisha's teammate Alfred Kipketer shot out to the front, hitting the first 200m in an eye-watering 23.2 seconds. Rudisha, deprived of his usual gun-to-tape approach to racing the two-lap race, sat in second as Kipketer hared off like a pacemaker. 2014 world U20 champion Kipketer hit the bell in 49.23sec, Rudisha moving to his shoulder and eventually into the lead with 300 metres to run. Rudisha's surge took Bosse and Makhloufi with him, but as the trio entered the home stretch of the Olympic Stadium, it was clear there would be only one winner.

Rudisha, who produced the run of the London Games in 2012 to win gold in a world record of 1:40.91, roared through the line to claim his second Olympic gold, Makhloufi outsprinting Bosse, who eased up too early to allow Murphy in for an unexpected bronze.

"It gives me great hope for the 1500, it's like a bonus," said Makhloufi. "It is the first time to do 800 and 1500 in a big championships. I am so happy to make my country proud. "I dedicate this to the poor people." Murphy was left stunned by his third-placed showing. The last medal in the men's 800m for the USA came when Johnny Gray won bronze at the 1992 Barcelona Games. "I dreamed about winning a medal all night," he said. "Now it's happened, I'm wondering if I'm still asleep." — AFP

GALLERY

Netherlands' Robin De Kruijf (L) and Netherlands' Anne Buijs attempt to block the ball during the women's quarter-final volleyball match between South Korea and the Netherlands at the Maracanazinho stadium in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP

US gymnast Alexandra Raisman competes in the women's floor event final of the Artistic Gymnastics at the Olympic Arena during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games yesterday. — AFP

A bird walks in the hockey field after a men's hockey semifinal match between Germany and Argentina at 2016 Summer Olympics yesterday . — AP

Germany's Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum, riding Fibonacci, competes in the equestrian jumping competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics yesterday. — AP

Japan's Ryohei Kato competes in the men's parallel bars event final of the Artistic Gymnastics at the Olympic Arena yesterday. — AFP

Brazil knocks US men out

BEACH VOLLEYBALL

RIO DE JANEIRO: When Beijing gold medalist Phil Dalhausser teamed up with Nick Lucena less than one year ago for a longshot run at the Olympics, it was more out of friendship - and a lack of alternatives - than anything else. Dalhausser was coming off two straight seasons with injuries. Lucena had never been to the Olympics, struggling to find a partnership that worked.

"We were playing with the house's money," Dalhausser said Monday after losing in three sets to Brazilian world champions Alison and Bruno in the quarterfinals on Copacabana beach. "It's been a lot of fun," Dalhausser added. "I couldn't have done it without him. I wouldn't have wanted to do it with anyone else." At 6-foot-9 and already an Olympic champion, Dalhausser is one of the most feared players in the sport. He won his gold medal with Todd Rogers in 2008, and the pair returned to the London Games, finishing ninth.

But last August, already a year into the two-year qualification cycle, his partnership with two-time Olympian Sean Rosenthal had stalled - in part because of Dalhausser's abdominal and calf injuries. So he went back to Lucena, his partner for a couple of dozen events when they were first starting out. "I'm pretty fortunate to play with him," Lucena said after the 21-14, 12-21, 15-9 loss to Brazil left them in fifth place. "He's one of the best players in the world. I wanted to win this for him."

Lucena and Dalhausser first teamed up in 2003, a time when they were travelling all night to play in domestic tournaments and sleeping on the beach outside the gates to save money. After they split in 2005, Lucena played with four different partners that year; Dalhausser went on to become a world and Olympic champion. But Dalhausser's injuries left him with little chance of making it back to the Olympics - or so he thought. "Nobody gave us a chance to qualify," he has repeated often. "I gave us a chance," Lucena interrupted playfully, just hours after their Olympic elimination. "I don't know what he's talking about."

The two played their way to No. 3 in the international standings and a spot on Copacabana beach with a whirlwind of 13 tournaments in 12 months - just one event above the minimum. They cruised through Olympic pool play with a 3-0 record. And that was the problem. When Alison and Bruno lost in the preliminary round, they wound up second in their group. The blind draw lined them up with the Americans in the quarterfinals in a match that could have easily been the final. In the second quarterfinal match, the Dutch team of Alexander Brouwer and Robert Meeuwsen advanced with a 25-23, 21-17 victory over countrymen Reinder Nummerdor and Christiaan Varenhorst. — AP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Serbia's Sonja Petrovic (bottom) drives to the basket against Australia during a women's basketball game at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. — AP

RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's Will Claye competes in the Men's Triple Jump Final during the athletics competition at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. — AFP

Jumper Will Claye pops a question after medal

RIO DE JANEIRO: Triple jumper Will Claye caught the love bug sweeping the Rio Olympics yesterday when he dropped to one knee to propose to his girlfriend after winning the silver medal. The love-struck Romeo leapt into the stands after taking silver to pop the question to hurdler Queen Harrison, watching on in a "Willpower" T-shirt. "The ring was in my backpack. I've had it for a little while and it was just a matter of when it would happen," said Claye after losing out once more to fellow American Christian Taylor.

"Win, lose or draw I felt it had to happen today. I was a little slick and she didn't have any clue. She just burst into tears. It was a heart-felt moment for us." Claye's romantic gesture was not the first of the Games with amorous athletes from Britain to China also getting in on the act. Britain's Charlotte Dujardin won dressage gold medal on Monday, watched by her fiance who made good on a longstanding marriage promise by scrawling 'Can we get married now?' on his shirt.

Meanwhile, Chinese diver Qin Kai caught team-mate He Zi off guard by proposing to her as she stepped down from the medal podium. "The knee was stressful, man," said Claye. "Because I didn't know if she was going to say yes or not." With security a hot topic after a crime wave in Rio and reports of athletes being robbed at the Olympic Village, Claye joked that he had kept a beady eye on his backpack during Tuesday's triple jump competition. "I had my eye on my backpack to make sure nobody dug in there," he laughed. "I was just hoping nobody proposed to her first, before I did!"— AFP

Serbians stun Aussies

BASKETBALL

RIO DE JANEIRO: Australia will not take home an Olympic women's basketball medal for the first time since 1992 after Serbia shocked the Opals 73-71 in yesterday's Rio Games quarterfinals. Ana Dabovic scored 24 points, Jelena Milovanovic added 17 and Sonja Petrovic contributed 13 points and five assists to spark the Serbians, the only team with a losing record to reach the medal playoffs. "When you look at the quality in the roster or the names on the paper, they have the better team," Petrovic said. "When you look at the energy and heart, that's where we were able to win out."

It was a gut-wrenching end for the Aussies, who were unbeaten in the group stage and had taken silver medals in 2000, 2004 and 2008 and bronze in 1996 and 2012. "I'm just heartbroken at the moment," said Australia forward Rachel Jarry. Reigning European champions Serbia were elated, dancing in celebration at midcourt after the final horn. "I'm really happy," Dabovic said. "We showed we're not European champions by accident." Serbia will face the winner of a later game between Spain and Turkey in a Thursday semi-final to decide a berth in Saturday's gold-medal game.

"I know we can take it one step further because I know we have it in our hearts," Petrovic said. "We played for 40 minutes. We finally played like it was now or never." Five-time defending champion United States will face Japan and France will meet Canada in other quarter-final matchups yesterday. Australia's 26 turnovers led to 27 Serbian points while the winners made only nine turnovers to set up eight Aussie points. "Turnovers, defence, we struggled to contain them," Aussie forward Penny Taylor said. "Containment was a big issue. Throwing the ball away was a big issue. Not the way we wanted to play. Credit to them for the way they played.

"It sucks (losing), but I'm always proud to play for my country." Elizabeth Cambage scored 29 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for the Opals but was in tears moments after the final horn. She received a desperation toss from Marianna Tolo at the finish but could not deflect the ball into the hoop to force overtime. "We remembered what our coach said-they are not unbeatable. We can play with them," Dabovic said. "That was our time to play 40 minutes. We gave away everything and played with our hearts." Australia's Leilani Mitchell scored eight points in an 11-4 run to open the third quarter, giving the Opals a 48-39 lead.

Serbia responded with a 12-2 spurt to reclaim the lead at 51-50 and the game stayed tight into the final minutes. Cambage, the 2.03m center who scored nine of the last 13 Aussie points, sank an inside jumper to give the Opals a 67-66 edge with 2:03 to play. Milovanovic and Sonja Petrovic followed with back-to-back layups to give Serbia a 70-67 lead with one minute to play. Cambage responded with a lay-in to pull the Aussies within one, Dabovic answered with a short jumper for Serbia but Cambage scored inside again to lift Australia within 72-71 with 15 seconds remaining. Dabovic then made 1-of-2 free throws to create the final margin. "The main reason we won is we believed," Dabovic said. "We went into the game believing we could win."— AFP

Kuwait Times

Sports

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RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's Christian Taylor competes in the Men's Triple Jump Final during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium yesterday. — AFP

Taylor, Perkovic retain Olympic crowns

ATHLETICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Usain Bolt took the next step in his quest for a "triple triple" of sprint golds yesterday as American Christian Taylor and Croat Sandra Perkovic both retained their Olympic crowns. Bolt, fresh from winning the 100m title for an unprecedented third time, safely came through the first round of his favored event, the 200m. Running in lane five of heat eight of 10, the 29-year-old coasted home in 20.28seconds. American rivals Justin Gatlin and Lashawn Merritt also qualified for today's semi-finals, with the final slated for tomorrow.

"It's a morning session and I'm not really a morning person. I just came out to qualify and that's what I did," said Bolt, praising the scheduling. "I'm surprised it's so settled. Normally we have to do two rounds in one day. It's actually much better for the 200m so we have time to recover over the days. "For me it's easy I've been doing it for years. You just celebrate on the night, just be happy and then you refocus the next day to go again." The morning session's two medal events went the way of defending champions.

In the triple jump, Taylor set a season's best 17.86 metres with his first leap, good enough to beat compatriot Will Claye in a repeat of their one-two finish in London four years ago. "The job is done," said Taylor. "Back to back, it's very special." Claye celebrated his silver by proposing to long-time girlfriend, hurdler Queen Harrison. "I woke up this morning and said today is going to be the best day of my life," he said. "It was stressful, man, because I didn't know if she was going to say yes or not."

The women's discus went the way of Perkovic, the Croat in imperious form as she dominated the competition, her best of 69.21m out-distancing France's Melina Robert Michon (66.73m) and world champion Denia Caballero of Cuba (65.34) by some way.Elsewhere on the track, Ethiopia's newly-crowned 10,000m champion and world record holder Almaz Ayana moved closer to a distance double as she won her 5000m heat in 15:04.35 to progress to Friday's final. Defending silver medalist and two-time former world champion Vivian Cheruiyot, silver medalist behind Ayana in the longer distance in Rio, Hellen Obiri and Mercy Cherono will make up a strong Kenyan contingent.

Algerian defending champion Taoufik Makhloufi overcame just two hours sleep after bagging silver in the 800m to advance from round one of the 1500m. Makhloufi, who came in second in the 800m behind David Rudisha late Monday, timed 3min 47.07sec to win his heat. "I had some massage after the 800m," he said. "I was in my bed at 4 o'clock in the morning and I slept only two hours! "This part between the 800m and the heats of the 1500m was always going to be the most difficult part in qualifying for the semi-finals of the latter."

Makhloufi's main rival will likely be Kenyan Asbel Kiprop, 2008 gold medalist and three-time defending world champion, who won his 1500m heat easily in 3:38.97.Brazilian hopes of an Olympic pole vault double came to an abrupt end when home medal hope Fabiana Murer bombed out of the women's qualifying competition after failing to register a mark. Rio's Olympic Stadium lit up Monday when Murer's teammate Thiago Braz Da Silva trumped Frenchman Renaud Lavillenie for gold in the men's competition with an Olympic record of 6.03m.

Murer, world silver medalist last year in Beijing, failed to live up to expectations however. The 35-year-old skipped the three first entry marks of 4.15, 4.30 and 4.45m, coming in at 4.55m. But she failed with her three attempts at the height, well below her personal best of 4.87m which she vaulted this season. There was no such drama for current world and Olympic champion Jennifer Suhr of the United States, Cuba's defending Olympic silver medalist Yarisley Silva and European champion Ekaterini Stefanidi who all comfortably vaulted the qualifying mark of 4.60m.— AFP

Rio boxing embroiled in judging controversy

Irish bantamweight blasts 'corrupt' AIBA

BOXING

RIO DE JANEIRO: An Irish amateur world champion accused Olympic boxing of corruption yesterday as the sport was embroiled in fresh controversy barely 12 hours after a Russian was booed to the Rio podium. The International Boxing Association (AIBA) vehemently rejected the claims after a seething Michael Conlan was turfed out of the competition in a surprise unanimous points decision to another Russian, the bantamweight Vladimir Nikitin.

Towering heavyweight Evgeny Tishchenko won a highly contentious gold on Monday in a judging decision that drew derision and jeers from the enraged 9,000-seat arena, even as the giant Russian collected his medal. Conlan wagged his finger in the air as the judges condemned him to defeat and for a while refused to leave the ring, tearing off his top and flexing his muscles defiantly to a sympathetic crowd, which cheered him in return.

Conlan, 24, who had been heavily fancied for a medal in Rio, eventually clambered out of the ring and hurled abuse to at least one of the judges, branding one of them corrupt, while also having strong words with the referee and officials. The irate Irishman struggled to contain his anger after the quarter-final, as a trail of blood trickled down his face. "AIBA are corrupt," he said, his face twitching with rage and his voice quivering, tears welling in his eyes. "They've robbed me of my Olympic dream. I said before that I was going to be Olympic champion. I was in first gear and I was boxing the ears off him. I don't know how it went against me.

"I watched Russia last night in the final and by all means Kazakhstan beat him and didn't get the decision. "The judges are corrupt, it's as simple as that. I'll never box in an AIBA competition again... not even Olympic Games. Corruption runs deep." "He was cut everywhere. Did you see his face? You saw by his reaction that he knew he didn't win," Conlan added of Nikitin, whose face was badly mangled and next faces a stern test in Thursday's semi-final against hot American prospect Shakur Stevenson. "He was a quality opponent, but he did not win, as simple as that," added Conlan, before storming off.

The allegations were immediately rejected by amateur boxing's governing body. "Michael is a current world champion and he came here with high expectations," said an AIBA spokesman. "His disappointment is massive, we can all understand that. It's his personal judgment. "AIBA is striving for a fair, level-playing field. The idea is not to benefit one country towards another. We represent 200 national federations. "These statement are foundless, but he's free to have his opinion." Conlan's defeat means there are no Irish boxers left in Rio, capping a desperately disappointing Games for the Irish team. Olympic boxing has ditched the punch-counting method of scoring bouts that in the past threw up numerous controversies and replaced it with judges in a method that replicates professional boxing.

But that has not prevented several fighters and coaches in Rio levelling accusations at the AIBA and the judges. On Monday, after watching lightweight Mikaela Mayer suffer defeat in front of a mostly anti-American crowd to another Russian, highly respected US coach Billy Walsh slammed the judging in the bout as "crazy". —AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Ireland's Michael John Conlan (right) fights Russia's Vladimir Nikitin during the Men's Bantam (56kg) Quarterfinal 1 match at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games yesterday. — AFP

RIO DE JANEIRO: China's Fu Haifeng (left) and China's Zhang Nan react after winning against Great Britain's Marcus Ellis and Great Britain's Chris Langridge during their men's doubles semi-final badminton match yesterday. — AFP

China ends Britain's run in men's doubles

BADMINTON

RIO DE JANEIRO: China's Fu Haifeng and Zhang Nan ended Britain's dream run in the men's badminton doubles yesterday to set up a gold medal decider against Malaysia. The 22nd-ranked Marcus Ellis and Chris Langridge battled hard at the Riocentro but were ultimately outclassed by the powerful Chinese duo who kept them at arm's length in a 21-14 21-18 victory. Both the Chinese will have a chance to clinch their second Olympic golds in Friday's final. Fu won the doubles with Cai Yun four years ago, while Zhang clinched the mixed doubles title with Zhao Yunlei at London.

There will be no repeat in Rio because Zhang, 26, and Zhao lost to Indonesia's Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir in the semi-finals on Monday. "The way I played in that (mixed doubles) match wasn't ideal," he told reporters. "I was disappointed but it didn't really affect us today." Fu and Zhang will face the fired-up Malaysian duo of Goh V Shem and Tan Wee Kiong who played out of their skins to defeat Chinese pair Chai Biao and Hong Wei in the earlier semi-final. Roared on by a huge contingent of Malaysian fans, the 12th-ranked pair were hugely impressive in their 21-18 12-21 21-17 win, which gives Malaysia another chance to win its first ever Olympic title.

Mixed doubles pairing Chan Peng Soon and Goh Liu Ying will have the first shot to grab the steamy Southeast Asian a long-awaited title today when they contest the final against Indonesia's Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir. Ellis and Langridge will play Chai and Hong in the bronze playoff tomorrow and have a chance to grab Britain's first ever men's doubles medal. "We've still got a great opportunity to get a bronze medal and that will be absolutely massive for badminton so it's something we're looking forward to," said Ellis.— Reuters

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LONDON: A car pulls out of a petrol station in London yesterday. Britain's annual inflation rate edged higher last month, official data showed, and is set to climb further as a weak pound caused by the Brexit vote raises import prices. — AFP

EGYPT EYES TOUGH REFORMS TO SALVAGE ECONOMY

$12BN FINANCIAL DEAL COULD USHER IN ECONOMIC TURNAROUND

CAIRO: Egypt hopes a $12-billion financing deal with the IMF will usher in an economic turnaround but real progress hinges on a tough reform package avoided for decades to stave off unrest.

The financing over three years-deemed an endorsement to attract more foreign aid-would go together with a currency devaluation and streamlining of Egypt's bloated subsidy system. But experts warn that the loan alone would serve as little more than an "aspirin" and a stopgap for a deep-rooted economic malaise.

In a country where many rely on state subsidised bread and imports for basic foodstuffs such as wheat, inflation has already risen at a time of low foreign currency reserves and a thriving black market exchange. More than five years after its 2011 uprising-partly fuelled by economic disparities-that swept away veteran strongman Hosni Mubarak, the country is still reeling from the fallout. The uprising unleashed years of tumult that culminated with the military overthrow of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in 2013 and a jihadist insurgency that has driven away tourists.

Since Morsi's overthrow, Arab states of the Gulf which opposed his Islamist movement have showered Egypt with over $20 billion in aid and investments, but that has proved to be a short-acting salve.

The dire state of the economy, according to President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, makes the long deferred economic reforms inevitable. "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 in speech on Saturday, days after Egypt signed the preliminary deal with the IMF.

The government has proposed a reform package to narrow the budget deficit about 13 percent of GDP-that includes cuts to power subsidies and a value added tax to raise revenue. Subsidies account for 7.9 percent of total government expenditure, according to the finance ministry. Reforms are also planned to adopt a "flexible policy" for the Egyptian pound. With dwindling foreign reserves, the government has been propping up the currency at 8.88 pounds to the dollar, well below the black market price, while imposing capital controls.

'An aspirin'?

Finance Minister Amr Al-Garhy has said the country faces a funding gap of $21 billion over the next three years, and the money would be raised from regional loans and international bonds. Experts say the IMF loan is essential to bolster foreign currency reserves, which have dwindled to $15.5 billion. But this will not suffice on its own and may further aggravate the plight of the lower and middle classes. The financing "is a short-term solution, but in the long term the economy is in bad shape and the deficit is dangerous", said Ahmed Kamaly, an economics professor at the American University of Cairo.

"The loan will be like an aspirin. "There is no reform package in the real sense of the term, with specific goals... It's a raft of measures to stabilise the economy and exchange debts for other debts," he said. The falling reserves prompted the government to hasten the IMF negotiations, and Egypt will owe $4.4 billion in interest on foreign loans by July 2017, according to a study by the investment bank Prime Holding. "We won't be able to pay the foreign loan interest if we don't get" the IMF loan, former finance minister Samir Rady said.

But the government, which has nurtured a bloated bureaucracy over the years, has other commitments as well. In his speech on Saturday, Sisi took the unusual step of addressing public sector employment which he said has put a major burden on the state. "If 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?" he asked pointedly.

The state statistics office CAPMAS says that in 2015 almost 5.8 million people from a total workforce of 26 million were employed by government agencies and another 800,000 in the public sector. Radwan said that part of the IMF loan "should be used in investments that can turn a quick profit". But the economic reforms run the risk of fuelling discontent among lower-income Egyptians and increasing inflation.

"There must be measures that demand more of the rich, because according to official statistics... 27 percent of the population is poor, and another 20 percent is threatened with poverty," said Shereen Al-Shawarby, an economics professor at Cairo University. — AFP

BEIJING: A Chinese delivery courier uses a mobile phone as he drives his delivery vehicle across a street in Beijing yesterday. China's retail sales rose 10.2 percent year-on-year in July, government statistics showed yesterday. — AFP

WILL OPEC AGREE TO FREEZE OUTPUT IN SEPT?

LONDON: OPEC and non-OPEC countries are again flirting with the idea of a production freeze to accelerate oil-market rebalancing, according to recent statements by several oil ministers.

"Rebalancing is already taking place," Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih observed in comments published on Saturday, which had already leaked on Thursday. "We are on track and prices should reflect that," the minister explained. Current prices were unsustainably low and the minister blamed the "large short positioning" in the oil market for causing prices to "undershoot".

"We are, in Saudi Arabia, watching the market closely, and if there is a need to take any action to help the market rebalance, then we would, of course in cooperation with OPEC and major non-OPEC exporters." "We are going to have a ministerial meeting of the International Energy Forum in Algeria next month, and there is an opportunity for OPEC and major exporting non-OPEC ministers to meet and discuss the market situation, including any possible action that may be required to stabilize the market." Falih's comments essentially repeated the position Saudi policymakers have taken for the last two years since prices began to tumble in 2014. But the unusually detailed statement and its timing has been interpreted by some observers as indicating an increased willingness to reach an agreement.

Statements from other energy ministers, including Russia, have added to speculation about an imminent deal ("OPEC deal a tough task, as oil output freeze expectations rise", Reuters, Aug. 15). The prospect of an output freeze has added fuel to a short-covering rally that had already started at the beginning of August ("Hedge funds add bullish positions as oil short-covering rally starts", Reuters, Aug. 15).

DEAL OR NO DEAL

Falih's comments have launched another round in the now familiar game in which oil experts try to predict whether OPEC and non-OPEC countries will reach an agreement to boost prices.

Previous attempts to reach a deal on cutting or even just freezing production at OPEC meetings held in November 2014, June 2015, December 2015 and June 2016 all ended in failure. An effort to reach an agreement between major OPEC and non-OPEC exporters on a production freeze at a summit hosted by Qatar in April 2016 also ended without agreement.

But the recent comments from Saudi Arabia have sent oil traders, analysts and journalists scrambling to predict whether it will be sixth-time lucky. During previous price slumps, including 1985/86 and 1998/99, there were several unsuccessful attempts before ministers eventually succeeded in forging a significant and successful deal. Sometimes an extended period of painfully low prices has been needed to soften governments' positions and make them more willing to compromise. It can take several rounds of failed negotiations for ministers to understand each-others' positions properly and identify possible areas for agreement.

In 2016, with the economies of most oil-exporting countries now mired in recession, government finances under strain, and no sign of the expected recovery in prices, the incentives to do a deal are sharper than in 2014/15. But the obstacles to a successful deal are much the same as before and remain formidable. Saudi Arabia remains unwilling to limit its own production unless other major exporters, notably Iran, Iraq and Russia, do the same.

Saudi officials worry about the verifiability of any agreement given the past history of cheating by other exporting countries. And there is still the problem of shale production. If OPEC and non-OPEC exporters agree to limit their own production, oil inventories draw down, and prices recover, US shale producers might step in to fill the gap.

BAYESIAN FORECAST

The prospects for reaching a successful deal at the informal energy ministers meeting in Algeria next month remain highly uncertain but provide a good opportunity to apply some Bayesian thinking.

The most successful forecasters start by trying to define a base rate chance of something occurring and then adjust it up or down in the light of evidence about the specific circumstances in a particular case. They begin with an "outside view" and then proceed to adjust it with an "inside view" based on the specifics of the case ("Superforecasting: the art and science of prediction", Tetlock and Gardner, 2015).

Beginning with the base rate outside view and then adjusting it for the specific inside view does not come naturally to most subject experts including traders, analysts and journalists. "It's natural to be drawn to the inside view. It's usually concrete and filled with engaging detail we can use to craft a story about what's going on," according to Tetlock and Gardner.

"The outside view is usually abstract, bare, and doesn't lend itself so readily to storytelling. So even smart, accomplished people routinely fail to consider the outside view." But Bayesian approaches to forecasting have consistently beaten approaches based solely around deep subject expertise.

BASE RATE FOR A DEAL

In the case of the forthcoming meeting in Algeria, the base rate is the probability of reaching agreement based on experience with prior meetings, adjusted for the specifics of this particular meeting. The selection of an appropriate base rate is always tricky but a starting point would the frequency with which OPEC ministers have reached agreements at meetings in the past.

OPEC first set production targets in 1982. Since then, there have been 117 ministerial conferences or meetings of the ministerial monitoring committee, and agreement to change output on 52 occasions ("Annual Statistical Bulletin", OPEC, 2016).

Considering the entire 1982-2016 period, the base rate probability that OPEC ministers will agree to change output is almost 50 percent. In the first three decades (1982-1991, 1992-2001 and 2002-2011) the probability that a meeting would end with an agreement to change output was almost exactly 50 percent. — Reuters

Bahrain's GDP growth poised to soften this year

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Bahrain's e Economic growth is set to soften further in 2016 as lower oil prices continue to act as a damper on public expenditure and investment growth. We expect growth in real GDP to slow from an estimated 2.3 percent in 2015 to around 1.6 percent in 2016, before recovering in 2017. Non-oil GDP is expected to decelerate to around 2.0 percent in 2016 as investor confidence remains sluggish. We see real growth in the non-oil sector rising to around 3.8 percent in 2017 on higher government spending and inflows of official GCC grants targeting housing and infrastructure developments.

Non-oil growth is poised to be bolstered by higher investment levels in the medium- to long-term. The GCC has pledged $10 billion in investment over ten years. Indeed, the airport expansion project is being launched with a $0.93 billion grant from the UAE. In addition to this, Bahrain's Economic Development Board (EDB) plans to invest over $20 billion in industrial and infrastructure projects over the coming years.

However, the strength of non-oil GDP growth remains susceptible to internal concerns, which have overshadowed business optimism in the past. While these concerns have subsided somewhat, they continue to hang over investor confidence and impede gains in the financial services, construction and tourism sectors.

Inflation expected to edge higher

Inflation in the consumer price index (CPI) climbed higher for the most part of 1H16, after subsidy cuts in the food and housing components drove the respective inflation rates higher . However, latest data showed headline inflation steadied at around 3.7 percent year-on-year (y/y) in May after inflation in food remained broadly unchanged and after housing inflation witnessed a notable slowdown, from 5.9 percent y/y in April to 4.1 percent y/y.

We expect inflation to edge slightly higher and average around 2.5 percent in 2016, following the rather strong inflationary gains in 1H16 and on the basis that there may potentially be further subsidy cuts, in a bid to shore up the nation's public finances.

Budget deficit

Bahrain is forecast to log in one of the largest budget deficits in the GCC region. With the breakeven oil price estimated at around $120 per barrel and oil prices remaining low, we expect the budget deficit to widen and come in north of 17 percent of GDP in 2016 before narrowing slightly to around 13 percent of GDP in 2017.

Bahrain has vowed to embark on austerity measures in line with the IMF's recommendations to help plug its public deficit. Thus far, it has approved a plan to reduce government spending by 30 percent. Spending cuts have been concentrated on subsidies, while maintaining planned spending on infrastructure and development projects. In August 2015, the government lifted subsidies on meat products. In December 2015, the cabinet approved a new pricing system for diesel, kerosene and jet fuel that will lower subsidy costs and better reflect price increases in other GCC states. In 1H16, it approved the removal of subsidies on utilities.

However, engaging in significant cuts in public spending remains a challenge, especially since the two politically sensitive areas of spending, namely subsidies and public wages, make up two-thirds of total government spending.

Given that the budget deficit is expected to remain high in spite of recent and potentially further subsidy cuts, Bahrain will continue to tap into international bond markets in 2016 to help finance its deficit. In 2015, Bahrain raised $1.5 billion in bonds. In 1H16, the government of Bahrain reopened a two-tranche US dollar bond issue worth $600 million and apparently privately issued a $435 million three-year sukuk.

However, recent downgrades of the nation's long-term credit rating are likely to make any future bond deals more challenging. In June, Fitch, in line with the other two major rating agencies, downgraded Bahrain's long-term credit rating to below investment grade status, citing fiscal deficit concerns.

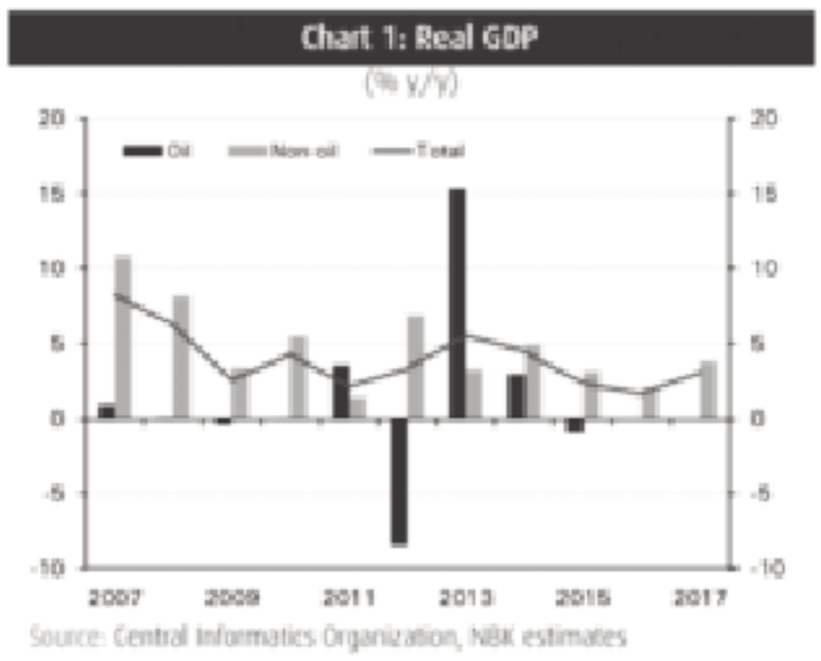
Banking sector liquidity

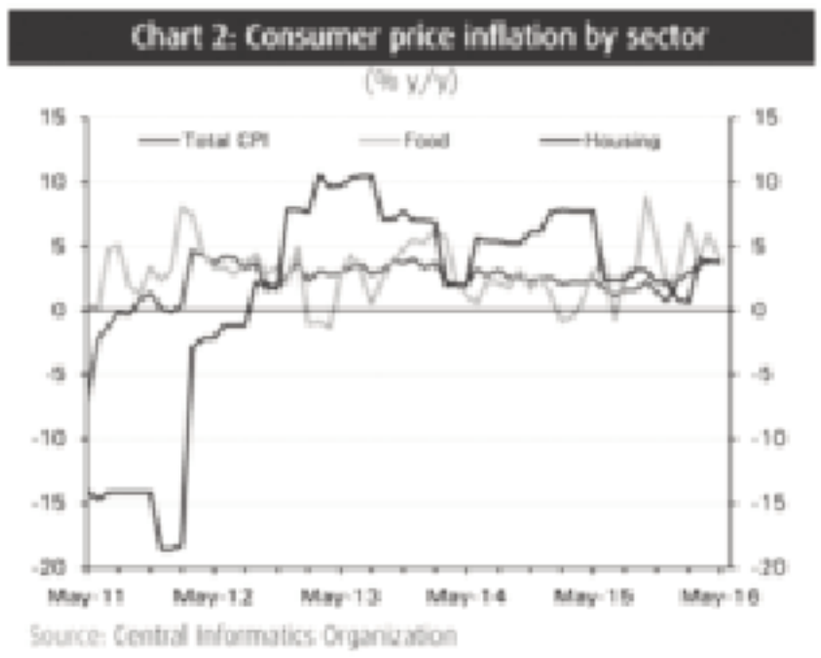
After remaining mostly steady in 2015, recent data show a slowdown in private sector claims growth (Chart 5). Growth slowed from 5.4 percent y/y in February to 3.3 percent y/y in March. We expect growth in this segment to ease further in the near- to medium-term amid tighter liquidity conditions. Total deposit growth remains tepid mainly due to declining government deposits (Chart 6). Growth in government deposits continues to trend lower and remains in negative territory due to lower oil revenues and high levels of government spending. According to the latest data, government deposits fell by 6.3 percent y/y in March. Growth in private sector deposits also remained weak in March, after it came in unchanged from the previous month at 1.9 percent y/y. (The sharp drop in government deposit growth between August of 2015 and October 2015 can mostly be attributed to a one-off outlier.)

Growth in the broad M2 money supply remains weak on the back of lower oil prices. This, in turn, has pushed interbank rates higher. In March 2016, M2 money supply growth came in at a mere 2.0 percent y/y (Chart 7). Bahrain's one-month and three-month interbank rates witnessed steep increases in the first half of 2016. Both rates are due to continue to rise this year on the back of tepid deposit growth.

Bahrain stock market

The Bahrain All Share Index continued to trend lower in 1H16, in tandem with most GCC and global markets. The oil price outlook remains one of the keys to investor confidence and thus market performance .





News

In brief

Kuwait oil price at $42.61 pb

KUWAIT: Price of Kuwait crude oil barrel went up $1.47 to reach $42.61 per barrel on Monday, compared to $41.14 pb last Friday, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation yesterday. Oil prices in international markets rose by 10 percent, reaching their highest in five weeks. The prices were affected by OPEC's expected move to reach an agreement on stabilizing oil supply and subsidy on prices with non-member oil producing countries. Meanwhile, US crude oil went up to its highest in three weeks reaching $45.46 pb, while Brent crude rose $1.08 to reach $48.05 pb.

US dollar stable against KD at 0.301

KUWAIT: The US dollar's exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at 0.301 yesterday, the same case also with the euro which also rose exchanging at KD 0.337, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The rate of the Sterling Pound went down to KD 0.388, whereas the rate of the Swiss Franc rose to KD 0.310. The rate of the Japanese Yen stood firm at KD 0.002.

Iran's oil output rises to 3.85m bpd, exports at 2.2m

DUBAI: Iran is pumping 3.850 million barrels of crude oil per day (bpd) and exporting 2.2 million bpd, Ali Kardor, managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA yesterday. Iran pumped 3.62 million bpd in July, according to a Reuters survey. Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh told parliament last week that he wanted to raise output to 4.6 million bpd within five years, well above pre-sanction levels of 3.8-4.0 million.

Abu Dhabi hires advisers for fund merger

ABU DHABI: Abu Dhabi's government has hired Bain & Co and Landor Associates to advise on the merger of two of the oil-rich emirate's biggest sovereign funds, a source familiar with the matter told Reuters. In late June, Abu Dhabi announced it would merge Mubadala Development Co and International Petroleum Investment Co and had formed a committee led by Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al-Nahayan to oversee the process. The combined fund would have assets worth around $135 billion, according to Reuters calculations based on both funds' latest financial statements. The source, who declined to be named, said both advisers had signed contracts, with Bain, a global management consulting firm, handling the area of business strategy and Landor, a U.S.-based brand consulting firm, serving as branding adviser.

Oman Cement, Raysut plan factory at Duqm

DUBAI: Oman Cement Co plans to set up a new cement plant in a joint venture with Raysut Cement Co and the government authority developing the country's Duqm special economic zone, Oman Cement said yesterday. The plant will be established in the near future if the results of detailed feasibility studies are positive, Oman Cement said. It gave no further details.

Miner BHP Billiton suffers $6.4 bn loss for 2015-16

CANBERRA: The world's biggest miner, BHP Billiton, yesterday reported a $6.4 billion loss - the Anglo-Australian company's worst ever full-year result - resulting from weak commodity prices, a plunge in the value of its US shale oil assets and a costly dam disaster in Brazil.

BHP said its revenue sank 31 percent in the fiscal year ending June 30, to $30.1 billion. It also took $4.9 billion in write downs of its US oil and gas assets.

BHP chief executive Andrew Mackenzie said the year was a difficult one for his company and the resource industry. "We're clearly really disappointed with this result," said Mackenzie. But he noted that another performance measure, Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization - or EBITDA - "remained healthy" at $12.3 billion.

"We are pleased by the strong cash generation of our assets which has resulted in a free cash flow of $3.4 billion," he said. BHP posted a $1.9 billion profit in the previous year, which was 14 percent of the $13.8 billion profit for 2013-14.

The latest result is the worst since the company headquartered in Melbourne, Australia, was formed in 2001 through the merger of two corporations founded in the 19th century - Australia's Broken Hill Proprietary Co Ltd and London-listed Billiton Plc. In 2010-11, it posted its best results ever of $23.6 billion. Weaker commodity prices, which have gutted profits of many global resource companies including big Japanese trading houses, cost the company $10.7 billion last year. A dam failure in November at an iron ore mine co-owned by BHP and Vale in Brazil killed 19 people and caused the worst environmental disaster in the country's history. Brazil's Federal Public Prosecution launched a $43 billion civil suit in May for the disaster, against the joint venture Samarco. BHP has agreed to an initial payment of up to $1.3 billion to clean toxic pollution from the Doce River.

The Samarco dam failure cost the company $2.2 billion for the year. BHP chief financial officer Peter Beavan said the Samarco mine could possibly be reopened, but not this year.

Gaurau Sodhi, a resource expert with Sydney-based share analysis firm Intelligent Investor, said BHP really needs oil prices to rise to post a better result in the current fiscal year. "The oil division is where a lot of money has been spent in the past. It's where the bulk of their assets lie and it's really the oil price that will determine how good or bad the next results will be from here," Sodhi told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Oil prices fell by 47 percent in 2015, taking a huge toll. The World Bank has raised its 2016 forecast for crude oil prices to $41 per barrel from an earlier estimate of $37 per barrel, anticipating a recovery in demand. Yesterday, Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, was trading at about $48 a barrel. — AP

SYDNEY: Smoke billows out of a chimney stack of BHP steelwork factories at Port Kembla, south of Sydney. The world's biggest miner, BHP Billiton, yesterday, reported a $6.4 billion loss, the worst full-year result in the Anglo-Australian company's history. — AP

Oil halts rally amid doubts about production freeze

SINGAPORE: Oil prices eased in Asia yesterday as doubts emerged that Saudi Arabia and other major producers would reach an agreement to freeze output during a meeting next month. Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) as well as non-members are scheduled to meet informally in Algeria in September, and Saudi Arabia's oil minister Khalid Al-Falih has hinted that producers could discuss actions to stabilize prices. His remarks last week sparked a price rally as they were widely seen as a suggestion that OPEC could revive talks on trimming high output levels. Prices continued their rise in New York Monday after Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said his country was working with Saudi Arabia to achieve oil market stability-suggesting a possible production freeze in cooperation with OPEC. But analysts said there were doubts an accord would be reached. "Some doubt about a possible deal to freeze output could have set in," IG Markets Singapore analyst Bernard Aw told AFP. — AFP

EXCHANGE RATES

Al-Muzaini Exchange Co.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	3.012
Indian Rupees	4.523
Pakistani Rupees	2.893
Srilankan Rupees	2.083
Nepali Rupees	2.833
Singapore Dollar	226.260
Hongkong Dollar	38.989
Bangladesh Taka	3.855
Philippine Peso	6.539
Thai Baht	8.746
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.683
Qatari Riyal	83.111
ani Riyal	785.863
Bahraini Dinar	803.510
UAE Dirham	82.375
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.960
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.440
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.215
Tunisian Dinar	138.400
Jordanian Dinar	426.940
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.016
Syrian Lira	2.0156
Morocco Dirham	31.500
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	302.400
Euro	341.560
Sterling Pound	392.210
Canadian dollar	235.150
Turkish lira	103.380
Swiss Franc	312.880
Australian Dollar	233.760
US Dollar Buying	301.200
GOLD	
20 Gram	271.900
10 Gram	138.870
5 Gram	70.280

Dollarco Exchange Co. Ltd

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.600
Canadian Dollr	234.530
Sterling Pound	391.215
Euro	339.945
Swiss Frank	294.960
Bahrain Dinar	799.940
UAE Dirhams	82.615
Qatari Riyals	83.830
Saudi Riyals	81.415
Jordanian Dinar	426.390
Egyptian Pound	33.979
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.082
Indian Rupees	4.520
Pakistani Rupees	2.885
Bangladesh Taka	3.850
Philippines Pesso	6.524
Cyprus pound	159.490
Japanese Yen	4.005
Syrian Pound	2.405
Nepalese Rupees	3.820
Malaysian Ringgit	76.590
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.990
Thai Bhat	9.715
Turkish Lira	103.085

Bahrain Exchange Company

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.383370	0.398370
Czech Korune	0.004518	0.016518
Danish Krone	0.041415	0.046415
Euro	0.0332788	0.0341788
Norwegian Krone	0.032798	0.037998
Romanian Leu	0.086731	0.086731
Slovakia	0.009004	0.019004
Swedish Krona	0.031738	0.036738
Swiss Franc	0.304276	0.315276
Turkish Lira	0.097505	0.107805
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.223939	0.235939
New Zealand Dollar	0.212002	0.221502
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.228620	0.237620
Georgina Lari	0.136555	0.136555
US Dollars	0.298250	0.302950
US Dollars Mint	0.298750	0.302950
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003346	0.003930
Chinese Yuan	0.043998	0.047498
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036910	0.039660
Indian Rupee	0.004300	0.004689
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002927	0.003107
Kenyan Shilling	0.003110	0.003110
Korean Won	0.000266	0.000281
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071982	0.077982
Nepalese Rupee	0.002843	0.003013
Pakistan Rupee	0.002681	0.002971
Philippine Peso	0.006331	0.006631
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.220045	0.230045
South African Rand	0.016732	0.025232
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001647	0.002227
Taiwan	0.009553	0.009733
Thai Baht	0.008318	0.008868
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795420	0.803920
Egyptian Pound	0.024625	0.029743
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422287	0.431287
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019586	0.043586
Nigerian Naira	0.001246	0.001881
Omani Riyal	0.778905	0.784585
Qatar Riyal	0.082237	0.083687
Saudi Riyal	0.079540	0.080840
Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.001501
Tunisian Dinar	0.134170	0.142170
Turkish Lira	0.097505	0.107805
UAE Dirhams	0.080893	0.082593
Yemeni Riyal	0.001366	0.001446

US home construction rose to a six-month high in July

Factory output jumps 0.5% for biggest gain in year

WASHINGTON: Apartment construction in the Northeast fueled a jump in home building in July as the pace of housing starts nationwide reached the strongest pace in six months. The rate of overall construction rose 2.1 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.21 million from 1.19 million in June, the Commerce Department said yesterday. That was the highest level since February. Most of the gain came from an 8.3 percent acceleration in the construction of multi-family buildings. Construction of single-family houses edged up just 0.3 percent.

OKLAHOMA: Photo shows real estate signs at a new home community in Edmond, Oklahoma. Yesterday, the Commerce Department reported on construction of new homes in July. — AP

"Continued recovery in housing will be supported by historically low mortgage rates, coupled with a firming labor market that has begun to spur on wage gains for workers," said Neil Shankar, an economist at TD Bank.

Construction climbed 15.3 percent in the Northeast. The Midwest and South reported smaller gains, while starts slipped in the West. Still, future gains may be limited because current housing starts are outpacing permits to build in the future. Authorized permits slipped 0.1 percent in July to an annual rate of 1.15 million.

Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, expects permits to increase in response to the gains in housing starts. "The gap between the sales and permits numbers is not unprecedented, but it is wide, and we have to expect permits to rebound strongly in the near future," Shepherdson said.

For now, more Americans are upgrading to newly built single-family houses. Ground breakings for houses have shot up 10.6 percent year-to-date, while starts for apartment buildings have dipped after a torrid pace in recent years to accommodate an increase in renters.

Housing starts remain below their recent 25-year average of roughly 1.3 million, even after having rebounded from the depths of the housing crash that triggered the Great Recession nearly nine years ago. Mortgage rates at historic lows and a strong job market have bolstered real estate this year. Sales of new homes are at their strongest pace since early 2008. And existing homes are selling at their best rate since early 2007 as more buyers are finalizing deals despite the lack of available homes for sale.

Homebuilders appear optimistic that sales will continue to rise. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index released last week rose two points to 60 following a downwardly revised reading of 58 in July. Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good rather than poor.

Factory orders

Meanwhile, US factories cranked out more autos, machinery and chemicals in July, lifting production by the most in a year. The Federal Reserve said yesterday that factory output grew 0.5 percent in July, after a 0.3 percent gain in June. The figures suggest that US manufacturing may be turning a corner after struggling to overcome the impact of a stronger dollar, slower overseas growth and falling oil prices. Still, factory output is just 0.2 percent higher than it was a year ago. And even as output ticks up, manufacturers aren't adding many jobs. Overall industrial production, which includes utilities and mining, expanded 0.7 percent. That is the biggest increase since November 2014.

Utilities output jumped 2.1 percent as hotter-than-usual weather boosted air conditioning use. Mining activity rose 0.7 percent, its third straight gain. "The worst is behind us," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities. "The outlook is significantly improved from the flat-to-down prevailing trend seen up until recently."

The production of autos and auto parts rose 1.9 percent in July, a solid gain but below the 5.3 percent jump in June. Machinery output rose 0.7 percent last month and production also rose in computers and wood products.

A rise in late 2014 in the dollar's value has made US exports more expensive overseas and lowered the price of competing imports. That's cut into American manufacturers' export sales. Businesses have been cautious this year about investing in new machinery and equipment, which has also weighed on manufacturers. Still, there have been other signs of a tentative rebound. Manufacturing has been expanding, though sluggishly, for five months, according to a survey by the Institute for Supply Management, a trade group. That followed five months of contraction. Yet new orders received by factories fell 1.5 percent in June, the Commerce Department said, pushed down by a sharp fall in commercial aircraft demand, a volatile category. A separate category of orders that reflects business' investment plans ticked up in June after two straight declines. Through the first six months of this year, factory orders are 2.6 percent behind last year's total. Even as there are signs of improvement, hiring has been weak. Manufacturers are likely still reaping the benefits of automation and other productivity enhancements, allowing them to produce more without adding jobs. The ISM's survey found that manufacturers cut jobs in July, for the third time in the past four months. In the past year, manufacturers have shed 30,000 jobs. —Agencies

CANTON: A technician uses a lift to move a back seat section into a new 2016 Altima on the assembly line at the Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant in Canton, Mississippi. The Federal Reserve reported on industrial production for July. —AP

US consumer prices unchanged in July

WASHINGTON: US consumer prices were unchanged in July as a big drop in gasoline and other energy prices kept inflation under control.

The Labor Department said yesterday the flat reading for overall inflation followed a 0.2 percent gain in June. Energy prices fell by the largest amount in five months. Core inflation, which excludes volatile energy and food, edged up 0.1 percent in July, the smallest increase in four months.

The Federal Reserve has an inflation target of 2 percent annual increases. While core inflation has risen 2.2 percent over the past 12 months, overall inflation is still well below the Fed's target, rising just 0.8 percent in the past 12 months. The Fed has left interest rates unchanged after a single rate hike last December. At its last meeting, the Fed noted that risks to the economic outlook had diminished, opening the possibility of a rate hike later this year. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen delivers a major policy speech at a conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, next week and economists are hoping she will provide clues about the Fed's intentions.

Some analysts believe it could occur at the Fed's next meeting in September although many believe the central bank will wait until December before raising rates again, given modest economic growth and low inflation. Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the new report showing a slowdown in inflation pressures could make Fed officials "a little more uncertain" about how long it will take to reach the Fed's 2 percent inflation target.

Inflation has been low at both the consumer and producer price levels. The government reported last week that producer prices fell by 0.4 percent in July, the biggest drop since last September.

In the report on consumer prices, energy costs dropped 1.6 percent, the first decline since a 6 percent slide in February. Gasoline costs were down 4.7 percent last month. Food costs were float in July following declines in June and May. Outside of food and energy, new car prices posted a small 0.2 percent rise while housing costs and medical care also increased. Offsetting those gains were price declines for airline fares, used cars and trucks and recreation. —AP

NEW YORK: Indro Rei shops for blouses on clearance in a "Red Zone" at a JC Penney store, in New York. The Labor Department reported on US consumer prices for July yesterday. —AP

Bayer could launch hostile bid for Monsanto

FRANKFURT: German chemicals giant Bayer may launch a hostile takeover bid for US seed and pesticide maker Monsanto if its latest friendly offer falls through, business daily Handelsblatt reported yesterday. Monsanto has already rejected two offers from the German firm, calling an increased $125-per-share bid in July "financially inadequate" while keeping the door open to further discussions.

"Bayer is prepared to turn directly to the shareholders" to secure a deal if Monsanto management insists on a price the Germans see as too risky, the paper reported, citing sources close to the company.

"In the coming weeks, chief executive Werner Baumann will make a decision: namely whether a friendly merger is still possible, or whether Bayer must choose an alternative path," Handelsblatt continued. By merging the two companies, Baumann hopes to create a globally dominant agrochemical firm with revenues of up to $25 billion (22 billion euros).

Bayer's last offer valued Monsanto at around $64 billion. But some observers expect Monsanto CEO Hugh Grant to reject any offer of less than $67-69 billion - too big a risk for the German firm, a spokesman for Bayer shareholder Union investment told Handelsblatt.

A hostile offer could see Bayer approaching its upper limit, as it might have to offer a 5.0- to 10-percent increase on its last bid, the paper notes. A spokesman at Bayer declined to comment on the report when contacted by AFP yesterday morning. — AFP

This combo created shows the logo of German pharmaceutical giant Bayer (top) and a building on the campus of Monsanto Headquarters in St Louis, Missouri. — AFP

German CB suggests raising retirement age to 69

BERLIN: Germany's central bank is arguing that the country's retirement age should ultimately be lifted another two years to 69, a call that received a frosty response from the government.

The government decided a decade ago to raise the retirement age from 65 to 67. The increase is being introduced gradually and will apply to all retirees by 2029. Since then, there have been periodic calls for people in Europe's biggest economy to work even longer. In its monthly report Monday, the Bundesbank said consideration should be given to raising the retirement age to around 69 by 2060 to make sure the pension system is viable as the population ages.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said that the government "stands by retirement at 67." The Bundesbank said that demographic trends are such that the average age in German society will continue to rise, which will put greater stress on the pension system, and that the government should be accounting for the anticipated change now.

"In order for pension plans to reflect long term trends, official projections should go past the year 2030," the bank wrote in its report.

Other countries in Europe are also trying to gradually increase the retirement age as they struggle with an aging population. France recently lifted its threshold to 62 from 60 for people who have paid social security contributions throughout their working life. For those who haven't, the retirement age is 67. Italy, which is also struggling with high public debt, is gradually increasing its retirement thresholds, to 66 for both men and women by 2018. —AP

Iran says new oil contracts need more amendments

DUBAI: Iran's new oil and gas contracts will need amendments, its oil minister said yesrerday after a meeting with the speaker of parliament, adding that the new contracts will not be sent to the assembly for final approval.

The launch of the Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC) has been postponed several times as hardline rivals of pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani resisted any deal that could end the so-called buy-back system, under which foreign firms were banned from owning stakes in Iranian companies. Iran's top authority, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said last month that no new oil and gas contracts for international companies would be awarded without necessary reforms.

Iran's cabinet approved this month an amended draft for the IPC and sent it to the parliament. However, the latest comments from the oil minister showed the lawmakers and other advisory bodies have asked for more changes.

"Yesterday afternoon we had a meeting with Ali Larijani (the speaker of the parliament) on the new oil contracts in which some issues were raised. It was decided to make some amendments in the contracts," Bijan Namdar Zanganeh was quoted as saying by the parliament's news agency ICANA. Zanganeh added the IPC will not be sent to the parliament for final approval. The Islamic Republic is ramping up oil production and reclaiming market share after the lifting of Western sanctions in January.

Iran annoucned on Tuesday that it is pumping 3.850 million barrels of crude oil per day (bpd) and exporting 2.2 million bpd. — Reuters

FTSE expectations boost Qatar, most markets fall

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Qatari stocks rose yesterday amid expectations money will flow into the market when the index compiler FTSE promotes it to emerging-market status from frontier market. Most other Gulf markets gave up early gains to close lower and Dubai pulled back from technical resistance.

FTSE, which will promote Qatar on Sept. 19, announced on Monday some of the criteria which it will use to choose individual Qatari stocks for its index, including liquidity requirements.

Investment bank EFG Hermes said that as a result, it had raised its prediction for FTSE-related fund inflows next month to $550 million from $289 million. Three stocks that had looked unlikely to be chosen - Qatar National Bank (QNB), Qatar Insurance and Qatar Navigation - were now likely to enter the index, it said. Qatar's main stock index jumped 2.2 percent to a nine-month closing higher of 11,371 points in the heaviest trade since mid-March as QNB and Qatar Navigation both surged 6.7 percent and Qatar Insurance gained 3.5 percent.

Other major Gulf markets failed to hold onto early gains, however, despite a further rise of Brent crude oil futures to $48.74 per barrel, their highest since July 7. Dubai's index fell 0.4 percent to 3,587 points, retreating from technical resistance at its April peak of 3,605 points. Emaar Properties, which had led the market up in recent days, pulled back 1.3 percent.

Abu Dhabi also lost 0.4 percent as banks fell, although Aldar Properties, the most heavily traded stock, climbed 2.1 percent. Saudi Arabia's index fell 0.5 percent in a broad-based decline, with losers outnumbering gainers 119 to 30. Zain Saudi Arabia outperformed, closing flat, after saying it would save 175 million riyals ($46.7 million) by using a Chinese bank to refinance a 2.25 billion riyal loan that it had secured just two months ago.

In Oman, two cement companies outperformed after they said they planned to set up a new plant in a joint venture with the government authority developing the country's Duqm special economic zone. Oman Cement Co rose 2.6 percent and Raysut Cement Co added 2.1 percent.

In Egypt, the index dropped 0.8 percent on profit-taking. It had risen for most of the past three weeks in response to Egypt's talks with the International Monetary Fund for a loan. Nine of the 10 most heavily trade stocks retreated. Commercial International Bank, a favourite of foreign investors, slipped 0.6 percent to 51.50 Egyptian pounds after climbing 23 percent since the end of June. The median price target for the stock of 14 analysts surveyed by Thomson Reuters is 51 pounds.— Reuters

Global stocks drift lower as investors await US data

SEOUL: Global stock markets drifted lower yesterday as investors were digesting mixed reports on the health of the world economy and awaited more US data later in the day. European stock markets fell yesterday, with traders reacting to early indications regarding the economic fallout of Britain's Brexit vote. Around 1045 GMT, London's benchmark FTSE 100 was down 0.4 percent compared with the close on Monday.

In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 shed 0.7 percent and the Paris CAC 40 lost 0.5 percent. Investor confidence in Germany rebounded slightly this month, as the shock over Britain's vote in June to leave the European Union began to wear off, a leading survey showed.

The investor confidence index calculated by the ZEW economic institute gained 7.3 points to stand in positive territory at 0.5 points in August, recovering from a massive 26-point slump in July. The index shows a "recovery somewhat from the Brexit shock", said the institute's president Achim Wambach. And analysts struck a note of caution. "The recovery in expectations should not be over-interpreted and must be taken against the backdrop of the strong retreat in July," said Bayern LB analyst Stefan Kipar. He also warned that August's data was not an indication that the European economy would be untouched by Brexit. Separate data meanwhile showed Britain's annual inflation rate had edged higher last month-while it is set to climb further as a weak pound caused by the Brexit vote raises import prices.

The 12-month Consumer Price Index rose by 0.6 percent in July, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. "This news provided a much-needed moment of respite for the pound, which surged... against the dollar," said Connor Campbell, analyst at Spreadex trading group. In Asia, Tokyo's main stocks index slumped 1.6 percent by the close after a sharp rally in the yen against the dollar. The yen's rise is a negative for Japanese exporters, making them less competitive overseas and denting profits.

It comes on top of below-par data Monday showing growth in Japan-the world's number three economy-coming in flat during the April-June period. Traders were awaiting US economic numbers due later after Wall Street jumped to fresh records Monday on stronger oil prices.

On the corporate front yesterday, shares in mining giant BHP Billiton jumped 3.3 percent in London deals, despite the company announcing an annual net loss of $6.39 billion. Its worst-ever result was caused by a mine dam disaster in Brazil and weak commodity prices. BHP shares rallied however, with investors cheered by a larger-than-expected dividend payment. And in Frankfurt, shares in German industrial gas supplier Linde soared seven percent on reports that it was in talks about a possible merger with US rival Praxair.

KEEPING SCORE: Britain's FTSE 100 fell 0.4 percent to 6,917 and France's CAC 40 shed 0.6 percent to 4,471. Germany's DAX fell 0.6 percent to 10,675. Futures augured a tepid start on Wall Street. Dow and S&P 500 futures were both down 0.1 percent.

MIXED SIGNALS: Global markets have seen small gains and losses as investors digest mixed reports on the health of the global economy. Britain registered a jump in producer prices - the cost of goods at the factory gate - due to the pound's slump in the wake of the vote to leave the European Union. That will increase costs for businesses and is likely to cause consume prices to rise in coming months.

Japan's economy grew at a lower-than-expected 0.2 percent in the second quarter, which could push the Bank of Japan to do more to stimulate the economy. Last week, data showed that Chinese factory output and other economic activity weakened in July. American consumers cut spending in July, but a survey showed that US homebuilders are feeling more optimistic as prices and sales of new homes rise.

LOOKING AHEAD: Investors will later in the day keep an eye on a run of US data that will include inflation, industrial production and housing starts for July. Economic releases are being watched for hints on how they might affect the Federal Reserve's plans to raise interest rates again. Though the labor market has been robust, the last report on retail sales disappointed.

ASIA's DAY: Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 1.6 percent to 16,596.51 as the yen gained against the US dollar. South Korea's Kospi eked out a 0.1 percent loss to close at 2,047.76. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was down 0.1 percent at 22,910.84 while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dipped 0.1 percent to 5,532.00. Stocks in mainland China and Taiwan fell and markets in Southeast Asia were mostly lower. — Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

جلوبل Global

Tuesday 16 August 2016

Index		Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▲	14.80	5,507.05	5,492.25	5,507.38	5,489.88
Weighted Index	▲	0.40	354.15	353.75	354.57	352.76
KSX 15	▲	3.29	824.08	820.79	824.08	818.47

Volume	62,244,913
Value (KWD)	7,135,675
Number of Trades	1,841

Security	High	Low	Trades Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last		Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	—	0.0
IKARUS	37.0	34.0	293,134	10,144	22	34.0	▼	-2.5
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	—	0.0
NAPESCO	750	740	4,397	3,270	2	740	▼	-10.0
ENERGYH	46.5	46.5	7,500	349	4	46.5	▲	0.5
GPI	40.5	40.0	2,978,514	119,597	72	40.0	▼	-0.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	—	0.0
Oil & Gas			**3,283,545**	**133,359**	**100**	**786.05**	▼	**-5.83**
KFOUC	168	168	2,500	420	1	168	▼	-2.0
BPCC	500	495	132,691	65,752	8	495	—	0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650	—	0.0
ALQURAIN	204	198	125,891	25,237	20	202	▲	4.0
Basic Materials			**261,082**	**91,410**	**29**	**950.14**	▲	**3.66**
KCEM	380	380	7,249	2,755	1	380	—	0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	340	—	0.0
CABLE	385	380	200,089	76,532	14	385	—	0.0
SHIP	168	166	168,800	28,038	9	166	—	0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	980	—	0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	—	0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	—	0.0
ACICO	290	290	250	73	1	290	—	0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	—	0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128	—	0.0
KBMMC	190	170	3,010	512	2	190	▲	10.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	—	0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—	0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	—	0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	—	0.0
SALBOOKH	64	61	192,715	12,019	17	62	▼	-1.0
AGLTY	485	480	537,568	259,041	16	485	▲	5.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	—	0.0
CLEANING	39.5	39.0	132,839	5,199	6	39.0	—	0.0
KGL	44.5	43.5	279,000	12,277	11	44.5	▲	1.0
KCPC	168	168	100	17	1	168	▲	4.0
HUMANSOFT	1,560	1,560	3,670	5,725	1	1,560	—	0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	—	0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	—	0.0
GFC	27.5	27.0	45,000	1,218	12	27.0	▼	-1.0
MAYADEEN	29.5	29.0	489,703	14,202	13	29.0	▼	-0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	—	0.0
MTCC	58	54	2,068,706	115,687	88	58	▲	4.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	730	—	0.0
ALAFCO	216	216	888,000	191,808	17	216	▲	2.0
MUBARRAD	60	60	100	6	1	60	▲	2.0
LOGISTICS	72	71	850,000	60,955	22	72	▲	2.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	—	0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0
FCEM	74	74	30,000	2,220	1	74	—	0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
SPEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0
Industrials			**5,896,799**	**788,282**	**233**	**1176.85**	▲	**4.25**
KSH	158	158	1,000	158	1	158	▼	-2.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	—	0.0
PAPCO	106	106	850	90	1	106	—	0.0
CATTL	255	250	172,000	43,825	8	255	▲	5.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	—	0.0
POULT	176	176	76	13	1	176	—	0.0
FOOD	2,480	2,460	285,211	701,624	32	2,460	—	0.0
Consumer Goods			**459,137**	**745,711**	**43**	**1222.92**	▼	**-0.38**
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	202	—	0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	—	0
YIACO	228	228	55	13	1	228	▼	-10
Health Care			**55**	**13**	**1**	**1029.43**	▼	**-7.19**
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	—	0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	—	0
SULTAN	57	55	741,932	42,268	7	57	▼	-1
CABLETV	23.0	20.0	21,500	435	4	23.0	▲	2
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	—	0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	—	0
OULAFUEL	128	124	184,911	23,383	35	126	—	0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	—	0
JAZEERA	850	840	4,197	3,564	4	850	▲	10
SOOR	132	124	78,156	9,995	19	130	▲	6
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	110	—	0
ALRAI	148	148	82,000	12,136	4	148	▼	-2
ZIMAH	41.0	41.0	580,597	23,804	17	41.0	▼	-1
UFIG	130	130	2,806	365	1	130	—	0
Mezzan	1,080	1,060	118,118	127,559	11	1,080	▼	-20
Consumer Services			**1,814,217**	**243,509**	**102**	**934.92**	▲	**3.42**
ZAIN	335	330	562,703	188,479	18	335	—	0
OOREDOO	1,140	1,040	22,283	23,568	15	1,040	▼	-60
HITSTELEC	40.0	39.0	195,552	7,677	11	39.0	▼	-1
VIVA	940	930	38,242	35,648	30	940	—	0
Telecommunications			**818,780**	**255,371**	**74**	**597.07**	▼	**-6.67**
NBK	610	600	620,638	372,964	32	610	▲	10
GBK	228	228	27,500	6,270	4	228	—	0
CBK	350	350	4,441	1,554	2	350	▼	-15
ABK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	—	0
ALMUTAHED	395	395	9,500	3,753	3	395	—	0
KIB	194	192	894,500	171,764	22	194	▲	4
BURG	335	330	112,355	37,612	11	335	—	0
KFIN	470	465	1,182,617	549,932	53	465	—	0
BOUBYAN	390	380	3,750,338	1,442,710	36	385	▼	-5
AUB	196	194	90,259	17,552	11	194	—	0
ITHMR	38.0	37.5	1,438,265	54,400	26	37.5	▼	-1
WARBABANK	172	170	450,584	77,219	57	170	—	0
Banks			**8,580,997**	**2,735,730**	**257**	**796.33**	▼	**-1.22**
KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	270	—	0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	—	0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	—	0.0
WINS	108	108	406	44	3	108	▼	-4.0
KUWAITRE	190	190	10,000	1,900	1	190	—	0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—	0.0
WETHAQ	30.5	30.0	7,500	225	4	30.5	—	0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
Insurance			**17,906**	**2,169**	**8**	**1010.25**	▼	**-4.51**

Security	High	Low	Trades Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last		Change
SOKOUK	34.5	33.0	819261	27,583	22	34.5	▲	1.0
KRE	53	52	767,014	39,885	16	52	—	0.0
URC	106	102	71,070	7,389	8	104	▼	-2.0
NRE	81	78	4,651,685	369,995	77	79	—	0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	—	0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	—	0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	—	0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	—	0.0
ARABREC	32.0	31.0	1,408,431	43,995	38	32.0	▲	1.5
ERESCO	44.5	43.5	159,532	6,993	7	44.5	▲	0.5
MABANEE	810	810	5,000	4,050	1	810	▲	10.0
INJAZZAT	73	71	548,303	39,078	22	71	—	0.0
INVESTORS	23.0	22.5	1,150,985	25,898	19	22.5	—	0.0
IRC	30.0	29.0	212,440	6,192	6	30.0	▲	0.5
ALTIJARIA	77	76	13,446	1,025	5	76	—	0.0
SANAM	31.5	31.5	500	16	1	31.5	—	0.0
AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	—	0.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	—	0.0
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	—	0.0
MAZAYA	114	114	776,224	88,490	6	114	—	0.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	—	0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
TIJARA	40.0	40.0	1,000	40	1	40.0	▲	0.5
TAAMEER	22.0	22.0	144,666	3,183	9	22.0	▲	0.5
ARKAN	82	82	16,400	1,345	3	82	—	0.0
ARGAN	152	150	131,256	19,877	3	152	▲	2.0
ABYAAR	23.0	22.5	2,349,610	52,867	27	23.0	—	0.0
MUNSHAAT	53	52	277,500	14,432	13	53	▲	2.0
FIRSTDUBAI	64	62	143,610	8,948	11	63	▲	1.0
KBT	39.5	39.0	350,000	13,700	10	39.0	▼	-0.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	166	—	0.0
MENA	21.0	21.0	59,135	1,242	4	21.0	▼	-0.5
ALMUDON	27.5	27.0	911,130	25,039	30	27.5	▲	0.5
MARAKEZ	28.0	28.0	20,000	560	1	28.0	▲	1.0
REMAL	33.0	32.5	189,200	6,174	5	32.5	▼	-0.5
AWJ	69	63	34,343	2,248	16	69	▲	4.0
Real Estate			**15,211,741**	**810,242**	**361**	**835.82**	▲	**5.34**
KINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	—	0.0
FACIL	176	174	282,303	49,401	14	174	▼	-2.0
IFA	35.0	33.5	2,474,000	84,859	38	34.0	▲	1.0
NINV	106	102	712,731	73,719	25	106	▲	2.0
KPROJ	550	540	115,000	62,200	6	550	—	0.0
COAST	42.0	41.0	1,318,500	54,750	51	41.5	▲	0.5
SECH	46.5	44.5	2,139,310	98,792	54	46.5	▲	2.5
SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	—	0.0
ARZAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	—	0.0
MARKAZ	85	85	20,000	1,700	1	85	—	0.0
KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	24.5	—	0.0
ALAMAN	50	48.0	1,492,008	73,470	55	50	▲	2.0
ALOLA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	—	0.0
ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	—	0.0
GIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	—	0.0
AAYAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	—	0.0
BAYANINV	33.5	32.0	3,362,776	110,973	71	33.5	▲	1.5
OSOUL	44.5	41.5	6,964	292	2	44.5	▲	0.5
KFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.5	—	0.0
KAMCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128	—	0.0
NIH	56	54	4,008,090	220,430	26	55	—	0.0
ISKAN	32.0	31.5	543,161	17,154	11	31.5	▲	0.5
MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	—	0.0
ALDEERA	38.0	37.0	77,000	2,850	9	38.0	—	0.0
ALSALAM	50	48.0	1,538,250	75,772	67	50	▲	1.5
EKTTITAB	41.0	40.0	182,000	7,371	6	41.0	▲	1.0
ALMADINA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.5	—	0.0
NOOR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	—	0.0
TAMINV	305	305	5,000	1,525	1	305	▲	5.0
EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500	—	0.0
TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	—	0.0
KSHC	32.0	30.0	1,827,290	56,011	69	32.0	▼	-0.5
ASIYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.5	—	0.0
GNAHC	33.5	33.5	265,000	8,878	6	33.5	▼	-0.5
AMWAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	19.5	—	0.0
ALIMTIAZ	70	69	56,000	3,870	3	70	▲	1.0
MANAZEL	30.5	29.5	1,305,010	38,753	28	30.0	▼	-0.5
NIND	118	116	713,050	82,862	21	118	▲	2.0
BIIHC	28.0	27.5	1,020,010	28,308	28	28.0	—	0.0
SENERGY	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	13.0	—	0.0
AGHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48.5	—	0.0
KPPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.0	—	0.0
TAHSSILAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	37.0	—	0.0
JEERANH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	73	—	0.0
EKHOLDING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	—	0.0
GFH	73	72	2,424,251	175,321	35	73	▲	1.0
INOVEST	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	—	0.0
Financial Services			**25,887,704**	**1,329,261**	**627**	**565.14**	▲	**3.22**
Investment Instruments			**0**	**0**	**0**	**1081.97**	—	**0.00**
ASC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	246	—	0.0
OSOS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	—	0.0
FUTURE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	94	—	0.0
HAYATCOMM	45.0	44.0	450	20	2	45.0	—	0.0
Technology			**450**	**20**	**2**	**958.41**	—	**0.00**
SANAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	—	0.0
AFAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	162	—	0.0
ALSHAMEL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	460	—	0.0
EFFECT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.5	—	0.0
AJWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	29.5	—	0.0
MASAKEN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	71	—	0.0
DALQAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	350	—	0.0
ALEID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	—	0.0
MIDAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,220	—	0.0
FLEX	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.0	—	0.0
THURAYA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	158	—	0.0
KCLINIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	33.5	—	0.0
AMAR	48.0	48.0	12,500	600	4	48.0	▼	-2.0
Parallel Market			**12,500**	**600**	**4**	**1254.38**	▼	**-5.38**

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How US sanctions targeted a Belize banana farmer

WASHINGTON: When the United States blacklisted John Angel Zabaneh, a banana farmer and exporter in Belize, for alleged ties to a top drug lord, it did more than just sideline one local businessman from the global financial system.

The action, designed to target only Zabaneh, his alleged associates and their businesses, also dented Belize's banana exports for months from last October, throwing hundreds of people out of work and undercutting a main source of hard currency for the tiny Central American country.

Zabaneh's blacklisting shows the ripple effects that US sanctions aimed at stopping illicit activity such as drug trafficking, terrorism, and human rights abuses can have on the people and industries of economically fragile countries. Broad US sanctions against entire countries have drawn criticism for impoverishing millions while doing little to hurt those at the top. But Zabaneh's case shows that even laser-targeted actions against individuals and firms-a strategy the United States is increasingly using-can cause collateral damage. Belize's banana crop, which makes up a fifth of the country's exports, faces other obstacles beyond sanctions. Droughts and floods have damaged crops and a further hit is likely after Hurricane Earl swept through the tiny nation this month.

But government officials and industry executives in Belize said Zabaneh's blacklisting-part of counter-narcotics sanctions aimed at choking off the drug trade in Latin America — had a marked impact on the country's overall banana exports in late 2015 and early 2016 and contributed to a sharp economic contraction.

A 42 percent drop in banana shipments in the first three months of 2016, stemming from the closure of Zabaneh's farms and the floods, helped drive a two percent drop in economic output in the first quarter, according to the Belize Statistical Institute. "We're a smaller banana supplier, therefore the economics are very touch and go," said Sam Mathias, general manager of the Belize Banana Growers' Association (BGA). "You reduce our annual volume by a little bit, it does make a big difference."

Zabaneh, the US Treasury said, was a key associate of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, head of Mexico's powerful Sinaloa drug cartel. In a telephone interview with Reuters, Zabaneh denied any connection to Guzman, and said he has sent Treasury information on decades of his finances in an effort to get his name off the blacklist. A US Treasury spokeswoman declined to comment on the designation's impact on Belize's banana industry.

TARGETED SANCTIONS

The banana crop, exported year-round, is vital to Belize, a country the size of New Jersey with a 40 percent poverty rate. It provides thousands of jobs to migrants and Belizeans in the country's southeastern agricultural region. The United States has increased its use of targeted economic sanctions in recent years, with officials seeing them as an alternative to more deadly options like air strikes or military raids. They also view them as preferable to the kind of broad boycotts of Cuba, Iraq, and Iran that stunted those countries' economies, experts and former officials said.

"Increasingly the US government has imposed sanctions on individuals, entities, and companies that are wrongdoers as opposed to entire jurisdictions because the more surgical approach is viewed as more effective and more fair," said Adam Smith, a former senior advisor at Treasury.

Wary of hurting a major economy with broad sanctions, the United States imposed highly tailored measures on Russia over its 2014 annexation of Crimea, targeting particular transactions in the energy, defense and finance sectors. But even those specific measures had an "outsized impact" on levels of foreign investment in the Russian economy, said Eric Lorber, a senior associate at the Financial Integrity Network, which advises banks on sanctions.

Many sanctions can lead to unintended damage, but it is relatively common in counter-narcotics designations because major players in drug trafficking often have ties to legitimate business, Smith said. "People who rise to the level of interest with respect to the US government almost by definition are substantial players," said Smith, now an attorney at Gibson Dunn in Washington. "They may be important components of a country's economy."

"RENDERED USELESS"

The blacklisting of Zabaneh in 2012 had little impact for the first three years because Zabaneh, now 61, quickly stepped away from his business, once one of the largest banana farms in Belize. Soon after the US Treasury blacklisted Zabaneh, his company Mayan King, and a handful of other people and companies, Treasury and Belize officials explored the idea of transferring the farms to another firm, said Jose Alpuche, chief executive of Belize's Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The officials' aim was to figure out how to "keep the banana industry up and running," Alpuche said. Treasury officials made clear in a 2012 phone call with Belize officials that it was up to private firms, not the US government, to determine whether the solution was acceptable, he said. Another company, Meridian Enterprise, took over management of the farms from Mayan King, Zabaneh said.

For years, the sole buyer of Belize's bananas has been Ireland-based Fyffes. The company said in a statement that the BGA had confirmed in 2012 that Zabaneh and Mayan King had resigned from the trade group, and that the farms were under new ownership not connected to Zabaneh. It continued to buy bananas from the farms for three more years. But the blacklisting finally bit late last year when Zabaneh was quoted in local media speaking about the farms' operations. He said he was representing his mother, who, he told Reuters, owned the farms throughout the change in management.

The report publicly linking him to the farms prompted Fyffes to cut off purchases of the bananas, the company said in October 2015. It has continued to buy bananas from other farms in Belize.

"Those would have been bananas that were already ready for harvest and for shipment, so the minute he was stopped, then we lost his portion of exports," Alpuche said.

Fyffes' decision caused an instant 13.5 percent plunge in Belize's banana exports, said Mathias. The value of banana exports dropped by $1 million in October 2015, or 20 percent compared to the prior year, according to the Belize Statistical Institute, which linked the drop that month to the closure of the farms.

Fyffes declined to comment beyond an October 2015 statement confirming it had stopped purchasing bananas from the farms, and that it had immediately cut ties with Zabaneh and his businesses following the Treasury sanctions in 2012. Zabaneh's farms now lie dormant and overgrown with weeds, with the bananas sick with black sigatoka disease, said Alpuche, who recently visited the area. The farms used to employ about 900 workers, Alpuche said. "It's been rendered useless," he said. "It's not in a condition where it can export any time soon." — Reuters

UK companies see costs rise as result of vote to exit EU

LONDON: The pound's sharp drop following Britain's vote to leave the European Union is starting to affect companies, particularly manufacturers, by increasing the cost of the imported raw materials and goods they require to do business.

Official figures released yesterday showed that producer prices rose 4.3 percent in the year through July, compared with a 0.5 percent drop in the year through June as the cost of raw materials increased due to the pound's decline in the wake of the EU referendum.

Commodities like oil, metals and grains are priced internationally in dollars, against which the pound has fallen 14 percent since the June 23 referendum. Higher costs for manufacturers will translate into a rising cost of living for consumers in the months ahead, said Scott Corfe, director of the Center for Economics and Business Research. "The sharp decline in the value of (the pound) since the Brexit referendum will translate into higher prices for imported goods over the coming months, pushing inflation to above 2.5 percent in the first half of 2017," he said in a written analysis of the figures.

Increased inflation, combined with stagnant pay growth, mean workers are likely to feel the pain. "The UK's strongly consumer-driven economic recovery is about to grind to a halt," he said. A separate report from the Office for National Statistics showed consumer prices also rose more than expected in July, to an annual rate of 0.6 percent from 0.5 percent in June, though that was not directly related to the EU vote.

The increase was caused by more expensive motor fuel and second-hand cars. Economists had expected the rate to remain unchanged at 0.5 percent. The inflation figures are important in that they are the first since the June 23 referendum to leave the 28-nation bloc. Economists suggest that what matters most is whether a pattern emerges over time.

"As with all new information so close to the referendum, we must still treat it with some degree of skepticism as the country remains in a dust-settling mode after the material magnitude of the outcome," Clive Black of Shore Capital wrote. — AP

MOWBRAY: Tim Brown, the owner of the Melton Cheeseboard, weighs out some cheese in his shop in Melton Mowbray, England. The marker of distinction for British food, the same kind that ensures Champagne can only come from the French region of the same name, is granted by the European Union and is now at risk after Britain voted to leave the 28-country bloc. —AP

British inflation climbs to 0.6% after Brexit vote

LONDON: Britain's annual inflation rate edged higher last month, official data showed yesterday, and is set to climb further as a weak pound caused by the Brexit vote raises import prices. The 12-month Consumer Price Index rose by 0.6 percent in July, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement.

CPI had risen by 0.5 percent in the year to June, the ONS added. "Although the small increase in the rate between June 2016 and July 2016 takes it to the highest seen since November 2014, it is still relatively low in the historic context," the ONS said in a statement. "The main contributors to the increase in the rate were rising prices for motor fuels, alcoholic beverages and accommodation services, and a smaller fall in food prices than a year ago," it added.

Analysts expect British inflation to rise further in the coming months as the pound battles weakness against the dollar and euro. Sterling slumped to 31-year lows against the dollar after Britain voted on June 23 to exit the European Union-and has struggled to recover.

"One of the big questions facing policymakers in the UK at the moment is how quickly, and by how much, the plunge in sterling following the referendum will raise inflation," ING bank economist James Smith said following yesterday's data.

"For now at least, the effects are fairly minimal." Scott Corfe, analyst at the Centre for Economics and Business Research predicted that "the sharp decline in the value of sterling since the Brexit referendum will translate into higher prices for imported goods over the coming months, pushing inflation to above 2.5 percent in the first half of 2017". Despite the prospect of higher inflation, the Bank of England has slashed its key interest rate to a record-low 0.25 percent to combat the prospect of weaker growth caused by Britain's vote in favor of exiting the European Union.

Britain's departure from the EU could meanwhile be delayed until late 2019 as civil servants struggle with the task while French and German elections threaten to delay the start of exit negotiations, a report said Sunday. — AP

Dollar edges off lows after Dudley raises bets on rate hike

NEW YORK: The US dollar hit its lowest levels in more than seven weeks against the euro, yen and Swiss franc yesterday a day after dovish comments from a top Federal Reserve official, but pared losses after remarks from the head of the New York Fed raised expectations for a rate hike this year.

The dollar hit its lowest levels against those three currencies since June 24, or the day after Britain voted to exit the European Union, which caused tumult in global markets. The euro rose more than one percent against the dollar to a session high of $1.1322, while the dollar fell more than 1.5 percent against the yen to 99.56 yen and more than 1 percent against the Swiss franc to 0.9589 franc. The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of six major currencies, also fell more than 1 percent to its lowest in more than seven weeks at 94.426.

Analysts attributed the dollar's weakness to comments from San Francisco Fed President John Williams on Monday afternoon. Williams said the Fed should consider setting higher inflation targets. The Fed currently targets a 2-percent inflation goal.

Data showing US consumer prices were unchanged in July, marking the weakest reading since February, also reinforced skepticism that the Fed would hike rates by December. "The net takeaway is that the Fed may be so concerned about the long-term robustness of the economy and therefore, rate hikes are going to be slow," said Steven Englander, global head of foreign exchange strategy at Citigroup in New York.

The dollar pared losses immediately following the CPI data, however, after New York Fed President William Dudley told Fox Business Network that the US central bank could possibly raise rates as soon as September. After Dudley's comments, Federal funds futures prices suggested traders saw a 55 percent chance the Fed would raise rates at its December meeting, compared with an implied 42 percent probability on Monday, according to CME Group's FedWatch program.

"Many still believe the Fed has a chance to hike later in the year," said Richard Scalone, co-head of foreign exchange at TJM Brokerage in Chicago. "Dudley said that later in the day, and that's what gave us a little bit of a reversal."

The euro was last up 0.72 percent against the dollar at $1.1263, while the dollar was last down 0.80 percent against the yen at 100.43 yen. — Reuters

TOKYO: A man walks past an electric quotation board flashing the Nikkei key index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) in front of a securities company in Tokyo yesterday. Tokyo shares slumped for a second session in thin trade after a sharp rally in the yen and disappointing Japanese second-quarter GDP figures hit investor sentiment. — AFP

China approves trading link for Shenzhen, HK stocks

Beijing paves the way for much-awaited reform

SHANGHAI: China's central government has approved plans to link trading between the Shenzhen stock exchange and the Hong Kong market, it said yesterday, paving the way for the long-awaited reform. The Hong Kong stock exchange said it expected preparations for the launch of the mechanism to be finished in four months' time, but that a start date would be subject to regulatory approval.

China launched a landmark "stock connect" between the bourses of Shanghai and its special administrative region of Hong Kong in late 2014, opening up its closeted share market to the outside world and giving foreign investors access to Chinese companies not quoted elsewhere.

Mainland China's second stock exchange, in the southern city of Shenzhen, was due to follow last year, but the launch was delayed by a market rout. The powerful State Council-or cabinet-has given its high-level blessing to the scheme, it said in a statement on its website yesterday. The State Council has approved the implementation proposal for the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Connect," Premier Li Keqiang was quoted as telling a meeting of the body.

He added preparation work was "basically completed" but gave no date for the launch. Hong Kong exchange chairman C.K.Chow said the link-up would "open up another mainland market for international investors and strengthen the mainland's links with Hong Kong" in a statement late yesterday. The exchange's chief executive Charles Li said one of the aims was to build Hong Kong into an offshore wealth management centre for mainland investors. The move demonstrates the "continuous commitment" of the Chinese government towards financial reforms, said economist Aidan Yao of Axa Investment Managers.

Yao said it was "an efficient way of liberalising the onshore financial market". A report from Macquarie Securities said the launch would provide international investors access to China's "most dynamic equity market". Chinese stocks surged on Monday in anticipation of movement on the proposal, though the benchmark Shanghai index fell back yesterday as investors took profits.

Still, the news could offer support for Chinese shares on Wednesday, Zhang Qun, Beijing-based analyst at Citic Securities, told AFP. "It will not affect the market significantly. Some shares related to Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect will probably open higher tomorrow morning," he said. The China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC), the stock market watchdog, said on Friday that the program will be launched this year, repeating comments a spokesman made in June. The existing Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect enables international investors to trade selected stocks on Shanghai's tightly restricted exchange, and lets mainland investors buy shares in Hong Kong.

Premier Li said the Shenzhen link would represent a "firm step ahead" as he pledged closer cooperation between mainland China and Hong Kong. — AFP

HONG KONG: Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited Chief Executive Charles Li speaks during a press conference on Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect at Stock Exchange in Hong Kong yesterday. — AP

BELLINGTON: People approach an entrance to a Home Depot store location in Bellingham, Mass. Home Depot reported financial results yesterday. — AP

Home Depot rides housing boom to record profit in Q2

NEW YORK: Home Depot posted record sales and earnings during its second quarter and raised its profit expectations for the year as the US housing market continues to warm up.

The Atlanta home improvement retailer's profit jumped 9 percent to $2.44 billion, or $1.97 per share, edging out Wall Street expectations by a penny, according to analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research. Sales surged 6.6 percent to $26.47 billion, also slightly better than expected.

Home Depot and its rival, Lowe's sailed through a downturn in the retail sector this year as a whole, with more Americans funneling money into the homes they own, or putting personal touches on new ones. The US reported that new home construction jumped 4.8 percent in June to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.19 million. That was the highest since February, when an unseasonably mild winter pulled builders out of hibernation early.

That trend appears to be continuing. This week, the National Association of Home Builders with Wells Fargo released its builder sentiment index, showing that optimism among homebuilders is on the rise.

"We had a solid quarter, achieving the highest quarterly sales and net earnings results in company history as housing continues to be a tail wind for our business," said CEO Craig Menear in a company release yesterday. Same-store sales jumped 4.7 percent, in line with expectations.

The company boosted its full-year profit outlook to $6.31 per share from a previous per-share projection of $6.27. Shares of The Home Depot Inc. up almost 4 percent this year, edged higher before the opening bell yesterday. — AP

German investor sentiment rises as Brexit shock eases

BERLIN: Investor confidence in Germany rebounded slightly in August, as the shock over Britain's vote to leave the European Union began to wear off, a leading survey showed yesterday.

The investor confidence index calculated by the ZEW economic institute gained 7.3 points to stand in positive territory at 0.5 points in August, recovering from a massive 26-point slump in July that had brought the index to minus 6.8 points.

The index shows a "recovery somewhat from the Brexit shock," said the institute's president Achim Wambach. "As before, political risks within and outside of the European Union are weighing on an optimistic economic outlook for Germany. In addition, there are further uncertainties with regards to the ability of the EU banking sector to withstand shocks," he added in a statement. Britain sent financial markets plunging over its referendum on June 23 in which 52 percent of the population voted to leave the EU. In a sign that investor fears are easing, the ZEW's sub-index measuring financial market players' view of the eurozone economy showed a sharp improvement, jumping 19.3 points to 4.6 points. Their assessment of Germany's current economic situation was likewise more positive, rising by 7.8 points to 57.6 points. But analysts struck a note of caution. Capital Economics analyst Jennifer McKeown pointed out that August's recovery has not reversed the sharp fall in July. The key index fell below her expectation of a rise to 5.0 points. — AFP

Nissan's Future Lab maps future of mobility

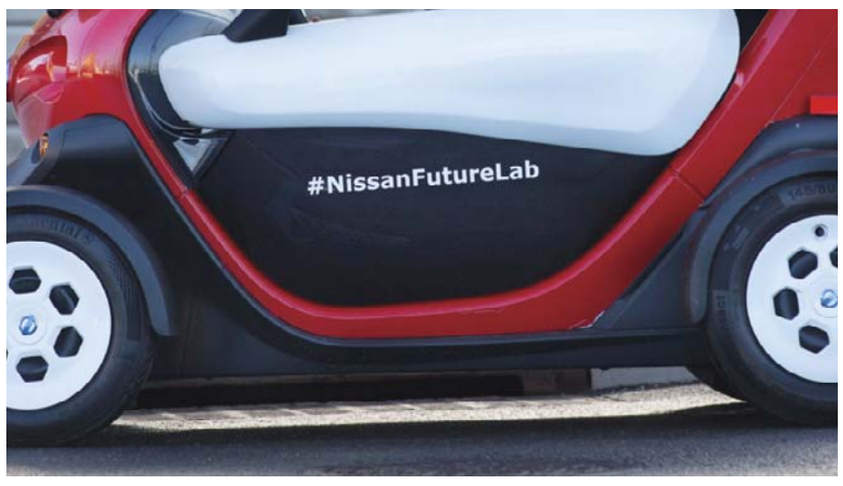
DUBAI: Nissan is conducting a series of real-world experiments and trials to bring future mobility scenarios to life through several "Living Labs" underway at Nissan Future Lab. The "Living Lab" research provides user data to help Nissan anticipate and evolve to meet future transportation needs.

The difference between traditional research methods and Nissan's "Living Labs" is the research relies on networking with external partners - like San Francisco-based Scoot Networks - to uncover opportunities and learn through observing user behaviors.

"Working within the living lab framework allows Nissan to experiment out in the marketplace," said Rachel Nguyen, executive director, Nissan Future Lab. "By combining our hardware with outside software, services and systems into collaborative beta tests, Nissan has the opportunity to develop new products and service offerings that fit in the new mobility economy."

Inspired by rapid developments in electric and autonomous technology as well as ride sharing trends, Nissan's "Living Labs" focus on vehicle ownership structures, the changing marketplace for vehicle technology and new uses for electric vehicles.

Vehicle ownership structures. With the fast-paced growth of smart technologies and the emergence of the sharing economy, Nissan Future Lab is studying different sized and packaged vehicle solutions. Last October, Nissan launched its first "Living Lab" with Scoot Networks to bring 10 Nissan New Mobility Concept Vehicles (NNMC) to Scoot's fleet in San Francisco. The electric-powered "micromobility" vehicles fit between a small motorcycle and a full-size vehicle and are available for rental using the Scoot app sharing platform. Through the pilot, Nissan is gathering data on city dwellers mobility choices for short distance trips, and the role electric vehicles play as shared transportation options.



The changing vehicle technology marketplace. The sharing economy also presents new opportunities to leverage vehicle technology. Studying the emerging mobility markets and understanding new business needs - like redistributing shared vehicles to their points of origin - can lead to new applications for still-developing vehicle technologies. The Scoot "Living Lab" is also providing data on vehicle distribution to help Nissan better understand the distance traveled from the origin, popular origin points and other user behaviors.

New uses for electric vehicles. Nissan is also actively studying the expanded use of electric vehicles including vehicle-to-grid (V2G) technology. Since 2014, Nissan has participated in a large V2G pilot program with the US Air Force. A fleet of modified Nissan LEAF electric vehicles discharge power back into the gird through a series of bi-directional charging stations. The exchange is used to balance the overall load by absorbing excess power, then putting it back into the grid during times of high demand. "The Future Lab team is exploring 'Living Lab' projects designed to help us better understand the real-world benefits of V2G technology for individual electric vehicle consumers and how it fits into their mobility lifestyle in the future," added Nguyen.

Gold climbs as dollar dives on lower US rate hike prospects

LONDON: Gold rose around 1 percent yesterday as a series of lower-than-expected US economic data weighed on the dollar and reduced prospects for a Federal Reserve interest rate hike this year. Spot gold rose to a session high of $1,353.23 an ounce and was up 1 percent at $1,351.35 by 1010 GMT.

US gold rose 0.7 percent to $1,357.40 an ounce. Spot gold was within reach of a more than two-year high of $1,374.91 hit last month as investors sought refuge from volatility across financial markets following Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

Most of the metal's gains were attributed to a weak dollar, which fell 0.7 percent against a basket of main currencies. A lower dollar makes gold cheaper for foreign-currency holders. The trigger for its weakness and, in turn, gold's strength overnight was a paper from San Francisco Fed President John Williams arguing that central banks might have to raise inflation targets, focus more on growth and back much looser fiscal policy in future.

Markets will monitor US data later in the day including consumer prices, housing starts and industrial output for another chance to gauge the health of the economy. High on the US calendar this week are also the minutes of the last Federal Reserve meeting. "The Fed should reiterate their data dependency, that in the uncertainty they would want to see inflation and wage targets ...given that the data has been lukewarm, apart from the July jobs data, December now seems the only opportunity for this year," Societe Generale analyst Robin Bhar said.

"If the market believes that, then gold is going to stay underpinned for the whole period," he added. The metal was also helped by lower European shares, which pulled back from seven-week highs. Soros Fund Management LLC sharply cut its shares in gold in the second quarter, while New York-based Paulson & Co, led by John Paulson, kept its stake in SPDR Gold Trust unchanged, US Securities and Exchange Commission filings showed on Monday.

Silver was up 1.3 percent at $20.08 an ounce. Platinum, which hit a near three-week low of $1,105.50 earlier in the session, rebounded 2.3 percent to $1,134. Palladium was up 0.6 percent at $697.60. It hit a three-week low of $679.72 on Monday. — Reuters

Al-Zahia awarded BREEAM assessment certificate

SHARJAH: Sharjah Holding PJSC, a strategic partnership between the government of Sharjah and Majid Al-Futtaim Properties, has announced yesterday that Al-Zahia, its first residential community in Sharjah, has been awarded the internationally accredited BREEAM Communities Interim Assessment certificate - the world's leading assessment method for master planning, infrastructure and buildings.

Commenting on the milestone achievement, Hawazen Esber, CEO of Communities at Majid Al-Futtaim Properties, said: "At Majid Al-Futtaim, sustainability is at the core of our DNA in everything we do and we are proud to be the first in the Middle East to have achieved BREEAM Communities certification for Al-Zahia. This award is a testament to the due diligence and hard work that has been put in throughout the community and in relation to the ongoing development, due for completion in 2022."

Al-Zahia is a landmark development in Sharjah, combining international standards of living with the emirate's deep-rooted family, community and cultural values. Some of Al-Zahia's initiatives include the reduction of noise pollution and energy consumption, water conservation, ecology and transport assessment, in addition to a socio-economic study that aims to set clear goals for the community to ensure consistency in the sustainability approach.

The BREEAM assessment process provides a robust evaluation of all the elements and stages of new residential and infrastructural developments, including procurement, design, construction and post construction. BRE uses independent, licensed assessors to conduct the appraisals, with the developments rated and certified by BRE on a scale of Pass, Good, Very Good, Excellent and Outstanding.

Further remarking on the BREEAM certificate, Walid Al-Hashimi, Chief Executive Officer, Sharjah Holding, said: "This internationally recognised certification provides genuine credibility to Al Zahia's claims to have adhered to the directives of Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al-Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, to integrate environmentally sustainable practices into new property developments." "As the first to achieve this accreditation in the Middle East region, Al-Zahia is now a benchmark in its industry and a clear supporter of Sharjah's aim to become the 'Environmental Capital of the Middle East' in 2017," Al-Hashimi concluded. Sharjah Holding is the trusted developer of Al-Zahia and provides quality, delivery and services to the highest standards in the industry. As Sharjah's first integrated, mixed-use community, Al-Zahia will be instrumental in the diversification of Sharjah's real estate sector and is expected to contribute AED5.5 billion to the local economy upon completion.

Al-Zahia is a milestone community located between Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Road and University City Road, with convenient road network links connecting it to the rest of Sharjah and just minutes away from Healthcare City, University City, the school district and the adjacent Al-Qarayen neighbourhood - a High Net Worth residential area.

Within this new high-end residential community there are areas for recreation, worship and childcare, in addition to communal areas and retail facilities - creating the ideal environment for a contemporary community lifestyle, steeped in both Sharjah's and traditional Arab values.

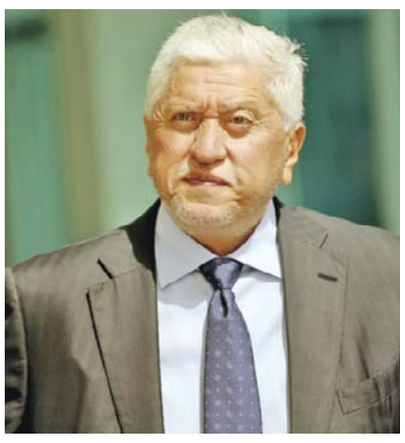
Currently, the Al-Jouri neighbourhood comprises 49 villas which are fully occupied and 197 townhouses and villas due for handover in Q4 of 2016, while the Al-Narjis neighbourhood is already 55% sold, indicating a growing appetite for owning a home in Al-Zahia.

In addition to the villas and townhouses in these neighbourhoods, Al-Zahia will offer around 1,000 apartments ranging from studio to two-bedroom units. Buildings B and C of the Garden Apartments have been launched and are already 80 percent sold. Both buildings will be completed by Q4 of 2017 while the final completion of the community is scheduled for 2022.

For more information or to schedule a site tour and visit to one of our show homes, call 800 ZAHIA or visit the Al-Zahia Sales Centre on weekdays, between 8am - 5pm.

Drake & Scull awarded AED 226m contract for Iraq's Zubair oilfield

ABU DHABI: Drake & Scull International PJSC, (DSI PJSC), a regional market leader in the integrated design, engineering and construction disciplines of General Contracting, Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP), Rail & Infrastructure, Oil & Gas, and Water & Wastewater Treatment, has announced that it has been awarded a AED 226 million engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract for the construction of a water injection network installation project at the Zubair oil field in Basra, Iraq by ENI Iraq B.V. (EIBV) a subsidiary of the Italian oil and gas multinational firm ENI S.p.A.



EIBV is the Lead Contractor of the Zubair Project consortium which currently comprises EIBV, Occidental of Iraq LLC and KOGAS Iraq B.V. which is undertaking the redevelopment of the Zubair Oil Field.

Under the terms of the agreement, Drake and Scull Oil & Gas (DSOG) will oversee the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of a gas supply pipeline system to a power plant in addition to water injection systems consisting of flow lines, trunk lines, manifolds stations and wellheads hook-up work to enhance oil recovery. Mobilization activity on the project has commenced with a scheduled completion of early 2018.

Commenting on the project award, Wael Allan, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Drake & Scull International PJSC, said: "Drake & Scull Oil and Gas continues to achieve substantial progress and has gained a noticeable foothold in the oil and gas infrastructure construction sector in the MENA region in short period. The contract award has also raised DSI's total project wins to AED 570 million in very challenging circumstances. We are confident that our high margin businesses including Oil & Gas, Rail & Infrastructure and Engineering will significantly contribute to our sustainable growth, in line with our strategy of focusing on profitability and cash generation."

Fares Khatib, Managing Director of Drake and Scull Oil & Gas added, "The Zubair oilfield contract is a positive development for DSOG, particularly as it represents our second collaboration with EIBV. EIBV had previously awarded DSOG the EPC pipeline installation contract for the Zubair oil field in 2012 which was successfully completed in 2015 on the strength of our in-house engineering management, procurement and construction capabilities. Our prior experience with EIBV in Zubair oil field will prove invaluable in ensuring the successful execution of project delivery on the new project award. We are committed to leveraging the skillset and experience of our teams in Iraq & Abu Dhabi to achieve scheduled project progress and meet our completion target."

DSOG has established its credentials in undertaking large scale, complex Oil, Gas, Chemical & Petrochemical-related projects across the wider MEA region. The company has successfully delivered prominent projects such as the EPC pipeline installation Project for the Zubair oil field in Iraq and the complete construction of Low Density Ammonium Nitrate Plant in Egypt. DSOG continues to reinforce its multidisciplinary EPC fundamentals and is actively engaged in pursuing opportunities with other leading regional clients to gain market share in the strategic MEA region.

Nissan's sedan range is now even more attractive

KUWAIT: Abdulmohsen Abdulaziz Al-Babtain Co, (AABC), the certified agent of Nissan in the State of Kuwait has announced its new summer sedan campaign for customers across its most popular models: Sunny, Sentra and Altima. As of 9th August customers buying any of the sedan models will be eligible with a special summer price of several benefits that make a vehicle purchase easy and affordable.

With its spacious interior, advanced technology, and performance that is as responsible as it is responsive, Nissan Sunny is now available at the showroom with a price of only KD2,999. For those who enjoy plenty of legroom and a great storage space, Nissan Sunny is the car to transport passengers and their luggage easily at an affordable price.

Moreover, customers that desire a vehicle with both efficiency and performance can enjoy Nissan Sentra's best-in-class fuel economy that sets the standard, equipped with a dual injector system and twin CVTC, providing a smoother ride with great control and responsiveness. This is all available at a discounted price of KD3,999 only. Those wanting that little bit of extra prestige can also avail the summer sedan offer when purchasing a Nissan Altima vehicle for only KD4,799. The top selling mid-sized car is known for its best-in-class standard highway fuel economy and safety features as well as its modern styling and enhanced performance. Customers can avail the offer at all Nissan showrooms at Al-Rai and Ahmadi.

Al-Babtain Group was founded in 1948, to present a model of honesty, integrity and total dedication, gaining a solid reputation in the State of Kuwait and the Middle East area. Today, Al-Babtain 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-Babtain Group has experienced continued success and a 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, information technology, industrial and Finance.

ABK announces winners of 16th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draws

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) held its 16th 'Double Your Salary' weekly draw yesterday at the Bank's Head Office in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce, announcing the names of the winners for this week. The promotion includes weekly draws, with two winners per draw and is running until 30 September, 2016.

The winners this week are:

1) Anwar Matar Abdullah Alenezi, Sabhan Branch

2) Bader Mohammad Bjad Alotaibi, Farwaniya Branch

New customers who transfer their salary to ABK receive KD 100 and will automatically be entered into the weekly draws to double their salaries. Existing customers who are already transferring their salary to ABK are entered into a separate draw.

The next 'Double Your Salary' draw will be held on 23rd August, 2016 where two new lucky winners will be announced. All winners will be contacted personally and a weekly announcement will be made through the media with the winners' names.

China sees more demand for foreign exchange

SHANGHAI: Chinese banks' net foreign exchange sales surged nearly 150 percent month-on-month in July, the government said yesterday, suggesting strong demand for hard currency as the country's yuan weakens. The banks sold $143 billion worth of foreign exchange last month and bought $111.3 billion, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said on its website, giving net sales total of $31.7 billion.

In June net sales were just $12.8 billion. Funds have flowed out of China in recent months as its economy has slowed, adding to downward pressure on its currency and making yuan-denominated assets less attractive to hold. An unnamed SAFE spokesman played down the July figures. 'In July cross-border capital flows fluctuated within the normal range,' he said in a statement on the government agency's website. Britain's vote to leave the European Union has heightened global uncertainty and prompted a flight to the US dollar, putting pressure on China's yuan.

China's foreign exchange reserves slipped fractionally to $3.2 trillion in July, down $4.1 billion from the previous month, according to the central bank. SWIFT, the global provider of financial messaging services, said last month that the yuan's share of global payments slid to 1.72 percent in June from 1.90 percent in May. But analysts say fears over a weaker yuan have eased since a year ago when China shocked the financial markets by devaluing the normally stable currency, guiding it down nearly five percent over a week.— AFP

BEIJING: Visitors look at a Tesla Model S electric car on display at the Beijing International Automotive Exhibition in Beijing. Tesla said that the removal of the term autopilot from its website for China was a mistake and the term is being restored. — AP

Tesla: Removal of 'Autopilot' from Chinese site a mistake

PALO ALTO, Calif: Tesla said Monday that the term "Autopilot" was mistakenly removed from the electric car maker's website for China, but it has been restored.

The company said it did revise some language on the site to make it clearer to drivers that Autopilot is a driver-assist system and not a self-driving system. Tesla has been under pressure to stop using the term Autopilot in the US following the death of an Ohio tech company owner in a Florida crash involving the system.

Last week, a driver in Beijing relying on Autopilot mode sideswiped a car parked on the side of the road. Tesla says the driver's hands weren't detected on the steering wheel during the crash. The company says drivers using Autopilot must keep their hands on the wheel and be ready to take over.

Revisions to the language on websites have been under way for weeks to address "discrepancies across languages," the Palo Alto, California, company said in a statement. The timing had nothing to do with current events or articles, and Tesla has no plans to remove any references to Autopilot from any website, spokeswoman Khobi Brooklyn said.

Tesla's Autopilot system uses cameras, radar and computers to detect objects and automatically brake if the car is about to hit something. It also can steer the car to keep it centered in its lane. The company says that before Autopilot can be used, drivers must acknowledge that it's an "assist feature." In July, Consumer Reports magazine said the company should drop the name because it gives car owners too much trust in their car's ability to drive itself.

The influential magazine also said that Tesla should disconnect the automatic steering system until it's updated to make sure a driver's hands are on the wheel at all times. Tesla's system currently warns drivers after a few minutes of their hands being off the wheel.

At the time, Tesla said data it collects show drivers who use Autopilot are safer than those who don't. —AP

China launches 'hack-proof' communications satellite

BEIJING: China yesterday launched the world's first quantum satellite, which will help it establish "hack-proof" communications between space and the ground, state media said, the latest advance in an ambitious space program.

The program is a priority as President Xi Jinping has urged China to establish itself as a space power, and apart from its civilian ambitions, it has tested anti-satellite missiles.

The Quantum Experiments at Space Scale, or QUESS, satellite, was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in the remote northwestern province of Gansu in the early hours of Tuesday, the official Xinhua news agency said.

"In its two-year mission, QUESS is designed to establish 'hack-proof' quantum communications by transmitting uncrackable keys from space to the ground," it said. "Quantum communication boasts ultra-high security as a quantum photon can neither be separated nor duplicated," it added. "It is hence impossible to wiretap, intercept or crack the information transmitted through it." The satellite will enable secure communications between Beijing and Urumqi, Xinhua said, referring to the capital of China's violence-prone far western region of Xinjiang, where the government says it is battling an Islamist insurgency.

"The newly-launched satellite marks a transition in China's role - from a follower in classic information technology development to one of the leaders guiding future achievements," Pan Jianwei, the project's chief scientist, told the agency. Quantum communications holds "enormous prospects" in the field of defense, it added. China insists its space program is for peaceful purposes, but the US Defense Department has highlighted its increasing space capabilities, saying it was pursuing activities aimed to prevent adversaries from using space-based assets in a crisis. — Reuters

McAfee warns China of hacking weakness

BEIJING: China leads the world in connecting everyday devices to the internet, but is creating huge hacking vulnerabilities for itself and others by doing so, renegade American software pioneer John McAfee warned yesterday.

Hackers had already been able to gain control of devices such as safes and heating controls, and take over the computer systems of automobiles and aeroplanes, he said. "China is taking the lead in putting intelligence into devices, from refrigerators to smart thermostats, and this is our weakest link in cybersecurity," he said in Beijing.

"I am hoping that in the short time I am here I can raise a warning flag that we have to take security of these devices even more importantly than our large computers or our smart phones," he told a conference of internet security professionals.

"Because there are so many more of these devices, and the more that are connected, then the higher the risk of a potential hack becomes." McAfee, 70, is the colourful founder of an antivirus software company who once fled Belize after police sought to question him in a murder case.

He has since returned to the United States, where he announced he was running for president. He amassed an estimated $100 million fortune during the early days of the internet in the 1990s, but lost most of it to bad investments and the financial crisis. He was living with a 17-year-old girl in Belize when police came looking for him to discuss the killing of his neighbor-a crime of which he maintains his innocence. He was briefly incarcerated and fled the Central American country.

McAfee's at times dire and alarming speech in Beijing came as his new company MGT Capital prepares to launch cybersecurity products later this year.

Hacking threat

"Our species has never before faced a threat of this magnitude. And we have not noticed it by and large," he said. "You may thinking I am exaggerating, that I am an alarmist. I am friends with many of the hackers who have the capability to do enormous damage if they so chose."

Chinese companies such as Xiaomi have been praised for innovation in adding internet connectivity to a variety of devices including air purifiers and rice cookers, allowing users to switch them on from work or on their way home.

Such connections create serious new weaknesses that could leave users' networks especially vulnerable to hacking, McAfee said. — AFP

Too many new smartphone models made each year

SEOUL: Consumers think smartphone makers are releasing too many new models each year, a consumer survey showed yesterday. The survey conducted in six countries, commissioned by Greenpeace, showed that more than half of those who responded would prefer to change their phones less frequently.

Handset devices are one of the most frequently replaced electronics products. Top mobile phone companies, Samsung and Apple, launch new flagship phone models at least once every year, showing off the latest display and mobile processor technologies. Phone makers typically upgrade their cheaper lineups as well. "Over half of respondents across the countries surveyed agree that manufacturers are releasing too many new models, many designed to only last a few years," said Chih An Lee, global IT campaigner at Greenpeace East Asia. "In fact, most users actually want their phones to be more easily dismantled, repaired and recycled."

The survey revealed some differences in attitude toward the phone repair habit across countries. Chinese and South Koreans were more likely to have had their phones repaired than those in the US or Germany. — AP

The Huawei honor 8 is coming to Middle East

Beauty, craftsmanship and dual camera

KUWAIT: honor, the world's No 1 smartphone e-brand from Huawei, has announced it is preparing for the launch of its new flagship device: Huawei honor 8. A smartphone that embraces the unique combination of premium technology and unparalleled aesthetics. The much anticipated honor 8 is coming to the Middle East on 1st September 2016, available for pre-order from 25th August on HonorArabia.com.

Hot on the heels of its global launch in China, as well as its US debut today, honor's latest release has received a raft of impressive reviews

Chris Sun Baigong

from users, particularly praising the exquisite craftsmanship and design, as well as the world class dual camera features.

Cultivating a profound design philosophy, honor has created a stunning device for trail-blazing users always on the hunt for something different. Its two-sided 2.5-D glass body, 3D grate design and 15-layer craftsmanship on the back of the handset, reflects light beautifully, creating a true style statement.

Chris Sun Baigong, VP of Huawei honor Middle East CBG commented, "By listening to

our end-users and paying attention to the smallest details, we have taken the holistic approach and created something truly distinctive. honor 8 has a design that is beautifully stylish coupled with excellent usability, an essential aspect that contributes to its outstanding day-to-day user experience."

George Zhao, president of Huawei honor, said, "After three years of developing the brand worldwide, honor has matured and gained acknowledgement for focusing on our end-users and product quality first and foremost over revenue, which are the strategic winning points for the brand. The latest launch of our flagship honor 8 reflects this approach, and we are confident in its success with our end-users, as well as our growth as a brand this year - so stay tuned."

With an impressive 100 percent year-on-year growth globally, honor shows no signs of slowing down, particularly in the Middle East where the brand has experienced unprecedented growth to date. Chris Sun Baigong, VP of honor, envisages that the Middle East market will remain stable, but the brand is poised for further growth as its approach is wholly user-centric to meet user demand.

Peter Thiel sounds off on Gawker as sale looms

SAN FRANCISCO: Tech billionaire Peter Thiel sounded off Monday about his role in the demise of Gawker Media, as the news and entertainment website was placed on the auction block.

Gawker filed for bankruptcy in June, seeking to sidestep a shutdown from a $140 million judgment for releasing a Hulk Hogan sex tape in a lawsuit bankrolled by Thiel. Monday evening in New York was the deadline for submitting offers to buy the company, with qualifying bidders to take part in an auction on Tuesday.

In March, a US jury in Florida ordered that wrestling star Hogan be allowed to collect $140 million in total compensation after Gawker published a videotape of him having sex with a friend's wife.

"For my part, I am proud to have contributed financial support to his case," Thiel wrote in an op-ed piece in Monday's New York Times, referring to Hogan by his given name Terry Bollea. "It is ridiculous to claim that journalism requires indiscriminate access to private people's sex lives." Gawker lost a motion for a new trial in the case and vowed to appeal to a higher court.

'Personal vendetta'

Gawker founder Nick Denton early this month filed for personal bankruptcy protection in a bid to stop his assets from being seized because of the judgment. Denton has slammed what he called a "personal vendetta" and said in a memo to staff that it was "disturbing to live in a world in which a billionaire can bully journalists because he didn't like the coverage."

While Gawker has come under fire for its no-holds-barred approach to celebrity coverage, the case also raised questions about whether powerful interests can use their resources to silence media for unfavorable coverage.

The case drew heightened attention when Thiel, a Silicon Valley titan, acknowledged that he had helped fund the litigation and others against Gawker, with whom he has feuded for years since it "outed" him as a homosexual. A filing in federal bankruptcy court in New York lists Gawker assets in a range of $50 million to $100 million, and liabilities between $100 million and $500 million.

German-born Thiel was a founder of the online payments firm PayPal, and served as its chief executive before it was sold to eBay. He was also an early investor in Facebook and has been active in venture investing in Silicon Valley.

Thiel used the Times op-ed piece to lobby for support of the Intimate Privacy Protection Act, legislation under consideration in US Congress that he said would make it illegal to distribute explicit private images, sometimes called revenge porn, without the consent of the people involved. The act is nicknamed the "Gawker Bill," according to Thiel.

"Since sensitive information can sometimes be publicly relevant, exercising judgment is always part of the journalist's profession," Thiel said. "It's not for me to draw the line, but journalists should condemn those who willfully cross it." Speculation regarding who may bid for Gawker has included US digital media company Ziff Davis, Vox Media, Penske Media, and Univision. — AFP

Hacking group claims to offer cyber-weapons in online auction

NEW YORK: Hackers going by the name Shadow Brokers said on Monday they will auction stolen surveillance tools they say were used by a cyber group linked to the U.S. National Security Agency. To arouse interest in the auction, the hackers released samples of programs they said could break into popular firewall software made by companies including Cisco Systems Inc, Juniper Networks Inc and Fortinet Inc.

The companies did not respond to request for comment, nor did the NSA. Writing in imperfect English, the Shadow Brokers promised in postings on a Tumblr blog that the auctioned material would contain "cyber weapons" developed by the Equation Group, a hacking group that cyber security experts widely believe to be an arm of the NSA.

The Shadow Brokers said the programs they will auction will be "better than Stuxnet," a malicious computer worm widely attributed to the United States and Israel that sabotaged Iran's nuclear program. Reuters could not contact the Shadow Brokers or verify their assertions. Some experts who looked at the samples posted on Tumblr said they included programs that had previously been described and therefore were unlikely to cause major damage.

"The data [released so far] appears to be relatively old; some of the programs have already been known for years," said researcher Claudio Guarnieri, and are unlikely "to cause any significant operational damage."

Still, they appeared to be genuine tools that might work if flaws have not been addressed. After examining the code released Monday, Matt Suiche, founder of UAE-based security startup Comae Technologies, concluded they looked like "could be used." Other security experts warned the posting could prove to be a hoax. The group said interested parties had to send funds in advance of winning the auction via Bitcoin currency and would not get their money back if they lost.

The auction will end at an unspecified time, Shadow Brokers said, encouraging bidders to "keep bidding until we announce winner." — Reuters

LILLE: A board forbidding to play the 'Pokemon Go' app inside the "Citadelle" military area in Lille, northern France. The global Pokemon Go craze has prompted a slew of complaints, from memorial sites arguing it's disrespectful to play there to whole countries imposing a ban on the smartphone game. — AFP

Berlin goes vegan with 'butcher' shops, singles' night

BERLIN: Long the European capital of techno-driven nightlife, fastidious hipsterdom and low-cost party weekends, Berlin is adding another string to its bow as a vegan haven. Animal product-free versions of almost any business can be found in Germany's largest city, from butchers' shops to singles' nights. But getting lost in the eyes of a romantic prospect over grilled tofu is far from all that's on offer for the city's 80,000 vegans-around 10 percent of the nationwide figure, vegetarian association Vebu estimates.

"Germany and especially Berlin are at the forefront" of a vegan "movement" that's advancing all over Europe, Vebu vice-president Sebastian Joy said. That's obvious from the roughly 60 vegan restaurants on offer in the German capital counted by specialist website Happy Cow-far outstripping the 24 in Paris and 40 in London, both cities more than twice the size of Berlin. That figure has ballooned since 2008, when there were just three completely animal-free restaurants according to Vebu.

BERLIN: Chef Johannes Thenerl preparing a vegan 'burger' using a patty made of wild garlic (Baerlauch) at the vegan restaurant "L'Herbivore" in Berlin. Long the European capital of techno-driven nightlife, fastidious hipsterdom and low-cost party weekends, Berlin is adding another string to its bow as a vegan haven. — AFP

CALIFORNIA: Vegan foods are sold by Follow Your Heart at the 3rd annual Healthy Junk Vegan Faire in Anaheim, California. Vegan diets are considered by most as healthy and environmentally responsible. —AFP

'Vegans attract vegans'

Berlin is "younger, more hyped, and more alternative than Munich, Paris or London," explained Joy. "There's a snowball effect: Vegans attract vegans and more and more people come." On top of the roughly 10 new eateries opening each year, a whole lifestyle is falling into place. Schivelbeiner Strasse in the Prenzlauer Berg neighborhood in northeast Berlin, popular with startup workers and young parents, has become a "Vegan Avenue".

Initiates can stroll from supermarket to cafe to clothes- and shoe-shops and carry their purchases home with vegan consciences clear. The food shelves without cheese, yoghurt or honey and clothing racks without wool or leather are a far cry from the luxurious treats at KaDeWe-the German answer to Harrods or Galeries Lafayette. Today in 2016, growth in what's on offer, from soy ice-cream to Europe's first 100 percent-vegan pizzeria, means that "Berlin is almost comparable to New York" in terms of options for vegans, said yoga teacher and long-time adept of the lifestyle Moritz Ulrich.

Enter the 'flexitarians'

But the sudden aura of cool around veganism has uprooted the movement from its woollen-socks-with-sandals origins. In early 2016, police were called to break up a vegan restaurant opening after hundreds of people showed up to the event, swarming over the pavement and even blocking traffic. The new fast-food joint had become the evening's hot ticket on Facebook among fans of the fashion-blogger owners. "Being vegan is no longer an abstemious practice for a few fundamentalist animal-lovers, but part of hedonistic event culture," sniffed Munich broadsheet Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

The Facebook crowds fit into a growing, fluid category of "flexitarians", who may see part-time veganism as a way to eat more healthily or care a little more for the environment. "People are asking more and more questions about where the food on their plate comes from," said Johannes Theuerl, the owner of a vegan butcher's shop.

On offer at his counter are "meatballs" and slices of roast seitan, a food based on wheat proteins. "Beyond reducing meat consumption, we see that people also want to eat seasonal and regional produce," Theuerl went on. Proponents say that traditional vegans' upsets about such meat substitutes are past their sell-by date. "I've had enough of the cliche about the activist who expects others to adopt the same lifestyle," heartthrob vegan celebrity chef Attila Hildmann told Deutschlandradiokultur, complaining of an "ideological wall" around veganism.

Some people just insist that "meat is a crime, without proposing an alternative," he went on. But with veganism on the radar of Berlin's entrepreneurs, foodies, and fad-seeking young followers of fashion, more alternatives are emerging all the time. Nowadays, "people who give up meat aren't doing it because they don't like it," said Vebu's Joy, who picks a distinctly 21st-Century analogy to drive his argument home. "You can drive an electric car because you see the damage done by diesel without wanting to switch to a bike."— AFP

Melting glaciers pose a threat beyond water scarcity - floods

Tropical glaciers dying from soot, rising temperatures

PASTORURI GLACIER, Peru: The tropical glaciers of South America are dying from soot and rising temperatures, threatening water supplies to communities that have depended on them for centuries. But experts say that the slow process measured in inches of glacial retreat per year also can lead to a sudden, dramatic tragedy. The melting of glaciers like Peru's Pastoruri has put cities like Huaraz, located downslope from the glacier about 35 miles away, at risk from what scientists call a "glof" - glacial lake outburst flood.

A glof occurs when the weak walls of a mountain valley collapse under the weight of meltwater from a glacier. Recent examples include the rapid draining in 2013 of a lake at Chile's Ventisquero glacier in the Bernardo O'Higgins National Park, six years after another, nearby lake essentially disappeared there. Those sites are in remote, sparsely populated Patagonia. But if the glacial Palcacocha lake collapsed, it could cause a damaging flood, say experts in Peru, sort of like a smaller, modern cousin of the ancient glof that is thought to have carved the English Channel.

"As glaciers disappear around the world, there is less water available for use for hydroelectric power, as a renewable resource for agriculture, for human consumption," said Benjamin Orlove, a professor of international and public affairs at Colombia University in New York. "The glacier retreat also brings many disasters. Entire slopes are destabilized, creating landslides that travel many miles and have destroyed entire towns." Benjamin Morales Arnao, the head of Peru's National Institute for Glacier Research, said that while the country's glaciers "are a source of life, due to their water resources and biodiversity ... these glaciers are also a source of glacial catastrophes." The problem is that glacial lakes are often fragile structures, created when rocks and rubble carried by a glacier form a moraine that dams up its water outflow. The dam can also be created by chunks of a glacier's own ice. These inherently unstable structures can collapse quickly, especially in a place like Peru that is prone to frequent, violent earthquakes. At a conference last week on the glacier retreat in Peru, Morales Arnao said that Huaraz, a city of about 100,000 people, is particularly at risk from Palcacocha lake, just 12 miles up the mountain above the city, and called for resources to mitigate the risk. Dams, spillways and other waterworks have helped in other places. Massive glofs have occurred regularly in sparsely populated parts of Iceland and other nations. The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, a regional intergovernmental research center that serves the eight countries of the Himalayas, said that in Nepal - whose proximity to the highest and largest meltwater sources in the world makes it particularly vulnerable - "little attention was paid to the phenomenon until the sudden outburst of the Dig Tsho," a relatively small meltwater lake in the Mount Everest National Park.

On Aug 4, 1985, the lake's moraine dam collapsed, and all its water drained into a downstream valley in four hours, causing losses as far as 30 to 35 miles downstream. A large ice and rock avalanche had cascaded into the lake, creating a wave that spilled over the moraine and caused it to collapse, the center's report said. "It discharged an estimated 6 to 10 million cubic meters (as much as 2.6 billion gallons) of water into the valley below." Digging stone- or cement-lined channels through glacial dams is one solution to the threat. Many moraine dams collapse because meltwater erodes them by seepage or over-topping them.

Stopping global warming that is increasingly causing glaciers to melt is another. Experts at the International Forum on Glaciers and Mountain Ecosystems held in Huaraz last week concluded that the world is going to have to plan on melting glaciers, at least for the time being. "The processes of climate change and glacial melting are irreversible," the forum said in its conclusions. "We have to carry out actions to adapt, and mitigate the risks." "The long-term solution is for the world to shift to different energy sources, sources that are renewable, sources that do not emit gases that cause climate change," Orlove said. "In the short term we have to find adaptations, like installing early warning systems for disasters in the most sensitive areas."— AP

HUARAZ: A block of ice is seen in the lagoon next to Pastoruri glacier in the Huascaran National Park in Huaraz, Peru. — AP

HUARAZ: A group of tourists ride horses to the Pastoruri glacier in a tour called "The Route of Climate Change" in Huaraz, Peru. The tropical glaciers of South America are dying from soot and rising temperatures, threatening water supplies to communities that have depended on them for centuries. — AP

First global database for women exposed to Zika

PARIS: Swiss doctors have asked thousands of colleagues worldwide to provide data for the first global registry of women exposed to Zika, the team's lead researcher said yesterday. Such a database is urgently needed to better understand the deadly virus and how it is transmitted, said David Baud, a physician in the obstetrics research unit of the University Hospital in Lausanne. "Potentially thousands of pregnancies are affected worldwide," he told AFP. Zika can cause crippling birth defects, and is suspected to trigger other neurological disorders.

The disease has swept through Latin America, the Caribbean and beyond since 2015, prompting the World Health Organization (WHO) to declare an international public health emergency in February this year. As of early August, 65 countries have reported mosquito-borne transmission in the last 20 months. Initially thought to be spread only via the blood-sucking insects, Zika is now thought to be conveyed through sex and blood transfusions as well. But much remains unknown.

'Tip of the Iceberg'

"Does sexual transmission to a pregnant woman also induce foetal abnormality? Why do some babies developed abnormalities while others don't? Who is at risk?" "The only way to answer these questions is with 'big data'," which can reveal otherwise hidden patterns, Baud said by phone. What the world has seen so far could be "the tip of the iceberg," he added. Estimates vary widely, for example, as to what percentage of foetuses of women infected with Zika during the first trimester are at risk of microcephaly, characterised by brain damage and small heads.

Research on French Polynesia, hit by Zika in 2013, put the odds at one in a hundred, while another study from Brazil - the country hit hardest by the epidemic so far - concluded that the risk was twice that high. Yet another team of scientists reported foetal problems in 29 percent of women exposed to Zika during their pregnancies. Some of the more than 4,000 gynaecologists and obstetricians to whom the appeal was made have already provided data on patients - who remain anonymous - using standardized online forms.

To encourage contributions, Baud has promised that doctors who participate will be listed as co-authors in future journal articles. National and professional associations have also pledged to pass on the request to their members. Baud said he would publish preliminary findings after his team had information for 100 women, but that the statistically significant threshold for new findings is 1,000.

At present, details on only 160 pregnancies exposed to Zika can be found in the scientific literature, and gaps often make comparisons difficult or impossible. The new online registry gathers data on the general health of the women, blood profiles, medications taken, exposure to different viruses, and other relevant factors. Last week, US health authorities declared a public health emergency in Puerto Rico due to the outbreak of Zika, which has now infected more than 10,000 people. The United States registered its first locally transmitted cases of Zika in Florida in July. Since Feb 2016, 11 countries have reported evidence of person-to-person infections, probably via sex. In four out of five cases, the virus causes no symptoms. Those who do feel sick have reported fever, rash, body aches and conjunctivitis, or pink eye. Baud and three colleagues published a comment explaining their initiative in the peer-reviewed journal The Lancet Infectious Diseases. — AFP

Outbreak of yellow fever in Congo could go global

LONDON: An outbreak of yellow fever that has killed hundreds of people in central Africa could spread across the world, an international children's charity warned yesterday, even as a massive vaccination campaign was expected to get underway. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) declared a yellow fever epidemic in June after the haemorrhagic virus spread from Angola, where at least 360 people have died since last December in the worst outbreak in decades. A wide effort to bring the outbreak under control by vaccinating more than 10 million people in DRC was due to start this week after delays due to shortages of vaccine and syringes.

"There is no known cure for yellow fever and it could go global," said Save the Children's country director for DRC, Heather Kerr, in a statement. The yellow fever vaccine takes one year to manufacture. Save the Children said there are only 7 million emergency vaccines after stocks were depleted in series of outbreaks earlier this year. World Health Organization (WHO) advisers have recommended using a fifth of the standard dose of vaccine in the event of a global shortage - enough to immunize temporarily but not to give lifelong immunity.

"We've got to urgently reach as many children and families as we can with the supplies that are left, and this is the only way we are able to do that right now," Kerr said. The WHO aims to vaccinate 8.5 million people in Congo's capital Kinshasa and 3.4 million in DRC's border areas before the onset of the rainy season in October, to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne diseases spreading. A total of 2,269 suspected cases and 16 deaths have been reported in DRC as of August 8, the WHO said. Angola is starting a campaign this week to vaccinate 3 million people. The epidemic appears to be declining in the Southern African country with no confirmed cases reported in July or August, the WHO said. — Reuters

A safari park worker killed in bear attack

TOKYO: A safari park employee in Japan died yesterday after being attacked by a bear which had somehow climbed into her car, local officials and police said. An Asian black bear was seen climbing into a small vehicle at the Gunma Safari Park, northwest of Tokyo, and attacking park employee Kiyomi Saito inside the car, a local police spokesman said. Saito, 46, suffered injuries to the left side of her chest and stomach and was rushed to hospital where she was later confirmed dead, the spokesman said. "The details are not yet known, including how the bear got inside the car," he told AFP, adding the animal was a five-year-old male and weighing 160 kilograms (352 pounds). The safari park was "under police investigation and no details can be confirmed at this point," said Yusuke Yamazaki, a park employee. A series of wild bear attacks terrified Japan earlier this year, with four people being killed in the northern part of the country in separate incidents in the wild in May and June. — AFP

Safety issues, statistics about US water parks

KANSAS: The waters are shallow and lifeguards are seemingly everywhere at the proliferating number of water parks around the US. But the death over the weekend of a Kansas state lawmaker's 10-year-old son on a waterslide billed as the world's largest is the latest example that dangers lurk in the appealing slides and wave pools. State Rep Scott Schwab and his wife say their son, Caleb Thomas Schwab, died Sunday at the Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City.

It opened in 2010, one of five water parks operated by the New Braunfels, Texas-based corporation, Schlitterbahn Waterparks & Resorts. One of its most popular attractions, 168-foot-tall Verruckt, which means "insane" in German, opened in 2014. The Kansas City park remained closed Monday as the investigation into what caused the death on the waterslide. Here's a look at water parks, their safety and statistics:

How many water parks?

About 1,300 water parks operated in North America a year ago, up about 30 percent from a decade ago, according to the trade group World Waterpark Association. Those parks attracted about 85 million people in 2015, compared to about 73 million in 2004. A growing segment of the industry has been municipal-run water parks, as cities and counties look to boost revenue from what their flat-water pools deliver.

How safe are water parks?

No figures are available for overall water park injuries, but the Red Cross cited US. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates when it launched updated training efforts last year for lifeguards who work at water parks. Those showed more than 4,200 people a year taken to emergency rooms to be treated for scrapes, concussions, broken limbs, spinal injuries and other such injuries suffered on public waterslides. Those numbers do not include other water park injuries or those who need lifeguard assistance without a hospital trip. Drownings also occur. In July 2015, one drowning and at least three near-drownings were reported at US water parks.

What dangers lurk?

As the parks proliferate, concern has grown about the risks present even when most of the water is shallower than 3 feet - people who aren't good swimmers, especially young children, mixed with the unexpected hit of waves and falls that can lead to concussions or even drownings.

What's been done?

The Red Cross last year added training and certification specifically for extreme shallow water rescue. The Aquatic Attraction Lifeguarding course includes techniques for handling and removing people from water that is generally 3 feet deep or less, which can be different than in deep-water pools, and first-aid training emphasizing care for head, neck and spinal injuries. About 2,100 people took the courses last year, according to the Red Cross.

What do states do?

It varies, but Kansas statutes leave it to its Department of Labor to adopt rules and regulations relating to certification and inspection of rides, adding that an amusement ride at a permanent location "shall be self-inspected by a qualified inspector at least every 12 months."

What can parents do?

The Red Cross offers tips specifically for water parks. The Red Cross swim app is also available, which is designed for children and their parents. It can be found online. — AP

DE SOTO: Nick Price, with the De Soto Department of Public Works, untangles a soccer goal from a piece of playground equipment at Walther Park in De Soto, Mo after early-morning flooding swept through causing property damage along Joachim Creek. — AP

ABIDJAN: A team from the National Institute of Public Health sprays anti mosquito product through the Koumassi district as people stand in the street of Abidjan during an operation aimed at preventing the spread of the Zika virus. — AFP

Miami's residents fret over pesticide used to fight Zika

Pesticide banned in Europe is being used in US

MIAMI: People at the epicenter of America's first homegrown outbreak of the Zika virus are worried that one of the weapons being used to fight it amounts to a cannon rather than a fly swatter. To wit, a pesticide banned in Europe on health grounds is being used in occasional aerial fumigations to kill the mosquito that carries the virus. In most people, Zika causes only mild symptoms but in pregnant women it can cause microcephaly, a deformation in which babies are born with abnormally small brains and heads.

Now, people are also fretting over the mist of a pesticide called naled that is drifting down over north Miami every now and then. "We do not know what it is or what it does, and we do not trust the government," said Fermin Gonzalez, a 38-year-old graphic designer. "I doubt it is healthy." Some merchants in Wynwood, the tourist-popular neighborhood where the virus was first detected two weeks ago, have organized into a coalition opposed to naled fumigation. Over the weekend, demonstrators staged a protest. A total of 30 cases of infection with homegrown Zika have been reported in Miami.

Environmental activists and some scientists say naled damages the nervous system and respiratory tract, and might be linked to leukemia in children. It was banned in the European Union in 2012 because of its potential risk for human health and the environment. But Miami-Dade County is using it with the blessing of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Environmental Protection Agency. They say it is safe when used in small doses. But "if it's not safe to use in Europe, why is it safe to use in Miami?" asks Michelle Harriott, science and regulatory director of a Washington-based NGO called Beyond Pesticides.

Small doses OK

CDC director Tom Frieden has said that naled, which has been used in the United States since 1959 to combat mosquitos, is not harmful at the low concentrations in which it is used in America. The EPA website says "people aren't likely to breathe or touch anything that has enough insecticide on it to harm them. Direct exposure to naled during or immediately after application should not occur." But it also cautions people sensitive to chemical products to stay inside with the windows closed during fumigation with naled. Harriott said, "They use small doses at a time, but over several months that adds up. It depends on how long it will be sprayed. It could be for the rest of the year. If that is the case, we should be concerned about that."

MIAMI: A plane sprays pesticide over the parts of Miami, Florida in the hope of controlling and reducing the number of mosquitos, some of which may be capable of spreading the Zika virus. — AFP

In experiments with animals, exposure to naled at high concentrations has been shown to cause nausea, weakness, paralysis, convulsions and other problems including respiratory failure and even death, said Elvia Melendez Ackerman, a professor of environmental science at the University of Puerto Rico. Naled breaks down into something called dichlorvos, which in 1991 the World Health Organization labeled as a possible carcinogen for humans. Naled not only kills mosquitoes but is also toxic for bees, butterflies, fish and other aquatic species.

Melendez was active in the fight against using naled in Puerto Rico. Fumigations with it were halted in July on orders from Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla. Now the US territory is being sprayed with an organic product that kills mosquito larvae. Last week, the United States declared a health emergency in Puerto Rico after it reported 10,690 cases of Zika, 1,035 of them in pregnant women. In the continental US, nearly 2,000 cases have been reported. Miami is so far the only place where people have been infected locally, as opposed to while traveling overseas or through contact with someone who did make such a trip.— AFP

Surprises set for Aqua Park's 21st anniversary

Celebrating its 21st anniversary, the Aqua Park announced new surprises for the summer, including a cartoon characters' carnival next Friday in featuring more than 20 characters who will present shows around the facility. Furthermore, a musical band will perform at the Aqua Park's stage, while magician and puppet shows will be featured. The festival is set to conclude with a fireworks show. Moreover, the 'Aqua Turbo' ride will be offered for free in celebration of this occasion.

Meanwhile, Aqua Park's Chairman Mohammad Khursheed expressed hope that the Al-Jazeera Touristic Enterprises Company's contract with the Touristic Enterprises Company is renewed for at least 10 years, in order to allow the management to go ahead with further renovation projects to maintain the facility's position as one of Kuwait's most favorite recreational destinations in the summer.

Aqua Park's Chairman Mohammad Khursheed

Make Marina Hotel Kuwait your one-stop-destination for weddings

The magnificent Shaikha Salwa Sabah Al Ahmad Theater and Hall of Marina Hotel Kuwait, nestled in the heart of Salmiya with a spectacular seaside location, is your one-stop-destination for all weddings. No matter what size wedding you are planning, Marina Hotel offers couples a truly memorable wedding to suit any type of wedding festivity.

Having a great layout and capacity of up to 500 persons, the Sheikha Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Theater and Hall is an ideal place for your special event. The hall unravels beauty and flexibility with its expert wedding planning team who devote their attention to every detail ensuring that your wedding will surpass all expectations. The package is further complemented with an award winning culinary team comprising of dedicated chefs who constantly explore delivering tailor made menus and bringing to the hotel's guests a wide range of exciting experiences to each event. Wedding guests can enjoy the wide variety of scrumptious delicacies from the elaborate buffet at Shaikha Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Theater and Hall.

The memories of your wedding day will last a lifetime and Marina Hotel Kuwait will ensure that your special day is perfect. The hotel is delighted to offer guests exclusive wedding packages across the year, which include accommodation for one night in a beautiful superior room and a romantic candle-lit dinner and breakfast in the room for the bride and groom. For the wedding celebrations, a custom-made, three-tier wedding cake is offered.

Such a momentous occasion that unites husband and wife must be conducted in a venue that can provide only the finest setting. This includes the most delightful cuisine and a magnificently decorated ballroom. With a venue that can also bring back treasured memories of lavish wedding celebrations from previous generations, today's weddings at the Sheikha Salwa Sabah Al-Ahmad Theater and Hall are among the most extravagant and memorable weddings imaginable.

Combining unparalleled excellence in service and hospitality with outstanding presentation and personal service, the hotel holds a reputation as an expert in turning your wedding celebration into a truly magnificent event. If you are looking for a beautiful wedding ceremony venue, the wedding package at Marina Hotel is available all through the year. For more information, please visit our website: www.marinahotel.com.

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa welcomes new culinary team

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, has appointed two new chefs to its culinary teams behind its Italian restaurant Olio, and the fine dining Steakhouse, Pepper. Chef Rosario Seminatore has been appointed as the Italian Chef de Cuisine, with Chef Daniel Irvine joining the team at Pepper Steakhouse as its Junior Executive Sous Chef. The new additions to the luxury resort's culinary team bring with them considerable years of experience in the kitchens.

Chef Seminatore is a master of Italian cuisine with over 33 years' experience gained from prestigious hotels, resorts and restaurants across Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The Italian national began his culinary training at an early age of 17 working as a commis in the northern Italian commune of Caselle Torinese, close to the city of Turin. Over the past three decades he has refined his flair for traditional Italian cooking. His appointment at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa marks the 50-year-old chef's return to Kuwait having held the position of Executive Sous Chef and Manager at another five-star hotel in the city.

Chef Irvine, originally from Devon, UK, began his culinary career in 21 years ago in his native county working as a Commis. He has since worked at a number of restaurants across the UK before moving to Egypt. He joins the Kuwait property from sister hotel, Jumeirah Etihad Towers in Abu Dhabi, where he worked across four of the iconic hotel's restaurants as a Sous Chef for more than four years, most recently as part of the pre-opening team at Pearls by Michael Caines.

Promenade celebrates opening of new Architecture exhibition

The Promenade mall, the neighborhood destination in the heart of Kuwait, has celebrated the opening of its latest exhibition at the Promenade, 'Emergent Pavilion', with a host of special guests, VIPs and residents of Kuwait.

The exhibition was unveiled during an evening of exploration and discovery at Kuwait's cultural and art venue. Kicking off the proceedings was an introduction from Architectural Association Visiting School (AAVS) director Jeroen van Ameijde, who led the creation of the pavilion following a 10 day Emergent Constructions workshop with 40 AAVS participants.

Guests were able to experience the work created by students, academics and professionals, drawing on the material, cultural and social ecologies that are unique to Kuwait, translated into a large scale architectural wooden structure unveiled during the opening ceremony.

To find out more about the Emergent Pavilion and other projects and exhibitions taking place at the Promenade Culture Center, please telephone 95595123 or follow @promenadeculturecentre and @aavskuwait, or visit AAVS's official website http://kuwait.aaschool.ac.uk.

Greetings

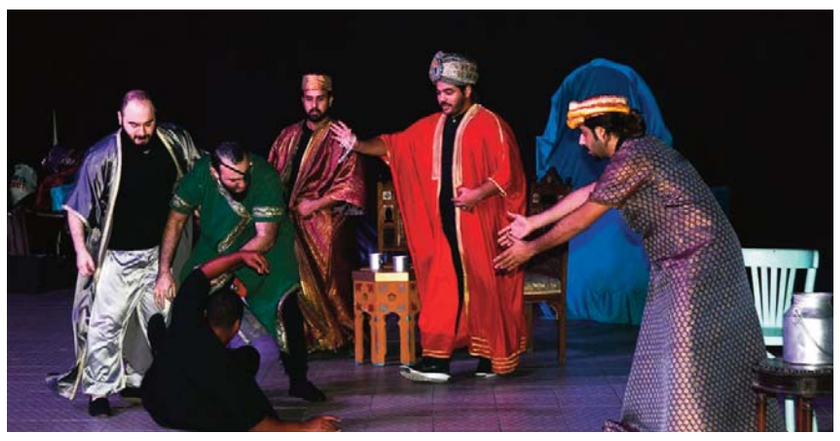
Congratulations to Al-Sayed Amin family on their new born baby Rimas Ahmad Fathi Al-Sayed Amin.

Happy 2nd birthday to our God blessing dearest Riddhimaan. You are naughtiest two years old anyone has ever seen but all is forgiven because you are also loveable and cutest there have ever been. We want to wish you the best in the life with good health, happiness & success. May God Bless you. Best wishes from Mamma, Papa, relatives and friends.

— Photos by Joseph Shagra

LAPA Presents: 'Al-Khayyam and Al-Khayzuran in Andalusia'

A collage to conclude its actors' workshop



In culmination of its workshop on the fundamentals of theatre and acting, which started in June and ran for two months, LOYAC Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) presented a play entitled 'Al-Khayyam and Al-Khayzuran in Andalusia' at Al-Qibliya School.

The play, which was written by Fareah Al-Saqqaf, is not simply a narration inspired by events from pervious LAPA works, but rather a new vision combining history with the envisaged to give us a new work that has brought together several eras and epochs. Thus, its plot is a rhythmic collage of various scenes that are revealed in the tales of a cafe's patrons in CÛrdoba, Andalusia. It reflects people's nature and their enthusiasm for telling stories and competing to convey the news.

Jaber Al-Mohammadi, the play's director, stated that the story focuses on the conspiracies that transpire behind the walls of palaces and the hidden power struggle. He pointed that on one hand, it sheds light on the conflict between strict religious streams that try to hinder the process of development and advancement, while on the other hand, it portrays the disputes amongst the scholars and the astute who act as the advisors of Al-Hakim Al-Mustanir. The director emphasized that the theatre practice is considered a science and a craft, being the first step for its advancement, utilizing people as its tool and its purpose. He also noted that the modern theatre is not just a place showcasing the latest technology, but it is also the creation of the human being.

It is worthy to note that LAPA has previously presented numerous workshops, gathering many artists and professionals from Kuwait and abroad in order to develop and enhance the talents and skills of young theatre enthusiasts, resulting in several productions that were brought to the local as well as international stages. These included 'Khatar' (Danger), 'Omar Al-Khayyam,' 'Al-Khayzuran,' 'Min Hawa Al-Andalus' (Passion in Andalusia), and 'Macbeth,' with the latest being the fundamentals of theatre and acting workshop that had 14 participants who were introduced to the foundations of acting, group interaction, restructuring, rehearsals, and performance day preparations.

BBC FIRST

03:20 Mad Dogs
04:05 Doctors
04:35 Doctors
05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Holby City
07:30 Death In Paradise
08:25 Call The Midwife
09:25 The Musketeers
10:20 Doctors
10:55 Doctors
11:25 Death In Paradise
12:20 Call The Midwife
13:15 The Musketeers
14:10 Doctors
14:45 Doctors
15:15 Death In Paradise
16:10 Call The Midwife
17:05 The Musketeers
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 New Tricks
21:00 New Tricks
21:55 Ripper Street
22:50 Mad Dogs
23:35 Doctors
00:05 Eastenders
00:35 New Tricks
01:30 New Tricks
02:25 Ripper Street

Comedy Central

03:00 Nathan For You
03:25 Nathan For You
03:50 Impractical Jokers UK
04:15 Impractical Jokers
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:05 Ridiculousness
05:30 Tosh.0
05:55 Tosh.0
06:20 Lip Sync Battle
06:50 Lip Sync Battle
07:15 Catch A Contractor
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
10:35 Key And Peele
11:00 Workaholics
11:25 Catch A Contractor
12:15 Nathan For You
12:40 Nathan For You
13:05 Impractical Jokers UK
13:30 Impractical Jokers
13:55 Ridiculousness
14:20 Ridiculousness
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Lip Sync Battle
15:35 Catch A Contractor
16:30 Nathan For You
16:55 Nathan For You
17:25 Workaholics
17:50 Impractical Jokers UK
18:15 Impractical Jokers
18:39 Key And Peele
19:03 Workaholics
19:27 Tattoo Disasters
19:50 Tattoo Disasters
17:40 Mythbusters
18:30 World's Top 5
19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls
20:10 Storage Hunters UK
20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
21:00 Mythbusters
21:50 World's Top 5
22:40 Wheels That Fail
23:05 Wheels That Fail
23:30 Fast N' Loud
00:20 Kindig Customs
01:10 Mythbusters
02:00 World's Top 5
02:50 Wheels That Fail

Discovery Science

03:00 Mega World
03:48 Smash Lab
04:36 Sci-Fi Science
05:00 Prank Science
05:24 How The Universe Works
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Smash Lab
08:14 How The Universe Works
09:02 Mega World
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Sci-Fi Science
11:02 Magic Of Science
11:26 Smash Lab
12:14 How The Universe Works
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Mega World
14:38 Sci-Fi Science
15:02 Magic Of Science
15:26 Smash Lab
16:14 How The Universe Works
17:02 Mega World
17:50 Smash Lab
18:40 How The Universe Works
19:30 Secret Space Escapes
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Mega Engineering
22:00 Secret Space Escapes
22:50 How The Universe Works
23:40 Smash Lab
00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Secret Space Escapes
02:10 How The Universe Works

Disney Channel HD

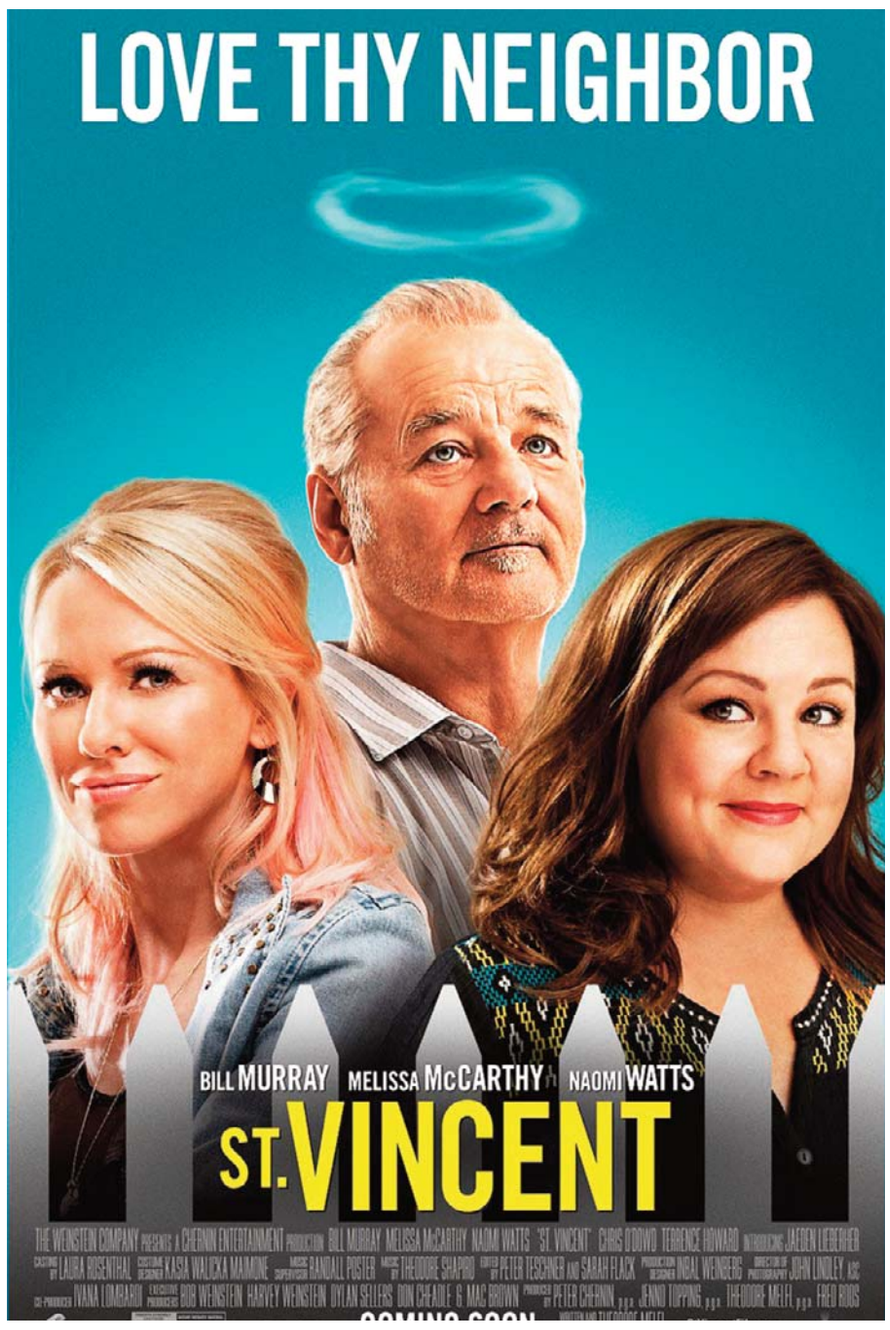
03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse

Disney Junior

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Jungle Cubs
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:40 PJ Masks
09:10 Doc McStuffins
09:40 Doc McStuffins
09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Sofia The First
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:30 Gummi Bears
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
14:00 The Lion Guard
14:30 Aladdin
14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
15:05 Goldie & Bear
15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
16:00 Doc McStuffins
16:25 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:25 Sofia The First
17:50 The Lion Guard
18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 Aladdin
22:00 Jungle Cubs
22:25 Gummi Bears
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack

Disney XD

06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak



ST.VINCENT ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

06:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
07:50 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
09:45 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:40 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:35 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:35 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 LA Clippers Dance Squad
14:05 LA Clippers Dance Squad
15:00 Just Jillian
16:00 Just Jillian
17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
19:30 E! News
20:00 Botched
21:00 Botched
22:00 Famously Single

food network

03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Man Fire Food
06:30 Man Fire Food
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
10:30 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 Chopped
12:00 Guy's Big Bite
12:30 Guy's Big Bite
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Man Fire Food
14:30 Man Fire Food
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
17:30 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Chopped
21:00 Kitchen Inferno
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Iron Chef America
00:00 Chopped
01:00 Kitchen Inferno
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

H2 HD

03:40 Ancient Aliens
04:30 Ancient Aliens
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 Ancient Discoveries
07:00 Dogfights
08:00 Ancient Discoveries
09:00 The Universe
10:00 Ancient Aliens
11:00 Ancient Aliens
12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 Dogfights
14:00 Ancient Discoveries
15:00 The Universe
16:00 Ancient Aliens
17:00 Ancient Aliens
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Dogfights
20:00 Ancient Discoveries
21:00 The Universe
22:00 Last Days Of The Nazis
23:00 WWI: The First Modern War
00:00 Ancient Aliens
01:00 Dogfights
02:00 Ancient Discoveries
02:50 The Universe

History HD

03:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels
06:00 Shipping Wars
06:25 Shipping Wars
06:50 Swamp People
07:40 Mountain Men
08:30 American Restoration
08:55 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
09:45 Leepu And Pitbull
10:35 Alone
11:25 Hunting Hitler
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars
13:30 Storage Wars
13:55 Ax Men
14:45 Storage Wars Miami
15:10 Storage Wars Miami
15:35 Shipping Wars
16:00 Grave Trade
16:50 Mountain Men
17:40 Swamp People
18:30 Hunting Hitler
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Counting Cars: Best Of
21:25 Car Hunters
21:50 American Restoration
22:15 American Restoration
22:40 Time Team
23:30 Counting Cars: Best Of
23:55 Car Hunters
00:20 American Restoration
00:45 American Restoration
01:10 Ultimate Wheels
02:00 Swamp People
02:50 Mountain Men

itv hd CHOICE

03:25 Grantchester
04:20 It's Not Rocket Science
05:15 Eggheads
05:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
08:00 Grantchester
08:55 It's Not Rocket Science
09:50 Murdoch Mysteries
10:45 Eggheads
11:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
12:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Emmerdale
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Murdoch Mysteries
15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
16:30 Vera
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Emmerdale
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
20:30 Vera
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 Murdoch Mysteries
00:30 Eggheads
01:00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway

Nat Geo Wild HD

03:45 Hidden Worlds
04:40 America's National Parks
05:35 Puma: Lion Of The Andes
06:30 Extreme Animal Babies
07:25 Hidden Worlds
08:20 America's National Parks
09:15 America The Wild
10:10 Predator Fails
11:05 Man V. Monster
12:00 Built For The Kill
12:55 Clouded Leopard
13:50 Extreme Animal Babies
14:45 Hidden Worlds
15:40 America's National Parks
16:35 America The Wild
17:30 Predator Fails
18:25 Live Like An Animal
19:20 Hidden Worlds
20:10 America's National Parks
21:00 America The Wild
21:50 Predator Fails
22:40 Live Like An Animal
23:30 Built For The Kill
00:20 Clouded Leopard
01:10 Extreme Animal Babies
02:00 Hunter Hunted
02:50 The Bear Evidence

National Geographic Channel HD

03:50 Russia's Mystery Files
04:45 Richard Hammond's Wildest Weather
05:40 Fly Me To The Stars: Japan's Space Challenge
06:35 Engineering Connections
07:30 Laverstoke Mill
08:25 4 Babies A Second
09:20 World's Toughest Fixes
10:15 Science Of Stupid
10:40 Science Of Stupid
11:10 Megastructures
12:05 Mega Factories
13:00 4 Babies A Second
14:00 Laverstoke Mill
15:00 Engineering Connections
16:00 Science Of Stupid
16:30 Science Of Stupid
17:00 Inside: Reinventing Taipei
18:00 Mega Factories
19:00 Engineering Connections
20:00 Science Of Stupid
20:25 Science Of Stupid
20:50 Inside: Reinventing Taipei
21:40 Mega Factories
22:30 Engineering Connections
23:20 Fly Me To The Stars: Japan's Space Challenge
00:10 Science Of Stupid
00:35 Science Of Stupid
01:00 Inside: Reinventing Taipei
02:00 Mega Factories
02:55 Engineering Connections

nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Breadwinners
09:00 Get Blake
09:24 Rabbids Invasion
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Harvey Beaks
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 Henry Danger
15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Breadwinners
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

03:00 The Simpsons
03:30 Black-Ish
04:00 Life In Pieces
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Community
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 The Bill Engvall Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Life In Pieces
08:30 Community
09:00 The Simpsons
09:30 The Grinder
10:00 Crowded
10:30 The Bill Engvall Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 George Lopez
12:30 Life In Pieces
13:00 Community
13:30 The Bill Engvall Show
14:00 Black-Ish
14:30 The Grinder
15:00 Crowded
15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
16:00 Grandfathered
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 The Simpsons
18:30 Black-Ish
19:00 Young & Hungry
19:30 Young & Hungry
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
21:30 Grandfathered
22:00 You're The Worst
22:30 Bordertown
23:00 Family Guy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Fresh Off The Boat
01:00 Grandfathered
01:30 You're The Worst
02:00 Bordertown
02:30 Family Guy

OSN MOVIES ACTION

04:15 Age Of Dinosaurs
06:00 Dracula Untold
08:00 Hidalgo
10:30 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies
13:15 Dracula Untold
15:15 Hidalgo
17:45 Ladder 49
20:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
22:00 Combustion
00:00 Public Enemies
02:30 Snakehead Swamp

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

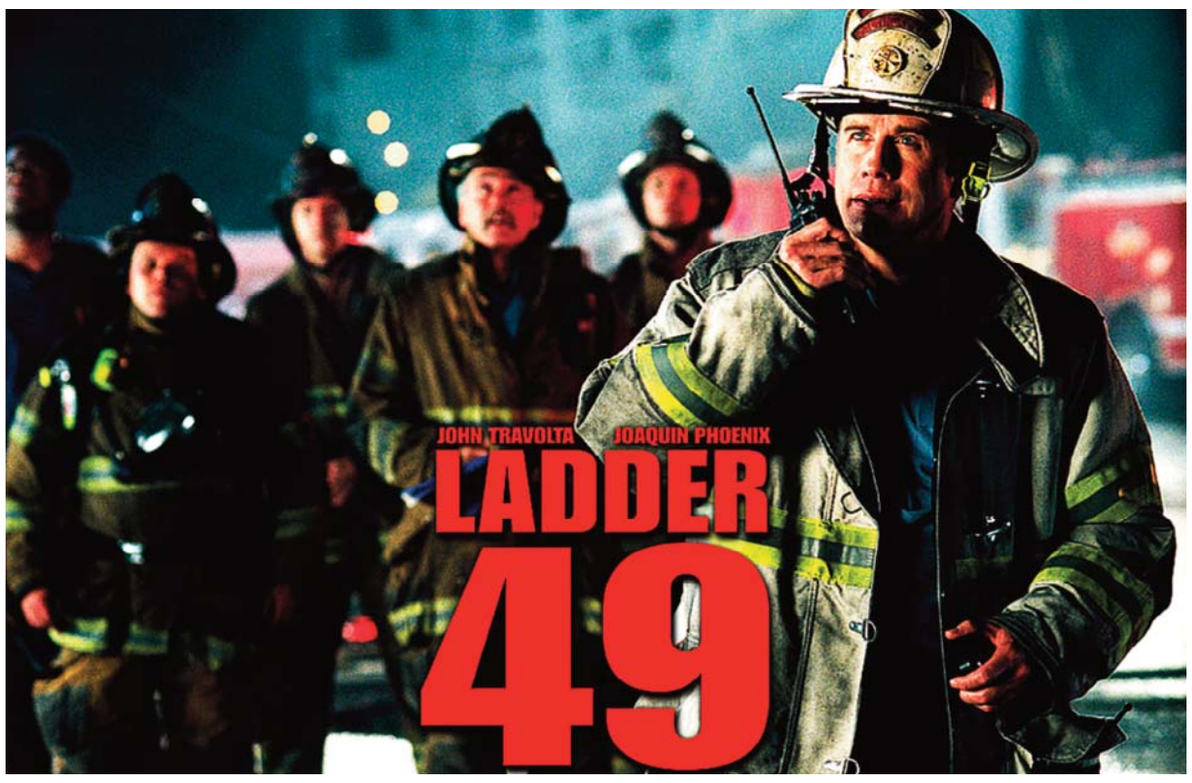
04:00 Bringing Down The House
06:00 Space Dogs
08:00 Father Of the Bride
10:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
12:00 Bringing Down The House
14:00 Odeio O Dia Dos Namorados
16:00 Father Of The Bride
18:00 Spy Hard
20:00 St. Vincent
22:00 A Million Ways To Die In The West
00:00 The Right Kind Of Wrong

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

03:30 Camp Nowhere
05:15 The Country Bears
07:15 Pocahontas
09:00 The Boxtrolls
11:00 Atlantis: The Lost Empire
13:00 Inspector Gadget
15:00 Tangled
17:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian
19:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
21:00 The Adventurer: The Curse Of The Midas Box
23:00 Tangled
01:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory

OSN MOVIES HD

03:00 Far From The Madding Crowd
05:00 The Two Faces Of January
07:00 My Old Lady
09:00 Big Eyes
11:00 Bears
12:45 The Best Of Me
14:45 The Cobbler
16:45 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
19:00 Whiplash
21:00 The Lobster
23:00 Child 44
01:15 Break Point



LADDER 49 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

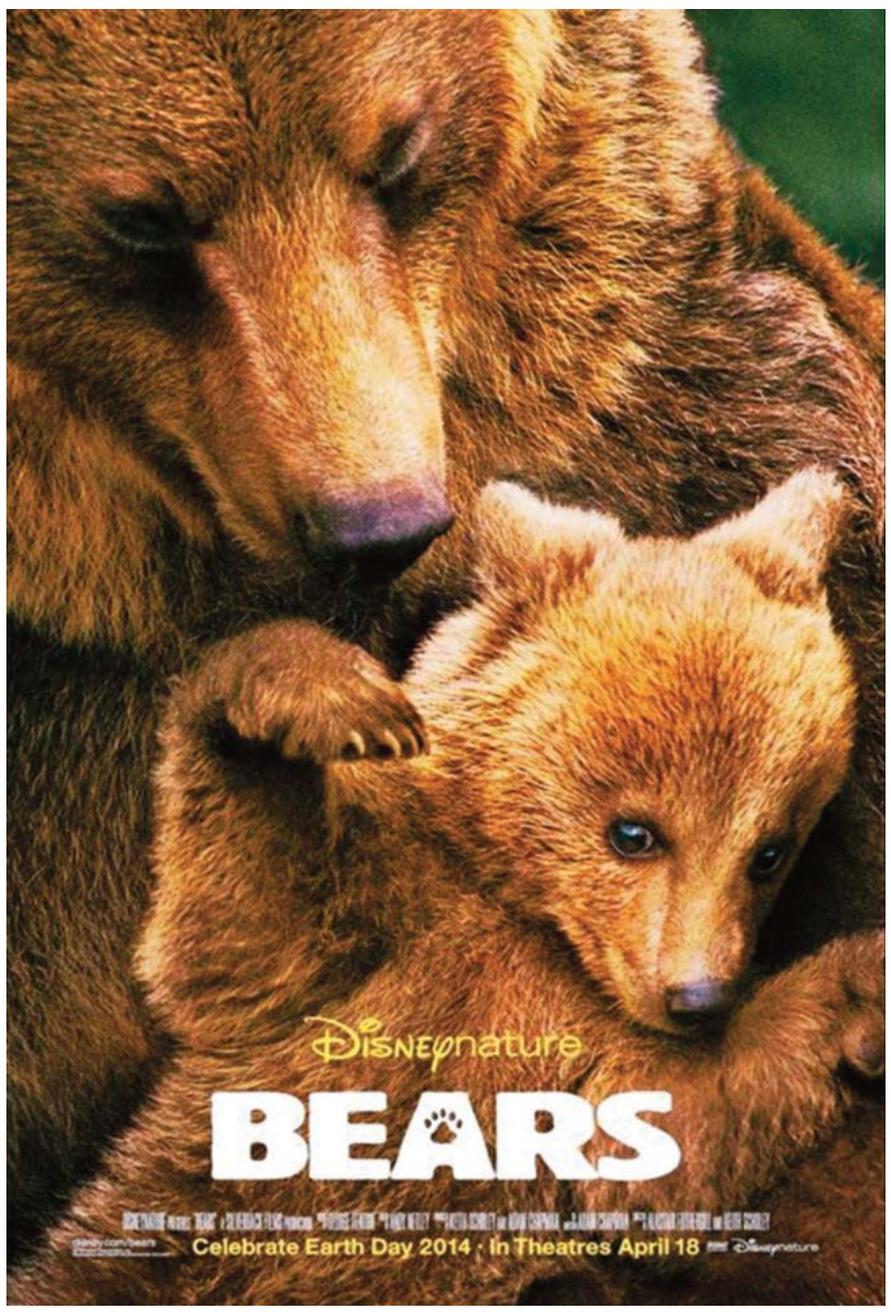
20:13 Lip Sync Battle
20:37 Lip Sync Battle
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Anthony Jeselnik: Caligula
22:18 Amy Schumer: Mostly Sex Stuff
23:05 Underground With Dave Attell
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:00 Tosh.0
00:25 Lip Sync Battle
00:50 Lip Sync Battle
01:15 Underground With Dave Attell
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 Anthony Jeselnik: Caligula

Discovery Channel HD

03:40 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
04:05 Storage Hunters UK
04:30 Dallas Car Sharks
05:00 How Stuff's Made
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
06:50 Kindig Customs
07:40 Fast N' Loud
08:30 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
08:55 Storage Hunters UK
09:20 Dallas Car Sharks
09:45 How Stuff's Made
10:10 How Do They Do It?
10:35 Boy To Man
11:25 Venom Hunters
12:15 So You Think You'd Survive?
13:05 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
13:30 Storage Hunters UK
13:55 Dallas Car Sharks
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 Kindig Customs
16:00 Fast N' Loud
16:50 How Stuff's Made
17:15 How Do They Do It?
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:20 Dog With A Blog
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Austin & Ally
08:35 Shake It Up
09:00 Hannah Montana
09:25 Hannah Montana
09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:40 Good Luck Charlie
11:05 Good Luck Charlie
11:30 Jessie
11:55 Jessie
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
13:35 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 Liv And Maddie
14:50 Dog With A Blog
15:15 Hank Zipzer
15:40 Bunk'd
16:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
16:10 Gravity Falls
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:00 Backstage
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Bunk'd
18:40 Mako Mermaids
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Jessie
19:55 Violetta
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta
07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Phineas And Ferb
08:40 Camp Lakebottom
09:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
09:10 Gravity Falls
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Boyster
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:00 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Supa Strikas
15:40 Supa Strikas
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:40 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Kirby Buckets
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Annedroids
18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 Pickle And Peanut
19:45 Pickle And Peanut
20:00 Lab Rats
20:25 Supa Strikas
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse

E HD

03:15 Giuliana & Bill
04:10 Giuliana & Bill
05:05 Giuliana & Bill
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians



BEARS ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016

Kuwait CINEMA

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

SHARQIA-1

THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	11:30 AM
SUICIDE SQUAD	1:30 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	4:00 PM
MIN 30 SANA	6:30 PM
MIN 30 SANA	9:30 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM

SHARQIA-2

THE BFG -3D	11:45 AM
THE BFG	2:15 PM
THE BFG -3D	4:45 PM
THE BFG	7:15 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	9:45 PM
THE BFG	12:15 AM

SHARQIA-3

MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	12:15 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:15 PM
MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	5:30 PM
THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	8:30 PM
THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	10:45 PM
THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	1:00 AM

MUHALAB-1

MIN 30 SANA	1:00 PM
ABU SHANAB	1:30 PM
BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	4:00 PM
BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	7:00 PM
BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	10:00 PM
MIN 30 SANA	4:00 PM
MIN 30 SANA	7:00 PM
MIN 30 SANA	10:00 PM
ABU SHANAB	1:00 AM

MUHALAB-2

RUSTOM- Hindi	1:15 PM
BABU BANGARAM - Telugu	1:30 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	4:15 PM
MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	6:45 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	9:45 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 AM

MUHALAB-3

THE BFG	11:30 AM
THE BFG -3D	2:00 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	4:30 PM
THE BFG -3D	6:45 PM
THE BFG	9:15 PM
THE BFG	11:45 PM

FANAR-1

THE CONJURING 2	12:30 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	3:15 PM
MIN 30 SANA	5:45 PM
MIN 30 SANA	8:45 PM
MIN 30 SANA	11:45 PM

FANAR-2

SUICIDE SQUAD	11:30 AM
SUICIDE SQUAD	2:15 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	4:45 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	7:00 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	9:45 PM
THE CONJURING 2	12:15 AM

FANAR-3

FINDING DORY	12:45 PM
MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	3:00 PM
RUSTOM- Hindi	6:00 PM
MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	9:00 PM
RUSTOM- Hindi	12:05 AM

FANAR-4

THE BFG	12:00 PM
THE BFG	2:30 PM
THE BFG	5:00 PM
THE BFG	7:30 PM
THE BFG	10:00 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM

FANAR-5

THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:00 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	3:30 PM
THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	5:45 PM
THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	8:00 PM
THE FALL OF THE KRAYS	10:15 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:30 AM

MARINA-1

THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	12:00 PM
THE BFG	2:15 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	4:45 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	7:15 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	9:30 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	12:05 AM

MARINA-2

THE BFG	11:30 AM
FINDING DORY	2:00 PM
THE BFG	4:15 PM
THE BFG	6:45 PM
THE BFG	9:15 PM
THE BFG	11:45 PM

MARINA-3

CELL	11:30 AM
MIN 30 SANA	1:30 PM
MIN 30 SANA	4:30 PM
MIN 30 SANA	7:30 PM
CELL	10:30 PM
CELL	12:45 AM

REQUIRED

Bilingual Pharmacist

required for a Reputable Company :

Skills required:

- Valid Pharmacy Practicing License in Kuwait.
- Transferable Visa
- Pharmacy experience in Kuwait not less than 3 year.
- Knowledge of drugs and their indications, contraindications, dosing and side effects.
- Excellent communication skills. - Teamwork

Please send a copy of you valid practicing license with your CV.
Belgharek.mouna@gmail.com

مطلوب

مطلوب أخصائي / أخصائية صيدلة للعمل
بدوام كامل لدى إحدى الشركات المعروفة

وفقا للشروط التالية:

– أن يكون المتقدم حاصل على بكالوريوس صيدلة
– أن يكون لدية خبرة لا تقل عن (٣) سنوات داخل الكويت ، مع إقامة قابلة للتحويل.
– أن يكون لدية ترخيص ساري المفعول بمزاولة المهنة من وزارة الصحة بالكويت .

سوف يحدد الراتب حسب المؤهل و سنوات الخبرة بعد المقابلة الشخصية .

يرجى إرسال السيرة الذاتية مرفقة بجميع الشهادات العلمية إلى الايميل التالي
Belgharek.mouna@gmail.com

REQUIRED

A German company in Kuwait is looking for a suitable candidate for a vacant position in Tendering Dept.
We need an **expert tendering staff** who can work on Electrical and I&C Inquiries from our clients (Oil & Gas).
The candidate must have (18 No.) transferable AQAMA.

Please send your CV on below email address:
villalan.kaliya@bilfinger.com

إعـــلان

تقدم:
1- عادل شريدة مبارك المجدلي
2- نزيه شريدة مبارك المجدلي
أصحاب شركة غرين أنفيرمنث للتجارة العامة / ت بطلب الي إدارة الشركات بهذه الوزارة:
تعديل الكيان القانوني من تضامنية الى ذات مسؤولية محدودة.
يرجى ممن له اعتراض أن يتقدم للإدارة المذكورة خلال 60 يوم من تاريخ نشر الإعلان بإعتراض خطي مرفقا به سند المديونية وإلا فلن يؤخذ بعين الاعتبار .

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Husain, holder of Indian Passport No. H2427557, resident of Laxman Ganj Bazar Dargah Galiakot, Rajasthan, India. Have changed my name from Husain to Husain Zoyab Ali Mitha. In future, I will be known as Husain Zoyab Ali Mitha.
(C 5202) 15-8-2016

SITUATION WANTED

Indonesian oil field expert with 22 years experience seeks a job in Kuwait (currently in Indonesia) email: mmsembodo@yahoo.com / WhatsApp +62811192337.
(C 5203)
17-8-2016

REQUIRED

New Nursery in Messila area
Looking for
teachers and teacher assistants

Candidates to send their CVs to
BICQ8@yahoo.com For any inquiries: 22288344

Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

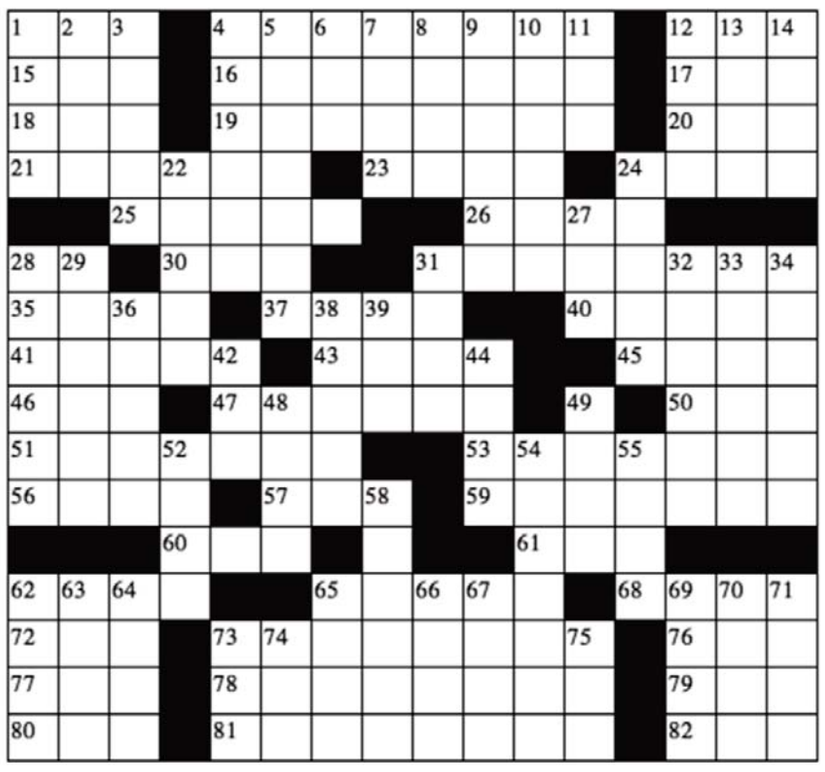
Arrival Flights on Wednesday 17/8/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50
KKK	750	TZX	01:50
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
CEB	018	Manila	02:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00
KAC	354	BLR	08:00
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
CLX	792	Luxembourg	13:15
IRC	6521	Lamerd	13:35
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
JZR	257	Beirut	14:50
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
KNE	683	Madinah	15:05
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
TBM	6313	Mashhad	16:05
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
MSC	507	HRG	16:30
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
IRC	526	Mashhad	16:50
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
SAW	705	Damascus	17:05
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
SYR	341	Damascus	18:45
KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:05
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
MSR	606	Luxor	19:30
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
KAC	102	New York/London	19:55
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
KNE	381	Taif	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
JAD	309	Amman	21:20
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	564	Amman	22:05
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30
BBC	043	Dhaka	22:40
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05
MSC	403	Asyut	23:10
RBG	555	Alexandria	23:15
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40

Departure Flights on Wednesday 17/8/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
JAD	302	Amman	00:25
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
FDK	804	Damascus	01:35
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
KKK	751	TZX	02:55
MSC	406	Sohag	03:30
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
KAC	417	Manila	03:55
RJA	645	Amman	03:55
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
CEB	019	Manila	04:50
JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FEG	954	Asyut	06:00
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	240	Amman	06:55
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
JZR	256	Beirut	07:30
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:40
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
KAC	791	Madinah	08:55
KAC	117	New York	09:00
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
IRC	6522	Lamerd	10:05
IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
IRM	1189	Mashhad	10:55
KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	11:15
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:40
AXB	890	Mangalore	11:55
MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
KAC	103	London	12:10
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
ETD	9819	BRU	14:10
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
IRC	6512	ABD	14:25
CLX	792	Hanoi	14:30
KNE	382	Taif	14:55
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
KAC	563	Amman	16:30
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
TBM	6314	Mashhad	17:00
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
MSC	508	HRG	17:30
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
IRC	527	Mashhad	17:50
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
JZR	238	Amman	18:45
KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
SYR	342	Damascus	19:45
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	283	Dhaka	20:30
MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
JAD	300	Amman	22:00
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
THY	1413	TZX	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
JZR	528	Asyut	23:15
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30
KAC	203	Lahore	23:40
RBG	556	Alexandria	23:55

CROSSWORD 1345



ACROSS

1. A federally chartered savings bank.
4. Moths whose larvae are cutworms.
12. Inquire about.
15. (Irish) The sea personified.
16. A resident of Alabama.
17. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
18. A rapid bustling commotion.
19. The levorotatory form of dopa (trade names Bendopa and Brocadopa and Larodopa).
20. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
21. African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
23. Tall woody perennial grasses with hollow slender stems especially of the genera Arundo and Phragmites.
25. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
26. A cord fastened around the neck with an ornamental clasp and worn as a necktie.
28. A hemoprotein composed of globin and heme that gives red blood cells their characteristic color.
30. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
35. A member of an extinct North American Indian people who lived in the Pit river valley in northern California.
37. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
40. (Old Testament) The minister of the Persian emperor who hated the Jews and was hanged for plotting to massacre them.
41. Small terrestrial lizard of warm regions of the Old World.
43. Largest known toad species.
45. The Fate who spins the thread of life.
46. The capital and largest city of Japan.
47. East Indian tart yellow berrylike fruit.
50. An enlarged and muscular saclike organ of the alimentary canal.
51. A republic in southwestern Africa on the south Atlantic coast (formerly called South West Africa).
53. Situated away from the axis of any body or part.
56. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
57. A light touch or stroke.
59. (used of opinions and actions) Far beyond the norm.
60. Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
61. The Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan.
62. A fraudulent business scheme.
68. The United Nations agency concerned with civil aviation.
72. An implement used to propel or steer a boat.
76. A human limb.
77. The law enforcement agency in the Justice Department.
78. Showing sustained enthusiastic action with unflagging vitality.
79. Extremely pleasing.
80. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
81. A sandal with flat heels and an upper of woven leather straps.
82. Any of various systems of units for measuring electricity and magnetism.

DOWN

1. Loose or flaccid body fat.
2. Large genus of tropical subshrubs or herbs some of which yield fibers of mucilaginous substances.
3. A natural stream of water smaller than a river (and often a tributary of a river).
4. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
5. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
6. Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.
7. Little known Kamarupan languages.
8. (of a young animal) Abandoned by its mother and raised by hand.
9. Naked freshwater or marine or parasitic protozoa that form temporary pseudopods for feeding and locomotion.
10. A dog small and tame enough to be held in the lap.
11. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
12. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
13. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
14. God of love and erotic desire.
22. Make difficult to perceive by sight.
24. Large ornamental tropical American tree with bipinnate leaves and globose clusters of flowers with crimson stamens and sweet-pulp seed pods eaten by cattle.
27. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
29. Capital and largest city of Iraq.
31. Any branch of Shinto other than Kokka.
32. A group of related languages spoken in a valley of southern Ethiopia.
33. A cyst on the underside of the tongue.
34. Hard white substance covering the crown of a tooth.
36. Leafless East Indian vine.
38. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
39. System of measurement based on centimeters and grams and seconds.
42. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
44. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
48. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
49. An informal term for a father.
52. Severe diabetes mellitus with an early onset.
54. Characteristic of a baby.
55. Being one more than twelve.
58. A baseball deliberately thrown at the batter's head.
63. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
64. An elaborate song for solo voice.
65. Queen of the Olympian gods in ancient Greek mythology.
66. Among the largest bony fish.
67. One thousandth of a second.
69. A small restaurant where drinks and snacks are sold.
70. The biblical name for ancient Syria.
71. Fast-growing herbaceous evergreen tree of South America having a broad trunk with high water content and dark green oval leaves.
73. A hormone produced by the anterior pituitary gland.
74. God of war and sky.
75. The compass point midway between south and southeast.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

You seem to be more expressive than usual today. This quickens your wits! You have a natural sense of what others want and can make clear decisions that affect many people. There are plenty of opportunities to pick and choose future projects-personal or professional. There is a surge of independence and a need for freedom with an interest in trying new and different experiences. Unusual or unconventional behavior and an interest in the exotic may be just the thing for you now. This afternoon is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having a good time. You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you. This is a perfect time to bond or enhance a love relationship.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Stumbling blocks could occur today that basically pertain to emotions. Work at removing the emotional parts of a situation and deal with only the business side of whatever is set before you now. A problem-solving attitude will help you find the answers you need. A new subject can be mastered soon. You have great internal strength and tend to be independent. You are self-motivating, able to take care of yourself, and autonomous to a high degree. You will work well with others today. Let yourself dream this evening. This time does not come all that often-so do not ignore this opportunity to let your imagination loose. Loved ones could be disappointed tonight, if you do not follow through on previous travel plans. Stand by your promises.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Others enjoy praising you for your hard work. You are appreciated for your feelings and your ability to act and get things done; you set a good example for others to follow. This is the time when you can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support from those around you. You may feel that you are in touch and in harmony with others because any support you need is there for anything you want to accomplish. You may be called on to speak or lead a group and you will not need to worry about anyone misunderstanding you-you can do very well. You have an ability to enchant others with your words and images. Your presence has a way of easing things as you are able to help others let go of any differences and stand behind what unites us all.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You might like to ignore your duties and do some socializing, but responsibilities rule and you are smart to tend to business. Later this afternoon thoughts can return to the social sector and plans can be made. Close relationships take on more emotional depth, power and importance now. This is a great time to attend or plan a social event. People value you for your warmth and dynamic qualities as much as for your ideas. You may find it easier to acquiesce with your animal warmth than to develop your mind. You can relate to almost all types of people with equal ease. Your dreams, visions and ideals move you forward-follow your inner guide and your ambitions will show the way. This evening is a great time for lovers.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

You have a real drive to care and protect others and may have several children. You may find that a volunteer service or working with the needy will fill your need to nurture others. Perhaps work or volunteering to help the handicapped or the very young in some way could be the right area for you. Your talents are quite varied. You have all the artistic traits and talents necessary to create the monetary support that you require. You may have a desire to travel and if you have a career in helping others, a wonderful way to be of service would be to help with the handicapped, elderly or very young in the travel industry in some way. Working on a special cruise or as a tour guide would be a good example. You will very much enjoy your day.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today may not be the time to solve problems. There is something about you that others cannot seem to get enough of; yet for all your confidence, you tend to depend on others for advice. Your grasp of situations is unquestioned-have faith. You may find yourself needing the advice of someone non-biased and that will give you direction from time to time. Family and home may be most important to you this afternoon. You appreciate their guidance through the years and may decide to do something special for them at this time. If you are not the regular cook, you may decide that tonight is the night for you to cook a special meal, etc. You make it a point to do little favors or grant special requests. You and your family enjoy each other's company this evening.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

Some of you run late as you try to tie up loose ends around the house this morning. It would be of benefit to know that whatever information you hear on the television news can be gathered from the internet at your workplace. If a delay is due because of getting up late, find ways to create a backup system. Family members can help you with any changes you might like to make. You could feel real support and harmony at this time. A political or civic activity around the home front is on your mind today and a few phone calls can bring several people together for a meeting of what steps are needed. The impromptu meeting will bring new friends to your attention as well as a business contact or two. Keep notes on the meeting for future reference.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Breathing fresh air, enjoying your surroundings and having no responsibilities are what you would like to enjoy today. Think again, you have several days before you can enjoy that kind of day. It isn't spring but someone you are coming to know may make you feel as though you have spring fever. You make your own way through a few problems today-you are in control. Active and inspired, you are a refreshing influence for others. Once you become better focused, your enthusiasm is contagious. You have a gift for motivating others. Creative projects get underway this evening and with your friends' help, you and your friends will be able to pull in some extra income before the next weekend. Your friends confirm your strengths and fill you with love.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

When it comes to business and career, you have a mind that just cannot help but take care of business. Your thoughts and ideas are nothing if not practical and your clear-sightedness makes some form of management or supervision almost unavoidable. Your sense of honesty and truth is something that other people sense in you and support. You might find yourself in a position of trust-handling money, vouchers, receipts and expensive items, etc. An interest and ability in athletics, exercise and working with the physical body, the outdoors and such, should be lifelong and this evening you will find yourself with your friends in some sort of sports environment. Travel with friends is indicated soon-there will be time for planning this evening.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are in a planning mood and very clearheaded and able to view all the alternative paths. Go ahead and make your decisions. You can see the road ahead and will make the right choices. You could be popular with your superiors. You may find that you enjoy your job or the responsibility it entails more than usual. Pace yourself and work on maintaining a balance. If you need to change your thinking in order to solve problems today, that is what you will do. This could mean that you are a detective or some other type of individual that solves or finds the solution to problems. Everyone needs some fun in their life-are you having fun this evening is a pleasant time for you. This is also a positive time to make long-range plans.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are in a good position to put in for that raise or job change, or to otherwise make yourself known. This is a time for imagination and creativity when it comes to ideas and thinking. This, along with the ability to put your thoughts into words, allows you to charm and enthrall. You are able to create an easy-to-read report on your job and how you can serve better in the future. Your overwhelming ability to feel things intuitively helps you make the right moves when it comes to the business world. This is a good time to consider how you fare financially. You will gain insight into any changes that need to be made at this time. A lover or child will play a big part of your day today. Perhaps you will be guiding this person in matters of importance: college.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Perhaps this is an ultra-mundane day-whatever the case, it is a day in which you will be able to be more creative and lend your ideas to improving business somehow. You have an ability to work with the imagination, reaching beyond the average to your highest potential. This just may be the best time to create an outline for that story you have wanted to author. Your sense of the unity behind things spiritual and psychological is clearly felt by those around you. There could be plenty of discussions with loved ones around these subjects tonight. You are, no doubt, a romantic, at home in the world of dreams and images. You enjoy working in these areas. A good conversation with those you love is possible this evening.

WORD SEARCH

Cooking 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

BASTE
BEAT
BLANCH
BROIL
CARAMELIZE
CHOP
CREAM
CUBE
FILLET
FLAKE
FLUTE
GRATE
GRILL
MARINATE
MIX
PARE
PEEL
SAUTE
SCORE
STEAM
STEEP
STRAIN
WHIP

Yesterday Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Flowers 1 - Solution

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

AMARYLLIS
ASTER
CALLA
CLEMATIS
DAFFODIL
DELPHINIUM
FREESIA
GARDENIA
GERBERA
GLADIOLUS
HEATHER
HYACINTH
IMPATIENS
JASMINE
LILAC
LISIANTHUS
NARCISSUS
PANSY
PETUNIA
SNAPDRAGON
STOCK
TULIP
VIOLET

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

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	Fahaeel Makka St	23915883
	Abu Halaifa	Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd	23715414
	Danat Al-Sultan	Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1	24575518
	Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 92	24566622
Capital	Ahlam	Fahad Al-Salem St	22436184
	Khaldiya Coop	Khaldiya Coop	24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa	Farwaniya Block 40	24734000
	Ferdous Coop	Ferdous Coop	24881201
	Modern Safwan	Old Kheitan Block 11	24726638
Hawally	Tariq	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25726265
	Hana	Salmiya-Amman St	25647075
	Ikhlas	Hawally-Beirut St	22625999
	Hawally & Rawdha	Hawally & Rawdha Coop	22564549
	Ghadeer	Jabriya-Block 1A	25340559
	Kindy	Jabriya-Block 3B	25326554
	Ibn Al-Nafis	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St	25721264
	Mishrif Coop	Mishrif Coop	25380581
	Salwa Coop	Salwa Coop	25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

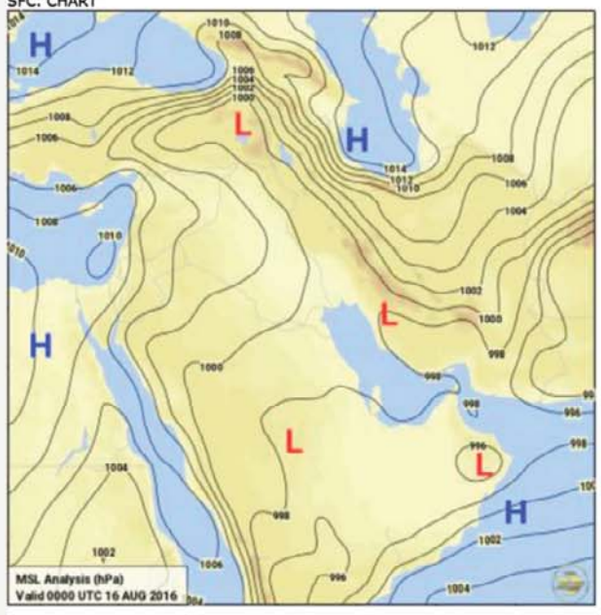
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 16/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 49 °C

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate freshening gradually at times north westerly wind, with speed of 15 - 40 km/h causing raising dust
By Night : Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	very hot + raising dust	very hot	very hot +relatively humid specially over coastal areas	very hot
Min Temp °C	34	32	33	32
Max Temp °C	48	48	48	47
Wind Direction	north westerly	north westerly	north westerly to light variable	northerly to north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	15 - 40	15 - 35	08 - 30	15 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches
no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	36	49
KUWAIT AIRPORT	34	49
ABDALY	30	50
BUBYAN	31	50
JAHRA	36	50
FAILAKA ISLAND	33	49
SALMIYAH	36	45
AHMADI	37	45
JAL ALIYAH	32	50
QAROH ISLAND	36	42
UMM AL-MARADEM	36	42
NUWAISIB	33	49
WAFRA	33	49
MANAGISH	32	49
SALMY	32	48
MUTRIBA	32	51

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	50
Min Temp (°C)	30
Max Rel Hum (%)	24
Min Rel Hum (%)	06
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	50 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:17
Sunset	18:28

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:52
Sunrise	05:17
Zuhr	11:52
Asr	15:28
Sunset	18:28
Isha	19:50

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
Antiga	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	Nigar	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 Tone	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		

PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists

Dr. Abidallah 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)

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-Daaory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426

General Practitioners

Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501

Urologists

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

Plastic Surgeons

Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60

Family Doctor

Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581

Psychiatrists

Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0

Gynaecologists & Obstetricians

DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787

General Surgeons

Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148

Internists, Chest & Heart

Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians

Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maaroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282

Dermatology

Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955

Dentists

Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111

Neurologists

Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875

Gastrologists

Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist

Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924

Physiotherapists & VD

Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Musaed Faraj Khamees	22666288

Rheumatologists:

Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290

Internist, Chest & Heart

DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210

Dr. Mohammad Zubaid
MB, ChB, FRCPC, PACC
Assistant Professor Of Medicine
Head, Division of Cardiology
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667

Consultant Cardiologist

Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC
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

Dick Van Dyke sings 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' at Denny's

Dick Van Dyke has treated diners at a Denny's restaurant in California to a rendition of "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." A post accompanying a YouTube video of the performance says the 90-year-old Van Dyke and the other three members of his quartet, The Vantastix, had just finished an appearance on a local television show before going out for breakfast. The video shows the quartet seated with pancakes at the table and singing the theme song to the 1968 British musical, which starred Van Dyke. Van Dyke and The Vantastix are promoting a show later this month in southern California.

Bieber axes Instagram amid war with Selena Gomez fans

Justin Bieber has gone nuclear in his war with fans of ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez by deleting his Instagram account. Bieber posted several pictures of himself with Sofia Richie over the weekend. He responded to negative comments by captioning one photo, "I'm gonna make my Instagram private if you guys don't stop the hate this is getting out of hand, if you guys are really fans you wouldn't be so mean to people that I like." By Tuesday morning, his Instagram account was gone. Bieber hasn't commented, but Richie posted on Twitter Monday, "Justin is not shutting out his beliebers. He's thankful everyday for y'all, y'all got him here.. He doesn't forget that.. Period." Richie is the daughter of singer Lionel Richie and the sister of former reality star Nicole Richie.

'Wire' actor Wendell Pierce loses Baton Rouge home

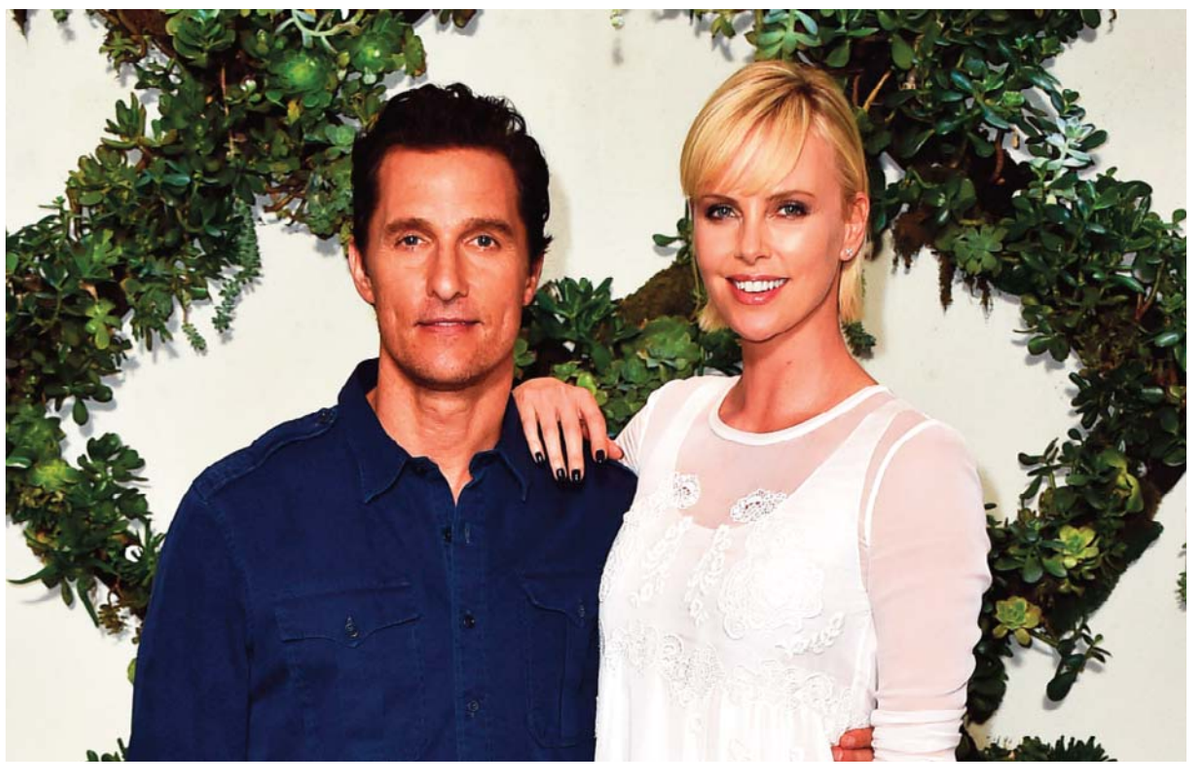
"The Wire" and "Treme" actor Wendell Pierce's home was destroyed by flooding in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 11 years after his childhood home was ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. The 52-year-old Louisiana native revealed the news Sunday on Twitter . He says the response to his loss reminded him of "the generosity given to my family during Katrina." Pierce's parents' home was damaged when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005. Pierce, whose credits also include "Confirmation" and "The Odd Couple," later tweeted phone numbers for the American Red Cross and Baton Rouge Food Bank. "I don't know what I'm going to do," the author of "The Wind in the Reeds" told TMZ in a video posted Monday. "I just lost everything." A noticeably shaken Pierce called the destruction "a private pain" in the video . Pierce's spokesman did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Scott Eastwood in talks to star in Sci-Fi Film 'Ecstasia'

Scott Eastwood is in early talks to star in Wayne Kramer's sci-fi film "Ecstasia."Kramer is directing from his own screenplay, which centers on a couple who lives in a world where love no longer exists. The film, which also stars Matilda Lutz, follows their final days together before their love expires. The movie will be introduced to buyers at next month's Toronto Film Festival, with shooting set to start next year in South Africa. UTA, which reps Eastwood, is handling domestic rights, while Red Sea is selling international rights. Producers are Sentient Entertainment's Renee Tab and Christopher Tuffin, who recently collaborated with Eastwood on the heist thriller "Overdrive." Matthew Chausse and Eastwood are also producing. Ingenious, Film Afrika, and Red Sea Media will finance "Ecstasia." Eastwood appeared in "Suicide Squad" and will be seen next in Oliver Stone's "Snowden," Ben Affleck's "Live by Night," and as a new character in Universal's "Fast 8." Lutz will be seen next in Paramount's "Rings," which opens Oct 28. Kramer directed "The Cooler." Eastwood is repped by attorney Rick Genow. Lutz is repped by TT Agency, Silver Lining Management, and attorney Karl Austen.

Charlize Theron, Matthew McConaughey talk parenting, 'Kubo'

Charlize Theron and Matthew McConaughey take on parental roles in their new film, "Kubo and the Two Strings." Off camera, the two Oscar winners discussed their real-life approach to raising kids. Both are teaching their children about compassion and responsibility, and McConaughey takes a Hollywood approach when talking to his kids about moral choices. "We like the word residuals in our house," he said in a recent interview. "Which choices are going to pay you back later or are going to give you more green lights later on of being the young man or young woman that you want to be?" "Kubo and the Two Strings," the latest film from stop-motion animation studio Laika ("Coraline," "The Boxtrolls"), centers on a boy who ignites a long-dormant vendetta when he accidentally summons a spirit from his past. Theron and McConaughey play his trusted guides, Monkey and Beetle. The film opens Friday. A father of three, McConaughey said he's still navigating the balance between parent and friend, roles he finds "intersect and overlap." "Because a child sure needs a parent, and I've seen many, many examples where the adult was only trying to be the friend to the child, and he was doing a disservice to the child," he said. "But those are two parts. And I know I'm constantly engaging when to play." Theron, who has two children, said she's willing to transform into whatever her son and daughter need, just as her character transforms in the film. "If you feel like you have to become something or someone for your child in order to kind of get something through to them, then you do that," she said. "I think it's just limitless when you're a parent. There's nothing that you wouldn't do." That includes playing silly roles around the house to entertain her 4-year-old son, Jackson. "For a moment, he was so in love with the movie 'Annie,'" Theron said. "We would run through the house and he would pretend that he was Annie and I would pretend that I was Miss Hannigan." Theron said she went for "the Carol Burnett version, like really drunk on gin," but Jackson wasn't a fan. "They kind of tell you when they don't like something that you are doing or bringing to the table. They are so honest," Theron said. "Or singing in the car. He told me the other day, he was like, 'Please don't sing." I was like, whoa, that's brutal, man." Thus are the joys of parenting, she said. "There's no right way and there's no rule book here," Theron said. "That's kind of the beauty and also the thing that kind of keeps you on your toes."



Lauren Palmigiano to direct 'White Girl Problems'

Lauren Palmigiano will direct Lionsgate's "White Girl Problems" with Elizabeth Banks and Max Handelman producing the movie project. It's the feature directorial debut for Palmigiano, formerly the head writer and executive producer at "Funny or Die" and the creative mind behind dozens of the site's videos and creative content. She recently directed the Soul Pancake-produced pilot "Hollywood & Vine" for ABC Family and "Homeroom" for Nickelodeon. Palmigiano wrote, directed, and produced the short film "Cried Suicide," which starring Sarah Burns and premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival. Banks and Max Handelman are producing through their Brownstone Productions banner. Alison Small is the executive overseeing the project for Brownstone. Alisha Brophy and Scott Miles adapted the bestselling book by Babe Walker, published in 2012 about a young woman with a massive social network who lands in rehab after spending $246,893.50 in one afternoon at Barneys-then decides to write her memoir about the hurdles she's had to overcome such as hating her horse and her job. "I'll eat anything, as long as it's gluten-free, dairy-free, low-carb, low-fat, low-calorie, sugar-free, and organic," she says at one point. Palmigiano is represented by CAA and managed by Greg Walter and Olivia Gerke at 3 Arts Entertainment. The news was first reported by Deadline Hollywood.

Denman joins Tatum in 'Logan Lucky'

"Outcast" star David Denman has joined the cast of Steven Soderbergh's heist drama "Logan Lucky" opposite Channing Tatum, Daniel Craig, Hillary Swank and Adam Driver. Variety first reported in February that Soderbergh had ended his three-year retirement from directing films with Tatum attached to star and Gregory Jacobs producing. Riley Keough and "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane have also joined the cast. The story, written by Rebecca Blunt, centers on a group of friends plotting to pull off a major robbery at a NASCAR speedway. Denman will be playing a car dealership owner who's married to the ex-girlfriend of Tatum's character. Denman's credits include Michael Bay's "13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi" and Jason Reitman's "Men, Woman and Children." He stars in Cinemax's "Outcast," which has been renewed for a second season, and is currently in production on Lionsgate's "Power Rangers" movie as Sam Scott, father of Red Ranger Jason Scott. Denman is repped by UTA, Berwick and Kovacik and Schreck Rose.

Haye taught Bieber how to box

The former world heavyweight champion encouraged the 'Sorry' hitmaker to take part in a training session at his Hayemaker gym in London, which has since closed down, five years ago in order to teach him how to throw a left hook and a vicious jab. Speaking as part of Vauxhall's 'Great British Legends' series, he explained: "I did a TV show where I had Justin Bieber on it. He was cool, he was young. It was a while back. It was about five years ago. I brought him down to my gym and gave him a training session. I interviewed him whilst training." And the 35-year-old professional boxer's tips and tricks obviously stuck with the handsome pop star as he took on his friend Floyd 'Money' Mayweather Jnr two years ago in Las Vegas. The 22-year-old singer stripped down to his white basketball shorts as he lunged at the 39-year-old retired boxing legend, who was holding hand pads as part of a training session. The pair have been friends for a good few years and Justin - who has earned himself the nickname 'Moneybags' by the athlete - even walked to the ring with Floyd ahead of his super-fight against Manny Pacquiao last May. However, 50 Cent - whose real name is Curtis James Jackson III - believes Floyd is only friends with Justin because his daughters Iyanna, 16, and Jirah, 12, are "huge fans" of Justin. He said previously: "Really, it's about Iyanna. His youngest daughter's such a huge Justin Bieber fan." Vauxhall's 'Great British Legends' series takes celebrities back to their roots, looks at their early influences and aims to find what makes a 'Great British Legend'. The campaign celebrates the iconic Astra being a fixture on our roads for over 35 years and it being crowned 'European Car of the Year 2015', making it a true legend of British car manufacturing.

Epic clash over Amazon is a gripping real-life drama

The bloody confrontation occurred at a remote, scrubby expanse called Devil's Curve, where the Andean foothills meet the Amazon jungle. A bitter turning-point in modern Peru, it became known as the Baguazo after the nearby town of Bagua. Ahead of the June 5, 2009, clash, thousands of spear-toting natives, some with faces daubed in war paint, had massed to defend the rainforest against what they viewed as a rapacious land grab by soul-less multinationals. When it was over, 33 men would be dead.

One-third of the fatalities were protesters who had blocked a major highway at Devil's Curve for weeks. The rest were police officers, men who had far more in common with their killers than with the ministers from the coastal capital of Lima who had dispatched them. The Peruvian documentary "When Two Worlds Collide," which opens in New York today and in select US cities and the United Kingdom in September, tells with gripping immediacy the real-life Shakespearean tragedy of the Baguazo, a story that isn't over yet. The outsized protagonists are indigenous leader Alberto Pizango, who the filmmakers closely shadow, and Alan Garcia, the vainglorious Falstaff of a president whose open contempt for the natives makes it easy for the filmmakers to cast him in a villainous pall.

Fast-paced drama

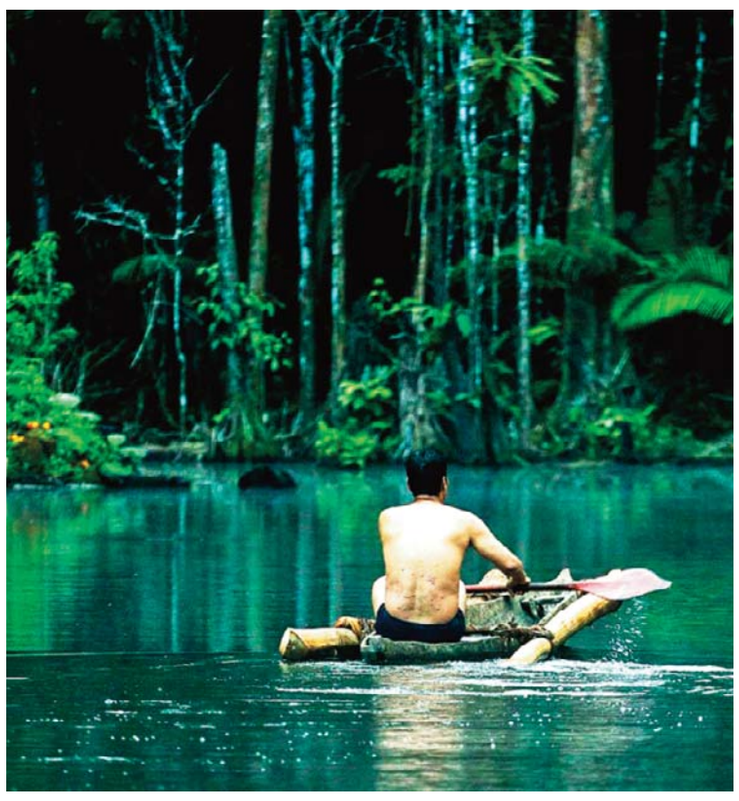
The film, which won the World Cinema Documentary Prize for Best Debut Feature at Sundance this year among other festival awards, was directed by Heidi Brandenburg and Mathew Orzel, both 35. It teems with graphic, dramatic footage that the filmmakers shot on repeated trips to the jungle, along with producer Taira Akbar, 33. The result is fast-paced drama: Indignant natives mobilize in the interior. Opposition lawmakers in Lima foreshadow disaster after the pro-Garcia majority blocks debate to reconsider legislative decrees the natives reject as usurping their communal lands for oil, gas and timber development.

Garcia callously spurns the protesters' demand that the decrees be repealed. He calls them third-rate citizens in one of several harangues with what many consider racist undertones. The haughty condescension of Lima's elite is typified by the radio journalist who explains to Pizango why he must end the road blockade. How dare you imperil the gas and electricity on which the capital depends, she scolds him on air. A clash of implacable foes, though avoidable, becomes inevitable. Garcia's brazen disregard for the will of the rainforests' inhabitants has stained his government's hands with blood, he is told. His prime minister resigns. The contentious decrees are repealed.

Tell the story

The filmmakers follow Pizango into exile in Nicaragua, and dip into their own funds to keep their project alive. A first grant and other support from Sundance help but not until 2010 do they secure significant financial backing from the Ford Foundation, they told The Associated Press in a recent Skype interview. "We said we were going to be there as long as it took to tell the story," said Orzel. "I don't think we realized quite how long it was going to take." The filmmakers had become interested in the fate of the rainforest in 2007, said Brandenburg, when they saw an eye-opening map of oil and mineral concessions overlaying Peru's Amazon. Today, Peru's indigenous groups remain distrustful of the extractive industries and with good reason. Oil, gas, African palm and lumber projects move ahead - decree or no decree - and pipeline ruptures periodically spill crude in the Amazon.

A new pro-development president took office last month. It is too early to say how he will deal with the natives. But the Baguazo saga is not over. Pizango and 51 others have been on trial for two years, charged with crimes such as murder and rebellion for allegedly inciting the bloodletting. A verdict could come as early as this month. No government officials, meanwhile, have been charged with a crime for ordering police to clear the highway at Devil's Curve. As the film closes, Pizango is seen defending himself in a provincial court. And we watch as Felipe Bazan finally learns the fate of his son, a police officer last seen being hauled away by protesters in the Baguazo's tumult. Bazan provides an eloquent coda for this wrenching film. — AP



This image released by Yachaywasi Films shows Alberto Pizango, leader of Peru's indigenous Amazonian people, rowing up the river in a scene from, 'When Two Worlds Collide.' — AP

This file photo shows Turkish actor of the movie 'Valley of the Wolves - Palestine' Necati Sasmaz smiling as he speaks to the media during a presentation in Istanbul. — AFP

'Turkish James Bond' to take on coup plotters in new film

A wildly popular Turkish television and film thriller franchise staring an action hero dubbed the "Turkish James Bond" will make a movie about the failed July 15 coup, its producer announced. The "Valley of the Wolves" franchise, has resulted in dozens of television episodes and several spin-off films since it was first created in 2003, enthralling many Turks. But it has long been accused by critics of having a strong ideological bent alongside a potent streak of Turkish nationalism and anti- American and Israeli sentiment. "In response to intense public demand to make a film or television series about the coup bid, our firm has taken the decision to make the film 'Valley of the Wolves-Coup'," production company Pana Film said on Twitter late Monday.

It did not give further details but the film will most likely see the return of Turkish secret service action hero Polat Alemdar-played by Necati Sasmaz-to do battle with the coup plotters who aimed to unseat President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The Turkish authorities blame the coup on the US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen and have slammed Washington for failing to hand him over to face trial at home. According to the Aksam newspaper, the question of Turkey-US relations will play a prime role in the script.

'Did they know before?'

Always ending up on top against the odds-like British spy hero James Bond-Polat Alemdar takes on a panoply of Turkey's enemies, be it the mafia, militants or even the West. The franchise did not shy away from controversy with its first film "Valley of the Wolves-Iraq" which centred on the US-invasion of Iraq and the story of the capture of 11 Turkish soldiers by a US military unit. It then ventured into even stormier waters with a film on the deadly 2010 raid by Israeli commandos on the Mavi Marmara Turkish aid ship bound for Gaza. The movie further ratcheted up diplomatic tensions between Turkey and the Jewish State, prompting accusations of anti-Semitism that were vehemently denied by the producers.

"Valley of the Wolves" has always been seen as in tune with the ambitious foreign policy and projection of a powerful Turkey espoused by Erdogan, who became prime minister in the year the series first came out. However it has not been spared from controversy within the country, with the producers pulling the plug on a 2007 series "Valley of the Wolves-Terror" which dealt with the fight against Kurdish militants after just one episode. Meanwhile in a twist worthy of the franchise itself, Turkish media including the Hurriyet daily said the producers had taken possession of a website domain "Valley of the Wolves-Coup" (kurtlarvadisidarbe.com) on May 18, two months before the coup even took place. "Did 'Valley of the Wolves' know about the coup in advance?" became a viral question on social media, quoted by several media. The Turkish government has over the last month vehemently denied unsubstantiated claims they had any prior intelligence of the coup. — AFP

Morgan Freeman talks God, motivation and guacamole

Morgan Freeman, the velvet-voiced doyen of some of America's best-loved movies, not to mention one of the suavest actors in the business, sometimes lets his cool crown slip. The 79-year-old famously nodded off on camera during a sit-down with Seattle's Fox affiliate KCPQ in 2013 and was upbraided earlier this year for "drooling" over WGN producer Tyra Martin during a video interview. On Monday it was a loud, gassy burp that elicited gales of shocked laughter from a handful of journalists gathered in a Beverly Hills hotel to hear Freeman talk about his latest movie, "Ben-Hur."

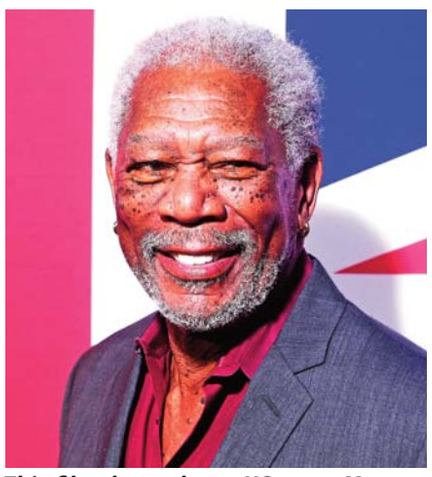
"Pardon me, I just had guacamole," the twice-divorced father-of-four said in his irresistible, pancake-syrup timbre, impish glint in his eye, looking anything but embarrassed. Freeman, the apotheosis of debonair Hollywood superstardom when he's not reliving his lunch, knows he can get away with a lot in interviews. Since his inauspicious, uncredited debut as "man on street" in Sidney Lumet's 1964 movie "The Pawnbroker," Freeman's 79 films-one for every year have made $4.3 billion at the box office. That's more than the GDP of 10 African countries and about the same as the combined receipts of the films of Al Pacino and Robert De Niro.

He has been nominated five times for Academy Awards but had to wait until 2005 to bring home the supporting actor statuette for "Million Dollar Baby." Many critics believe he should have won best actor a decade earlier for his stunning turn as aging con Ellis Boyd "Red" Redding in "The Shawshank Redemption," perhaps his most famous role.

'Read the freaking script'

Numerous other milestones in American cinema dot Freeman's career, from David Fincher's brutal noir thriller "Seven" in 1995 and Christopher Nolan's Batman films to his acclaimed portrayal of Nelson Mandela in 2009's "Invictus." Next up is "Ben-Hur," in which Freeman swaps the white suit he donned to play God in "Bruce Almighty" and its sequel for an unkempt set of dreadlocks and the robes of a Nubian sheik. The crowd Monday wanted to know if he had any advice on playing divinity for the Brazilian actor Rodrigo Santoro, who portrays Jesus in the chariot-racing epic. "Divine is not that hard to play if you want to know the truth of the matter," Freeman confides. "People say 'Well you've played God-how did you prepare for that?'" he said, affecting an exaggerated look of face-in-palm exasperation. "Go to church, maybe? No.

Read the freaking script, that's how you prepare." It is the same down-to-earth attitude Freeman has adopted throughout his career, often perplexed when journalists ask him why he was drawn to this movie or that character. "The bottom line is, it's a job. I heard this story. Maybe it's apocryphal but I don't think it is," he said. "There's this old actor. The last night he was alive he went to bed and he wrote a note to himself: 'I work.' "That's really what we do-we look for work. When you're as lucky as I am, every now and then something extraordinary comes your way."



This file photo shows US actor Morgan Freeman arriving for the premiere of the film 'London Has Fallen' in Hollywood, California. — AP

'On God's side'

Jack Huston, who plays the titular Jewish prince turned chariot racer, is "goooood looking," Freeman enthused, drawing out "good" the way one might elongate the "de" in "delicious" if eating fried chicken. Timur Bekmambetov's version of "Ben-Hur," the iconic story of brotherly rivalry and Christian redemption, has a lot to live up to. There have been five films of Lew Wallace's 1880 novel, including William Wyler's 1959 opus which won 11 Oscars and wowed audiences with its chariot races. Freeman, who is on record as believing humanity "invented God," thinks an unashamedly religious film like "Ben-Hur" bears retelling.

"There's a lot of good stuff in this story that kind of informs us as humans-the idea of redemption, of tolerance, forgiveness, love. All of that makes us want to be better people," he says. He may be agnostic, but Freeman has a library of religious texts at home including the Koran and several Bibles, and has narrated several documentary series on faith. A six-figure donor to Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign, Freeman uses religious language when he talks about politics, voicing hope for a unified America even in an election year which has ignited racial tensions. "This is America. That's what America means-hope," he told AFP, that famous twinkle back in his eye. "We are always going to pull through. Eventually, we are always going to realize we really are, as a people, on God's side." — AFP

Ben Whishaw in talks to join 'Mary Poppins' sequel

Ben Whishaw

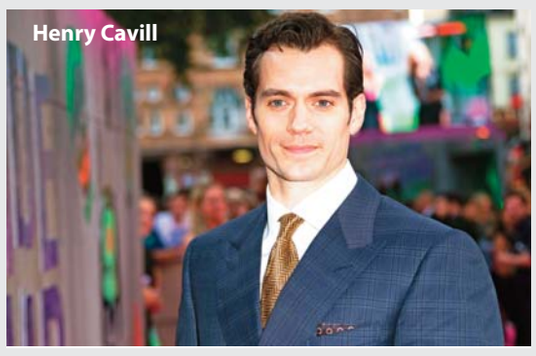
Ben Whishaw is in talks to join Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda in Disney's sequel "Mary Poppins Returns." The movie, directed by Rob Marshall, is set 25 years after the events of 1964's original "Mary Poppins." If Whishaw's deal goes through, he would play the grown-up Michael Banks. Variety first reported last month that Meryl Streep is also in talks to come on board. David Magee wrote the screenplay, based on the stories by PL Travers, with Marc Shaiman composing an all-new score and writing original songs with Emmy nominee and Tony winner Scott Wittman.

Blunt stars as the title character with Manuel-Miranda playing a street lamplighter named Jack. The story will take place in Depression-era London and follow a now-grown Jane and Michael Banks, who are visited by the enigmatic Mary Poppins following a personal loss. Marshall, John DeLuca, and Marc Platt are producing the pic, which will shoot in early 2017 in London. The movie hits theaters on Dec 25, 2018. Whishaw is best known for playing Q in the last two James Bond movies, "Skyfall" and "Spectre." He also appeared in "The Lobster" and "The Danish Girl," in addition to voicing the titular bear in "Paddington." He is repped by CAA, Peikoff Mahan Law, and UK's Hamilton Hodell. — Reuters

Henry Cavill teases black Superman costume on Instagram

Superman will apparently be back in black. "Man of Steel" star Henry Cavill posted a close-up image of a black Superman uniform Monday on Instagram . He's expected to return in next year's "Justice League." Cavill's high-flying superhero - spoiler alert - met his demise at the conclusion of "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" earlier this year. The last son of Krypton was originally resurrected with a black suit after he was killed off in the comics in 1993.

Cavill wouldn't be the first Superman actor to sport a black uniform. "Superman Returns" actor Brandon Routh and "Lois & Clark" co-star Dean Cain also donned dark versions of the traditionally blue, red and yellow ensemble. "Justice League" will unite Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, The Flash and Cyborg. — AP



Henry Cavill

Box Office Top 20: 'Sausage Party' scarfs up $34.3 million

This image released by Sony Pictures shows a scene from 'Sausage Party.' — AP

It was a feast for the raunchy animated comedy "Sausage Party" at the box office this weekend. The R-rated pic about anthropomorphized hot dogs and other grocery store foodstuffs earned $34.3 million out of the gate against a modest $19 million budget. "Sausage Party" still came in second to "Suicide Squad," which held on to the top spot again with $43.5 million in weekend two. The Warner Bros. and DC Comics film has grossed $222.6 million to date. In third place, Disney's remake of "Pete's Dragon" stayed earthbound with only $21.5 million. The CG and live-action hybrid cost an estimated $65 million to produce.

Holdovers "Jason Bourne" and "Bad Moms" rounded out the top five with $13.8 million and $11.4 million, respectively. The top 20 movies at US and Canadian theaters Friday through Sunday, followed by distribution studio, gross, number of theater locations, average receipts per location, total gross and number of weeks in release, as compiled Monday by comScore:

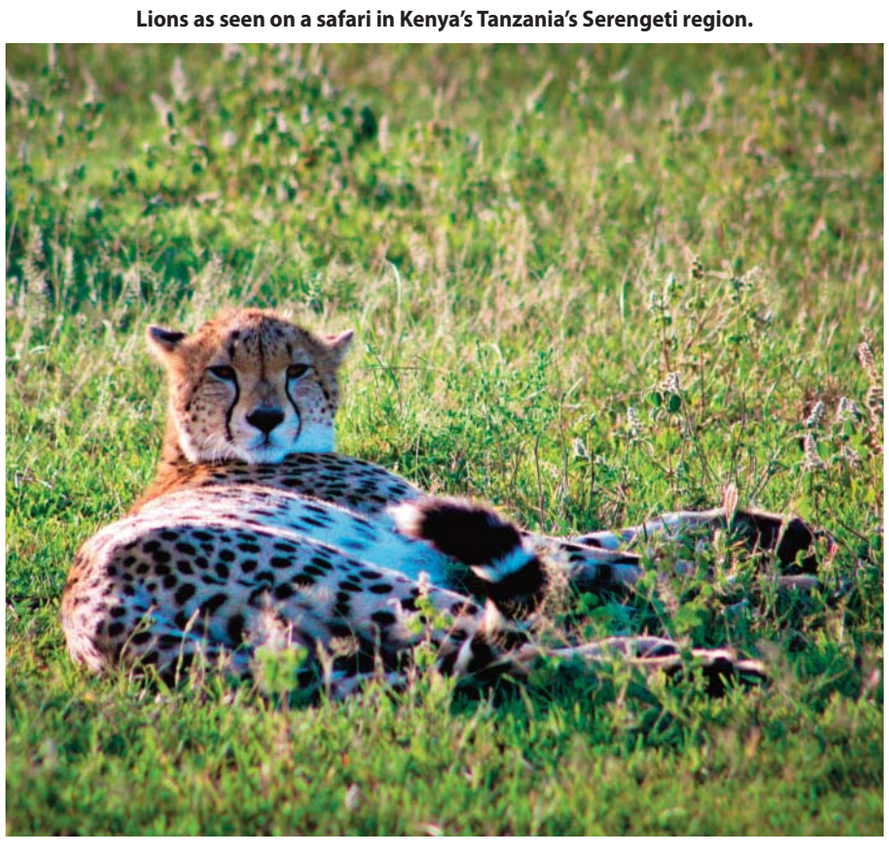
1. "Suicide Squad," Warner Bros
2. "Sausage Party," Sony
3. "Pete's Dragon," Disney
4. "Jason Bourne," Universal
5. "Bad Moms," STX Entertainment
6. "The Secret Life Of Pets," Universal
7. "Star Trek Beyond," Paramount
8. "Florence Foster Jenkins," Paramount
9. "Nine Lives," EuropaCorp
10. "Lights Out," Warner Bros
11. "Nerve," Lionsgate
12. "Ghostbusters," Sony
13. "Ice Age: Collision Course," 20th Century Fox
14. "Finding Dory," Disney
15. "Anthropoid," Bleecker Street
16. "Cafe Society," Lionsgate
17. "Rustom," Independent Indian
18. "Indignation," Roadside Attractions
19. "Mohenjo Daro," UTV Communications
20. "Hell Or High Water," Lionsgate

— AP

Photo shows members of Kenya's Maasai tribe on a training mission in Kenya's Maasai Mara region.— AP photos

Judy Koya, a member of Kenya's Maasai tribe on a training mission in Kenya's Maasai Mara region.

Lions as seen on a safari in Kenya's Tanzania's Serengeti region.



A cheetah in a field which was spotted on a safari in Tanzania's Serengeti region.

Tourists learn alongside locals on guide-training safaris

It's not just a safari. It's a master class in the untamed world, a behind-the-scenes education with experts who are the talking Google gods of wildlife. That's what it's like on safaris that let tourists learn alongside locals who are training to be guides. The guides, members of Kenya's Maasai tribe, spend three weeks on a training mission traversing East Africa's Maasai Mara region under the tutelage of senior guiding experts. And tourists can come along for the Land Cruiser rides.

The three-week expedition, called Pyramids of Life, moves from Kenya's Mara North Conservancy, which borders the country's famous Masa Mara region, to Tanzania's northern and southern Serengeti. But unlike other safaris I've been on, this one is not just about drive-by photo opportunities. It's about learning to become attuned to the sights and sounds of nature so you're able to predict and identify what may be moving about in the plains.

Hippos and giraffes

On a typical safari, you're rushed off from place to place to make sure you bag photos of all the Big 5 game - lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and rhino. But on this trip, instead, you immerse yourself for hours watching incredible scenes unfold. As we wound our way through the plains each day under the heat of a penetrating sun, we saw lions mating, impalas galloping by, hungry hippos and giraffes on the hunt for water. We witnessed a wildebeest giving birth and saw her newborn calf stumble to gain its footing, falling and rising several times in those first few moments of life. Then, as the mother began sauntering off to join thousands of other wildebeests in a migrating herd, we were stunned to see the newborn running too. We also saw a warthog torn to pieces by a lion. In the quiet of the night, the sound of the big cat's teeth crushing the wild pig's bones sent shivers down my spine.

Topi antelopes stood guard on mounds of dirt to warn others of impending danger. Zebras used their tails to swish insects off their pals. We even learned about creatures I'd never heard of, like the hyrax, a small rodent-like animal that we were told is actually related to elephants. Pyramids of Life is offered by Alex Walker's Serian tour company. Walker says when he first started in the business 20 years ago, he used to conduct 45-day safaris. "Back in the day, you really got to know the landscape and understand the animals," Walker said. "Your newspaper was reading the sounds of animals and birds to indicate what was happening in the bush. It was like a chess game, trying to work out where things were."

Today, most game drives have been condensed to one or two days out in the plains. "The idea of safari has been compacted into photos and soundbites," Walker said. The idea behind the Pyramids of Life tour is "to bring that real-life-connect-the-dots back. We want to teach you to read the plains."

Sharing information

Serian's Maasai guides know the bush, having grown up here, but they have "differing levels of knowledge." The training allows them to share what they know with each other and with the guests, and provide an overlay of information about what they're seeing. "It's about reconnecting with nature and allowing for the time to take it all in," Walker said. We also watched as the guides and their trainers developed relationships, sharing information, giggling at mistakes and patting each other on the shoulder when they learned something new. And we partook in a walking safari to learn the ways of the Maasai. We were shown plants used for healing, others used as deodorant. At one point, they showed us how to make fire with sticks and how they once hunted with a bow and arrow.

"I like being a guide because I can spend time in the bush, showing others my land. You're an ambassador to them. On this safari you get to learn about everything by seeing things happen right in front of you. We share our knowledge with guests, while learning at the same time, it's great! I started in the kitchen as a cook but now, here I am, getting to tell others about things I'm interested in, such as birds," said Maasai guide Mark Taga.

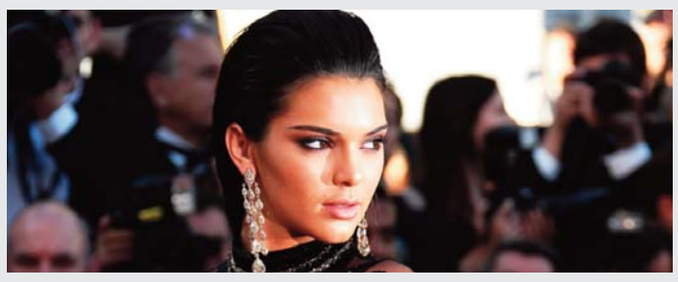
"Being a guide makes me so happy," said another guide, Judy Koya. "I knew when I was a child that I wanted this to be my office." At night, we congregated around a fire, discussing the wonders of the day. "Imagine this was how field trips were conducted when you were a kid in school," said co-safari guide trainer Clint Schipper. "You'd never want to leave." As he spoke, a bonfire burned in front of me, a starry sky glittered above and my mind filled with images of the hippos, crocodiles and cheetah we'd seen that day. The night surrounded us with a cacophony of sounds - insects buzzing, birds calling. Schipper was right: This was the ultimate school field trip, and I didn't ever want to leave. — AP

A zebra as seen on a safari in Tanzania's Serengeti region.

MAN ARRESTED AT KENDALL'S HOME, CHARGED WITH STALKING

Police in Los Angeles have arrested and charged a 25-year-old man accused of stalking the Hollywood home of model and reality TV star Kendall Jenner. Sgt Leonard Calderon tells The Associated Press that Shavaughn McKenzie was arrested around 9:45 Sunday night. Calderon says Jenner pulled into the driveway of the residence and saw McKenzie, who he says he attempted to talk to her. Police were then called. McKenzie is charged with felony stalking.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department records show McKenzie is being held on $180,000 bail. Police didn't know whether he had an attorney to comment on the charge. Records show McKenzie pleaded no contest to a pair of trespassing cases in May. Jenner is the 20-year-old daughter of Kardashian family matriarch Kris Jenner and Caitlyn Jenner. — AP



File photo shows Kendall Jenner poses for photographers upon arrival at the screening of the film Mal De Pierres at the Cannes International Film Festival in southern France. — AP

'Star Trek Beyond' gracefully finds orbit amid tragedy

When the "Star Trek Beyond" cast and filmmakers gathered in Los Angeles last month for Anton Yelchin's funeral, they had a decision to make. Their film, the third in the rebooted series, was coming out in less than a month and a rigorous press tour was imminent. They could either put themselves out there to promote the film in the raw and devastating weeks following the death of their beloved co-star, or they could withdraw. "We came to the conclusion in the end (that) if we withdraw, we're going to risk not helping a film that should be seen, not least because it stars Anton Yelchin," said Simon Pegg. "That's how we found the strength to be here ... It's hard to talk about, but we don't want to not talk about it. If we don't talk about it, it's like we're ignoring it."

But persevering in the face of hardship and loss is in the fabric of "Star Trek," which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year with this new tale of hope and unity in the federation. "Star Trek Beyond" was supposed to be business as usual, with a few tweaks behind the scenes. J.J. Abrams, who relaunched the series in 2009 with a new cast and directed the 2013 sequel, had his hands full with "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," and would cede directing responsibilities to Justin Lin - the man who turned the lagging "Fast & Furious" series into an international phenomenon.

Few additions

Gone, too, were screenwriters Roberto Orci and Alex Kurtzman. Instead, Pegg, who plays Scotty in the films, was tasked with taking on the additional responsibility of writing the screenplay with Doug Jung. It wasn't going to be easy. No blockbuster ever is. But the "Beyond" crew had an insanely short window to work with. By the time Pegg, Jung and Lin started on the story, it was the end of January 2015. They had to start filming in June. "Justin was in a situation that no director should ever be in: Prepping a movie that wasn't written yet," Pegg said.

There was already a crew in Vancouver waiting for directions on what to build for the set. "I equate it to us driving a car and building a road at the same time," Lin said. In front of the camera, things mostly looked the same. Chris Pine was back as Captain James Kirk, as was Karl Urban (Bones), Zoe Saldana (Uhura), Zachary Quinto (Spock), Yelchin (Chekov) and John Cho (Sulu), who is revealed to be gay in the latest film. There were a few additions, too, in Idris Elba as the terrifying villain Krall and Sofia Boutella as the scrappy loner Jaylah, who early on in the story process was referred to by the cast as "Hannah Solo."

And then, in late February 2015, Leonard Nimoy - the man who originated Mr. Spock - died of end-stage chronic obstructive pulmonary disease at age 83. While Quinto had taken over his character officially, Nimoy had appeared in both new films as Spock Prime and the door was left open for his return. "We knew we were going to make a tribute to Leonard when it happened, but we thought let's make him part of the DNA of the story too," Pegg said. So Pegg and Jung wrote Ambassador Spock's off-screen death into the film, using it to affect Quinto's arc, and also serve as an elegy to the actor.

'We all had each other'

Of course, no one could have foreseen that they would lose another before the film came out, and one of their youngest, in Yelchin who was only 27 when he died after being struck by his own car last month. When the accident happened, Yelchin's work on the film was finished, but Lin was still a few weeks away from completion, and so part of his and his post-production crew's mourning involved revisiting all of Yelchin's takes - something Lin was all too familiar with. Paul Walker died while "Furious 7" was still in production. The close-knit cast and crew of "Star Trek" were also able to say goodbye together at the funeral. "It was this incredible bond from the very beginning with all of them. And the reality is that this experience, to be at the funeral with all of them, it was really the only kind of salvation for us," Abrams said. "We all had each other." The series will live on, of course. On Monday, Paramount Pictures announced that there will be a fourth film, which will see the return of Kirk's deceased father (Chris Hemsworth). —AP

Australian singer Sia performs on the main stage at the 'Sziget' Island Festival in the Hajogyar (Shipyard) Island of Budapest. The Sziget music festival is one of the biggest festival of Europe, takes place on an island in the middle of the Danube river, in the heart of Budapest. — AFP

Actors, from left, Zachary Quinto, Simon Pegg and Chris Pine, pose during a promotional event for their latest film 'Star Trek Beyond' in Seoul, South Korea, yesterday.

Actor Simon Pegg takes a selfie with fans during a promotional event for his latest film 'Star Trek Beyond'. — AP photos

A group of boys in traditional outfits practice the centuries-old Indonesian sport of "Jemparingan", prior to the competition in Yogyakarta. — AFP photos

Archers in traditional outfits retrieve their arrows during the centuries-old Indonesian sport of "Jemparingan" in Yogyakarta.

Competition officials inspect the arrows that hit the target during the centuries-old Indonesian sport of "Jemparingan".

Ancient Indonesian archery finds mark in the modern world

Sitting cross-legged, 68-year-old Supadmi fires an arrow across a field into a small stick target and sets a bell ringing, taking the lead in the game-an ancient form of Indonesian archery. She was among sportsmen and women in colorful headdresses and sarongs who sent hundreds of arrows flying through the sky in unison at a recent tournament, in a festive atmosphere with blaring trumpets and tinkling percussion music.

A young archer in traditional outfit taking aim.

This local archery known as "jemparingan" has been played for centuries around the ancient kingdom of Yogyakarta, Java island's cultural heartland where Buddhist and Hindu temples sit amid bottle-green paddy fields. After decades of decline, a revival is under way as a new generation of enthusiasts pick up bows and arrows for the first time, and elderly archers seek to pass their skills down to youngsters before they are lost forever. "This sport is training for our character because we need to attain inner peace before we fire off the arrows," said 68-year-old Supadmi, who like many Indonesians goes by one name, explaining how the spiritual, ancient sport is seen as a workout for the soul as much as the body.

The love of archery has carried through to the modern era and it is one of the few disciplines where Indonesia has excelled in international competition the country won its first ever Olympic medal in archery, a silver, at the Seoul Games in 1988. But the popularity of jemparingan itself has been waning-it almost disappeared entirely in the 1990s after the death of one of its biggest backers, a Javanese nobleman named Duke Paku Alam VIII.

Guardians of tradition

Now there signs that its fortunes may be picking up again. A large number of archers, 140, took part at the recent Yogyakarta tournament, which was also attend by legions of spectators. At the palace of the sultan in Yogyakarta, a new jemparingan group was formed two years ago that plays in the original royal style and usually meets every week. Meanwhile in 2012 a new club was set up by archers in the city and nearby Solo, and the government has begun allocating funds to support the rejuvenation. "The young generation is now our main target and the message we want to get across is that archery is a cool sport," said Agung Sumedi from Langenastro jemparingan club, which recently began training children under 10 years old.

Still, sparking a mass revival will be an uphill battle. As recently as the 1990s, every region around Yogyakarta had its own jemparingan tournament, and competitive play would culminate every year with a major competition at a palace to win the Duke's cup, according to veteran local archer Rahmat Sulistyawan. He still holds the cup he won in the last such major regional tournament in 2000, when he was just 15, and other local athletes lament that many veteran players long ago abandoned jemparingan. Jemparingan was originally played only by members of Yogyakarta's royal family and others considered noble in the complex hierarchy of Javanese society, before it later became a sport for everyone.

Workout for the soul

Unlike modern archery, it is played with all the archers sitting in a row cross-legged. Instead of aiming at a circular target with a bulls-eye, archers fire their arrows at a stick made of sponge and hay wrapped in cloth measuring 33 centimeters (13 inches) that represents a person. The top section is red and is supposed to be the head, the part below is yellow, representing the neck, and the rest is white, for the body. An archer gets most points for hitting the head. When the arrow hits the tiny target, a bell rings to inform the archer-who is sitting 30 meters away of his success. Jemparingan is not just physical exercise, however, but also a workout for the soul. In its most traditional form, the string is drawn down to the chest instead of to the tip of the mouth like in the modern style, a method that is meant to exercise calm and concentration.

Loading, aiming and firing the arrow requires concentration and patience, and the sport teaches people about hard work and to focus on goals instead of enemies, according to its proponents. At the recent tournament, Supadmi emerged the victor in the women's singles category, picking up a trophy, 500,000 rupiah ($38) and a live chicken, which was a bonus prize for three on-target shots in a row. And despite her age, she is determined to join in the revival and plans to teach two of her grandchildren jemparingan."We must keep this sport alive," she said. — AFP

Archers in traditional outfits compete.

The arrows that missed the target during the centuries-old Indonesian sport of "Jemparingan".

A young archer in traditional outfit taking aim during practice of the centuries-old Indonesian sport of "Jemparingan".

A girl in traditional outfit taking aim.

Archers in traditional outfits compete.

A group of young archers in traditional outfits retrieve their arrows.

Archers in traditional outfits make their way across a field to retrieve their arrows.

Kuwait Times
Lifestyle
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016

'Turkish James Bond' to take on coup plotters in new film
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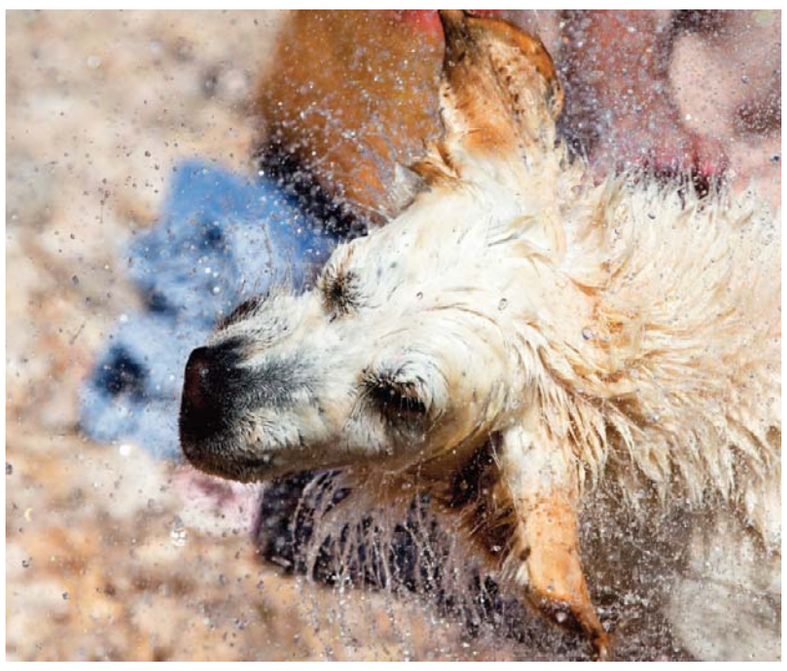
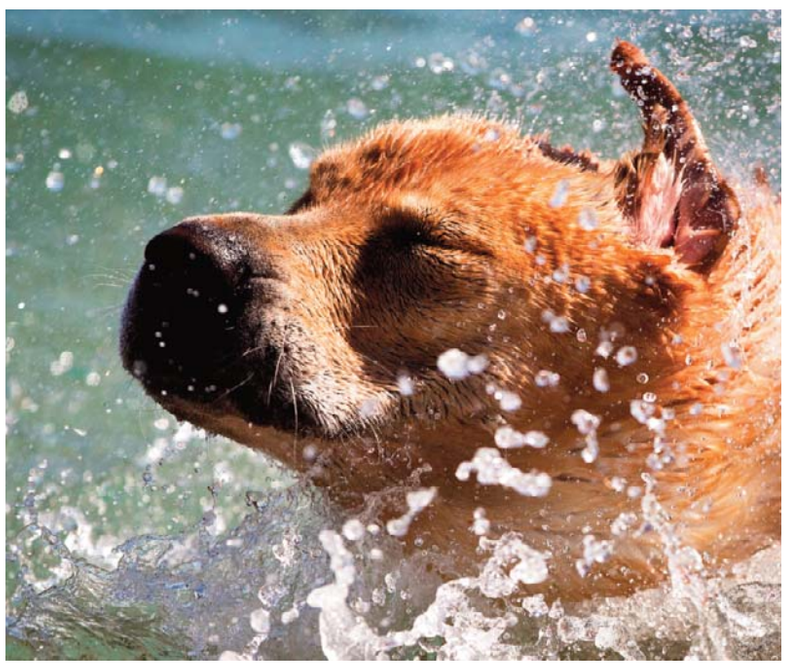
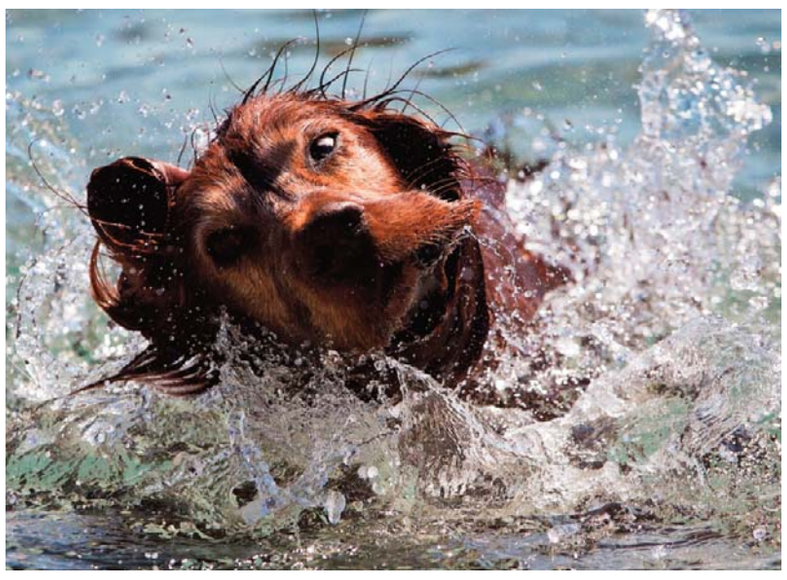
People dance and play music during the Rototom Sunsplash European Reggae Festival in Benicassim, Castellon province. The Rototom Sunsplash European Reggae Festival runs from August 13 to 20 in Benicassim. — AFP

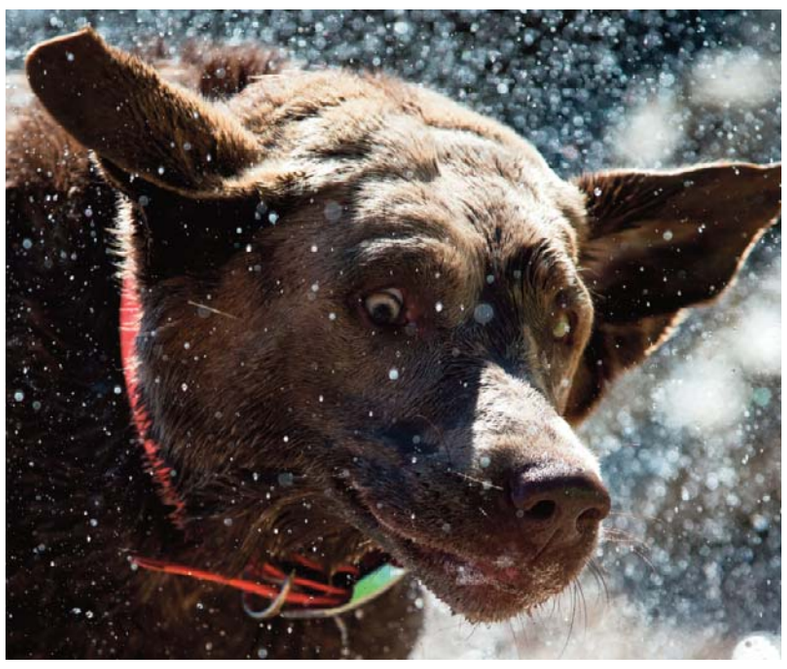


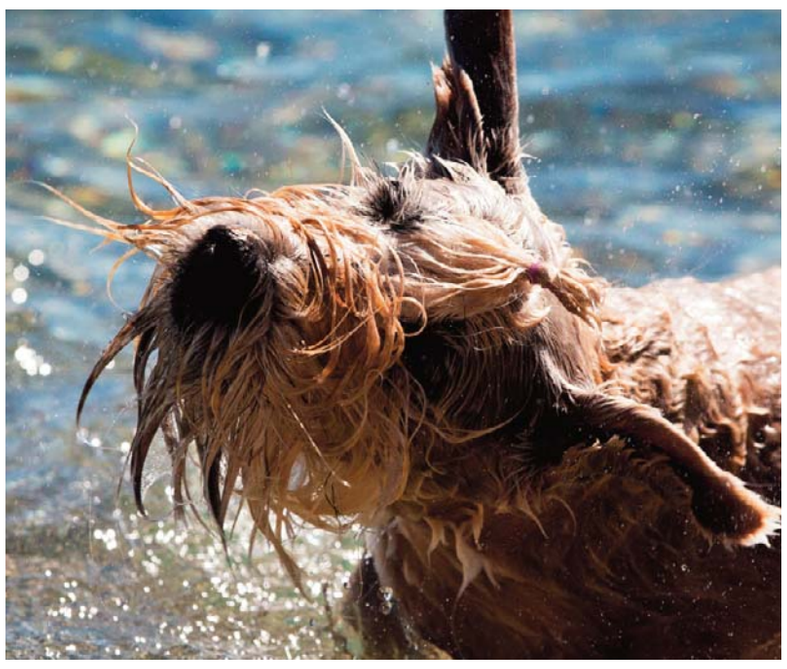




Small town in Croatia opens beach just for dogs

Recently a small town on Croatia's Adriatic Coast has opened the country's first dog beach, where the four-legged guests and their owners can relax in the sun and have fun. Croatia is one of the favorite tourist destinations in Europe, but it previously had not allowed dogs to almost all of its beaches along the Adriatic coast. A photo gallery shows dogs enjoying swimming in the Adratic Sea, on the beach dedicated to dogs in Crikvenica, Croatia. — AP





In these photos dogs shake off after swimming in the Adriatic sea, on the beach dedicated to dogs in Crikvenica, Croatia. — AP photos