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of attacks blamed
on PKK; 226 hurt

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'Bird strike' forces
Qatar Airways into
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Swim and IOC
scandals rock
Rio Olympics

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NAMING KUWAIT STREETS

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In my view

STAY IN THE CLOSET TO STAY SAFE

By Chidi Emmanuel

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Recently there was a hot debate in a neighboring Arab country about the issue of homosexuality. A local website had published an essay from a closeted gay man living there expressing his point of view on the issue - the dangers homosexual people face and the fear under which he lived. The next day, the same publication published on its website a counter argument, attacked the previous editorial and instead offered both religious and cultural justifications for why homosexuality is illegal in the Gulf.

The debate triggered discourse across the region. Debate, however, doesn't equal a change in the law. The reality is that, in all the Gulf Cooperation Council states, homosexuality is still illegal. LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people in the region - both locals and expatriates - who are even somewhat open may be subject to harassment, blackmail, physical and sexual abuse, mistreatment by their families and even sometimes police harassment and abuse.

In Kuwait only recently, three men were shaved bald for showing up at a shopping mall dressed in women's clothing. Several alleged homosexual gatherings have been raided, men and women arrested in recent months. Given the realities on the ground and the unlikelihood that the situation will change any time soon, it's worthwhile to ask why LGBT people would chose to draw attention to themselves?

Kuwait Times has published previous articles by this writer exploring the issue. What I've found is that oftentimes, expat gay men who are unfamiliar with Kuwait laws are more likely to be open - at least until their first arrest or someone warns them of the danger. Coming out of the closet is a figure of speech for the LGBT people's self-disclosure of their sexual orientation and gender identity. What people do in the closet should remain there - in countries that forbid homosexuality. Staying in the closet would seem to be the best, safest choice for all LGBT people in Kuwait.

Photo of the day

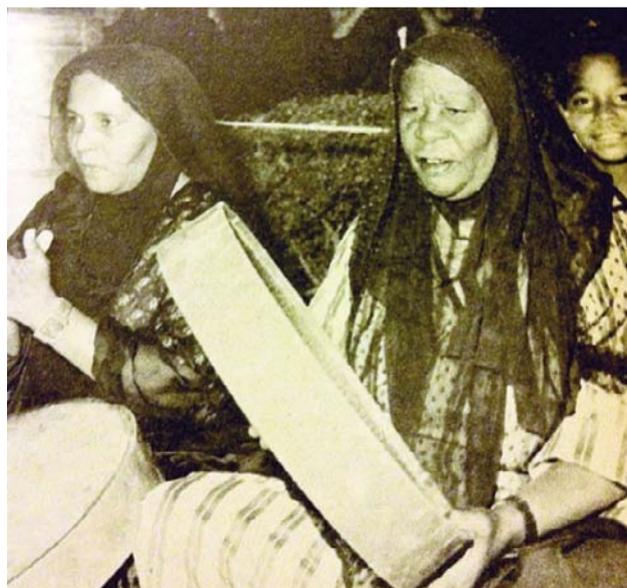


KUWAIT: Kuwaitis wave the old and new national flags during the finale of Kuwait's annual diving expedition. — KUNA

OUDA AL-MUHANNA - TOP KUWAITI, GULF FOLK ARTIST

KUWAIT: Ouda Al-Muhanna was one of the top icons of folk-ish singing in Kuwait and the Gulf region. Ouda's real name was Jawhara Bashir Mayouf Al-Muhanna. She was named Ouda after her grandmother's nickname. She started singing at the early age of 15 in her aunt Hadiya Al-Muhanna's band, after the death of her aunt, Suad Al-Beraiki led the band, and later on, Ouda became the leader. Ouda had many artistic

activities since 1955, taking part in different plays, films, weddings, and musical events. The singer, who was also one of the founders of Kuwait Artists Association, passed away in 1984 at the age of 85, after a struggle with disease. In appreciation of her memory, a Kuwaiti company has named a building after Ouda in Hawalli, also setting a brief summary about the singer's history at the main entrance. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ouda Al-Muhanna performs during a wedding party in these file photos. — KUNA

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Naming the streets of Kuwait

By Nawara Fattahova

Kuwait's streets are a hodgepodge of numbers, names and nicknames. Ask for directions and you might be told take the 30, get off at Fahaheel Expressway or turn onto Istiqlal Street. Part of the confusion stems from the many different communities in Kuwait. Similar to some areas, different communities use different names for streets. Westerners, for instance, tend to refer to the numbered highways as the 30, 40, 50 or 55 and so on. Locals and those who have grown up in Kuwait seldom use the numbers but instead refer to these highways and streets by their given names.



Yousef Al-Mnawer, Head of the Committee and Assistant Director General for Projects Affairs at the Municipal Council. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat





A special 'nomenclature committee' at the Kuwait Municipality was established solely for the purpose of naming Kuwait's streets. Kuwait Times interviewed the Municipal Council's Head of the Committee and the Assistant Director General for Projects Affairs Yousef Al-Munawer to learn more about how names of streets are chosen and what are the issues surrounding the process.

The nomenclature committee was formed by the Municipal Council and consists of members from the Municipality and other institutions including the Ministry of Information, Amiri Diwan, the Cabinet, Kuwait Writers Association, National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters and the Gulf Studies Institution. The committee is currently not empowered to set new criteria for naming.

Based on numbers but still named

All streets in Kuwait have been assigned numbers. "Addresses in Kuwait are based on numbers, and the names are just an addition. Each street has a number, so the official address includes this

number and not the name. Even Arabian Gulf Road has a number - 25. When the name of any street is changed, the Municipality sends official letters to various institutions in charge about this change," Munawer told Kuwait Times.

Names, however, are also used and can come about in a variety of ways. Some streets were named by Amiri decree, such as naming the Sixth Ring Road after the late parliament speaker and prominent businessman Jassem Al-Khorafi, and the Fifth Ring Road after the late ruler of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan.

Both the naming committee and ordinary citizens can recommend names for streets. Quite often, name suggestions are made to honor a prominent member of the community or someone who has made great achievements in the region. "A family can suggest naming a street after one of its members who passed away. We then research and study [the suggested person's] achievements. Here, we also cooperate with the Researches and Studies Center, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and other related institutions," Munawer said.

Confusion arises when a street is known by several different names. Share'a Al Hubb (Love Street) is a well-known stretch of road between Daiya and Dasma, but few foreigners will know this is also the Second Ring Road. Similarly, Restaurant Street is one of the most popular in Salmiya, but good luck trying to find that name on a map of Kuwait.

KUWAIT: Photos show various street signs around Kuwait. Notice the inconsistencies. Some signs include only numbers, some names and numbers. Some streets have two or three different names and signs for all the variations. — Photos by Joseph Shagra/Yasser Al-Zayyat



A street by any other name

Confusion arises though when streets are known by locals and residents by a variety of different names. The so-called Share'a Al Hubb (Love Street) is a well-known and popular street between Daiya and Dasma, but most foreigners will have no clue of its location unless you call it the Second Ring Road. The so-called Restaurants Street in Salmiya is another famous local destination and most folks know it based on that name, but in reality it's called Amr bin Al-Aas Street.

Streets may also seem to have different names because the names represent different segments of the road. "If a road is intersected by another road, traffic light or roundabout, for instance, then it may have a different name, such as the Maghreb Highway, Riyadh Expressway or Istiqlal Road," explained Munawer. A good example of this is Gulf Road, which becomes Balajat Street in Ras Salmiya, and after passing through Al-Bidaa Roundabout, becomes Al-Ta'awon Street.

Famous and local personalities

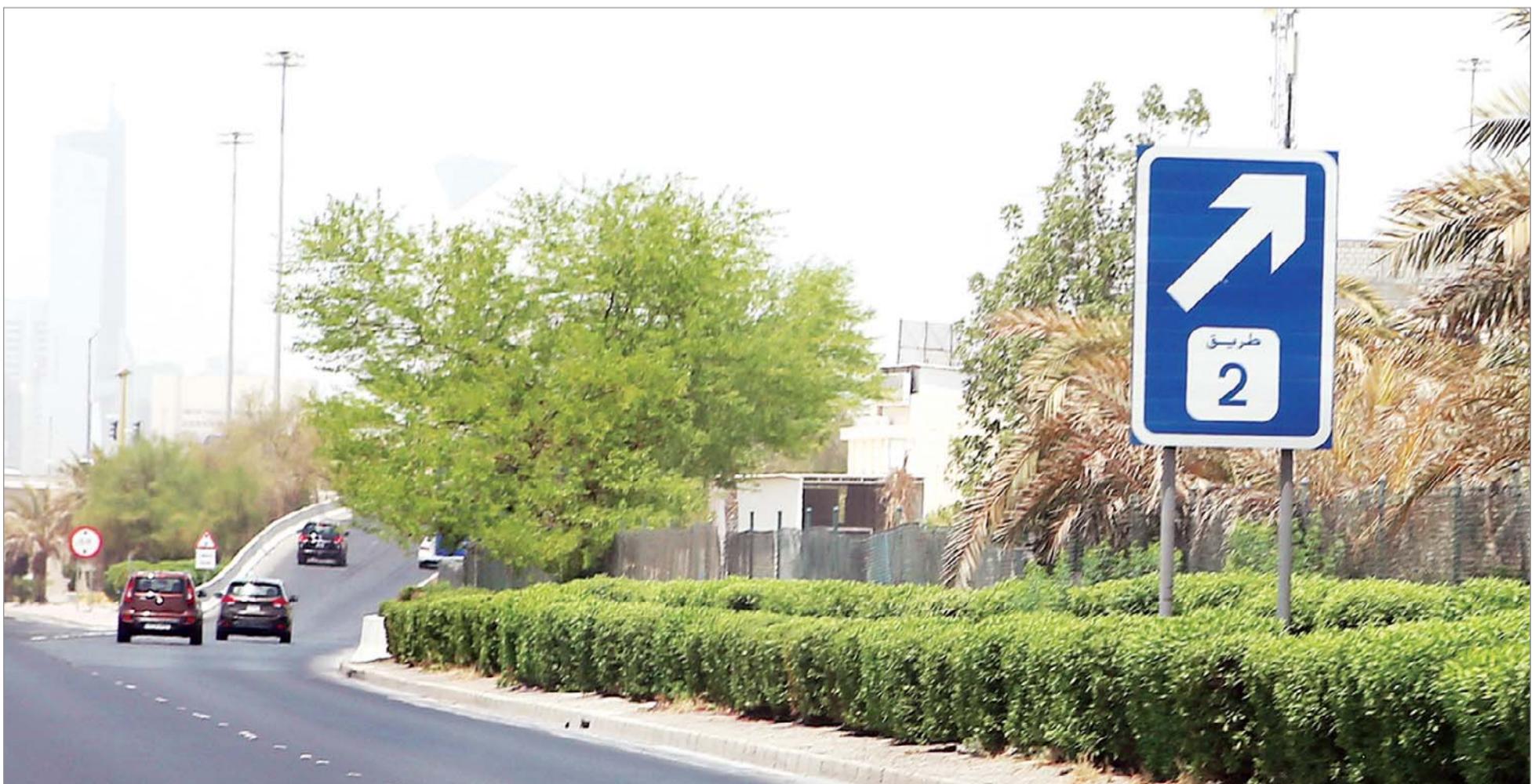
Sometimes the name of a road may be changed. "We have changed the name of many streets that were named after historical personalities after we found that their biographies were not honorable. For instance, Al-Azraq Road was recently the subject of much discussion on social media. We found that Al-Azraq was an infidel and against the Muslims during his time. So we suggested a change to the municipal council, which has to get approval from the Cabinet," he said.

Also, some street names have been modified and approved. "For instance, Al-Zahra Street was changed to include the full name of the person it's named after - Fatima Al-Zahra Street. A similar situation occurred with Sukaina Street, which was changed to Sukaina bint Al-Hussein Street. These were old street names and we recently revised the names on all the signs," said Munawer.

There have also been political problems with some street names. "For instance, Hassan Al-Banna Street is named after the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood. It has been proposed many times to change the name, but we couldn't as it was causing political problems. It's not easy to change the name of streets named after political personalities, though a few have been changed. So we have stopped approving names of contemporary religious personalities," concluded Munawer.



For those driving on Kuwait's streets, the naming system can seem as arbitrary. Directions and popular street addresses aren't always clear. The evolution of street names, however, can provide interesting clues to Kuwait's local history as well as important regional events.



The mouth says it all

By Faten Omar

Some people may find them creepy, but talking puppets are Basel Al-Dosery's best friends. Putting his hands inside a puppet's head and entertaining audiences across the world is a dream for this Kuwaiti ventriloquist. Ventriloquism is an act of stagecraft in which a person (a ventriloquist) changes his voice so that it appears that the voice is coming from elsewhere, usually a puppeteered "dummy". Kuwait Times spoke to Dosery to learn more about his passion and art.

Kuwait Times: Tell us more about yourself.

Dosery: I'm a Kuwaiti ventriloquist/comedian and owner of Smile Comedy Productions.

KT: What drew you to ventriloquism?

Dosery: I've always had a passion for comedy, and ventriloquism gave me an easier path to do comedy, since standup comedy wasn't really popular in Kuwait back in 2008 when I decided to pursue this career.

KT: Your performances focus heavily on comedy - do you have experience in this field?

Dosery: When I started, I wanted to be a standup comedian, but ventriloquism makes it easier to bring laughs compared to standup comedy. That's why I don't do a lot of standup comedy in my shows.

KT: How do you speak without moving your lips?

Dosery: It's a gift used in conjunction with a very complicated technique, and it requires lots of practice. It's like singing - you can't learn to sing well if you don't have the gift of a good voice in the first place.

KT: Where did you learn ventriloquism?

Dosery: I learned it on my own seeking information from the Internet, books and videos.

KT: When did you get your start in show business?

Dosery: After participating in Arabs Got Talent in 2011, I performed at lots of corporate events, comedy shows and other gigs. I even held my own tour three years ago and it was quite a success.

KT: What goes through your head just before you go onstage?

Dosery: I try to clear my mind, rehearse some lines and hope that there's a good audience. Just like at any comedy show, the audience does half the work - the better the audience, the better the show is.

KT: What was your first store-bought character?

Dosery: Believe it or not, my very first character has never been seen publicly. It isn't as professional and expensive as my other puppets, and that's why I've decided not to use it in any of my shows.

KT: How did Mazyoon (your puppet) become your most famous character?

Dosery: Because he's been on Arabs Got Talent, besides the fact that Mazyoon is one of the most expensive figures that I have acquired, the character that I gave to him is very close to my own character without the shyness, so I can easily express myself through Mazyoon. That's why he's my favorite. Let me put it in this formula: Mazyoon = Basel - shyness.

KT: Is Mazyoon also based on someone you know in real life?

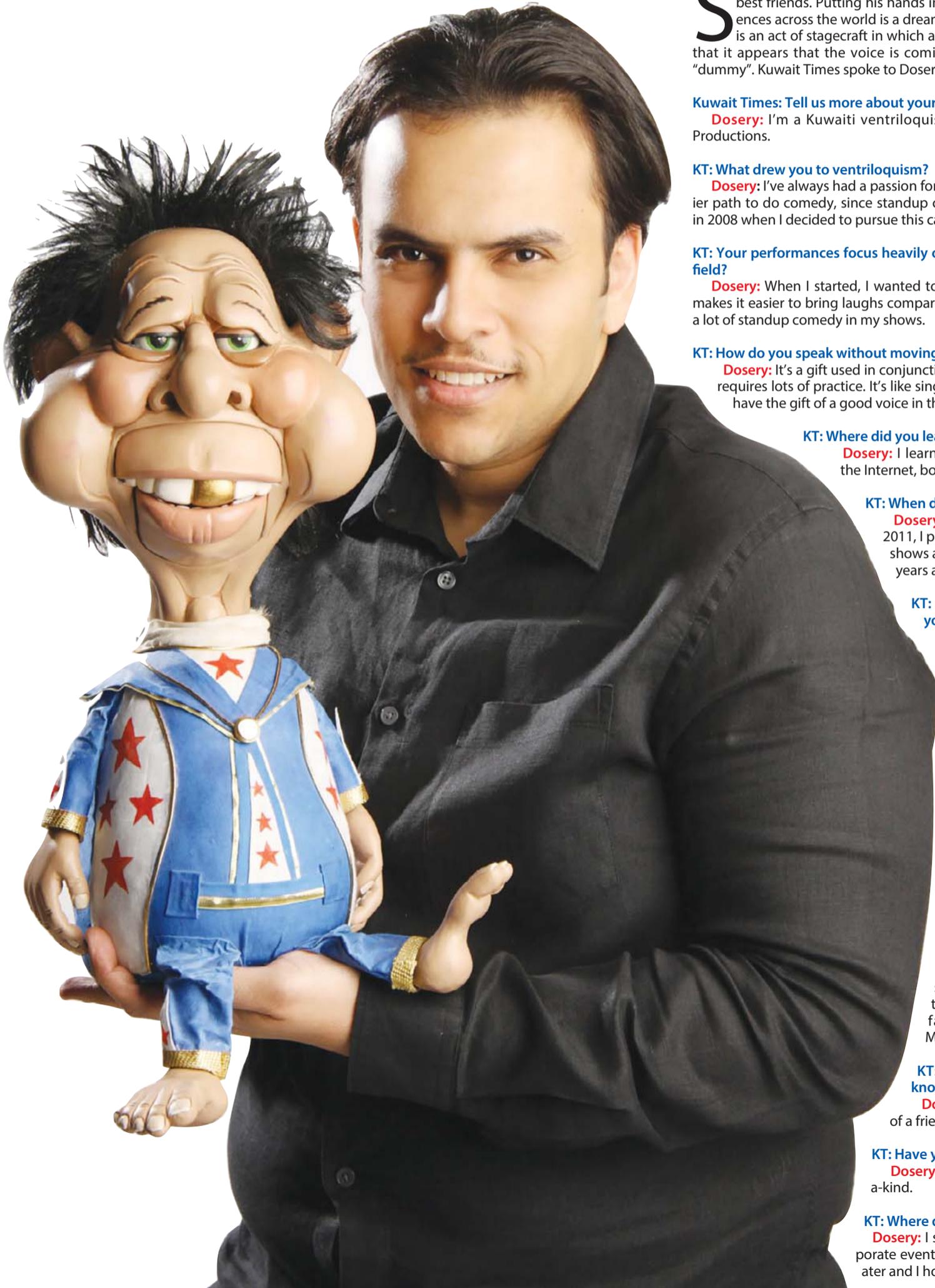
Dosery: No, but sometimes I use some aspects of a friend as a part of his character.

KT: Have you ever lost Mazyoon en route to a gig?

Dosery: No, thank God! Mazyoon is rare and one-of-a-kind.

KT: Where do you perform these days?

Dosery: I still do shows here and there but mostly corporate events. I have also set up my own studio/mini theater and I hope I can do shows in it in the near future.



LOCAL VENTRILOQUIST EXPLAINS HIS PASSION FOR COMEDY AND PERFORMANCE



Basel with his private collection of 'dummies'.



KT: What do you think of people who are afraid of ventriloquism?

Dosery: I don't think they are afraid of ventriloquism itself, but they're afraid of the dummy, and this is because of lots of horror movies, specially the Chucky (Child's Play) movie series. I hope they get over it and concentrate on the comedy routine instead.

KT: Have you ever been spooked by a puppet?

Dosery: Only when they move by themselves, which they don't, so no, I never get spooked by puppets!

KT: What was your best show ever?

Dosery: It was at King Saud University in Riyadh in 2012. There were like 1,800 people in the audience and I got a standing ovation - that's how good that show was.

KT: What challenges do you face as a ventriloquist?

Dosery: The challenge is to make the audience laugh - it's very hard to make them laugh if they are confused why or how the dummy is talking.

KT: How many puppets do you have?

Dosery: Around 20.

KT: You starred on Arabs Got Talent. What was your favorite and most memorable compliment or criticism the judges gave you? Why?

Dosery: I liked that Najwa Karam laughed at my jokes and stated that they were clean. I also appreciated a comment from Ali Jaber stating that I should have my own writing team, which I should.

KT: What made you go on Arabs Got Talent in the first place?

Dosery: I wanted to share my talent with the world, and Arabs Got Talent gave me a good chance to do this.

KT: Have you kept in touch with any of the people you competed against, or any of the judges?

Dosery: I made quite a few friends like magician Ahmed Al-Bayed and beat boxer Johnny Madness among others, and I have performed with them at some events in the past few years.

KT: Why aren't there any well-known female ventriloquists currently on the scene?

Dosery: I haven't seen any and I have no idea!

KT: Do you create your puppet characters yourself?

Dosery: As the matter of fact, I did create my very first character based on Colonel Gaddafi. It took me a very long time to finish him and study his character. But I haven't been able to perform an act with him in front of a real audience, because everybody is a bit sensitive about this character now that he's dead. But I did post some short videos on social media.

KT: How often do you work on new characters?

Dosery: It is very rare for me to introduce a new character, because writing an act takes a very long time and I don't do it as much as I should. But I recently introduced a new character named Rooster Nugget and it saw major success at the very first show I did at the Al-Comedy Club in Jeddah.

KT: Have you ever had a character that didn't connect with the audience?

Dosery: Luckily no. It also depends on the type of audience - sometimes they react differently to the same jokes.

KT: Your last word.

Dosery: I hope that my art gets more recognition from the government, especially the ministry of information, as it has never offered any help even though I am the very first ventriloquist in Kuwait.



Basel Al-Dosery during his show at Al-comedy club in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. — All photos courtesy Basel Al-Dosery

NCCAL INAUGURATES PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY

KYRGYZ FOLKLORE TROUPE PERFORM AT CULTURAL FESTIVAL

KUWAIT: Assistant Secretary-General of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) Dr Bader Al-Duwaish said the Council spares no effort in supporting the talented youth and fostering their artistic skills. "The care of the youth falls in the framework to translate into action the wise instructions of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah," he told reporters after opening the photography show at the Museum of Modern Art. He commended the efforts of Minister of Information, Minister of State for Youth Affairs and NCCAL President Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah to support the young

people in all cultural and artistic fields. The photography gallery is part of the 11th summer festival and the celebrations marking Kuwait as Capital of Islamic Culture for 2016.

Kyrgyz folklore troupe

Meanwhile, a Kyrgyz folklore troupe offered a theatrical performance at Abdel-Mohsen Al-Redha Theater on Wednesday night as part of the 18th young cultural festival, being organized by the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters. The performance portrayed a panoramic view of the cultural identity, heritage and traditions of the

Republic of Kyrgyzstan through singing, dancing and music, said Saud Al-Masoud, director of NCCAL's music and popular heritage sector. "Through such activities, NCCAL seeks to shed light on the cultures of friendly countries with a view to bringing their people closer to the Kuwaiti people," he pointed out. Al-Masoud added that he had the chance of watching this performance during his visit to Kyrgyzstan. On her part, director of the young cultural festival Maryam Salmin said that nearly 40 of the 500 members of the prestigious Kyrgyz troupe took part in tonight's performance. —Agencies

KUWAIT-JAPAN TRADE SURPLUS SHRINKS 43%

KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP 17 CENTS TO \$43.91 PB

TOKYO: Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan declined 43.0 percent from a year earlier to JPY 21.3 billion (\$214 million) in July, shrinking for the 14th month, chiefly due to weak exports, the Japanese Finance Ministry said yesterday. But Kuwait maintained monthly black ink with Japan for eight years and six months, the ministry said in a preliminary report. Kuwaiti overall exports to Japan tumbled 41.9 percent year-on-year to JPY 33.4 billion (\$334 million) for the 14th straight monthly fall, and imports from Japan also declined 39.8 percent to JPY 12.0 billion (\$120 million), down for the second month.

Middle East's trade surplus with Japan also narrowed by 45.5 percent to JPY 362.0 billion (\$3.6 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports diving 41.3 percent from a year earlier. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 95.6 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, decreased 41.6 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan fell 30.8 percent, as shipments of vehicle, steel and machinery slowed.

The world's third-biggest economy logged a global surplus of JPY 513.5 billion (\$5.1 billion) in July, marking the second consecutive month of black ink, reflecting low energy prices,

though both exports and imports declined. Overall exports dropped 14.0 percent from the year before due to sluggish shipment of such products as vehicles amid rising Japanese yen following the Britain's vote to leave the European Union. Imports plunged 24.7 percent, with value of crude oil falling 42.6 percent due to low prices. Deficit with China, Japan's biggest trade partner, shrank 44.0 percent to JPY 266.0 billion (\$2.7 billion). The trade data are measured on a customs-cleared basis before adjustment for seasonal factors.

Oil price up 17 cents

Meanwhile, the price of Kuwaiti oil went up 17 cents to \$ 43.91 per barrel Wednesday as oppose to \$43.74 the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. The price of oil continued on an upward trend Wednesday, reaching records un-witnessed within the last five weeks. The increase was attributed to the decrease of fuel and crude supplies in the US. The future contracts of crude oil for September delivery was up 0.52 percent to reach on \$46.82 per barrel, a similar case with the Brent mix contracts for October which went up 1.12 percent to hit \$49.78 pb. —Agencies

KUWAIT INVESTMENTS IN GERMANY HITS \$18.3 BN

KUWAIT: Reflective of the strong relations binding the two countries, Kuwaiti investments in Germany have reached \$18.3 billion according to recent statistics, Ambassador of Germany to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner said

yesterday. This statement came during a press conference held at the German embassy on the occasion of the beginning of Ambassador Bergner's mission. The German diplomat affirmed that the embassy was

working on plans to further develop ties between the two nations. Ambassador Bergner lauded Kuwait's regional efforts in helping refugees in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and elsewhere, adding that Germany would like to contribute and work with Kuwait to end humanitarian crises plaguing the Middle East region and the world.

Regarding his meetings with His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and other Kuwaiti figures, the Ambassador expressed his appreciation towards the generous spirit of the Kuwaiti leadership and people, hoping that his tenure as Ambassador would further enhance bilateral relations. According to German statistics, the number of Kuwaitis visiting Germany had increased by fourfold with some 60,000 visas issued recently, said the Ambassador. Bergner began his career in 1989, assuming several positions at the German diplomatic missions in Madrid and Washington. —KUNA



Ambassador of Germany to Kuwait Karlfried Bergner seen during a press conference yesterday. —KUNA



EX-CONVICT ARRESTED, AMMUNITIONS SEIZED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Weapons detectives have arrested an ex-convict citizen, who is wanted for another three-year jail sentence. Firearms, machine gun, 14 magazines and large quantity of ammunitions were found in his possession. The suspect has been sent to concerned authorities.

Woman stabs police

A police corporal narrowly escaped death after a mentally-disturbed woman in her 30s stabbed him between the shoulder and heart while attempting to escape from a psychiatric hospital where she was receiving treatment. The woman also stabbed herself in the abdomen and attacked paramedics who were treating her.

Woman commits suicide

A young woman committed suicide by jumping from a building in Abu Halaifa yesterday morning. The girl was found dead and investigations are underway to determine the reasons behind her death.

KUWAITI 'EXTRADITED'

KUWAIT: In an unprecedented judicial event, US has extradited a Kuwaiti who worked at the Kuwait Health Office in Washington. The suspect is accused of embezzlement and forgery. According to a judicial source, this is the first time an extradition request has been granted by a western country. US and Kuwait have not signed any extradition treaty. Three government bodies (Prosecution, Interior Ministry and Foreign Ministry) worked continually for one year for this rare extradition. Washington agreed to hand-over the suspect to Kuwait because of Kuwait's role as the center of humanitarian work and HH the Amir - the humanitarian leader. The source said that US has full confidence in Kuwait judiciary. The judicial source refused to divulge any details about the investigations. —Al Qabas



WATER PARK LAUNCHED

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: As part of its efforts to boost tourism in Kuwait, the Ministry of Information on Wednesday launched a Water Park on the Fahaheel seaside area next to Al Kout Mall. This park is open daily from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm for families - from August 17 to September 30, 2016. There will be no entrance fee. There will be musical concerts during the weekends (in the evening) and also during Eid Al Adha. Some of the concerts will be held inside the water part - at the Kout Mall theatre.

Jasim Al-Habib, Assistant Undersecretary for Tourism Sector at the Ministry of Information said that the Ministry is working with various governmental institutions to boost local tourism in Kuwait. "We are happy to see many people at this event. This temporary Water Park will be available for another 45 days after which we will kick start the winter activities," Jasim Al-Habib told the Kuwait Times during the launching ceremony. "We have 200 summer activities this season and we are looking forward to having more. This is just the beginning. We are plan-



ning more activities in the future," Al-Habib added.

The Water Park is part of the Summer Festival for 2016 of the Tourism Sector at the Ministry of Information. It is organized in cooperation with Condor International Gen Trade Company. This is the first festival to be held by the

Ministry. To ensure the safety of the visitors, lifeguards, paramedics, firefighters and diving team are present at the place. Also the organizers are available for any information or help. More information about the activities are available on the Ministry's account on Instagram: @Kuwaitourism

2 KUWAITI ROBBERY SUSPECTS ARRESTED

KUWAIT: Criminal Detectives have arrested two Kuwaiti suspects following a gunshot incident in Jahra area. A task force was formed after officers received several complaints from citizens and expats about car thefts in the area. On Tuesday morning, detectives noticed a black 4WD vehicle in an open yard without a license plate number. Detectives found out (through the chassis number) that the vehicle was reported stolen in Abu Halaifa police station, so they kept it under surveillance.

Suddenly, detective spotted another car (which was also reported missing) near the abandoned vehicle. There were two people inside the car. The car was reported stolen in Rabiya. One of the men entered into the abandoned car and drove off, so detectives ambushed them. The suspect hit a lamp post when detectives fired in the air. The two suspects were later apprehended. They were found to be Kuwaitis named (KS) and (SM). When the two vehicles were searched, detectives found 10 boxes of shotgun cartridges, 14 rounds of 9mm, 17 illicit pills, 10 envelopes of shabu, IDs and ATM cards that were reported stolen. The suspects confessed to committing 13 crimes.



Kuwait Red Crescent Society delivers aid items to the refugees across the globe. Kuwait has offered over one billion US dollars in the last five years to support global humanitarian efforts.—KUNA

KUWAIT MARKS WORLD HUMANITARIAN DAY

KUWAIT: Through its efforts in helping people around the globe, Kuwait will mark the United Nation's World Humanitarian Day today. In recent history, Kuwait had played an integral part in launching several humanitarian initiatives to make sure that the suffering and the pain felt by the disadvantaged and the needy worldwide would be lessened. Since the ascension of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the leadership of Kuwait in 2006, the GCC country has launched various humanitarian campaigns which led to a UN honoring of Kuwait as a humanitarian center in 2014. The UN also named His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah as a global humanitarian leader. Kuwait, through His Highness the Amir, also contributed to international humanitarian conferences. His Highness Sheikh Sabah took part in the 2016 humanitarian summit in Istanbul. During the summit, the Kuwaiti leader highlighted his country's contributions to humanitarian causes around the world, noting that the State of Kuwait had offered over one billion US dollars in the last five years to support global humanitarian efforts.

Most of the allocated sums were delivered to the needy suffering from

Wars in Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Yemen. The Kuwaiti humanitarian hand was also extended to those who suffered from natural disasters in Japan, the Philippines, Turkey, and Somalia in recent years. On the regional level, Kuwait hosted three donors conference for Syria from 2013-15, donating \$1.3 billion in the process. The fourth conference for Syria, hosted in London, saw Kuwait also donating a sum of \$300 million to help humanitarian efforts in Syria. Alongside government efforts, Kuwaiti charitable societies and relief aid organizations also took part in helping the Syrians to overcome their dire situation.

In Yemen, Kuwait announced in 2015 a generous donation of \$100 million for the Yemeni people suffering from the ills of civil war. While on the level of the Palestinian cause, Kuwait always support the rights of the Palestinian people. In 2009, Kuwait donated \$34 million to cover the expenses of operations carried out by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The Gulf country also offered \$15 million in 2013 to help the Palestinians and also launched in 2014 a relief aid campaign for the Gaza Strip which was hit by brutal Israeli operations in July of that year. —KUNA

International

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2016

Spanish PM to aim for deal with small party to form govt



Trump receives classified intelligence briefing



Massive dam project at center of China Myanmar talks



ELAZIG: A man walks among the wreckage of vehicles as Turkish rescue workers and police inspect the blast scene following a car bomb attack on a police station in the eastern Turkish city of Elazig yesterday. _ AFP

12 DEAD IN SPATE OF TURKEY ATTACKS BLAMED ON PKK

AFTERMATH OF THE FAILED COUP

ANKARA: Twelve people were killed in a spate of bombings against Turkish security forces blamed on Kurdish rebels who appear to have ramped up their campaign of attacks in the aftermath of the failed coup.

Turkish officials accused the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) of carrying out three bloody attacks in less than 24 hours that for the first time struck areas in the east that are not predominantly Kurdish. "This nation will never surrender to any terrorist organization," Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Thursday on a visit to the scene of one of the bombings.

The bloodshed comes in the week that the PKK-regarded as a terrorist organization by Ankara and its Western allies-marks what is considered to be the 32nd anniversary of its armed rebellion against the Turkish state.

In the deadliest strike, five soldiers and a village guard were killed when a homemade bomb blew up in the path of a military convoy in the southeastern town of Bitlis on Thursday, Turkish media reported.

Just a few hours earlier, three police officers were killed and more than 200 people injured in a car bombing against police headquarters in the eastern city of Elazig, leaving the building largely in ruins.

The city, a conservative nationalist bastion, had been spared much of the violence that has rocked the Kurdish-dom-

inated southeast since a two-and-a-half year ceasefire collapsed in 2015. And on Wednesday night, two more policemen and a civilian were killed and dozens wounded in a similar attack in the city of Van, not far from the border with Iran.

'Thwart the PKK'

The rebels appear to have intensified their attacks since the failed attempt on July 15 to overthrow President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. One senior Turkish politician suggested that the PKK was collaborating with supporters of US-based preacher Fethullah Gulen, accused by Ankara of orchestrating the coup bid. "Once again, the attacks in Van and Elazig show how PKK and FETO work together," former prime minister Ahmet Davutoglu wrote on Twitter. "We will thwart the PKK like we thwarted FETO (Fethullah Terrorist Organisation)," Defence Minister Fikri Isik told the Anadolu news agency, using the name Ankara gives to the movement led by Gulen.

'Exploiting the crisis'

Yildirim, who visited the scene of the attack in Elazig along with several ministers including Isik and army chief Hulusi Akar, said a total of 217 people had been injured, including police and civilians. A Turkish official said more than 70 civilians and police officers were also wounded in the attack in

Van, which has a mixed ethnic Kurdish and Turkish population.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a source close to the Turkish government told AFP that the PKK was taking "advantage of the current atmosphere in Turkey". "Any terrorist organization likes to exploit crises," the source said, referring to the aftermath of the failed putsch which has seen a massive purge of the army, including the dismissal of almost half Turkey's generals and admirals.

Davutoglu's suggestions of collaboration between the PKK and so-called Gulenists stand in contrast to the history of tense relations between them. It has often been said that one of the reasons for the acrimonious split between Erdogan and Gulen is the Turkish leader's now failed peace push with the Kurds.

More than 600 members of the Turkish security forces have been killed in PKK attacks since the ceasefire collapsed, according to a toll given by Anadolu on July 31. The government has hit back with deadly military offensives against the group in southeastern Turkey, including punishing curfews on urban areas.

Anadolu said the operations have killed more than 7,000 militants in Turkey and northern Iraq but the toll cannot be independently verified. Over 40,000 people have been killed since the PKK first took up arms in 1984 in a separatist rebellion led by now jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan — AFP

RENZI, MERKEL, HOLLANDE TO MEET FOR BREXIT TALKS ON MONDAY

ROME: Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi will meet with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande on an Italian island on Monday to discuss the EU's way forward after Britain's shock vote to quit the bloc.

The gathering on the island of Ventotene comes three weeks before an informal EU summit in Bratislava, which is to be held without Britain and

is intended to map out a post-Brexit course for the European Union.

Renzi chose the small island off Naples as the meeting place for Monday's talks because of the role Ventotene played in the EU's founding history, the Italian government said in a statement Wednesday.

The island served as a prison for political opponents of the country's fascist government during World War

II, and it was there that inmates Ernesto Rossi and Altiero Spinelli co-wrote the "Ventotene Manifesto", considered by many to be a key driver behind the movement for European unification.

The 1941 manifesto called for a federation of European states which would create a bond between the member countries and prevent war.

Britain stunned Europe when it voted to leave the bloc in a referendum

two months ago, triggering debate about the grouping's future and the need for reforms. At their first post-referendum talks in late June, Hollande, Merkel and Renzi—the leaders of the eurozone's three largest economies—urged "a new impulse" for the EU.

Last month, Renzi said the Brexit vote was "a political defeat" for Europe and a "wake-up call" that showed urgent change was needed. —AFP

'BIRD STRIKE' FORCES QATAR AIRWAYS JET INTO EMERGENCY LANDING

ISTANBUL: A Qatar Airways passenger plane made an emergency landing at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport yesterday after a suspected bird strike caused a fire in one of its engines, aviation officials and the carrier said.

The plane was travelling to Doha and all the passengers and crew evacuated safely, Qatar Airways said. "Qatar Airways can confirm that today's QR240 from Istanbul Ataturk Airport to Doha has returned to Istanbul and has landed safely," the carrier said in a statement.

Aviation officials told AFP the incident was caused by a suspected bird strike that caused one of its engines to catch fire. The pilot followed all proper safety procedures, Qatar Airways said. The plane was carrying 298 passengers and 14 crew, according to the airline. Flight tracking websites said the plane was an Airbus A330. Qatar Airways is one of the biggest carriers in the Middle East. —AFP

ISRAEL DEFENSE CHIEF HAS 'CARROT AND STICK' PLAN FOR THE WEST BANK

JERUSALEM: Israel's hardline defense minister Avigdor Lieberman has a new "carrot and stick" policy for the West Bank that will penalize the hometowns of Palestinian attackers while rewarding others, his ministry said yesterday.

Under the policy, Palestinian families, villages and towns that are linked to attackers will face extra punitive measures, while those that are not will receive increased economic support. "Anyone who is ready for coexistence will profit, and anyone who takes the route of terrorism will lose," Lieberman said, according to Israeli newspapers.

Lieberman described the policy as a "carrot and stick" approach, his ministry confirmed to AFP. The policy is dependent on support from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which Lieberman said he had already received.

Israel has occupied the West Bank, which is home to more than two million Palestinians, since 1967. More than 400,000 Israelis live in West Bank settlements which the international community considers illegal and sees as one of the largest obstacles to peace.

According to Israeli media reports, Lieberman, whose ministry leads Israeli policy in the West Bank, has divided the region in two—with Palestinian hometowns of attackers marked green and others in red or yellow.

Those marked as threats could see increased arrests or raids and tighter restrictions on access, while those seen as accepting of Israel's presence could see increased state investment. In Beit Sahour, south of Jerusalem, the "carrot" could include a new hospital, Israeli newspapers reported.

A wave of violence since October has killed 220 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, with the majority of them from the West Bank.

Last month the Israeli army closed off the Fawwar refugee camp close to the flashpoint city of Hebron for 26 days after a gunman fired on an Israeli car on a nearby road, causing a crash that killed the driver. Lieberman will also seek to improve relations with prominent Palestinians outside the Ramallah-based Palestinian Authority headed by president Mahmud Abbas. —AFP



HEBRON: Israeli soldier kneels during clashes in the West Bank refugee camp Fawwar, near the West Bank city of Hebron on Tuesday. —AP

ISRAEL PUNISHES TROOPS WHO APPEARED TO ATTACK PALESTINIANS

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said yesterday it has disciplined three soldiers after a video emerged that seemed to show them hurling a stun grenade at Palestinian men smoking a water pipe in the northern West Bank.

In the video, captured by a surveillance camera, an Israeli military jeep pulls up to the four Palestinians, stops briefly, then drives away as a stun grenade explodes in the frame, sending the Palestinians fleeing. The military said a platoon sergeant was sent to jail for 10 days and two other soldiers were also disciplined for acting "contrary to military standards."

The video was the latest footage filmed during a recent wave of violence that has been widely circulated in both Israeli and Palestinian media. Since mid-September, Palestinians have killed 34 Israelis and two visiting Americans in stabbing and shooting attacks, as well as attack in which cars were used to ram into Israeli troops and civilians. At least 206 Palestinians have died by Israeli fire in that period, most said by Israel to be attackers. The attacks have tapered off in recent weeks.

Palestinians have accused Israelis of using excessive force against assailants

who have already been wounded or stopped, and quickly circulate videos which they say back up their claims.

In the most high-profile case, Sgt. Elor Azaria is facing charges of manslaughter after he was filmed fatally shooting a wounded Palestinian attacker in the West Bank city of Hebron in March.

Another incident

Earlier this month, another video appeared to show border police officers seizing a bicycle from an 8-year-old Palestinian girl in Hebron. The video then cuts to an officer walking away from bushes, where the bike lies in the dirt. A Palestinian volunteer with the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem filmed the incident. The Justice Ministry said it was unprofessional but did not warrant criminal proceedings.

The two most recent videos highlight the daily frustrations of living under Israeli military rule in the West Bank.

B'Tselem spokeswoman Sarit Michaeli said that without the video, there was little chance the bicycle incident would have been investigated. "No one would have known about it," she said. The military said

soldiers are expected to report instances where troops fail to act in accordance with the army's "strict code of laws and values," regardless of whether the incident was caught on video. The Israeli watchdog group Yesh Din said that between 2010 and 2013, only 1.4 percent of Palestinian complaints led to indictments against soldiers. The military insists its justice system works, saying the low indictment rate does not signal lack of effort. They say the system is independent and that proper measures are taken if there are legal grounds to try and punish a soldier.

Occasionally, video supports Israeli claims of Palestinian incitement. In July, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu posted a video to his Facebook page that showed a Palestinian man holding up a toddler and urging Israeli forces to shoot him in the West Bank village of Nilin. Netanyahu called on Palestinian leadership to stop encouraging parents "to call for the death of their own children." The man shown on film said he was demonstrating against Israel's seizure of his village's land when he saw Israeli forces pointing guns at children and held his son up in protest. —AP



ALEPPO: In this frame grab taken from video provided by the Syrian anti-government activist group Aleppo Media Center (AMC), a child sits in an ambulance after being pulled out of a building hit by an airstrike on Wednesday. —AP

UN SYRIA ENVOY BEMOANS LACK OF AID DELIVERIES, SEEKS ALEPPO TRUCE UNABLE TO REACH CIVILIANS

GENEVA: Aid convoys have been unable to reach civilians trapped in besieged areas of Syria this month and a humanitarian task force has been suspended to prod big powers to double down on securing a ceasefire, the UN peace envoy on Syria said yesterday.

Staffan de Mistura said a 48-hour pause in fighting in the northern city of Aleppo was the main goal for a meeting, under way yesterday, of major and regional powers tasked with resurrecting a collapsed cessation of hostilities accord. "I again insist on behalf of the Secretary General of the UN and of all the Syrian people (on having) a 48-hour pause in Aleppo to start with," de Mistura told reporters.

"That would require some heavy lifting from not only the two co-chairs (Russia and the United States) but also those who have an influence on those who are fighting on the ground." Russia and the United States back opposite sides in the civil war.

De Mistura spoke after suspending the weekly meeting of the humanitarian task force after eight minutes "as a sign of deep unhappi-

ness" with the failure to restore calm to enable aid deliveries to stricken civilians in besieged districts. The European Union's top diplomat, Federica Mogherini, also called for an immediate halt to fighting in Aleppo to allow for medical evacuations, aid deliveries and necessary repairs to water and electricity infrastructure.

Aleppo, split into rebel- and government-controlled areas, has become the focus of fighting in Syria's five-year-old civil war. Up to two million people on both sides lack access to clean water after infrastructure was damaged in bombing.

Escalating violence

Escalating violence in what was Syria's most populous pre-war city and biggest commercial hub has caused Geneva peace talks overseen by De Mistura to break down. The Syrian opposition has said it wants to see a credible pause in the bloodshed, as well as improved humanitarian aid access, before peace talks can resume. Around 590,200 people are now living in besieged

areas of Syria, according to UN figures.

Aid convoys have ground to a halt during August, and the only supplies being delivered are by air drops to Deir al-Zor, the government-controlled city of 200,000 in the east under siege by Islamic State, de Mistura said.

Moreover, no aid has reached four besieged towns covered by a local agreement in the last 110 days, he said. These were rebel-besieged Foua and Kefraya in Idlib province, and government-besieged Madaya and Zabadani near Damascus. "The pause should also be accompanied by humanitarian aid...and evacuation of medical cases," de Mistura said.

In all, 16 patients in Madaya and 15 in Foua and Kefraya are awaiting emergency medical evacuation, the WHO representative in Damascus Elizabeth Hoff said. "The government is in total agreement with the evacuation and the (Syrian Arab Red Crescent) is working with different armed opposition groups to make sure we have evacuations as soon as possible... I hope Friday," Hoff told Reuters. —Reuters

HARROWING VIDEO SHOWS BLOODIED BOY PULLED FROM ALEPPO RUBBLE

ALEPPO: His face bloodied and completely covered in dust, the little boy sits quietly, staring ahead, dazed and shocked after an apparent air strike in the Syrian city of Aleppo.

Alone in an ambulance, the boy - identified by doctors as five-year-old Omran Daqneesh - tries to wipe the blood off his head, unaware of the injury he has sustained. Video of children being pulled from the rubble of a building hit by air strikes in Aleppo has been widely circulated on social media, causing upset and condemnation over the harrowing reality of Syria's five-year war.

Aleppo, split into rebel- and government-controlled areas, has become the focus of fighting in Syria's five-year conflict. Rebel-held areas are suffering heavy air strikes daily as pro-government forces try to retake territory lost to rebels two weeks ago in the southwest of Aleppo.

The video was shot on Wednesday in the rebel-held al-Qaterji neighborhood of the city. It shows an aid worker carrying the little boy out of a building and placing him on a seat inside an ambulance, before rushing back out to the bombed-out scene. The boy sits alone, stunned, before two more children are brought into the vehicle. A man with blood on his face then joins them.

Aleppo-based freelance photographer Mohammed Raslan Abu Sheikh, who was at the scene, said civilian rescuers and aid workers were elated as Omran was pulled out of the rubble alive with the rest of his family of six. "He was in a state of shock, not even crying, he made us cry while he himself was silent, just watching us," Abu Sheikh told Reuters.

Last year, international sympathy for victims of Syria's war was heightened by a photo of a drowned 3-year-old refugee from Syria, Aylan Kurdi, washed up on a Turkish tourist beach. The image of Aylan, who died when a people smugglers' boat taking his family and other refugees to a nearby Greek island capsized, swept across social media and was retweeted thousands of times. —Reuters

SYRIAN PLANES SAID TO BOMB KURDISH-HELD AREA FOR FIRST TIME

BEIRUT: Syrian government warplanes bombed Kurdish-held areas of the northeastern city of Hasaka yesterday for the first time in the five-year-old civil war, the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia and a monitoring group said.

The powerful YPG, a crucial partner in the US-led war against Islamic State, said it would "not be silent" over what it called it an act of flagrant aggression. There was no immediate comment from the Syrian government.

People's Protection Units (YPG) spokesman Redur Xelil said the air strikes had hit Kurdish districts of the city, which is mostly controlled by Kurdish groups, and positions held by a Kurdish security force known as the Asayish. "There are martyrs and wounded," he told Reuters.

Government forces were also bombarding Kurdish districts of Hasaka with artillery, and there were fierce clashes in the city. "Every hand spattered with the blood of our people will be held to account through all possible and available means," the YPG said in a statement. —Reuters



ADEN: Yemeni security forces take part in a raid in Ja'awla a northern neighborhood where they found an underground storage reportedly used by rebels to store weapons and ammunition on August 16, 2016. —AFP

QAEDA SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS FOUR YEMEN TROOPS

ADEN: An Al-Qaeda suicide bomber killed four Yemeni soldiers in an attack Thursday in the southern Abyan province, where government forces have launched an anti-jihadist offensive, a military official said.

The attacker rammed his car into two military vehicles parked on a road linking the towns of Loder and Moudia in Abyan province, the source said. "Four soldiers were killed and others were wounded," the official told AFP. The attack came after troops recaptured both towns from the jihadists who fled to surrounding

mountains as the army entered, residents said. Military sources said the bombing was a retaliation attack by Al-Qaeda after government troops recaptured parts of Abyan, including provincial capital Zinjibar.

Government forces, backed by air power from a Saudi-led coalition, launched the offensive to retake Abyan on Sunday, after they failed to recapture the vast province earlier this year.

Al-Qaeda and Islamic State group jihadists have exploited a power vacuum in Yemen to expand their pres-

ence in the country's south and southeast. Yemeni authorities had trained hundreds of soldiers in the nearby province of Aden over the past two months to retake Abyan.

The Arab coalition, which intervened against Iran-backed rebels in March last, began supporting the government's war on jihadists this year. The United States has also pressed a drone war against them. Washington considers the Yemen-based Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, to be the extremist network's deadliest franchise. —AFP

REPORT CALLS ON UK TO URGENTLY TACKLE RACE INEQUALITY

LONDON: A UK government body yesterday called for urgent action to tackle race inequality, warning new figures showed the country's reputation for tolerance was under threat following the Brexit vote.

In a broad overview of life in Britain for black people and ethnic minorities, the Equality and Human Rights Commission report found the situation has worsened on numerous fronts over the past five years.

Race was the motive in 82 percent of hate crimes recorded in England and Wales, while the two nations saw an "unprecedented spike" in hate crimes since Britain voted on June 23 to leave the European Union. Black people were found to be more than twice as likely than white people to be murdered in England and Wales than white people, and three times more likely to be prosecuted and sentenced.

Overall white people are more likely to be employed, better paid and in positions of power, the commission said. "Following the Brexit vote, these issues should be of even greater concern. "Our nation's hard-worn reputation for tolerance is arguably facing its greatest threat for decades, as those who spread hate use the leave result to legitimise their views," the report said. Researchers found black workers with degrees are paid on average 23.1 percent less than their white counterparts. The unemployment rates for white British people was recorded as 6.3 percent, compared to 12.9 percent for ethnic minorities.

The parliamentary commission said there had been some progress, with an increase in the number of people from ethnic minorities gaining degree-level qualifications. Last year's national elections furthermore saw the proportion of MPs from ethnic minorities increase from 4.2 to 6.3 percent, although the commission said much more progress was needed.

"The combination of the post-Brexit rise in hate crime and deep race inequality in Britain is very worrying and must be tackled urgently," said commission chair David Isaac. "If you are black or an ethnic minority in modern Britain, it can often still feel like you're living in a different world, never mind being part of a one nation society," he added. —AFP



MADRID: Spain's acting Prime Minister and Popular Party leader Mariano Rajoy covers his mouth as he talks to a party member prior to a meeting at the party headquarters on Wednesday. —AP

SPANISH PM TO AIM FOR DEAL WITH SMALL PARTY TO FORM GOVT TO END DEADLOCK

MADRID: Spain's acting prime minister said Wednesday that his party has authorized him to negotiate a pact with a small party as part of his bid to end the eight-month political deadlock and form a new government.

But Mariano Rajoy gave no indication that he intended to ask parliament anytime soon for a vote of confidence that would allow him to take power. Rajoy said he would begin talks with business-friendly Ciudadanos, but stressed that his Popular Party hadn't discussed a package of conditions Ciudadanos had set as a requisite for any negotiations, and which had earlier been expected to be debated at his party's meeting

Wednesday. One of the conditions was that Rajoy should set a date for an investiture vote.

Rajoy's conservative Popular Party, in power since 2011, has been running a caretaker government since December after two inconclusive elections. "This situation can't go on for much longer. It's doing Spain no good," he said, adding that if his party is unable to form a government, a third round of elections may be unavoidable this fall.

The Popular Party won the last election with 137 seats, 39 short of a majority in the 350-seat parliament. The Socialist party was second with 85 seats, the left-wing alliance, Unidos Podemos,

was third with 71 seats and Ciudadanos fourth with 32 seats.

The Socialists, Unidos Podemos and other smaller parties have said they will vote against Rajoy in a confidence vote, which would end any chance of him taking power regardless of whether Ciudadanos backs him.

There is no deadline for a parliamentary vote to be held. The Ciudadanos conditions also included an electoral law reform and anti-corruption and transparency measures, including scrapping legal immunity for deputies and a commission to investigate allegations that former Popular Party treasurers ran a slush fund. —AP

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LAKE ARTHUR, LA: Lake Arthur residents receive help from the Army National Guard to build sandbag wall to keep flood waters on Wednesday. —AP

LOUISIANA FLOODING VICTIMS NOW STRUGGLING WITH WHERE TO LIVE AT LEAST 13 PEOPLE DEAD

DENHAM SPRINGS, LOUISIANA: Keisha Taylor, a 37-year-old mother of four, has spent three nights in two different shelters since her family fled the flooding at their Baton Rouge apartment complex. And she doesn't know how many more nights they will be sleeping on cots inside the downtown arena where hundreds sought shelter.

Taylor probably could stay with relatives in White Castle, a town about 30 miles west of Louisiana's capital city, but three of her kids are enrolled in Baton Rouge schools that could reopen next week. "This is where I live. I need to be home," she said. Taylor is one of thousands of people across southern Louisiana displaced by catastrophic flooding and now struggling with where to live.

An additional evacuation recommendation was made in Vermilion Parish. Gueydan Fire Chief Evans Bourque told The Associated Press early Thursday that residents in about 60 to 70 homes in an area outside the levee system there were being urged to evacuate amid rising water. Bourque said he did not know how many people the evacuation included but said it was less than 100.

With an estimated 40,000 homes damaged by deadly flooding, Louisiana could be looking at its biggest housing crunch since the miserable, bumbling aftermath of Hurricane Katrina a decade ago.

For the Baton Rouge area, it was a blow on top of what has already been a tough summer starting with the shooting death of 37-year-old Alton Sterling on July 5. The death of Sterling, a black man, at the hands of two white police officers incited widespread protests in which nearly 200 people were arrested.

Lone gunman

Then on July 17, a lone gunman shot and killed three law enforcement officers and wounded three others outside a Baton Rouge convenience store. The suspect, Gavin Long, an Army veteran from Kansas City, Missouri, was killed by police. The dead officers all had lived in the area of Denham Springs, a quiet bedroom community near Baton Rouge. Then the rains hit.

People now are staying in shelters, bunking with friends or relatives, or sleeping in trailers on their front lawns. Others unable or unwilling to leave their homes are living amid mud and the ever-present risk of mold in the steamy August heat.

Many victims will need an extended place to stay while they rebuild. Countless others didn't have flood insurance and may not have the means to repair their homes. "I got nowhere else to go," said Thomas Lee, 56, who ekes out a living as a drywall hanger - a skill that will come in handy. His sodden furniture is piled curbside and the dry-wall in his rented house is puckering, but Thomas still plans to keep living there, sleeping on an air mattress.

Exactly how many will need temporary housing is unclear, but state officials are already urging landlords to allow short-term leases and encouraging people to rent out any empty space available.

Terri Ricks, deputy secretary for the Department of Children and Family Services, which helps organize sheltering efforts in parishes, said the state is talking with parishes about possibly running a long-term shelter in the region if needed to give people a place to stay while they repair and rebuild.

"Nobody wants to do a long-term shelter," she said. "We want to get people in a more permanent situation." The Federal

Emergency Management Agency, whose very name became a punchline during Katrina, said it will look into lining up rental properties for those left homeless and will consider using temporary housing units.

Assurances

But FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate gave assurances that the temporary units won't be the old FEMA travel trailers - a reference to the ones brought in after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that were found to have toxic levels of formaldehyde.

The flooding that struck the Baton Rouge and Lafayette areas left at least 13 people dead. More than 30,000 have been rescued, and at least 70,000 have registered for federal disaster assistance. At the height, 11,000 people were in shelters, though that figured dropped to 6,000 by Wednesday.

Those with flood insurance will be in a much better place to begin rebuilding - but there won't be many of them. Louisiana Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon said it was shocking that only 12 percent of the homes in hard-hit Baton Rouge were covered by flood insurance, and only 14 percent in Lafayette. Donelon, however, said he understands why the state's "large population of working poor folks" wouldn't pay for flood coverage when lenders tell them it's not a requirement.

Many flood victims said they weren't required to have flood insurance and didn't have it, since nothing remotely like this had ever happened before. One of those people was David Ellis. He and his wife closed on their new house in a Livingston Parish subdivision last Thursday afternoon. It started flooding the very next day, water ultimately rising above three feet inside his home. Like many of his neighbors, Ellis didn't have flood insurance. —AP

NY MAN WHO KILLED FRIEND FOR EATING HIS SANDWICH GETS PRISON

BUFFALO: A New York man who fatally shot a friend for eating his leftover sandwich has been sentenced to 22 years in prison. The Erie County district attorney's office says 34-year-old Marcus Gottsche was sentenced Wednesday in the death of 28-year-old Jasmine Armour, of Buffalo.

Prosecutors say Gottsche and Armour spent a night drinking in February 2011 before returning to his Buffalo home. That's where a fight started after she started eating his sandwich.

Gotsche grabbed his rifle and shot Armour in the back as she tried to flee from the home. He was convicted of murder in December 2011, but the verdict was vacated last year when a court ruled he was denied effective legal representation. Gottsche pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in June. —AP

CLINTON MEETING WITH TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK: Hillary Clinton is poised to meet with a group of top law enforcement leaders, including the retiring New York City police commissioner who recently said Donald Trump's presidential candidacy scared him.

Clinton campaign aides said she will meet in New York with eight leading law enforcement leaders, including retiring commissioner Bill Bratton of New York City and his successor, James O'Neill; Charles Beck of the Los Angeles Police Department and former police chief Charles Ramsey of Philadelphia.

Other participants include law enforcement leaders from Tucson, Arizona; Seattle; Camden County, New Jersey; and Dallas County, Texas.

Bratton said in an interview earlier this month with CBS News that Trump's "shoot from the hip" style and "lack of depth" on policy issues scared him. Clinton's meeting comes as Trump, the Republican nominee, has accused her of being "against the police" and vowed to restore law and order if elected president.

Aides said Clinton's meeting had been planned for several weeks and would build upon her outreach to law enforcement during the campaign. Following a deadly shooting of police officers in Dallas, Clinton urged Americans to try to walk in the shoes of law enforcement and Democrats had law enforcement officials speak at their summer convention, including Ramsey. —AP



CLEVELAND: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton poses for a cell phone photo with audience members after speaking at campaign event at John Marshall High School on Wednesday. —AP



CAJON PASS, CALIFORNIA: A firefighting helicopter makes a drop on the Bluecut Fire on Wednesday. —AP

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE BRINGS DESTRUCTION AND UNCERTAINTY ACROSS 40 SQUARE MILES

SAN BERNARDINO: A ferocious wild-fire had swallowed up many homes as it spread across 40 square miles of mountain and desert east of Los Angeles. Exactly how many, however, and to whom they belonged, remained uncertain.

Firefighters were faced with the difficult task of tallying that damage while still battling the huge, unruly blaze amid hot, dry and gusty weather that was expected through Thursday evening. That left evacuees in a cruel limbo, forced to spend another night wondering whether anything they owned was still intact.

They included Shawn Brady, who had been told by a neighbor that flames had raged down their street. But he was waiting for official word. "What I've been told is that flames are currently ripping through my house," said Brady, a dockworker who lives on the outskirts of the evacuated town of Wrightwood with his mother, sister and a dog. "I'm trying to remain optimistic," Brady said as he sat outside a shelter for evacuees in Fontana. "It's the not knowing that's the worst."

San Bernardino County fire officials could only confirm that dozens of structures had burned, and that big numbers are likely. "There will be a lot of families that come home to nothing," county Fire Chief Mark Hartwig said Wednesday after flying over a fire scene he described as "devastating." "It hit hard. It hit fast. It hit with an intensity that we hadn't seen before," he said.

Firefighters had at least established a foothold of control of the blaze the day after it broke out for unknown reasons in the Cajon Pass near Interstate 15, the vital artery between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. The fire was 4 percent contained on Wednesday.

I-15 reopened

The California Highway Patrol reopened I-15 late Wednesday night, while the southbound side remained closed. Reopening the south side Thursday depended on repair of guardrails. Those assessing damage were also looking for dead and injured, but none had been reported yet. Cadaver dogs were searching the ruins for anyone who was overrun by the flames.

Five years of drought have turned the state's wildlands into a tinder box, with eight fires currently burning from Shasta County in the far north to Camp Pendleton just north of San Diego. Residents like Vi Delgado and her daughter April Christy were also among those wondering whether their home was intact, though they had found out that their pets and the shelter animals they take care of had been saved. They had been through earlier wildfires, but nothing like this one.

"No joke, we were literally being chased by the fire," Christy said in a voice choked with emotion in a minivan outside the Fontana evacuation center. "You've got flames on the side of you. You've got flames behind you."

More than 34,000 homes and about 82,000 people were under evacuation warnings as firefighters concentrated their efforts on saving homes in the mountain communities of Lytle Creek, Wrightwood and Phelan. They implored residents not to think twice if told to leave, but it appears many were staying. "From reports that we were hearing, possibly up to half didn't leave," said Lyn Sieliet, a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman.

"It does change the way that we can fight fire," she added, "Now we have to worry about the people in there as well as trying to protect the structures and trying to build a line of defense as the fire comes toward that area."

A fleet of 10 air tankers and 15 helicopters and an army of 1,500 firefighters took on the blaze, many of them coming fresh from other wildfires around the state. Another large fire, north of San Francisco, was fading. The 6-square-mile blaze was 50 percent contained after destroying 268 structures, including 175 homes and eight businesses, in the working-class community of Lower Lake over the weekend.

Damin Pashilk, 40, is charged with starting the blaze along with more than a dozen other counts of arson and one of attempted arson in connection with fires dating back to July 2015. He appeared in court on Wednesday, but he did not enter a plea. —AP

TRUMP FINED \$10,000 FOR BENCH, KIOSKS IN TRUMP TOWER LOBBY

NEW YORK: Donald Trump's business has been fined \$10,000 for installing two kiosks in, and removing a bench from, the lobby of Trump Tower.

The city Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings released Hearing Officer Clive Morricks Aug. 12 decision Wednesday. For months, city buildings inspectors have sought to enforce a unique permit governing Trump's Manhattan skyscraper.

Trump was given special permission to build his Fifth Avenue building bigger in exchange for making the atrium open to the public daily. But buildings officials found the Republican presidential nominee violated those rules by removing the 22-foot marble bench and installing kiosks selling Trump merchandise.

The kiosks have since been removed, and city officials confirmed the bench was reinstalled Aug. 3. The Trump campaign didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. —AP

TRUMP RECEIVES CLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING

NEW YORK: Donald Trump has received his first classified intelligence briefing, meeting with national security officials for more than two hours on Wednesday.

The celebrity businessman became entitled to the briefings once he officially became the Republican nominee for president. The briefing was delivered by career staffers from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and was expected to cover major threats and emerging concerns around the world.

The afternoon briefing was held at an FBI field office at a federal building in New York City, a facility which has the secure rooms required for such sensitive briefings. Trump did not speak to reporters upon entering or exiting the building and a campaign spokeswoman did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the briefing.

But Trump, in an interview that aired just hours before the briefing, suggested he would be skeptical of its contents when he was asked if he trusted the nation's intelligence materials. "Not so much from the people that have been doing it for our country," Trump told Fox News. "I mean, look what's happened over the last 10 years...it's been catastrophic."

Trump brought along some top advisers, including New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, to the briefing. A U.S. intelligence official said that generally, advisers who attend the briefings must have appropriate security clearances. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to disclose information about the candidates' intelligence briefings.

Defense Intelligence Agency says that the agency maintains security clearances for all its former directors, including Flynn, who served in the post from 2012-2014. The briefing came two days after Trump delivered a speech on national security and just hours after he gathered several advisers for a security round table at Trump Tower.

The advisers, including former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, encouraged the GOP nominee to press for more surveillance and more information-sharing with local police departments to fight terror threats if he's elected president. The FBI does share with local police agencies through Joint Terrorism Task Forces. —AP



DENVER: In this July 29, 2016 file photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks. —AP

INDIA'S BELOVED TIGER MACHLI DIES

NEW DELHI: India's most famous tiger, photographed by thousands of tourists over the years at a popular northern wildlife park, died on Thursday, days after the ageing animal stopped eating.

Machli had been the star attraction of Ranthambore National Park for years because of her seemingly calm nature and penchant for posing for cameras, and she even had her own Facebook page. But Machli, the longest-surviving tigress in the park at the age of 20, had been slowing down in recent years and had lost her teeth.

She was found starving and laying on her side this week near the park's boundary in Rajasthan state, sparking constant care by vets and park staff. "We were trying to provide her treatment but she died. It was a natural death linked to her age," Ranthambore tiger project director Yogesh Kumar Sahu told AFP.

Endangered Royal Bengal tigers live on average for 10 to 15 years. Her death made national headlines in India, while saddened fans took to social media to pay their respects to the "lady of the lake" and the "queen of Ranthambore".

Featured in wildlife documentaries, she was once filmed successfully battling a four-meter (14-foot) long crocodile, according to the park's website. Machli, the Hindi word for fish because of shaped markings on her face, also had 11 cubs over the years whose offspring make up almost half the park's tiger population.

Her death comes as a massive search continues for another much-loved tiger in the western state of Maharashtra who disappeared from a wildlife sanctuary in April. India is home to more than half of the world's tiger population with some 2,226 of the animals roaming its reserves, according to the last count in 2014. —AFP



NEW YORK: Oscar Morel appears in a Queens courtroom on Tuesday. —AP

POLICE: NOTES URGING VIOLENCE AGAINST MUSLIMS A HATE CRIME

WESTBROOK: Typewritten notes urging violence against Muslims discovered at an apartment complex in Maine are being investigated as a hate crime, but there is no evidence of an immediate threat to residents' safety, police said.

An Iraqi man went to Westbrook police Wednesday morning and told officers that he had found a piece of paper that said "All Muslims are Terrorists should be Killed," Westbrook Police Chief Janine Roberts said at an afternoon news conference. Police responded to the apartment complex just outside of Portland and found a second identical note. They also were told that two additional notes had been discovered by Iraqis living there. One was spotted on the windshield of a car, the other three were found on the ground. The threats are being treated as a hate crime.

"The people who have come forward have all been Iraqi," said Roberts. "We have done a canvas of the complex and of those people that we've made contact with, only the Iraqi community has any information in relation to the threats."

The department is taking the threats seriously, and has set up a meeting Thursday evening with Iraqi community members to try to address their concerns. The threats came two days after federal court documents unsealed in Portland revealed that Adnan Fazeli, 38, an Iranian who came to Maine as a refugee in 2009, was fighting for the Islamic State group when he was killed last year in Lebanon, the Portland Press Herald reported. —AP



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri protestors shout pro-freedom and anti-India slogans during a protest against civilian killings in Kashmir's ongoing summer unrest, during a curfew in the Batmaloo area yesterday. —AFP

SOLDIERS RAID VILLAGE IN INDIAN KASHMIR

ONE CIVILIAN DEAD, DOZENS INJURED

SRINAGAR: Soldiers raided a village in restive Indian-administered Kashmir overnight in an attempt to quash ongoing protests, leaving one civilian dead and dozens injured, police and witnesses said Thursday.

Villagers said soldiers from a nearby Indian army camp ransacked homes in Khrew village and beat residents with bamboo sticks, leading to the death of a teacher. "They beat up men, women and children and took away many young men with them. We discovered the battered body of Shabir Mangoo on a village street in the morning," said one villager who asked not to be named, fearing reprisals.

Army spokesman Colonel N.N. Joshi confirmed the raid on the village 25 kilometers south-east of the main city of Srinagar, saying "the incident is

being investigated". Indian-administered Kashmir has been in the grip of almost daily anti-India protests and rolling curfews sparked by the killing on July 8 of a popular rebel leader, Burhan Wani, in a gunfight with government forces. "One person was also found dead after the raid," a police officer told AFP on condition of anonymity, adding that around 28 villagers were taken away by the soldiers.

The army raid—the third in recent days—comes after five weeks of unrest that have left more than 60 people dead. India has clamped down hard on protests, with the army accused of using brutal tactics to suppress demonstrators. "First the electricity went off and soldiers soon started attacking our home, beating up all of us including my 10-year-old niece," villager Ghulam

Hassan told AFP from his hospital bed in Srinagar. Dr Nazir Chaudhary, medical superintendent at the main SMHS hospital in Srinagar told AFP 24 injured villagers had been admitted for treatment. A daytime curfew in place across the territory was extended to night-time Wednesday, with police forcing shops to close and soldiers setting up additional roadblocks and checkpoints to restrict residents' movement.

Kashmir has been divided between India and Pakistan since their independence from British rule in 1947. Both claim the Himalayan territory in full. Several rebel groups, including Wani's Hizbul Mujahideen, have fought for decades 500,000 Indian troops deployed in the territory, demanding independence for the region or its merger with Pakistan. —AFP

MORTAR ATTACK STRIKES AFGHAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

KABUL: An Afghan official says that a mortar attack killed two people and wounded more than 50 in the eastern province of Kunar. Abdul Ghani Musamim, spokesman for the Kunar provincial governor, says two mortar shells hit Thursday morning in the provincial capital, Asad Abad. Musamim says the shells struck a market where crowds had gathered to celebrate Afghanistan's independence day.

Afghan president Ashraf Ghani said Thursday in a speech that Afghanistan was not alone in its battle against Islamic militants like the Taliban and the Islamic State group. Ghani said the country had the backing of the international community and that Afghanistan would prevail. —AP



KABUL: Afghan security personnel inspect a damaged car at the site of a suicide bomb attack yesterday. —AFP

AFTER YEARS OF WAR, AFGHANS WARY TO TALK OF MENTAL HEALTH 'PROFESSIONAL HELP'

KABUL: Soheila Hashemi has hardly slept since a suicide bomber targeted a rally in the Afghan capital last month, killing more than 80 people and wounding scores in the deadliest attack in Kabul since the war with the Taliban began 15 years ago.

She is tormented by feelings of guilt for surviving the carnage and for encouraging fellow Hazaras to come to the protest that called for an end to discrimination against their community, Afghanistan's poorest ethnic and religious minority.

Hashemi says she needs "professional help" but with the dearth of psychologists in the war-ravaged country, she feels there really isn't anyone she can turn to. "I encouraged people to attend the demonstration and yet I wasn't there when the explosions happened," said the 23-year-old university student. Many of her close friends were killed or wounded in the July 23 bombing.

Hashemi had already left the rally when the bomber struck. As the explosion shook Kabul, she ran back to Demazang Square, only to faint at the horrific scene of dead bodies, scattered body parts and pools of blood. For days afterward, she was quick to lose her temper and felt herself becoming aggressive for no reason. Even if she found a psychologist, Hashemi believes she'd be branded as "crazy" for admitting to psychological and emotional problems after the attack.

After almost 40 years of conflict and crisis, experts say the vast majority of the Afghan population suffers from some form of post-traumatic stress disorder, yet arcane societal attitudes on mental health are holding back many from seeking help.

Psychologists have been trained

Hundreds of psychologists have been trained over the past decade to work at clinics across the country, many funded by foreign donors - but the stigma associated with "being crazy" remains a barrier. Hashemi says she has been able to use social media to express some of her feelings. She said others who went through similar experiences wrote back, encouraging her to "talk it out." It's the simplest solution, she said, in a country where "if you ask a person to visit a psychiatrist, they will get angry and tell you they are not crazy."

With all the wars, violence has become embedded in the fabric of Afghan society. The Soviet invasion of 1979 lasted for 10 years, followed by three years of war against the installed communist authorities. Then came a civil war in which warlords destroyed much of Kabul. An estimated 80,000 people were killed in the city between 1992 and 1996. The Taliban ruled for five years - a time when women were stoned to death for disobeying their strict version of Islamic law, or Shariah, and severed hands of alleged criminals were hung up in bazaars. The 2001 US-led invasion ousted their brutal regime but also marked the start of a 15-year Taliban insurgency. Now, new players have emerged, such as Afghanistan's branch

of the Islamic State group, which claimed responsibility for the July attack on the Hazara protest. Unlike most Afghans who are Sunni, the Hazaras are Shiites and IS regards them as apostates.

The UN mission in Afghanistan, which began tracking Afghan civilian casualty figures in 2009, says almost 23,000 civilians have been killed by the war and another 41,000 have been wounded. In a population of around 30 million, that means very few have been unaffected by the violence in one way or another.

Khalil Rahman Sarwary, who teaches

Organization in Afghanistan.

Qudees says there are plans to train 250 more in the coming months. Around 200 clinics nationwide provide counselling - though most treat drug addicts, whose numbers are rising in the country responsible for producing most of the world's heroin.

"The Afghan society is still very traditional and mental health problems are a taboo subject," said Khetab Kakar, director of the Mental Health and Drug Addicts' Hospital in Kabul's western suburb of Kart-e-Sei.

"Psychology is new to Afghanistan,"



KABUL: In this Sunday, July 17, 2016, photo, an Afghan mental health doctor, center, talks with patients in the Mental Health and Drug Addicts' Hospital. —AP

psychology at Kabul University, says war "has the most destructive effect on human behavior, conduct and life." His research, he says, has found that up to 75 percent of Afghan people suffer "from stress and other psychological pressures because of the war and insecurity." "Around 25 to 30 percent of Afghans have very high stress, anxiety and other psychological issues - the toll is getting higher day by day," Sarwary said. Also, ancient superstitions prevail, with many across Afghanistan still attributing mental illnesses to being possessed by demons. An afflicted person can be locked up in a cage or left chained at a shrine for days on end.

Families often call in mullahs when they think a loved one has become "possessed by a djinn" - a mythical spirit in Islam, similar to an angel, which can take human or animal form and influence behavior for either good or bad.

Two to each of Afghanistan's 34 provinces

Many of the hundreds of counselors who were trained by a variety of organizations - with the aim to have at least two to each of Afghanistan's 34 provinces - have left the profession to return to their hometowns, said Fareshta Qudees, managing director of the International Psychological

Kakar said. "If a person becomes sick, they will be advised against going to a doctor, rather than to a shrine or a mullah." But there are signs modern psychology is making inroads, especially among women, who are among the hardest hit by the fallout of war in this male-dominated society, their suffering compounded by discrimination, widespread restrictions on their movement and domestic violence.

Zia Jan, 45, says she has benefited from counseling she received at Medica Afghanistan, a non-profit, non-governmental organization helping traumatized women across Afghanistan. After the Taliban killed her son, wounded her husband and burned her uncle alive, Zia Jan sank into a deep depression. Her family decided she had been possessed by a djinn. "People started saying I had a djinn, my family took me to the mullah a few times, and he said I had a djinn," she said. The mullah even performed an exorcism, but she only got worse.

After years of torment, she finally found her way to Medica Afghanistan. Psychologist Yalda Ahmad said Jan was unable to talk when her treatment began: "She could only cry." Now, after eight years of regular sessions, Jan says she feels she is finally able to cope with the memories, though they will "always burn" in her mind. —AP



AT SEA: This file photo taken on July 13, 2016 shows the Japanese Coast Guard ship PLH02 Tsugaru (background) with a Philippine Coast Guard boat (C) during their annual joint anti-piracy exercise in the waters off Manila Bay, a day after a UN-backed tribunal declared China has no "historic rights" in the South China Sea. —AFP

PHILIPPINES RECEIVES FIRST JAPANESE COAST GUARD VESSEL

MANILA: The Philippines received the first of ten coast guard vessels from Japan yesterday, the coastguard said, as the two countries boost security ties in the face of their separate maritime disputes with China. The 44 meter (144 foot) BRP Tubbataha has arrived in Manila, the Philippines coast guard said in a statement, adding that it will be used for search and rescue, law-enforcement and transport purposes. They did not specify where it would be deployed. This is the first of 10 Philippine coast guard ships being built in Japan, supported by Japanese aid money, as the former World War II foes seek to boost defense ties in the face of growing Chinese aggression in the South China Sea.

Japan-the Philippines' top source of development aid-said this month it would give Manila two additional patrol vessels, and that it was discussing the possible lease of surveillance aircraft. Japan and China are locked in a long-running dispute over uninhabited islets in the East China Sea. Manila and Beijing have overlapping claims in the South China Sea. The Philippines has been seeking closer defense ties with Japan as well as traditional allies like the United States and Australia in a bid to boost its capabilities against regional giant China.

The Philippine military and coast guard are among the region's weakest. Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his Philippine counterpart Perfecto Yasay last week called on China to observe the rule of law in settling maritime disputes. This came after a UN-linked tribunal ruled in July that China's claim to most of the South China Sea was invalid, handing a sweeping diplomatic victory to the Philippines. Beijing vowed to ignore the decision, and the Philippines and China have been preparing for direct talks to ease tensions. —AFP

MENTALLY DISABLED FOUND NAKED IN INDIAN HOSPITAL

KOLKATA: Scores of fly-infested mentally disabled patients have been found naked and filthy at a government-run hospital in India, prompting an outcry, a charity worker said yesterday. Photos of the thin patients living in what appear to be appalling conditions at the health facility in West Bengal state were posted on social media this week, making national headlines. Anjali Mental Health Rights founder Ratnaboli Ray said her workers discovered the patients naked and sleeping on the floor because of outbreaks of bugs, during a visit to the hospital this week.

"The pictures cannot describe the reality. The stench was unbearable and it was simply subhuman," Ray told AFP from Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal. "There were at least 20 women naked in one ward and they had to sleep on the floor because their bedding had bugs," she said, adding that most of the patients living at the hospital were from impoverished families. She said she had repeatedly alerted officials to the deplorable conditions at the Berhampore Mental Hospital, housing about 400 adults with various mental illnesses. But she said she was repeatedly ignored, prompting her charity to post the pictures on Twitter. "We have many times informed the higher officials about the maltreatment that inmates face but nothing happened," she said. — AFP

BIDEN'S REMARK ON JAPAN CONSTITUTION RAISES EYEBROWS

TOKYO: A recent remark by US Vice President Joe Biden that America wrote Japan's Constitution is raising some eyebrows in Japan. A popular front-page column in the national Asahi newspaper said this week that the comment "was unprecedented in its insensitivity" and "could even be considered arrogant." Biden, appearing Monday with Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, attacked Republican candidate Donald Trump for saying that Japan might need to consider obtaining nuclear weapons in the future. The vice president said, "Does he not understand we wrote Japan's Constitution to say that they could not be a nuclear power?"

It's no secret that US forces occupying Japan after World War II drafted the constitution, though Japanese scholars were involved in reviewing and modifying it before adoption. The 1947 constitution doesn't mention nuclear weapons, though it does "renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation." Japanese nuclear policy has been guided by three principles declared in 1967 by then Prime Minister Eisaku Sato: "not possessing, not producing and not permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons (into Japan), in line with Japan's Peace Constitution."

The timing of Biden's remark makes it insensitive, said journalist and author Hiro Aida, coming as the ruling party under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe starts a push to try to revise the constitution, despite considerable public misgiving.

"We thought only Trump was an insensitive guy," said Aida, who recently published a book in Japan on the Trump phenomenon. Biden "kind of misspoke. This is not something he should talk openly about in public." Many Japanese have come to embrace the postwar constitution for guiding Japan through seven decades of peace and relative prosperity. Some conservatives, though, have long resented a document they say was forced on Japan by the winners of the war. —AP



SCRANTON, PA: In this Aug. 15, 2016, file photo, US Vice President Joe Biden waves during a campaign stop for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. —AP

PHILIPPINES FREES COMMUNIST LEADERS BEFORE PEACE TALKS IN NORWAY

MANILA: The Philippines has freed 12 communist guerrilla leaders, police said yesterday, days before a new round of peace talks with the Maoist-led rebels resumes in Norway to end nearly five decades of conflict that has killed more than 40,000 people. New President Rodrigo Duterte has a reputation as an implacable and ruthless enemy of drug traffickers but he came to power after winning a May election promising to negotiate the end of long-running insurgencies.

Talks brokered by Norway between the government and the rebels' National Democratic Front stalled in 2012 over the refusal of the government to free communist leaders who had been in jail for decades. National police chief Ronald dela Rosa told reporters the temporary release of the 12 by courts was a consequence of the president's peace offer and was "one of the most positive developments" in years. "They were only allowed to post bail," he said. "But they continue to face criminal cases in courts". Renato Reyes, secretary-general of the left-wing Bayan (Nation) group, which is allied with the communist movement, said the releases boded well and raised hopes the talks would begin on Aug. 22 "on a positive note". — Reuters



BEIJING: Myanmar's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, left, and China's Premier Li Keqiang, right, stand during a welcome ceremony at the Great Hall of the People yesterday. —AP

MASSIVE DAM PROJECT AT CENTER OF CHINA-MYANMAR TALKS

FORMAL CEREMONY HELD YESTERDAY

BEIJING: Efforts by Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi this week to bolster ties with her country's dominant northern neighbor China may hinge on whether she can resolve the fate of a massive, Chinese-funded dam project blocked by overwhelming local opposition.

Suu Kyi was welcomed by Premier Li Keqiang at a formal ceremony yesterday as part of a visit that will include talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping. The trip ending Sunday is her first to China since her party won a historic majority last year.

Now leading Myanmar with the title of state counselor, Suu Kyi is a Nobel Peace Prize winner who spent more than 15 years in detention, mostly in house arrest, under Myanmar's former military junta, which was supported for years by the authoritarian Communist Party-led government in Beijing. But analysts say Suu Kyi has shown pragmatism and a desire to re-order Myanmar's relationship with China, its top trading partner and a major investor, while also reaching out to the United States, Europe and Japan.

In opening remarks in her meeting with Li, Suu Kyi said she hoped her visit would promote "feelings of friendship" between the countries. Key to both sides is the \$3.6 billion Myitsone dam project in northern Myanmar, funded by Chinese power interests but suspended in 2011 by Myanmar's former military-backed president, Thein Sein. A spokesman for Myanmar's foreign affairs department said China was expected to raise the dam dispute this week.

China sees the dam as an important part of a national strategy to reduce its reliance on fossil fuels and meet its targets to cut pollution. It has pursued a charm offensive in Myanmar partly to push for construction to resume.

But opponents in Myanmar, also

known as Burma, say the reservoir created by the Myitsone dam would create massive flooding on the Irrawaddy River, endangering ecologically sensitive areas and displacing thousands of people. They also question the previous arrangement in which China would take 90 percent of the dam's power, while nearly 70 percent of Myanmar has no access to electricity, according to the World Bank.

The dam is one of several Chinese-backed projects stalled due to protests from Myanmar citizens newly emboldened to speak out following democratic reforms, part of a larger backlash against China's economic domination of its poor southern neighbor.

Announcement of commission

Suu Kyi's government recently announced a commission to review all hydroelectric projects along the Irrawaddy. Zhao Gancheng, director of the Asia-Pacific Center at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, said that announcement might be a signal that a compromise was possible.

"To handle it well will help create a favorable condition for future trade and economic development between the two countries," Zhao said. "Otherwise, obstacles will emerge in attracting investment from China in the future and that is not what the new Burmese government and Aung San Suu Kyi want to see."

Aaron Connelly, a research fellow for East Asia at the Lowy Institute for International Policy in Sydney, said Suu Kyi could offer an alternative plan that mollifies China and at least some of the opposition in Myanmar. "That would be the question on the Myanmar side," Connelly said. "Is there something that can be offered that meets the expectations, but does not create a lake the size of Singapore on the Irrawaddy?"

Suu Kyi remains an icon to many people in Myanmar, and that may give her the standing to seek a deal that allows the dam to go forward under different circumstances, Connelly said.

She is also likely to seek more cooperation from China as her government begins a peace conference at the end of August with ethnic minorities from the region where the dam is planned, and may tie the two issues together, Connelly said. China has been involved previously in negotiations between the government and Kachin rebels, who have fought for decades in regions near the Chinese border.

"She constantly surprises in what she's willing to do in terms of political agreements that she's willing to strike, and because she's such a singularly popular figure," he said. "She can potentially make a deal here that would be very unpopular and bounce back from that."

Beijing supports the peace process because "a politically stable and economically prosperous Myanmar is in China's best interests," China's official Xinhua News Agency said in an editorial Wednesday. "Given the fact that a strong China-Myanmar partnership is important for both sides, it is welcome that Suu Kyi, a key figure in the Myanmar government and the leader of the ruling party, plays a greater role in helping secure a healthy Myanmar-China relationship," Xinhua said.

China considers Myanmar strategically important as a gateway to the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal, and wants to secure oil and gas pipelines running across the country to the Chinese border. Along with stalled projects, friction between the countries has erupted over fighting between Myanmar's military and ethnic minority rebels along the border that has killed Chinese farmers and sent a flow of refugees into China. —AP

of style

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2016

**Indian 'oldest man
ever' says yoga,
celibacy key to age**

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Two giraffes stand together in their enclosure at the zoo in Berlin yesterday. — AFP



Indian monk Swami Sivananda, who claims to be 120 years old, practices yoga in Kolkata. — AFP photos



Indian monk Swami Sivananda, who claims to be 120 years old, is watched by one of his followers as he practices yoga in Kolkata.



Indian monk Swami Sivananda, who claims to be 120 years old, holds up his passport in the house of one of his followers in Kolkata.



Indian monk Swami Sivananda reacts after his followers presented him with a birthday cake in Kolkata.



Indian monk Swami Sivananda, who claims to be 120 years old, practices yoga on a bed in Kolkata.

Indian 'oldest man ever' says yoga, celibacy key to age

Looking remarkably unlined for his claimed 120 years, an Indian monk who says he is the oldest man to have ever lived puts his longevity down to no sex or spices, and daily yoga. Hindu monk Swami Sivananda was born on August 8, 1896, according to his passport. If true, his life would have spanned three centuries, but despite his apparent age he remains strong enough to perform yoga for hours at a time. He is now applying to Guinness World Records to verify his claim. It currently lists Japan's Jiroemon Kimura, who died in June 2013 aged 116 years and 54 days, as the oldest man to have ever lived.

India's passport authorities confirmed Sivananda's age from a temple register, the only record many Indians even decades younger have of their date of birth. However it would be extremely difficult to independently verify his age. Sivananda was featured by local media earlier this summer, with the Times of India noting he looked 50 years younger than his apparent age but taking his claims at face value. Sivananda, from the holy city of Varanasi, grew up in extreme poverty and chose to become a monk, saying he owed his age to "yoga, discipline, and celibacy". "I lead a simple and disciplined life. I eat very simply—only boiled food without oil or spices, rice and boiled daal (lentil stew) with a couple of green chillies," he told AFP after a two-hour yoga session in Kolkata, the eastern Indian city where he had come for a short visit.

Standing 1.58 meters (five feet two inches) tall, Sivananda sleeps on a mat on the floor and uses a wooden slab as a pillow. "I avoid taking milk or fruits because I think these are fancy foods. In my childhood I slept many days on an empty stomach," he said. Sivananda said he had not previously come forward to claim the record because he did not seek publicity, but was eventually persuaded by his followers to apply. The elderly man lost both parents before he was six and was given away by his relatives to a spiritual guru, whom he travelled with around India before settling in Varanasi.

Fit and without any medical complications, he lives independently and even travels alone on trains. Sivananda, who was born in colonial-era India without electricity, cars or telephones, says he is not enthused by new technology and prefers being on his own. "Earlier people were happy with fewer things. Nowadays people are unhappy, unhealthy and have become dishonest, which pains me a lot," he said. "I just want people to be happy, healthy and peaceful." — AFP



Indian monk Swami Sivananda, who claims to be 120 years old, practices yoga in Kolkata.



Indian monk Swami Sivananda (center), who claims to be 120 years old, sits with followers on board a train from Howrah station on his way to Varanasi from Kolkata.



Indian monk Swami Sivananda, who claims to be 120 years old, practices yoga in Kolkata.



In this Aug 7, 2015 file photo, Ryan Murphy, co-creator/showrunner/executive producer/writer/director, from left, Brad Falchuk, co-creator/executive producer/writer, Sarah Paulson, Kathy Bates, Angela Bassett, Wes Bentley, Matt Bomer, Chloe Sevigny, Denis O'Hare, Cheyenne Jackson and Finn Wittrock participate in the 'American Horror Story: Hotel' panel at the FX Summer TCA Tour at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif. — AP photos

'American Horror Story' coming to Halloween Horror Nights

The serial killers, ghosts, vampires and other freaky misfits from "American Horror Story" are coming to Universal Studios. Universal announced plans Tuesday to bring mazes based on the FX anthology horror series to the annual Halloween Horror Nights events at its theme parks in Universal City, California, and Orlando, Florida. The attractions will feature elements from the "Murder House," "Freak Show" and "Hotel" installments of "American Horror Story."

It marks the first time the series has been featured at the popular annual event. Halloween Horror Nights kicks off Sept 16. The sixth season of "American Horror Story" is scheduled to debut Sept 14. Other mazes at this year's events will be based on horror franchises such as "Halloween" "The Exorcist" and "The Texas Chain Saw Massacre." — AP



In this Aug 7, 2015 file photo, Ryan Murphy, co-creator/showrunner/executive producer/writer/director, participates in the "American Horror Story: Hotel" panel at the FX Summer TCA Tour at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

How violinist Lindsey Stirling learned to be brave



Electronic violinist Lindsey Stirling performs at Lollapalooza in Chicago. — AP

Electronic violinist Lindsey Stirling's emotional roller coaster of a year included the death of her best friend and keyboardist and learning that her father had cancer. Stirling tried keeping busy with work instead of dealing with her feelings head-on. And as she began composing new songs, things weren't coming together. "At first I was writing the most depressing stuff. ... It just wasn't very great music ... and it didn't have a lot of depth to it," Stirling said. "I kind of realized I have to process these emotions myself before I can write about them."

Once she gave herself time to grieve and deal with life away from work - which included traveling home to Arizona to be with family and going to therapy - making music felt natural again, and therapeutic. "I want to learn how to open my heart up more," she said. "A lot of times I hide from emotions by just working and distracting myself." Stirling, 29, reached that goal and came through stronger with "Brave Enough," a new album she says is her most cohesive release yet. She closes the 14-track set with the emotional instrumental track "Gavi's Song," an ode to her friend and fellow musician Jason Gaviati, who died last year after battling Burkitt lymphoma.

"Brave Enough," out Friday, features collaborations with Zedd, Weezer's Rivers Cuomo, Lecrae, Christina Perri and Andrew McMahon. It's the follow-up to 2014's "Shatter Me," the gold-certified album in which Stirling wrote about overcoming anorexia. It won top dance/electron-

ic album at the Billboard Music Awards, besting releases from Calvin Harris, Avicii and Disclosure. "I'm not being self-deprecating here, but it's weird to see your name with people (like them)," she said. Stirling agrees she's an electronic artist, but says it's hard to really pinpoint her sound and style: "I still kind of call myself that 'cause I just don't know what else to call myself."

"Pixie violin electro isn't a category," she added. Stirling rose to fame on YouTube after posting videos on her own channel, which has more than 1.3 billion views. She released her debut in 2012 and put out music independently because major labels weren't "interested." "All of the labels jump up once you prove that something's successful," she said. Stirling grew fond of the violin after hearing her parents play classical music around the house and later discovered pop violinists David Garrett and Vanessa-Mae. In high school she fell in love with rock bands such as Jimmy Eat World and Weezer, and in college, electronic acts like Skrillex.

Her first violin, she said, was a "cereal box with a toilet paper roll taped to it." Her teacher told her to practice holding it before getting the real thing. Stirling will launch a tour next month and said she's excited when her fans - both young and old - bring their violins to her live shows. "That to me is one of the biggest, exciting compliments I get," she said. — AP

In Togo, a revival of the ancient allure of waist beads

Wearing a brightly-coloured wrap-around dress, Sonia ambles through the crowds at a market in a popular neighborhood of Lome, a string of tiny red beads dangling from her hips. "I'm very comfortable wearing waist beads. But it is also a way of attracting men," says the 24-year-old hairdresser, a coy smile playing on her lips. In the Togo capital, the fashion for wearing strings of beads around the waist - an ancient tradition known as 'djonou' in the Gulf of Guinea region - has made a comeback in recent years.

Favored by young women as an object of both beauty and seduction, the djonou also has a spiritual aspect, guaranteeing the wearer the protection of her ancestors. Some say it can even cure pain in the kidneys. When worn from a very early age, local lore says the djonou can help bodily development by enhancing the fullness of young girls' hips. Over the years, this ritual has fallen into disuse as other, more Western beauty practices took hold, such as the fashion for lightening the skin through creams or wearing makeup.

But many still swear by the power of what is tantamount to a visual aphrodisiac. "What is currently attracting men is the djonou, especially when the colors are well chosen," explains Afi, a 29-year-old shoe seller. Once worn only in private for the secret pleasure of a husband, by which a woman would send erotic messages depending on the color or the position, the modern equivalent is meant to be seen in public. Many are delighted at the djonou's comeback. Yet some more conservative Togolese are less than pleased that this formerly hidden adornment is now worn openly in an undisguised attempt to allure.

'To emphasize my curves'

"I often wear my beads when I'm on a motorbike taxi," Afi says as she sits in front of her stall at Hedzranawoe market. "I wear four or five strings of beads in two colors around my waist, slightly above the top of my trousers with a cropped top. Many men look at me admiringly," she says unabashedly. And she's not alone, with most agreeing that the beads increase a woman's appeal. "I can't go out without wearing beads on my hips," admits 23-year-old Laetitia who is sitting nearby. "I have many types in different colors. The ones I wear most are the ones which emphasize my curves when I go to the pool." There is a huge variety of different beads on sale at markets across the capital with the cost varying according to quality, size and the number of beads used.

Beauty has a price

Most bead sellers have stalls at Agbadahonou market, including Tanti Abla who is one of the biggest bead merchants in Togo. "It's a great source of pride for me to see our young women taking up this ancient fashion," says Abla, a woman in her 60s. "In order to ensure the most effective seduction, a woman must devise a djonou which suits her skin color and her figure. Medium-sized seed beads that are yellow are advised for women with fair skin. Women with dark skin must use white or orange," she says. "Curvy women must chose small beads." But beauty has a price: each djonou costs between 5,000 and 30,000 CFA francs - the equivalent of between 7.5 euros to 46 euros (\$8.50-\$50). — AFP



A Togolese woman looks at necklaces and bracelets made of beads and displayed at a stall in Lome. — AFP



A staff of Lin Hua Tai Tea checks the weight of a bag of tea at the tea shop in Taipei.



A member of staff of Lin Hua Tai Tea puts tea into a bag at the tea shop. — AFP photos



A tea maker of Lin Hua Tai Tea examines tea at the tea factory in Taipei.



A member of staff of Zenique arranges various tea desserts.



A member of staff of Zenique walks through the tea shop.



Tea makers of Lin Hua Tai Tea load tea into a machine at the tea factory.

Taiwan tea entrepreneurs brew up new twist on tradition

Cheap instant “bubble tea” has become one of Taiwan’s best-known culinary exports—now a new wave of entrepreneurs hopes a high-end modern take on traditional brews will also be sipped worldwide. Taiwan has been producing tea for more than 200 years and a cup of the island’s famous oolong is obligatory for many visitors, but exports have been knocked by rising labor costs and bubble tea has eclipsed a carefully crafted cuppa.

Often artificially flavored and loaded with milk, sugar and tapioca pearls, bubble tea has in recent years gained a global following, from Southeast Asia to the United States and Europe. Ultra-modern tea shop “Xie Xie” is one business trying to turn the tide back to sophistication. Founder Xie Yu-tung, 30, comes from a family of tea producers and uses leaves grown on their plantations in Taiwan’s mountainous Dayuling and Lishan areas. Her sleek all-white tea boutique at Taipei’s Mandarin Oriental hotel is stacked with teabags in book-like boxes and clear cylindrical bottles of ready-to-drink cold brews.

“I think Taiwan has the best oolong and it’s a pity that it’s not seen all over the world,” says Xie. She sells pure and flavored oolong—a fragrant, semi-fermented tea. Infused with spearmint, chamomile, rose and ginger, she hopes the pretty packaging and ready-made bottles will attract uninitiated foreign customers. At Tw\$680 (\$21) for 10 teabags, she says it is a reasonable price for top tea. “Every step (in producing oolong) has to be exact. I think the craftsmanship involved matches that of international luxury products,” she says. Xie has served up her tea at the Venice film festival, Paris fashion shows and Milan design week since launching two years ago.

Tea and cake

Other entrepreneurs are hoping to create a cafe culture that will entice younger generations. At David Huang’s salons in Taipei, customers order pots of organic Taiwan-grown tea served up alongside tea-flavored French pastries. “I don’t want to see tea-drinking fade into history because young people think it’s old-fashioned,” says Huang, who opened the salons after studying

marketing in France. “It is one of the things that most represents Taiwan.” Huang’s “Zenique” brand of pure and flavored oolong, green and black teas do not come cheap—a small tin starts at Tw\$409 and can cost up to Tw\$1,890. Huang says it is a price worth paying for a high-quality product and he counts seasoned tea drinkers among his regular customers.

First-time salon visitor Anne Yu, 30, says she likes the “chic and tasteful” feel to the place. “I started to drink more tea recently after I got palpitations from drinking coffee,” she said, between mouthfuls of green tea and almond cake topped with a macaron, washed down with osmanthus oolong tea. “I like tea better now.”

Fashion statement

While industry experts say the average age of tea drinkers in Taiwan is rising, entrepreneurs like Xie and Huang are giving the business a fresh edge. “To some young people now, running a tea company is attractive and trendy, it’s like being the owner of a French vineyard,” said Lin Chih-Cheng, president of the Association of Taiwan Tea. “They feel like they are part of a creative, cultural industry.” Both Huang and Xie have regular international clients and are hoping to expand the list.

However, there are still those who argue that no-frills is best. At tea store Lin Hua Tai, leaves are still processed in a factory at the back of the shop, using traditional methods unchanged for the decades it has been in business. Standing in Taipei’s once-bustling “tea street” it is one of only a few tea stores to remain. The shop buys raw tea from plantations across Taiwan and sells 100 types, from basic brews to the pricey “Oriental Beauty” oolong, which can go for more than Tw\$4,000 per 600 grams.

Tea leaves are stored in stainless steel barrels and packaged in plastic bags printed simply with the store’s name and contact details. The shop says its loyal clientele has been won purely by word of mouth. While it is dedicated to maintaining traditions, Lin Hua Tai is also trying to inspire younger generations by giving store tours and tea tastings to students. “Children drink bubble tea, but they don’t know what oolong looks like, or that there are many more types of tea. When they get interested, they will grow up drinking more tea,” says shop manager Joanne Kang. Kang said it would be easy to transform into a “pretty store”, and recognizes the shop now faces trendier competition. “But then everything would change and we would not be who we are,” she says. — AP



Xie Yu-tung, founder of second-generation tea maker Xie Xie, demonstrates her tea skills during an interview in Taipei.



Examples of the Japanese flower-arranging tradition of ikebana. — AP photos

Ikebana: Not just floral design, it's a contemplative art

Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arranging. It's a tradition that goes back centuries, and its design principles are governed by specific rules and techniques. But as with any art, creativity and self-expression are part of the process. And while it takes years of study to earn teaching credentials in ikebana, it's possible to pick up a basic introduction to the craft in a lesson or two.

It's not just about the flowers

For Westerners accustomed to vases overflowing with blossoms and rich colors, the ikebana aesthetic can be hard to grasp. "Usually the flowers are not as prominent as they would be in a Western-style arrangement," said Lauren Paul, president of the Detroit chapter of Ikebana International, an organization that has 165 chapters in 29 US states and more than 50 countries.

Instead, the focus of an ikebana arrangement is typically on the sculptural line created by the tallest branch and the space around it. Most arrangements have just a few flowers, and always an uneven number of them. The overall impression is minimalist and asymmetrical, yet harmonious and balanced. The ikebana philosophy also stresses an appreciation of nature. Part of learning the craft involves "looking around and noticing plants in a different way, and saying, 'I bet I could use this in my arrangement,'" Paul said. Seedpods, ornamental grasses with plumes, evergreens, moss, buds and leafy stems are all fair game.

Buddhist origins

Ikebana originated in the Buddhist practice of offering flowers at temple altars. Monks began creating elaborate arrangements with the flowers, and the tradition spread. The proportions that govern traditional ikebana designs are still described in terms of religious symbolism. The tallest branch represents heaven. A second stem that's two-thirds the height of the tallest element represents man. A final component, symbolizing earth, is a third smaller than the middle-size element, hovering near the base of the arrangement.

The kenzan

A small, round, spiked block called a kenzan is essential to creating any ikebana design. Stems and branches are inserted into the kenzan's spikes to keep them upright. A 3-inch diameter kenzan is ideal, according to Paul. The kenzan, placed in a ceramic bowl or dish, is then covered with water. But there's no need to buy a special container. You could even start out using a baking dish, Paul said. Placing flowers and branches on the kenzan is merely the first step. Ikebana is a contemplative art, not something to be rushed through the way you might throw flowers in a vase

moments before guests arrive, snipping a few leaves or moving a stem and calling it done.

Look for the line

Creating an ikebana display involves identifying the most powerful, eye-catching lines of your design, then manipulating the components to emphasize the strongest angles by gently bending stems and trimming leaves. Just as you would revise and improve a drawing, sculpture or poem, creating an ikebana display means considering, reconsidering, and tweaking your design over and over. "The philosophy behind the study of ikebana is that it is a meditative art and that your inner self comes out in the arrangement that you make," Paul said.

She suggests looking at the line created by the dominant branch as if it were a brushstroke on a painting. You'll want plenty of empty space around that line to highlight it. That means cutting back any stems or leaves that interfere. The hard part for beginners, once you start trimming, "is knowing when to stop, knowing when it's finished," said Paul. So, go slow with the clippers. You don't want your arrangement to be too spare.

Angles can vary too, depending on the material. "If you're using a straight branch or flower, the arrangement will be in the upright style, more up and down. If you're using a branch like a willow that flows, an arching kind of branch, your style will be more of a leaning or cascading style and your angles are going to be more lateral, more sideways," Paul said.

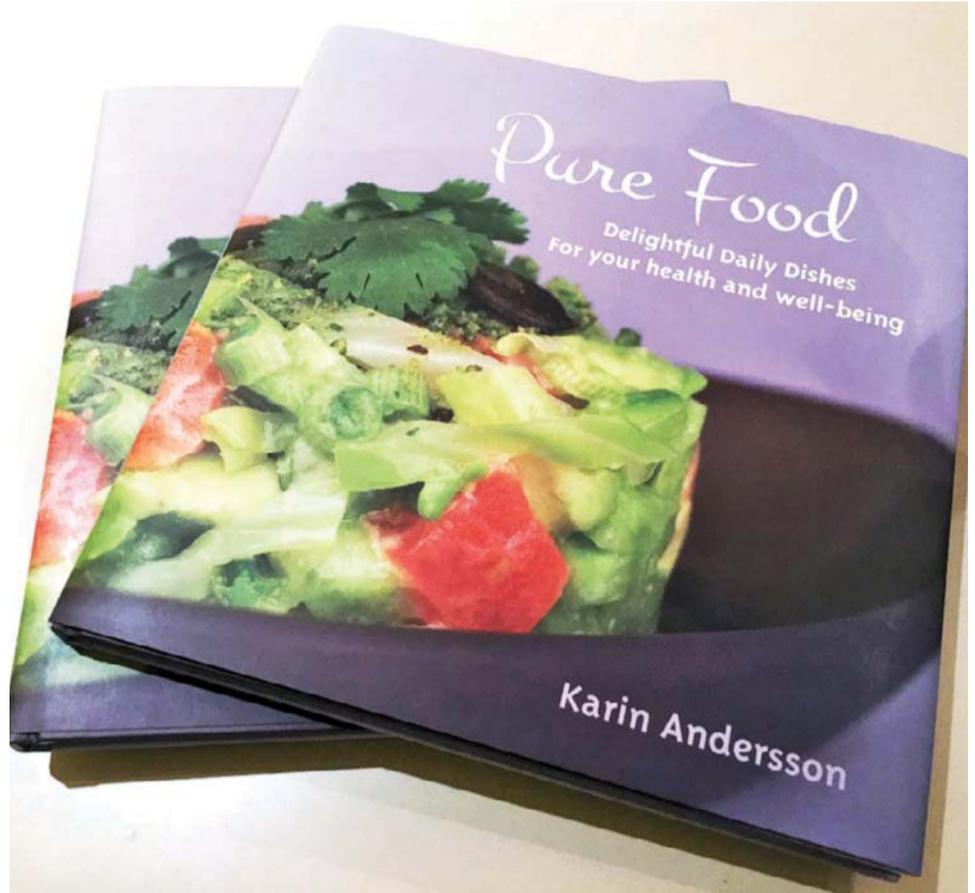
Getting started

Paul got involved in Ikebana International in 1987 after taking a class at a community center. Today she runs the Detroit chapter and also teaches. There are many schools of ikebana, and her specialty is Ikenobo, the oldest and most traditional. For those interested in learning more, <http://www.ikebanahq.org/> is a good place to start. You can see examples of different styles on the site and find a local chapter to ask about classes. Among the many books on the topic, Paul says a good guide for beginners is "Ikebana: The Art of Arranging Flowers" by Shozo Sato and Kasen Yoshimura.

If you do take a class, be prepared for teachers who may want to "take apart your whole arrangement and rebuild it for you," Paul said. "It's sometimes hard to accept because they tell you on the one hand, this is a reflection of you, but on the other hand, they do it their way. It's a hard idea to grasp, but your design still has to conform to the rules." — AP



A stem being fixed in place on a kenzan, which is a heavy, spiked block used in the Japanese flower arranging tradition of ikebana.



Pure Food:

A passionate talk about healthy food with **Karin Andersson**



By **Faten Omar**

Karin Andersson is passionate about healthy food. The Swedish expat living in Kuwait has authored of the cook-book 'Pure Food'. 'Pure Food' is an inspirational source for everyone interested in choosing a diet that gives the body and mind all the energy needed to stay alert and healthy. The recipes are based on the latest scientific knowledge of a healthy diet, with fewer carbohydrates, lesser sugar and starch, healthy natural fats, high quality protein sources and limited processed meat.

Kuwait Times spoke with Andersson to know more about 'Pure Food' and how to eat healthy.

Kuwait Times: Tell us more about yourself

Karin: I am a nurse and certified nutrition coach living in Kuwait. I have worked with nutrition and health in many different ways over a long period of time. I love to host others, explore food markets and create new dishes. I share my passion for cooking and health with others by giving classes and lectures in healthy cooking.

I believe it is important to spread knowledge, awareness and inspire people to strive for better health. For me, diet plays a vital role. When I talk about dieting, it does not mean you will eat less food - you just have to choose better food and eat the right things. My philosophy is to look at the whole health picture instead of hunting for details of the food we should avoid. Instead, choose pure ingredients as far as possible and handle them with care to achieve a balance between taste, nutrients and satisfaction.

KT: What is 'Pure Food' about?

Karin: You are probably already aware that diet has a major impact on your health. This book gives you guidance to lay the foundation for long-term healthy habits without putting a "diet stamp" on it. Therefore, this is not a book about some new trendy diet, but an inspirational cookbook containing delicious and simple recipes based on the latest scientific knowledge of diet and health.

In my latest book 'Pure Food', I share thoughts on why we eat food from an historical perspective, and I touch on the environment around meals, because food is also very much about satisfaction and emotional needs. I think many of us want to eat better, but we do not always know how. What is "right" and what is "wrong"? I will guide you onto a new, easy-to-follow track to get a whole new experience of preparing proper nutritious food.

I want to inspire you with pure, delightful, everyday dishes based on a high-quality, low-carbohydrate diet that means less sugar and starch, but includes healthy natural fats and protein sources, prepared from fresh ingredients. This is food that is not processed, not genetically modified,

mostly organic and without any additives. The recipes in this book are based on modern scientific nutritional recommendations. When you decide to cook a meal from one of my simple and tasty recipes, I want you to feel confident that the choices you have made are absolutely the very best in terms of quality and nutrition.

You should not have to worry about counting calories. You will enjoy a meal full of delicious flavors to satisfy you. You can prepare it together with the whole family and involve even the youngest children. Nothing tastes as good as when you have been a part of a great team where all are involved. Ultimately, it is you who chooses how to vary your diet based on availability of ingredients and your individual taste. Once you have achieved the habit of selecting this food, it is difficult to change, because you simply feel so much better!

KT: When did you become interested in cooking?

Karin: When I was a little girl, I often sat in my mother's snug kitchen and admired her as she prepared food. I enjoyed every minute being there, and watched her as she

improvised with whatever the larder could offer that day, and she trusted me to help her. I am truly convinced that my great interest for cooking was born in my mum's kitchen.

KT: When did you write your book?

Karin: I wrote the book during my time in Kuwait. This is my second book, and it was published in spring this year. For a long time, my dream had been to write a cookbook, a book where I can provide both the theory and practical steps people need and simple-to-understand and -succeed recipes of good, healthy cooking.

KT: If you were to create a full, inspired menu, what would the three main meals be?

Karin: Every meal I cook should include all nutrients, and could for example be based on salmon, which is an excellent source of protein and healthy fats. I love all kinds of seafood and loads of vegetables. Chicken is also very tasty and can be prepared in many different and delicious ways.



KT: What sorts of food did you grow up eating?

Karin: Growing up, I was always eating home-cooked meals based on natural and pure ingredients, including fish, meat and vegetables without any additives. There was no McDonald's and even pasta was rarely served. Water was served with every meal - no sweet sodas!

KT: What do you want your readers to gain from the book?

Karin: I want the readers to look at the whole picture of health instead of hunting for details of the foods to avoid. Instead, choose pure ingredients as far as possible and vary them. Also, consider home cooking, as it is very difficult to eat right when you are dining out a lot, ordering in or eating processed dinners. My carefully crafted recipes will help the reader to create healthy, satisfying meals at home with surprisingly little effort.

KT: What are some of the changes in food that are occurring presently?

Karin: Feeding is in transformation - fat in, sugar out. The idea in the late 1980s was that if you cut down on fat, you would cut down on calories. Fat was considered the main reason for the increase in weight and the obesity epi-



dem that began to spread among the population in the Western world. But fat has been reevaluated much in the last decade, and many extensive scientific studies have shown that the body needs fat to burn fat. However, it is very important to choose the right natural fats in a moderate amount. Most nutrition experts today are on the same page, that it's not fat that's the villain - it's the calories. And one of the biggest culprits in boosting the calorie content of food is sugar.

KT: How did you become a good cook?

Karin: My mother always inspired me. She always emphasized the importance of using ingredients of only the best quality, and I am convinced that this was one of the main reasons of her success in the kitchen. I have always tried to follow these rules and also practice a lot. In my family, it has also been very important to get together at mealtimes and take a moment to sit down and enjoy the gathering after a busy day.

KT: What's your favorite recipe and why?

Karin: I always find homemade soups fulfill everything in terms of health. They can cool you down, warm you up and fill you up. They are simple to prepare and always adaptable to your own taste.



KT: How difficult or easy is it to find good food in Kuwait?

Karin: If you are going for home cooking, Kuwait is a paradise in terms of finding good ingredients for preparing healthy meals.



KT: Are there places in Kuwait you go to for inspiration?

Karin: I love the fish market. You cannot find this kind of market in many other places. The spices that you can find in Kuwait are also a treasure.

KT: Who is your favorite chef?

Karin: My favorite list will never end. I always try to find inspiration from chefs all over the world.

KT: How do you rate restaurants in Kuwait?

Karin: Kuwait has too many fast food restaurants and this worries me.

KT: What are your future plans?

Karin: One day, I will return to Sweden, and there I wish to continue my mission in many different ways to spread knowledge, awareness and inspire people to better health.



26

Friday Times

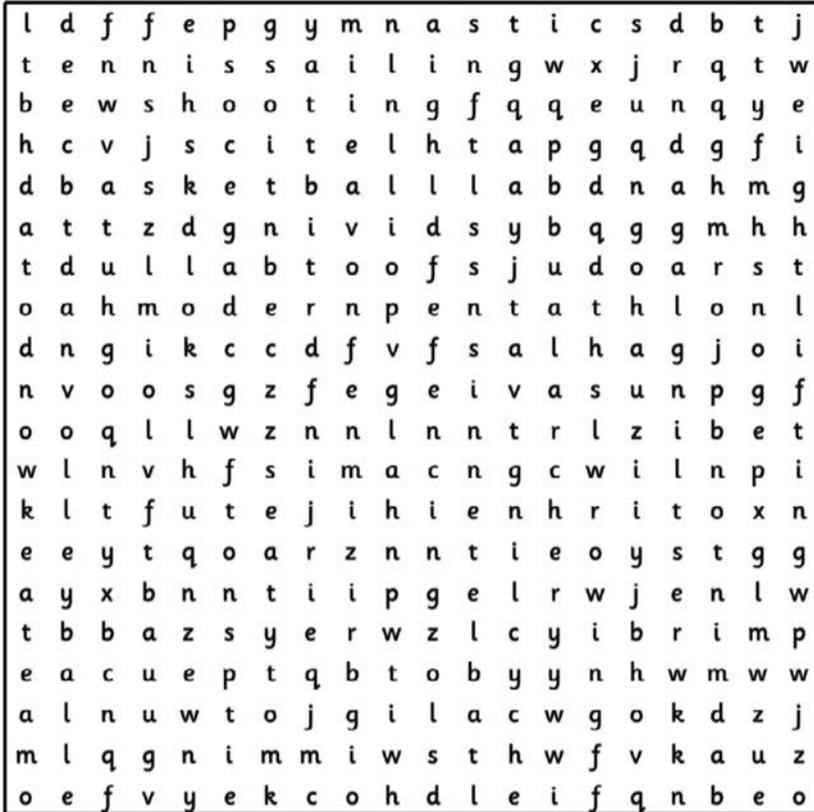
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2016

Kids



Olympic Sports Word Search

- archery
- athletics
- badminton
- basketball
- canoeing
- cycling
- diving
- equestrian
- fencing
- field hockey
- football
- golf
- gymnastics
- handball
- judo
- modern pentathlon
- rowing
- rugby sevens
- sailing
- shooting
- swimming
- table tennis
- taekwondo
- tennis
- triathlon
- volleyball
- weightlifting
- wrestling



Can you complete the medal above, by copying the complete picture below.

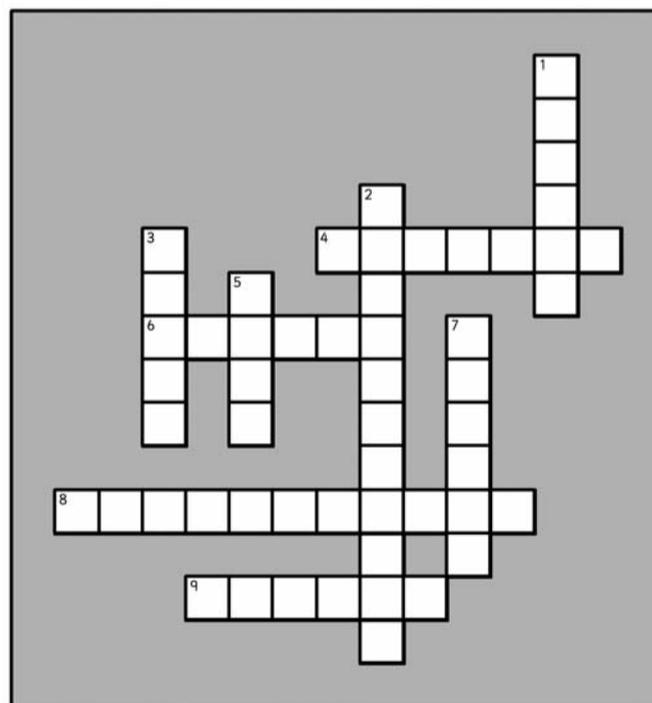


Olympic Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters OLYMPIANS.
 Don't guess - use logic.



Family Crossword



Across

4. A male sibling
6. Child of your uncle or aunt
8. Your mother or father's mother
9. A male parent

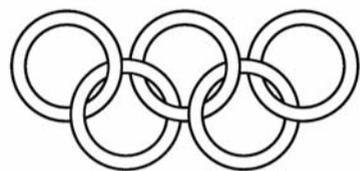
Down

1. A female parent
2. The father of your father or mother
3. Your parent's brother (or the husband of your parent's sister)
5. The sister of one's father or mother or the wife of one's uncle.
7. She shares your parents with you

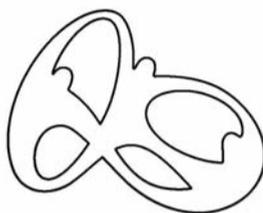




Color me!



Rio 2016



Olympic Alphabet Challenge



Can you come up with an Olympic themed word for each letter of the alphabet?

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



Olympic Sports Word Scramble 2



- itnse _____
- cengfin _____
- floobtla _____
- lidfe eoyckh _____
- stquneirae _____
- onmdtniab _____
- heyrca _____
- lollybvea _____
- ylncigc _____
- omnred pæhnlontt _____
- gniidv _____
- wtgilerns _____
- rnhtoilat _____
- baetl teinns _____



Find the differences



Spot the differences





Friday Times Travel

10 of Belgrade's best hidden hangouts



Belgrade is quietly becoming rather well known as a slightly quirky destination whose appeal is evident but tricky to pinpoint precisely. It shouldn't come as a big surprise, then, that much of the city's charm remains squirreled away from the main sights and central locations. Here are 10 of the best hidden hangouts to explore during your stay.



Jevremovac Botanical Gardens

Starting with this feels like a bit of a cheat as it isn't hidden so much as easy to walk past without noticing. However, Belgrade's Jevremovac Botanical Gardens (jevremovac.bio.bg.ac.rs), jammed between busy roads, form such a unique oasis of pure calm in the middle of the city's hurried traffic that it would be a shame to miss out. Wander to the Japanese garden found within to enjoy maximum tranquility by a babbling brook.

U10 art space

Hiding almost in plain sight, just off one of the city's main thoroughfares, U10 (ur10.rs) is an independent art space promoting the work of Belgrade's most avant-garde young artists. New exhibitions are launched all the time: these are the perfect occasions to catch the creative energy as it almost literally pours out onto the front steps and you can mingle with the future of Belgrade's art scene.

New Zvezda Cinema

Once a popular Belgrade cinema, the Zvezda (facebook.com/novibioskopzvezda) fell foul of a botched privatisation and was nearly sold off as prime downtown real estate, but it was rescued in 2014 by a hastily formed cinema 'occupation' movement determined to put the dilapidated theatre back in business. The New Zvezda Cinema, still looking pretty run down, now shows an eclectic programme, ranging from Hollywood classics to the latest European arthouse and indie productions. Films are shown undubbed (with Serbian subtitles), and a weekly schedule is shared through social media.

Zanat concept store

Concept stores don't get much more incognito than this. Zanat (facebook.com/zanat.radnja/home) is run by a group of young artists determined to give a new lease of life to old things, from lamps and armchairs to clothes, shoes and fashion accessories. It's

at its best when you take the time to experience it at a relaxed pace and chat to the owners about the idea behind the items that catch your fancy.

Ljuti garden cafe

Nestled in the courtyard of an ornately decorated old Belgrade townhouse, the trendy Ljuti (facebook.com/ljusicj) is a space devoted to extreme relaxation. Settle down in one of its swing seats and allow the urban fuss to be washed away in this colourful and carefully put-together environment. Live acoustic bands often play in the evenings.

Vox blues club

Even in a city with a tradition of inconspicuous bars, this one is truly hard to find but well worth the effort. Vox (voxbluesclub.com) is a through-and-through blues bar that puts on almost daily live gigs and draws in musicians and music fans





Ada Safari lake

Ada Safari is a lake hidden in the woods on Ada Ciganlija, itself an artificial island on a lake that doubles as Belgrade's riverside beach resort and adventure park. On the banks of the lake there's an excellent, unconventional restaurant - inventively

named Ada Safari (adasafari.co.rs) - which serves traditional Serbian riverside fare. But don't miss out on Gavez (gavez.net) just next door, a hippyish alternative club that gives the lakeside a more fun-loving slant.

who together form a cast of characters as colourful as the names of Louisiana blues legends. The entrance is enticingly discreet, a drawback to the days when it was really an underground bar.

Lokal coffee roasters

It's not hard to find a good coffee in Belgrade and caffeine junkies are unlikely to be disappointed wherever they turn to for their fix. Even so, making your way to Lokal (facebook.com/kafeterijalokal), a small but smart streetside coffee joint in the well-to-do Vraar quarter, could lead you to arguably the best coffee in the city. Ask the barista to recommend their finest blend of freshly ground Latin American or African beans and while away the afternoon.

Jane Doe vintage shop

This is a rather unique concept store offering a blend of vintage items (advertised as dating from 1920 to 1990) that have lost their owners - hence the name - and vintage-style items created by young designers. In addition to displaying a rich assortment of vintage lamps, cameras, clothes and whatnots, Jane Doe (facebook.com/JaneDoeVintageShop) also organises a range of events including workshops, clothes swaps and more.

Museum Macura

While Belgrade's official Museum of Contemporary Art continues to await its much delayed renovation, the imaginative private collection of Museum Macura (muzejmacura.com) remains the best space exhibiting modern art in the city. Well, it's not quite in the city - being located on the banks of the Danube in a Belgrade suburb - but the half-hour drive from the centre is well worth it for art and design aficionados. Discover everything from zenitism and yugo-dada to Belgrade surrealism and Vojvodinian neavant-garde. (www.lonelyplanet.com)





Aries (March 21-April 19)

A community, church, business or family get-together may be scheduled this evening. It may be a difficult day to keep your mind on work. There is a real possibility that the decisions you make today and the solutions you find may have to be reworked tomorrow. Everything works together to reveal you at your most elegant this evening. Communications are easy and a renewal of friendships with good communications between family members makes this evening an enjoyable one. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more importance. Communication is all about understanding and compassion. Understanding and compassion leads toward peace of mind. Peace of mind leads toward happiness-happiness is communicating.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This could be a challenging day so keep that sense of humor of yours and do not take the insensitive things people say too seriously. You can demonstrate a great deal of understanding of and sensitivity to the needs of others. If you take on the frustrations of others as your own, there could be trouble-easy does it. Picture any frustrations of the day flowing through and out of you. In short, it is your positive, no-nonsense thinking-and perhaps a co-worker friend or two-that will help you through this frustrating day. You will probably find it easier to relax this evening if you go ahead and play a little competitive sport, or involve yourself in some exercise program-with or without your friends. Now would also be a good time to work in the yard or garden.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a great time to work with others. You may be sought after as just the person for a particular job. This is a time to take risks and dare to be a little different. When people are sitting behind their desk to work, you could be teaching others the art of flying a plane or the art of ballet or music, or teaching an exercise class or grooming animals. It is certain that your life will be, and is, an interesting one. There is a lot of mental energy churning around and your career could open up through some new approaches. Freedom is a watchword of yours and if your professional life does not include travel, you could feel rather trapped. It could be time to look into ways in which you could benefit the company by traveling.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are a natural planner, able to use your mind to make decisions in matters of form and function. Things must be done right, which can become nerve-wracking for some. The sooner you teach a group of people to do what you do and to proof each other's work with added signatures, the sooner you will be able to move forward to bigger and better things. Each person is accountable and learns a particular pattern of working very quickly. You have good skills where the law is concerned, whether manmade or those of nature, and you can put all of this into words. Your day is full of the opportunities to grow and expand your expertise. You may decide a short-term loan is the answer for the earliest vacation plans that you and your family want.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Be patient, the problem with a car or some other combustion engine may be a blessing in disguise this morning. During your workday there will be opportunities to barter with others when it comes to shift time, duties or some other type of scheduling. Communications with your co-workers and how you interact with others are the secret to your success. Consider the ideas you have for some invention or timesaving procedure. Now is a good time to plan a path to some great results. You may want to pair up with someone that has similar ideas. Always picture and date your ideas or creations for safe-keeping. People you have not seen in some time will gather around a table to cheer you this evening. Enjoy the attention tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

If you are in advertising, your ideas are catchy-others will get your message and move forward. You could be the manager, director or leader of a business-people listen when you talk. Broadening your intellectual and spiritual horizons takes on a high priority as your workday ends. You are intent on seeing the big picture. Travel to further your education or curiosity is a dream you have not yet realized. A special fund for that purpose would be a wise move. If you are single it might be easier to take a job in a part of the world about which you may want to know. If you are married or with a partner, you might save for two trips and know that you will learn from each other. Being in touch with people on a grand scale keeps you quite busy.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This time brings an awareness of your behavior. Right now you can clearly see which relationships, jobs and, on down the line, food, drink, etc., are good for you. You may decide to take steps to change some of your choices. You will be redefining who and what you are at this time and you may spend some time alone in thought. Also, expect some changes in business. Everything points to your taking the initiative in some project. You could feel great support from those around you. This is a lucky day and energies are in your favor for whatever you want to accomplish. Your new friends are people that have similar goals to your own and you will help each other to reach these goals. Your life seems to be moving in positive ways.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

If there are misunderstandings in the workplace, you very quickly move to correct the error or change the attention to a more positive interaction. Perhaps you have had too many turns at being coach, but whatever the reason, you are the one that tends to control the atmosphere. Logic seems to take you where you want to go. Your ambitions and goals are central to your character. Much of your personal life hinges on pursuing your own growth and success. This is a time to take risks and dare to be a little unconventional. You will prosper through new insights, inventions and an independent point of view. Group sports or play with young people will work off some of the stress you picked up today. Light and colorful birds have your attention tonight.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Work, achievement and ambition are the things that mean a lot to you now. This is wonderful, as achieving your goals in the workplace or professionally means you can have and do things to achieve your goals. However, if you work so hard to have more in your retirement, you miss the opportunity now to enjoy the energies of youth. Mountain climbing in Peru, cruising to the Bahamas, rafting down a swift river are all things you can do at any age but perhaps not enjoy as much as you can at your age. Now is a good time to add in a great trip for yourself as one reward resulting from your professional success. Rest and relaxation is due this evening and it might be a grand time to visit a travel agency just to see how the prices run. A pet needs attention tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

There is a drive to search and explore-this may find you examining and working through some difficult subjects. This is a great time to be with others and to work in teams. You find a way of salvaging and increasing a financial package for the business-some new project. Overcoming personal obstacles through self-discipline is an essential lesson and you learn quickly. Later this afternoon you will have an opportunity to excel. You enjoy the company of your friends this afternoon; you will also have a bit of competition, perhaps with a bicycle or some type of sport. You and your friends may relax awhile before heading home with a few captivating stories. If one could keep notes, there would soon be a new book of short stories.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Other people may find it very difficult to understand why your sunny disposition is so firmly established with no variance of any degree. Considering you are good at turning things over and you make every effort to stay in the present-you are good at staying clear of any negative thinking. There are young people with a tendency to look at the negative, perhaps to gain some attention-perhaps to just understand a situation. You could teach the young people that come into your life a more positive way to view their personal stories just simply by your example. As they stumble or fall into difficulty, they will have a new perspective because of you. Where did you shine your light today find some healthy ways to relax this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

This is a day to buckle down and consolidate your career. Your organizational abilities and sense of responsibility may guide your movements. You appear very relaxed at this time. Everything seems to be working together and you may find yourself expressive and able to communicate well. This is a time of much energy and drive, perfect for starting something out or taking care of business. If you were thinking of opening a health food store, it could prosper at this time. The same holds true for any healing arts that you might want to perform, including nutritional techniques. Some may find you a smooth talker with a quick wit and ready tongue-very physical too. This is very good for conducting family or community meetings.

COUNTRY CODES

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



03:05 Stag
04:00 Doctors
04:35 Eastenders
05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Death In Paradise
07:00 Doctors
07:30 Eastenders
08:30 Casualty
09:25 Death In Paradise
10:20 Dickensian
11:10 Call The Midwife: Christmas Special 2015
12:45 Casualty
13:35 Death In Paradise
14:35 Doctors
15:05 Eastenders
16:10 Doctor Who
17:15 Doctor Who: The Husbands Of River Song
18:15 Doctors
19:15 Father Brown
20:05 Thirteen
21:55 Happy Valley
22:50 I Want My Wife Back
23:20 Ideal
23:50 Doctors



03:00 Ridiculousness
03:50 Key And Peele
05:55 Impractical Jokers
06:20 Key And Peele
06:50 Tosh.0
07:15 Tosh.0
07:40 Gym Rescue
08:30 Ridiculousness
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Tosh.0
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Tosh.0
11:00 Impractical Jokers
11:25 Gym Rescue
12:15 Key And Peele
12:40 Ridiculousness
13:30 Tosh.0
13:55 Tosh.0
14:20 Impractical Jokers
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Key And Peele
15:35 Tosh.0
16:00 Tosh.0
16:30 Hungry Investors
17:25 Hungry Investors
18:15 Tosh.0
18:39 Tosh.0
19:03 MLE Chowdown: Wedges And Wings
19:50 Tosh.0
20:13 I Live With Models
20:37 Brotherhood
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Inside Amy Schumer
21:54 Broad City
22:18 South Park
22:42 Underground With Dave Attell
23:05 Underground With Dave Attell
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:00 Inside Amy Schumer



03:40 Auction Hunters: Pawn Shop Edition
04:05 Storage Hunters UK
04:30 Dallas Car Sharks
05:00 How Stuff's Made
05:30 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Mythbusters
06:50 World's Top 5
07:40 Incredible Engineering
Blunders: Fixed
08:30 Boy To Man
09:20 Venom Hunters
10:10 So You Think You'd Survive?
11:00 Dark Woods Justice
11:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
12:40 Mega Shippers
13:30 Fast N' Loud
14:20 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
15:10 Street Outlaws
16:00 Venom Hunters
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Misfit Garage
22:40 Street Outlaws
23:30 Toucan Nation
00:20 Bride Of Jaws
01:10 Fast N' Loud
02:00 Misfit Garage
02:50 Street Outlaws



03:00 Industrial Junkie
03:48 Smash Lab
04:36 Battle Factory
05:00 Battle Factory
05:24 How The Universe Works
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Smash Lab
08:14 How The Universe Works
09:02 Industrial Junkie
09:26 Industrial Junkie
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Battle Factory
11:02 Battle Factory
11:26 Smash Lab
12:14 How The Universe Works
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Industrial Junkie
14:14 Industrial Junkie
14:38 Battle Factory
15:02 Battle Factory
15:26 Smash Lab
16:14 How The Universe Works
17:02 Industrial Junkie
17:26 Industrial Junkie
17:50 Smash Lab
18:40 How The Universe Works
19:30 Race To Escape
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Mega Builders
22:00 Race To Escape
22:50 How The Universe Works
23:40 Smash Lab
00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Race To Escape



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
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
17:25 Toy Story
18:55 The 7D
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



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



E! Entertainment
03:15 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
04:10 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
05:05 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 E! News
08:45 E! News
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 E! News
13:35 E! News
14:05 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
19:30 E! News
20:00 WAGs
21:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
22:00 Famously Single
23:00 E! News
23:30 E! News
00:00 Botched
00:55 Botched
01:50 New Money
02:20 E! News
02:45 E! News



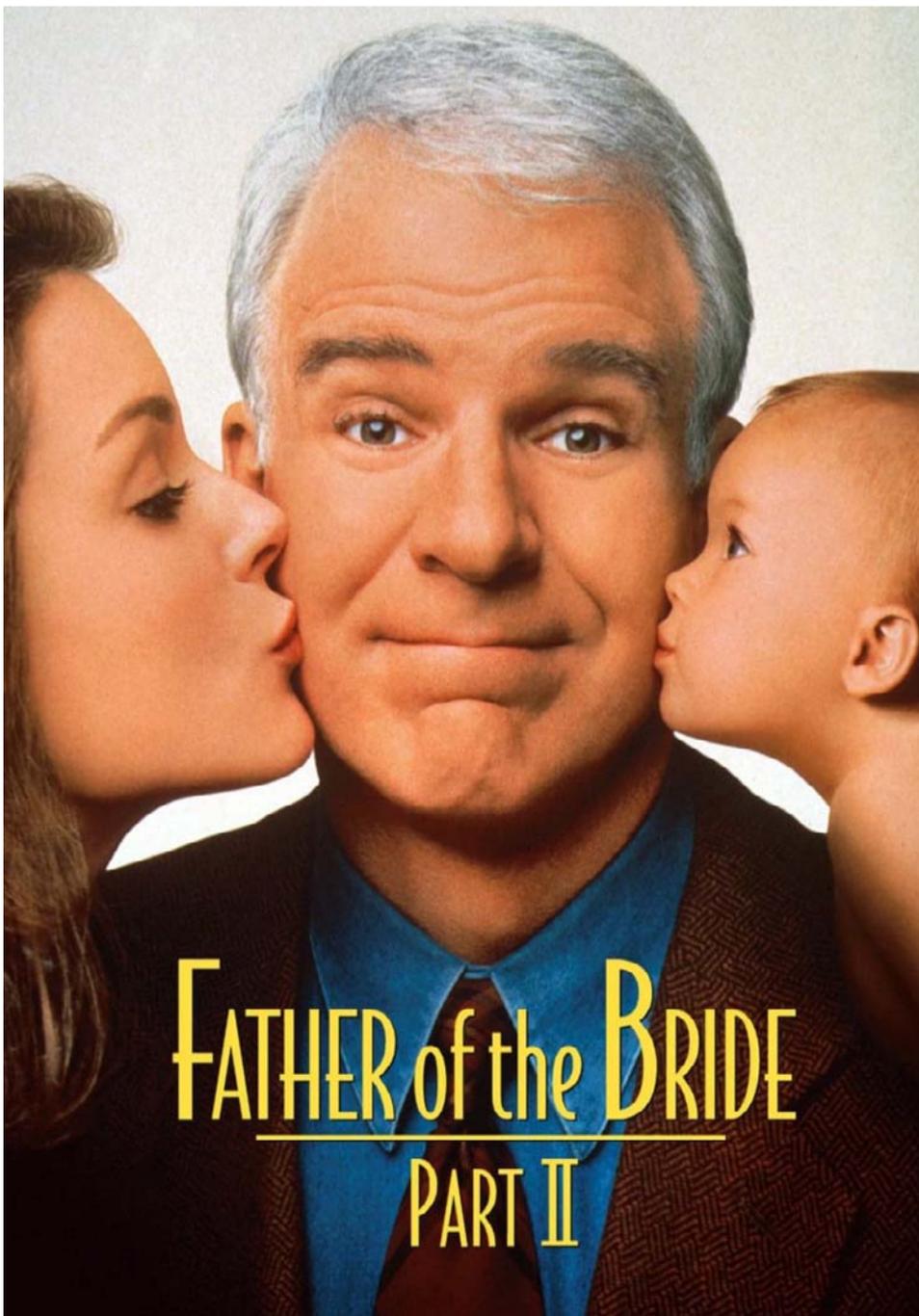
03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Man Fire Food
06:30 Man Fire Food
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
10:30 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 Chopped
12:00 Guy's 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 Cutthroat Kitchen
21:00 Kitchen Casino
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Iron Chef America
00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
01:00 Kitchen Casino
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Phineas And Ferb
08:40 Camp Lakebottom
09:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
09:10 Gravity Falls
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Boyster
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:00 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Supa Strikas
15:40 Supa Strikas
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Kirby Buckets
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Annedroids
18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Gravity Falls
19:35 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



03:40 America: The Story Of The U.S.
04:30 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 Ancient Discoveries
07:00 Dogfights
08:00 Ancient Discoveries
09:00 The Universe
10:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
11:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 Dogfights
14:00 Ancient Discoveries
15:00 The Universe
16:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
17:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Dogfights
20:00 Ancient Discoveries
21:00 The Universe
22:00 Ancient Impossible
23:00 Decoding The Past



FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2016



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



- 03:25 Don't Tell The Bride
- 04:20 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 05:15 Eggheads
- 05:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 08:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 08:55 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 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 Don't Tell The Bride
- 17:25 Together
- 17:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Emmerdale
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 20:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 21:25 Together
- 21:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Emmerdale
- 23:40 Murdoch Mysteries
- 00:30 Eggheads
- 01:00 Emmerdale



- 03:45 Brilliant Beasts
- 04:40 Mind Of A Giant
- 05:35 Brutal Killers
- 06:30 Dr. K's Exotic Animal
- 07:25 Brilliant Beasts
- 08:20 Mind Of A Giant
- 09:15 Gardeners Of Eden
- 10:10 Wild Hawaii
- 11:05 Dead Or Alive
- 12:00 Speed Kills
- 12:55 I, Predator
- 13:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal
- 14:45 Brilliant Beasts
- 15:40 The Living Edens
- 16:35 Wild India
- 17:30 Wild Scotland: Highlands
- 18:25 Dead Or Alive
- 19:20 Brilliant Beasts
- 20:10 The Living Edens
- 21:00 Wild India
- 21:50 Wild Scotland: Highlands
- 22:40 Dead Or Alive



LIFE OF A KING ON OSN MOVIES HD



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



- 03:00 Empire
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 The Art Of More
- 07:00 Castle
- 08:00 Quantico
- 09:00 The Flash
- 11:00 Castle
- 12:00 Quantico
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 The Art Of More
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Quantico
- 19:00 The Night Shift
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 Chicago Med
- 22:00 The Night Shift
- 23:00 Outlander
- 00:00 Castle
- 01:00 Chicago Med
- 02:00 The Night Shift



- 04:00 Jurassic Attack
- 06:00 Non-Stop
- 08:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
- 10:00 Into The Storm
- 12:00 Reclaim
- 14:00 Non-Stop
- 16:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
- 17:45 The Expendables 3
- 20:00 Hours
- 22:00 Cradle 2 The Grave
- 00:00 Mama
- 01:45 The Expendables 3



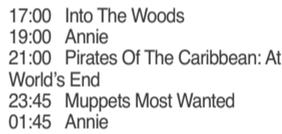
- 04:00 Indian Summer
- 06:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
- 08:00 Mr. Destiny
- 10:00 Indian Summer
- 12:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
- 14:00 Father Hood
- 16:00 Mr. Destiny
- 18:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 20:00 Wish I Was Here
- 22:00 The Hooligan Factory
- 00:00 Good Luck Chuck
- 02:00 The Bounty Hunter



- 03:00 Kill The Messenger
- 05:00 Viktor
- 07:00 Odd Thomas
- 09:00 Cas & Dylan
- 11:00 Before I Disappear
- 13:00 The Silent Mountain
- 15:00 Young Ones
- 17:00 Cas & Dylan
- 19:00 You're Not You
- 21:00 Cake
- 23:00 Third Person
- 01:15 Young Ones



- 03:00 Big Fat Liar
- 05:00 Bolt
- 07:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
- 09:00 Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb
- 11:00 D2: The Mighty Ducks
- 13:00 The Lone Ranger
- 15:00 Muppets Most Wanted



- 17:00 Into The Woods
- 19:00 Annie
- 21:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
- 23:45 Muppets Most Wanted
- 01:45 Annie



- 03:00 One Fine Day
- 05:00 Foreverland
- 07:00 Powder
- 09:00 Happiness
- 10:30 Second Coming
- 12:15 The Horse Whisperer
- 15:15 The Guardian
- 17:30 Happiness
- 19:00 The Fisher King
- 21:15 Anna Karenina
- 23:30 Waking The Dead
- 01:15 The Guardian



- 03:30 Life Of A King
- 05:15 Le Weekend
- 06:45 Into The Woods
- 09:00 The Love Punch
- 11:00 Home
- 13:00 The Grand Seduction
- 15:00 The Good Lie
- 17:00 Love, Rosie
- 18:45 Tomorrowland
- 21:00 Steve Jobs
- 23:15 The Transporter: Refueled
- 01:00 The Final Girls



- 04:30 Memory Loss
- 06:00 Earth To Echo
- 08:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 09:30 Pixies
- 11:00 Tarzan
- 12:45 Evolution Man
- 14:30 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 16:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 18:00 Pixies
- 20:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
- 22:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
- 23:30 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
- 01:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
- 02:45 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart

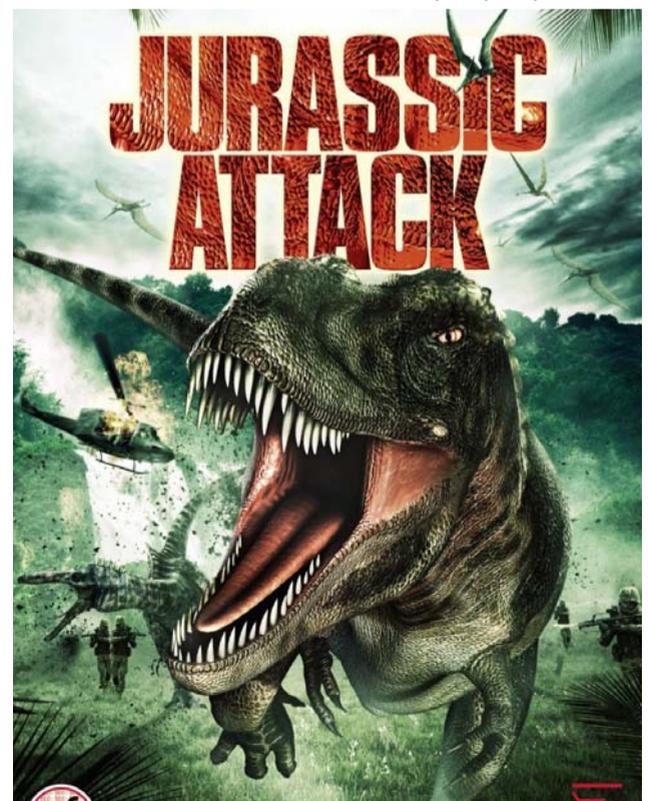
- 06:05 Crowd Control
- 06:35 Locked Up Abroad
- 07:30 Breakout
- 08:25 Wicked Tuna
- 09:20 Science Of Stupid
- 10:15 4 Babies A Second
- 11:10 The Great Human Race
- 12:05 Russia's Mystery Files
- 13:00 Wicked Tuna
- 14:00 Breakout
- 15:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 16:00 4 Babies A Second



- 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 Henry Danger
- 10:36 Henry Danger
- 11:00 Henry Danger
- 11:24 Henry Danger
- 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 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:24 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 20:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 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



- 03:20 Hacking The System
- 03:50 Machine Impossible
- 04:45 Science Of Stupid
- 05:10 Science Of Stupid
- 05:40 Crowd Control



JURASSIC ATTACK ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

WORD SEARCH

Flowers 1 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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 | GERBERA | NARCISSUS |
| ASTER | GLADIOLUS | PANSY |
| CALLA | HEATHER | PETUNIA |
| CLEMATIS | HYACINTH | SNAPDRAGON |
| DAFFODIL | IMPATIENS | STOCK |
| DELPHINIUM | JASMINE | TULIP |
| FREESIA | LILAC | VIOLET |
| GARDENIA | LISIANTHUS | |

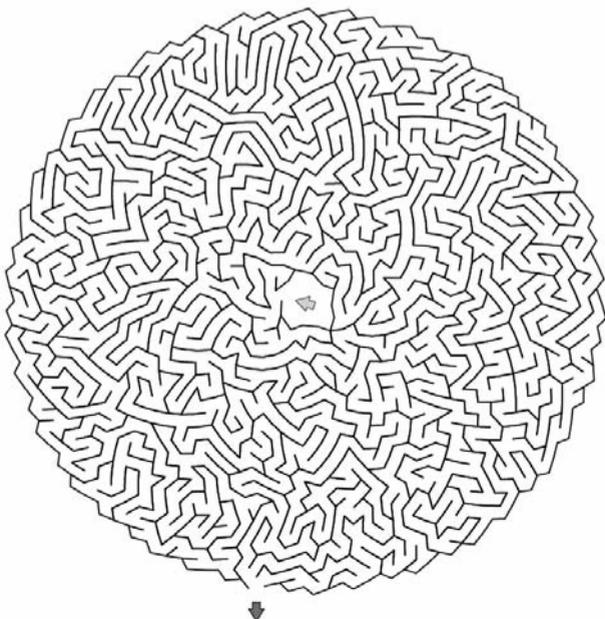
Yesterday's Solution

Cooking 1 - Solution

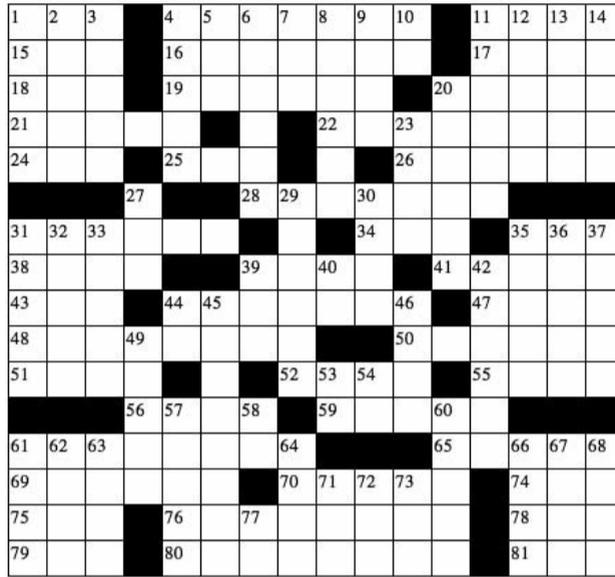
N B K X R I T S Y R G W O A G S D
D R K F K V R E C G H C A O P L F
P O V C D E F E S T A R B N D H N
L W N E M N E R T C B S B O I L H
B N G M C E I N Y R T H E R Z B D
O L I Y R U Z R E T G R Z E S G M
D S E U R L D A G J X E A S B N I
I Y P N X A D E J D U D L C B O B
F F H V D P E B R R C L G S T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

- | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|
| BLEND | FRY | ROAST |
| BOIL | GLAZE | SEAR |
| BRAISE | GRIND | SEASON |
| BREAD | JULIENNE | SHRED |
| BROWN | MINCE | SIMMER |
| CLARIFY | POACH | STEW |
| COAT | PUREE | STIR |
| DICE | REDUCE | |

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1347



ACROSS

- A decree that prohibits something.
- A word for chaos or fiasco borrowed from modern Hebrew (where it is a loan word from Russian).
- United States newspaper publisher (1858-1935).
- 100 avos equal 1 pataca.
- A member of the Siouan people formerly inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota.
- Very close and convivial.
- A rotating disk shaped to convert circular into linear motion.
- Any plant of the genus Reseda.
- Soreness and warmth caused by friction.
- A cleric who ordains.
- A resource.
- A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
- Make certain of.
- A forbidding stronghold.
- The capital of Croatia.
- A master's degree in business.
- An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
- Leafless East Indian vine.
- The month following February and preceding April.
- The Hebrew patriarch who saved himself and his family and the animals by building an ark in which they survived 40 days and 40 nights of rain.
- Having a mental age of three to seven years.
- A city of northern Poland near the mouth of the Vistula River on a gulf of the Baltic Sea.
- (in Gnosticism) A divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe.
- A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for aviation and spaceflight.
- Small European freshwater fish with a slender bluish-green body.
- Jordan's port.
- The animal order including amoebas.
- Occurring or encountered or experienced or observed frequently or in accordance with regular practice or procedure.
- Capital and largest city of Iraq.
- Measuring instrument in which the echo of a pulse of microwave radiation is used to detect and locate distant objects.
- Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
- A passage with access only at one end.
- Of or relating to or characteristic of Sicily or the people of Sicily.
- Being four more than fifty.
- An inflammatory disease of connective tissue with variable features including fever and weakness and fatigability and joint pains and skin lesions on the face or neck or arms.
- (comparative and superlative of 'early') More early than.
- An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.

DOWN

- An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
- A genus of Indriidae.
- A member of a people who have no permanent home but move about according to the seasons.
- Tired of the world.
- How long something has existed.
- An East Indian sailor.
- Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
- A soft-finned fish of the family Gadidae.
- (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
- A musician who plays the oboe.
- (anatomy) Any structure that resembles a horn in shape.
- A blind god.
- Something (often something deceptively attractive) that catches you unawares.
- The quarter of many North African cities in which the citadel is located.
- Material used to daub walls.
- The ball-shaped capsule containing the vertebrate eye.
- Submerged freshwater perennials.
- A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
- An edible seaweed with a mild flavor.
- United States film actress (born in Sweden) known for her reclusiveness (1905-1990).
- Formerly included in genus Cedrela.
- Collect or gather.
- The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
- (astronomy) The angular distance of a celestial point measured westward along the celestial equator from the zenith crossing.
- A genus of tropical American plants have sword-shaped leaves and a fleshy compound fruits composed of the fruits of several flowers (such as pineapples).
- A radioactive element of the actinide series.
- Genus of shrubs or small trees having indehiscent pods with black seeds.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Having come or been brought to a conclusion.
- Informal terms for a mother.
- A state in northwestern North America.
- Lower in esteem.
- Half the width of an em.
- Ruined by overcooking.
- A heavy long-handled hammer used to drive stakes or wedges.
- Look at with amorous intentions.
- Fleshy and usually brightly colored cover of some seeds that develops from the ovule stalk and partially or entirely envelopes the seed.
- Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
- Harsh or corrosive in tone.
- Rock that in its molten form (as magma) issues from volcanos.
- American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- Small cubes with 1 to 6 spots on the faces.
- An associate degree in applied science.
- A hard brittle blue-white multivalent metallic element.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

INVASIVE WHITEFLY SPARKS CONCERNS

PESTICIDE-RESISTANT WHITEFLY COULD 'DEVASTATE' US CROPS

HOMESTEAD: A tiny, invasive whitefly that is resistant to pesticides and carries crop-devastating viruses has been found outdoors in the United States for the first time, raising concerns among fruit and vegetable growers. The Q-biotype whitefly turned up in April in the heavily manicured gardens of an affluent neighborhood in south Florida's Palm Beach County, where landscapers were spraying the flowers and shrubs regularly with insecticides.

Its discovery outdoors comes more than a decade after it was first found in a US retail nursery in Arizona. Since 2005, the whitefly has also been found in about two dozen US states, but only in greenhouses. It is already considered a major invasive pest worldwide. Now that the Q-biotype whitefly is outdoors in the United States, researchers say it poses a serious threat to crops such as tomatoes, beans, squash, cotton and melons. Having whiteflies outdoors makes the problem "much more difficult to control," and they may never be fully eradicated, said Lance Osborne, a professor of entomology at the University of Florida. "The resistance to pesticides—that is what really sets them apart," he told a few dozen growers who attended a recent session to learn about the whitefly in Homestead, an agricultural area south of Miami. "The best single treatment we have kills 90-91 percent of them. That is as good as we can do without multiple applications." Whiteflies draw fluid out of a plant's leaves, and excrete a sticky residue that allows fungus to grow, turning the leaves black and making it harder for them to photosynthesize. The insects can also



HOMESTEAD, Florida: Dr Lance Osborne, an entomologist with the University of Florida, gives a presentation in Homestead, Florida to growers who are concerned about the pesticide-resistant whitefly biotype Q, which looks exactly like a less harmful species, the whitefly biotype B. — AFP

spread more than 100 viral diseases that weaken the plants and can make fruits and vegetables inedible.

There are dozens of different kinds of whiteflies in the world. This one, known as Q-biotype whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*), looks exactly like the silverleaf whitefly, or B-biotype, but is a completely different species. The Q-biotype whitefly is believed to originate in the Mediterranean region, particularly from tomato fields in Spain, Portugal and Israel, Osborne said. Since its discovery outdoors in Florida in April, they have been

found in more than 40 locations across the state, including residences, wholesale nurseries and retail plant outlets, crawling on the leaves of hibiscus, eggplant, lantana, ficus hedges and porter weeds.

'A serious risk'

Whiteflies can live on 600 different kinds of plants, 300 of which are grown in Florida, according to the state agriculture department. "The reason we are worried about the Q is because it has such a huge host range and is resistant to pesticides," explained

Osborne. "They attack so many crops—there is always something in the ground these things will attack." While the Q-biotype whitefly has not done any major damage yet in Florida, its emergence has kept agriculture officials busy organizing inspections, working on plans to control the bugs and imposing quarantines around positive finds as necessary, a spokesman said. "With our climate, robust international trade and more than 100 million visitors a year, Florida is a hotbed for agricultural pests and diseases," Florida agriculture commissioner Adam Putnam said in an email to AFP. "The Q-biotype whitefly poses a serious risk to Florida's \$120 billion agriculture industry and the more than two million jobs it supports."

Blamed for famine

Whiteflies have been blamed for worsening famine in Africa and for wreaking havoc on farming in the southern United States in the 1980s and 1990s. Back then, swarms of whiteflies of the B-biotype destroyed cotton, tomato and melon fields, causing hundreds of millions of dollars in losses. "The bottom line is, this can be devastating," said Osborne. To encourage growers to check their plants for whiteflies, the US Department of Agriculture has extended a pledge of secrecy to anyone who wants to find out what kind of whiteflies they have on their plants. Samples of whiteflies can be sent to their lab in Fort Pierce, Florida for DNA analysis, free of charge, and they promise the sender won't be identified except by county and the general type of location. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

248 33 199

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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (18/08/2016 TO 24/08/2016)

SHARQIA-1		LIFE ON THE LINE	8:45 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	12:30 AM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	12:00 PM	RABID DOGS	10:45 PM		
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	2:15 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	12:45 AM	AL-KOUT.2	
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:15 PM			SKIPTRACE	12:15 PM
THE BFG	6:30 PM	MARINA-1		SKIPTRACE	2:30 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	9:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA	3
SUICIDE SQUAD	11:45 PM	THE BFG	2:45 PM	SKIPTRACE	7:45 PM
		THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:15 PM	SKIPTRACE	10:00 PM
SHARQIA-2		THE BFG	7:30 PM	SKIPTRACE	12:15 AM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	1:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	10:00 PM		
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	3:15	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM	AL-KOUT.3	
PMTHE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	5:30 PM			JAEHEM FI ILHIND	12:30 PM
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	7:30 PM	MARINA-2		SUICIDE SQUAD	2:45 PM
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	9:45 PM	SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	5:15 PM
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	12:05 AM	SKIPTRACE	2:00 PM	THE BFG -3D	7:30 PM
		JAEHEM FI ILHIND	4:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	10:00 PM
SHARQIA-3		JAEHEM FI ILHIND	6:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM
SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM	SKIPTRACE	8:45 PM		
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:45 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	11:15 PM	AL-KOUT.4	
SKIPTRACE	4:00 PM			LIFE ON THE LINE	11:30 AM
SKIPTRACE	6:15 PM	MARINA-3		WARD DOGS	1:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	8:30 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	11:45 AM	RABID DOGS	4:15 PM
SKIPTRACE	10:45 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	1:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	6:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	1:00 AM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:00 PM	RABID DOGS	8:45 PM
		NO TUE		WARD DOGS	10:45 PM
MUHALAB-1		Special Show "THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS"	4:00 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	1:00 AM
THE BFG	11:30 AM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	6:00 PM		
MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	2:00 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	8:00 PM	BAIRAQ-1	
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:00 PM	SKIPTRACE	10:15 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	12:30 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	7:15 PM	SKIPTRACE	12:30 AM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	2:30 PM
THE BFG	9:45 PM			THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	4:30 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 AM	AVENUES-1		THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	6:30 PM
		LIFE ON THE LINE	1:00 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	8:30 PM
MUHALAB-2		LIFE ON THE LINE	3:00 PM	THE BFG	10:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	12:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	5:00 PM	THE BFG	1:00 AM
SKIPTRACE	3:15 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	7:00 PM		
THE BFG	5:30 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	9:00 PM	BAIRAQ-2	
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	8:00 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	11:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	11:45 AM
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	10:15 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	1:00 AM	FINDING DORY	2:00 PM
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	12:30 AM			SKIPTRACE	4:15 PM
		AVENUES-2		SKIPTRACE	6:30 PM
MUHALAB-3		THE BFG -3D-4DX	12:15 PM	SKIPTRACE	9:00 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	11:30 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	2:45 PM	SKIPTRACE	11:30 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	1:45 PM	THE BFG -3D-4DX	5:15 PM		
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	3:45 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	7:45 PM	BAIRAQ-3	
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	5:45 PM	THE BFG -3D-4DX	10:15 PM	MIN 30 SANA	1:00 PM
SKIPTRACE	7:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD -3D-4DX	12:45 AM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	10:00 PM			MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	4:15 PM
SKIPTRACE	12:15 AM	AVENUES-3		JAEHEM FI ILHIND	7:30 PM
		SKIPTRACE	12:45 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	9:45 PM
FANAR-1		SKIPTRACE	3:00 PM		
SKIPTRACE	12:00 PM	SKIPTRACE	5:15 PM	PLAZA	
SKIPTRACE	2:15 PM	SKIPTRACE	7:30 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	3:30 PM
MIN 30 SANA	4:30 PM	SKIPTRACE	9:45 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	5:30 PM
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	7:30 PM	SKIPTRACE	12:05 AM	ID: INSPECTOR DAWOOD IBRAHIM - Malayalam	
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	9:45 PM			7:45 PM	
JAEHEM FI ILHIND	12:05 AM	360° 1		SKIPTRACE	10:15 PM
		THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	12:30 PM		
FANAR-2		THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	2:30 PM	LAILA	
WAR DOGS	12:15 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:30 PM	THE BFG	4:00 PM
WAR DOGS	2:30 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	6:30 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	6:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	5:00 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	8:30 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	8:30 PM
WAR DOGS	7:15 PM	THE BFG	10:30 PM	SKIPTRACE	11:00 PM
WAR DOGS	9:45 PM	RIOT	1:00 AM		
SKIPTRACE	12:15 AM			AJIAL.1	
		360° 2		ID: INSPECTOR DAWOOD IBRAHIM - Malayalam	
FANAR-3		SUICIDE SQUAD	1:00 PM	3:30 PM	
RABID DOGS	11:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	3:30 PM	ID: INSPECTOR DAWOOD IBRAHIM - Malayalam	
SUICIDE SQUAD	1:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	6:00 PM	6:00 PM	
RABID DOGS	4:00 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	8:30 PM	ID: INSPECTOR DAWOOD IBRAHIM - Malayalam	
MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	6:00 PM	THE CONJURING 2	11:00 PM	8:30 PM	
THE BFG	9:00 PM			JAEHEM FI ILHIND	11:00 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	11:45 PM	360° 3			
		LIFE ON THE LINE	12:00 PM	AJIAL.2	
FANAR-4		LIFE ON THE LINE	2:00 PM	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	3:45 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	12:30 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	4:00 PM	RUSTOM- Hindi	6:45 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	2:30 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	6:00 PM	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	9:45 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:30 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	8:00 PM		
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	6:30 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	10:00 PM	AJIAL.3	
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	8:30 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	12:05 AM	RUSTOM- Hindi	3:15 PM
THE BFG	10:30 PM			HAPPY BHAG JAYEGI- Hindi	6:15 PM
RABID DOGS	1:00 AM	AL-KOUT.1		HAPPY BHAG JAYEGI- Hindi	9:15 PM
		THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	12:00 PM		
FANAR-5		THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	2:00 PM	AJIAL.4	
LIFE ON THE LINE	11:45 AM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:00 PM	DHARMA DURAI- Tamil	4:00 PM
LIFE ON THE LINE	2:00 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	6:00 PM	DHARMA DURAI- Tamil	7:00 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	4:15 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	8:00 PM	DHARMA DURAI- Tamil	10:00 PM
RABID DOGS	6:30 PM	JAEHEM FI ILHIND	10:15 PM		

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Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2016



World stocks rise
as dollar weakens
on divided US Fed

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EGYPT TO RECEIVE \$2 BILLION DEPOSIT FROM SAUDI

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LONDON: Pedestrians walk in front of a placard advertising a soon-to-open shop in Regent street, central London. Retail sales in Britain, a key driver of the country's economy, rebounded 1.4 percent in July from the previous month's drop, official data showed yesterday, calming fears over any immediate fallout from Brexit. — AFP (See Page 41)

DUBAI'S DP WORLD DELAYS PORT EXPANSION

NEGATIVE OMEN FOR OTHER EXPANDING PORTS IN REGION

DUBAI: DP World, one of the world's largest port operators, is delaying the expansion of Dubai's Jebel Ali port, its main facility, because of softer market conditions, the company said yesterday. A plan to add 1.5 million 20-foot equivalent units (TEU) of annual capacity to Terminal 3 at Jebel Ali will be delayed into 2017, while expansion of Terminal 4 will also be slowed, DP World said without giving details. The company had announced in July 2015 that it would invest \$1.6 billion in Terminal 4, which was to be completed by 2018. Jebel Ali handles shipments not only for the United Arab Emirates but for much of the region.

Since last year, however, growth in the oil-

rich economies of the Gulf has slowed because of low oil prices. Saudi Arabia's imports, for example, shrank 20 percent from a year earlier in May, according to official data released this week. "After the 2009 financial crisis, trade helped support Dubai in part thanks to government stimulus in the region," said Dima Jardaneh, head of regional economic research at Standard Chartered. "Now Dubai's trade is feeling the impact of a contractionary economic environment and the absence of stimulus."

DP World's decision also reflected a subdued outlook for global trade flows. Expansion in the volume of world trade is expected to remain sluggish at 2.8 percent in

2016, unchanged from 2015, the World Trade Organization forecast in April. "(The) global trade environment remains challenging including for Jebel Ali port," DP World said yesterday, adding that the company handled 7.4 million TEUs of cargo in the UAE during the first half of 2016, down 6 percent from a year ago.

The company had previously disclosed that its consolidated throughput for the first half - volumes at ports which the company controls around the world - was 14.6 million TEUs, down 1.4 percent. DP World's decision may be a negative omen for several other ports in the region, which launched multi-billion dollar expansion plans when oil prices

were high several years ago in efforts to become trans-shipment hubs for the Gulf.

Abu Dhabi has said it aims to increase the capacity of its new Khalifa Port, only about 50 kilometers down the coast from Jebel Ali, to 15 million TEUs by 2030 from 2.5 million TEUs at present, depending on demand. Qatar and Oman are expanding their ports.

Also yesterday, DP World reported a 50 percent jump in net profit attributable to shareholders during the first half to \$608 million, helped by the acquisitions of Dubai's Jebel Ali Free Zone and Canada's Fairview Terminal. DP World's revenue for the first half was \$2.09 billion, up from \$1.90 billion a year earlier. — Reuters

THAI MINISTER BRUSHES OFF FOREIGN INVESTMENT PLUNGE

BANGKOK: Thailand's finance minister yesterday brushed off concerns about plunging foreign investment under junta rule, saying "there is light ahead" now that voters have approved a military-crafted constitution. Generals seized power in 2014 vowing to end years of political instability and kickstart the lacklustre economy. They have largely succeeded in bringing calm to the politically turbulent nation by stamping out dissent and banning political rallies.

But the economy remains the junta's weak point. High household debt, weakening exports and low consumer confidence have cramped growth for the last few years in what was Southeast Asia's flagship economy. Foreign investment has fallen off a cliff since the military takeover. The latest figures from

Thailand's Board of Investment (BOI) show no let up in that fall. Approved foreign investment applications plunged in the first half of 2016 compared to the same period last year.

Investment from Japan, Thailand's largest overseas investor, dropped from \$2.7 billion to \$810m. North American investment plunged tenfold, from \$660 million to \$67 million while the European Union fell from \$1 billion to \$260 million.

Less pronounced falls were seen across South East Asia. China was one of the few countries to increase its approved investment footprint over the same period, from \$159 million in the first half of 2015 to \$723 million so far this year. At a briefing with reporters yesterday, Finance Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said he was unphased by the

drop. "I think we shouldn't look back at the past, there is light ahead," he said.

He added that political uncertainties were reduced following this month's charter referendum, with elections scheduled for the end of 2017. "The climate for investment is now better, both for locals and foreigners," he said. "Domestically, since the referendum has passed, the political uncertainties are decreasing in a good way." Thais approved a new constitution—the country's 20th-by a comfortable majority although turnout was 59 percent and independent campaigning was banned. The military says the document will bring stability and root out corruption among civilian politicians. Critics say it entrenches the military's hold over civilian politics. Political turbulence is only partially behind Thailand's

foreign investment fall. The country is rapidly ageing and it faces increased competition from neighbors like Vietnam and Cambodia, countries with large young populations, increasing education standards and lower wages. The BOI said yesterday it was aiming to attract \$15.9 billion in total foreign investment this year.

The two bright spots on Thailand's economy have remained tourism and ramped up government spending on major infrastructure projects. Both have propped up growth for now. The economy expanded 3.5 percent in the three months to June, slightly higher than expected. But the World Bank estimates Thailand's economy will grow by only 2.5 percent this year, a low figure compared to most Southeast Asia neighbors. — AFP

PHILIPPINE ECONOMY GROWS 7 PERCENT IN SECOND QUARTER

MANILA: The Philippine economy expanded 7.0 percent in the second quarter, official data showed yesterday, but President Rodrigo Duterte's new government said major changes were needed to fix one of Asia's biggest rich-poor divides. The April-to-June period covered the final months of Benigno Aquino's administration, capping six years of stellar growth that helped boost the Philippines' credit ratings and end its reputation as one of the region's economic laggards.

However, Duterte won a landslide election victory partly on his railings against the nation's elite who have soaked up much of the benefits of the growth, while leaving a quarter of the nation's 100 million people living below the poverty line. Duterte's economic chiefs yesterday credited the 7.0-percent growth on annualized basis in the second quarter, the fastest in three years, to Aquino's "sound macro-economic, fiscal and monetary policies", but emphasized the poor were continuing to be left behind.

"We need to sustain that rebalancing toward investment-driven growth, especially investment that will lead to more inclusive, poverty-reducing, inequality-reducing growth," Economic Planning Secretary Ernesto Pernia said. Pernia said the Duterte administration was particularly concerned about the farming and fisheries sector, which accounts for about 10 million workers and their families. "Knowing that the majority of poor Filipinos rely on this sector for their livelihood, this administration will prioritize agricultural development," he said.

The sector declined 2.1 percent from April-June, the fifth consecutive quarter of declines. Nevertheless, Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez also said Aquino's administration had helped set the foundations for even stronger overall growth, setting a target of at least 7 percent for the second half of this year and 6.5-7.5 percent in 2017. "Our strong macro-economic fundamentals will buffer the Philippine economy from external shocks," Dominguez said. The government is aiming to cut the poverty rate from 26 percent currently to 17 percent when Duterte steps down in 2022.

Dominguez said this would begin with a stimulus program focused on infrastructure, education and health. The government on Tuesday unveiled its 2017 budget, announcing an overall increase of 11.6 percent in spending. Education was one of the biggest winners, with a 31-percent rise. Dominguez also said the government would expand a government program providing free contraceptives to poor couples and allowing sex education to be taught in schools. A landmark law enabling this passed under Aquino but budget cuts by lawmakers in the mainly Catholic nation diluted its effectiveness. Duterte has said helping Filipinos have fewer children is one of the keys to poverty reduction. — AFP



BEIJING: A man walks in front of shops in the artistic 798 area in Beijing. China must take 'urgent' action to reform its economy or risk 'permanently lower growth,' the International Monetary Fund said in a report, citing mounting corporate debt as a major concern. — AFP

CHINA HOME PRICES RISES 7.9 PERCENT

SLOWING CHINA HOME PRICE RISES COULD DENT ECONOMIC GROWTH PROSPECTS

BEIJING: Home price rises in China's biggest cities showed signs of easing in July, adding to concerns that one of the economy's key growth drivers is losing steam but offering some relief for policymakers worried about property bubbles. A robust recovery in home prices and sales gave a stronger-than-expected boost to the world's second-largest economy in the first half of the year, partly offsetting weak exports.

But some analysts say slowing price growth and weakening property investment suggest the rebound may have peaked, as more local governments tighten restrictions on home purchases in a bid to keep fast-rising prices in check. "We believe the housing market is cooling down from the rebound in the

first half. Property investment will continue to drop, which will put more pressure on the economy in the future," said Hua Chang Chun, an economist at Nomura. Average new home prices in China's 70 major cities rose 7.9 percent in July from a year earlier, an official survey showed yesterday, compared with a 7.3 percent increase in June.

But on a monthly basis, prices rose just 0.8 percent in July, the same pace as in June, which was the slowest since April, according to a Reuters calculation based on data issued by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). Prices also stalled or fell in more cities than in June. Some of China's largest cities continued to see eye-popping annual gains, with southern boomtown Shenzhen rising

the most by 40.9 percent, but monthly increases have moderated. Prices rose 20.7 percent and 27.3 percent on-year in Beijing and Shanghai, but were up just 1.5 percent and 2 percent from June.

The market also remains uneven, with some smaller cities in hard-hit industrial regions such as "rustbelt" Liaoning province continuing to see price declines. In many of those areas, local governments are still trying to stimulate demand. "Our land was bought at reasonable prices, and we will speed up new launches going forward. Land prices are at high levels now, but government is generally still supportive to the sector," Shao Mingxiao, CEO of Longfor Properties, said at a company earnings conference on Wednesday. — Reuters

EGYPT TO RECEIVE \$2 BILLION DEPOSIT FROM SAUDI ARABIA

CAIRO: Egypt signed a deal earlier this year for a \$2 billion central bank deposit from Saudi Arabia, International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr said yesterday. Egypt inked a raft of agreements with Saudi Arabia during a visit by the Saudi king in April, including plans for a 60 billion Saudi riyal (\$16 billion) investment fund. Nasr said the \$2 billion deposit deal was also signed during King Salman's visit. The deal had not been previously announced. Egypt is scrambling to secure some \$5 billion to \$6 billion in bilateral financing needed to ensure that a \$12 billion lending program agreed with the International Monetary Fund last week will go ahead.

Nasr did not say when the Saudi deposit was expected to arrive and it was not clear whether it would be counted toward the financing of Egypt's program. "This is old money. I don't know if they count that," she said by text message. Egypt, struggling to rebuild an economy battered by turmoil since a 2011 uprising, won staff-level agreement for the three-year IMF lending program last week. But IMF Egypt Mission Chief Chris Jarvis told Reuters that Egypt's program would require additional financing in the first year, including assurances of \$5 billion-\$6 billion in bilateral support, before he could take it to the board.

The Arab world's most populous state has already secured pledges from the United Arab Emirates for a \$4 billion aid program that would include a \$2 billion central bank deposit and a development loan. Egypt had also announced in May cabinet approval for a Saudi grant of \$2.5 billion to be paid in tranches. The first \$500 million tranche has already been disbursed. Nasr said the \$2 billion central bank deposit was part of a separate deal though both were signed during the king's visit.

Previously pledged Gulf Arab aid could form part of the bilateral financing but the IMF needs assurances that the money will arrive in the first year of the program, Jarvis told Reuters last week. He said then that the IMF would support Egypt's effort to secure the financing it needs. Armed with an IMF-approved reform agenda, the government has said it will go to international markets with a eurobond issuance of \$3 billion to \$5 billion as early as September. — Reuters

JAPANESE EXPORTS DROP

TOKYO: Japan's exports in July suffered their sharpest monthly fall in seven years, data showed yesterday, as a surging yen clouds the country's trade picture, with shipments of cars, ships and steel all tumbling. The gloomy export figures come despite Japan logging a bigger-than-expected trade surplus as imports also dropped at their fastest rate since 2009. The finance ministry said the value of exports last month fell 14 percent from a year earlier, the 10th straight monthly fall, while imports dropped nearly 25 percent, leaving Japan with a trade surplus of 513 billion yen (\$5.1 billion).

That reversed a year-earlier deficit and was bigger than the 273.2 billion yen surplus expected by economists. But yesterday's export data are the latest reminder that Tokyo's policy remedies for stoking growth in the world's number three economy have failed to gain traction. Japan's economy stalled in the April-June quarter, separate GDP figures showed this week, confounding Tokyo's massive spending and monetary easing campaign.

The world's third-largest economy registered zero growth on-quarter, falling below economists' expectations for a modest 0.2 percent expansion, as weak exports and a fall in business spending dented activity. Japan's major exporters have seen their bottom line dented by a sharp rally in the yen, which makes them less competitive overseas and shrinks the value of repatriated profits. Wild volatility on global financial markets since the start of the year and Britain's shock vote to leave the European Union have stoked demand for Japan's currency, which is seen as a safe investment in times of turmoil. "Movements in trade values continue to reflect the plunge in import and export prices over the past year," Marcel Thieliant from research house Capital Economics said in a commentary. "This is mostly the result of the stronger exchange rate, as the majority of both imports and exports are invoiced in foreign currency rather than in yen. "By contrast, the drag from cheaper energy costs on import prices has started to fade." —AFP



YANGON: A man wheels a bicycle outside a house under-construction in Yangon's residential district yesterday. — AFP

ASIAN FUNDS PILE INTO ALTERNATIVE ASSETS; TRADITIONAL RETURNS SLIDE

INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT EXPECTED TO STAY TOUGH

SINGAPORE: As returns on traditional assets have nosedived or turned more volatile in Asia, conservative investors such as pension funds and insurers have been pouring cash into alternative investments that bring the yield they need, but at significantly higher risk. Many countries in Asia only started to cut interest rates in 2015 or 2016, but they are now at or near record lows and expected to fall further; India, South Korea, Indonesia, Taiwan and Thailand are all likely to see rate cuts this year, according to economists at Nomura. The resulting decline in bond yields has hit the region later than many other parts of the world, but is now forcing a strategy rethink for investors who need predictable income to match their fixed commitments.

Zurich Insurance's Asian division, for example, is considering investing in private debt including collateralized loan obligations and commercial real estate and infrastructure debt. "We simply have to accept that returns going forward will be lower than what they have been historically," said Michael Vos, Asia-Pacific investment manager at Zurich. "There is no free lunch - if you want higher returns, you need to take more risk."

Death of buyers

Risks include a dearth of buyers when you want to sell, a greater chance of loan defaults, and lower levels of disclosure about the underlying assets. Credit Suisse said it, too, was increasing allocations to hedge funds and senior secured bank loans on behalf of Asian institutional clients. Swiss private bank Union Bancaire Privee (UBP) said it was switching more of its high-net-worth clients' money from low-yielding bonds

and volatile stocks into hedge funds, real estate debt and insurance-linked securities. "There is no doubt that the risk/reward of equity and fixed income markets have deteriorated dramatically over the last six to 12 months," said Ted Holland, Hong Kong-based Asia-Pacific head of business development for UBP. "Finding 'low-risk' yield in this environment has been particularly difficult." This rapid change in climate is demonstrated by GIC Pte, Singapore's biggest sovereign wealth fund. Its portfolio return slowed to 3.7 percent per annum over the five years through March 2016, from 6.5 percent in the five years ended in March 2015, and it warned difficult investment conditions would persist for a decade.

A survey by State Street Corporation in July found that 44 percent of 72 Asian pension funds, which must keep a steady income flowing to pensioners, are seeking higher-risk, higher-return strategies. South Korea's National Pension Service, facing lower domestic bond yields than US Treasuries, plans to increase its alternative holdings to 35 percent of assets by 2020 from 10.7 percent in 2015, and will begin investing in hedge funds this year. It reported preliminary returns of 4.6 percent for 2015, down from 5.25 percent in 2014.

Risk trade-off

The trade-off in this hunt for yield is an increase in risks that require careful management. Chief among them is a lack of liquidity. Many alternative investments, such as property or private equity, can't be readily turned to cash, so investors can't get their money out in a hurry. In a falling market, buyers for such assets become yet more scarce, exacerbating the falls. They are also typically

unlisted, so they are much less transparent than traditional investments, which are priced in real time on formal exchanges that typically demand more stringent governance and disclosure requirements. "There are also not many reliable or accepted benchmarks out there, so how do you measure the performance of your portfolio versus the performance of the market?" said Beng-Eu Lim, Asia Pacific head of asset owner sector solutions at State Street.

If investors are stepping down the yield curve to instruments that don't carry an investment grade imprimatur from credit rating agencies, the risks of default are also higher. Vos at Zurich acknowledges that investors in alternative assets need to take protective measures. "When you take higher risk, it is important you have sufficient capital to absorb the extra volatility that comes with taking this additional risk so we are not forced sellers at the bottom of the market," he said. But even private individuals are pouring into such investments.

Alternative investments made up 15 percent of Asian high-net-worth individuals' portfolios as of May 2016, almost double the level from three years ago, and are expected to rise further over the next year, according to market research firm East & Partners Asia. UBP said some of its clients were raising their exposure to alternatives to as much as 50 percent of their portfolio, up from about 20 percent previously. That flood of cash could ultimately defeat the investment rationale for yield-hungry investors. "The weight of money coming into this sector can be overwhelming," State Street's Lim said. "As demand outstrips supply, that's going to raise the price and reduce expected returns." —Reuters



KARACHI: Pakistani stockbrokers monitor the index board during a trading session at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSE) in Karachi yesterday. The benchmark PSE-100-Index was 39766.55, down 290.97 points in mid of the day's session. — AFP

OIL STEADY NEAR SIX-WEEK HIGHS

LONDON: Brent crude oil traded above \$50 a barrel for the first time in six weeks yesterday as the world's biggest producers prepared to discuss a possible freeze in output levels. Brent hit a high of \$50.05 a barrel, up 20 cents on the day, before easing back to around \$49.75, down 10 cents, by 1000 GMT. US light crude oil was up 20 cents at \$46.99. Benchmark North Sea Brent has risen 20 percent from a low in early August on news the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other key exporters will probably revive talks on freezing output levels when they meet in Algeria next month.

Many OPEC members have been hurt badly by a collapse in oil prices over the last two years. While some Gulf oil exporters have very low output costs, other producers such as Iran and Venezuela need oil prices above \$100 to balance their budgets. But freezing production at current levels might not help bolster prices, analysts say. Saudi Arabia has signaled that it could boost its crude oil supplies in August to a new record, even as it prepares to discuss output levels with other producers.

OPEC members will meet on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum, which groups producers and consumers, in Algeria on Sept 26-28. 'We remain sceptical that renewed talks of a production freeze by OPEC and other large producers will lead to a deal. Prices are only marginally above where they were when the group met in Doha in April and couldn't agree to a deal,' ANZ analysts said in a note. Carsten Fritsch, senior oil and commodities analyst at Germany's Commerzbank, said the crude oil market appeared to be near the top of its recent range.

The end of the northern hemisphere summer season often sees a dip in oil demand and could coincide this year with much higher production from Saudi Arabia. 'The latest news from Saudi Arabia is not price supportive at all,' Fritsch said. 'This is a double whammy for the oil market. A test of the lows of early August is quite possible.' Analysts at Citi also warned of the risks of a price rally based largely on potential future talks on freezing crude output levels given that similar meetings earlier this year failed to produce any such agreement. 'OPEC cooperation hopes should be treated with caution, as this is shaky ground to base a bull rally on,' the bank said. — Reuters

WORLD STOCKS RISE, DOLLAR WEAKENS ON DIVIDED FED

DOLLAR SINKS TO 7-WK LOW, BOND YIELDS FALL

LONDON: World stocks rose and the dollar sank to a seven-week low yesterday after minutes of the US Federal Reserve's latest meeting showed policymakers were divided over whether to raise interest rates soon. Recent comments from Fed officials suggested a hike in the world's largest economy could be on the cards as soon as next month, but signs of restraint within the rate-setting committee brought relief to markets, sending global bond yields lower. "No news is good news," said Subadra Rajappa, head of US rates strategy at Societe Generale. "With little clarity on the timing of the next rate hike in the minutes of the July meeting, bonds rallied, the dollar fell and risky asset recovered."

The pan-European STOXX 600 index, which had fallen in the last four sessions on a run of weak company earnings reports, was up 0.6 percent. Wall Street was set to open flat, consolidating gains seen on Wednesday. MSCI's 46-country All World index climbed 0.2 percent to head back towards a one-year high, hauled higher by a 0.5 percent rise in Asian shares, their biggest rise since Aug 8. Japan's Nikkei bucked the trend though, dropping 1.5 percent after data showed exports from the country falling at their fastest pace since the financial crisis. The fall in the dollar dominated currency market moves. The dollar's index against a basket of six major currencies fell to 94.385, its weakest since June 24, when the global economy's outlook took a hit in the immediate aftermath of Britain's shock vote to leave the EU. The euro was 0.3 percent higher at \$1.1320, having hit a seven-week high of \$1.13285. Even the struggling British pound

rose, jumping to a two-week high of \$1.3150 after UK retail sales for July beat forecasts, showing little sign that British shoppers had been affected by the Brexit vote. "The condition of the (UK) economy in the weeks since the referendum has not been as bad as feared," said Jane Foley, a currency strategist with Rabobank in London.

Global bond yields fell with Europe's benchmark, 10-year German yields, down 3 basis points at minus 0.08 percent and US equivalents extending the previous day's drop to hit 1.55 percent. US money market futures showed traders reducing bets on the timing of rate hikes. CME Group's FedWatch tool implied traders saw a 47 percent chance of a rate rise at its December meeting, down from 58 percent shortly before the release of the minutes. The July meeting's minutes published on Wednesday showed Fed poli-

cymakers were generally upbeat about the US economic outlook and labor market. But they also said they wanted to "leave their policy options open" as any slowdown in hiring would argue against near-term monetary tightening.

The weaker dollar was an additional help to commodities, but crude prices were slightly depressed by the prospect of record Saudi output. International Brent crude oil futures were down 0.2 percent at \$49.74 per barrel at 1020 GMT. Copper, which had slid on the dollar's rise earlier in the week, trimmed some of its losses as the US currency flagged. Benchmark copper on the London Metal Exchange extended gains to 1.4 percent on the day at \$4,838 a ton after losing 0.8 percent on Wednesday. Gold and silver prices were also slightly higher yesterday. — Reuters

GOLD PRICES UP; SILVER AND PLATINUM OFF 3-WEEK LOWS

LONDON: Gold steadied yesterday, buoyed by a weaker dollar after minutes from the US Federal Reserve's July meeting showed policymakers were divided over whether to raise interest rates soon. Members of the Fed's rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee were generally upbeat about the US economy and labour market, but several said any slowdown in future hiring would argue against a near-term hike.

Spot gold was up 0.1 percent at

\$1,349.12 an ounce at 0956 GMT, on track for a fourth straight day of gains. US gold climbed 0.5 percent to \$1,356.00 an ounce. "Until we have clarity around the US rate hike, gold is going to remain rangebound between \$1,320 and \$1,370," said ING Bank senior strategist Hamza Khan.

The dollar fell 0.3 percent against a basket of six major currencies, after plunging to its lowest in more than seven weeks. — Reuters

LOW-COST AIRLINES BET ON DATA TO DRIVE PROFIT

DUBLIN: Europe's low-cost airlines once mocked the air miles programs run by flag carriers as expensive relics of a bygone era. But after watching wide-eyed as customer databases were valued at billions of dollars, they are scrambling to catch up. Europe's two largest low-cost carriers, Ryanair and easyJet have both swallowed their pride in the past year and launched customer loyalty schemes and both have announced significant investments in data analytics.

Their aim is to ape retailers like Amazon.com and Tesco in driving profits by leveraging data from vast online customer bases to create highly personalized offers and adapt services to customer preferences more quickly. "This has transformed retail and it's going to transform airlines," said Kenny Jacobs, a former Tesco executive spearheading Ryanair's digital drive as chief marketing officer.

He has overseen the hiring of 150 IT specialists since he was appointed two and a half years ago. "Airlines are not good at this. We're still crap compared to what retailers do," easyJet chief executive Carolyn McCall, who last year appointed the company's first head of data science to oversee a team of 25 data analytics specialists, has described data as "incredibly important" for the airline. A spokesman for easyJet described the potential benefits from digitization and data analytics as "exponential".

Both airlines have promised a detailed breakdown of their digital data drives and the financial returns in the autumn. John Walton, who writes for online aviation publication Runway Girl Network, said that from the customer's point of view, they and other airlines had some way to go. "I see few visible signs of European airlines - or indeed other airlines - using the rich data they hold to drive bookings and revenues," he said, citing a lack of useful, targeted offers from any of the half a dozen airline loyalty schemes he held.

Different approaches

Ryanair and easyJet are taking different approaches, with Ryanair focusing squarely on selling optional extras while easyJet sees ticket pricing at the heart of its data drive. easyJet was first to move, investing in artificial intelligence over the past few years to drive the algorithm that determines seat pricing in real time depending on demand. Its computers track over a billion searches on the easyJet site annually to see what prices, destinations or travel times prompted them to book or leave the web site and adjust all three as soon as possible. Spokesman Paul Moore said that kind of data more than compensated for the airline's later collection of personal information through its Flight Club loyalty scheme.

"We don't have the legacy frequent flyer systems the legacy carriers have, but we have been selling online far longer and at far greater scale than they have," he said. "The data we have on purchasing patterns and flight patterns is, we suspect, larger and richer by some way." Ryanair, whose business model is to cut fares as far as possible to fill planes and make money selling optional extras, was a little later to the game. It has spent much of the past two years overhauling its web and phone offerings and is preparing a push to get more of its 100 million customers to register for its My Ryanair loyalty program. It is a far cry from the early 1990s, when Michael O'Leary scrapped the airline's Frequent Flyer scheme on taking over as chief executive. Soon after, easyJet began a campaign for frequent flyer schemes to be scrapped as "disguised bribery". First introduced in the 1980s, air miles programs allowing customers to earn free flights by sticking to one carrier were sometimes set up as independent entities. In 2014, analysts put a value of up to \$2.5 billion on the loyalty division of Qantas when it was considering floating it or selling a part.

Trend of the future

Alongside increasing sales of tickets and ancillaries, better digital infrastructure can also enable innovations like automatically rebooking customers after cancelled flights and sending stranded passengers hotel reservations to their phones. Legacy airlines are also investing heavily, with Lufthansa Chief Executive Carsten Spohr describing digitization as the "trend of the future" with plans to invest 400 million in the 'digitisation' of the group's airlines by 2020. But the most dramatic improvements in recent years have come from the low cost side, said Rob Kemp, who provides feedback to major European airlines in his role as Chief Technology Officer at Momondo Group, which runs ticket price comparison websites. — Reuters



LONDON: Pedestrians walk along the pavement in the busy shopping district on Oxford Street central London. Retail sales in Britain, a key driver of the country's economy, rebounded 1.4 percent in July from the previous month's drop, official data showed yesterday. — AFP

UK'S SHOPPERS DEFY BREXIT SHOCK AS SPENDING JUMPS

STERLING SHOOTS HIGHER, GILT YIELDS RISE

LONDON: Shoppers in Britain shrugged off June's shock Brexit vote as retail sales jumped by much more than expected last month, adding to signs there has been little immediate hit for consumers. Warm weather boosted clothes sales and the pound's plunge tempted overseas buyers to splash out on luxury items such as watches and jewelry, official data showed yesterday. These are the first official figures to shed light on how consumer demand has performed since the unexpected decision by voters to leave the European Union in the June 23 referendum.

Data released earlier this week also showed little immediate impact of the Brexit vote on the labor market but there were signs of inflation pressures building after the plunge in sterling, which could eat into the spending power of households going forward. Sentiment surveys have shown levels of concern, but actual retail sales volumes surged 1.4 percent in July compared with June, the Office for National Statistics said, topping all fore-

casts in a Reuters poll that pointed to a much smaller rise of 0.2 percent.

The pound rose half a cent against the dollar and British gilt (bond) futures pared gains after the data release. "This positive surprise is encouraging for (third quarter) growth, but with consumer confidence having plunged in the wake of Brexit and business surveys suggesting growing caution, we doubt that it is sustainable," said James Knightley, economist at ING. "Inflation is starting to rise and will continue to do so due to the steep fall in sterling, meaning that real household income growth will weaken. This is likely to limit retail sales growth in coming quarters."

Bank of England watching

The ONS retail sales figures are volatile and Bank of England policymakers will want to see more than one month's data before drawing firm conclusions about the health of consumer spending - a key pillar of British economic recently. "Better weather this year

could be a major factor with sales of clothing and footwear doing particularly well," said Joe Grice, chief economic adviser at the ONS. "There is also anecdotal evidence from respondents suggesting the weaker pound has encouraged overseas visitors to spend." Sales of watches and jewelry were up 16.6 percent in July compared with the same month last year - the biggest jump in nearly two years. Major retailers including Tesco, Next and John Lewis say they have not been affected so far by the referendum result, while the British Retail Consortium also said spending in shops bounced in July.

But the long-running GfK survey - the main measure of consumer morale and an indicator of future household spending over the years - suffered its sharpest drop since 1990 last month. Compared with a year earlier, July sales growth jumped to 5.9 percent, the biggest rise since September of last year and far stronger than the 4.2 percent forecast, yesterday's data showed. — Reuters

MONGOLIA JACKS UP INTEREST RATES 4.5% TO HALT CURRENCY'S PLUNGE

ULAANBAATAR: Mongolia raised its benchmark interest rates by 4.5 percentage points to 15 percent yesterday, the central bank said, in a bid to stabilize a currency that has been in free-fall. Elected in a landslide in late June, the country's new government has been plunged into an economic crisis, with its currency, the tugrik, losing 8 percent against the dollar so far this month, making it the world's poorest performing currency. "Financial measures for the medium term have been taken to increase the rate of return for local-currency assets and provide more stability for the tugrik," the central bank said in a statement.

The Mongolian People's Party government, headed by Prime Minister Jargaltulga Erdenebat, is also cutting govern-

ment salaries and suspending selected welfare programs in a bid to reduce its costs. The landlocked North Asian country, wedged between China and Russia, has been struggling with weak demand for its chief export commodities, coal and copper, as well as a collapse in foreign investment. Mongolia's new finance minister, Battogtokh Choijilsuren, warned the 3 million strong nation last week that the government would struggle to pay out wages, prompting a collapse in Mongolia's sovereign bonds. The state is even struggling to pay out prize money to its Olympic athletes. Government debt was projected to reach of 21.3 trillion tugrik (\$9.48 billion), the equivalent to 78 percent of gross domestic product by the end of the year, according to the finance ministry. — Reuters

MARINERS HOLD OFF LA ANGELS 4-3

ANAHEIM: Ketel Marte drove in the tiebreaking run with a sacrifice fly and Leonys Martin scored from second base on a bunt as the Seattle Mariners held on for a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Wednesday night. Robinson Cano had three hits, Kyle Seager and Chris Iannetta each had two hits and scored a run as the Mariners won for the 10th time in 12 games to move two games behind Baltimore for the second AL wild card. Drew Storen (3-3) pitched 1 1/3 innings for the win. Mariners closer Edwin Diaz gave up a run and loaded the bases with one out in the ninth, but struck out Jefry Marte and got Andrelton Simmons to ground out for his eighth save in eight chances. Yunel Escobar went 5 for 5 for Los Angeles, his fifth career five-hit game. Since 2000, only Ichiro Suzuki and Johnny Damon have more with seven each.

allowed eight hits and two earned runs in five-plus innings. Jake Thompson (1-2) was the loser.

PIRATES 6, GIANTS 5

Andrew McCutchen hit a two-run homer and Matt Joyce had a key two-run single to help Pittsburgh overcome a four-run deficit against San Francisco and complete a three-game sweep. The Pirates won their fourth straight game and sixth in seven. They remained a game behind St. Louis in the race for the NL wild card. The Giants, who on Tuesday fell out of first place in the NL West for the first time in 97 days, lost their fourth straight. They dropped to 9-21, the worst record in the majors since the All-Star break. McCutchen's homer, his 17th, capped a six-run rally in the fifth inning that chased Giants starter Matt Cain (4-8). Jeff Locke (9-7) pitched a scoreless fifth. Tony Watson survived

to become the first 17-game winner and Melvin Upton Jr. hit a three-run homer to help Toronto beat New York. Darwin Barney had an early two-run double, and Russell Martin added three hits, including an RBI single off CC Sabathia. The AL East-leading Blue Jays took two of three in the series, delighting a vocal contingent of Toronto fans at Yankee Stadium. Happ (17-3) pitched into the eighth and extended the longest active winning streak in the big leagues. He struck out nine, walked one and yielded solo homers to Gary Sanchez, Starlin Castro and Chase Headley. Signed as a free agent in the offseason to a \$36 million, three-year contract, Happ has won five straight starts. The 33-year-old lefty is 3-0 in four outings against the Yankees this year. Happ was lifted after Headley's infield single with one out in the eighth. Joaquin Benoit gave up an RBI single to rookie Aaron Judge that made it 7-4, and

sixth inning, and Jeremy Hazelbaker and Brandon Moss homered in St. Louis' victory over Houston. The Cardinals have won four straight and have a slim hold on the second NL wild-card spot. Martinez (11-7) pitched seven innings of three-hit ball, allowing a run and striking out seven. He retired 15 of the first 16 batters before giving up a leadoff double to Teoscar Hernandez in the sixth. Doug Fister (11-8) allowed four runs in four innings for the Astros. Houston has been outscored 29-11 during a four-game losing streak and surrendered eight or more runs in three straight games for the first time this season.

WHITE SOX 10, INDIANS 7

Adam Eaton's ninth-inning grand slam off closer Cody Allen capped a five-run rally and lifted Chicago past Cleveland. Cleveland was two outs from increasing its AL Central lead over second-place Detroit to seven games, but the White Sox rallied to break a seven-game losing streak against the Indians. Allen (2-5) retired the first hitter, but Chicago loaded the bases on infield singles by Todd Frazier and JB Shuck, and a walk to Tim Anderson. Dioner Navarro's bloop hit down the left field line scored a run before Eaton homered to right on an 0-2 pitch for his first career grand slam. Jacob Turner (1-1) pitched the eighth, and David Robertson retired the final two hitters with two on in the ninth for his 30th save.

RED SOX 8, ORIOLES 1, 6 INNINGS

David Price allowed four hits before a rainstorm stopped play for good after six innings, giving Boston a sixth straight win. Jackie Bradley Jr. homered and drove in four runs for the Red Sox. They swept the two-game series to climb past Baltimore into second place in the AL East. Baltimore had been in first or second place since opening day. The Orioles' 39-19 home record is the best in the AL, but they are 2-4 against Boston at Camden Yards. Price (11-8) was cruising until a driving storm stopped play. The game was called after a delay of 1 hour, 17 minutes. Baltimore rookie Dylan Bundy (6-4) was the loser. Sandy Leon hit a two-run shot in the fifth.

ROYALS 4, TIGERS 1

Eric Hosmer hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to lift Kansas City past Detroit for a three-game sweep. Hosmer broke up Anibal Sanchez's no-hit bid with a double in the seventh inning after spoiling his perfect game with a walk in the fifth. Sanchez threw seven shutout innings after allowing eight runs in four innings in his previous start. He struck out six and walked two Wednesday. In the ninth, Shane Greene (2-3) allowed a one-out single to Lorenzo Cain before Hosmer's line drive into the right-field stands. Drew Butera added an RBI single. Matt Strahm (1-0) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings, and Kelvin Herrera worked the ninth for his sixth save.

RANGERS 6, ATHLETICS 2

Yu Darvish struck out nine as Texas beat Oakland, giving the right-hander his first victory in his last 11 starts against the Athletics. Darvish (4-3) had a demonstrative show of emotion, pumping his fist and letting out a shout, after striking out Coco Crisp to end the seventh inning. Darvish came back for the eighth, but was pulled after Danny Valencia's leadoff double. Crisp struck out three times after homering on the second pitch of the game. Jake Smolinski went deep leading off the fifth for the only other run off Darvish. All-Star center fielder Ian Desmond and recently acquired Jonathan Lucroy each had three RBIs to help the AL-best Rangers complete a three-game series sweep. Sean Manaea (4-8) was the loser. —AP



ANAHEIM: Gregorio Petit #8 of the Los Angeles Angels reaches for a wide throw as Leonys Martin #12 of the Seattle Mariners is safe with a stolen base in the fourth inning of the game at Angel Stadium of Anaheim. —AFP

Tyler Skaggs (1-2) gave up four runs and six hits in 3 1/3 innings.

DODGERS 7, PHILLIES 2

Adrian Gonzalez hit two home runs and had five RBIs as the Los Angeles Dodgers extended their NL West lead. Justin Turner also homered and Joc Pederson reached base four times for the first-place Dodgers, who moved 1 1/2 games ahead of San Francisco. On Tuesday, Los Angeles took over sole possession of the division lead for the first time since May 10. With the Dodgers trailing 1-0 in the fourth, Gonzalez lined a 3-1 fastball into the seats in right-center field for a three-run homer. Turner singled and Josh Reddick walked to lead off the inning. Gonzalez followed that up with a two-run homer in the seventh after Corey Seager led off the inning with a double. It was the first baseman's first multi-homer game of the season and the 20th of his career. Gonzalez, who has 12 homers, extended his hitting streak to 10 games and is 18 for 40 in that span. Turner hit his 22nd home run after Seager singled in the fifth, pushing the Dodgers ahead 5-1. Scott Kazmir (10-6)

a scoreless ninth after the Giants loaded the bases with no outs for his seventh save since taking over as the closer.

CUBS 6, BREWERS 1

Jorge Soler hit a three-run homer during a five-run first inning and Jon Lester pitched into the seventh as Chicago beat Milwaukee for its 17th victory in 20 games. Soler's shot capped the inning after RBI singles by Ben Zobrist and Addison Russell. Lester (13-4) got his fourth straight victory, giving up one run and three hits in 6 2/3 innings while striking out seven. David Ross added a solo home run in the third inning for the Cubs, who won their third straight following a doubleheader sweep of the Brewers on Tuesday. Brewers starter Jimmy Nelson (6-13) walked leadoff batter Dexter Fowler then hit Kris Bryant with a pitch to begin the first. Soler's homer on a 2-2 pitch was a convincing smash that landed just under the videoboard atop the left-center field stands.

BLUE JAYS 7, YANKEES 4

JA Happ won his 11th consecutive decision

Roberto Osuna struck out Didi Gregorius on a 97 mph fastball with two on to end the inning. Osuna got four straight outs for his 27th save.

DIAMONDBACKS 13, METS 5

Yasmany Tomas and Rickie Weeks Jr. each homered twice and drove in a combined 11 runs, leading Arizona past New York. Tomas set a career high for RBIs in a game with six and logged his major league-leading seventh multi-homer game of the season. Weeks tied a career high with five RBIs and had his first multi-homer game in more than three years, the eighth of his career. Tomas has eight home runs in 10 games and has hit safely in 16 of his last 18 starts, with 23 RBIs over that span. His solo shot in the fourth gave Arizona a 3-1 lead, right after Weeks' first home run, then he added a two-run triple in the seventh and three-run homer in the eighth. Zack Godley (4-2) earned the win with 7 1/3 innings of five-hit ball. Jon Niese (8-7) took the loss.

CARDINALS 8, ASTROS 2

Carlos Martinez took a no-hitter into the

STEYN, PHILANDER SEEK S AFRICAN RESURGENCE

DURBAN: Fast bowling pair Dale Steyn and Vernon Philander will reunite as South Africa seek to start the long climb back up the rankings in the first Test against New Zealand in Durban today. When Steyn and Philander last shared the new ball, in the first Test against India in Mohali last November, South Africa were the top-ranked side. Now they are a lowly seventh, two places behind New Zealand. Steyn strained a groin in the first innings of the Mohali match and did not bowl in the second innings.

Since then he has played only one Test, against England in Durban last December, when he suffered a shoulder injury which ruled him out of the second innings. Philander had an ankle injury before the second Test in India and has missed South Africa's last seven Tests. At Kingsmead, Steyn and Philander are set to team up for the first time with Kagiso Rabada, South Africa's 21-year-old fast bowling phenomenon, who was named the country's cricketer of the year last month.

With the tall Morne Morkel ruled out of the two-match series because of a back injury, the selectors have been spared having to decide which one of four fine fast bowlers to omit. Pitch conditions for the bowlers, however, are an unknown factor. It is the first time a Test series has been played in South Africa in August, at least two months earlier than usual, and the pitches in Durban, and Centurion next week, could be slower than normal.

While South Africa have slipped backwards with series losses against India and England, New Zealand have surged ahead. It was four seasons ago when the Black Caps were bowled out for 45 on the first day of their previous series in South Africa, going on to lose both Tests by an innings. Then-captain Brendon McCullum identified that low as a turning point, with the players getting together and appraising honestly their attitude to cricket and why they played it. Out of the depths of despair came a positive attitude and improved performances, as well as an obvious enjoyment of the game which has made them one of the most popular sides in cricket.

After the mauling by South Africa, they lost a series in England later in 2013 but since then have only lost two series out of 11, both against Australia, who also beat them in the 2015 World Cup final. McCullum has retired, with the captaincy passing to Kane Williamson, 26, one of cricket's most talented young batsmen. His first venture in charge was the recent series in Zimbabwe, where New Zealand won both Tests comfortably. It will be a battle of inexperienced captains, with Faf du Plessis standing in for the injured AB de Villiers, who himself has only captained South Africa twice since being appointed midway through the series against England last season. — AFP



Dale Steyn



COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's Rangana Herath (R) celebrates with teammate Dinesh Chandimal (C) after victory in the third and final Test match between Sri Lanka and Australia at The Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC) Ground. — AFP

FIVE THINGS WE LEARNED FROM SRI LANKA V AUSTRALIA SERIES

COLOMBO: Five things we learned from Sri Lanka's first series whitewash against Australia after the hosts won the third and final Test in Colombo.

Future's bright for Sri Lankan cricket

Sri Lanka's youngsters belied expectations with a string of match-winning performances against a side who came into the series as world number one. After a poor tour of England, players such as Kusal Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva and Lakshan Sandakan came of age back home. A maiden century from Mendis and the debutant Sandakan's seven wickets in the match laid the platform for victory in the opener in Pallekele. The 24-year-old de Silva scored a century in the final Test in Colombo to help clinch the whitewash. Their emergence is a huge boost for a team that had been struggling to come to terms with the retirements of star batsmen Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene and reverses their slide down the rankings.

No end to Aussie batsmen's Asia woes

The Australian batsmen's inability to handle spin on Asian tracks was once again exposed. After being whitewashed by India and Pakistan, it was the third time in a row that the Australians lost all their Tests in an away series against teams from the sub-continent. Skipper Steve Smith and Shaun Marsh did manage to score hundreds in Colombo but the batting unit

failed to deliver as a whole in Galle and Pallekele where they managed a solitary half-century between them. Australia gave themselves a fortnight to acclimatise to local conditions and Smith was at a loss to explain why the batsmen's woes. "Can't fault the prep, got here early, worked as hard as we can," he said after suffering his first series defeat as captain. "It's a hard one to grasp really... What we are doing isn't working."

Class-act Starc is a cut above

If one player can return home with their head held high, it's Mitchell Starc. The left-arm speedster claimed 24 wickets at an average of just over 15, including three five-wicket hauls, on pitches that gave no help to pace bowlers. Starc, who had only just recovered from an ankle injury, showed admirable stamina in the draining mid-summer temperatures. Now the undisputed leader of Australia's attack, Starc claimed his 100th Test wicket in the second Test in Galle. Coach Darren Lehmann's pre-series prediction that Starc can join Glenn McGrath, Dennis Lillee, Mitchell Johnson and Brett Lee in the 300 wicket club now looks prescient.

A wizard can only work so much magic

Sri Lanka spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan's agreement to act as a consultant to the Australian bowlers was seen as a major coup and caused some alarm among his former employers. But the advice

from the most successful bowler in Test match history had only a limited impact on the Australian spinners who were outclassed by their Sri Lankan counterparts, as well as by Starc. Nathan Lyon bowled his heart out but his 16 wickets cost nearly 32 runs apiece. Jon Holland managed just five wickets in his two Tests while Steve O'Keefe who looked good in the warm-ups took just three scalps in the opener before flying home with a pulled hamstring. "Simply because I coach, they can't win. It's a process and you need to master that process over a long period of time," Muralitharan told AFP after the first Test.

Herath needs to hang on

While Sri Lanka's batsmen began to show that Sangakkara and Jayawardene are not entirely irreplaceable, the selectors must be praying Rangana Herath hangs on a bit longer. The 38-year-old has already retired from T20s and ODIs but remained skipper Angelo Mathews go-to man throughout the series. His 28 wickets came at an average of just 12.75, including a hat-trick in the second Test. Sri Lanka's next assignment is at the end of the year in South Africa when Herath could overtake Chaminda Vaas as his country's second highest wicket-taker. Sri Lanka's South African coach Graham Ford will be doing all he can to persuade Herath to stay on. "He just shows so much guts and fight. And for an older guy to show that, it just ignites the fight within the younger group," said Ford. — AFP

ENGLAND TEAM SECURITY IN BANGLADESH TO DECIDE TOUR

DHAKA: England cricket officials inspected Bangladesh's main stadium yesterday as part of a security probe to determine whether to go ahead with a tour in the country next month. The officials, who include England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) security director Reg Dickason, will tour facilities in the capital Dhaka and the southern port city Chittagong over three days. The England squad are awaiting the outcome of the probe before deciding whether to fly to Bangladesh

on September 30 for three one-day internationals and two Test matches.

Concerns mounted at home over the safety of the squad following an attack by Islamist militants on a Dhaka cafe last month that left 22 people, mostly foreigners, dead. "We are here for three days, seeing all the facilities, hotels and cricket grounds," ECB director of operations John Carr told reporters. "We are meeting with the security providers. We are grateful to the BCB (Bangladesh

Cricket Board) and government for their cooperation and assistance," said Carr, who inspected the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka and met the home minister.

"We have to go back and report to the ECB board before anything is made public." England cricketers will be given the option of missing the Bangladesh leg of the tour that also includes India should the trip be given the green light, according to media reports in Britain.

Bangladesh are desperate for the tour to go ahead and have promised England the highest level of security. The country has been reeling from months of gruesome killings of religious minorities and secular activists, with many of the attacks claimed by the Islamic State group. Australia cancelled their tour of Bangladesh last October for security reasons and then withdrew their side from the Under-19 World Cup in the country at the start of the year. — AFP

POGBA POISED FOR 2ND MAN UNITED DEBUT

MANCHESTER: Four years after he left through the back door, Manchester United will roll out the red carpet for Paul Pogba's second debut in today's Premier League home game with Southampton. Pogba first donned a United first-team shirt when he came on as a half-time substitute for Ryan Giggs in a 3-0 League Cup win over Leeds United in front of 31,031 people at Elland Road in September 2011.

His return to action for the club will not be so inauspicious, after United paid Juventus a world-record 89 million pounds (105 million euros, \$116 million) to bring the French midfielder back to Old Trafford. Pogba has not played since France's 1-0 loss to Portugal in the Euro 2016 final, but he told the Manchester Evening News: "You have to ask the manager, but I feel very good and have been training for 10 days. "I am quite used to this. I played the World Cup two years ago when at Juve and three years ago I was at the Under-20s World Cup as well. "So I am OK. It is about your body and I have been training on my holidays."

Pogba, 23, missed United's 3-1 win at Bournemouth last Sunday due to a suspension carried over from last season's Coppa Italia, but his lack of match fitness meant he was unlikely to have featured anyway. Should he play from the start, United manager Jose Mourinho must decide where he is going to play. Mourinho has started the season with a 4-2-3-1 formation and Pogba is expected to take up one of the mid-field berths in front of the back four. Marouane Fellaini and Ander Herrera occupied those roles at Bournemouth. Much has changed since Pogba's last United appearance, in a 5-0 league win away to Wolverhampton Wanderers in March 2012. Alex Ferguson retired as manager the following year and Mourinho is the third man to have succeeded him, while former stalwarts such as Giggs, Paul Scholes, Rio Ferdinand and Patrice Evra are no longer around.

Puel warning

But Mourinho's new-look team made an assured start to their league campaign at Bournemouth, with new signings Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Eric Bailly impressing, the former scoring his first Premier League goal. Victory over Southampton, in the first of 10 Friday night games in the Premier League this season, will enable United to provisionally go three points clear at the top of the table. Southampton won 1-0 on both their most recent visits to Old Trafford, with Charlie Austin's 87th-minute header securing victory last January, but they are also a team in transition. — AFP

ROMA HOLD AGAINST PORTO, MONACO WIN AT VILLARREAL

PARIS: Ten-man Roma held on to draw 1-1 at Porto in the first leg of their Champions League play-off on Wednesday, while Bernardo Silva gave Monaco a 2-1 victory over Villarreal in Spain. Luciano Spalletti's Roma are looking to reach the group stages for the third time in a row, and they took a 21st-minute lead at the Estadio Dragao when Porto defender Felipe put through his own net. But the momentum swung four minutes before half-time when Belgian defender Thomas Vermaelen, making his debut following a loan move from Barcelona, was sent off for a second yellow card.

The hosts still struggled to break their Italian opponents down, but were awarded a penalty when Emerson handled in the area. Striker Andre Silva, 20, smashed the spot-kick home to draw Porto level, but Roma held on to a draw to leave the 2004 champions with plenty to do in the second leg next Tuesday at the Stadio Olimpico. Monaco took control of their clash with Villarreal, as they looked to bounce back from losing at this stage to Valencia a year ago.

Brazilian full-back Fabinho put the Ligue 1 side ahead with a third-minute penalty, only for Alexandre Pato to equalize nine minutes before half-time on his Villarreal debut. Portuguese winger Silva came off the bench at the weekend to score the equaliser in Monaco's Ligue 1 opening draw with Guingamp, and he restored their advantage at El Madrigal on Wednesday. Leonardo Jardim's away side closed out the victory despite having Benjamin Mendy sent off late on. — AFP



BARCELONA: Barcelona's Argentinian forward Lionel Messi holds the Spanish Supercup trophy after winning the second leg of the Spanish Supercup football match between FC Barcelona and Sevilla FC at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on August 17, 2016. — AFP

THE CHALLENGERS TO BARCA AND REAL MADRID IN LA LIGA

BARCELONA: Ahead of the start of the 2016/17 La Liga season today, take a look at the five most prominent challengers to champions Barcelona and European champions Real Madrid (last season's final position in brackets):

Atletico Madrid (third)

The undoubted third force of Spanish football missed out on the title by just three points last season and, having firmly established themselves as a European power with a second Champions League final appearance in three years, have finally survived a summer without having to sell one of their top players. The flair of Argentine international Nicolas Gaitan and goals of Kevin Gameiro—signed from Benfica and Sevilla respectively—offer more options to coach Diego Simeone in attack, but much will still depend on France's Euro 2016 top scorer Antoine Griezmann's eye for goal. Should an exciting crop of young players, including Jose Maria Gimenez, Saul Niguez and Angel Correa, also continue to develop, Atletico have the strength in depth to make it a three-way title race once again.

Villarreal (fourth)

Having clawed their way back from relegation to the Champions League play-offs in just four years, Villarreal have endured a nightmare close-season with coach Marcelino sacked just over a week before the start of the campaign due to disagreements with the board. He has been replaced by Fran Escriba,

who was sacked from relegated Getafe in April. Marcelino's discontent surfaced from a frustrating transfer window as key players Eric Bailly and Denis Suarez joining Manchester United and Barcelona respectively. Striker Roberto Soldado will also be missing for six months due to a cruciate knee ligament injury, so even just making it back into Europe via the top six looks a big ask for Escriba. Meanwhile, Villarreal face a potentially season-defining Champions League play-off against Monaco right at the start of the campaign.

Sevilla (seventh)

A third consecutive Europa League win and direct passage to the Champions League wasn't enough to prevent another summer of upheaval at the Sanchez Pizjuan. Coach Unai Emery left for Paris Saint-Germain and took star Polish midfielder Grzegorz Krychowiak with him to the French capital. Top scorer Gameiro headed to Atletico, whilst Ever Banega and captain Coke also exited. Former Chile boss Jorge Sampaoli is the new man in charge, although even he flirted with jumping ship just weeks into his new post when the temptation of taking over his native Argentina was offered. Early signs from European and Spanish Super Cup defeats to Real and Barca are that despite signing an array of talented midfielders, revered sporting director Monchi hasn't found the replacement for Gameiro that will score the goals to guarantee a return to the top four. He will hope Frenchman

Wissam Ben Yedder, recruited from Toulouse, can be the solution in attack.

Valencia (12th)

A miserable campaign that saw three coaches take charge at the Mestalla, including an awful four-month period for former Manchester United captain Gary Neville, has led to no European football and a firesale from Singaporean owner Peter Lim. Andre Gomes joined Barcelona and could be joined by goalkeeper Diego Alves and striker Paco Alcacer on the road north to the Camp Nou. Influential Germany defender Shkodran Mustafi is a target for multiple Premier League clubs, whilst Sofiane Feghouli and Alvaro Negredo have already headed to England. The signing of Nani fresh from winning Euro 2016 with Portugal has been the only positive note of what seems to set to be another season of struggle for the six-time Spanish champions, coached by Pako Ayestaran.

Athletic Bilbao (fifth)

Perpetually burdened by their Basque-only player policy, Ernesto Valverde's Athletic haven't recruited at all in the window, but do have a good blend of exciting young talent and old heads to make them a contender for the top four. Blighted by injury last season, 22-year-old striker Inaki Williams looks set to take La Liga by storm. Strike partner Aritz Aduriz, though, will have a tough time recreating the 36-goal campaign of his life last season at 35. — AFP



Rio 2016™



FORMER SLAVE TO RUN FOR S SUDAN IN MARATHON



ATHLETICS

LONDON: South Sudanese Olympic athlete Guor Marial may not be a hot medal tip for Sunday's marathon, but the former slave's road to Rio is one of the most astonishing stories of the games. As a teenager Marial was forced to run for his life during Sudan's long civil war in which he lost 28 members of his family, was kidnapped twice and ended up in servitude. When he fled Sudan he never wanted to run again because of the traumatic memories, but after arriving in the United States as a refugee his talent was quickly spotted by his teachers.

This month Marial made history when he became the flag-bearer for South Sudan's first ever Olympic team, leading his compatriots Margret Hassan and Santino Kenyi into Rio's Maracana stadium during the opening ceremony. Rio is Marial's second Olympics, but it is the first in which he can wear his national colors. In London four years ago he had to compete as an independent under the Olympic flag because South Sudan - which had only gained independence the year before - was unable to send a team. Marial told the Thomson Reuters Foundation at the time how he dreamed one day of representing his homeland. "I will be wearing the Olympic uniform, but inside I will be holding the South Sudan flag in my heart," he said. In a recent BBC interview he described his excitement at finally being able to run for his country. "To stand on the start line wearing a South Sudan vest would be amazing," he said. "A lot of people lost their lives for the freedom of the country we have now. That's what I run for and that's the reason I want to go and represent the flag."

Slavery and freedom

South Sudan separated from Sudan in 2011 following a 2005 peace deal that ended more than two decades of conflict between the government in Khartoum and rebels in the south. The 32-year-old marathon runner was born in a village in the south at the start of the war, which claimed eight of his siblings. When he was a boy his parents sent him to live with an uncle in Khartoum because it was safer. But it took three years to get there. At one point he was abducted and forced into servitude for a Sudanese soldier's family.

Marial eventually fled Sudan in 1999 following a night-time attack by Sudanese soldiers on his uncle's home. He was knocked unconscious when a soldier smashed his jaw with a rifle. He escaped first to Egypt before moving to the United States in 2001 when he was 16. In the lead-up to London, Olympic chiefs suggested Marial run for Sudan but he refused, saying it would be a betrayal of his country, his family and everyone who fought for independence. — Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: United States' Carmelo Anthony (15) shoots in front of Argentina's Andres Nocioni, right, during a quarterfinal round basketball game at the 2016 Summer Olympics. — AP

US ROUTS ARGENTINA 105-78, MOVES INTO MEN'S SEMIS



BASKETBALL

RIO DE JANEIRO: The nail-biters ended for the US Olympic men's basketball team. So did a golden era of international basketball. Emphatically stopping a stretch of three straight close games, the Americans advanced to the semifinals by sprinting past Manu Ginobili and Argentina, 105-78 on Wednesday night. In front of a chanting, flag-waving crowd of Argentines who came to throw a raucous farewell party for their Golden Generation, the Americans delivered their most complete performance in Rio. "What a remarkable run by Argentina and so we knew we had to match that energy tonight. I thought we did," US coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

Turning a slow start into an early ending with a 27-2 run in the first half, the Americans put away one old rival and set up a meeting with another. They will play Spain on Friday in a rematch of the last two gold-medal games. Australia meets Serbia in the other semifinal. Kevin Durant scored 27 points for the Americans, who had played three straight close games for the first time under Krzyzewski, setting off a round of questions at home and in Rio de Janeiro about what was wrong with them.

The answer might be nothing. At least there wasn't against Argentina. "We wanted to come out and our whole thing was dominating," forward Carmelo Anthony said. The Americans eliminated Argentina for the third straight Olympics, this time ending not only a tournament run for the Argentines but also a couple careers. Ginobili, 39, and longtime 36-year-old teammate Andres Nocioni retired from interna-

tional competition after the game, 12 years after winning gold in Athens. "We had a chance to grow up together and do some good things, win some games together. It was fun. It's a lot of years," said Luis Scola, who is also 36 but plans to keep playing. "We formed part of something unique we did for our country and it's going to be there. Sometimes we're not going to win, like today, sometimes we won but we fought together for many years."

Final games

Ginobili scored 14 points in his final game in Argentina's blue and white, tearing up after receiving applause from his fans and warm wishes from his opponents. "They congratulated me and I'm very proud of their words," Ginobili said. "They were very kind, very respectful and when legends of the game showed their respect, it has an extra value." The Americans have won 23 straight in the Olympics since Argentina beat them in the 2004 semifinals, and this was how they usually do it: too much firepower, too much defense, and way too much talent.

It took a little while to get going, as Argentina opened a 10-point lead. The Argentines made nine of their first 10 shots inside the arc and led 19-9 when Nocioni drilled a 3-pointer. But the Americans finished the first period with a 16-2 run, getting the final six points from DeMarcus Cousins, to take a 25-21 edge to the second.

Three-point plays by Cousins and Jimmy Butler around Durant's 3-pointer in an 11-0 start to the second made it 36-21 before Facundo Campazzo stopped the onslaught with a three-point play. Cousins, the normal starting center playing as a reserve, finished with 15 points. Spain beat France 92-67 earlier Wednesday, its fourth straight victory after two losses to open the Olympics. The US edged Spain 118-107 in the

2008 final and 107-100 four years ago in London.

Building on success

The loudest crowd yet for a US game, featuring boxer Floyd Mayweather and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, was treated to an explosive performance by the Americans, with devastating crossovers by Durant and Kyrie Irving that left defenders helpless and brought teammates to their feet on the bench. They opened a 25-point lead in the first half and were in control from that point, the first time since their second game in Rio they had it easy. "We fed off wanting to play better than the last three games," Durant said.

Ginobili, Scola, Nocioni and Carlos Delfino, the remaining Golden Generation players, checked in together for a last run with about 4 1/2 minutes left. Argentina fans danced, cheered and completely ignored the crooked numbers on the scoreboard while saying one long goodbye. Ginobili was replaced a few minutes later, hugging teammates, coaches and after the game Krzyzewski, before returning to the court after the teams had headed to their locker rooms to be presented a game ball by an Olympic official.

Even Argentina's proud veterans didn't consider themselves medal contenders, especially after the Americans blew them out 111-74 in an exhibition game last month in Las Vegas and came to Rio as the overwhelming favorite. But once play began, the US rarely played up to those expectations, with one narrow victory after another as the competition toughened. The Americans held off Australia by 10, then pulled out three-point victories over Serbia and France. They were finally in top form Wednesday. Now they have to stay there two more games. "We've got to build on it," Durant said, "but we're not satisfied at all." — AP



SPAIN'S MARIN IN FINAL AS CHINESE WOE CONTINUES

RIO DE JANEIRO: Spanish badminton world number one Carolina Marin took a major step towards a first Olympic gold medal yesterday by beating defending champion Li Xuerui to progress to the final. Marin's defeat of Li piled further misery on China, who won a clean sweep of five badminton gold medals at London 2012, but can now only win two. The 23-year-old Spaniard took the first game 21-14 and the second 21-16. She will play either Japan's Nozomi Okuhara or Indian PV Sindhu in today's showdown.

"I don't know what's going to happen in the final but I feel emotional because I have worked so hard for this and I want to collect the reward tomorrow," said Marin. China's shuttlers have struggled in Brazil after a formidable showing four years ago. The Asian giant missed out on Olympic women's doubles badminton gold for the first time since the 1992 Barcelona Games when Tang Yunting and Yu Yang lost in the semi-finals on Tuesday.

It was a second blow to China in the space of 24 hours after both their pairs lost in the semi-finals of the mixed doubles, which was eventually won by Indonesia. Their final shots at glory come in the men's singles and men's doubles. Double Olympic champion Lin Dan and Chen Long play in separate men's semi-finals today while Fu Haifeng and Zhang Nan will compete in the men's doubles final later that day. "Our team is strong and we've tried our best to perform well but now it's really competitive. Every team from around the world is strong and powerful," said Li following her loss to Marin. —AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Spain's Carolina Marin, reacts as she won a women's singles semifinal match against China's Li Xuerui at during a women's singles semifinal match at the 2016 Summer Olympics. —AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: American swimmers Gunnar Bentz (L) and Jack Conger leave the police station at the Rio de Janeiro International Airport after being detained on the plane that would travel back to the US. —AFP

SWIM STORIES, IOC SCANDALS OVERSHADOW BOLT'S ADVANCE

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian police detained two US swimmers and arrested a top International Olympic Committee official on Wednesday as scandal overshadowed the Rio Games and Usain Bolt's progress toward a new gold. Jack Conger and Gunnar Bentz were taken off a flight leaving Rio de Janeiro by authorities investigating doubts over their claim of having been mugged. That came hours after top European Olympic official Patrick Hickey was arrested in an investigation into black market Olympic ticket sales. Conger and Bentz, along with star US swimmer Ryan Lochte and squad member James Feigen, said they were held up at gunpoint in the early hours of Sunday.

However Brazilian judge Keyla Blank ordered the passports of all four to be seized to prevent them leaving the country. Lochte had already gone home. The Globo media organization posted a video online showing Conger and Bentz walking into a police station on Wednesday. They were released late at night "with the understanding that they would continue their discussions about the incident on Thursday," Sandusky said.

Lochte, who returned to the US before Brazilian authorities ordered the swimmers' questioning, and Feigen, who remains in Brazil, will cooperate with the investigation, US broadcaster NBC reported. The four made headlines with their terrifying account while returning from a party. Lochte said they were held up by muggers posing as police as they left a party just after 4:00am. In interviews, he described how he had a hand gun put to his head and handed over his money and wallet.

Victims laughed

However, the judge said their story was full of inconsistencies. NBC quoted witnesses as saying the swimmers were at the party until daybreak. And Britain's Daily Mail obtained video surveillance showing the four laughing as they returned to their accommodations at 6:56am on Sunday. Speaking to NBC late Wednesday, Lochte strongly denied that the swimmers fabricated their story. "I

wouldn't make up a story like this nor would the others—as a matter of fact we all feel it makes us look bad," he was quoted as saying.

Hickey, an IOC executive member, head of the European Olympic Committees and the Irish national committee, spent Wednesday night in hospital after being detained at his luxury hotel. Accused of ticket scalping, ambush marketing and conspiracy after tickets were seized from another Irish businessman, Hickey has "temporarily" stood down from his posts.

Following a raid similar to the arrest of seven top FIFA officials at a Zurich hotel last year, Hickey was shown in media video answering his hotel room door unclothed before putting on a bath robe. Police said they suspect he had changed rooms to try to evade arrest. Hickey's wife was in another room and at first told them Hickey had left the country, police told reporters. Brazilian police have launched a widening investigation after seizing more than 1,000 premier tickets for Games events, including the opening ceremony.

Tickets with a face value of about \$1,000 dollars were sold for \$8,000, in a racket prosecutors said yielded profits of \$3.0 million. The head of a sports ticketing firm, THG Sports, was detained with the tickets on August 5. Hickey's son once worked for THG, but the sports powerbroker denied any wrongdoing in an interview with Irish television last week as the scandal mounted. The arrests diverted attention from the sporting action as Usain Bolt reached the final of the 200m—the second of his targeted three-gold-medal sweep of the Olympic sprint titles.

While Bolt ran the season's best 19.78 sec, his American arch-rival Justin Gatlin, 34, failed to reach the final. Gatlin, who won the 100m silver behind Bolt at the weekend, said he had not fully recovered from an ankle injury suffered in November. "I definitely think I can try for the world record, I definitely feel that," Bolt said. Drug-tainted Russia's only competitor in the track and field, Darya Klishina, failed to reach the final medal battle in the long jump. The 25-year-old blamed the turmoil of the doping scandal for her disappointment. —AFP

NEYMAR, BRAZIL COME OUT BLAZING IN SEMIS



RIO DE JANEIRO: Maybe Neymar and his teammates can make the Olympics a success for Brazil after all. Brazil's celebrated men's soccer team rolled to a 6-0 win over Honduras in the semifinals Wednesday to earn a spot in the gold medal match. In other action across the Rio Games, the United States men's basketball team beat Argentina 105-78, Americans Kerri Walsh Jennings and April Ross won bronze in beach volleyball and the Jamaicans had a big night at the track with Elaine Thompson winning the women's 200 meters and Usain Bolt cruising to a win in the semifinals of the men's 200.

Brazil started the day 16th in the medal standings, with only three golds in the first 11 days.

Two of the country's best chances remaining to reach the top of the podium competed on Wednesday. The men's soccer team survived, but Agatha and Barbara lost in the beach volleyball gold medal match to Germany. Empty seats have been prevalent across Rio, but not at the Maracana Stadium, where they packed in to watch Neymar and Co. They didn't have to wait long, with Neymar scoring 15 seconds into the game. It was the fastest goal in men's Olympic history, and Brazil led 3-0 going into halftime to cruise into the final. "We don't want to disappoint the fans," Brazil midfielder Renato Augusto said. "They want us to play well and they want us to win the gold." Neymar added a goal on a penalty kick in stoppage time, and Gabriel Jesus also scored twice for Brazil, which got off to a slow start in the tournament.

But the team picked up the pace and will face Germany, which beat Nigeria 2-0 in the other semifinal match.

Germany's senior team trounced Brazil 7-1 in the semifinals of the World Cup in Rio two years ago. "Hey Germany, just wait, your turn is coming up!" a fired-up fan base chanted. Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn became the first 18-hole leader in the history of women's golf in the Olympics. Jutanugarn shot 6-under 65 for a one-shot lead over seven-time major champion Inbee Park and Seiyong Kim, both of South Korea. This is the first time for women's golf in the Olympics since the Paris Games in 1900, and back then it was only a nine-hole competition. Agatha and Barbara, the defending world champions, beat Americans Kerri Walsh Jennings and April Ross in the semifinals on Tuesday night to reach the finals. But Laura Ludwig and Kira Walkenhorst dispatched them 21-18, 21-14, leaving Neymar as Brazil's only hope. —AP



FELIX THROWS AWAY US RELAYS HOPES



ATHLETICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Allyson Felix's hopes of a fifth Olympic gold medal were left in tatters on Thursday when the United States failed to qualify for the final of the 4x100 meters relay after a botched baton exchange. Felix was preparing to hand-over to English Gardner after running the second leg when her team mate went early and the former 200 meters champion tried to bridge the gap by throwing the baton.

The throw missed Gardner's hands completely and American hopes of a wrestling back a title they once almost owned were over, to the likely benefit of Jamaica and Elaine Thompson. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce anchored the Jamaicans to victory in the first heat in 41.79, opening the door for Thompson to sweep the sprint medals at the Rio Olympics. Thompson won the women's 200 meters on Wednesday to add to the 100 title she took from Fraser-Pryce earlier in the week and allowing her a shot at matching Usain Bolt's feat in the last two Olympics.

The Jamaicans needed Fraser-Pryce's blistering finish to hold off Britain, who were second fastest on the timesheets in 41.93 ahead of Germany, who won the second heat in 42.18 once the Americans had effectively eliminated themselves. Ukraine finished third in the first heat in 42.49 with Nigeria, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada and China also going through to the final. Dafne Schippers' hopes of a relay medal to add to her silver from the 200 meters were dashed when the Netherlands could only manage sixth place in the first heat. —Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's Allyson Felix hands the baton to USA's English Gardner who competes in the Women's 4 x 100m Relay Round 1 during the athletics event at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium. —AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Gold medal winner Brianna Rollins, right, silver medal winner, Nia Ali, center, and bronze medal winner Kristi Castlin, left, all from the United States, celebrate with their country's flag, during the athletics competitions of the 2016 Summer Olympics at the Olympic stadium. — AFP

US CLEAN SWEEP 100M HURDLES AS THOMPSON CLINCHES SPRINT DOUBLE



ATHLETICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Elaine Thompson captured a magnificent Olympic sprint double for Jamaica on Wednesday as Brianna Rollins led a first ever clean sweep of medals for the United States in the 100m hurdles. Thompson, who sprinted to gold in the 100m on Saturday, stunned Dutch world champion Dafne Schippers to win the 200m in 21.78sec. Schippers, who stumbled dramatically as she crossed the line, took silver in 21.88 while Tori Bowie of the United States won bronze.

The victory was the latest golden night for Jamaica, who 24 hours earlier had been celebrating Omar McLeod's 110m hurdles victory. Thompson, 24, dedicated her victory to the trailblazing Jamaican stars who had won

Olympic gold over the past years. "It is very special for me to win," she said. "I spent my childhood growing up watching Veronica Campbell-Brown and then Shelley-Ann Fraser-Pryce." It was a first Olympic women's sprint double since American world record holder Florence Griffith Joyner's at the Seoul Games in 1988. Thompson's gold also avenged her loss to Schippers in the World Championships in Beijing last year. "I knew she had a strong finish, so I knew I had to get out there as soon as possible," Thompson said of her Dutch rival.

Reese upset

Elsewhere Wednesday, Tianna Bartoletta of the United States upset defending champion and team-mate Brittney Reese to take the long jump gold. Bartoletta, a 2005 world champion who gave up the sport as she struggled to regain her fitness, secured victory

with her penultimate leap of 7.17m to knock Reese out of the gold medal standings. Reese, who could only manage 7.15 on her final jump, had to settle for silver. "It's just a great feeling to have pulled that off," said Bartoletta. "It's been a good night for sure." But it was a disappointing long jump final for Darya Klishina.

The only Russian athlete allowed to compete in the track and field competition following her country's doping scandal bowed out midway through the final. "Ten or 15 years ago I couldn't imagine that my first Olympic Games would be like this," a disappointed Klishina said. In the day's other final, Conseslus Kipruto of Kenya won gold in the men's 3,000m steeplechase. Evan Jager of the United States won silver, while Mahiedine Mekhissi of France was awarded bronze after Kenya's Ezekiel Kemboi, who had crossed the line in third place, was disqualified. —AFP

QATAR STRUGGLES WITH OVERNIGHT OLYMPICS

DOHA: "Look! It's the Qataris!" shouts an American businessman, pointing to a hotel bar TV screen showing the Olympics handball match between the team from the Gulf state and France. Nearby a group of Middle-Eastern men become distracted from their conversation and smoking to watch the match, appearing to revel in the number of fouls committed during the game. But these people are among a minority watching the Olympics publicly in Qatar.

Despite ambitions to one day host the summer Olympics, the Rio games have not been easy for Qatar on or off the track. Beforehand, sporting officials said they believed its stars, boosted by an ambitious and expensive training program, could double the number of medals ever won-four-by Qatar at the Olympics. So far though Qatar has only one medal, but can at least take consolation that high jumper Mutaz Barshim managed to secure the country's first ever silver.

And for sports fans in Qatar, watching the Olympics has proved a test

of endurance that would not shame any modern-day athlete. This though is not necessarily because of any lack of enthusiasm for sport, but for reasons of geography and broadcasting. Doha is six hours ahead of Rio which means the games' main athletics events including the blue riband 100m-did not take place until around 3am local time, as most slept. Any Usain Bolt fans who wish to see if he can secure a sprint double in the 200m will have to make sure they are awake at 4:25am.

Barshim's groundbreaking success would have been seen by few as it did not start until 2:30am local time, finishing around 4am. It also means that opportunities to watch the Olympics-either at home or in public-have been reduced by the sheer necessity to sleep. One Peruvian hotel worker based in Doha admitted that several days into the games, she had no idea the Olympics had even begun. "I think a lot of people like me are too busy with work and have no time to watch the games at night," she told the local Gulf Times newspaper. —AFP



Swim, IOC scandals overshadow Bolt

RIO DE JANEIRO: India's Sakshi Malik reacts after winning bronze against Kyrgyzstan's Aisuluu Tynybekova in the women's wrestling freestyle 58-kg competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics. — AP