

SUBSCRIPTION

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Philippines drug war deaths climb to 1,800, US concerned



Pfizer to acquire Medivation for \$14bn



Malaysian rapper remanded for 'insulting Islam'



US NBA stars rip Serbia for third gold in a row



150 FILS
NO: 16971
40 PAGES

CABINET WORKING TO TACKLE 'UNJUSTIFIABLY' HIGH PRICES

GOVT TAKING MEASURES AGAINST PRICE GOUGERS



Min 27°
Max 47°
High Tide 01:42 & 13:51
Low Tide 08:17 & 20:23

RIO HANGOVER AS TOKYO GRABS BATON



RIO DE JANEIRO: Fireworks explode during the closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Maracana stadium on Sunday. (Inset) Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe appears as the Nintendo game character Super Mario during the ceremony. —AFP/AP

RIO DE JANEIRO: Rio de Janeiro returned to the cold reality of Brazil's political crisis and recession yesterday after bringing a carnivalesque curtain down on its Olympics festival and passing the torch to Tokyo. After a 16-day extravaganza of sporting heroics from the likes of Olympics legends Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps, Brazil woke up to the hangover of suspended president Dilma Rousseff's looming impeachment trial and its worst recession in more than eight decades. Brazilians have mixed feelings on hosting the

Games, according to a poll released on the final day, which found that 62 percent think the \$16-billion Olympics brought more harm than good. At the same time, 57 percent were proud the event boosted Brazil's image abroad. "There are doubts on the use of public money for events of this nature when there are other priorities, especially considering the economic crisis," summed up Marcia Cavallari, the head of the firm that carried out the poll, Ibope Inteligencia. Security fears, concerns over Zika, off-field scan-

dals and organizational gaffes were relegated to the background as South America's first Olympics ended in a blaze of color late Sunday with an exuberant closing ceremony. Smiling and waving athletes danced into the Maracana stadium, defying a tropical rain storm to launch an all-night party after Olympics chief Thomas Bach described the Rio Games as "marvelous". The city handed over to 2020 hosts Tokyo and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who arrived for the occasion dressed as Nintendo video game hero Super Mario. —AFP (See Page 20)

KUWAIT: The Cabinet has tasked the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to continue to work to keep "unjustifiably high prices" in check and prevent "illegal exploitation", Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said yesterday. Notably, Kuwait will raise petrol prices from Sept 1 as part of economic reforms aimed at countering falling oil revenues. In a statement to KUNA after the Cabinet's weekly meeting, Sheikh Mohammad said that the Cabinet discussed a report by the Ministry of Commerce on steps taken by the Consumer Protection Department to curb rising inflation.

Moreover, he noted that the Ministry of Commerce has dealt with more than 350 violations committed by various shops including inflating prices, adding that such practices will warrant legal action. Furthermore, Sheikh Mohammad said that the Cabinet discussed various measures taken by numerous government bodies to address skyrocketing fish prices, adding that the Cabinet has urged these bodies to act urgently to remedy this issue.

The ministers decided to task the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources to coordinate with the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Fishermen Union as well as other relevant authorities to enforce adequate measures to stop the increase in fish prices. The Cabinet stressed that it must be "notified regarding this issue in a month as of today".

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6 FILIPINOS DIE IN SAUDI HOUSE FIRE

RIYADH: A pregnant woman, her husband and infant daughter were among six Filipinos killed in a weekend fire at their Saudi Arabian residence, the Philippines embassy said yesterday. The blaze, blamed on an electrical overload, broke out just after 6:00 am (0300 GMT) Saturday at the apartment where three families lived in central Riyadh, Philippines charge d'affaires Iric Arribas told AFP. All three family members, including the 18-month-old daughter, died from smoke inhalation, he said.

The father of a second family had just left for work when the building caretaker called to alert him to the blaze. He rushed home to find that his wife, son and daughter were all dead, Arribas said. Filipinos are one of the major expatriate communities in Saudi Arabia, working in a range of jobs from hospitality to nursing, labor, and management. —AFP

News

in brief

Former Singaporean president Nathan dies

SINGAPORE: Former Singapore president S R Nathan, whose colorful career included stints as a spymaster and diplomat, died in hospital yesterday, the government said in a statement. The 92-year-old veteran public servant, who was closely associated with Singapore's founding leader Lee Kuan Yew, was hospitalized on July 31 after suffering a cerebral stroke. Nathan started his career as a social worker and rose up the ranks to become ambassador to Malaysia and the United States, two of the most prestigious jobs in the Singapore government service. Nathan also served as an intelligence chief in the military and held various positions in the private sector. He was elected to two six-year presidential terms between 1999 and 2011.



Nathan

Sarkozy announces bid for presidency

PARIS: Former French leader Nicolas Sarkozy launched a fresh bid yesterday to win back the presidency, announcing he would seek the nomination of his centre-right party to run in next year's election. The pugna-cious 61-year-old conservative, who was deeply unpopular by the end of his five years as president, had made no secret of his ambition to reconquer the top office. "I have decided to be a candidate in the 2017 presidential election," Sarkozy, who was voted out of office in 2012, wrote in the foreword to a new book "Tout pour la France" (All for France) due out later this week. His aides told AFP he would be stepping down as the leader of the Republicans party.



Sarkozy

RUSSIAN RAIDS FROM IRAN AIRBASE 'OVER'

TEHRAN CRITICIZES MOSCOW AS 'INCONSIDERATE SHOWOFF'

TEHRAN: Iran said yesterday that Russian raids on jihadists in Syria from one of its airbases had ended for now, after accusing Moscow of "showing off" when it revealed the bombing runs. "It was a specific, authorized mission and it's over for now. They conducted it and they are gone now," foreign ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi told reporters in Tehran. He left open the possibility of future Russian combat flights from the Islamic republic, saying it would depend on "the situation in the region, and according to our permission".

A Russian military spokesman, Igor Konachenkov, quoted by his defence ministry, said the planes had "carried out all their tasks with success" and were back on home territory. Any further use of Hamedan base by Russian aircraft would take place "in line with mutual accords on the fight against terrorism and taking into account the situation in Syria", he said in a statement.

The Russian ambassador to Tehran, Levon Dzhagaryan, said nothing prevented a renewed use of Hamedan. "If the leaders of our two countries consider it necessary and reach the relevant agreements, what sort of problems can there be?" he told Russia's Interfax news agency. "For the time being, there are no (Russians) remaining in Hamedan" airbase, he added.

Ghasemi's comments came a few hours after Iranian Defence Minister Hossein Dehghan made a rare public criticism of Russia for revealing that its warplanes were using Hamedan to attack insurgents in Syria. "Naturally, the Russians are keen to show that they are a superpower and an influential country and that they are active in security issues in the region and the world," Dehghan told Iran's Channel 2 television. "There has been a kind of showing-off and inconsiderate attitude behind the announcement of this news," he said.

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DOUMA, Syria: A Syrian man stands in a morgue next to the bodies of two young sisters who died after their house collapsed following an air strike on this rebel-held town east of the Damascus yesterday. —AFP

MALI MILITANT SAYS SORRY FOR DESTROYING TIMBUKTU

THE HAGUE: A Malian militant pleaded guilty yesterday to attacking the fabled city of Timbuktu and begged forgiveness as the world was shown sickening videos of him tearing down centuries-old Muslim shrines with a pickaxe. At the opening of his unprecedented war crimes trial before the International Criminal Court (ICC), Ahmad al-Faqi Al-Mahdi also urged other Muslims not to follow such "evil" ways. Mahdi, a former teacher and Islamic scholar, is the first person to plead guilty before the ICC and the first to face a lone charge for the war crime of directing an attack on a historic or religious monument.



Al-Mahdi

Pearl of the Desert".

Continued on Page 13

LARGEST INDOOR THEME PARK TO OPEN IN DUBAI

DUBAI: The world's largest indoor theme park is set to open in Dubai this month to lure back some of the tourists and residents who often flee abroad during the scorching desert summer.

In a sandy suburb beyond Dubai's concrete jungle and pockets of artificially green spaces, IMG Worlds of Adventure's boxy exterior belies a 140,000-sq-m air-conditioned cathedral of entertainment teeming with animatronic dinosaurs, roller coasters, Marvel superheroes and Cartoon

Network characters. Zombies pop out from dark corners of a haunted house and the Velociraptor coaster throttles passengers within a misty simulated rain forest dubbed the Lost Valley. As it stands now, stir-crazy families in Dubai - a tourism and financial hub which already boasts the world's tallest building - have few places to stretch their legs beyond expensive malls while temperatures outside can approach 50 degrees Celsius.

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His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan

AMIR EXPRESSES SOLACE TO TURKEY FOLLOWING DEADLY BLAST

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has addressed a cable to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expressing condolences on victims who had fallen as a result of the terrorist explosion in the city of Gaziantep. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, in the cable to the Turkish President, prayed to His Almighty Allah to bestow mercy upon souls of the victims and hoped quick recovery for the injured.

The State of Kuwait deplors this brazen and criminal act that targeted the innocent, His Highness the Amir stated in the cable, affirming that the explosion that left scores of people dead or wounded contradicts all

heavenly creeds and human values.

Kuwait supports all measures that have been taken by the friendly Republic of Turkey against terrorist acts designed to undermine its security and stability, His Highness said. He renewed the State of Kuwait's unwavering rejection of all forms of terrorism, as well as its standing alongside the international community to fight this scourge.

Their Highnesses the Crown Prince and the Prime Minister, respectively Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, sent cables of identical content to the Turkish President. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness also received Director General of the Environment Public Authority (EPA) Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. —KUNA



KUWAIT KEEN ON INVOLVEMENT IN JOINT ARAB ACTIVITIES

CAIRO: A visiting senior Kuwaiti official yesterday re-affirmed the State of Kuwait's keenness on bolstering joint Arab action and involving in common projects particularly at the legal level. Ambassador Ghanem Sagr Al-Ghanem, Assistant Foreign Minister for Legal Affairs, said in a statement on sidelines of a meeting held at the level of the Arab League Permanent Commission for Legal Affairs, that Kuwait is participating in the meeting due to significance of the committee's tasks, particularly with respect of mapping out agreements and enacting laws with aim of boosting the common Arab action.

Ghanem, the head of the participating Kuwaiti delegation, said the committee discusses during the four-day meeting drafts for the Arab archive covenant, a charter for preserving the Arab architectural heritage and



Assistant Foreign Minister for Legal Affairs Ambassador Ghanem Sagr Al-Ghanem

the Arab custom cooperation treaty.

Moreover, the commission looks into a MoU to establish the common joint power market, amending the constituent law of the Arab Investment Court, Ghanem said, indicating that these blueprints had been submitted from the Arab League agencies to the commission for examining them from a legal perspective, as well as for preparing the warranted recommendations in this respect, to be referred to ministerial-level meetings.

Ghanem added that the term regarding the custom treaty was omitted, as it had been agreed upon by the Economic and Social Council during its regular session 96/2015, and had been submitted to the higher Arab authorities for working out necessary measures at the local level to join it. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Commander of Kuwait National Guard Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah met recently with Hawally Governor Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and Capital Governor Thabet Mohammad Al-Muhanna, to discuss cooperation between Kuwait National Guard and the two governorates.

NIGERIAN VICE PRESIDENT SEEKS TO LURE KUWAITI INVESTMENT

ABUJA: Nigerian Vice President Yemi Osinbajo called on Kuwaiti companies yesterday to look into bountiful investment opportunities in the West African nation. In a meeting with Kuwait's Ambassador to Nigeria Dr Abdulaziz Al-Sharrah, Osinbajo noted that his country strives to enhance its ties with Kuwait, after a 'period of stagnation.'

Moreover, he lauded His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's contributions, notably, when Kuwait hosted the third Africa-Arab Summit in November 2013. Furthermore, Sharrah hoped that ties between both nations are on track for further progress. At the Africa-Arab Summit, His Highness the Amir promulgated an endeavor launched by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) to dole out loans worth \$1 billion to needy African nations. —KUNA



ABUJA: Kuwait's Ambassador to Nigeria Dr Abdulaziz Al-Sharrah meets with Nigerian Vice President Yemi Osinbajo. —KUNA

SOME OAPEC MEMBERS TO USE RENEWABLE ENERGY

KUWAIT: Secretary General of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) Abbas Al-Naqi said yesterday that some member states of the organization aim to use renewable energy in the



OAPEC Secretary General Abbas Al-Naqi

energy mixture at rates ranging between 4.3 and 40 percent.

Naqi said that OAPEC has prepared a special study on the use of renewable energy in the energy mixture in the OAPEC states, especially that the exploitation of renewable energy and the transfer of its own technology is a strategic choice aimed at diversifying the consumed energy mixture.

He pointed out that in recent years, exploitation of renewable energy sources and the transfer of its technologies to the Member States of the (OAPEC) had emerged as an option aims to diversify the consumed energy mixture and lay its industry locally and market it regionally at first and then work on marketing it globally at a later stage for an additional tributary petroleum sources and contribute to strengthening the sources of income through freeing up more oil and gas for export.

He stated that the future goals of the OAPEC member states on the use of renewable energy in the energy mixture is to cope with the growing demand for electricity, noting that the study that was prepared by the organization aims to review the current situation of the energy mixture in the Member States and to explore its main features as well as exploring diversification opportunities in the energy mixture in these countries, according to the perspective of the resources available of the stated objectives. He pointed out that the study addresses six themes including definition of the status of the Member States in the global energy balance as well as a special focus of energy consumption in these countries, the current mixture of energy, exploring the future prospects of the energy mixture, opportunities for diversity in the mixture and finally findings and recommendations. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Anwar Al-Hasawi meets with South Sudan's ambassador to Kuwait Barmina Rayak. —KUNA

SOUTH SUDAN AMBASSADOR PRAISES KUWAIT'S HUMANITARIAN WORK

KUWAIT: Kuwait has a prominent role in global humanitarian assistance around the world, South Sudan's ambassador to Kuwait Barmina Rayak said yesterday. After his meeting with Deputy Chairman of Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Anwar Al-Hasawi, Rayak expressed his country's appreciation of

KRCS' efforts towards those who are in need.

Rayak pointed to the UN naming His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah a "Humanitarian Leader", adding that KRCS' help has reached many parts of the world to provide life-saving assistance to victims of natural and man-made

disasters, regardless of their geographic location, religious beliefs or ethnic origins. Meanwhile, Hasawi stressed Kuwait's keenness on helping other countries, and playing a key humanitarian role by offering life-saving aid to many vulnerable countries across the globe. —KUNA

Letter to Muna Al-Fuzai

Dear readers:
It seems that my article "France's burkini ban" evinced many different views, and I thank all those who sent me their opinions.

Dear Muna,
Thank you for putting the burkini issue in the light it should be seen in. I agree with you 100 percent. Apart from the obvious, swimming wearing such 'clothing' is actually dangerous. I follow Kuwait Times on Facebook and have entered into a discussion a couple of times. I think Kuwaitis in general appear to be a far more moderate force in the region than others.

Regards from 'Down Under', the country where the burkini originates from. I think it may still be manufactured here.
Thank you,

Shirlee

Dear Muna,
I read your article "France's burkini ban". I understand that you agree with the French politicians' decision. Please let me give you some very important information about French society that I think you did not take in consideration in your judgment. France is a country with many principles. One of the most important principles is freedom - the freedom to wear the clothes that you want in public spaces like streets, metro, parks and beaches.

You don't know the story of France. France is a multicultural country with different religions like Christianity, Judaism and Islam. These women who wear the burkini are French. This means that as per the laws, they can do this. Their grandfathers died during the First and Second World Wars for this country. They were born and raised in France.

I am very surprised to read what you wrote. You as a Muslim should support these women and their rights, especially since the entire world knows that the French Muslim community has been unfairly treated by the political class for many years. How is it that non-Muslim American, British and German newspapers (New York Times, Washington Post, The Guardian, The Independent, Suddeutsche Zeitung, etc) mock the French decision, while you at Kuwait Times (in a Muslim country) agree with the French racist decision?

Why didn't you mention that politicians keep silent over the privileges they provide to Jewish women and children to use public swimming pools only for them? Why didn't you mention the affair of the private water park that wanted to rent out for a day to Muslim women, but the governor of the city took action to cancel it? It is a private water park!

Please don't say that Muslim women going to the beach in burkinis want to impose their vision. They are not asking anyone on the beach to do the same. And don't forget that these women are French.
Thank you,

Sofiane (a French Muslim)

350 BUSINESSES PENALIZED FOR VIOLATIONS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry announced yesterday that it had punished 350 companies and commercial stores since the decision to rationalize subsidies for fuel prices was taken by the government.

The violating companies and stores were penalized for conducting commercial fraud and increasing commodity prices for no reason, the Commercial Supervision and Consumer Protection Department said in a press release. Some of the penalties were imposed for expiry of commodities and fraud related to the products' country of origin.

The release added that Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Supervision and consumer protection department Eid Al-Rashidi said that, under the guidance of the Cabinet, inspectors from commercial supervision were deployed in all areas of Kuwait to monitor any violations in the business sector. —KUNA

SOUTH KOREAN OFFICIALS IN KUWAIT TO DISCUSS LABOR ISSUES

PREPARATIONS FOR SOUTH SAAD AL-ABDULLAH CITY PROJECT

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Officials from the Lands and Housing Corporation of South Korea will visit Kuwait tomorrow to discuss procedures of building South Saad Al-Abdullah City based on an agreement between the two countries, source said. The delegation will discuss entry visas and work permits, as well as residence for workers, they added. The delegation are set to meet Housing Minister Yasser Abul and other state officials during their visit to Kuwait. South Saad Al-Abdullah City will be built as a 'smart city'. The environment-friendly city would spread over 59 square kilometers to accommodate 400,000 people. Kuwait's Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) and South Korea's Lands and Housing Corporation signed a memorandum of understanding last May to establish a joint construction company for the major project.

Hospital in Basra

North Basra Mayor Abdelnabi Al-Jabiri said Governor Majid Al-Nasrawi has earmarked a hospital project that will be built with a financial grant from Kuwait for the people of north Basra, adding that a delegation will visit Kuwait to negotiate over the requirements of this project. He said the hospital will have 100 beds. Nasrawi said His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah gave a financial grant to the governorate to build the hospital.

Price monitoring

The department concerned with price monitoring at the commerce and industry ministry held a meeting with fish suppliers yesterday. It plans to meet with interior ministry officials today and is preparing to intensify its inspections to keep track of prices. This comes as part of its preparations to monitor prices currently and during Eid Al-Adha.



KUWAIT: South Saad Al-Abdullah City's location on Kuwait's map. - KUNA

UNIVERSITY CERTIFICATES HARD TO FORGE: DHAFIRI

KUWAIT DENIES PURPORTED CONTRACT ON LINK-UP WITH MISSIONS

AMMAN/KUWAIT: Head of the Kuwaiti Cultural Office in Jordan Dr Mohammed Dehayem Al-Dhafiri confirmed yesterday accuracy of the university certificate authentication process, a matter that prevents any attempt of forgery or sale of such certificates.

This came in a statement by Dhafiri during a meeting with Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Jordan Dr Wajih Owais while commenting of social media reports over sale or forgery of some certificates. Report have appeared in the Kuwaiti press lately claiming that groups operating in Jordan offer to sell fake college certificates that are authenticated through official departments.

Dhafiri felt that these 'disillusioned' declarations and allegations raised by some irresponsible people are close to being 'fraud' operations, calling on students to investigate the accuracy and stay away from suspicious websites and follow the correct method to get the school certificates, Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian minister praised the depth of bilateral relations between the two countries at the cultural and educational levels, stressing Jordan's keenness to strengthen these relations with Kuwait at all levels.

He also extolled the continuous cooperation with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Higher Education and its institutions, stressing the importance of raising the level of cooperation in the field of scholarship in Jordan and take advantage of the strong scientific programs provided by the Jordanian universities in the areas of human medicine, dentistry and other majors.

False reports

In other news, the Foreign Ministry denied yesterday signing a contract with a company owned by a person who has security problems in Kuwait, for a



KUWAIT: Head of the Kuwaiti Cultural Office in Jordan Dr Mohammed Dehayem Al-Dhafiri meets with Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research of Jordan Dr Wajih Owais. —KUNA

project to link up the Foreign Ministry with its missions abroad. In a statement, a source at the Ministry said that it had conducted a contract with Tata Communications Limited Company, explaining that all terms for external contracts by the State of Kuwait supervisory authorities were met, also indicating that the offers given by Tata were "the best and least costly" among the companies that forwarded offers for executing the project.

The agreement was signed at Tata's headquarters in Singapore, and not in Dubai, by Kuwait's

Ambassador to Singapore and the General Counsel for Tata Communications John Freeman. The source added that the alleged news on the social media about signing the agreement with an Iraqi person living in Dubai and has a security record in Kuwait is false, and Kuwait did not interact with any person whose description fits that of the individual, mentioned in the alleged reports. He noted that the ministry will maintain its jurisdictions to take any legal action that would preserve its rights toward these alleged accusations. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad met yesterday with several ministry officials who reached the retirement age. He conveyed to them greetings and appreciation from Deputy Prime Minister and Interior minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah for their efforts. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun

FORENSIC PATHOLOGY LAB RECEIVES INT'L ACCREDITATION

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Director General of the Interior Ministry's Forensics Department Major General Shihab Al-Shimmari said the forensic pathology lab at the medical examiners' department received international accreditation of criminal labs according to international specifications issued by the College of American Pathology.

He said this accreditation is considered a qualitative move and reflects the future vision of the medical examiners' department in particular and the general department of forensics in general. He added this achievement would not have been made without the continued support of Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and direct follow-up by undersecretary Major General Suleiman Al-Fahd. He said Kuwait is the first to get this accreditation in the Middle East, placing it among the most advanced countries in terms of technical quality of forensic labs.



MUNICIPALITY CARS TO HAVE COLOR CHANGED

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality's Director General Eng Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said an agreement was reached yesterday to change the color of municipality vehicles from white to yellow. These cars are used by officials and mandooobs (representatives). The decision helps prevent using the cars outside official working hours, Manfouhi explained.

In other news, Mubarak Al-Kabeer municipality's emergency department carried out a campaign that resulted in removing 85 advertisements, including 44 from streets and yards, and issuing 11 citations.

Navy to carry out live ammunition drill

Kuwait Navy will carry out a shooting drill on tomorrow and Thursday, using live ammunition, the Ministry of

Defense announced yesterday. Moral Guidance and Public Relations Department said in a press release that the exercise will take place in the shooting range, where it will be 16.5 miles east of Ras Al-Jelaia, all the way to Garu island, six nautical miles east of Ras Al-Zor, all the way to Umm Al-Maradem island. Sea-goers are advised to refrain from approaching the identified locations during the drill. —KUNA



IBTIKAR INITIATIVE INSPIRED BY AMIR OF HUMANITY

SUMMER TRAINING CAMP CONCLUDES

KUWAIT: Chairwoman of Al-Saad Foundation Sheikhha Fadya Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah said that Ibtikar is an initiative that immerses students in activities that cultivates their talents and skills and encourages them to pursue a strong education. Ibtikar was inspired by the values of His Highness the Amir of Humanity Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

During the closing ceremony of the summer training camp in cooperation with Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP), Sheikhha Fadya said that she is working on ways to further the progression of society by supporting the students in the field of scientific research and helping students better their hobbies and she seeks to enable the women of tomorrow by invest-

ing in the youth of today. By discovering what their talents are and cultivating them, the students will ultimately benefit society as a whole, she added.

Empowering women

Sheikhha Fadya said that Ibtikar is an initiative that seeks to empower women by encouraging their participation in activities from elementary school until their university years. Ibtikar uses different methods to encourage the creativity of the students. Sheikhha Fadya said that it is when students are exposed to different challenges that their abilities really surface.

Among the most important functions of this initiative is instilling a sense of national pride and

loyalty to their country, as these activities will help shape them into proactive members of society who are ready to serve their country. General Director of Ibtikar Dr Fatma Al-Hashim said that this initiative was a great success in that it produced smart hardworking Kuwaiti students worth the investment.

Dr Hashim also talked about Shuwaikh summer club where students are encouraged to make use of their free time by engaging in fun yet educational activities like planting and art making. Director of the MGRP's Training Department Eman Al-Ansari praised the great effort of Al-Saad Foundation, especially Ibtikar, for its great role in helping shape and develop Kuwait's youth. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Chairwoman of Al-Saad Foundation Sheikhha Fadya Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (right) speaks during the closing ceremony, as Director General of Ibtikar Dr Fatma Al-Hashim looks on. — KUNA



Chairwoman of Al-Saad Foundation Sheikhha Fadya Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah (right) attends the closing ceremony.



Chairwoman of Al-Saad Foundation Sheikhha Fadya Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah awards children at the ceremony.



In Brief

FM RECEIVES LETTER

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday a letter from the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Netherlands Bert Koenders tackling bilateral ties and the latest regional and international developments. — KUNA



EMBASSY ADVISES VIGILANCE

TOKYO: Kuwait's Embassy in Japan warned all Kuwaitis in Tokyo from Typhoon Mindulle which lashed the city yesterday. The Japan Meteorological Agency issued heavy rain and flood warnings for all 23 wards in central Tokyo. Kuwaiti embassy in Tokyo urged all Kuwaiti citizens to call these numbers in case of any emergency: 0361-3455-03, 0362-3455-03, 0363-3455-03. — KUNA



SUHAIL STAR APPEARS AUG 24

KUWAIT: A new season with cooler and milder weather will prevail across the Arabian Peninsula, as Canopus, the second brightest star in the night sky, will be spotted tomorrow for 52 days, said Head of the Astronomy and Space Sciences Department at Kuwait Science Club Bader Al-Amirah. The star is known across the Arabian Gulf as the 'Suhail Star'. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwait boasts several beautiful tourist destinations and local landmarks including the popular manmade Green Island. Located in Kuwait City along the Gulf Road's Corniche, the Green Island opened in 1988 and often hosts concerts, events and other activities. Photo shows the Green Island as seen from Bneid Al-Gar. — Photo by Yasser Al Zayyat

If you would like your photograph featured here, please email us at local@kuwaittimes.net

EQUATE PARTICIPATES IN KISR SUMMER TRAINING COURSE GRADUATION CEREMONY

KUWAIT: EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, participated in the graduation ceremony of the 39th Summer Training Course for University and High School Students by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR).

The ceremony was under the Patronage of His Excellency the Minister of Information and Minister of State for

Your Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Homoud Al-Sabah who was represented by His Excellency the Undersecretary (acting) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs Yousuf Al-Yatama. During the ceremony, EQUATE was represented by its President and CEO Mohammad Husain with the attendance of KISR Director-General Sameera Al-Sayyed Omar, as well as several leading figures from various organizations. For the 11th consecutive year, EQUATE

has sponsored this training course as part of its comprehensive partnership with KISR.

EQUATE Senior Executive for Corporate Communications and Government Affairs Abeer Al-Omar said, "KISR plays an integral part through its various initiatives in training, scientific research and industrial development. The development and nurturing of the youth is a mutual strategic objective for both KISR and EQUATE. We believe that this training course is a key investment towards overall growth and progress in Kuwait, in the present and future alike."

Omar, who also heads EQUATE Sustainability Committee, added, "During 2010, EQUATE and KISR signed a memorandum of understanding for research about the petrochemical industry, its technology and industrial applications. Developing the human capital, who represent the cornerstone of sustainability, is at the core this partnership through the training course and all other initiatives." With the participation of over 120 high-school and university students from Kuwait and other Arabian Gulf countries, the course addressed a number of subjects relevant to KISR's activities.



ARTIST WINS AWARD IN ARAB INNOVATORS GATHERING

KUWAIT: Kuwait's formative artist Najji Al-Hai expressed appreciation for the generous support presented by the Kuwait Disabled Sports Club, headed by Chairman Shafi Al-Hajiri, to represent Kuwait in the London gathering for Arab innovators, being held with the participation of a large number of innovators in many fields. Hai said that the support has a great effect on continuing his strive to raise Kuwait's name in all fields.

Meanwhile, Hai announced that he earned two prizes

during the event, the first through his competition with Arab artists, and the second in appreciation from the organizing committee for his winning work. He also received a gold medal and two certificates of appreciation. He said that his accomplishment adds to the many achievements made by Kuwaiti disabled citizens. He dedicated this achievement to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the Kuwait people.



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with Ahmadi Municipality's Director Fahd Al-Shutaili, in order to discuss preparations at slaughterhouses around the governorate for the Eid Al-Adha season.

News

In brief

Olympic Committee calls for dialogue to end sports suspension

KUWAIT: The Kuwait Olympic Committee called upon the Kuwaiti government to engage in dialogue in order to look for a solution that ends international suspension of Kuwaiti sports. "The time has come to put difference aside and work together for the benefit of athletes, especially after court orders that rejected appeals from the government of Kuwait against the International Olympic Committee's decisions," Obeid Al-Enezi, Secretary General of Kuwait Olympic Committee (IOC) said in a press statement Sunday. The International Olympic Committee had recently accused Kuwait's government of 'aggravating' the tensions that led to the country's ban from the Rio Olympics, saying that a new law passed in June tightens state control over sports bodies, rather than loosening it. — Al-Qabas

Treatment overseas debts grow

KUWAIT: Ministry of Health is struggling to pay off dues owed to European and American hospitals where citizens are being treated according to the treatment overseas program. Ministry sources warned that several hospitals could resort to legal action to demand a total KD 150 million that Kuwait reportedly still owes them. The total amount of monthly allocation sent to patients abroad reaches KD 40 million, after being approved by a joint committee from the health and finance ministries. Meanwhile, the sources said that KD 300 million have been spent on treatment abroad during the period between January 1 and August 15, 2016, while KD 550 million were spent last year. More than 12,000 citizens are sent for treatment abroad through the Ministry of Health alone, the sources added. — Al-Qabas

'Chemical' drug banned soon

KUWAIT: A decision is expected soon to ban the drug commonly known as 'spice' in Kuwait, Ministry of Health sources said. The interior and health ministries held several meetings recently based on a request from the Criminal Evidence Department to study the chemical substances that are used in the formula of the 'spice', 'bath salts', and other kind of drugs that are not listed internationally as mind altering substances. An agreement was recently reached to list the 'spice' drug, which is more commonly known in Kuwait as 'chemical', under the list of banned substances in the country, and an official decision on that regard is waiting protocol, the sources said. — Al-Rai

Study to privatize power plant

KUWAIT: The Supreme Council of Privatization is currently studying the feasibility of privatizing the north Shuaiba power plant. The initial studying process is to be carried out with the Ministry of Electricity and Water and Ministry of Finance, official sources said. Regarding possible measures to be taken to 'protect' Kuwaiti manpower's rights once privatization takes place, the sources commented by saying that coordination was made with the Kuwait Trade Union Federation regarding amendments to the privatization law. Those amendments were sent to the Fatwa and Legislation Department, and reportedly 'guarantee' national manpower's rights, according to the sources. — Al-Anbaa

Crime

Report

LAWYER FLEES AFTER ASSISTING PRISON BREAK

KUWAIT: A lawyer helped his father to escape from the Palace of Justice before the prosecutor issued a decision to jail him, then the lawyer himself left the country for New Zealand. Security sources said the story of the escape goes back a few months when the suspect was demanding the return of a debt from a person without any evidence, so he refused to pay. The suspect then used the authority of his son to force the debtor to sign a note against his will after an investigator and police officer coerced him to do so. Sources said the debtor filed a complaint against the suspect, so the suspect and his client arrived at the Palace of Justice. When the prosecutor listened to the defense about forcing the debtor to sign the note, he asked him to wait outside along with his lawyer for the decision. They said when the lawyer felt that the prosecutor will order the suspect (his father) to be jailed, he took him out and escaped. When he was asked to bring the suspect back, he refused. Sources said the lawyer left the country for New Zealand before his name was placed on the travel ban list. His father remains at large in Kuwait.

Roommate stabbed

A Bangladeshi man was stabbed by his roommate in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. When the suspect was asked why he did so, he claimed the victim did not return his money. The stabbing took place during a fight. The victim went to Farwaniya Hospital for treatment, then went to the police station and lodged a complaint of attempted murder. Police arrested the suspect and investigations are underway.

Smuggling foiled

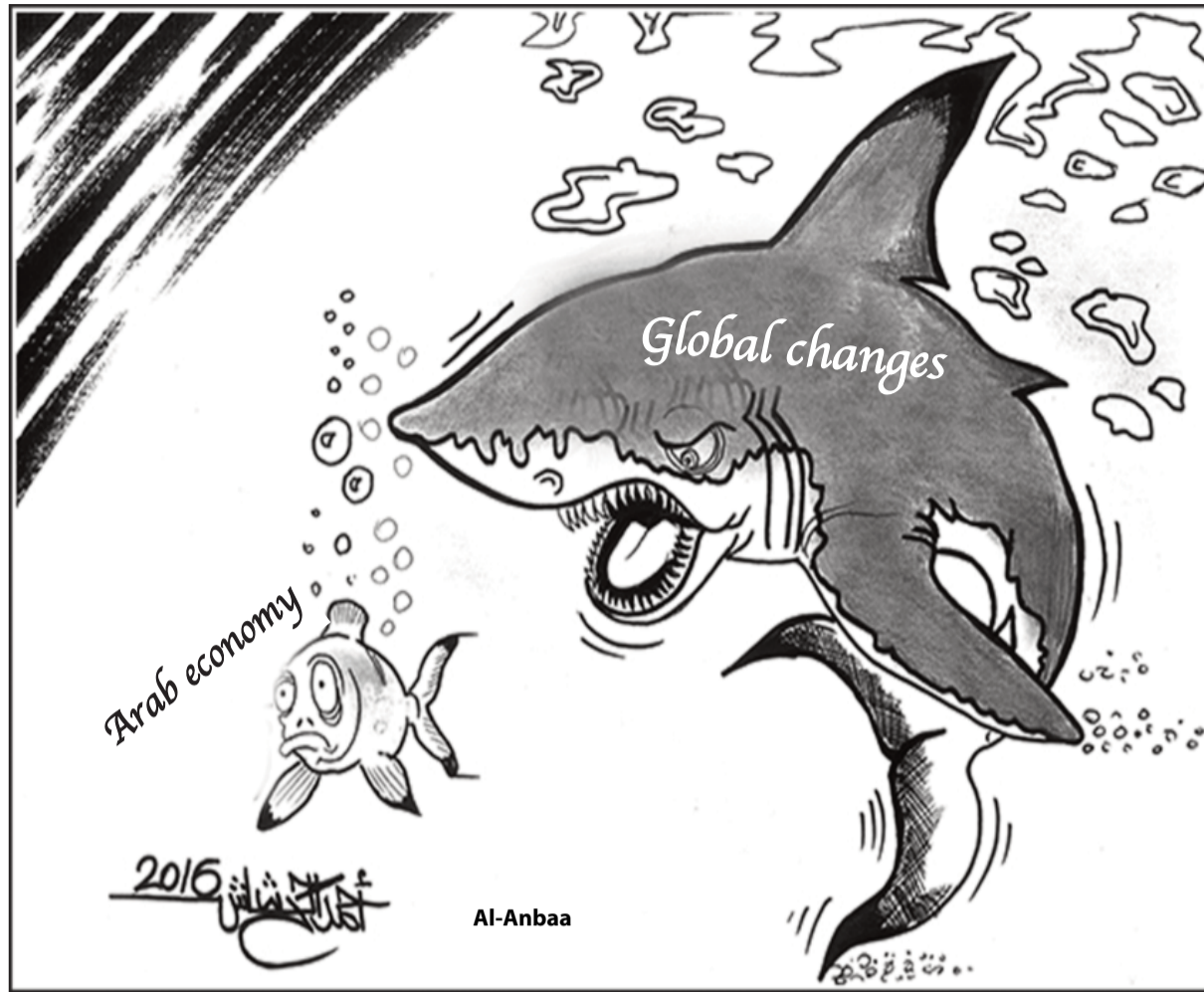
A citizen ended at the Drug Control General Department (DCGD) upon his arrival at Kuwait international airport as he had 200 gm of marijuana when he arrived from Amsterdam. The citizen was searched as he seemed nervous and worried. He and the marijuana were sent to DCGD. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian national failed in her attempt to smuggle two kilograms of qat into the country as she was caught by customs officers, who referred her to the DCGD.

Drug possession

Two citizens, a Saudi and a bedoon, were found using drugs while in a car in Jahra, before being taken by police to DCGD. The four were visibly abnormal, so they were searched and six shabu envelopes, 14 illicit tablets and drug paraphernalia were found on them.

Neighbors' dispute

A citizen threatened to harm his neighbor following a dispute over a parking spot on the side between their homes in Mubarak Al-Kabeer. A security source said a citizen went to Mubarak Al-Kabeer police station and told them that he had a dispute with his neighbor over a parking spot, adding that the neighbor told him "get lost... otherwise I will break your face!" The source said the citizen lodged a complaint and detectives are working on the case. — Al-Rai



Al-Qabas THE WORLD BANK'S INTERFERENCE

By Khalid Al-Tarrah

The World Bank, as it is known, is an international consultative body that presents support to developing countries to set reform policies and plans in order to help them reach developmental achievements to deal with financial and economic defects. This is what the World Bank did before and after the liberation of Kuwait in the form of studies, and none of its recommendations were implemented even at the bare minimum.

The lack of implementing recommendations is a political responsibility borne by the government and National Assembly as a constitutional legislative body that holds the government accountable for any dereliction or slack in implementation, and the bank has nothing to do with political affairs. Yet the statement made by the Director of the World Bank in Kuwait Dr Feras Raad on Aug 7, 2016 was out of the boundaries of the bank's consultative mission, according to what is mentioned in the bank's official website since its establishment in 1944.

The decision to raise gasoline prices, which is the subject of political argument, particularly between the legislative and executive authorities, is a purely internal matter, and the statement of the World Bank representative in Kuwait was out of the consultative framework and encroached into political statement by backing the government's decision. This is an unjustified interference and does not rely on objective motivations.

The bank's director was not right in timing and content, and he was supposed not to get into the tunnel of domestic affairs that are politically very sensitive! The World Bank representative should have given his opinion to the government through official channels, and not give a statement to the official KUNA news agency. He was supposed to not support the increase decision; rather he should have reminded us all the "bundle" of recommendations the bank had given which the government was lax in implementing over tens of years. These were prepared for large amounts of money but the state did not benefit from them. The World Bank representative said the petrol price hike will cut environmental pollution and motivate citizens to use public transport. The World Bank representative should have known that the government owns the public transport company and did not succeed in instilling the concept of mass transportation. Also, the company uses the cheapest type of diesel and is among the most prominent sources of pollution!

How can the increase stimulate the economy, as we know that such a decision has long-term positive dimensions but short-term negative dimensions, be it on retail trade, goods handling and other things? And how can such a decision create job opportunities while the population structure suffers from a defect that requires a political decision and an increase of gasoline prices?!

The World Bank representative injected himself into a domestic political affair, and this is a new practice that was not done by those who came before him, especially someone who contributed to the bank's studies after the liberation and contributed to the establishment of the bank's office in Kuwait. He is Dr Youssef Al-Abdelhadi, an economic expert and not an expert in public health, which is the expertise of Dr Raad as mentioned in his CV!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Qabas

THANK YOU

By Abdelaziz Al-Tuwajri

They did not pay attention to your personal differences and your political and election interests, so they did not train to wait for you to reconcile, because the sports heart does not know grudges, intolerance or personal interests. The champions participated in the Rio Olympics despite the international suspension and some local and foreign threats to punish them, as well as not supporting them to participate although some of them had won medals earlier - rather they were outstanding in previous championships.

Differences and election interests affected Kuwait's reputation, and not only the citizen or the voter, and it seems that the personal interests of some MPs are above Kuwait, as how some of them accept the disrespect of Kuwait as the Kuwaiti athlete is participating at his own expense? He wins and the national anthem is not played nor is the Kuwaiti flag raised. The carelessness of some of them

makes the citizens worried about this country through your laws and legislations that harm Kuwait before the citizen.

The Olympic citizen, the champion, owner of the double trap gold medal in Rio 2016, Col Fehaid Al-Deehani, is a citizen who honored Kuwaitis, Arabs and Muslims by winning the gold, as well as skeet bronze medal winner Abdullah Al-Rashidi, Faye Al-Sultan, Khalid Al-Mudhaf, Saud Habib, Abdelrahman Al-Faihan, Abbas Qalli, Abdelaziz Al-Shatti and Ahmad Al-Afasi. Those athletes are alone who faced difficulties, bore expenses and traveled to confirm the presence of Kuwait youth in international arenas.

Thank you so much for making us happy and keeping our heads high at a time when we need happiness and hope, and thanks to those who honored them among the businessmen, citizens and establishments, and I hope they sponsor them because they deserve it.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

The carelessness of some of them makes the citizens worried about this country



Fawzy Al-Thunayan, GM Board Affairs at ABK, other bank officials and Fayez Al-Azmi, Chairman of the Kuwait Blind Association are pictured with the winners.



Fawzy Al-Thunayan, GM Board Affairs at ABK is honored by Fayez Al-Azmi, Chairman of the Kuwait Blind Association.

ABK HONORED FOR SUPPORTING KUWAIT BLIND ASSOCIATION'S SUMMER SPORTS ACTIVITIES

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) was recently honored by the Kuwait Blind Association for its support of the summer sport activities that were organized by the Association for the visually impaired. The honorary ceremony was held on the premises of the Blind Association on 14 August, 2016, where the success of the initiative was celebrated and winners of the sporting championship were rewarded for their great achievements.

The week-long sporting championship featured a variety of sport activities that included swimming and table tennis for both male and female categories, and goal ball for the male category. The participants displayed their talents in a fun, challenging atmosphere of healthy competition.

Fawzy Al-Thunayan, GM Board Affairs at ABK attended the ceremony alongside Fayez Al-Azmi, Chairman of the Kuwait Blind Association whereby cash prizes, medals and trophies were handed out to the winners. ABK's support and sponsorship of this initiative falls in line with the Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy, which focuses on individuals with special needs, with the aim to raise awareness of this segment and to promote equality among Kuwait's communities.



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) sponsored a Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) project to educate children of families in need in Kuwait for the second consecutive year. NBK presented KD 50,000 to the program's fund, which helped pay tuition fees for 562 students.

KFH OFFERS CUSTOMERS INNOVATIVE SHOPPING, SERVICES EXPERIENCE ONLINE

BREAKTHROUGH OFFERS ON KFHONLINE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) has launched two new innovative features on its application KFHOnline as part of its ongoing efforts to offer best customer service, while providing seamless advantages to its customers in a truly high-end banking experience and benefits.

The new features are: Outlets, Offers and Services where the 'Outlets' enables customers to conveniently browse through their favorite brands by interest and category in a more visual and interactive oriented style, listing all the discounts and offers via KFH cards. Hence the best way to benefit from this feature is to access it prior to login into the app, and simply browse all discounts before making a purchasing decision which would offer the customer the advantage and benefits of saving more.

Moreover, the 'Offers and Services' feature delivers the customer a more interactive experience, where they can view the latest weekend offers and monthly promotions presented from KFH. It does not stop there as this section is set up in a way to conveniently present videos of product reviews from multiple brands and the ability to deploy state-of-the-art interactive surveys that can be used to gather insights from customers about their favorite brands, products and even banking services in general. Furthermore, the updates introduce a way to engage with customers through competitions and can link to various channels of social media making the app even more entertaining.

KFH strives to deliver superior, innovative, comprehensive, safe and simple e-

banking service to its customers. The bank has also recently launched a new e-service which allows KFH customer subscribed to KFH's SMS Baitak notification service to receive Push message-type notifications onto their smartphones. KFH's e-banking customers who are also SMS Baitak subscribers will be able to register to - and receive - the Push messages for free via the KFH Online Smartphone app regardless of their location or active SIM card. As the Push messaging feature is now part of the modern smartphone's programming, customers will always be able to receive their banking Push messages as long as their device is connected to the internet. This means that customers will now no longer require any SIM card to be inserted in their smartphones.





Big three tackle EU future on the symbolic island

SEX HARASSMENT 'WIDESPREAD' IN AUSTRALIAN POLICE



ALLAHABAD: Indian flood-affected residents use boats as they attempt to shift to dry ground after flooding in a low lying area of the River Ganges at Daraganj in Allahabad. — AFP

40 DEAD AS FLOODS HIT CENTRAL, EASTERN INDIA
TWITTER USERS MOCK INDIAN POLITICIAN CARRIED THROUGH FLOODS

LUCKNOW: At least 40 people have died and hundreds of thousands have been evacuated as floods hit vast swathes of central and eastern India, officials said yesterday. Days of heavy rain have caused the Ganges River and its tributaries to rise above the danger level during the past 48 hours in about 20 districts of the states of Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Officials said at least 17 people have died in Madhya Pradesh, 14 in Bihar and nine in Uttar Pradesh because of drowning, electrocution or injuries from collapsed houses.

In the city of Allahabad, water from the Ganges entered many residential areas, forcing people to move to safer areas. About 12,000 people were evacuated from low-lying surrounding villages, a government statement said. In the Hindu holy town of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, flooding forced a halt to cremations at a main riverfront area, District Magistrate Vijay Karan Anand said.

Devout Hindus bring dead family members to Varanasi in the belief that being cremated there frees their soul from the cycle of death and rebirth. In Bihar, 600,000 people were evacuated and the army and air force are on standby because more rain is forecast in the next two days, said disaster management official Vyasji, who uses one name. Floods occur in many parts of India during the monsoon season, which runs from June through September.

Indian politician mocked

Meanwhile, a senior Indian politician was widely mocked yesterday after photos showed policemen carrying him through ankle-deep muddy water while inspecting deadly floods in the country's centre. Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh state, was shown wearing crisp white trousers and white shoes and being carried aloft through the water in a field, trailed by his entourage.

The photo of a smiling Chouhan with his arms wrapped around the two officers made newspaper front pages and sparked an outpouring of ridicule on Twitter. Most comments were lighthearted in a country where politicians are almost always flanked by a legion of fawning officials and security guards. "Shame on #Shivrajsinghchouhan. So embarrassing #wetyourfeet my man," Twitter user Jennifer Fernandes wrote. "#Shivraj training Indian athletes for 400M Relay 2020 Olympics," read another.

But Chouhan was also accused of abusing his position, with comparisons drawn to the treatment of British officials during colonial times. A top government public relations officer defended Chouhan, saying it would have been dangerous for him to wade through the waters himself. "Nobody knew if the water level would rise suddenly or if the ground below was slippery," SK Mishra said. "There was also the danger of a snake

or scorpion bite. He was desperate to meet the flood-affected people and the security guys could not have taken any chance."

Floods triggered by monsoon rains have claimed hundreds of lives across India. In Madhya Pradesh at least 15 people have died after rivers burst and flooded villages, the Press Trust of India news agency said. Chouhan himself posted several pic-

tures of his flood visit on Twitter but skipped the controversial one, while his office denied yesterday releasing the image. An Indian TV journalist was sacked in 2013 after he filed a report about deadly floods while perched on a survivor's shoulders. The reporter claimed the man who carried him while standing in ankle-high water had hoisted him onto his shoulders as a sign of respect.— Agencies

NEED DRUGS IN JAIL? TRY USING A DRONE

LONDON: While Amazon and the British government are looking into how to use drones to deliver parcels to customers, criminals are already exploiting the technology to send drugs to accomplices in prison. Police said yesterday they recovered two drones carrying mobile phones and drugs near London's Pentonville prison and have set up a special task force - Operation Airborne - to catch offenders trying to get contraband into the jail. In the early hours of Saturday, police saw a man acting suspiciously near the prison. He ran away, dropping two bags containing drugs and mobile phones and managed to evade arrest, according to a police statement.

Next day, police found a drone that had crashed after being tracked flying over Pentonville. They were later alerted to another drone being flown at low altitude towards the prison. The unmanned aircraft was stopped in mid-flight by a police officer and a package containing large amounts of drugs and two mobile phones was recovered from it. Appealing for witnesses, Detective Chief Inspector Steve Heatley said: "These recovered drones carried a substantial amount of Class B drugs, legal highs and a large quantity of mobile phones."

Last month, Amazon announced a partnership with the British government "to explore the steps needed to make the delivery of parcels by small drones a reality, allowing Amazon to trial new methods of testing its delivery systems". But while the US giant is looking into how to use drones safely and reliably, criminals are pushing ahead with the technology. British media reported in February that there were more than 30 incidents last year in which drones were found in or around prisons and items such as drugs, phones and USB drives recovered. — Reuters

PHILIPPINES DRUG WAR DEATHS CLIMB TO 1,800

MANILA: The Philippines has recorded about 1,800 drug-related killings since President Rodrigo Duterte took office seven weeks ago and launched a war on narcotics, far higher than previously believed, according to police figures. Philippine National Police Chief Ronald Dela Rosa told a Senate committee yesterday that 712 drug traffickers and users had been killed in police operations since July 1.

Police were also investigating 1,067 other drug-related killings, Dela Rosa said, without giving details. The comments came a day after Duterte lashed out at the United Nations for criticizing the wave of deaths. As recently as Sunday, the number of suspected drug traffickers killed in Duterte's war on drugs had been put at about 900 by Philippine officials. But this number included people who died since Duterte won the May 9 presidential election.

Duterte said in a bizarre and strongly worded late-night news conference on Sunday the Philippines might leave the United Nations and invite China and others to form a new global forum, accusing it of failing to fulfill its mandate. However, his foreign minister, Perfecto Yasay, said yesterday the Philippines would remain a UN member and described the president's comments as expressions of "profound disappointment and frustration". "We are committed to the UN despite our numerous frustrations and disappointments with the international agency," Yasay told a news conference.

Last week, two UN human rights experts urged Manila to stop the extra-judicial executions and killings. Yasay said Duterte has promised to uphold human rights in the fight against drugs and has ordered the police to investigate and prosecute offenders. He criticized the UN rapporteurs for "jumping to an arbitrary conclusion that we have violated human rights of people". "It is highly irresponsible on their part to solely rely on such allegations based on information from unnamed sources without proper substantiation," he said of the United Nations.

Senator Leila de Lima, a staunch critic of the president, started a two-day congressional inquiry into the killings yesterday, questioning top police and anti-narcotics officials to explain the "unprecedented" rise in killings. "I am disturbed that we have killings left and right as breakfast every morning," she said. "My concern does not only revolve around the growing tally of killings reported by the police. What is particularly worrisome is that the campaign against drugs seems to be an excuse for some law enforcers and other elements like vigilantes to commit murder with impunity," De Lima said. — Reuters

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'UN-ISLAMIC' CULTURAL HERITAGE IN JIHADISTS' CROSSHAIRS

PARIS: From Mali to Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq, Islamist fighters have regularly turned their sights on the priceless vestiges of peoples' cultural heritage-for being un-Islamic. The International Criminal Court yesterday opens the war crimes trial of a jihadist charged with orchestrating the destruction of shrines at the World Heritage site of Timbuktu in Mali. The following are examples of world cultural heritage destroyed or damaged during recent conflicts.

Mali

The fabled desert city of Timbuktu, named as the "City of 333 saints" and listed by UNESCO, was for months attacked by jihadists bent on imposing a brutal version of Islamic law. In June 2012, Al-Qaeda-linked militants destroyed 14 of the northern city's mausoleums, important buildings that date back to Timbuktu's golden age in the 15th and 16th centuries as an economic, intellectual and spiritual hub. The reconstruction of the shrines began in March 2014, relying heavily on traditional methods and employing local masons. Several countries and organizations financed the reconstruction, including UNESCO. Work finished on the site in July 2015,

and a ceremony marking the completion was held on February 4, 2016.

Syria

More than 900 monuments or archaeological sites have been looted, damaged or destroyed by the regime, rebels or jihadists in Syria, where a devastating war has raged since 2011, according to APSA, the association charged with protecting Syrian architecture. In September 2015, Islamic State (IS) fighters destroyed two of the most important temples in the UNESCO-listed Syrian city of Palmyra as they pressed a campaign to wipe out some of the Middle East's most important heritage sites.

They include the ancient city's most famed shrine, the 2,000-year-old Temple of Bel, blown up a week after the destruction of the temple of Baal Shamin. Other notable sites damaged or looted include Dura-Europos in eastern Syria, once known as the "Pompeii of the desert", Apamea, Ebla and Tal Ajaja. However, the IS group is not the only one responsible for ravaging Syria's heritage, with all sides in the fighting looting and destroying ancient sites. "Two thirds of the ancient city of Aleppo have been bombed and set on fire," according to UNESCO.



TIMBUKTU, Mali: Islamist militants destroy an ancient shrine in Timbuktu in this file photo. — AFP

Iraq

IS has carried out a campaign of "cultural cleansing", razing part of ancient Mesopotamia's relics and looting others to sell valued artefacts on the black market. In a video released by IS on February 26, 2015 militants were shown using sledgehammers to smash pre-Islamic treasures in the museum in the country's second city Mosul, sparking global outrage. Thousands of books and rare man-

uscripts were also burned in February in Mosul's library. According to the Iraqi government, IS militants on March 5, 2015 bulldozed and blew up Nimrud, an ancient Assyrian city south of Mosul. They also attacked Hatra, a Roman-period site, in the northern Nineveh province.

Libya

Several mausoleums have been destroyed by Islamist extremists since the overthrow of longtime dictator

Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. In August 2012, Islamist hardliners bulldozed part of the mausoleum of Al-Shaab Al-Dahman, close to the centre of the Libyan capital. The demolition came a day after hardliners blew up the mausoleum of Sheikh Abdessalem Al-Asmar in the western city of Zliten. In 2013 suspected Islamic extremists destroyed the centuries-old mausoleum of Murad Agha in Tripoli, but the tomb inside withstood the attack.

Afghanistan

In March 2001, Taliban leader Mullah Omar ordered the destruction of two 1,500-year-old Buddha statues in the eastern town of Bamiyan, because they were judged to be anti-Islamic. Hundreds of members of the Taliban from across the country spent more than three weeks demolishing the gigantic statues carved into the side of a cliff. In 2003 the cultural landscape and archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley were put on UNESCO's world heritage list.

Algeria

Armed Islamic groups in the 1990s destroyed several sanctuaries which dotted Algerian soil. — AFP



GAZA: A Palestinian masked member from the Izzedine Al-Qassam Brigades, a military wing of Hamas, stands guard in front of a mock jail for Israeli soldiers during a rally in Rafah refugee camp, Gaza Strip on Sunday, Aug 21, 2016. — AP

MOST PALESTINIANS, ISRAELIS SEEK PEACE

JERUSALEM: A new poll of Israelis and Palestinians released yesterday found that a slim majority on both sides still favor a peace settlement establishing a Palestinian state alongside Israel, despite years of conflict and deadlock in negotiations. The results of the joint poll may provide some small signs of encouragement when peace prospects appear bleak. The last round of negotiations broke down two years ago, and a resumption of talks, much less progress between the sides, at this point seems unlikely.

Tamar Hermann, an Israeli political scientist who conducted the survey with Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki, said that under the current circumstances, the results were "not amazingly encouraging," but also "not discouraging." "It showed there is still some basis for optimism with the right leadership," she said. "Right now I don't see on the horizon a leader on either side willing or capable of using this as a springboard for intensifying the negotiations. But it's not impossible."

The poll found that 51 percent of Palestinians and 59 percent of Israelis still support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On the Israeli side, 53 percent of Jews support the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Among Israel's Arab minority, the number is much higher, at 87 percent. Conversely, just 34 percent of Palestinians and 20 percent of Israelis support the idea of a single

shared state where they are both citizens with equal rights.

After two decades of failed peace efforts, and nearly a year of low-level violence, distrust is strong. The poll found that 89 percent of Palestinians feel Israeli Jews are untrustworthy, while 68 percent of Israeli Jews held similar opinions toward the Palestinians. It also found that 65 percent of Israelis fear Palestinians. In contrast, just 45 percent of Palestinians fear Israelis. Hermann said she was surprised by the higher fear level on the Israeli side, and cited a number of factors. She said many Israelis have no contact with Palestinians, making it easier to "dehumanize the other side."

She also said a recent wave of violence had jolted Israeli society, which had been more insulated from the conflict than Palestinians living under Israeli occupation. In addition, she said Israeli leaders - by painting the Palestinians as "utterly hostile" - and Israeli media reports had contributed to the atmosphere.

"The only images the average Israeli, and I suppose the average Palestinian, gets are the negative ones," she said. The survey interviewed 1,270 Palestinians and 1,184 Israelis in June, and had a margin of error of 3 percentage points. It was conducted by the Israel Democracy Institute, where Hermann is a senior fellow, and Shikaki's Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research. — AP

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE HOLY SITES IN MALI

BAMAKO: The trial of a Malian jihadist charged with war crimes for orchestrating the 2012 destruction of nine Timbuktu mausoleums and a section of a famous mosque, opens yesterday at the International Criminal Court (ICC). How did the monuments come to be considered important and why were they destroyed?

Who built the mausoleums?

The mausoleums of Muslim saints located in Timbuktu's cemeteries and mosques date back to the ancient caravan city's golden age in the 15th and 16th centuries as an economic, intellectual and spiritual centre. Some date back as far as the 14th century. The construction of the original tombs of Muslim saints was undertaken by anonymous groups of family members or disciples of the saints, according to experts. The earthen mausoleums around them were erected after the tombs were desecrated by those who believed they could gain power from being close to the remains. In the centuries that followed, their maintenance and upkeep was taken on by descendants, local residents and patrons of the sites. Thirteen of the city's most revered sites became UNESCO-protected in 1988.

Why are they revered?

Known as the "City of 333 saints", or the "Pearl of the Desert", Muslims from across

the world visited the tombs of saints as holy places where those in difficulty could ask for divine intervention. The city's inhabitants have long believed the tombs protect them from danger and they appeal to the saints for help. Throughout the years, residents have asked the saints to intervene in anything from securing a woman's hand in marriage to making the rains come. UNESCO describes them as "pilgrimage sites for Malians and neighboring west African countries."

Why were they destroyed?

Islamist fighters desecrated the centuries-old shrines using pickaxes and chisels after seizing the city in April 2012. The jihadists considered the shrines, as well as priceless ancient manuscripts from Timbuktu's golden age, to be idolatrous. On trial next week for his alleged role in spearheading the destruction is Ahmad Al-Faqi Al-Mahdi, a member of Ansar Dine, a mainly Tuareg group which at the time held sway over Mali's desert north. Ansar Dine allied with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and a third group to occupy the city, until being routed in a French-led intervention in January 2013. Court prosecutors say the jihadists' first attempted to dissuade Timbuktu's residents from their long-held practice of worshipping the shrines, but after failing set upon their wholesale destruction. — AFP

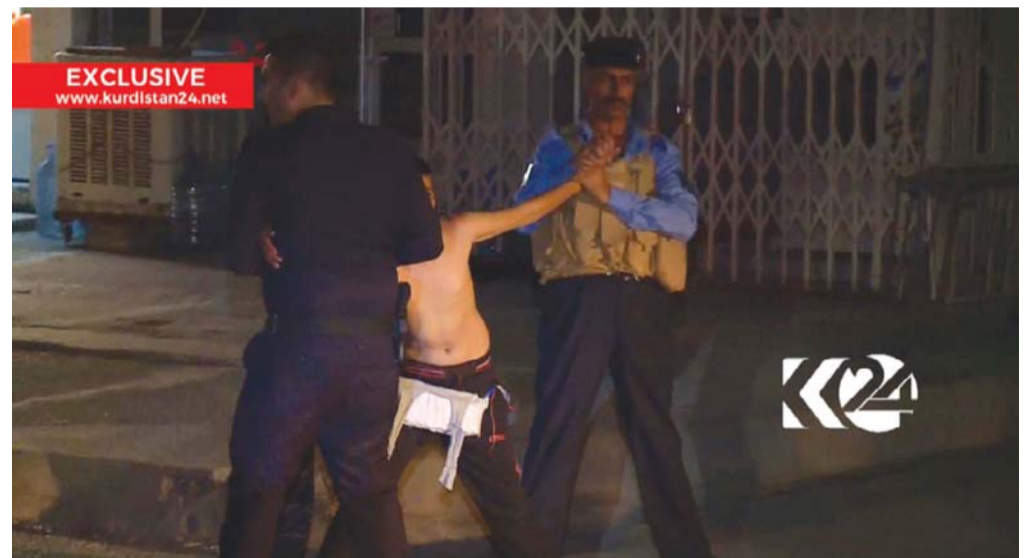
IRAQ POLICE APPREHEND BOY WOULD-BE SUICIDE BOMBER

BOY CLAIMS HE WAS KIDNAPPED BY MASKED MEN

IRBIL: A boy would-be suicide bomber was apprehended in the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk before he was able to detonate his explosives belt, Iraqi police said yesterday. Local television footage aired on Kurdistan 24 TV shows a group of police officers holding the young boy while two men are seen cutting off a belt of explosives. After they remove the belt, the boy is seen being rushed into a police truck and driven away.

The boy was apprehended on Sunday night, less than an hour after a suicide bomb attack on a Shiite mosque in the city, Kirkuk police department spokesman Col Avrasiya Kamil Wais said. In the mosque attack, only the bomber died and two people were wounded. "The boy claimed during interrogation that he had been kidnapped by masked men who put the explosives on him and sent him to the area," said Kirkuk intelligence official Brig Chato Fadhil Humadi.

The boy, Humadi added, was displaced from Islamic State-held city of Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, by recent military operations in the area. He arrived in Kirkuk a week ago, Humadi said. The boy's name is known to the police. The AP does not identify minors who may be victims of abuse or suspected in violent crimes. Islamic State group's media arm, the Amaq news agency yesterday claimed responsibility for the mosque bombing, but made no statement about the boy. Kirkuk, an oil rich city in Iraq's north is claimed by both Iraq's central government and



KIRKUK: Image from local TV footage shows a child being restrained by security forces, holding his arms out-stretched as another man cuts off a belt of explosives in Kirkuk, Iraq. Iraqi police say they have apprehended a boy would-be suicide bomber in the city of Kirkuk before he was able to detonate his explosive belt. — AP

the country's Kurdish region. Kirkuk has seen a rise in ethnic tensions following the Islamic State group's blitz across northern and western Iraq in 2014. Iraqi security forces largely withdrew from Kirkuk and Kurdish forces known as the peshmerga took control of the city. Since then, Shiite mili-

tia fighters have also massed around the city. The area is home to Arabs, Kurds and Turks who all have competing claims to the area. The Kurds have long wanted to incorporate the city into their semi-autonomous region, but Iraq's central government opposes this. — AP

KURDISH MILITIA LAUNCHES ASSAULT TO EVICT SYRIA ARMY FROM HASAKA

HASAKA: The Kurdish YPG militia launched a major assault yesterday to seize the last government-controlled parts of the northeastern Syrian city of Hasaka after calling on pro-government militias to surrender, Kurdish forces and residents said. They said Kurdish forces began the offensive after midnight to take the southern district of East Nashwa, close to where a security compound is located, near the governor's office.

The fighting this week in Hasaka, divided into zones of Kurdish and Syrian government control, marks the most violent confrontation between the Kurdish YPG militia and Damascus in more than five years of civil war. It forms part of a broader battle for control of the long border area abutting Turkey. After a morning lull in fighting, fierce clashes broke out again across the city, the Syrian Observatory for Human

Rights said. The powerful YPG militia has captured almost all of east Ghwairan, the only major Arab neighborhood still in government hands.

The YPG is at the heart of a US-led campaign against the Islamic State militant group in Syria and controls swaths of the north, where Kurdish groups associated with the militia have set up their own government since the Syrian war began in 2011. NATO member Turkey, facing a Kurdish insurgency of its own, is concerned about attempts to extend Syrian Kurdish control westward along its border. Turkey is currently allowing a rebel Syrian force under the banner of the Free Syrian Army to assemble on its soil for an attack on an Islamic State-held town, seeking to deny control to the YPG.

The Syrian army deployed warplanes against the main armed Kurdish group for the first time

during the war last week, prompting a US-led coalition to scramble aircraft to protect American special operations ground forces. War planes were seen in the skies above Hasaka again yesterday, but did not drop bombs, the Observatory said. Syrian state media accused the YPG-affiliated security force known as the Asayish of violating a ceasefire and said its members had torched government buildings in Hasaka. It accused the Asayish of igniting the violence through escalating "provocations", including the bombing of army positions in Hasaka, and said the Asayish aimed to take control of the city.

'We will not retreat'

The YPG denied it had entered into a truce. It distributed leaflets and made loudspeaker calls across the city urging army personnel and pro-government militias to hand over their weapons. "To all the elements of the regime and its militias who are besieged in the city, you are targeted by our units," leaflets distributed by the YPG said. "This battle is decided and we will not retreat ... We call on you to give up your weapons or count yourselves dead." The YPG, known as the People's Protection Units and linked to Kurdish rebels who fight the Turkish state, appeared intent on leaving a nominal Syrian government presence confined to within a security zone in the heart of the city, where several key government buildings are located, Kurdish sources said.

The complete loss of Hasaka would be a big blow to President Bashar al-Assad's government and would also dent efforts by Moscow, which had sought through a major military intervention last year to help Damascus regain lost territory and prevent new rebel gains. Kurdish forces have expanded their control of the city despite the bombing of several locations by Syrian jets. Thousands of civilians in the ethnically mixed city, including members of the Christian community, have fled to villages in the countryside as the fighting intensified, residents said.

The confrontation appears to have undone tacit understandings between the YPG and the Syrian army that had kept the city relatively calm. Hasaka's governor told state media after the flare-up of violence the military had armed the YPG with weapons and tanks to fight jihadist elements but had not expected them to turn against them. Hasaka's population, swelled by displaced Syrians fleeing areas that fell under Islamic State control, is broadly divided along ethnic lines, with Kurds mainly in the city's eastern neighborhoods and Arabs in the southern parts. — Reuters



HASAKA: A pro-regime fighter flashes the sign of victory as he drives a tank in the southern district of Ghwairan in the Syrian northeastern city of Hasaka, where Kurdish forces were advancing. — AFP

DIVIDED AMERICA: MILLENNIALS ARE NO VOTING MONOLITH

WASHINGTON: America's oldest millennials - nearing 20 when airplanes slammed into the World Trade Center - can remember the economic prosperity of the 1990s, and when a different Clinton ran for president. The younger end of the generation - now nearing 20 - can't recall a time without terrorism or economic worry. Now millennials have edged out baby boomers as the largest living generation in US history, and more than 75 million have come of age.

With less than three months to Election Day, the values of young Americans are an unpredictable grab bag. What they share is a palpable sense of disillusionment. As part of its Divided America series, The Associated Press interviewed seven millennial voters in five states where the generation could have an outsized influence this fall. They are a mosaic, from a black Nevada teen voting for the first time to a Florida-born son of Latino immigrants to a white Christian couple in Ohio.

These voters illustrate how millennials are challenging pollsters' expectations. "Millennials have been described as apathetic, but they're absolutely not," said Diana Downard, a 26-year-old voting for Hillary Clinton. "Millennials have a very nuanced understanding of the political world." Just 5 percent of young adults say that America is "greater than it has ever been," according to a recent GenForward poll. The first-of-its kind survey of young people

between the ages of 18 and 30 was conducted by the Black Youth Project at the University of Chicago with the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Briana Lawrence, a 21-year-old videographer and eyelash artist from the South, wants America to return to what it was. A recent North Carolina Central University graduate, she's voting for Clinton. She was just 7 on Sept 11 and the aftermath of the attacks is the only time she remembers the nation feeling united. "My biggest hope for this country is for us to come back together as a community," she said. That's hard when people like her begin adulthood thousands of dollars in debt. Economic issues are huge with this group, since many are saddled with student loans and struggle to find jobs. Only 8 percent of millennials feel their household's financial situation is "very good," according to GenForward's poll.

National debt

Brien Tillett, who recently graduated from a Las Vegas high school, is 18. He was only 10 when the recession hit. His single mother was hospitalized for months after a car accident and, with no safety net, the family struggled. National debt is his top concern. As a black man, he's turned off by some of Donald Trump's remarks, but likes the Republican's aggressive economic stance. He also considered

voting for Clinton, but is angry about her use of a private email server while Secretary of State. Unsure at first, he recently decided on Clinton. Anibal David Cabrera wouldn't think of voting outside his party.

The son of a Honduran mother and Dominican father, he graduated from college in 2008. He was a finance major, but the economic collapse dried up jobs. Now 31 and living in Tampa, Florida, he finally found an accounting position at a small firm. He feels he's entering the prime of his life a few steps behind, through no fault of his own. He's backing Trump and prays the candidate keeps promises and boosts the economy. "That is something my generation has kind of never seen," he said. Shared pain doesn't lead to shared views. Millennials' disdain for traditional party affiliation means that half describe themselves as independents, according to a 2014 Pew Research report - a near-record level of political disaffiliation.

They tend to be liberal on social questions such as gay marriage, abortion and marijuana legalization. Yet they skew slightly conservative on fiscal policy and are more in line with other generations on gun control and foreign affairs. Trip Nistico, a recent Colorado law school graduate, is a gun rights advocate who visits shooting ranges - but also supports in same-sex marriage. He backed President Barack Obama in 2008 and Mitt Romney in 2012. The 26-year-old is voting for Trump this year.

Trump remains unpopular

Still, Trump remains unpopular among millennials and nearly two-thirds of Americans between the ages of 18 and 30 believe the Republican nominee is racist, according to GenForward's poll. Views of Hillary Clinton also were unfavorable, though not to the same extent. Bill and Kristi Clay, parents of two young boys and devout Christians from rural Ohio, have struggled to pick a candidate who matches their values. Kristi Clay opposes same-sex marriage and abortion and names those as her top issues. Yet the 32-year-old school librarian reluctantly leans toward Clinton, because she feels Trump is materialistic and prefers the Democratic views on immigration and poverty.

Though she and her 33-year-old husband are feeling "pessimistic" about this election, both say they will vote anyway. Whether their millennial brethren do the same is unknown. Some are disenchanted that progressive Bernie Sanders, who ran against Clinton in the Democratic primary, is out of the race. The millennial vote rose steadily beginning in 2002 and peaked in 2008. In 2012, however, just 45 percent of millennials cast ballots and participation has leveled off or dropped since, said John Della Volpe, director of polling at Harvard University's Institute of Politics. "They have a somewhat different perspective in terms of politics," he said. "It hasn't really worked. They haven't been part of a movement that's been effective." — AP



WALKER: Charles Craft, 57 (right) gets a hug from Tammie Lovelady, 49, before church service at South Walker Baptist Church in Walker. — AP

FLOOD VICTIM FINDS HUMOR AMID DEVASTATING TRAGEDY

WALKER: Chuck and Karen Craft are among the thousands of Louisiana residents dragging furniture, appliances and other belongings out of flood-ravaged homes. Married more than 35 years, the Crafts live outside Walker, a small town near Baton Rouge. Chuck Craft said they thanked God that their family survived and had "a good, long cry" about their irreparable home. Now, they're trying to salvage photos of their four children and 16 grandchildren. "I guess God wanted me to de-clutter," Chuck Craft, 57, joked Sunday. "I was too pig-headed to do it."

Outside Walker, the rural Baptist church the Crafts attend has become an oasis for flood victims. As waters rose amid torrential rains earlier this month, National Guard rescue crews dropped people off at South Walker Baptist Church because it sits on a ridge of relatively high ground in Livingston Parish near Baton Rouge. Even as flooding has receded in recent days, the church - like many other places across hard-hit south Louisiana - has continued providing sustenance for the body and soul.

It sheltered 96 people in the days after the storm, and Pastor Mark Carroll said the sanctuary is still a dormitory for more than 20 who lost their homes, including a man who had been living in his car until Saturday. It is also housing volunteers who have come to help people rebuild. With a congregation of about 100 and with help from the community, the church is offering hot meals, running a pantry stocked by donations from around the US and conducting prayer services. Carroll said the church had been planning a revival in about a month, but he believes the storm recovery is making that happen now as people build relationships with each other through God.

"It's been this entire community," Carroll said by phone Sunday. "We couldn't have done anything without everyone, and I mean just about everyone, pitching in." The Baton Rouge area got thunderstorms with at least 2 to 3 inches of rain Sunday, the National Weather Service said. Louisiana Gov John Bel Edwards said Sunday that people around the US are just starting to pay attention to the extent of flooding that killed at least 13 people in Louisiana. He told CNN's "State of the Nation" that the disaster has received less attention because it wasn't a hurricane or named storm.

LEAD WARNING AT INDIANA COMPLEX ROILS RESIDENTS

INDIANA: More than 1,000 residents of a northwest Indiana public housing complex have been in a state of panic and uncertainty since authorities informed them last month that their homes must be destroyed because of serious lead contamination. A warning this summer not to allow children to play in the dirt and to wash toys because the soil is soaked with hazardous levels of lead and arsenic was the first many residents of the low income complex had heard about plans to remove tainted soil that date back to at least 2012.

"Somebody dropped the ball somewhere," said state Sen Lonnie Randolph, an East Chicago resident who began getting calls from panicked tenants in late July asking for help. "Maybe it was intentional, or maybe by mistake. Maybe it was negligence." The West Calumet Housing Complex sits in an area of winding canals, rivers and aging factories about 25 miles south of downtown Chicago across the border in Indiana, and is home to mostly African-American and Hispanic residents.

From 1906 to 1985, a plant melting lead and copper in a process called smelting spewed toxic particles into the air that settled into the soil of residential yards throughout the area. The sprawling US Smelter and Lead Refinery, Inc site was among several facilities contributing to the contamination. "When the wind would blow a certain way you would get a dark cloud of dust that

would blow across the whole complex. I mean, you would think it was a sandstorm," long-time resident Akeeshea Daniels said of one neighboring plant that's now closed.

Known hazards

The lead plant closed in 1985, but despite known hazards, neighboring areas including the public housing complex and hundreds of private residences were not added to the US Environmental Protection Agency's priority list for cleanup until 2009. By 2012, a plan for hauling away tons of soil from hundreds of yards was in place and more extensive tests came back showing alarmingly high lead levels, including in the upper six inches of soil in some yards in the public housing complex.

The EPA gave the results to the city of East Chicago in May and said it wanted to start digging out the bad soil this summer. Signs went up warning residents to keep their children away from bare soil in playgrounds and yards. EPA contractors spread rubber mulch as a temporary covering. Mayor Anthony Copeland, who was already skeptical of the EPA plan, urged residents in a letter in late July to temporarily relocate. Days later, the city sent another letter informing them it was seeking to demolish the entire 346-unit complex and they must find new housing as soon as possible. —AP

FIVE KILLED IN ALABAMA MURDER SUSPECT ABDUCTS ESTRANGED GIRLFRIEND

ATLANTA: The five people slain in a massacre at a south Alabama home included a woman who was five months pregnant, Mobile County authorities said. The suspect, Derrick Dearman, attacked them as they slept and then abducted his estranged girlfriend, Laneta Lester, and an infant from the home, a sheriff's captain said. Both of them were found alive. Dearman, 27, of Leakesville, Mississippi, will be charged with six counts of capital murder, Mobile County sheriff's spokeswoman Lori Myles said Sunday.

Five counts stem from the killing of Shannon Melissa Randall, 35; Justin Kaleb Reed, 23; Joseph Adam Turner, 26; and Robert Lee Brown, also 26. The additional count is because 22-year-old Chelsea Marie Reed, was 5 months pregnant, Myles said. The bodies were found Saturday afternoon inside the home in Citronelle, a small town 30 miles northwest of Mobile. The crime was of a magnitude rarely if ever seen in this corner of rural, southern Alabama, Mobile County sheriff's Capt. Paul Burch said.

"It's unprecedented here," Burch said. "It has touched a lot of people in the community," said James Landers, a Citronelle city council member. "It's just such an awful, awful tragedy." Earlier Sunday, Burch told reporters that investigators expect to be at the scene for a couple of days. "It's obviously a horrific scene," he said. Mobile County District Attorney Ashley Rich told reporters near the scene that in her 20-year career as a prosecutor, she's never encountered a crime "where there were five people who were brutally and viciously murdered, and that's what we have here."

Dearman was taken into custody after he walked into the sheriff's office in Greene County, Mississippi, about 20 miles west of Citronelle, Burch said. Dearman was accompanied by his father when he showed up at the sheriff's department and surrendered Saturday afternoon, the Alabama sheriff's office said in a statement. Dearman has confessed to the crimes, Burch told the news site Al.com. "He's been cooperative," Burch told the AP on Sunday. Prosecutors have already begun the process of trying to extradite Dearman from Mississippi to Alabama, Burch said Sunday. The sheriff of Greene County, Stanley McLeod, could not be reached for comment Sunday.

Though connections between Dearman and the five people killed were not immediately clear, investigators have determined that Lester had gone to the home on Aug. 19 to get away from an abusive relationship with Dearman, the sheriff's office said in a statement. Lester was staying with a relative there. Around 1 a.m. Saturday, someone inside the home called 911 and reported that Dearman was on the property, the statement said. Citronelle police came to the house, but Dearman had left before the officers arrived, sheriff's officials said. Later, sometime between 1:15 a.m. and daylight Saturday, Dearman returned to the home and attacked the victims while they were sleeping, the statement said. After the killings, Dearman forced Lester and the 3-month-old infant - the child of the one of the murder victims - into a vehicle at the home. The three drove to the Mississippi home of Dearman's father. After they arrived there, Dearman released Lester and the infant and then turned himself in at the Mississippi sheriff's department, Burch said. Dearman "always had a temper, especially when he doesn't get his way," his ex-wife, Crystal Dearman, told WALA-TV. "I woke up to him holding a knife to my throat in bed with my baby in the crib," said Dearman, who said the two divorced in 2010. "He's made threats the entire time we were together and after we separated."

The killings happened about 150 miles southwest of Rutledge, Alabama, another south Alabama town where six family members were found shot to death at their rural home on Aug 26, 2002. In that case, Westley Devon Harris was given a death sentence after being convicted of slaughtering his girlfriend's relatives. Prosecutors said he was angry because he thought they were trying to keep him away from her. After the killings, Harris fled with his girlfriend and child. The girlfriend, who was 16 at the time, ended up testifying against him. —AP



ALABAMA: Crime scene tape marks the home on Jim Platt Road near Citronelle, Alabama where authorities said five people were killed. Police said that Derrick Dearman, 27, of Leakesville, Miss has been taken into custody in connection with the murders. — AP

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BIG THREE TACKLE EU FUTURE ON SYMBOLIC ISLAND

NAPLES: The leaders of Italy, France and Germany met yesterday to lay the groundwork for a summit aimed at salvaging the European project in the wake of Britain's shock vote to leave. Europe's economic outlook, jihadist attacks, the refugee and migrant drama, the Syrian conflict, and relations with Russia and Turkey will all be on the table on the lush Italian island of Ventotene.

But more than anything else, the meeting, held three weeks before an informal EU summit in Bratislava of 27 states minus Britain will focus on how to reverse the rise of euroscepticism and strengthen the hard-hit bloc. It will be the second round of trilateral talks between Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. At their first, shortly after Britain's June 23 vote, the leaders called for "a new impulse" for the EU.

Critics have demanded less talk more action over a crisis some states fear could lead to similar referendums in other countries, particularly the Netherlands, which opposes changes to the EU to achieve closer integration. Coming up with a road map acceptable

to all will not be easy, with the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia vowing after Britain's vote to draw up their own plans for a less-centralized EU.

Renzi will welcome Hollande and Merkel in Naples at 1400 GMT before they travel on to Ventotene, where they will visit the grave of Altiero Spinelli, one of the founding fathers of the ideal of European integration. Imprisoned on the island by the fascist government during the Second World War, Spinelli and fellow captive Ernesto Rossi co-wrote the "Ventotene manifesto" calling for a federation of European states.

Defense, economy, culture

In another symbolic move, the leaders will hold a working dinner and press conference on Italy's Garibaldi aircraft carrier, the flagship of the EU's "Sophia" mission against people trafficking in the Mediterranean. It will be the start of an intensive tour of talks for the German chancellor as she attempts to coordinate a response to one of the EU's biggest crises in decades and quell fears Berlin wants to monopolize the debate. After a series of deadly attacks by the Islamic State group (IS), the three leaders are



AT SEA: A general view shows the island of Ventotene, off the western coast of Italy, from an aircraft carrier heading to the island, where the leaders of Italy, France and Germany meet to discuss the post-Brexit EU. — AFP

expected to explore greater co-operation on counter-terrorism and an integrated European security and defense policy—a long-cherished objective that could be easier to achieve now sceptical

Britain has departed.

Italy's defense and foreign affairs ministers have proposed creating "a Schengen-like defense agreement to respond to terrorism", with a "multina-

tional force" under a single command for specific missions. It is an idea France is keen on, but Germany is unlikely to get behind Paris's suggestion for it to be funded with eurobonds, a move Berlin fears would leave it vulnerable to the debt burdens of euro-zone peers. In terms of the economy, Hollande wants the Juncker Plan—the EU's investment fund for infrastructure, education, research and innovation—to be doubled, according to a French diplomatic source.

Renzi is tipped to unveil a proposal to use part of those funds to restore European cultural monuments. But while Hollande and Renzi want to tackle Europe's identity crisis through investments, Merkel is unlikely to be moved by their anti-austerity overtures. All three leaders have been hit in the polls by varying toxic combinations of refugee crisis, economic slump and terror attacks, with eurosceptic or populist parties gaining ground. And with 2017 bringing a general election in Germany and presidential election in France, they will be wary of ignoring opposition to further European integration at home, leaving them little room for manoeuvre. — AFP

PROMISED PROSPERITY NEVER ARRIVED IN RUSSIAN-HELD CRIMEA, LOCALS SAY

SOME CRIMEANS SAY LIFE HAS GOT WORSE NOT BETTER

ARMYANSK: More than two years after Russia annexed Crimea and promised its 2 million people a better life, residents say prices have soared, wages and pensions have stagnated and tourists have fled. The sunny and mountainous Black Sea peninsula is back in the news, with Russian President Vladimir Putin accusing Kiev of sending infiltrators across the border to wreck its industry. But locals say the damage has already been done by Moscow's neglect.

"We joined Russia and they stopped giving a damn about us," Yevgeny, a worker at a titanium plant in the town of Armyansk said. "People are naive. They thought that if we were part of Russia, everything would be Russian. Prices have

long way from Crimea's Tsarist-era palaces and its picturesque mountainous sea coast, those problems urgently need addressing.

Chemical plant

Armyansk has never been prosperous. A quarter of the town's 20,000 people work at the Crimea Titanium chemical plant, riding in dozens of identical green passenger buses to the factory from the town each morning, and back again in the afternoon. When Crimea was controlled by Ukraine, goods and services were affordable, and the plant's workers were able to treat themselves now and then, they say. But after Kiev blocked freight supplies last year prices soared. "I

Crimea to southern Russia it hopes will establish a new supply route and reduce consumer prices. However the first trucks are not expected to be able to use it until 2018 at the earliest.

'We have no money'

Moscow is aware of Armyansk's woes. It put it on a list of more than 300 Russian towns identified as needing state-backed investment to diversify their economies. When contacted by Reuters, Crimea's economy ministry said no projects in the town had yet been developed. Russia announced plans to invest 680 billion roubles (around \$10 bln) in Crimea between now and 2020. That is on top of the billions of roubles it spends each month on pensions and payments to teachers, doctors and government employees. Pensioners, state employees and people working in the tourist industry were expected to enjoy a significant financial uplift after annexation. Instead, the rouble has lost about half of its value against the dollar since 2014 due to lower oil prices and Western sanctions. In May, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev was filmed during a visit to Crimea being confronted by a woman who complained about low living standards for Crimea's half million pensioners. "It's impossible to get by on a pension in Crimea," she said. "Prices are crazy ... What is 8,000 (roubles)? It's a paltry sum." Medvedev's reply went viral online: "We simply have no money ... Bear up."

Empty restaurants

With its spas and Black Sea coast, Crimea has been a popular tourist resort since the Tsarist era, when Anton Chekhov wrote about illicit liaisons among the fashionable gentry vacationing on the Yalta promenade. Putin said last year that tourism in Crimea should be profitable and Moscow would consider measures to attract foreign visitors. But annexation has cut the peninsula off from Ukrainian holidaymakers who mainly arrived by train, and their numbers have not been made up by Russian tourists, who must travel by air to get there. When Crimea was controlled by Ukraine, 6 million tourists a year visited, according to official data. Post-annexation, the number of tourists dropped sharply and has yet not recovered.

"When we were in Ukraine, there were more people. You could hardly make your way through the crowd," said a bored-looking waiter on the smart terrace of a nearly empty restaurant called Europe, close to the sea in Yevpatoriya, a popular resort. Natalya, a waitress at Dulber, another restaurant in the town, said the customers that do come spend much less money than they used to when the peninsula was part of Ukraine. "People now are reluctant to spend money, they make minimal orders and we are tipped less," she said. "We have a rouble crisis now, prices are high. People come from Russia and they are shocked by the high prices in Crimea. We're shocked by them ourselves." — Reuters



SEVASTOPOL: Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) speaks with Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev during their meeting at the Belbek airport near the Black sea port of Sevastopol, Crimea. —AFP

now jumped to the Russian level, but wages have stayed the same. That's the main problem." Fearing reprisals from his boss, Yevgeny declined to give his surname, as did other workers who spoke to Reuters.

Armyansk, a sleepy Crimean town near the newly-established border with Ukraine, is not far from where Russia says it fought armed clashes with Ukrainian infiltrators last week. Kiev says the clashes never took place and Moscow fabricated the incident as a possible pretext for new military action against Ukraine. The alleged plot has dominated headlines in Crimea, distracting attention away from the region's own problems. But according to some residents of Armyansk, a

can only buy food and it's hard to buy clothes," said Pavel, a technician, who said he was paid 17,000 roubles (\$265) a month. That is only around half the average monthly income in Russia. "It would be enough in Ukraine because prices were lower. I'm shocked. My wage is stuck and everything grows in price." Three other workers who spoke to Reuters described monthly salaries ranging from just 10,000 roubles for a laboratory assistant to 21,000 for a man who runs an engineering department. The Crimea Titanium plant is controlled by Ukrainian tycoon Dmytro Firtash. His spokesman and the plant's management did not reply to requests for comment. Russia is building a bridge to link



NAIROBI: (Left-right) US Secretary of State John Kerry meets with his fellow Foreign Ministers, Kenyan Foreign Secretary Amina Mohamed, Uganda Foreign Minister Sam Kahamba Kutesa, Sudan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Ghandour, Somalia Foreign Minister Abdusalam Omer and South Sudan Foreign Minister Deng Alor Kuol at the Villa Rosa Kempinski Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya. — AFP

KERRY, AFRICAN MINISTERS MEET OVER VIOLENCE IN SOUTH SUDAN

NAIROBI: US Secretary of State John Kerry and counterparts from six African nations met in Nairobi yesterday to discuss ways to prevent South Sudan from sliding back into civil war. World powers and regional states have struggled to find leverage over the country's warring factions despite US and European sanctions on some military leaders and African threats of punitive actions. After a two-hour meeting with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta at State House, Kerry joined foreign ministers from Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda to discuss options for putting South Sudan's peace process back on track. Ministers from Djibouti and Tanzania had been expected.

The meeting was expected to discuss plans by the UN to deploy a 4,000-strong protection force in the capital Juba, as part of the UN peacekeeping mission. The UN has threatened an arms embargo if the government does not cooperate. "We will ... talk about how we move forward in trying to implement peace in this country," a senior State Department official said before the meeting. "The people of South Sudan have suffered for far too long, and the continued instability there has led almost a million refugees and a humanitarian crisis that is far beyond the abilities of even the international community to respond to," the official added.

South Sudan initially said it would not cooperate with the 4,000-strong force that will be under the command of the existing 12,000-strong UN mission UNMISS. Juba has since said it was still considering its position. "We have not rejected it or accepted it, the sovereignty of the people of South Sudan will be decided by the par-

liament," South Sudan's presidential spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny said. Since the world's youngest nation gained independence in 2011, oil production - by far the biggest source of government revenue - has plummeted.

Worsening violence has raised fears of a return to civil war that erupted in late 2013, which broadly ran along ethnic lines, pitting President Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, against his rival and vice president Riek Machar, a Nuer. Machar led a two-year rebellion against forces loyal to rival Kiir before the two sides reached a peace deal in August 2015. Under the deal, Machar returned to Juba in April to resume his role as vice president. After violence flared in the capital Juba last month, Machar withdrew his forces and Kiir subsequently sacked him as vice president.

Machar was picked up by UN peacekeepers in neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo a week ago with a leg injury and was handed over to authorities in Congo. Especially of concern to Washington was an attack on a Juba hotel in July by uniformed men who killed a US-funded journalist and raped civilians, including aid workers. The UN has launched an investigation into accusations UN peacekeepers in Juba failed to respond properly to the attack. In a letter to Kerry before his visit, the Human Rights Watch group urged him to discuss rights concerns with Kenyatta. The group said it had documented 34 cases of extrajudicial killings and another 11 deaths of people last seen in state custody over alleged links with al-Shabaab militants in Nairobi and in the northeast. — Reuters

BELGIAN MAN JAILED FOR KILLING SON IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE: A Belgian expatriate was sentenced to five years' jail in Singapore yesterday for killing his five-year-old son last year while suffering from severe depression during a child custody battle. Philippe Graffart, 42, was sentenced on a reduced charge of culpable homicide instead of murder, after psychiatric findings showed he had "diminished responsibility" for suffocating his son Keryan with a pillow in their apartment.

Murder is punishable by hanging in Singapore. Judicial Commissioner Hoo Sheau Peng said she took into consideration the grievous nature of the offence, the fact that it had been committed against a vulnerable child, and the fact that the offender was the child's own parent. "This sentence is necessary to show that the accused's actions are not to be condoned," Hoo said.

For culpable homicide without the intention of causing death, Graffart could have been jailed up to 10 years, caned and fined or any combination of the three penalties. Graffart looked impassive when his sentence was read out, staring straight ahead at the judge. Representatives from the

French and Belgian embassies were present during the High Court hearing, as well as two of Graffart's former colleagues who briefly spoke to him before he was taken away to serve his sentence. His Singaporean lawyer Ramesh Tiwary said after the session that Keryan's death is something Graffart "will have to live with for the rest of his life."

Court documents showed Graffart was locked in a bitter custody battle over Keryan with his estranged French wife Gwendoline when he smothered the boy with a cushion after giving him a sedative on October 5, 2015. After the killing he unsuccessfully tried to commit suicide by crashing his car before giving himself up to police. The family had moved to Singapore from Luxembourg in September 2013 after Graffart, a financial executive, was transferred by his employer, European firm Nordea Investment Management. Their marriage broke down early the following year. At about lunchtime on October 5, 2015, Graffart was told about a development in his custody suit which left him distraught, court documents said. —AFP



SINGAPORE: Belgian expatriate Philippe Graffart (center) arrives in a police car at the State court in Singapore. A Belgian expatriate was sentenced to five years' jail in Singapore yesterday for killing his five-year-old son last year while suffering from severe depression during a child custody battle. —AFP

UK TO CREATE 'ISOLATION UNITS' TO COUNTER EXTREMISM IN JAILS

LONDON: Britain will isolate Islamist extremists in special units in high security jails to limit their ability to radicalize other inmates, the government said yesterday. Justice Secretary Liz Truss said she was taking action to reduce the spread of radical ideology within the mainstream prison population, including training officers to disrupt activity that could influence vulnerable prisoners.

"But there are a small number of individuals, very subversive individuals, who do need to be held in separate units," she told BBC radio yesterday. "We are establishing specialist units in the prison estate to hold those individuals."

The new policy follows a review into extremism in prisons led by former prison governor Ian Acheson, which is due to be published yesterday. The BBC said Acheson found there was "institutional timidity" in tackling extremist ideology in prisons because staff were afraid of being labeled

racist. Truss said governors and prison officers would have the training and the authority to root out extremism. The government moves come as Britain's most notorious Islamist preacher, Anjem Choudary, is due to be sentenced next month after being found guilty of inviting support for Islamic State.

Critics have said special units could become hothouses where the most dangerous extremists can exchange ideas and create networks, repeating some of the mistakes made in Northern Ireland in the 1980s. There paramilitary prisoners from both republican and loyalist sides of the troubles were able to organize themselves within the system. Truss said she had leant from Northern Ireland. The risks would be managed by creating small units within existing prisons, she said, and by establishing a new directorate of security and counter terrorism that would make sure prisoners did not collaborate. — Reuters

News

in brief

PHILIPPINES HOPES FOR A PEACE DEAL WITH REBELS

MANILA, COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS KICK OFF TALKS

OSLO: The Philippine government said yesterday it hoped to reach a peace deal with communist guerrillas within a year, as the two sides kicked off talks in Norway aimed at ending one of Asia's longest insurgencies. "On the part of the (government) panel, we have imposed a timeline of nine to 12 months," Silvestre Bello, the government delegation's head of negotiations, told reporters.

The government and the rebels hope to breathe new life into the peace process by discussing simultaneously the outstanding issues of social and economic reforms, political and constitutional changes, and an end to hostilities. Previous peace talks have addressed one issue at a time.

"With this new approach we are quite confident that we will be able to achieve our timetable," Bello said. President Rodrigo Duterte, who took office on June 30, has made the resumption of talks with the rebels one of his top priorities. He has even floated the possibility of forming a coalition government with them.

The head of the rebel delegation, Luis Jalandoni, confirmed the timetable but was more cautious in his optimism about reaching a political settlement after 30 years of failed talks. "I think we will try to do it in one year but it might take a little more time because the negotiations on social and economic reforms could take more time," he said. "It's more complicated than some may think," he said. Established in December 1968, the Communist Party of the Philippines launched a rebellion three months later that has so far claimed the lives of 30,000 people, according to official estimates.

Many false dawns

Its armed faction, the New People's Army (NPA), is now believed to have fewer than 4,000 gunmen, down from a peak of 26,000 in the 1980s, when a bloodless revolt ended the 20-year dictatorship of late president Ferdinand Marcos. But the movement retains support among the poor in rural areas, and its forces regularly kill police officers or troops while extorting money from local businesses. There have been many false dawns in the

peace process, most recently in 2011 when the previous administration of Benigno Aquino and the communists said following talks they believed peace could be attained in 18 months. However the peace process slowly crumbled as the Aquino government refused to release jailed communist rebel leaders.

This time, the two sides agreed to ceasefires from Sunday to create a conducive environment for the talks in Oslo. The rebels declared a seven-day unilateral truce hours after Duterte's decision to free its top jailed leaders last week. Some of those rebels flew to Oslo to take part in the negotiations, which are due to wrap up on Friday. The government responded by saying it would restore a unilateral ceasefire that was declared in July but abruptly withdrawn by Duterte just days later after a rebel ambush. The government has said its ceasefire will last for as long as necessary to bring peace.

'Differences to overcome'

The communists said their own ceasefire would only last until August 27, but a rebel statement said they were willing to discuss a longer truce with Manila. However, this would only be possible after the government freed all 550 guerrillas detained by the government, the rebels said. "We expect the realization of the amnesty proclamation to release all political prisoners as a necessary incentive for the ceasefire between the two parties," rebel delegation head Jalandoni said yesterday.

"The road to peace will have its humps and bumps. It will not be easy even if we try to accelerate," he said. Norway, which has been acting as intermediary for the peace process since 2001, hailed the hopeful atmosphere yesterday, as delegates from the two sides laughed and hugged. "We know that there are ... challenging issues to discuss and differences to overcome in the coming days and in the process ahead," Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende said. "We sincerely hope that you will make (progress) for the benefit of the people of the Philippines." — AFP



OSLO: Wilma Austria Tiamzon (left), Benito Tiamzon (center) and exiled Chief of the National Democratic Front of Philippines (NDFP) Jose Maria Sison wave during a meeting on peace negotiations between the Philippines government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines yesterday. — AFP

NEPAL'S HIMALAYAS HOPES OF CLOSER CHINA TIES

KORALA: Twice a year, a normally deserted border checkpoint high on the Tibetan plateau throngs with activity as traders from Nepal flock to do business with their giant northern neighbor China. A biannual trade fair in Tibet offers a rare opportunity for those living in the remote former Buddhist kingdom of Upper Mustang in Nepal to cross the usually closed border into China, which is cultivating closer ties with the Himalayan nation. "This trade is very important for us because we live in such an isolated area," said trucker Pasang Gurung, who was driving to China for the fair. "Access to Chinese customers and products makes our lives much easier... I wish the border were open all the time."

The border is usually closed for security reasons as Upper Mustang has history as a base for the Tibetan resistance. But authorities in Nepal are increasingly looked to strengthen economic ties with China and reduce its dependence on its other giant neighbor India. But it will have a long way to go in order to accomplish that. Bilateral trade with India between July 2014 and June 2015 amounted to nearly \$4.5 billion, dwarfing China's \$882 million. An energy agreement between Kathmandu and Beijing in March ended India's monopoly over fuel supplies to Nepal, although it remains the biggest supplier by far.

That deal was prompted by a month-long blockade at the border with India to protest the terms of a new national constitution that led New Delhi to halt supplies, leading to crippling shortages. Kathmandu accused New Delhi of imposing an "unofficial blockade" in support of the protesters, an ethnic community that shares close family links with Indians across the border-a claim India denied. Sujeev Shakya, chairman of the Nepal Economic Forum think tank, says that even before the blockade India had a reputation in Nepal for being slow to deliver.

A number of Indian hydropower projects have stalled due to disagreements over the terms of the deal, while China has pressed ahead. One 60-megawatt power plant is under construction and a 750-megawatt joint venture worth \$1.6 billion is due for completion by December 2019. "The perception here is that the Chinese tend to deliver while India keeps talking," Shakya said. "Over the years, China has gained more credibility in Nepal because of the pace at

which they have put up infrastructure projects."

Thriving trade

In Upper Mustang's medieval walled capital of Lo Manthang, construction of a Chinese-funded 70-kilowatt solar power station last year has allowed residents to access electricity even during the months-long dry season, when hydropower supplies fall short. Locals have welcomed the investment and are clamouring for deeper economic ties. "If the border opens up, Lo Manthang can be a centre for trade, religious activities, tourism," said shopkeeper Kunga Dorje Gurung.

Around 1,000 visitors a day use the Korala checkpoint during the fair, trading in everything from carpets and clothing to tea and biscuits. The journey has been made easier by a new road to the border that opened this year, and which locals hope will put pressure on Beijing to open the checkpoint more often. "The road has made transportation of goods much easier," said Nepali businessman Tshering Phuntsok Gurung, travelling to the border with friends.

"Earlier, everything had to be carried on horses and the costs involved in hiring and feeding animals meant that the prices of the goods would also go up." The thriving cross-border trade in Upper Mustang is particularly remarkable because the region was once the base for a CIA-funded guerrilla campaign to oust Chinese forces from Tibet after a failed uprising in 1959. Thutop Dadhul, a Tibetan refugee, was just 17 when he and his family of nomadic herders fled Chinese troops and crossed over into Upper Mustang.

He threw himself into the Tibetan resistance movement, making daring trips across the border to gather intelligence. "We had to win back Tibet... I am proud of the fact that I tried to do something for my country," the 75-year-old said in the resort town of Pokhara, where tourist shopfronts display signs in Mandarin. Outgunned on every front, the revolutionaries continued their fight even after the US government withdrew support in 1968 and only surrendered when the Dalai Lama asked them to lay down arms. "I know the Chinese are being very generous to Nepal now, but that will change," he said. "Eventually they will seek more control... and things will get worse for refugees like us." — AFP



KORALA: A small truck drives along a dirt road in Korala, Nepal-China border in Upper Mustang. — AFP



KASHMIR: Relatives of Kashmiri teenager Irfan Ahmed, who was killed by a teargas shell, break down as local residents visit the family to offer their condolences in the Fatah Kadal area of Srinagar yesterday. Teenager Irfan Ahmed was killed after he was hit in the chest by a teargas canister fired by Indian security forces to quell pro-freedom protests in the Kashmiri capital on August 21. — AFP

INDIA PM UNDER PRESSURE AMID VIOLENCE IN KASHMIR

NEW DELHI: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi came under pressure yesterday over weeks of deadly violence in Kashmir, with the region's opposition leaders calling on him to rein in troops and police. Modi stressed the need for dialogue to end the unrest in the disputed Himalayan region, after meeting the opposition leaders in New Delhi at their request. "He (Modi) emphasized on the need for all political parties to work together to find a solution to the problems in the state of Jammu and Kashmir," his office said in a statement after talks with the delegation.

Much of Indian-administered Kashmir has been under curfew since protests broke out over the death on July 8 of a popular young rebel leader in a gunfight with security forces. More than 60 civilians have been killed in clashes between protesters and police and thousands more injured in the worst violence to hit the restive region since 2010.

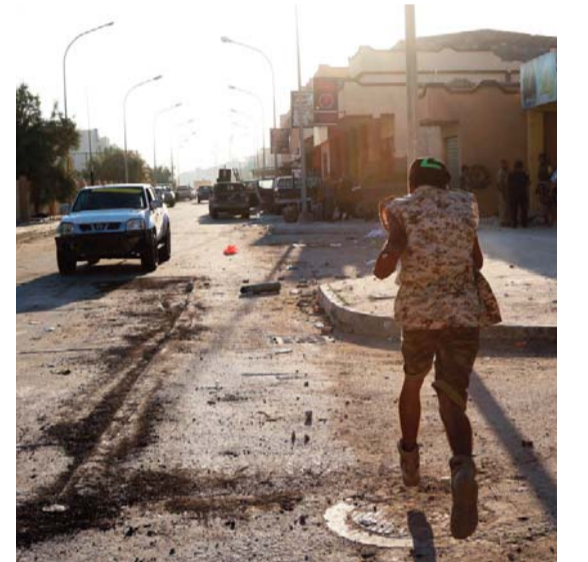
Opposition delegates led by former Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah singled out security forces' firing of shotguns to disperse the protesters. Hospitals have reported hundreds of young men

and boys suffering serious eye and other injuries from the pellets. "We also implore you to announce an immediate ban on pellet guns," said a memorandum handed to Modi. Use of the guns, along with harassment, raids and arrest of residents, "has worsened an already volatile situation in the state". The meeting comes a day after Modi's Finance Minister Arun Jaitley warned that ongoing violence in the region would not be tolerated and described stone-throwers as among the aggressors.

Many of the young men who have come onto the streets since the rebel's death are throwing stones at security forces, an increasingly common form of protest in the area. Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party is part of an uneasy coalition government in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state. The Kashmir region is divided between India and Pakistan but both claim the territory in full. The Kashmir Valley, where the recent violence has occurred, is the epicenter of a separatist insurgency, with several rebel groups fighting Indian troops and police. They seek either independence or merger of the territory with Pakistan. — AFP

Death toll from Indonesia boat accident rises to 15
JAKARTA: The death toll from a boat accident off western Indonesia rose to 15 yesterday after rescuers found five more bodies, an official said. The small wooden boat was carrying 17 passengers and crew from Bintan Island to nearby Penyengat Island, in Riau province, on Sunday when it sank in rough seas. Two passengers survived the accident and were taken to hospital in critical condition. Rescuers retrieved 10 bodies at the weekend and found the final five on Monday, transport ministry spokesman Hemi Pramuraharjo said. The journey on the small craft fitted with an outboard was supposed to take around an hour. Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands which is heavily dependent on boat transport, but fatal accidents are common. More than 60 people died in December when huge waves capsized a ferry near Sulawesi island in central Indonesia.

Burundi journalist wins the Peter Mackler award
WASHINGTON: A reporter from Burundi representing a collective of mostly anonymous journalists reporting from their violence-wracked country has won the 2016 Peter Mackler Award for Courageous and Ethical Journalism, organizers said yesterday. Eloge Willy Kaneza is the public face of SOS Media Burundi, a collective formed after the closure of radio stations during the May 2015 coup attempt against President Pierre Nkurunziza. Using smartphones and mobile applications, the 34-year-old Kaneza and his colleagues "work under difficult circumstances as the only source of news for their countrymen and those outside Burundi," organizers said. Burundi has been in chaos since Nkurunziza announced plans in April 2015 to run for a third term, which he went on to win. More than 500 people have since died, and at least 270,000 have fled the country. UN investigators say that in the 12-month period after the crisis began, at least 348 people were victims of extrajudicial killings and 651 incidents of torture were recorded.



SIRTE, Libya: A member of the forces loyal to Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) runs on a street near the central area known as District One, where GNA forces hold a position while fighting against Islamic State group (IS) jihadists holed up in the coastal city of Sirte. — AFP

Anti-IS forces seize more ground in Libya city Sirte
TRIPOLI: Fighters of Libya's unity government, backed by US air strikes, have recaptured more ground from jihadists holed up in the centre of the coastal city of Sirte, loyalist forces said yesterday. "Our forces have retaken the internal security building used as a prison by the Islamic State (IS)" group, as well as a courthouse, the Al-Naga district and Dubai Street, the operations centre for fighters loyal to the Government of National Accord (GNA) said. A statement said "the new victory" was achieved in clashes which raged throughout Sunday in the face of "desperate resistance by the jihadists". IS sniper positions were "neutralized" in two US air strikes and "our forces destroyed two booby-trapped cars... without loss in our ranks," it said. However, 12 fighters were killed and 85 wounded in Sunday's clashes, the hospital in Misrata, 200 kilometers east of Tripoli where the pro-GNA military command is based, said on its Facebook page.

Contest seeks to demystify Buddhist monks and nuns
TOKYO: Two Buddhist monks and a nun strolled down a catwalk, showed off talents such as karate moves and answered questions in a Japanese contest yesterday aimed at making Buddhist practitioners more approachable and less solemn. Koyu Osawa, the nun, who wore a black robe and sported closely cropped hair, was voted the spectators' favorite at the Tokyo event organized by Obosan.com, or "Monks.com", a web-based provider of Buddhist services such as funerals and marriages. In response to one question, Osawa recalled when a friend was in tears trying to talk her out of becoming a nun. She said she wanted people to know that being a monk or nun can involve hardships and it is not simply a job relying on donations at a temple. Kazuma Hayashi, the contest organizer, said he wanted to make monks - often seen as serious, distant figures associated with funerals - more approachable and a part of daily life.

Putin 'ready' to host Mideast peace talks
CAIRO: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said his Russian counterpart and close ally Vladimir Putin wants to host an Israeli-Palestinian summit to revive peace talks, in an interview published yesterday. Sisi told state newspaper editors that he believed Israel was increasingly convinced of the need for a peace deal, saying it was a "positive sign." But Palestinian infighting between the Islamist Hamas rulers of Gaza and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah in the West Bank remained an obstacle, he said in the interview. Talks between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abbas have been suspended since 2014, despite a push by Washington and France to resume the peace process. Sisi, who is seen as having good ties with both Israel and Abbas's Palestinian Authority, has also been pushing for a resumption of negotiations. "Putin has told me that he is ready to receive both (Abbas) and Netanyahu in Moscow to carry out direct talks to find a solution and solve the issue," Sisi said.

SEX HARASSMENT 'WIDESPREAD' IN AUSTRALIAN POLICE

SYDNEY: Almost half of the women working for Australia's national police force say they have been sexually harassed on the job, according to a report released Monday calling for urgent change. The review of the workplace culture of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) also found that more than 60 percent of staff-men and women-reported being bullied. "In the areas of sexual harassment and bullying, urgent action is

required," the report's author, former sex discrimination commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick said.

A survey carried out for the report found that 46 percent of women and 20 percent of men said they had been sexually harassed in the workplace in the last five years. "These percentages are almost double the national average," it noted. "Sixty-two percent of men and 66 percent of women reported that they have

been bullied in the workplace in the last five years." The document, "Cultural Change: Gender Diversity and Inclusion in the Australian Federal Police," also criticized the reporting process for complaints.

Some police workers felt that if they reported harassment it would hurt their careers or result in them being ostracized or victimized while others said complaints could take too long to resolve and

questioned their confidentiality. Women across the AFP, which is separate to state police forces, also reported difficulties in having to "fit in" to a male-dominated culture, including having to "prove themselves." "We have certainly made progress but I still think there is a culture of sexual harassment and bullying," one female participant told the survey.

Releasing the report, AFP Commissioner, Andrew Colvin admitted

that "things must change" and apologized to staff past and present who had been subjected to unacceptable behavior. "These practices will not be tolerated," he said, adding that a new division would be established to lead cultural reform. The review of AFP workplace culture follows several inquiries into the nation's military which has been rocked by allegations of sexual abuse and cruel initiation rituals in recent years. —AFP

SOUTH KOREA-US MILITARY DRILL SHADOWED BY NORTH'S THREATS

PYONGYANG VIEWS MILITARY EXERCISE AS WILLFULLY PROVOCATIVE

SEOUL: South Korea and the United States kicked off large-scale military exercises yesterday, triggering condemnation and threats of a pre-emptive nuclear strike from North Korea. The two-week annual Ulchi Freedom drill, which plays out a scenario of full-scale invasion by the nuclear-armed North, is largely computer-simulated but still involves around 50,000 Korean and 25,000 US soldiers. The exercise always triggers a rise in tensions on the divided Korean peninsula, and this year it coincides with particularly volatile cross-border relations following a series of high-profile defections.

Seoul and Washington insist the joint military drills are purely defensive in nature, but Pyongyang views them as willfully provocative. The North Korean Foreign Ministry yesterday

condemned Ulchi Freedom as an "unpardonable criminal act" that could bring the peninsula to "the brink of war". The Korean People's Army (KPA), meanwhile, threatened a military response to what it described as a rehearsal for a surprise nuclear attack and invasion of the North. North Korea's frontline units were "fully ready to mount a preemptive retaliatory strike at all enemy attack groups involved", said a spokesman for the KPA General Staff.

'Nuclear strike'

The slightest violation of North Korea's territorial sovereignty would result in the source of the provocation being turned "into a heap of ashes through Korean-style preemptive nuclear strike", the spokesman said.

Pyongyang has made similar threats in the past, and actual retaliation for South Korea-US military drills has largely been restricted to firing ballistic missiles into the sea. The North's main ally China voiced its opposition to Ulchi Freedom, with a commentary published by the official Xinhua news agency saying it would only make Pyongyang "more aggressive" at an already sensitive time.

As the drill began, South Korean President Park Geun-Hye said a recent spate of headline-grabbing defections from North Korea signaled political turmoil in Pyongyang that could cause the leadership there to lash out against the South. "It is increasingly possible that North Korea may undertake various terror attacks and provocations... to block internal unrest, prevent

further defections and create confusion in our society," Park told a meeting of her National Security Council. On Sunday the Unification Ministry in Seoul urged all citizens to be on guard against possible North Korean assassination attempts on defectors and anti-Pyongyang activists in the South. Park said the South's military was on high alert and would "vigorously strike back" in the event of any hostile action.

Communications cut

Analysts say there is a genuine risk of an unintended incident escalating into a military clash, given the current absence of direct communication between the two Koreas. As tensions rose in the wake of North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January, Pyongyang shut down the two existing hotlines with South Korea—one used by the military and one for government-to-government communications. And last month it severed its only direct communications link with the United States when it closed the so-called "New York channel" which had previously served as a key point of contact between North Korean and US diplomats at the United Nations. The January nuclear test heightened North Korea's isolation as the international community, backed by the North's main diplomatic protector China, imposed substantially upgraded economic sanctions.

Pyongyang has remained defiant, and there are concerns that the leadership will order a show of force in the wake of the recent defections. Last week North Korea's deputy ambassador to Britain, Thae Yong-Ho, defected to the South—a rare and damaging loss of diplomatic face for Pyongyang and a major PR victory for Seoul. The North's official KCNA news agency described Thae as "human scum" and said he had fled to avoid criminal charges including embezzling funds and raping a minor. Thae's move fuelled Pyongyang's fury at the defection in April of a dozen North Korean overseas restaurant workers, whom it insists were kidnapped by South Korean intelligence. —AFP



PAJU: A South Korean army soldier works on his K-9 self-propelled artillery vehicle during the annual exercise in Paju, South Korea, near the border with North Korea yesterday. —AP

CHINESE OFFICIAL VISITS TAIWAN; PROTESTS ERUPT

TAIPEI: Taiwanese shouting anti-communist slogans staged protests at an airport and a school yesterday against a visit by a top Shanghai official which they see as intended to promote China's unification with Taiwan. Sha Hailin, a standing committee member of the Communist Party in the city and head of the United Front Work Department there, is the highest-level mainland visitor since cross-strait ties worsened under Taiwan's new government.

He arrived in Taipei for an annual forum on municipal exchanges as protesters shouted "Sha Hailin, go back to China!" at the capital's Songshan airport. Dozens of demonstrators waved placards reading "Expel propaganda communist, defend Taiwan's sovereignty" and "(Taipei mayor) Ko Wen-je sells out Taiwan". Some supporters also rallied outside the airport with welcome signs. While most demonstrators were cordoned off, one man holding a poster got into the airport arrivals hall and shouted "Sha Hailin, get out!" as Sha walked by.

The protester scuffled briefly with policemen before being taken away. Scores of protesters rallied again when Sha visited a high school to open a sports festival and played table tennis with Taiwanese students. Relations with China have grown increasingly frosty since Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party won the presidency in January. Beijing is highly suspicious of Tsai because her party is traditionally pro-independence, and has warned her against any attempt at a break-away. China's Taiwan Affairs Office announced it had suspended



TAIPEI: A protester scuffles with police officers outside the venue of a dinner party held by Taipei Mayor Ke Wen-je for Sha Hailin, head of the United Front Work Department of Chinese Communist Party's Shanghai Municipal Committee, on the eve of Taipei-Shanghai forum in Taipei yesterday. —AP

official contact with Taipei after Tsai's government, which took office in May, failed publicly to accept the "one China" principle which governed relations under her predecessor.

Sha stressed that the basis for peaceful cross-strait relations was the recognition of "one China". "If we want to maintain peaceful developments in cross-strait ties, I believe the political basis cannot be avoided... We will continue to work hard to build and solidify this political basis," Sha, who heads the visiting delegation in place of Shanghai Mayor Yang Xiong, told reporters. Asked about the protests, he said: "There were also many people who welcomed me. Their voices were small but their number was bigger." Taiwan has been self-ruling since splitting with the mainland in 1949 following a civil war but has never formally declared independence. Beijing still sees it as part of its territory awaiting reunification, by force if necessary.

Critics claim Sha, as Shanghai's propaganda chief, intends to push during his visit for reunification and accuse Taipei mayor Ko of "selling out" to Beijing. "We are very angry and we refuse China's propaganda to reunify Taiwan. Taiwan is an independent country. We must maintain our sovereignty and dignity," said protester Sherry Huang from the pro-independence Taiwan Solidarity Union (TSU) party. "China has long wanted to annex Taiwan and we don't need to continue exchanges with it," said protester Hsu Ya-chi. The TSU said it planned another demonstration yesterday night at a welcome dinner for the Shanghai delegation in Taipei city hall, and vowed to protest throughout Sha's stay. —AFP

HUNDREDS OF FLIGHTS GROUNDED AS TYPHOON STRIKES NEAR TOKYO

TOKYO: A powerful typhoon struck near Tokyo yesterday, the first in 11 years to come ashore in the densely populated region, temporarily shutting down a major city airport and grounding more than 500 flights nationwide. Typhoon Mindulle made landfall at about 12:30 pm in Tateyama city 80 kilometers southeast of Tokyo, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. As of 7:00 pm the storm-packing gusts up to 144 kilometers per hour was moving through Fukushima prefecture north of Tokyo and heading north-northeast at 35 kilometers per hour, the agency said.

According to public broadcaster NHK, a total of 30 people were injured. Most of them were minor but a 34-year-old man broke his rib after falling due to strong winds. "In Tokyo... please exercise caution for landslides, flooding in low-lying areas, surging rivers, violent wind and high waves," the weather agency said. It was the first typhoon in 11 years to score a direct hit on the Tokyo region from the sea, the agency said.

Tokyo has experienced other typhoons in ensuing years but they all came ashore elsewhere before moving on to the capital region. Downpours caused rivers to swell, with gush-

ing waterways close to overflowing but staying within their banks. Narita international airport east of Tokyo closed its runways in the afternoon for about an hour as officers evacuated the control tower due to strong winds, according to the airport operator. Airlines across the country cancelled a total of 508 flights, mostly to and from Tokyo's Haneda airport, NHK said.

Japan Airlines said it cancelled 185 domestic flights, affecting 33,692 customers, while All Nippon Airways cancelled 112 domestic flights, affecting 26,500 passengers. Narita is a major passenger airport and Japan's biggest in terms of cargo. Haneda is the country's biggest in overall passenger traffic. Most major commuter train services in Tokyo and its surrounding region operated normally, including bullet trains. Some lines, however, suffered temporary delays and stoppages. One train in western Tokyo derailed but no one was hurt. Some trains on Tokyo's major loop line were forced to stop as a tree fell on a track.

Separately, Typhoon Kompasu, which hit Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido Sunday, was downgraded to a temperate depression by yesterday as it moved away into the Sea of Okhotsk. —AFP



TOKYO: People crowd at the departure lobby at Haneda Airport in Tokyo. —AFP

News

in brief

Mother arrested after 4 children found dead

TOKYO: A mother is under investigation for murder after her four children, including a girl as young as three, were found dead, Japanese media reports and police said yesterday. Local media reported the victims were killed by their mother before she tried to take her own life. According to police in the southern Japanese prefecture of Fukuoka, a 10-year-old boy, two six-year-old girls, and a three-year-old girl were found dead yesterday. "Their father found them dead and reported it to police," a police spokesman said, without providing further details. Police are questioning the children's 41-year-old mother as a suspect in a possible murder-suicide attempt, according to Jiji Press and public broadcaster NHK. The mother confessed to police she had killed the children, according to TV Asahi. Police reportedly told media that at least one child had a mark indicating strangulation. The mother was sent to hospital as her wrist was bleeding, the Asahi Shimbun daily said. She told police she cut herself with a kitchen knife but her injury was mild.



In this image made from video, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (fourth from right) is helped off the stage after he felt faint while delivering a speech during a National Day rally. —AP

Singapore PM Lee takes a break after fainting spell

SINGAPORE: Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong started a week's medical leave yesterday to rest after a fainting spell during a televised speech caused a health scare. Lee, 64, underwent a series of medical checks late Sunday and yesterday and "doctors have confirmed there were no cardiac abnormalities and no stroke," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said in a statement. However, his doctors advised that Lee should go on medical leave and resume his duties next Monday, the PMO said. Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean will be in charge in his absence. "I'm glad to report that the doctors think I am ok, but they have advised me to rest, so I will be on (medical leave) for this week," Lee said in a Facebook post. Lee, a cancer survivor and son of the city-state's late founding father Lee Kuan Yew, suddenly stopped speaking more than two hours into a speech on Sunday and slouched over the lectern during a live broadcast.

Japanese first lady pays tribute to Pearl Harbor

TOKYO: Japan's first lady has visited Pearl Harbor for the first time to pay tribute to the victims of the Japanese attack 75 years ago. Akie Abe said in her Facebook entry yesterday that she laid flowers and prayed at the USS Arizona Memorial. "I offered flowers and a prayer," she wrote in a short message. In one of several photos also posted in her Facebook, the Japanese first lady posed with an American veteran who survived the attack. She did not elaborate on her visit that comes amid looming speculation about a similar visit by her husband, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga acknowledged that the first lady was in Hawaii to attend an environmental conference. Suga declined to comment, saying she is making a private visit. Speculation for Abe's possible visit to Pearl Harbor has grown since US President Barack Obama paid tribute in May to the victims of the US atomic bombing in Hiroshima. No serving Japanese prime minister has visited Pearl Harbor.

Thailand's attacks probe points to Muslim south

BANGKOK: Most of those behind a string of bombings in Thai tourist towns are Muslims from the kingdom's insurgency-plagued southern provinces, the country's police chief said yesterday. It was the first clear indication that police believe a group of southern Muslims played some sort of role in the attacks which killed four and wounded dozens, including European visitors, this month. Police chief Chakthip Chaijinda told reporters investigators believe a group of "more than 20 people" were behind the coordinated attacks. "Most of them are from the area of the southern border provinces police operation centre," he said, referencing a policing area that encompasses the Muslim-majority southernmost region. Asked whether the suspects were Thai nationals he replied: "They are not Buddhists." He added that investigators had recently searched an Islamic school where he believed some of the suspects had studied or graduated from.



Nils Olav the penguin inspects the Guard of Honor formed by His Majesty the King of Norway's Guard yesterday at Edinburgh Zoo in Scotland. The Guard paid a very special visit to Edinburgh Zoo to bestow a unique honor upon resident king penguin Sir Nils Olav. Already a knight, the most famous king penguin in the world was given the new title of 'Brigadier Sir Nils Olav'. —AFP

RUSSIAN RAIDS FROM IRAN AIRBASE 'OVER'

Continued from Page 1

Iran and Russia are key backers of Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad, but Tehran has remained relatively guarded about its precise involvement in the conflict. The Islamic republic is highly sensitive to any suggestion that it would allow foreign militaries to be based in its territory, which is outlawed under its constitution, and has emphasized that Russian planes were only refuelling in Iran. "Russia needed to refuel in an area closer to the operation... But we have definitely not given them a military base," said Dehghan. The flights from Iranian territory started on Aug 16, a day after a visit to Tehran by a Russian deputy foreign minister, Mikhail Bogdanov. The use of Hamedan significantly shortened flight-times for Russian warplanes, allowing them to carry increased firepower. Russia said it struck targets linked to the jihadist Islamic State group and Al-Nusra Front, now known as Fateh Al-Sham Front, in

Aleppo, Deir Ezzor and Idlib.

Moscow had previously used short-range craft stationed at its Hmeimim airbase outside the Syrian coastal city of Latakia, as well as ships in the Caspian Sea and a submarine in the Mediterranean, to bombard rebels in Syria. Russia last week dismissed US criticism of the use of Iranian base as a possible violation of a United Nations Security Council resolution.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov denied that Moscow could be in breach of a ban on supply or transfer of warplanes to Iran without prior approval of the UN Security Council. "There are no grounds to suspect Russia of breaching the resolution," he said. Tehran, for its part, oversees thousands of troops fighting for Assad on the ground, while Russia provides airpower. Both oppose calls for Assad to step down as a way of resolving the conflict that has killed more than 290,000 people since it erupted in March 2011. —AFP

CABINET WORKING TO TACKLE ...

Continued from Page 1

The Cabinet also asked the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to submit regular reports to the government regarding measures taken to stem the unreasonable hikes in prices of commodities. The ministers were briefed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and the Acting Minister of Oil, Commerce and Industry Anas Al-Saleh about the measures that have been taken by the department to ban the unjustified hiking of prices of

essential products and the penalties imposed on violators of relevant laws. The Cabinet praised the action taken against price manipulators.

Meanwhile, the ministers were briefed about a recommendation by the commission requesting the Ministry of Finance grant Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority jurisdiction to distribute commercial plots. The Cabinet approved the request, and tasked the Municipality with taking the necessary measures for privatizing the business plots for benefit of the authority. —KUNA

LARGEST INDOOR THEME ...

Continued from Page 1

Even an indoor ski slope, complete with real-life penguins, has not been enough to stanch the exodus that leaves roads and public spaces eerily quiet through the hot months. "Dubai still suffers from a certain amount of seasonality during the June, July, August period," Lennard Otto, CEO of the new \$1 billion attraction, told Reuters. "We will hopefully drive tourism in those periods to make Dubai an all-year-round destination," he said, ahead of the theme park's Aug 31 opening. "Today there's a gap in this market and in the region. People are actually travelling to the far east and the far west to experience theme parks," Otto said.

Both the United Arab Emirates, which includes Dubai, and Saudi Arabia have launched initiatives this year to create more fun for their car and smartphone-obsessed people. As part of a plan to diversify its economy away from oil, Saudi Arabia announced in June that it was in talks with Six Flags Entertainment Corp to build theme parks, and the UAE created a "Happiness Ministry" in February to look at ways of measuring and improving quality of life. Happiness in Dubai may soon be in no short supply, as a government-backed rival by Dubai Parks and Resorts will open by year's end, while a Fox-branded theme park, with attractions based on TV and film titles such as "Ice Age" and "The Simpsons", is set to open in 2020. —Reuters

MALI MILITANT SAYS SORRY ...

Continued from Page 1

The first of three prosecution witness also described the detailed methods, including satellite imagery, used to investigate the destruction.

Aged about 40, Mahdi is also the first extremist to appear before the tribunal launched in The Hague in 2002 to try the world's worst crimes, and the first facing allegations stemming from the conflict in Mali. He is accused of "intentionally directing attacks" against nine of Timbuktu's famous mausoleums as well as the Sidi Yahia mosque between June 30 and July 11, 2012. Founded between the fifth and the 12th centuries by Tuareg tribes, Timbuktu's very name evokes centuries of history and has also been called "the city of 333 saints" for the number of Muslim sages buried there.

Revered as a center of Islamic learning during its golden age in the 15th and 16th centuries and a desig-

nated UNESCO world heritage site, Timbuktu was considered idolatrous by the jihadists. Prosecutors on Monday showed shocking images of jihadists smashing down the tombs, pushing down earthen walls that had stood for hundreds of years and hacking at them with pickaxes while their assault rifles lay nearby. In one video, Mahdi and others were seen ripping open the door of the Sidi Yahia mosque, which had been kept closed for hundreds of years.

ICC prosecutors allege Mahdi was a member of Ansar Dine, a mainly ethnic Tuareg movement that in 2012 took control of Timbuktu, some 1,000 km northeast of Bamako, along with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Mahdi, who was then head of the "Hisbah" or the "Manners Brigade", said he regretted the damage he had caused and was "really sorry". "I would like to seek the pardon of all the whole people of Timbuktu," he said. —AFP



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P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL : info@kuwaittimes.net
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Issues

ITALY PRISON ISLE,
THE BIRTHPLACE OF
EUROPEAN DREAM

By Ella Ide

The island of Ventotene, an ancient volcano off the coast of Naples where the leaders of Italy, France and Germany met yesterday for talks on the EU's future, is where the dream of a united Europe was born. With its white granite rocks and turquoise waters, the island, the second largest in the Pontine archipelago, has a long history as a place of punishment and torture for the exiled and outcast.

Known in Roman times as Pandataria, it was first famed for housing emperor Augustus's daughter Julia the Elder after she was charged with adultery, before emperor Nero exiled his wife Octavia here. On a nearby, rocky outcrop called Santo Stefano, the Bourbons built a horse-shoe shaped prison in 1797, made up of 99 cells set around a circular watchtower, with room for over 600 prisoners.

It was used by the fascist regime during the Second World War as a place to which to banish political dissidents, with some 2,000 inmates languishing on Ventotene, by then dubbed the "island of confinement". Among them was Altiero Spinelli, a journalist and communist activist, who was sentenced in 1927 to 16 years in prison for his writings criticizing the rise to power of Benito Mussolini. Transferred to the island in 1941, it was during his detention here that he secretly drew up with fellow prisoner Ernesto Rossi the "Ventotene Manifesto", one of the founding texts of European federalism.

The Brigand, the President

Written on sheets of cigarette paper and hidden in a tin box with a double bottom, the manifesto "for a free and united Europe" was smuggled to the continent by Ursula Hirschmann, a German anti-fascist activist, and circulated among the Italian resistance. The idea was to create a federation of European states which would tie the countries of Europe and prevent future wars between them.

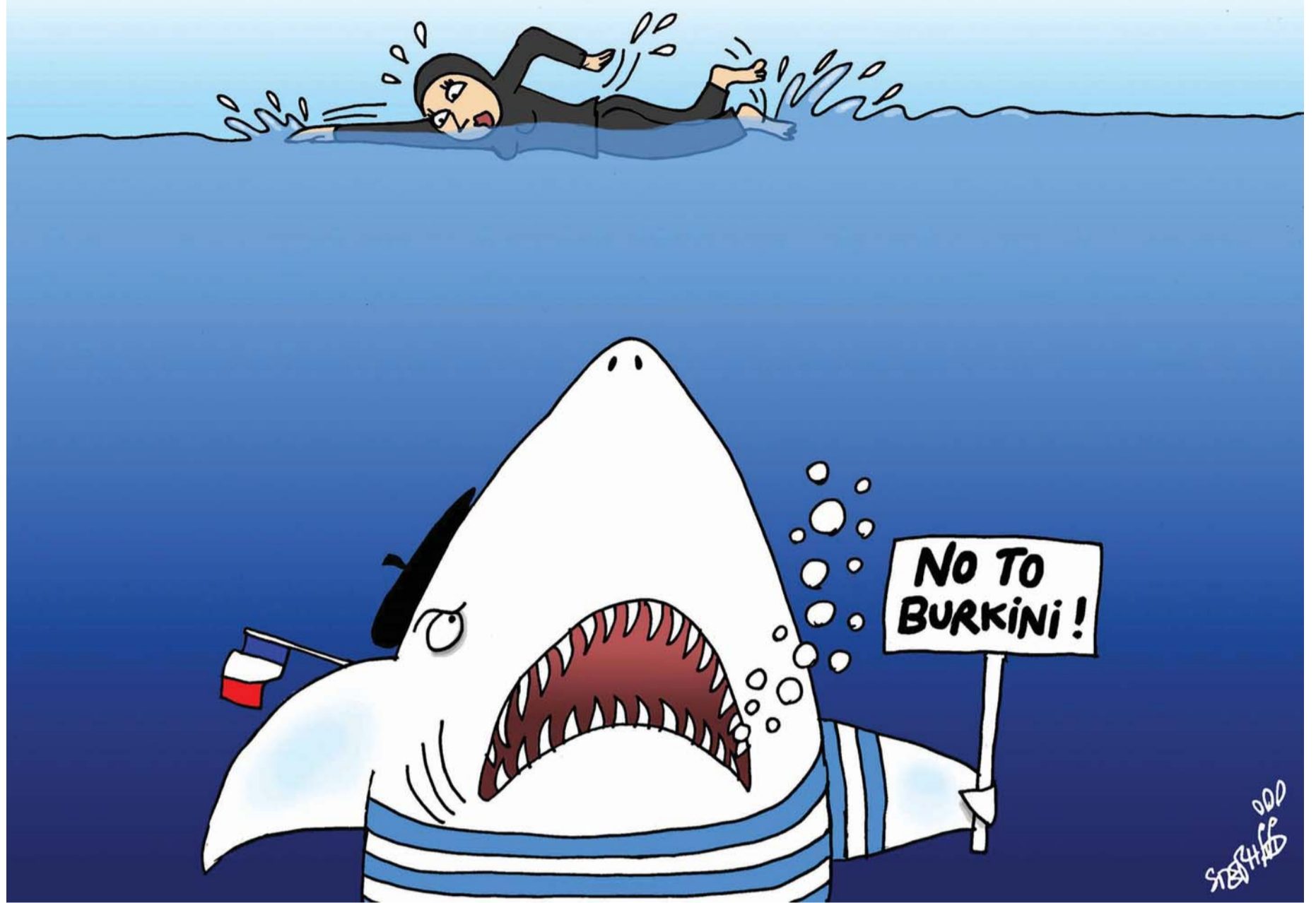
Spinelli asked to be buried on the island, and Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande laid flowers on his grave yesterday. Renzi picked the symbolic site for the crisis talks on the European project's future "to pay homage to what happened during what was perhaps the most difficult moment in the history of European identity".

The island was taken back under Allied control in 1943 under the cover of darkness by a small unit of American troops which tricked the stationed German garrison into surrendering without a shot fired. The volcanic rocks, sandy beaches and underwater grottos of Ventotene are now peopled with tourists and scuba diving fanatics rather than outcast Roman women or anti-fascists. Unused since 1965, its dilapidated jail - once home to such illustrious inmates as the brigand Carmine Crocco and the future president of Italy Sandro Pertini - has fallen slowly into ruin. In February, Renzi announced an A80-million plan to restore it and turn the abandoned lockup into a museum and academy for the EU's elite. —AFP



A man looks out towards the island of Ventotene, off the western coast of Italy, from an aircraft carrier heading to the island yesterday. —AFP

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AGRICULTURE NEEDS MAKEOVER TO LURE YOUTH

By Magdalena Mis and Isaiah Espisu

For Kenyan farmer Pauline Wafula, there was never a question that her children would have to get their hands dirty and learn how to grow their own food. The 63-year-old mother of five said no other job could provide the same security as farming because people will always have to eat so there is always money to be made. "I always insist that even if they work elsewhere, they must farm on the side," said Wafula, a teacher-turned-farmer who grows tomatoes, onions and red cabbage in her greenhouses.

But in western Kenya's Bungoma County where Wafula lives, it's hard to spot young people working in the vast sugarcane fields. Most farmers are retirees like her. "It is like a norm that young people go to the city to search for jobs," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Around the world, farmers are an ageing demographic as the sector fails to attract younger talent who are heading instead to cities in search of work.

Smallholder farmers produce more than 70 percent of the world's food and to make sure there are enough of them to feed the growing global population, farming needs a makeover to attract young people, experts say. According to HelpAge International, a non-profit organization that works with older people, farmers as a group tend to be older than the wider population. In Africa, where 60 percent of the continent's population is under 24, the average age of farmers is 60 years old, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

"Around the world it's a potential problem that farmers are growing older, particularly smallholder farmers in low-income countries," said Mark Gorman, a senior policy adviser at HelpAge. Improvements in rural infrastructure such as electricity supplies and access to subsidies and credit could go a long way to support older farmers and encourage their children to stay in farming, he said. "It's got to be made worthwhile for people to be in farming," Gorman added.

Banish the Hoe

The ageing profile of farmers is a matter for concern, especially in sub-Saharan Africa which has very low rates of agricultural productivity, said David Suttie, a policy analyst at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Experts say agriculture must be transformed so that it offers young people an appealing alternative to urban life. "The farming sector in developing countries is not attractive," said Panagiotis Karfakis, an economist at FAO. "The problem intensifies because the technologies they use are not the most productive, there is no infrastructure and there are land security issues," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Owning land is an incentive for farmers to invest in increasing productivity, which in turn boosts their income, Karfakis said. According to rights group Landesa, 90 percent of land in rural Africa is not officially registered. "If agriculture is to be attractive it can't be the same agriculture we've seen in previous generations," said IFAD's Suttie. "This means looking at it as a business and investing in modern technologies."

Anne Mbaabu, a program director at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), said she didn't blame young people for abandoning life on the farm. "They are running away from the back-breaking labour in the field with the technology we are using. We should banish the hoe in Africa otherwise we are going to lose our youth," Mbaabu said access to seeds, fertilizer, chemicals and markets were essential to making farming easier, more productive and more lucrative. "There is hope, but you need to move fast. The clock is ticking," she said. Those who do decide to ditch city careers and become farmers may be making a smart move, said the FAO's Karfakis. "If everyone moves from agriculture to industry and services, then whoever decides to stay in farming is going to have a huge profit," he said.

Labor of Love

Thousands of miles away in Lincolnshire, eastern England, 67-year-old farmer Chris Walshaw has noticed fewer people working in the fields. "When you have more machinery you need less men," Walshaw told the Thomson Reuters Foundation by phone from his farm in the picture-perfect green countryside. "It's quite a lonely life. You've got to really love it," Suttie said the focus should be on increasing productivity rather than the number of young farmers as a goal in itself. "It's not all doom and gloom," he said, adding that agricultural productivity in Africa has gone up by about quarter since the 1990s.

Urban Farms Won't Feed Cities

In an urbanizing world, city farming has become fashionable in recent years, with urban farms mushrooming from Accra to Mumbai and London. According to a 2014 study, city dwellers were farming an area the size of the European Union. But while the trend is welcome, urban farmers won't be able to feed themselves any time soon, experts say. "It should be encouraged and supported, and it can be a part of the solution but there is a danger in overemphasizing the scope for urban agriculture to feed the cities," said Suttie.

According to the Washington-based Worldwatch Institute, in 2011 around 15 to 20 percent of the world's food was produced in urban areas. "I would caution against seeing (urban farming) as the solution or substitute for scaling up food production and market access in rural areas," Suttie said. Space is the main constraint and with rapid urbanization, cities are becoming more crowded than ever before. According to UN forecasts, two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities by 2050, up from just over half now.

Back on the farm in Kenya, Wafula tends to her three Friesian cows. She hopes the rural life will appeal to the next generation. "Some young people are settling for farming but not in big numbers," she said. "I hope with time more people will become farmers." —Reuters

SCRAP OF PAPER BRINGS PEACE TO FARMERS

By Kizito Makoye

Katrina Hhaynihhi and her husband Simon could not be more proud of the piece of paper held tightly in their hands: A title deed which not only proves they are sole owners of their land but also ends a simmering dispute with their neighbors. The couple are crop farmers and eke out a living on a small holding growing beans and maize in Tanzania's northern Mbulu district. For years they battled a neighbor who insisted on grazing his animals onto their land: "This document means a lot to us. Our land is now secured and we do not expect any conflicts with our neighbors," said Katrina.

The title which has brought peace to the Hhaynihhi family is known as a Certificate of Customary Right of Occupancy (CCRO) document. "There used to be lots of disagreements around grazing and the (herders) use of forests and water sources. Those issues have been solved," the mother of six told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The Hhaynihhi family grow a variety of crops including sunflower seed on their 11 acre farm, earning around Tanzanian

shillings 5 million (\$2,500) a year.

For them, a land title has made a big difference, providing a sense of security which means they have invested more into their farm. "This land title has given us the confidence to carry out different farming activities to boost our income, said Katrina, and we don't consume everything we produce - we sell some of our crops to get money."

Land Mapping Key to Titles

Katrina, 48, and Simon, 46, are just two of several hundred farmers in the Mbulu district in Tanzania's Manyara region who have benefited from Farm Africa's Land Mapping Project which aims to build a detailed land-use plan to address conflicts. Land registration in Tanzania is inefficient but can also be corrupt, according to Transparency International's 2014 Global Corruption Barometer. While farmers across the country have used swathes of land for growing crops over many years, most do not have any documented evidence to prove that it is theirs, Farm Africa analysts said. Without adequate tenure or security, farmers are not only less likely to invest in their land but also become vulnerable to powerful out-

siders who have been found to collude with corrupt village leaders to seize property, the charity has found.

Beatrice Muliahela, Farm Africa's project coordinator, said securing village land is necessary to empower rural communities, giving them strong legal protection both for the land itself but also the resources that lie on it. "When the land is clearly demarcated, it makes it easier to agree who has the right to what," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. According to Muliahela, since its launch two years ago, the project has resolved several land-related disputes, most sparked by the expansion of agriculture and dwindling water and forest resources.

Titles Encourage Respect for Nature

Katrina Hhaynihhi says the land mapping project has changed her community, helping local people understand the importance of conserving the environment and taking care of the land. Previously, she said, very few villagers had the skills to address problems such as soil erosion and falling water levels but now they have established a village environmental committee to take care of surround-

ing resources. A bylaw has also been put in place to ensure that farmers are aware of no-go areas for grazing animals and forest land is marked out clearly so those with livestock have their own areas.

Thomas Mbaga, Farm Africa's project officer, said the villagers participated in creating the land use plan and the by-laws are approved by the village assembly. Tanzania's Village Land Act of 1999 empowers village councils to make decisions on land use and this ties in with Farm Africa's aim to forge joint partnerships between villagers and local authorities on forest management. Mbaga said land titles or CCROs have helped villagers to access loans and get capital to invest in their businesses, learning income generating techniques that are environmentally sensitive such as re-planting when trees are felled.

"It is very hard to graze around or near water sources these days" said Katrina, who is a member of the village environmental committee. "If we had not received support from Farm Africa our lives would be worse because the forest cover would perish through trees felling and grazing." —Reuters

GALLOWAY JOINS WEST BROMWICH ON LOAN



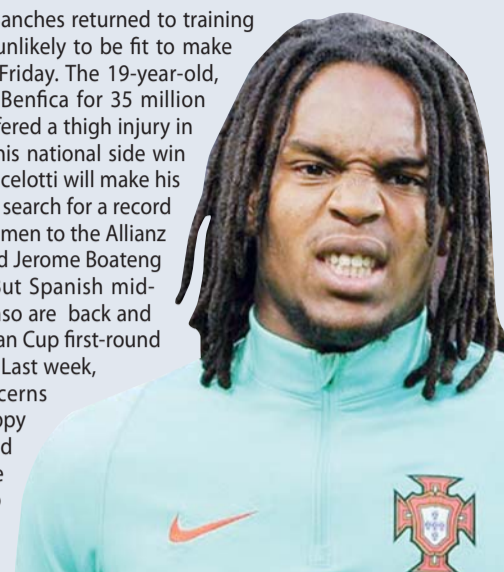
LONDON: Everton left back Brendan Galloway has joined Premier League rivals West Bromwich Albion on a season-long loan, the West Midlands club said yesterday. The 20-year-old, who signed a new contract with Everton in December, played regularly for the first team at Goodison Park under then-manager Roberto Martinez, making 19 appearances for the Merseyside club last season. "I think for me personally, it's really important to gain more experience. Coming here (to West Brom) is the perfect opportunity to do that," Galloway told the club's website (www.wba.co.uk). Galloway, who has represented England at Under-17, Under-18 and Under-19 level, is the Baggies' second summer signing after winger Matt Phillips. West Brom, who suffered a 2-1 home defeat to Everton last Saturday, will look to get back to winning ways when they host Middlesbrough on Sunday. —Reuters

COACH ALLARDYCE STANDS BY HART

BURTON-ON-TRENT: Goalkeeper Joe Hart will retain his place in the England squad despite being dropped by Manchester City, national coach Sam Allardyce said yesterday. Hart, 29, is yet to play for City this season after his new manager Pep Guardiola decided to install Willy Caballero as his first-choice goalkeeper. Hart, capped 63 times, endured a torrid Euro 2016 with England, but Allardyce will stand by him when he names his squad on Sunday for his side's opening 2018 World Cup qualifier in Slovakia on September 4. "In terms of picking Joe and the goalkeeper that he is, he will be in the squad, definitely," Allardyce told Sky Sports News at England's St George's Park training base in Burton, central England. "What do we do? I won't really know that until I speak to Joe and that will be the same with most of the players when they arrive. "The problem for any player you want to select for England, not just in isolation, but in total areas, is that it will be a concern if a player doesn't play for his team. "I think that you have to have your doubts about that. But before I meet up with Joe, I don't really know where he lies in that process at the moment. —AFP

SANCHES RETURNS TO BAYERN TRAINING

MUNICH: Portugal midfielder Renato Sanches returned to training with Bayern Munich yesterday, but is unlikely to be fit to make his debut against Werder Bremen on Friday. The 19-year-old, who joined the Bavarian giants from Benfica for 35 million euros (\$39.6m) in the close-season, suffered a thigh injury in training a fortnight ago after helping his national side win the Euro 2016 title. New coach Carlo Ancelotti will make his Bundesliga bow as Bayern kick off their search for a record fifth consecutive title by welcoming Bremen to the Allianz Arena. Douglas Costa, Arjen Robben and Jerome Boateng are all also struggling with injuries. But Spanish midfielders Thiago Alcantara and Xabi Alonso are back and fully fit, after being rested for the German Cup first-round 5-0 win over Carl Zeiss Jena last Friday. Last week, Italian Ancelotti brushed off any concerns about the depth of his squad. "I'm happy with this team," he said. "We do not need new players. The injuries will last maybe two or three weeks, so we can hold up there." —AFP



ARENADO'S TWO HOME RUNS, SIX RBIS POWER ROCKIES PAST CUBS

DENVER: Nolan Arenado broke out of a slump in a big way, hitting two homers and driving in six runs Sunday to boost the Colorado Rockies over the Chicago Cubs 11-4. Arenado hit a three-run homer during a seven-run burst in the first inning that included three Cubs errors, then added another three-run drive in the fourth. Arenado leads the majors with 104 RBIs - he had a big league-high 130 last year - and tops the NL with 32 home runs. The All-Star third baseman was 1 of 16 on the Rockies' homestand before getting four hits. He passed Cubs slugger Kris Bryant for the NL homer lead. Jorge De La Rosa (8-7) tossed eight innings, giving up a pair of home runs to Addison Russell. De La Rosa delivered a two-run single in the first as the Rockies quickly ended Jason Hammel's 22-inning scoreless streak. Hammel (13-6) had been 6-0 with an 0.95 ERA since the All-Star before getting roughed up. The Rockies scored 10 runs off him, six earned, in 3-1/3 innings. DJ LeMahieu also homered for Colorado.



DENVER: Nolan Arenado #28 of the Colorado Rockies hits a fourth inning three-run homerun - his second of the game - against the Chicago Cubs at Coors Field on Sunday in Denver, Colorado. —AFP

DODGERS 4, REDS 0

Chase Utley homered on the fourth pitch of the game, 20-year-old Julio Urias won his third straight decision and Los Angeles beat Cincinnati to end a three-game losing streak. Los Angeles moved into the NL West lead, a half-game ahead of San Francisco. Utley connected against Anthony DeSclafani (7-2) for his third home run of the trip and 11th this season, then had an RBI single in the third and scored on Cory Seager's hit for a 3-0 lead. Utley homered twice Tuesday at Philadelphia, his former team. Urias (4-2) allowed six hits, struck out six and walked none, throwing 62 of 97 pitches for strikes. He didn't allow a runner past first base until the sixth inning despite giving up two hits in an inning three times. Urias picked off Jose Peraza at first and got Ivan De Jesus Jr. to ground into a double play. Urias beat Philadelphia in his previous start on Aug. 8, then defeated Pittsburgh in relief five days later. Joe Blanton, Pedro Baez and Kenley Jansen each followed with an inning of one-hit relief.

METS 2, GIANTS 0

Noah Syndergaard and Jeurys Familia combined on a three-hitter and Yoenis Cespedes homered off Jeff Samardzija, leading New York past San Francisco. Cespedes homered for the third time in two days to help split the four-game series. It also was the 900th victory of manager Terry Collins' career, making him the 10th active manager to reach the milestone. Syndergaard (11-7) allowed two hits over eight innings for his second consecutive victory. Samardzija (10-9) held the Mets hitless until Curtis Granderson's leadoff double in the seventh. Cespedes followed with his 25th home run, a two-run blast that appeared to clear the stands in left field. Familia retired three batters for his major league-leading 41st save.

ROYALS 2, TWINS 1

Danny Duffy won his 10th straight decision, Eric Hosmer doubled in the go-ahead run and Kansas City beat Minnesota for its eighth consecutive win. The Royals swept a four-game series from the Twins for the first time since 1999 and have their longest winning streak since an eight-game run Aug. 3-11, 2014. Duffy (11-1), unbeaten since June 6, improved to 5-0 with a 1.18 ERA in August. He left after 6-2/3 innings, allowing one

run and a season-high eight hits while walking two and striking out four. He outpitched Twins right-hander Ervin Santana (6-10), who allowed two runs and five hits while striking out 10 and walking one over seven innings. Kelvin Herrera pitched a perfect ninth for his seventh save.

CARDINALS 9, PHILLIES 0

Mike Leake pitched seven strong innings and hit a two-run single and St. Louis homered four times to rout Philadelphia. Jedd Gyorko, Stephen Piscotty, Brandon Moss and Jeremy Hazelbaker went deep. The Cardinals had hit multiple home runs in nine straight games, tying a major league record, before failing to connect Saturday night in a 4-2 loss. Jhonny Peralta added three hits as the Cardinals finished a 6-3 trip. They remained 1-1/2 games ahead of Miami for the final wildcard spot in the National League. The Cardinals got six extra-base hits to set a club record of 14 straight games with at least three extra-base hits. Leake (9-9) gave up seven hits and struck out eight. Philadelphia had homered in 14 straight games before getting blanked by Leake and two relievers. Vince Velasquez (8-6) fell to 0-4 with a 6.23 ERA in his last seven starts.

BRAVES 7, NATIONALS 6, 10 INNINGS

Jace Peterson hit a tiebreaking homer in the 10th inning off Shawn Kelley to lift Atlanta past Washington in a game delayed 1 hour, 4 minutes in the bottom of the eighth. Kelley (1-2) hung his head and walked toward the dugout as soon as Peterson made contact with his seventh homer. Kelley gave up one hit and one run in two-thirds of an inning. Joel Ramirez (1-0) faced four batters in the 10th to earn the win. Four of Washington's five errors led to runs for the Braves. Matt Kemp homered for Atlanta, and Bryce Harper and Chris Heisey connected for Washington.

ASTROS 5, ORIOLES 3

Dallas Keuchel was solid through eight innings, Yulieski Gurriel got a hit in his major league debut and Houston beat Baltimore in a rain-delayed game. The Astros won the last three games in the four-game series, outscoring Baltimore 32-13 over that stretch. The slumping Orioles have lost four of five and are 9-16 over their past 25 games. Keuchel (8-12), last year's Cy Young Award winner, allowed two runs and five hits with seven strikeouts. Ken Giles picked up his third save after allowing Mark Trumbo major league-leading 37th home run. Baltimore's Yovani Gallardo (4-5) allowed four runs and seven hits over seven innings. The start of the game was delayed for 4 hours, 5 minutes because of storms. Another downpour at the end of the first inning prompted an additional 30-minute interruption. Jake Marisnick homered for Houston.

MARLINS 3, PIRATES 2

Christian Yelich homered in the first inning, Miami added a pair of unearned runs and the Marlins rallied past Pittsburgh to complete a three-game sweep. Jose Urena (2-4) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings to help the Marlins sweep a series for the sixth time this season. Fernando Rodney completed the five-hitter, working around a two-out walk in the ninth. Rodney retired Francisco Cervelli on a game-ending groundout for his third save of the series and 24th this season. Miami went 6-1 this year against the Pirates and moved ahead of Pittsburgh in the NL wild-card race. Wearing 1970s throwback uniforms and caps, the Pirates (62-59) dropped 1-1/2 games back of Miami. Ryan Vogelsong (2-3) gave up three runs and three hits in six innings.

TIGERS 10, RED SOX 5

Justin Upton hit two three-run homers and struggling Detroit finished its homestand with victory over Boston and fill-in starter Henry

Owen. The Tigers won for just the fourth time in 14 games, and went 2-5 on their stay at Comerica Park. Boston has lost just two of its last 10. Justin Verlander (13-7) allowed one run on three hits in six innings before being pulled with a nine-run lead. He's 6-1 in his last 10 starts. Owens (0-1) didn't find out he was pitching until late Saturday night and didn't arrive in Detroit from Triple-A until the early morning hours. He gave up eight runs on six hits and five walks in five innings. Eduardo Rodriguez was scratched from the start late Saturday night. He was expected to return from a hamstring injury to pitch, but felt discomfort during the game. Owens was summoned from Pawtucket.

INDIANS 3, BLUE JAYS 2

Jose Ramirez hit a two-run homer off Brett Cecil in the eighth inning and Cleveland beat Toronto to win the series between teams that began the game as AL division leaders. The Indians took two of three, with each game decided by one run. Ahead 2-1, Toronto threatened to break open the game in the seventh. But Mike Clevinger (2-1) relieved Corey Kluber and struck out major league RBIs leader Edwin Encarnacion to leave the bases loaded. Ramirez connected after Francisco Lindor's two-out single, sending a drive into the home run porch in left field. Cecil (1-7) replaced starter Marcus Stroman with one out in the eighth. Cody Allen pitched the ninth for his 24th save in 27 chances. He struck out Ryan Goins and Devon Travis before walking Josh Donaldson and Encarnacion. Russell Martin lined out to right to end it. Melvin Upton Jr. led off the third with his third home run for Toronto since being acquired from San Diego at the trade deadline.

ANGELS 2, YANKEES 0

Albert Pujols had three hits and scored twice on singles by Andrelton Simmons, leading Los Angeles past New York. Jhoulys Chacin (4-8) allowed six hits over 5-2/3 innings, struck out four and walked one in his first scoreless start since April 12 for Atlanta. Deolis Guerra, JC Ramirez and Fernando Salas followed with hitless relief. Salas pitched a perfect ninth for his fourth save. After winning the first two games of the series, New York entered four games over .500 at 61-57, but for the fourth time failed to move five games over. Chad Green (2-3) allowed one run and five hits in six innings, which matched his big league high. He struck out 11 in six scoreless innings against Toronto on Monday when he rejoined the rotation.

WHITE SOX 4, ATHLETICS 2

Jose Quintana pitched into the eighth

innings for his career-best 10th win and Jose Abreu homered for the second straight game to lead Chicago past Oakland. Todd Frazier had three hits and drove in two runs, and Justin Morneau added an RBI double in Chicago's three-run first as the White Sox took the final two games of the series and handed Oakland its seventh loss in eight games. Tim Anderson also had three hits. Oakland's Khris Davis hit his 32nd homer, a two-run shot off Quintana (10-9). The left-hander struck out six, walked one and allowed eight hits. David Robertson got the last three outs for his 32nd save. Zach Neal (2-3) was the loser.

RAYS 8, RANGERS 4

Logan Forsythe homered after missing four games because of back spasms, and Tampa Bay beat Texas to take two of three from the AL West-leading Rangers. Forsythe hit an opposite-field, three-run shot off Martin Perez (8-9) in a five-run fourth that made it 6-2. He has six homers in his last 10 games. Steven Souza Jr. put the Rays up 8-4 on a two-run homer in the eighth. Drew Smyly (6-11) allowed four runs and five hits over 6-2/3 innings to go 4-0 in his last six starts. Tampa Bay, last in the AL East, has won six of seven. Delino DeShields and Drew Stubbs homered for Texas.

BREWERS 7, MARINERS 6

Keon Broxton and Chris Carter homered and Scooter Gennett had an RBI single during a four-run ninth inning, and Milwaukee beat Seattle to end a six-game losing streak. The Brewers trailed 6-3 after eight innings but rallied against Tom Wilhelmson (2-4). Broxton hit his second solo homer of the game and Carter followed with a two-run shot, his 29th, to tie it. After Domingo Santana singled, Vidal Nuno relieved Wilhelmson and allowed a single to Manny Pina. Gennett then blooped a single into left-center that scored Santana from second. Tyler Thornburg (5-4) pitched the final two innings for the win. Matt Garza (4-6) was the loser.

PADRES 9, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Luis Perdomo ended a three-start losing streak, Travis Jankowski and Alex Dickerson homered, and San Diego beat Arizona for a four-game split. Perdomo (6-7) took a shutout into the seventh and wound up allowing an unearned run and five hits in seven innings. Perdomo, a right-hander who had never pitched above Class A before this season, also beat the Diamondbacks at Arizona on July 4. Braden Shipley (2-3) gave up seven runs and seven hits over 5-1/3 innings in a matchup of the teams with the poorest records in the NL

MLB results/standings

Detroit 10, Boston 5; LA Dodgers 4, Cincinnati 0; Tampa Bay 8, Texas 4; Cleveland 3, Toronto 2; Houston 5, Baltimore 3; Miami 3, Pittsburgh 2; St. Louis 9, Philadelphia 0; Atlanta 7, Washington 6 (10 innings); Chicago White Sox 4, Oakland 2; Kansas City 2, Minnesota 1; LA Angels 2, NY Yankees 0; Colorado 11, Chicago Cubs 4; Milwaukee 7, Seattle 6; San Diego 9, Arizona 1; NY Mets 2, San Francisco 0.

American League

Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	70	54	.565	-
Boston	69	54	.561	0.5
Baltimore	67	56	.545	2.5
NY Yankees	63	60	.512	6.5
Tampa Bay	52	70	.426	17

National League

Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Washington	73	50	.593	-
Miami	65	59	.524	8.5
NY Mets	62	62	.500	11.5
Philadelphia	58	67	.464	16
Atlanta	45	79	.363	28.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	78	45	.634	-
St. Louis	66	57	.537	12
Pittsburgh	62	59	.512	15
Cincinnati	53	70	.431	25
Milwaukee	53	70	.431	25

Western Division

LA Dodgers	68	55	.553	-
San Francisco	68	56	.548	0.5
Colorado	60	64	.484	8.5
San Diego	53	71	.427	15.5
Arizona	51	73	.411	17.5

Western Division

Texas	73	52	.584	-
Seattle	66	57	.537	6
Houston	64	60	.516	8.5
Oakland	53	71	.427	19.5
LA Angels	52	72	.419	20.5

NEYMAR FINDS REDEMPTION IN OLYMPIC GOLD

RIO DE JANEIRO: Just two weeks ago Neymar's commitment to the Olympic team was questioned by Brazil's fans. Now he's a national hero - and an Olympic champion.

Neymar buried the winning kick of a penalty shootout against Germany on Saturday night at Maracana Stadium, sending all of Brazil into a boisterous celebration. The cheering could be heard down Rio's famed Copacabana Beach, where fans yelled out "Campeões!" Champions!

Neymar sunk to the field on his knees as his teammates engulfed him. He lay on the ground for several long moments while they celebrated, sobbing. "This is one of the happiest things that have happened to me," he said moments later.

It was Brazil's first gold medal and it came on home soil. For Neymar, it was a seminal moment. Some were already asking whether Neymar's name should be added to the list of Brazil's greats,

joining the Pele, Zico and "the phenomenon" Ronaldo. Brazil coach Rogerio Micalle essentially said it was too soon to put Neymar in that realm, suggesting his next step is a World Cup title.

But he nonetheless had great praise for the charismatic 24-year-old striker who plays for Barcelona and is considered among the best current players in the world. Neymar has been an integral part in Barcelona's recent success, along with Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez.

"He's a leader on the national team. Dedicated," Micalle said through a translator. "Now that we've finished this tournament, I have the best possible impression of Neymar. The whole team does."

The men's soccer tournament attracted most of the attention of Brazilian fans at the Olympics. The country's football federation took the Olympic tournament very seriously, bringing Neymar and many talented youngsters who are expected to be in the main squad in the

2018 World Cup in Russia.

Neymar eschewed the Copa America to focus on the Rio Games. The men's Olympic tournament is contested among under-23 teams, but they can each bring three players from the senior national team.

Still, the Olympics started disastrously for the hosts. Brazil struggled with scoreless draws against South Africa and Iraq was even in danger of missing out on the knockout round.

Neymar was heavily criticized by soccer-crazy Brazilians who saw the women's national team, and particularly star Marta, off to a fast start in contrast.

There were fans who crossed off Neymar's name on their No. 10 jerseys and wrote in Marta instead. Neymar was taunted with fans shouting Marta's name at his matches, while Marta was honored with fans chanting "Better Than Neymar!" at hers.

With Neymar at captain, Brazil turned

its tournament around. First came a decisive 4-0 victory over Denmark to close out the group, followed by a 2-0 victory over Colombia in the quarterfinals.

Neymar really made it known that Brazil was back with a 6-0 victory over Honduras in the semis. He had two goals - including one only 15 seconds into the match for the fastest goal in Olympic history. "We needed to respond to the Brazilian people. Say something to the people and to the football community, by doing something different," Micalle said. "We did that. We won. We're skilled and competent. We responded as necessary and we did this in the short time that was available to us."

As for the comparison with Marta, that was unfair. Marta is considered one of her sport's greatest players ever. She is a five-time FIFA World Player of the Year. "That's just a part of the Brazilian culture," Micalle said. "That's the way we are. We love and hate from one day to the next.

We go to extremes. People go back and forth. But I'm truly happy to be a Brazilian."

Saturday night's victory was not only Neymar's redemption, it was a nation's. It came two years after an embarrassing 7-1 home loss to Germany's senior team in the World Cup semifinals at home. Brazil was also coming off a demoralizing elimination in the group stage of this year's Copa America.

Neymar was on the World Cup team but didn't play against Germany because of a back injury sustained in the quarterfinals against Colombia.

With his penalty kick in the Olympic final, Neymar helped ease some of that lingering bitterness. He also countered the doubters who dogged him early in the games. "We went through difficult moments in the beginning of the competition, we were criticized," he said, "and we answered on the field, with soccer." — AP



SAN SEBASTIAN: Real Madrid's Gareth Bale, right, with Real Sociedad's Inigo Martinez left, during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Real Sociedad, at Anoeta stadium in San Sebastian, northern Spain, Sunday. — AP

BALE DOUBLE GIVES REAL MADRID WINNING START

BARCELONA: A Gareth Bale brace and a Marco Asensio lob helped Real Madrid make light work of Real Sociedad, running out 3-0 winners at Anoeta in their opening game of the season in La Liga. Back from his post-Euro 2016 holidays, Bale was the only member of the renowned "BBC" forward line who was fit enough to play in Sunday's game, as Zinedine Zidane's team travelled to San Sebastian in the midst of an injury crisis, with five regular starters unable to make the squad. As well as star forwards Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema, Luka Modric, Keylor Navas and Pepe were also ruled out, but it didn't stop Madrid earning a convincing win at a notoriously tricky venue, thanks to Bale's two goals. "I'm happy for him," said Zidane. "Physically he's behind the others and you couldn't tell. He started in the best way, with an early goal. He's already said it's an important year for him, and he's showing that." Bale was picked despite having appeared in just one friendly in pre-season, but the Welshman got Madrid off to a flying start, leaping into the air to powerfully nod home Dani Carvajal's tempting cross in only the second minute. Kiko Casilla had to be quick off his line at the other end after a short back-pass by Raphael Varane, hacking the ball to safety under pressure.

Alvaro Morata nearly scored his first goal

since returning to Real Madrid but, after a clever dribble, his strike was deflected behind for a corner. A Toni Kroos effort met the same fate, with goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli quick to get down to tip the German's drilled strike behind. Real Sociedad had a good opportunity to level on the half-hour mark, but former Madrid man Asier Illarramendi opted to pass to Juanmi instead of shooting when well placed and the ball didn't reach his team-mate. It was an end-to-end affair, with Morata denied again by Rulli, while youngster Asensio, picked ahead of James Rodriguez and Isco, continued to bewilder defenders with his quick feet on his first start in La Liga for the European champions.

SELECTION PROBLEM

The forward scored Madrid's second goal in the 40th minute with an effortless lob after he was sent through on Rulli's goal by Varane's pass, scooping the ball over the stopper with ease.

Zidane acknowledged the 20-year-old's fine form was giving him selection problems.

"I had to decide and he went out from the start and did well. It's a headache picking the line-up. Asensio had a great game, but so did (Mateo) Kovacic and others. The important thing is the team," Zidane said. Morata was see-

ing a lot of the ball in the second half but was foiled at every turn, being booked for diving in the area before his shot was saved and Kroos cracked the rebound against Rulli's crossbar. The goalkeeper was called into action to tip a Mateo Kovacic piledriver wide as Madrid continued to turn the screw, although despite their dominance they could not stretch their lead until Bale ran through, rounded Rulli and squeezed the ball home with the last kick of the game. Home coach Eusebio Sacristan blamed himself for the heavy home defeat. "The person most responsible for what happened is me and if we are capable of facing up to Real Madrid, that is my responsibility," he explained. "The players are absolutely committed, but it's clear we have to work hard to improve and correct our errors as soon as possible." Atletico Madrid entertain promoted Alaves in the late game on Sunday, while Sporting Gijon earlier beat Athletic Bilbao 2-1.

Champions Barcelona opened their campaign in style on Saturday by beating Betis 6-2 with Luis Suarez scoring a hat-trick and Lionel Messi netting twice. Sevilla beat Espanyol 6-4 in an incredible game with Luciano Vietto scoring twice for the hosts and fellow summer signings Pablo Sarabia, Franco Vazquez, Wissam Ben Yedder and Hiroshi Kiyotake also on target. — AFP

WASTEFUL CAVANI JEERED AS PSG SEE OFF METZ

PARIS: Lucas, Layvin Kurzawa and Marco Verratti got the goals as Paris Saint-Germain beat newly promoted Metz 3-0 at the Parc des Princes in coach Unai Emery's first home game in charge on Sunday. The result allowed PSG to continue their perfect start to life under their new Spanish coach but the evening was somewhat overshadowed by the whistles of the home support towards striker Edinson Cavani. The Uruguay star scored 53 Ligue 1 goals in the last three seasons despite living in the shadow of Zlatan Ibrahimovic and toiling at times since his 64 million-euro move from Napoli in 2013.

With idol Ibrahimovic having departed for Manchester United, Cavani is now PSG's main man in attack but he missed chance after chance against Metz and the French champions won in spite of the Uruguayan. Cavani had a penalty appeal waved away as he went down under a Georges Mandjeck challenge and then saw a net-bound shot deflected onto the post by Simon Falette late in the first half.

Later on, he contrived to slice the ball wide when a rebound fell to him after Angel Di Maria curled a shot against the bar. Cavani kicked the post in frustration as the boos rang out from the stands in the capital.

Fortunately for the home side, by that point they were already two goals to the good, with Lucas getting the breakthrough seven minutes into the second half.

Adrien Rabiot was almost dispossessed as he tried to dribble the ball out of his own box, but he escaped and the hosts broke forward quickly. Serge Aurier took up Lucas and the Brazilian winger teed a touch before steering a low shot across goalkeeper Thomas Didillon and into the far corner. Paris needed goalkeeper Kevin Trapp to intervene with good saves from Renaud Cohade and Mevlut Erding to preserve their advantage before Kurzawa headed in from an Angel Di Maria corner midway through the second half to make it 2-0.

It was left-back Kurzawa's third goal in as many competitive games this season.

Late on, Cavani latched onto a through

ball and rounded Didillon, but he betrayed a lack of confidence as he hesitated and refused to shoot as the away defence tracked back to cover.

Substitute Verratti then put the gloss on the scoreline when he got the third goal right at the end, his shot from the edge of the area coming off Metz defender Jonathan Rivierez on its way in.

"When the strikers start improving in certain aspects, we will score a lot of goals," said Emery, who defended Cavani.

"He demands an awful lot of himself. He has character. If we create as many chances in future, I am not worried about him scoring. "That the fans are so demanding of Cavani is a good thing too."

MARSEILLE BEATEN

PSG join Lyon and Nice on a maximum six points from two games, but Marseille remain without a win after the troubled giants lost 2-1 at Guingamp on Sunday afternoon.

Yannis Salibur struck after just 32 seconds with Jeremy Sorbon netting Guingamp's second shortly after half-time as the hosts withstood late Marseille pressure. Substitute Florian Thauvin pulled a goal back on 78 minutes with a low long-range effort, but Guingamp this time held on having thrown away a two-goal lead in last week's 2-2 draw at Monaco.

Meanwhile, Manchester United star Paul Pogba was in the crowd in Saint-Etienne as Les Verts claimed a 3-1 win over Montpellier. At the Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, the world's most expensive player — who started for United in their Premier League win over Southampton on Friday — was there to support his brother Florentin, the Guinea defender who turned 26 on Friday. The elder Pogba played all 90 minutes as Saint-Etienne came from behind after Steve Mounie put Montpellier ahead midway through the first half. Kevin Monnet-Paquet equalised seconds after the restart before youngster Dylan Saint-Louis scored his first Ligue 1 goal and Slovenia striker Robert Beric came off the bench to clinch the points late on. — AFP



PARIS: PSG's Angel Di Maria, left, struggles with Metz's Jonathan Rivierez during the French League One soccer match between PSG and Metz at the Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, France, Sunday. — AP

DE BOER ADMITS INTER JOB WILL TAKE TIME

ROME: Frank de Boer admitted he has his work cut out if he is to turn Inter Milan into Italian title contenders after a shock defeat to Chievo on Sunday.

Speaking after his first Serie A match in charge of the Chinese-owned club, the former Dutch international said he had not had enough time to put his stamp on the team after only two weeks in charge.

"It can't be denied that today was a difficult day but we are at the beginning and we can do better in terms of our play and physical level," said De Boer, who left Ajax at the end of last season.

"We have to get better in many levels but I have only had a friendly to prepare, I've not had much time," he added.

Two second-half strikes by Slovenian winger Valter Birsa sealed Chievo's 2-0 win and may have given Inter's new owners pause for thought about the wisdom of ousting De Boer's predecessor, Roberto Mancini, who took all his backroom staff with him when he left "by mutual consent" earlier this month. The Inter defeat was icing on the

cake for champions Juventus, who beat Fiorentina 2-1 on Saturday and were then able to watch some of their other potential title rivals struggle 24 hours later.

Napoli, second to Juve last sea-



MILAN: Chievo's Riccardo Meggiorini, top right, is challenged by Inter Milan's Andrea Ranocchia during a Serie A soccer match at the Verona Bentegodi stadium, Italy, Sunday. — AP

son, had to come from two goals down to earn a point at Serie A newcomers Pescara while AC Milan needed a last-minute penalty save to hang on for a 3-2 win over Torino. Roma top the first table of

the season thanks to their 4-0 win over Udinese, which made them the only club to indicate they might prevent Juventus claiming a record sixth consecutive Italian title.

Still reeling from the loss of 36-goal striker Gonzalo Higuain to Juventus, Napoli looked out of sorts as Ahmad Benali and Gianluca Caprari gave newly promoted Pescara a two-goal lead at the interval. Belgian winger Dries Mertens rescued a point for the visitors with two well-taken goals in the space of three minutes around the hour mark. Colombian striker Carlos Bacca struck a hat-trick as AC Milan began a new era under Chinese ownership with a nervy win over Torino. It took an injury-time penalty save by 17-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to secure the three points for Vincenzo Montella's side after Torino mounted a stoppage-time fightback.

Bacca, a target for West Ham United who Milan are reportedly willing to sell to fund a higher-profile acquisition, made his case for staying at the San Siro in emphatic fashion. — AFP

WIJNALDUM CALLS FOR LIVERPOOL REACTION

LONDON: Georginio Wijnaldum has called on his Liverpool team-mates to put the disappointment of defeat by Burnley behind them in Tuesday's League Cup tie at second-tier Burton Albion. Liverpool started the Premier League season in enterprising fashion with a thrilling 4-3 win at Arsenal, only to lose 2-0 at promoted Burnley on Saturday despite enjoying over 80 percent of possession.

Jurgen Klopp's side reached last season's League Cup final, losing on penalties to Manchester City, and Wijnaldum hopes they can use their first game in this season's competition to get back on track. "We made two mistakes and they scored two goals and we didn't create any big chances. That was the story in the first half," the former Newcastle United midfielder told the Liverpool website after the game at Burnley. "We expected to create better chances than we did.

Sometimes you have the kind of games that it doesn't work and you have to keep your confidence and look forward.

"We must move on to the next game, not make the same mistakes we made (against Burnley) and look forward with confidence." Tuesday's game at the Pirelli Stadium will carry special meaning for Burton manager Nigel Clough, who spent three years at Liverpool as a player in the mid-1990s.

Clough, son of legendary former Nottingham Forest manager Brian, returned to Burton for a second spell last year, having previously spent nine years at the club between 1998 and 2009. Burton memorably held Manchester United to a 0-0 draw in the FA Cup in January 2006, but whereas they were then a non-league team, they are now just one division below the Premier League. — AFP

VETERANS PROVIDE THE THRILLS ON RIO'S OLYMPIC LAGOON

RIO DE JANEIRO: British crews topped the medals table in the Olympic rowing regatta with three golds but rowers from New Zealand and the United States also put in mighty performances to provide plenty of thrills in the spectacular setting of the Rodrigo de Freitas Lagoon.

The day's programme was twice called off when high winds made the water too rough but the sun shone for an exciting final day which saw the regatta's most breath-taking action.

In the men's single skulls final, defending champion Martin Drisdale of New Zealand was pushed all the way by Croatia's Damir Martin. The decision went to a photo-finish after they crossed the line at the same time, with Martin seeming to surge forward. The gold went to Drisdale.

The New Zealander's compatriots Hamish Bond and Eric Murray maintained their unbeaten streak, easily winning the men's pair.

Bond and Murray, who took gold in

the event at 2012's London Games, had broken away with a commanding lead by the race's midway point and only widened the distance between themselves and the rest of the pack as the race went on.

The victory reaffirmed their status as one of the greatest rowing partnerships of all time. They have not lost a race since they teamed up in 2009 but afterwards Bond admitted the pressure was taking its toll and he would need to think about his future.

Also extending a remarkable winning record were the United States women's eight. The crew came into the Games as huge favourites, appearing unbeatable after winning gold at both the 2012 and 2008 Games, and they powered to the top medal again. Under coach Tom Terhaar, they have won every race for 10 years.

Britain's Helen Glover and Heather Stanning successfully defended their Olympic crown in the women's pair,

extending a five-year unbeaten run over 39 races.

Despite the veterans' dominance, there were still some hard-fought contests and the battles for silvers were often intense.

In the regatta's final race, Britain's men's eight defeated their rivals in the favoured German boat to claim gold, leaving Germany with two golds overall to share second place in the rowing medals table with New Zealand. —Reuters

RIO 2016 - TOPS AND FLOPS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Who hit, who missed at the Rio Olympics:

HITS USAIN BOLT

Despite coming into Rio with concerns over his fitness, the superstar crowd pleaser romped to a "triple triple" of gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m. The Jamaican also sealed his status as track and field's greatest showman, posing for numerous selfies while even trying his hand at javelin in an eerily quiet Olympic Stadium once the crowds had left. "There you go. I'm the greatest," said Bolt, who kissed the finish line on the Olympic Stadium track on his final Games appearance. In a perfect finish, Sunday was also his 31st birthday.

MICHAEL PHELPS

The US swimmer also had his doubters on the eve of Rio, but left with five more golds to take his total to a stunning 23. "I don't think you're going to see another Michael," said coach Bob Bowman. Phelps, watched by fiancée Nicole and baby son Boomer, ended his career with no regrets after flirting with retirement coming away from the London Games four years ago. "It definitely was a lot more emotional than I was in 2012," said the 31-year-old.

MO FARAH

Britain's Mo Farah, born in Somalia but nurtured in London, captured a "double double" of 5,000m and 10,000m golds to emulate Finland's Lasse Viren, who did the same double at the 1972 and 1976 Games. Farah, 33, last lost a race at a major competition when he was beaten by Ethiopia's Ibrahim Jeilan in the 10,000m at the 2011 world championships in Daegu, South Korea.

SIMONE BILES

American gymnast Simone Biles marked her Olympic debut with a record-equalling four golds but just short of the record five she sought. "It's been a long journey, but I've enjoyed every moment," said the 19-year-old Texan whose early life struggles had not set her out as the future face of women's gymnastics. The only blip standing between her and history was a slip on the beam on the penultimate day of competition, which gave her bronze. She was the fifth woman to win four gold at the same Games after Hungarian Agnes Keleti (1956), Soviet Larissa Latynina (1956), Czech Vera Caslavka (1968) and Romanian Ecaterina Szabo (1984).

NEYMAR

The Barcelona superstar scored in the 1-1 draw in the final against Germany and then converted the winning penalty to give the hosts a first ever football gold. With Bolt looking on from the stands at the Maracana, Neymar marked his won-

derful free-kick opener by mimicking the sprinter's 'Lightning Bolt' pose in front of the delighted Jamaican. Neymar then stood down as captain. "This is one of the best things that has happened in my life...now the critics have to swallow what they said," said Neymar.

FLOPS NOVAK DJOKOVIC

World tennis number one Djokovic, looking to complete a career 'Golden Slam' of Olympic gold and the four majors, was knocked out in the first round by a rejuvenated Juan Martin del Potro who went onto make the final. Djokovic left the arena in tears and at 29 years old, his Olympic haul remains a modest bronze from Beijing in 2008.

LEE CHONG WEI

Malaysia's Lee suffered a third consecutive badminton final defeat after China's Chen Long beat the world number one in straight games. "Today leaves me with some regrets," said Lee, putting on a brave face following his defeat to second-ranked Chen, who became Olympic champion for the first time. The Malaysian has never won a world or Olympic title and will retire without that elusive gold medal. His country is also still waiting for a first gold medal in any sport.

CAMERON MCEVOY/CATE CAMPBELL

Double Australian swim disappointment for McEvoy and Campbell, the overwhelming favourites in the 100m freestyle. McEvoy was the man widely tipped to seize gold after posting a world-leading 47.04sec in April but was relegated to seventh-failing to break 48 seconds. In the women's event, world record holder Campbell faded to finish sixth after leading the field at the turn.

AARON COOK

The former British number one in taekwondo represented Moldova and was seeded second in the welterweight competition. But he crashed out in the first round. It was his first Olympics since Beijing in 2008 after being controversially overlooked by British selectors for London 2012. "I'm absolutely devastated - all that hard work and sacrifice by myself and my parents, I just feel I've let everyone down," he shrugged.

RENAUD LAVILLENIE

Defending champion and world record holder in pole vault, the Frenchman slumped to a shock loss to Brazilian Thiago Braz da Silva. He was booed when he competed and booed when he stood on the podium holding the consolation of a silver medal. He didn't help his case by comparing the Rio jeers to the treatment received by Jesse Owens at Hitler's 1936 Olympics in Berlin. —AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: USA's flag-bearer Simone Biles holds her country's national flag during the closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro Sunday. —AFP

BILES AND UCHIMURA SOAR, CHINA CRASH

RIO DE JANEIRO: There were tales of the expected - featuring Simone Biles and Kohei Uchimura - and tales of the unexpected in gymnastics as China lost the plot and departed the Rio Olympics without a gold medal.

Eight years after China obliterated the opposition to win nine of the 14 golds on offer in Beijing, including seven of the eight men's titles, rival nations rejoiced in Rio as they completed the Asian nation's fall from grace.

The first signs of their decline were evident at the London Games when China captured only four golds, but that still allowed them to top the 2012 gymnastics medals table. In Rio that tally dwindled to just two bronzes - both in the team finals - with world champion You Hao's fall following his parallel bars dismount providing a candid snapshot of China's nightmare outing.

Teammate Deng Shudi summed up China's misery. "I don't know what happened. My brain is empty," Deng said after his country failed to win a gymnastics gold for the first time since returning to the Olympics in 1984.

China's loss was the rest of the world's gain as nine nations shared gold-medal success, with the Americans topping the table thanks to the breathtaking tumbling skill of Biles.

Biles was undeniably the breakout star of Rio as she lived up to all the pre-Olympic hype by winning a record-equalling four golds - in team, all around, vault and floor exercise - for a female gymnast at a single Olympics.

Had it not been for a slipped foot in the beam final, that tally would have been five golds, but instead she had to make do with bronze as Sanne Wevers claimed the most unexpected of victories to become the first female Dutch gymnast to grab an individual gold.

Uchimura lived up to his 'Supermura' moniker by first guiding Japan to the team gold before becoming the first gymnast in 44 years to capture back-to-back Olympic all around titles.

Now unbeaten in the event since picking up a silver at the 2008 Olympics, with the 27-year-old also having won six successive world titles, he was hailed as "the greatest of all time" by

Nadia Comaneci.

"Look what he's achieved for such a long time. Undeclared for eight years (at world championships and Olympic Games). That's his legacy," said the Romanian great.

With the next Olympics taking place in his homeland, Uchimura is not done yet and few would bet against him becoming the first gymnast to complete a hat trick of Olympic all around triumphs.

While Japan has a rich legacy in the sport, gold medals for Britain in Olympic gymnastics are like London buses: you wait 120 years for one and then two come along at once. Max Whitlock ended the long wait for a champion by claiming victory in the floor exercise and pommel horse finals.

There was also gold medal success for Germany's Fabian Hambuchen (horizontal bar), Ukraine's Oleg Verniaiev (parallel bars), North Korea's Ri Se-gwang (vault), Greece's Eleftherios Petrounias (rings) and Russia's Aliya Mustafina (asymmetric bars). —Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: Dagmar Wozniak of the United States, right, dances with other athletes during the closing ceremony in the Maracana stadium at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. —AP

WEIGHTLIFTING FACES 'PAINFUL' FEW MONTHS

RIO DE JANEIRO: The International Weightlifting Federation may need a painkiller to get over the next few months as it moves to ban several countries over doping and tries to change a culture of drug taking.

Weightlifting has long been afflicted by high-profile positive tests for illegal substances and one medallist from the Rio Olympics has already been stripped of his podium finish for doping.

Kyrgyzstan's Izzat Artykov won bronze in the 69kg contest but later tested positive for the stimulant strychnine, becoming the first Olympian from the Brazil Games to have a medal revoked.

He claimed that a rival competitor had spiked his drink and said he would appeal the decision but the ruling meant that the weightlifting competition ended under a familiar doping cloud.

Eleven weightlifters who previously served doping bans, including three gold medallists, won medals at Rio, while four others were sent home for failed tests before they were due to compete. Another, a Mongolian weightlifter who didn't threaten the podium, also failed a dope test, the Court of Arbitration for Sport announced on Sunday.

The IWF is cracking down on doping. In June, it adopted a resolution that said any country which returns three or more positive drugs tests from the reanalysis of samples from the last two Olympics would be suspended for a year.

The governing body plans to ban Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and several

other nations for 12 months from around September or October for doping violations stemming from the 2008 and 2012 Games.

"We had to react. It will be very painful for me to suspend some countries but we will do this," IWF president Tamas Ajan told AFP in an interview last week.

"We wish weightlifting to be a clean sport and there's only one way. We have to ban all the countries which violate our rules," he added.

Ajan said the suspensions would be just "the start", but added that there was a twin approach to the problem that included educating as well as punishing countries and athletes.

"Not only do we suspend countries but we also organise many anti-doping seminars to help them. We give assistance so they can change completely," he explained.

Ajan has a fight on his hands however. "Unfortunately there are some countries who use forbidden substances as a part of their training programme," he said, pointing the finger at some former Soviet republics.

By the time Tokyo 2020 comes around the IWF doesn't want to be in a situation similar to the one it's in now where medallists are being retrospectively stripped of medals following reanalysis of samples.

"Improved laboratory techniques have created a situation where the sport can get cleaner and cleaner," said Ajan.

"The next two years are a very, very sensitive period," he added. —AFP

COOL TEENAGER, EMOTIONAL ITALIAN AND NEW CHAMPIONS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Bookended by a no-nonsense American teenager and an emotional Italian man, the shooting gold medal winners were an assorted lot of first-time Olympians and dark horses who left many favourites in the dust. Italy topped the medal count, with four of the 15 golds, followed by Germany with three. Powerhouse China took home seven, but just one gold, and the United States had an utterly disappointing run with one gold and two bronze. That sole American Olympic title was won by 19-year-old Ginny Thrasher, who came out air rifle blazing to win the first gold of the Games. Her cool confidence wowed the crowd at the Olympic Shooting Centre in Deodoro.

Her American team mates with much more experience and medals, like twice Olympic champion Vincent Hancock in the men's skeet and Matt Emmons in the 50 metre rifle three positions, failed to qualify for the finals.

"I don't really have an explanation for it," said Emmons on the final day of competition. "I really felt we brought a pretty darn good team here."

American skeet shooter Kim Rhode did make history with her bronze, tying an Olympic record with her sixth medal in six Games.

Vietnam won its first gold medal ever when Hoang Xuan Vinh won the men's 10 metre air pistol gold and later picked up a silver in the 50 metre event.

Kuwaiti men's double trap shooter Fehaid Al-Dehani won the first gold ever for an athlete competing under the Olympic flag after Kuwait was banned by the International Olympic Committee. His countryman, Abdullah Al-Rashidi, was a Brazilian crowd favourite for his charm and distinctive facial hair. With chants of "Mustache," he went on to win a bronze in skeet. Wrapping it all up was 28-year-old Italian Niccolo Campriani who won two golds in rifle shooting. He said the key to his success was that he was an emotional man from the Mediterranean where one learns to deal with emotions from the age of two. —Reuters

'GOOD-TIME' INDIAN OFFICIALS UNDER FIRE FOR RIO FLOP

NEW DELHI: As Olympic under-achievers India head home from Rio having failed to win a gold medal, its gate-crashing, selfie-taking officials have been accused of failing to help its athletes taste success.

A string of below-par performances saw India win just two medals at the Games, fewer than the six clinched during their best-ever performance in London four years earlier.

Badminton champion P.V. Sindhu's silver towards the end of the Rio Games sparked an outpouring of national pride and celebrations, along with wrestler Sakshi Malik's bronze.

But reports during the competition of Indian officials seemingly living it up in Rio, while athletes struggled to make it through qualifying, sparked anger back home and raised questions about the commitment of those in charge.

"Officials do not have the welfare of the athletes on their mind. All they are bothered about is having a good time," Aslam Sher Khan, India's former hockey

Olympian, told AFP.

"While other countries have scripted a turnaround in their fortune like the UK, we sadly continue to languish in mediocrity," he told AFP.

"We have become the laughing stock of the world." Indian sports minister Vijay Goel has described as a "misunderstanding" reports that his entourage tried to muscle unaccredited people accompanying him into Olympic venues.

Rio organisers reportedly accused his entourage of "aggressive and rude behaviour" and threatened to cancel his accreditation, prompting Goel to deny any involvement.

The minister also sparked ridicule on social media after praising one of India's athletes on Twitter, only to use a photo of a different one. And the Indian Express newspaper accused him of spending his time in Rio taking selfies with "exhausted Indian athletes" after posting a picture of himself ringside with just defeated boxer Vikas Krishan Yadav.

The incidents come as little surprise to observers who have long accused sport administrators of being more concerned about protecting their own fiefdoms than targeting success.

At the 2014 Winter Olympics, India suffered the humiliation of being banned from flying its flag at the opening ceremony following corruption concerns. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) suffered a 14-month ban which was only lifted after it elected new leaders, excluding those who had been accused of corruption over the chaotic organisation of the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

India's only individual Olympic gold medalist, shooter Abhinav Bindra, said he was fed up with apathetic officials, some of whom were unqualified for the job and were not being held accountable for a lack of success on the field.

"I won't get angry and spoil my own health. It happens every time and that is the way it is," the shooter, who won gold in Beijing in 2008 and finished fourth in

Rio, told the NDTV network.

"We need a complete overhaul of the system. We need more experts coming in... I have no problem with a politician if he can bring something to the table."

India's anti-doping officials were also left red-faced in Rio after wrestler Narsingh Yadav was banned for four years for failing drug tests overturning India's earlier decision to allow him to compete. Indian officials had cleared Yadav just days before Rio, accepting his defence that a rival spiked his food supplements, after failing two tests for a banned steroid. The World Anti-Doping Agency swiftly challenged the decision in the Court of Arbitration for Sport which found "no evidence" of such contamination.

'NOT BOTHERED'

India, a country obsessed with cricket, has never finished high on the medal table-winning just 28 from 24 Olympic appearances.

But India, with a population of more

than a billion people and enjoying strong economic growth, had been targeting 10 medals in Rio and sent its largest ever squad.

India's government spent about 1.2 billion rupees (\$18 million), however, preparing the athletes, according to the sports ministry, a fraction of the amount forked out by China, Britain and other countries.

With the lack of silverware becoming evident, media began focusing on the officials, including a former IOA chief, currently facing trial in a corruption case, seen attending the Games with an accreditation pass.

Veteran journalist K. Jagannadha Rao who has covered six Olympics said such incidents involving officials were not unusual. Khan, one of the few Indians to have tasted success when the hockey team won bronze at the 1972 Munich Olympics, agreed, saying few lessons had been learnt over the years.

"They are simply not bothered if the country is winning medals or not." — AFP

GROUNDBREAKING GAMES FOR WOMEN IN RIO 2016

RIO DE JANEIRO: From the dizzying gymnastics heights of African-American Simone Biles to Indian wrestler Sakshi Malik and Brazilian golden girl Rafaela Silva in judo-Rio proved a groundbreaking Games for women.

Usain Bolt and Michael Phelps had already arrived in Rio as global superstars of men's track and field and swimming. But newcomer Biles' amazing acrobatic skills also won star billing with her record-equalling four women's gold and a bronze at her first Games. The 19-year-old became the second African-American after Gabby Douglas in 2012 to win the all-around title, ending her Olympics in the spotlight by carrying the United States flag at the closing ceremony. "I'm not the next Usain Bolt or Michael Phelps," the Texan had said. "I'm the first Simone

Biles." Despite the shining success of Biles, a gender gap remains with 169 events for men staged in Rio compared to 137 for women. Nevertheless, the Games still had many firsts with judoka Majlinda Kelmendi winning Kosovo a gold at its maiden Games, as Monica Puig gave Puerto Rico tennis gold.

"I just proved that even after we survived a war, if they (kids in Kosovo) want something they can have it," said Kelmendi. Silva, 24, who grew up in Rio's violent, poverty stricken 'City of God' slum, won special mention from IOC president Thomas Bach as the Games drew to a close.

"Rising from the favela to become Olympic champion, when you look at her childhood and what she had to overcome, she's an inspiration across the world," Bach said. Malik also told how

she had to overcome prejudice to become India's first medalist with freestyle wrestling bronze. The 23-year-old from Rohtak, 76km northwest of New Delhi, said her parents had been criticised by local people when she started wrestling. "I want to say that girls can also do a lot if you give them confidence," said Malik, who carried the Indian flag at the closing ceremony.

'GENDER BARRIERS'

Women from the Middle East were more represented than ever before in Rio. Weightlifter Sara Ahmed, wearing a sports hijab, blazed a trail by becoming the first woman from Egypt to stand on the podium, lifting 255kg to finish third. Ines Boubakri won the Arab world's first ever women's Olympic fencing medal, dedicating her bronze to "the Tunisian women, the Arab woman... who has her place in society".

US fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad succeeded in her ambition to show the world that Muslim-American women could compete in elite sports. The 30-year-old from New Jersey, the first US Olympian to wear a hijab—a headscarf worn by Muslim women—during competition, came away with a bronze in the women's team sabre event.

Saudi Arabia's Kariman Abuljadayel—one of four women athletes sent by the conservative Gulf kingdom to Rio—competed in the 100m sprint. Emirati swimmer Nada Al Badwawi, who carried her country's flag in the opening ceremony, said: "We are slowly starting to change the mentality. My main goal is to break down these gender barriers and pave the way for other female swimmers."

'IRON CEILING'

Forty five percent of the 11,444 athletes — 5,175 — in Rio were women, slightly higher than in London 2012. "Every National Olympic Committee has now sent female athletes to the Games," an IOC spokesman said. New sports such as weightlifting were added to the women's programme in 2000, wrestling in 2004, and boxing in 2012. The target in Tokyo in 2020 will be to make even more events open. Yuriko Koike, governor of the Japanese host city, said, however, it was also hard to change mentalities in Japan. "Women are doing fantastic performances in the world of sports, in the world of politics, unfortunately the percentage of women parliamentarians is lower in Japan than in other major places," the 64-year-old said. "Hillary Clinton talked of a glass ceiling. I think we have got an iron ceiling. "Along with Olympic athletes, Japan's female politicians will also take up the challenge and strive to become good role models." — AFP



(COMBO) This combination of pictures taken during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro and created shows (from L-top to R-bottom) Egypt's Hedaya Wahba (aka Hedaya Malek) with her bronze medal for the women's taekwondo event in the -57kg category; Bahrain's Ruth Jebet with her gold medal for the Women's 3000m Steeplechase in the athletics event; Egypt's Sara Ahmed (aka Sarah Samir) with her bronze medal for the Women's 69kg weightlifting event; Tunisia's Marwa Amri with her bronze medal for the women's 58kg freestyle wrestling event; Bahrain's Eunice Jepkiriu Kirwa with her silver medal for the Women's Marathon in the athletics event and Tunisia's Ines Boubakri with her bronze medal for the women's individual foil fencing event. Six women from Arab countries won six medals, just two less than men, during the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. — AFP



HYDERABAD: India's P.V. Sindhu, left, who won one of India's two medals at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and her coach Pulella Gopichand wave to the cameras during their reception at the Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad, India, yesterday. The 21-year-old who won the silver medal in women's singles badminton event is also the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal. — AP

INDIA WELCOMES BACK SINDHU AFTER RARE MEDAL IN RIO

NEW DELHI: P.V. Sindhu, the 21-year-old badminton player who won one of India's two medals at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, returned to her hometown in southern India to cheering crowds yesterday.

Sindhu and freestyle wrestler Sakshi Malik restored some national pride in this patriarchal nation by returning with a silver and bronze medal respectively. Sindhu's homecoming Monday included a ride through Hyderabad, the technology hub in southern India, in an open-top bus.

Hundreds of people lined the streets and politicians competed to have selfies with the first Indian woman to win an Olympic silver medal.

Sindhu and Malik have faced considerable odds to succeed as athletes - in a country where female infanticide is still a reality, sexual violence is widespread and girls trail boys on most health and education indicators.

Sindhu was beaten by Spain's Carolina Marin in the women's badminton final. Malik, a 23-year-old wrestler from the northern state of Haryana, defeated Kyrgyzstan's Aisuluu Tynybekova in the 58 kilogram freestyle.

Dipa Karmakar, a 23-year-old gymnast from the tiny northeastern state of Tripura, placed fourth in the vault final. She lost the bronze medal by the slimmest of margins but emerged from obscurity to wins millions of fans back home.

Athletes in India face constant hurdles regardless of gender, often lacking the proper training, facilities and equipment, but the women have to fight even harder. Malik comes from a part of the country that more often makes the news for so-called honor killings and has a gender ratio skewed heavily in favor of boys. According to census data, the state of Haryana has only 834 girls for every 1,000 boys under the age of six. Sex-selective abortions and a systemic neglect of female children are blamed for the gender ratio.

Malik's father said that, when he allowed his daughter to start wrestling as a young girl, people would laugh at him. She's gone a long way since then: Malik was India's flag bearer at the games' closing ceremony.

Sindhu's coach Pulella Gopichand pulled no punches. "Hats off to women for saving our face in front of the world," Gopichand said. — AP

JORDANIAN RUNNER BEATEN BY STRAY DOG IN RIO

RIO DE JANEIRO: Amid celebrations for the end of the Rio Olympics, few spared a thought for Jordan's Methkal Abu Drais who finished the marathon behind a Japanese comedian, a stray dog and an Argentinian running sideways. It sounds like a punchline to a joke, but that's what happened as the 32-year-old army sergeant trotted home last in Sunday's race, finishing 140th more than 37 minutes behind gold medalist Eliud Kipchoge of Kenya. Enough time perhaps to fashion a sign warning "Slippery When Wet" for rivals toppling like tenpins along the home straight on a concrete surface that resembled an ice rink after a morning downpour. "It wasn't my best day perhaps," Abu Drais told AFP.

"But my presence at the Olympics among the best marathon runners in the world is an achievement for me." Before Abu Drais schlepped up the long concourse of the Sambadrome, the spiritual centre of Rio's famed carnival, waving to fans, carnage was unfolding ahead.

Former Olympic silver medalist Meb Keflezighi led the way when he lost his footing and skidded across the finish line on all fours. Mortified, he stayed where he was and began to do push-ups to loud applause.

A stray black dog made a lengthy cameo appearance, to further cheers, trotting alongside runners who looked a little wary of the furry intruder.

Abu Drais was still some way off at this stage, huffing and puffing his way to the closing stages of a course which snaked through the heart of Rio's historic centre.

He insisted he had little time to take in any of the city's iconic landmarks, such as the giant Christ the Redeemer statue, peeking through the clouds above.

TOURIST SPOTS

"I wasn't here for sight-seeing," shrugged Abu Drais, who trains in the Atlas mountains, which stretch through Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. "A marathon runner doesn't have time to check out the tourist spots." After watching Abu Drais race, some may beg to differ. "The rain wasn't helpful," sniffed Abu Drais, who won the 2012 Stockholm Marathon. "You have to deal with the elements, circumstances change from race to race. You just want to get to the finish." If the rain was not as advertised, neither was the smorgasbord of comedy: Argentine runner Federico Bruno did a cracking impersonation of a wounded crab as he crossed the line sideways-on in 137th, dragging his cramping leg behind him.

Iran's Mohammadjafar Moradi collapsed 20 metres from the line and crawled desperately home. Fifteen runners failed to finish, one wag wondering if they had stumbled into one of the city's notorious 'favela' slums, never to be seen again. As if praying for divine intervention, Cuba's Richer Perez unfurled a banner reading: "Love Jesus." Abu Drais, meanwhile, was pipped at the line by pint-sized Kuniaki Takizaki a Japanese comedian who competes under Cambodia's flag. Undeterred the doughty Jordanian said: "I'm off for a shower. I will be back to finish in the top 10 at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics." — AFP

BOXING ON BRINK AFTER RIO JUDGING CONTROVERSIES

RIO DE JANEIRO: Bloody and bruised, Olympic boxing was left teetering on the brink of crisis at the Olympics with several fighters complaining they were the victims of bad judging decisions and a few alleging more sinister wrongdoing.

The Games would not be complete without boxing controversy of one kind or another and governing body the AIBA was soon on the defensive in Rio after at least two highly debatable judging decisions, the most contentious being in the heavyweight final.

Kazakh Vassily Levit appeared to have given Evgeny Tishchenko a thorough hiding, but the judges inexplicably made the Russian a unanimous points winner—he was consequently booted up to the podium.

The next day Irish bantamweight world champion Michael Conlan launched a foul-mouthed tirade at the International Boxing Association (AIBA) saying he had been "robbed" of his Olympic dream, again at the hands of a Russian. Conlan was enraged and accused the AIBA and judges of corruption—an allegation immediately rejected by the AIBA, which threatened legal action to protect its integrity and that of Olympic boxing. But the boxing body then acknowledged that "less than a handful of decisions (were) not at the level expected" and sent home an undisclosed number of judges and referees. And a day later it "reassigned" one of its top executives who was in charge of helping run the Rio Olympic boxing.

National boxing federations have so far been reluctant to criticise the AIBA, but Boxing Canada broke ranks with a strongly worded statement, warning that the sport's integrity was in serious jeopardy and hinted plans were afoot to force AIBA's arm. "Following questionable

decisions and alleged corruption claims occurring at the Rio 2016 boxing competition, a global strategy is being put in place to ensure AIBA will address and correct the situation," Boxing Canada said. It told AFP that it wants a "complete review" of what unfolded in Rio. AIBA did not respond to a request for comment.

TRIPLE CUBAN SUCCESS

AIBA made headlines when, just two months before Rio, it said that professionals would be

allowed to compete for the first time in Olympic boxing history.

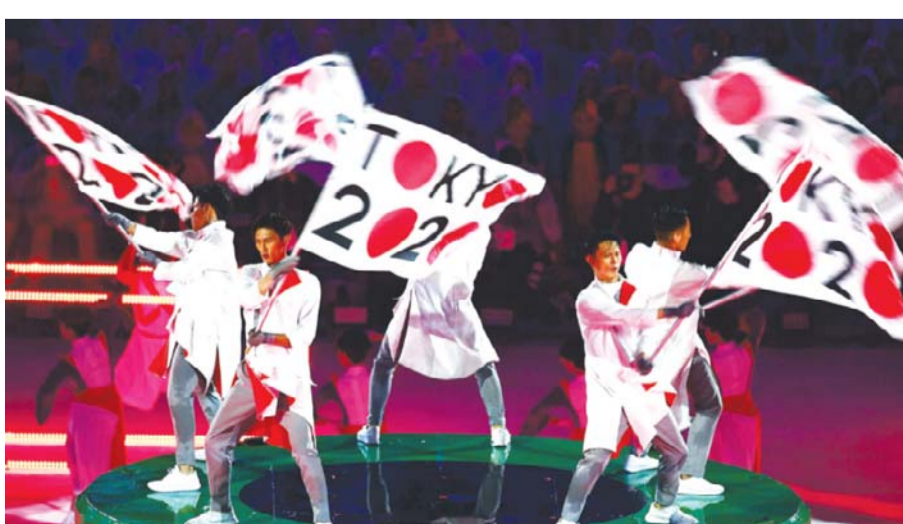
It had already dumped the unpopular punch-counting method of scoring bouts in favour of a judging system like that used in professional boxing and removed headguards for men, leaving some fighters nursing nasty head wounds and facial cuts.

These three moves were designed to make Olympic boxing closer to the pros and hence more popular. — AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Newly elected members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Athletes Commission, Germany's epee fencer Britta Heidemann (front), Russia's two-time Olympic pole vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva (R), Hungarian swimmer Daniel Gyurta (2nd R) and South Korean table tennis player Ryu Seung-min (L) attend the closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday. — AFP

Gallery



ANTI-US MOOD COULD HURT LA IN BID FOR GAMES

RIO DE JANEIRO: A bid by Los Angeles to host the 2024 Olympic Games could fall victim to anti-American sentiment brewing inside the International Olympic Committee, sources inside the IOC said.

The bid, which is competing against three European cities, risks an anti-US protest vote by several IOC members angry over America's prominent role in pursuing doping allegations against Russian athletes, the sources said.

The IOC will decide on bids from Los Angeles, Paris, Rome and Budapest in September next year. At least three non-Russian IOC members, speaking on condition of anonymity, said America's intervention into allegations of systematic Russian doping had marred the run-up to the Rio Games and tarnished the IOC brand.

"Of course the Los Angeles bid will face some consequences from this," an IOC member said. The US Department of Justice is probing allegations of Russian doping on US soil, and the US anti-doping agency (USADA) called for a total ban on Russians in Rio even as US athletes with a history of positive drugs tests competed there. None of the IOC members interviewed by Reuters could give an estimate of how many of the IOC's 98 members were thinking along the same lines. Elections for host cities can be decided by a handful of votes and be heavily influenced by politics.

Last year's vote for the 2022 winter Olympics was won by Beijing, with just four

votes more than Kazakhstan's Almaty.

Russia alone has three IOC members. The head of the LA 2024 bid team, Casey Wasserman, said it would not make sense for IOC members to vote against Los Angeles on the basis of investigations totally unrelated to its bid.

"Doping agencies in America are independent. They are not under the control of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), they are certainly not under the control of a private independent bid which is what we are," Wasserman said.

"We are independent of USOC and of the city of Los Angeles, we are private and to somehow use that against us seems misguided," he added.

LA Mayor Eric Garcetti has acknowledged that there could be a backlash from some IOC members but has also distanced the bid from the actions of the other, independent U.S. bodies, such as the Department of Justice and USADA.

Another IOC member said a separate Department of Justice investigation into corruption at world soccer's governing body, FIFA, also rankled with some committee members, given close links between the two sporting bodies.

Several senior FIFA officials were arrested last year, woken up at their five-star hotel in Zurich and held in prison pending extradition to the United States over corruption and

embezzlement charges.

IOC member Issa Hayatou of Cameroon is FIFA's senior vice president, while Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad al Sabah of Kuwait, who is in charge of the IOC's central fund, the Olympic Solidarity, is a member of the FIFA council.

Neither of the two members, who declined to comment, has been named in relation to investigations of the FIFA cases.

Another IOC member said there would be "significant" fallout for the Los Angeles bid.

A Canadian lawyer's investigation into what he called systematic Russian doping led to the world athletics federation banning the country's track and field team, with the exception of just one athlete, from the Rio Games.

USADA had formed a coalition of anti-doping bodies calling for a blanket ban on all Russian competitors at the Games, but the IOC eventually cleared more than 270 Russians to compete.

Last month, United World Wrestling Federation President Nenad Lalovic, an IOC member and a member of the World Anti-doping Agency (WADA) board, made comments to Reuters that were indicative of the frustration felt by some IOC members.

"USADA should be focused on the health of American athletes and those competing in the United States," Lalovic said. "Now it seems that USADA and the Canadians took over responsibility of WADA. Nobody entitled them to do that." — Reuters

BRAZIL MEDAL HAUL BEST BUT WEAK BY HOST STANDARDS



RIO DE JANEIRO: Final 2016 Olympics medals table on Sunday (gold, silver, bronze, total):

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
United States	46	37	38	121
Great Britain	27	23	17	67
China	26	18	26	70
Russia	19	18	19	56
Germany	17	10	15	42
Japan	12	8	21	41
France	10	18	14	42
South Korea	9	3	9	21
Italy	8	12	8	28
Australia	8	11	10	29
Netherlands	8	7	4	19
Hungary	8	3	4	15
Brazil	7	6	6	19
Spain	7	4	6	17
Kenya	6	6	1	13
Jamaica	6	3	2	11
Croatia	5	3	2	10
Cuba	5	2	4	11
New Zealand	4	9	5	18
Canada	4	3	15	22
Uzbekistan	4	2	7	13
Kazakhstan	3	5	9	17
Colombia	3	2	3	8
Switzerland	3	2	2	7
Iran	3	1	4	8
Greece	3	1	2	6
Argentina	3	1	0	4
Denmark	2	6	7	15
Sweden	2	6	3	11
South Africa	2	6	2	10
Ukraine	2	5	4	11
Serbia	2	4	2	8
Poland	2	3	6	11
North Korea	2	3	2	7
Belgium	2	2	2	6
Thailand	2	2	2	6
Slovakia	2	2	0	4
Georgia	2	1	4	7
Azerbaijan	1	7	10	18
Belarus	1	4	4	9
Turkey	1	3	4	8
Armenia	1	3	0	4
Czech Republic	1	2	7	10
Ethiopia	1	2	5	8
Slovenia	1	2	1	4
Indonesia	1	2	0	3
Romania	1	1	3	5
Bahrain	1	1	0	2
Vietnam	1	1	0	2
Taiwan	1	0	2	3
Independent	1	0	1	2
Bahamas	1	0	1	2
Ivory Coast	1	0	1	2
Fiji	1	0	0	1
Jordan	1	0	0	1
Kosovo	1	0	0	1
Puerto Rico	1	0	0	1
Singapore	1	0	0	1
Tajikistan	1	0	0	1
Malaysia	0	4	1	5
Mexico	0	3	2	5
Algeria	0	2	0	2
Ireland	0	2	0	2
Lithuania	0	1	3	4
Bulgaria	0	1	2	3
Venezuela	0	1	2	3
India	0	1	1	2
Mongolia	0	1	1	2
Burundi	0	1	0	1
Grenada	0	1	0	1
Niger	0	1	0	1
Philippines	0	1	0	1
Qatar	0	1	0	1
Norway	0	0	4	4
Egypt	0	0	3	3
Tunisia	0	0	3	3
Israel	0	0	2	2
Austria	0	0	1	1
Dominican Republic	0	0	1	1
Estonia	0	0	1	1
Finland	0	0	1	1
Moldova	0	0	1	1
Morocco	0	0	1	1
Nigeria	0	0	1	1
Portugal	0	0	1	1
Trinidad and Tobago	0	0	1	1
United Arab Emirates	0	0	1	1

RIO DE JANEIRO: Host nation Brazil, backed by an emotional and enthusiastic local fan base, captured the most Olympic medals in the country's history but fell far short of the haul that past host nations have brought in.

Brazil's 19 medals, seven of them gold, was a significant improvement over its London 2012 performance, more than doubling the number of golds and picking up two more medals in total.

The country's tally was capped off by a gold in the men's volleyball finals on Sunday and Brazil's first men's soccer gold on Saturday. For the crowds that poured into the streets to celebrate the soccer win, or shouted from windows and in bars throughout a rainy Rio during the volleyball final on Sunday, the victories were another sign that a Games many once thought destined for disaster had far exceeded local expectations.

From concerns about the Zika virus, to polluted waters, security and shortages of funds, the Rio Games faced problems that critics believed could derail their success.

"I can't tell you how happy I am, and I've been a critic of the games" said Rafael Rocha, 28, a designer out celebrating Brazil's soccer gold in the early hours of Sunday. "Not only have the games gone well, Brazil is doing well too. This is a huge relief." Brazil could also celebrate an Olympic record pole-vault victory, gold in men's beach volleyball and women's sailing 49erFX class. That 49erFX win, and the will-

ingness of nearly all sailing medalists to jump into the water to celebrate, seemed to belie concerns that the dirty waters of Guanabara Bay were too polluted to sail in.

Though Brazil's medal performance impressed some here, it also fell short on a range of measures. Sports in which Brazil was supposed to perform well in, such as Judo, were a disappointment. And athletes expected to win medals in events ranging from sailing to gymnastics failed to get on the podium. As a result, Brazil came in 13th in the gold-medal table and 12th in total medals, missing the government's goal of a top-10 finish in the over-all medal count. Only hosts Canada in 1976, Mexico in 1968 and Greece in 2004 have done worse, and all have far smaller populations.

Kenya and Jamaica were two of the smaller and poorer countries that came close to Brazil in the gold-medal race, finishing 15th and 16th, respectively.

As the cheering dies down, questions will linger about why a country so large and relatively rich is such an underperformer at the world's premier sporting event. Many medal winners called on the government to spend more on sports. Brazilians frequently complain that schools and universities have small sports programs, if any.

"I'm thrilled, but we really are not performing at the level our country is capable of," said musician Ivan Britz, 30, during the street parties for Brazil's soccer gold. — Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach (C) waves the Olympic flag flanked by Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike (R) and Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes (L) during the closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday. — AFP

ATHLETICS NERVOUSLY ENTERS POST-BOLT WORLD

RIO DE JANEIRO: As doping-tainted athletics emerges from its darkest hour fighting to restore its credibility, the reality for track and field is that it will have to cross that rocky road without Usain Bolt.

The Jamaican, who sealed an amazing third haul of three Olympic sprint gold medals in Rio, has consistently been a beacon for clean athletes amid doping and corruption scandals that mired Sebastian Coe's first year in office as IAAF president.

Bolt will compete at next year's world championships in London as his swansong, meaning the next Olympics in Tokyo will not feature one of sport's most recognizable figures.

Coe insists, however, that athletics will endure, telling AFP that Bolt had transcended his sport in a way that was comparable to boxing icon Muhammad Ali. "The man is a genius," Coe said. "There's been nobody since Muhammad Ali who's got remotely near to what this guy has done in terms of grabbing the public imagination."

However, Coe argued that just as a new generation of boxers emerged after Ali's retirement, so track and field would unearth new personalities after Bolt. "It's a

massive gap, but it's not a gap that is insuperable," Coe said. "You're not going to fill that gap overnight, but there are great, talented athletes out there."

American Ashton Eaton, who defended his decathlon title in Rio, was described by Bolt after his victory in London four years ago as the world's best athlete.

And Eaton was adamant that Bolt's absence would not leave a vacuum. "I will say that it is an absolute pleasure to be able to compete in the same era as Usain Bolt," Eaton said. "I really disagree he'll leave a vacuum." "If anything, he's provided a platform for all the other young, aspiring athletes to launch from."

"Just now we're not seeing the fruits of his accomplishments and labour, but I think in the years to come you'll see a lot of young athletes who'll say I got inspired by Usain Bolt." "When I got inspired by Michael Johnson I was eight years old and I didn't start coming into fruition in track until I was 18, so give it a decade."

Bolt will not be lost to the sport, however, with Coe saying he envisaged the Jamaican, so often able to deflect bad news with his on-track performances, playing a key role in years to come. — AFP

Sports

Bale double gives Real Madrid winning start



India welcomes back Sindhu after rare medal in Rio



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ANTI-US MOOD COULD HURT LA IN BID FOR GAMES

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RIO DE JANEIRO: This picture shows an overview of fireworks during the closing ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games at the Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday. —AFP

RAINY RIO WRAPS UP GAMES ON UPBEAT TROPICAL NOTE

RIO DE JANEIRO: A blustery storm, a touch of melancholy and a sense of pride converged at the closing ceremony of the 2016 Olympics on Sunday as Brazil breathed a collective sigh of relief at having pulled off South America's first Games.

After a gruelling 17 days, Rio de Janeiro cast aside early struggles with empty venues, security scares and a mysterious green diving pool to throw a huge Carnival-like party. Samba dancers, singers, drummers and a giant plumed macaw float mixed with hundreds of athletes in the storied Maracana stadium while a final volley of fireworks lit up the night sky. Brazilians came to the closing ceremony happy, many wearing the canary yellow jersey of the nation's sports teams, having won two late gold medals in their two favourite sports, men's soccer and volleyball.

But Sunday served up tough weather conditions for such a big party. High winds buffeted the Maracana, power briefly went out in the upper part of the stadium, and rain drenched performers and athletes as they entered the ceremony, many with medals hanging around their necks.

To the beat of traditional Brazilian music,

Olympians danced and waved their countries' flags to celebrate their place on the world's premier sporting stage.

In the last of 306 medal ceremonies, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach draped the gold around the neck of Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge, winner of the men's marathon earlier in the day.

The city handed over the Olympic flag to Tokyo, site of the 2020 Summer Games, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe appeared in the stadium dressed as popular video game character Mario, tunnelling from Tokyo to Rio.

Bach declared the Rio Games closed and expressed hope that they had left a lasting mark on the metropolitan area of 12 million people.

"These Olympic Games are leaving a unique legacy for generations to come," he said. "History will talk about a Rio de Janeiro before and a much better Rio de Janeiro after the Olympic Games."

In a final symbolic act, the Olympic flame that had burned since Aug. 5 was then extinguished in a downpour of artificial rain.

TAPPING NATURAL TALENT

In the midst of its worst economic recession

since the 1930s, Brazil's opening and closing ceremonies relied more on the country's unique talents and natural beauty and less on expensive technology.

On Sunday, there was an ode to the white-clad lacemaking ladies and the forro music of the Northeast that sparked waves of pride among Brazilians.

One of the more stunning moments of the ceremony focused on the ancient art found in the Serra da Capivara National Park - a UNESCO World Heritage site in northeastern Brazil featuring cave paintings, some more than 25,000 years old. But the beauty was betrayed by Brazil's tough times. Just this week, the foundation that maintains the park said it could no longer do so because of a lack of funding. For all the troubles before and during the Games, Rio will surely be remembered for great sporting moments. There was the remarkable comeback of American swimmer Michael Phelps, who won five golds to reinforce his distinction as the most decorated Olympian of all time. Jamaica's Usain Bolt drew down the curtain on his brilliant Olympic career by securing a sweep of the sprint titles for a third successive Games. And American gymnast

Simone Biles, the US flag bearer in the closing ceremony, kicked off her Olympic run by tying the record of four gold medals in a single Games. But at times it was hard to focus on the sporting triumphs taking place across the sprawling city.

A low point for Rio came when Ryan Lochte, one of America's most decorated swimmers, said he was robbed at gunpoint. That ignited further security concerns after a series of assaults against government ministers, athletes and tourists. But Lochte's story quickly unravelled, enraging Brazilians and Americans alike.

Brazilians could nevertheless take heart in the fact that there were no major mishaps or breaches after deadly attacks in Europe and the United States had prompted the biggest security operation in Brazil's history with 85,000 troops.

'DIFFICULT MOMENT'

"Even with all our problems we pulled off a good Olympics. Nothing too bad happened and I'd say it was better than expected," said Nivea Araujo, a Rio resident attending the closing ceremony.

For many in the soccer-mad nation, the best

Olympic moments happened in the Maracana, where Brazil defeated Germany in soccer on Saturday and pieced together a widely hailed opening ceremony despite the tight budget.

Rio won the right to host the Games in 2009, when the economy was booming and millions were pushing into the middle class.

"We are in a difficult moment as a country right now, we can't hide that, but the Games were scheduled and I'm glad we could enjoy them," said Alessandro Freitas, also from Rio. One of the major concerns for Brazilians is what will be the final cost of the Games for a country and how much they actually helped improve the city's infrastructure. Many Rio residents could not afford tickets to events, leaving them feeling on the sidelines of the city's biggest undertaking. And come Monday, with the Games no longer a distraction, Brazil gets back to its dour reality of duelling political and economic crises. An impeachment vote in coming days could lead to the permanent ouster of suspended President Dilma Rousseff. Interim President Michel Temer, who was booed at the opening ceremony, decided not to attend the closing event. —Reuters

US NBA STARS RIP SERBIA FOR THIRD GOLD IN A ROW

RIO DE JANEIRO: Completing a third consecutive unbeaten run to gold, the United States crushed Serbia 96-66 in Sunday's Rio Games basketball final to win its sixth Olympic title with NBA talent in seven tries.

Kevin Durant scored 18 of his 30 points in the second quarter to trigger the rout, stretching the USA's Olympic winning streak to 25 games and its decade-long unbeaten string to 76 in what was the final gold medal match of the Games.

With the win, US forward Carmelo Anthony became the first man with three Olympic basketball gold medals.

He was on the 2004 team that settled for bronze, a result that sparked a re-organisation of the USA programmed that has gone unbeaten in the Games since.

"It was a special moment for me," Anthony, 32, said of the third gold. He ruled out returning for Tokyo 2020.

"I know this is the end. This is it for me. I committed to this in '04. I've seen the worst and I've seen the best. I'm here today three gold medals later."

It was the USA's 15th overall men's basketball gold medal since the sport was first added to the

Olympic line-up in 1936.

It was also the farewell game for US coach Mike Krzyzewski, who will be replaced by San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich.

A Serbian team that tested the US squad before falling 94-91 in a group stage game—the closest call yet in the Americans' long Olympic win streak—stayed close for barely a quarter before the NBA playmakers went wild.

Serbia led 14-11 with 3:12 remaining in the first quarter when the Americans, who opened the game shooting only 5-of-17 from the floor, began a 32-8 run to break it open.

Durant, who joins the NBA Western Conference champion Golden State Warriors next season, had 14 points in the pivotal spurt including a spectacular steal and fast-break slam dunk.

Although it went unbeaten, the USA was played a little too close for comfort in most of its Rio Games.

That raised doubts about the ability of the newly assembled team to play as a unit and handle the perpetual motion of international play.

Anthony and Durant were the only players to return from 2012. "It was the best thing that happened for us,"

centre DeMarcus Cousins said of those wake-up calls.

"It let us know that we had to take it to another level because it's not going to be a walk in the park. If anything, I think that was the best thing for us."

Cousins had 13 points and 15 rebounds in the game.

The first half ended with the Americans ahead 52-29 and playing like the confident, flamboyant side most expected to see once the roster was named. "We're a confident group. We corrected our mistakes and came together as a team. Winning's not always easy," Cousins said.

In the second half, it was only a matter of settling the final margin and adding to the USA highlight reel.

Durant and Anthony hugged late in the fourth quarter with the result long decided, and after the final buzzer, the Americans were dancing at mid-court in celebration.

Nemanja Nedovic led Serbia with 14 points.

Spain, which lost to the US team in the past two Olympic finals, edged Australia 89-88 in the bronze medal game. —AFP



RIO DE JANEIRO: The United States' basketball team poses with their gold medals at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday. —AP



ZAIN LAUNCHES ALL-NEW INTERNET PLANS



BANGKOK: Two models promoting a Nissan GT-R during the annual Big Motor Sale 2016 motorshow in Bangkok. Convention centers in Bangkok host a variety of motorshows several times a year to cater to consumer-driven demand for both new and used cars and motorcycles, but it is often the glamorous models known as "pretties" who take center stage at these events. —AFP

SAUDI TO DISCUSS ENERGY TIES WITH CHINA, JAPAN IRAN TO START USING NEW OIL AND GAS CONTRACT

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, plans to discuss energy cooperation agreements with China and Japan, the Saudi cabinet said yesterday. "The cabinet has approved to delegate a number of ministers to discuss with the Chinese side the following projects: a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the energy sector; an initial cooperation memorandum in the field of crude storage," a cabinet statement on state news agency SPA said.

Discussions with Japan for an MOU for cooperating in the energy sector were also approved by the cabinet, SPA said. Saudi Arabia has traditionally accounted for most of the crude imports by Asia, the world's biggest oil-consuming region. But recently OPEC's top producer has lost ground in a number of major markets including Russia and China, and faces a further threat from Iran, which is ramping up exports after the removal of Western sanctions.

The kingdom, however, has responded by pumping and shipping more oil, and with knock-down prices in Asia from state oil giant Saudi Aramco. In 2015, Asia accounted for 65 percent of

Saudi Aramco's oil exports; an increase from 62.3 percent a year earlier.

Aramco has been in talks with China's CNPC and Sinopec for investment opportunities in refining, marketing and petrochemicals, Saudi Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said earlier this year.

Saudi and Japanese officials had discussed in June possible Japanese investments into the planned initial public offering (IPO) of Aramco. Saudi Arabia's deputy crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, unveiled ambitious plans earlier this year aimed at ending the country's "addiction" to oil and transforming it into a global investment power. An IPO of less than 5 percent of state-run Aramco is a centerpiece of that effort. So big is Aramco given its rights to the crude reserves of Saudi Arabia, that selling even 1 percent of it would create the world's biggest IPO, Prince Mohammed has said. He expects the IPO will value Aramco at least at \$2 trillion.

New Iran contract

Meanwhile, Iran's Vice President Eshaq

Jahangiri has told the oil and finance ministries to start using the approved new draft for the Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC) for oil and gas deals, the Oil Ministry's news agency SHANA reported yesterday.

The launch of the IPC has been postponed several times as headline rivals of President Hassan Rouhani resisted any deal that could end the so-called buy-back system under which foreign firms were banned from owning stakes in Iranian companies.

Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh attended a parliamentary session on Sunday to answer criticisms of the IPC. He said last week the IPC would need minor amendments but that implementation of its final draft would not need the approval of parliament. SHANA published the general terms and conditions of the IPC, specifying that the new contracts are divided into three main categories: exploration, development of discovered fields that would lead to production, and enhanced oil recovery (EOR) to increase output. The Oil Ministry is allowed to sign contracts up to 20 years from the start of development.

This period can be extended for five years if EOR techniques are applied on a field.

A contract's fees will be paid in cash or as a share of output. Only Iranian exploration and production companies whose credibility has been approved by the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) can partner with foreign oil companies. NIOC is allowed to sign buy-back contracts for the development of discovered but undeveloped fields, after receiving case-by-case approval from the oil minister. According to the IPC, the second party would bear all costs and risks of exploration and production. The government, the Central Bank of Iran or any of the state banks will not guarantee any of the commitments in the contract.

Crude prices drop

Oil prices fell nearly 3 percent yesterday as China ramped up exports of refined products, US oil producers added rigs for an eighth consecutive week, and prospects emerged for increased exports from Iraq and Nigeria. Brent crude futures were trading at \$49.39 per barrel at

1028 GMT, down \$1.49 from their last close. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was down \$1.27 at \$47.25 a barrel. China's July exports of diesel and gasoline soared by 181.8 and 145.2 percent respectively compared with the same month last year, putting pressure on refined product margins. Because of the production and storage overhang in fuel markets, Barclays said a 20 percent price rally seen in August was unwarranted and that oil prices of \$50 or higher were unsustainable. "Oil prices will likely experience another short-term dip in the coming weeks," it added.

Adding to the bearish sentiment, US drillers added 10 oil rigs in the week to Aug. 19 as crude rebounded towards the key \$50 mark that makes a return to the well pad viable. "We expect the oil market next year to be somewhere between balanced and up to as much as 1 million barrels per day (bpd) in deficit," Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodity analyst at Nordic bank SEB, said. Schieldrop said the 32 rigs added in August alone would add close to 200,000 bpd of extra supply through 2017. —Reuters

NAMING OF NEW RBI CHIEF SHOWS MODI GOVT REGAINS COMPOSURE

NEW DELHI: Raghuram Rajan's abrupt announcement of his departure as governor of the Reserve Bank of India came as a nasty surprise to many, especially his fans in the investment community, but the way Urjit Patel was chosen as his successor has been anything but.

Aides to Prime Minister Narendra Modi have sought to show that the search and selection process has been deliberate and controlled, that the nation's leader and the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley were closely involved, and that the government is fully behind the RBI's battle to control inflation.

Critically for the stability of financial markets, Patel lent his name to the panel that drew up the blueprint for formally adopting a consumer inflation target of 4 percent, as well as creating a new Monetary Policy Committee to steer interest rates and help India hit that goal. At the same time, the officials have stressed that no single individual should again dominate the central bank in the way that Rajan did over his three-year term. Where Rajan is known for pithy one-liners at news conferences and speeches larded with social criticism, Patel is seen as more of a

backroom technocrat who avoids the limelight.

Rajan's shock announcement on the afternoon of June 18, a Saturday, caught the government off-guard - Jaitley was watching a movie at home with his family and took more than two hours to issue a public statement. The recovery of composure was quick, though. A shortlist of potential successors was floated before the evening was out. Patel, the 52-year-old deputy governor who takes over from Rajan on Sept. 4, was on it, along with a clutch of other contenders that included veterans of the RBI.

On Saturday evening, exactly nine weeks later, the choice was made public. And it was done without Modi holding meetings about the job with any of the candidates, according to sources with direct knowledge of the process. While Modi may have been involved in the final decision on Patel, he wanted to "keep his distance" in the weeks before the appointment committee ran the process, one aide told Reuters.

"Lobbying does not get you such a job - but Modi ji's confidence in Patel was a big factor," the official told Reuters, using the honorific Indian suffix. Patel has wide international policy experi-

ence. He worked at the IMF as an economist from 1990 to 1995, and for Boston Consulting Group and Indian conglomerate Reliance Industries (RELI.NS).

Sources said Patel had been vetted and his candidacy blessed by the Hindu-nationalist umbrella group, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), that backs Modi's nationalist party.

That marks a big change from its attitude to Rajan, who came under fire from the RSS camp and in particular from lawmaker Subramanian Swamy who demanded he be fired for being "mentally not fully Indian". Rajan this month denounced the personal attacks he had faced as "abominable".

Patel is looked on favourably as dependable and low-key, with no ambition to upstage the government. Rajan, by contrast, drew RSS ire by straying into politically sensitive territory in high-profile speeches in which he said social tolerance was vital to a country's economic development. That was perceived as an implied attack on the Hindu-nationalist agenda of the RSS and other supporters of Modi. Rajan has denied criticising the government. —Reuters

REGION HIT BY LOWER OIL, FED WORRIES

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Gulf stock markets sank yesterday as oil prices and global equities dropped because of the possibility of a US interest rate hike, while Dubai builder Drake & Scull dropped amid concern over its financial situation.

Brent crude dropped below \$50 a barrel on talk the US Federal Reserve might signal at a conference this week in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, that it is gearing up to raise interest rates. The Saudi stock index dropped 1.7 percent to 6,110 points, confirming a break of technical support on its early August low of 6,226 points. That triggered a bearish right triangle formed by the highs and lows since April and pointing down to the 5,600-point area in the medium term.

The market's drop was broad-based, with losers outnumbering gainers 160 to four. Saudi Industrial Investment Group plunged 7.7 percent in its heaviest trade since April. Dubai's index dropped 0.7 percent as Drake & Scull, the most heavily traded stock, lost 3.0 percent. It has slipped 10 percent since mid-August, when it posted a big second-quarter net loss; the Gulf construction industry has been hit hard by an

economic slowdown due to low oil prices, and companies have had difficulties obtaining payments in Saudi Arabia.

Qatar's index dropped 0.7 percent. It has now erased most of the gains posted last week on expectations for foreign fund inflows when FTSE upgrades the market to emerging-market status in mid-September. Among major losers, petrochemical producer Industries Qatar dropped 1.2 percent and Qatar National Bank (QNB), the Gulf's biggest listed lender, slid 1.6 percent.

But drilling rig provider Gulf International Services rose 0.7 percent to 36.90 riyals after QNB rated the stock "outperform" with a price target of 45 riyals, though that was down from a previous target of 53 riyals. In Egypt, the index slid 1.3 percent with real estate firm Palm Hills Development sagging 3.5 percent and Emaar Misr down 2.7 percent.

However, Minapharm Pharmaceuticals jumped 5.5 percent in thin trade after saying first-half net profit jumped 34 percent from a year earlier. —Reuters

KUWAIT'S REAL GDP GROWS 1.8% IN 2015

RECORD HIGH INVESTMENT BOOSTS GROWTH, BUT OIL SECTOR SHRINKS

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Preliminary national account figures show overall GDP growth accelerating to 1.8 percent in 2015 from 0.5 percent in 2014, boosted by record high investment. While the figures show nonoil GDP growth slowing to 1.3 percent in 2015, we think growth will likely be revised higher when final figures are published later. Data prepared by the Central Statistical Bureau (CSB) also show domestic demand growth improving in 2015, with stronger investment growth making up for some weakness in government and private consumption.

The oil sector, which includes the production of crude oil and natural gas as well as oil refining activity, shrank by 1.7 percent in 2015 in real terms. The decline, which represents the third year of decreasing real output, was not due to lower crude production, which was essentially flat averaging 2.86 million barrels per day in 2015. Instead, the sector's contraction was due to a 19 percent decline in refining activity during 2015, according to the CSB. It is not clear why there was such a decline especially with independent figures indicating that Kuwait's refining output grew by around 3 percent during the year. Notably, over the last five years, changes in real output have largely mirrored changes in this sector's nominal GDP.

In nominal terms, oil sector GDP plunged in 2015 on a sharp decline in the price of oil last year. As the average price of Kuwaiti crude declined by half to \$48 per barrel during 2015, nominal oil sector GDP saw a 46 percent decline. This followed an 11 percent decrease in 2014. The price of Kuwait export crude (KEC) has fallen further since, averaging \$35 during the first seven months of 2016.

In real terms, the nonoil sector

showed a surprising slowdown in 2015 to 1.3 percent, though we think this figure will likely be revised upwards. The largest decline was in the "electricity, gas and water" sector, which, according to official preliminary figures, shrank by 9.8 percent. The government-dominated "public administration and defense" sector also saw a notable slowdown with growth slowing to 2.4 percent. Weakness also came from "wholesale and retail trade" and "financial institutions and insurance". Meanwhile, "real estate and business services" remained in contracting mode, shrinking by 1.4 percent in 2015.

Investment saw a strong boost in 2015 as Development Plan implementation improved. Aggregate investment spending grew by 13 percent during the year, rising to 36 percent of nonoil GDP, a level that has not been recorded for over 20 years. This strength does not come as a surprise, given the clear pick up seen in the awarding of Development Plan projects during 2014 and 2015. Bank lending has also reflected the solid increase in capital spending, as credit growth rose to 8.5 percent year-on-year (y/y) by the end of 2015.

Strong investment helped support domestic demand, which saw growth accelerate in 2015. Domestic demand, which includes final consumption by households and the government as well as investment, grew by 4.4 percent in 2015, up from 3.1 percent the year before. But unlike investment, private and government consumption did not do as well, both appearing to take a hit in the current low oil price environment. Private consumption growth was more than halved to 2.4 percent. Meanwhile, government consumption saw a small decline of 0.5 percent, similar to the one seen in 2014. The latest figures reveal a

Table: Gross domestic product

	2015 KD bn nominal	Real growth		
		2013 % y/y real	2014 % y/y real	2015 % y/y real
Oil sector	15.71	-1.8	-2.1	-1.7
Crude oil & gas extraction	14.77	-1.8	-1.3	-0.8
Refining	0.94	-1.7	-15.6	-19.5
Nonoil sector	23.86	4.2	4.8	1.3
Public administration and defense	3.98	12.5	7.4	3.0
Financial institutions and insurance	3.45	1.7	5.4	3.4
Real estate and business services	3.38	0.0	-2.6	-1.4
Transport, storage and communication	2.50	2.7	2.5	1.1
Education	2.15	5.0	2.5	0.3
Wholesale and retail trade	1.78	4.0	6.1	2.3
Manufacturing (excl. refining)	1.37	-0.9	-10.7	0.4
Health and social work	1.22	4.1	6.4	6.7
Construction	1.00	2.0	0.5	8.4
Electricity, gas and water	1.09	11.5	67.2	-9.8
Other sectors	1.92	5.3	0.7	2.0
GDP at producer prices	39.57	0.8	1.0	-0.3
minus: imputed bank service	2.01	6.1	2.9	0.8
plus: taxes less subsidies on products	-3.25	-4.6	5.4	-22.3
GDP at market prices	34.31	1.1	0.5	1.8

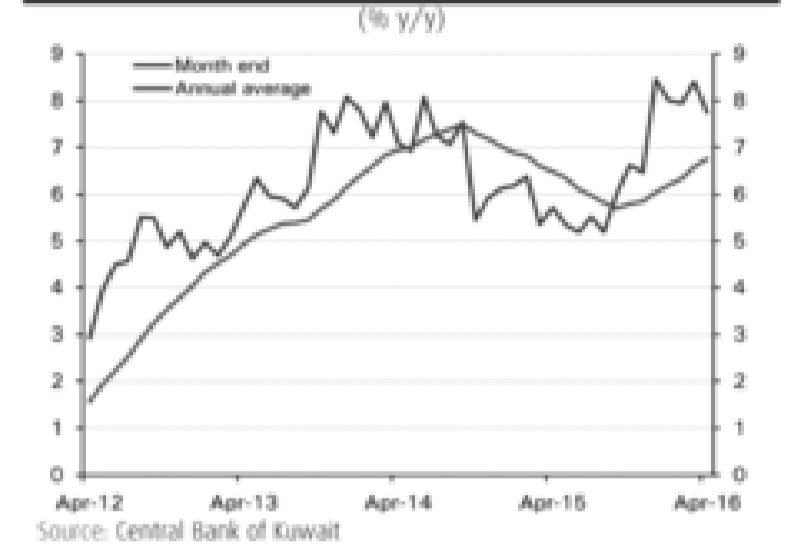
Source: Central Statistical Bureau

notable upward revision in 2014 nonoil GDP growth. According to the latest revised figures, the nonoil sector grew by 4.8 percent in 2014, the most rapid pace since the 2008 financial crisis, up from a preliminary 4.2 percent. Growth in aggregate investment and private consumption also benefited from upward revisions. Meanwhile, government consumption was revised substantially downwards, with a preliminary growth estimate of 8.8 percent for 2014 revised to a 0.8 percent contraction.

In our view, nonoil activity is expected to maintain growth of

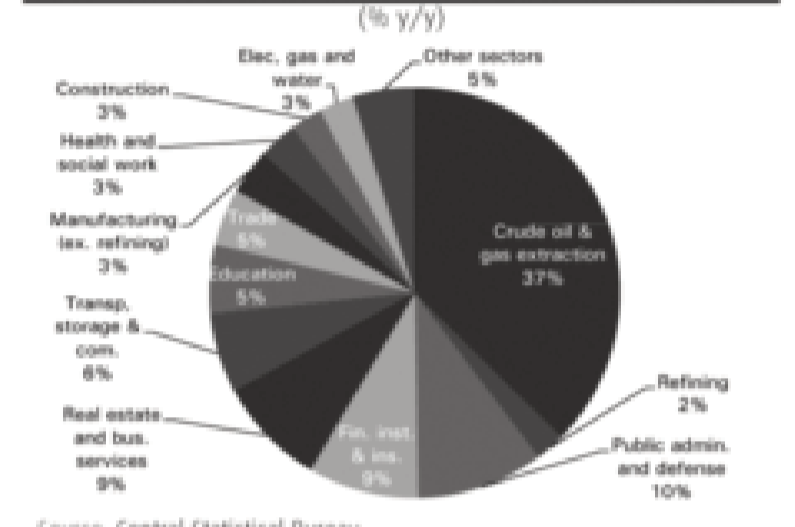
around 4-5 percent in 2016 and 2017, and 2015 growth is likely to be revised up. Growth ahead should continue to be supported by strong investment spending as Development Plan implementation maintains the current, improved pace of execution. Authorities remain keen to push ahead with strategic projects worth upwards of KD 30 billion over the next 3-4 years despite the low oil prices. Very comfortable fiscal buffers and a number of fiscal reforms should help Kuwait weather a period of reduced oil revenues without having to resort to cuts in planned capital spending.

Chart 4: Credit growth (% y/y)



Source: Central Bank of Kuwait

Chart 5: GDP by sector (% y/y)



Source: Central Statistical Bureau

News

In brief

US dollar stable against KD at 0.301

KUWAIT: The US dollar's exchange rate against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at 0.301 yesterday while the euro's rate went down to KD 0.339, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK). The rate of the Sterling Pound went down to KD 0.392, the same case with the Swiss franc which exchanged at KD 0.312. The rate of the Japanese yen stood firm at KD 0.003.

OPEC basket up 32 cents to \$46.82 pb

VIENNA: The price of the OPEC basket last Friday was up 32 cents to reach \$46.82 per barrel as oppose to \$46.50 pb the day before, said a statement by the organization yesterday. According to the OPEC bulletin, the monthly average of the basket last July was at \$42.68 pb. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Rabi Light (Gabon), Minas (Indonesia), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

Iraq exports more cargoes of LPG, condensates

BAGHDAD: Iraq exported two new cargoes of liquefied petroleum gas and one cargo of gas condensates, the oil ministry said in a statement yesterday. The shipments were exported from the southern ports, on the Gulf, it said. The OPEC nation this year began exporting LPG and condensates from gas associated with oil produced at its southern fields.

BAHRAIN'S GFH MAY BUY CONTROL OF BANK AL-KHAIR

DUBAI: Bahrain-based Islamic investment bank GFH Financial Group, a casualty of the global financial crisis, has signed a memorandum of understanding to buy a majority stake in Bahrain's Bank Al-Khair, the latest sign it is back in expansion mode.

In a statement yesterday, GFH didn't give any financial details but said the acquisition, if it went ahead, would "create a larger financial group having banking operations within GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council), UK, Malaysia, Turkey, Pakistan and India". Founded in 2004, Bank Al-Khair is an Islamic bank with total assets of \$580.5 million as of March 2016, according to Thomson Reuters data. GFH has assets of \$2.70 billion, the data shows.

Crippled during the global financial crisis in 2008, GFH went through several debt restructurings and is now positioning itself as a financial holding company. It revealed plans in May to list its Bahrain subsidiary Khaleeji Commercial Bank in Dubai and said it would acquire a financial services company to increase shareholder value.

In June 2013, Khaleeji Commercial and Bank Al-Khair signed a memorandum of understanding to evaluate the feasibility of a merger between them, but the plan was dropped in early 2014 after they failed to agree on terms. Bahrain's central bank has been encouraging smaller lenders to merge to strengthen themselves after a local real estate crash and fall-out from the island kingdom's political unrest.

GFH's acquisition of a stake in Bank Al-Khair is subject to approval by the boards of directors and shareholders of the banks, as well as completion of due diligence and regulatory approvals. Dubai-listed GFH said, adding that the structure of the acquisition also had to be agreed.

The acquisition would benefit shareholders of the combined entity, although the impact on GFH's financial position cannot be measured at the moment, it added.

GFH has been buying assets actively since last year. Last October it agreed to acquire a US industrial real estate portfolio in a deal worth \$125 million, and in May last year it said it would buy a mall in the Saudi Arabian city of Jeddah for \$48 million. Earlier this month, GFH said it had repaid \$45 million worth of debt, bringing its total syndicated liabilities down to \$105 million. In 2008, it had liabilities of over \$1 billion. — Reuters

KSE STOCKS EDGE LOWER AMID SELLING PRESSURE

KUWAIT: The key indices of Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) slid into the red zone yesterday amid a persisting lackluster atmosphere and absence of incentives in the market. Stocks under umbrella of the key index, Kuwait-15, dominated the operations, by approximately 80 percent of trading value. Stocks of the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) were valued at more than KD 2 million, while those of Kuwait Finance House stood at KD 1.6 million.

Stocks of the transport, financial services and insurance sectors were in the green zone, amid selective trades on shares of the other sectors. Yesterday's activity focused on bullish shares of 22 companies, unlike those of 47 others that shed losses among 115 companies that got involved in the deals.

Kuwait-15 index possessed 12.6 million shares, valued at more than KD 6.09 million, done in 363 spot transactions, thus the index closed at 810.63 points. Among the effective

news at the market today was a report saying that JFH Group signed a MoU with Bank AlKhair to acquire most of its shares. Other attention-drawing news were those related to the financial revelations by the Kuwait-Egyptian Holding for Q2, 2016, which climbed 16 percent as compared to the same period of 2015. The profits were estimated at \$10.98 million, in contrast to \$9.47 million for Q2, 2015.

The Kuwait-Egyptian Holding's statement showed posting net profits amounting to \$32.2 million for 1H, 2016, against \$22.8 million the same period last year, growing by 40.7 percent.

The KSE ended trading in the red zone yesterday. The price index moved down 24.57 points to stand at 5,443.2 points, the weighted index was also down 1.51 points to read 348.95 points, and the KSX 15 index shed 2.66 points reaching 810.63. Value of trade was KD 8 million while the volume was 42 million shares, done through 1,380 deals. —KUNA

ZIMBABWE STOPS HIRING PUBLIC WORKERS AS IT STRUGGLES TO PAY

HARARE: Zimbabwe has stopped hiring new state workers after failing to pay its soldiers and teachers on time, according to an official notice, as President Robert Mugabe's government struggles with a big financial squeeze. The southern African nation dumped its hyperinflation-hit currency in 2009 and adopted the US dollar, but it is facing biting dollar shortages and is struggling to secure international financing.

August salaries for the army and teachers have been delayed by a week. Such delays could fuel political tensions in Zimbabwe, which has also been

hit by drought and a drop in mineral prices, all factors behind recent protests against 92-year-old Mugabe, the only leader independent Zimbabwe has known. Zimbabwe first announced it plans to freeze new hirings for public workers after a March 2015 civil service audit, whose results were never made public. Pretty Sunguro, the secretary in the Public Service Commission, which employs all state workers, said in a memorandum dated Aug. 2 to all government departments that it had frozen "the filling of all vacant critical, non-critical and promotional posts with immediate effect." — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	3.014
Indian Rupees	4.508
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084
Nepali Rupees	2.832
Singapore Dollar	225.960
Hongkong Dollar	38.953
Bangladesh Taka	3.850
Philippine Peso	6.530
Thai Baht	8.760

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.576
Qatari Riyal	83.001
UAE Dirham	784.823
Bahraini Dinar	802.440
UAE Dirham	82.266

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.960
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.395
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.213
Tunisian Dinar	138.850
Jordanian Dinar	426.370
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.013
Syrian Lira	2.0153
Morocco Dirham	31.723

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.000
Euro	343.830
Sterling Pound	396.530
Canadian dollar	236.490
Turkish Lira	103.780

Swiss Franc	317.730
Australian Dollar	232.990
US Dollar Buying	300.800

GOLD

20 Gram	270.000
10 Gram	137.920
5 Gram	69.800

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	302.350
Canadian Dollr	235.150
Sterling Pound	396.015
Euro	343.430
Swiss Frank	291.620
Bahrain Dinar	799.280
UAE Dirhams	82.550
Qatari Riyals	83.760
Saudi Riyals	81.350
Jordanian Dinar	426.035
Egyptian Pound	33.951
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.080
Indian Rupees	4.495
Pakistani Rupees	2.882
Bangladesh Taka	3.847
Philippines Peso	6.674
Cyprus pound	159.355
Japanese Yen	4.006
Syrian Pound	2.400
Nepalese Rupees	3.810
Malaysian Ringgit	75.965
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	46.025
Thai Bhat	9.700
Turkish Lira	103.350

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

CURRENCY	BUY		SELL
	BUY	SELL	
Europe			
British Pound	0.389180	0.404180	
Czech Korune	0.004679	0.016679	
Danish Krone	0.041990	0.046990	
Euro	0.0337100	0.0346100	
Norwegian Krone	0.033019	0.038219	
Romanian Leu	0.086616	0.086616	
Slovakia	0.008986	0.018986	
Swedish Krona	0.032125	0.037125	
Swiss Franc	0.308293	0.319293	
Turkish Lira	0.097722	0.108022	
Australasia			
Australian Dollar	0.222456	0.234456	
New Zealand Dollar	0.214063	0.223563	
America			
Canadian Dollar	0.229454	0.238454	
Georgina Lari	0.136374	0.136374	
US Dollars	0.297850	0.302550	
US Dollars Mint	0.298350	0.302550	
Asia			
Bangladesh Taka	0.003341	0.003925	
Chinese Yuan	0.043869	0.047369	
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036858	0.039608	
Indian Rupee	0.004294	0.004683	

Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002937	0.003117
Kenyan Shilling	0.003106	0.003106
Korean Won	0.000260	0.000275
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071596	0.077596
Nepalese Rupee	0.002840	0.003010
Pakistan Rupee	0.002677	0.002967
Philippine Peso	0.006322	0.006622
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.220116	0.230116
South African Rand	0.016576	0.025076
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001637	0.002217
Taiwan	0.009540	0.009720
Thai Baht	0.008306	0.008856

Arab	
Bahraini Dinar	0.794360
Egyptian Pound	0.024588
Iranian Riyal	0.000084
Iraqi Dinar	0.000180
Jordanian Dinar	0.421721
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019545
Nigerian Naira	0.001244
Omani Riyal	0.777866
Qatar Riyal	0.082127
Saudi Riyal	0.079433
Syrian Pound	0.001279
Tunisian Dinar	0.134954
Turkish Lira	0.097722
UAE Dirhams	0.080784
Yemeni Riyal	0.001364

TURKISH AIRLINES HOSTS 50 INFLUENTIAL MEDIA FROM ME

DUBAI: Turkish Airlines, Europe's best airline for the sixth year in a row, and flying to more countries and international destinations than any other airline in the world, is highlighting the continued growth of Turkey as a business and tourism hubby hosting 50 influential media from the Middle East.

The media familiarization trip included journalists from the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq. The five-day trip from August 5 to 9, 2016, covered four different cities including Istanbul, Samsun, Ordu and Trabzon.

Ilker Ayçi, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board & the Executive Committee, hosted the media at the headquarters of Turkish Airlines. He welcomed the media and specifically highlighted the all-round growth and the socio-economic progress of Turkey and Turkish Airlines, in addition to the airline's future growth strategies and goals, and its commitment to expand its destination network to fly the most number of passengers. He also said that Istanbul Ataturk Airport, the hub airport of Turkish Airlines, is competing to be the best in Europe in 'Passenger Traffic,' which is supported by the flag carrier by flying to more countries and international destinations than any other airline in the world. After successfully welcoming 62 million passengers worldwide by the end of last year, Ayçi stressed that his overall strategies will play a key role in reaching approximately 65 million passengers by the end of 2016. The media had a tour of Istanbul visiting the areas including the Blue Mosque, a popular tourist site, as well as toured the Bosphorus



DUBAI: Journalists from the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq pose for a photograph with Ilker Ayçi during a photo session.

Bridge and Camlica Hills. In the last three days of the trip, they visited Samsun, which is well known for its large number of 5 star hotels and touristic & leisure attractions such as the waterski show, boat trip, horse riding, experiencing Amazon

Warriors Village and bike tours, and Sultan's fishing area.

They also toured Trabzon, another city famous for its luxurious hotel and touristic attractions such as the Ayasofya Museum, Ataturk Pavilion



Ilker Ayçi, Turkish Airlines Chairman.

and Uzungol Park Festival, among others. At Ordu, the visiting media were offered a breath-taking experience with a visit to the biggest strawberry field of Blacksea, and a tour around the Giresun Castle and a boat tour around Giresun Island.



CHONGQING: Apartment buildings in Chongqing. Claiming to be the world's largest building by floor space, the 1,760,000 square metres of the New Century Global Center are a monument to growing Chinese consumer power, packed with shoppers and beach bathers a thousand kilometres from the coast. —AFP

CHINA GOVT ON HOOK FOR BANKS' SHRINKING CAPITAL

HONG KONG: Hit by bad loans, Chinese banks are expected to show a weakening in their capital strength in first-half earnings, raising the prospect that government might have to inject more than \$100 billion to shore them up, according to some analysts.

There are early signs that government is already taking action to help some of the smaller banks, which are struggling to maintain their capital ratios as China's economy slows, interest margins fall, and bad debts climb.

"We believe the recapitalisation and bailout process is already discretely underway. However, it has gone unnoticed as it has started with the smaller, unlisted banks," said Jason Bedford, sector analyst with UBS. "We expect this process to accelerate sharply in 2017, particularly among listed joint stock banks," Bedford told Reuters, adding closing the capital shortfall would require an infusion of \$172 billion.

The largest banks, including Agricultural Bank of China Ltd and Bank of Communications Co Ltd, start reporting earnings this week, and brokerage Daiwa estimates sector-wide profit growth in the first six months of 2016 will remain at just 0.7 percent.

In the April-June quarter, the banking sector's core capital adequacy ratio, on average, declined by an average 27-28 basis points from the preceding quarter, Daiwa said in a report, citing data released by the regulator. Bedford said in a report earlier this month that fundraising by smaller banks was partly driven by local government pressure to maintain credit growth and cushion the economic slowdown. At the same time, the banking regulator wants banks to clean up their balance sheets by providing more for doubtful loans and cutting exposure to shadow lending, which for weaker banks could require extra capital or mergers with the strong.

While the country's top five banks had a substantial capital buffer of around 14 percent at the end of 2015, smaller banks are sailing much closer to the wind, putting the sector's weighted average Tier 1 capital at 10.69 percent at end-June, down from 10.96 percent a quarter earlier.

That is barely above the 10.5 percent minimum that the banks in China would need to achieve by 2018. China Banking Regulatory Commission did not respond to requests for comment.

BAD DEBT HANGOVER

Roshan Padamadan, equities fund manager with Singapore-based Luminance Global Fund, expects China's banks will need about \$100 billion a year over the

next few years, while Wei Hou, senior equity analyst for China banks at research firm Sanford C. Bernstein in Hong Kong, estimates they will need \$75 billion over the next year. "If ... government or the bank management teams decide to take a big bet and write off most of the bad loans in the next year or two, then that will create much higher capital pressure for mid and smaller banks," Hou added.

Chinese banks' non-performing loans are at nearly 2 percent, the highest since the global financial crisis in 2009, according to the CBRC, but some analysts believe the ratio could be between 15 and 35 percent, as many banks are slow to recognise problem loans or park them off balance sheet.

Not all analysts think the banks will need government cash. Of the 10 China-focused analysts and fund managers who spoke to Reuters, three, including a leading global credit rating agency, said the lenders could avoid it by repackaging non-performing loans into marketable securities. If they do need funding, however, they will struggle to persuade private investors to part with their cash, as most Chinese bank shares are trading below the book value of their assets, and rating agencies have a negative outlook on the sector.

That leaves government on the hook for capital shortfalls, a phenomenon reminiscent of the bailouts seen in the West after the global financial crisis of 2008. The mechanisms for getting government cash into the banks are already being limbered up. In recent months company filings show at least half a dozen listed banks including China Everbright Bank, China Minsheng bank and Bank of Beijing have received approval for raising capital, mainly through preference shares.

Analysts say the shares are likely to be taken up by state-backed insurance firms and provincial governments. Mid-tier lender Industrial Bank last month raised \$3.9 billion via a private placement of shares from provincial governments and state-owned China Tobacco.

And at the weekend online financial magazine Caixin said Bohai Steel Group, the indebted state-owned conglomerate whose creditors include the Bank of Beijing, may receive help from a local government bailout fund to restructure its debts.

"Banks are set to write off (bad debts) with ... provisions, or perhaps to try other market measures, such as securitization or asset management companies," said Qinwei Wang, an economist at London-based asset manager Pioneer Investments.

"Should this not be enough, governments and the PBOC (People's Bank of China) are ultimately expected to step in," he said. — Reuters

VW CUTS 28,000 WORKERS' HOURS OVER SUPPLY WOES

MINISTERS TO STEP IN IF MEDIATION IS NEEDED

FRANKFURT: Embattled auto giant Volkswagen said yesterday it would halt production at six plants in Germany for several days as a legal dispute with two key suppliers deepened.

Around 27,700 workers would have their work hours slashed by the end of August in a new headache for the group which is struggling to move past an emissions cheating scandal that is costing billions.

VW had been forced to take the drastic measures at the factories that produce some of its most popular models including Passat sedans and Golf compacts after the two suppliers of gearbox parts and seat covers halted deliveries. "Although the state court in Brunswick issued temporary injunctions requiring the suppliers to resume deliveries, they so far haven't fulfilled this obligation," the VW statement read.

Instead, the components' manufacturers are holding out while they appeal the court decision. VW said it was holding talks with the suppliers yesterday and that it "wishes to achieve a result through negotiations". At the same time, it may also pursue legal means, a spokesman said.

The parts suppliers say that VW broke off several contracts with no advance warning or compensation, leaving them with no choice but to suspend deliveries to protect their own businesses and workforce. A spokesman for Prevent, the parent company of the two firms, told German business daily Handelsblatt on Friday that VW was imposing "unacceptable conditions" on its suppliers. Handelsblatt also reported that VW has been seeking concessions from all of its suppliers, amounting to several billion euros. The battle has also angered Volkswagen worker representatives, who complained that employees are paying for a war between the manufacturer and its suppliers which they had no role in starting. Affected factories include Emden, Zwickau, Kassel, Salzgitter, Brunswick, and a key site at the firm's headquarters of Wolfsburg.

Both VW and Prevent "have a serious responsibility to address this problem and solve it as constructively as possible," a spokesman for the federal economy ministry said yesterday.

Meanwhile, the economy ministers of Saxony and Lower Saxony states offered to act as mediators between the two sides should the need



WOLFSBURG: A giant logo of the German car manufacturer Volkswagen is pictured on top of a company's factory building in Wolfsburg, Germany. — AP

arise. Separately, Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler confirmed on Monday that it too was engaged in a court battle with Prevent-but that unlike VW it was experiencing "no delivery problems".

The Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper reported that the Stuttgart firm had cancelled some of its contracts with the component supplier in 2013.

Vulnerability

One car industry expert told AFP that Volkswagen left itself vulnerable as it depended on a single supplier for critical gearbox casings. "It should never be the case that a global company has a medium-sized company as its sole supplier," Ferdinand Dudenhofer of the University of Duisburg-Essen said.

Volkswagen, which also owns brands from luxury Audi to lower-end Skoda, is still in the throes of its biggest-ever crisis after it admitted in September 2015 to a massive emissions cheating scandal affecting 11 million diesel engines. The revelation slashed the carmaker's

share price by 40 percent—a drop in market value of 25 billion euros—in two days.

Chief executive Martin Winterkorn stepped down over the scandal, and prosecutors in the US said in July that his successor, Matthias Mueller, may also have known of cars' failure to meet emissions standards as early as 2006. VW has had to set aside billions of dollars to settle damage claims from car owners and to retrofit the affected cars. It secured preliminary approval for a \$14.7-billion settlement from a California judge in July. But several German states are examining legal action to claw back losses to pension schemes and other holders of VW shares. The company may also be forced to pay out for environmental damages in cases brought by several US states. Analysts have estimated the final cost of the affair at between 20 and 30 billion euros—a steep price tag even for a firm with annual sales of around 200 billion. Shares in VW slid 0.3 percent to reach 119.55 euros on Monday afternoon, while Frankfurt's DAX eased 0.3 percent. — AFP

OIL SURGES AS HEDGE FUNDS REDUCE SHORT POSITIONS

LONDON: Hedge funds executed one of the fastest U-turns on record this month as managers turned from super-bearish to cautiously bullish about the outlook for oil prices. Hedge funds and other money managers increased their net long position in the three main Brent and WTI futures and options contracts by 118 million barrels in the week to Aug. 16. The record one-week increase in net longs came after hedge funds had already boosted their net long position by 48 million barrels the previous week. Most of the adjustment has come from the short side of the market, where hedge fund managers convinced that oil prices would fall further were wrong-footed by the sudden rally. Short positions were reduced by 114 million barrels (31 percent) between Aug 2 and Aug 16. The furious race to buy back short positions sent prices higher. Front-month Brent futures prices jumped from \$41.50 a barrel on Aug. 2 to \$49.23 on Aug. 16 and continued rising to reach \$50.88 on Aug. 19 for an increase of more than 20 percent. The recoil in short positioning was particularly violent in the WTI contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Hedge funds had established a record short position of 220 million barrels in NYMEX WTI by Aug. 9, but this was followed by a record one-week 54 million barrel reduction in short positions by Aug. 16.

FOURTH CYCLE

Hedge funds have established a large concentration of short positions in NYMEX WTI four times since the start of 2015. Each time the accumulation of short positions has coincided with a downturn in WTI prices, followed by an uptrend as the short positions have been liquidated. In this instance, the fourth short-selling cycle shifted from the accumulation phase to the liquidation phase around the middle of August. Some hedge fund managers seem to have positioned themselves to take advantage of an expected short-covering rally by establishing new long positions. Nonetheless, the speed and scale of the rally appears to have caught many traders off guard, adding to the violence of the move. Market chatter about a possible production freeze after next month's meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC oil ministers in Algeria fuelled a recoil that would probably have happened in any event.

Following the short-covering rally, the balance of risks appears more even, or maybe tilted slightly to the downside. Despite the rally there was still an unusually large number of short positions across the major Brent and WTI contracts on Aug. 16, with potential for more short covering if prices continue to rise. But the number of hedge fund long positions has increased in each of the past six weeks by a total of 75 million barrels. — Reuters

PFIZER SAYS ACQUIRING MEDIATION FOR \$14BN

NEW YORK: Pfizer will purchase biotech firm Medivation, which specializes in cancer treatments, for some \$14 billion, the US pharma giant said in a statement yesterday. Pfizer's offer for the San Francisco-based Medivation goes far beyond the company's market value of \$11.1 billion.

The boards of directors of both companies have unanimously approved the merger, the statement said. "The proposed acquisition of Medivation is expected to immediately accelerate revenue growth and drive overall earnings growth potential for Pfizer," said Ian Read, Pfizer chairman and chief executive officer.

The transaction is a snub to the French pharmaceutical group Sanofi, which earlier offered \$58 a share, which Medivation rejected in last month. Medivation turned down an uninvited offer worth about \$10 billion from Sanofi as "not in the best interests" of its shareholders.

The company's founder said Pfizer, by contrast, was the ideal marriage partner. "We believe the combination with Pfizer is the right next step in our growth trajectory and is a testament to the passion and dedication by which the Medivation team has delivered on our mission to profoundly transform patients' lives through medically innovative therapies," said David Hung, founder, president and CEO of Medivation.

"This compelling transaction will deliver significant and immediate value to our stockholders and provides new opportunities for our employees as part of a larger company." By purchasing Medivation, Pfizer would add to its portfolio the drug Xtandi, a promising treatment against prostate cancer that analysts estimate will generate some \$1.33 billion in annual sales by 2020.

It also produces the promising new talazoparib breast cancer drug, currently in a phase three study. The purchase of Medivation, if approved by regulators, would be Pfizer's biggest buy since it bought the medical device company Hospira last year for \$17 billion. — AFP

WORLD STOCKS FALL AS INVESTORS AWAIT FED HIKE SIGNAL

LONDON: World stocks edged lower and the dollar strengthened yesterday on expectations the Federal Reserve will give a signal this week that it is gearing up to raise US interest rates.

An upbeat assessment of the US economy's strength from Fed Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer on Sunday was seen raising the prospect of Fed chair Janet Yellen flagging up a rate rise at a meeting with the world's central bankers on Friday. The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six major currencies, rose 0.2 percent to 94.718, pulling away from a six-week low hit last week after minutes of the

Fed's last policy meeting showed rate-setters split on when to hike.

"Fischer didn't necessarily state when the Fed has decided to hike rates, but his remarks seemed to be alluding that a rate hike might be round the corner," said Craig Erlam, a senior market analyst at OANDA. European stocks fell 0.11 percent, having received a temporary boost in early trading by Syngenta after its proposed takeover by ChemChina was approved by US regulators. Eurozone stock markets rose yesterday looking ahead to a key meeting of central bankers at the end of the week, but London

retreated on heavy falls for heavyweight mining shares. Around 1000 GMT, London's benchmark FTSE 100 was down 0.4 percent compared with the close on Friday.

In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 rose 0.3 percent and the Paris CAC 40 gained 0.2 percent. Investors were looking ahead to "a relatively quiet week with (Fed chief) Janet Yellen headlining on Friday with her speech" at the Jackson Hole gathering of central bankers, said Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at Oanda trading group.

"The Jackson Hole event has previously been a platform for the Fed to provide more clarity to

the markets and warn about upcoming policy changes, something the market is currently in desperate need of."

The dollar rose against the euro and yen yesterday after the Federal Reserve's vice chairman said the US economy was picking up. Stanley Fischer on Sunday said that the world's top economy was meeting all the Fed's targets and that growth would improve, hinting that borrowing costs could rise this year.

"It has become clear in recent days that Fed officials are increasingly divided over the timing of when to move on rates next, and their constant briefings to the market aren't helping in this regard, which probably explains why US markets have struggled for direction in the past few weeks," said Michael Hewson, chief market analyst at CMC Markets UK.

Minutes of the Federal Reserve's July meeting published last week showed that policymakers wanted to keep their "options open" for monetary policy as they assess the global economic outlook.

The board was divided on the near-term danger of inflation, with some seeing little threat but others worried that there could be a sudden upward push on prices as the jobs market tightens. In London yesterday meanwhile, the FTSE was weighed down by a drop in prices of dollar-denominated industrial and precious metals. "It's the FTSE's commodity contingent that is holding the index back... with a stronger dollar derived from hawkish Fed chat weighing on metals prices," said Mike van Dulken,

head of research at Accendo Markets. Many emerging countries borrow heavily in US dollars meaning an appreciation in the greenback makes it more expensive for them to service their debt. Interest rate futures contracts indicate that the market is pricing in about 50/50 odds of a US rate increase by the end of the year.

Asian shares slipped yesterday, while the dollar lifted off last week's lows on expectations a signal might emerge from a Federal Reserve gathering this week in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, that the US central bank is gearing up to hike interest rates. Global central bankers will join the annual mountain retreat that opens on Thursday, with Fed Chair Janet Yellen due to speak on Friday. The weaker yen proved a boon for Japan's Nikkei which closed up 0.3 percent. It skidded 2.2 percent last week, as the dollar dipped below 100 yen.

China's CSI 300 index retreated 0.6 percent and the Shanghai Composite lost 0.5 percent as investors took profits. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.4 percent.

On Sunday, Fed Vice Chairman Stanley Fischer gave a generally upbeat assessment of the US economy's current strength, saying the job market was close to full strength and still improving. "Fischer's comments have raised some expectations in the market, particularly after (New York Fed President William) Dudley's recent comments," said Ayako Sera, market strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank. Last week, Dudley said a rate hike would be possible in September. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

22-Aug-16

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -24.57	5,443.20	5,467.77	5,469.88	5,435.42
Weighted Index	▼ -1.51	348.95	350.46	351.79	348.58
KXSX 15	▼ -2.66	810.63	813.29	818.47	810.05

Volume	42,029,655
Value (KWD)	8,105,956
Number of Trades	1,393

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
MARIN	86	86	250	22	1	86	▼ -5.0
IKARUS	32.0	29.5	2,424,258	74,520	50	29.5	▼ -2.5
IPG	375	375	3,000	1,125	1	375	▼ -25.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	690	— 0.0
ENERGYH	48.5	45.5	3,250	150	3	45.5	▼ -0.5
GPI	39.5	39.0	1,979,150	78,019	20	39.0	▼ -0.5
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			4,409,908	153,836	75	747.96	▼ -16.71

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
KFOUC	164	164	20,827	3,416	3	164	▼ -2.0
BPCC	490	490	28,443	13,937	4	490	— 0.0
ALQOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650	— 0.0
ALLOURAIN	196	196	44,591	8,740	10	196	▼ -4.0
Basic Materials			93,861	26,093	17	936.12	▼ -7.17

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
KCEM	380	380	10,000	3,800	2	380	— 0.0
REFRI	315	315	508	160	1	315	▼ -25.0
CABLE	380	380	41,817	15,890	7	380	▼ -5.0
SHIP	168	164	179,421	29,525	10	168	▲ 2.0
PCEM	960	960	962	924	1	960	▼ -20.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	— 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	— 0.0
AGICO	290	290	5,350	1,552	3	290	▲ 10.0
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128	— 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	194	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	— 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	— 0.0
GYSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	62	62	1,500	93	1	62	▼ -1.0
AGLTY	480	480	731,040	350,899	14	480	— 0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	— 0.0
CLEANING	38.5	38.5	1,000	39	1	38.5	▼ -1.0
KGL	45.0	42.5	218,865	9,417	27	43.5	— 0.0
KPCPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	— 0.0
HUMANSOFT	1,580	1,500	15,550	24,255	6	1,500	▼ -60.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
SAFWAN	380	375	35,000	13,275	3	380	— 0.0
GFC	27.0	27.0	500	14	1	27.0	— 0.0
MAYADEEN	29.5	29.0	854,242	24,789	22	29.5	▲ 0.5
CGC	670	630	8,999	4,809	3	670	▼ -10.0
MTCC	58	57	396,905	20,344	13	57	▼ -1.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	710	— 0.0
ALAFCCO	216	216	10,000	2,160	1	216	— 0.0
MUBARRAD	58	58	20,000	1,160	1	58	▼ -2.0
LOGISTICS	74	71	2,025,980	146,942	40	72	— 0.0
SCEM	80	80	35,234	2,819	2	80	▼ -1.0
GCEM	78	76	7,055	536	2	76	▼ -3.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0
FCEM	75	73	1,246,856	92,228	14	74	▲ 1.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
SPEC	77	77	200,000	15,400	1	77	▼ -1.0
Industrials			6,004,784	760,829	176	1163.29	▼ -13.93

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	156	— 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	— 0.0
CATTL	248	248	100	25	1	248	▲ 6.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	— 0.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
FOOD	2,480	2,480	40,000	98,400	5	2,480	— 0.0
Consumer Goods			40,100	98,425	6	1227.68	▼ -1.11

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
SKOUK	34.5	34.0	152,166	5,184	4	34.5	▲ 0.5
KRE	52	51	713,963	37,042	17	52	— 0.0
URC	100	100	63,697	6,370	6	100	▼ -4.0
NRE	78	77	78,469	6,085	10	78	— 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	— 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	— 0.0
MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	— 0.0
ARABREC	31.5	31.0	22,428	696	3	31.5	— 0.0
ERESCO	45.0	44.0	606,001	26,941	20	44.0	— 0.0
MUBANEE	800	790	19,988	15,980	7	800	— 0.0
INJAZZAT	72	72	5,000	360	1	72	▲ 1.0
INVESTORS	23.0	22.5	454,319	10,223	11	22.5	— 0.0
IRC	28.5	28.0	58,000	1,625	3	28.5	— 0.0
ALTIJARIA	76	74	882,561	68,232	16	76	— 0.0
SANAM	31.5	31.5	500	16	1	31.5	— 0.0
AAYANRE	62	62	200,000	12,400	10	62	▼ -2.0
AQAR	56	56	5,000	280	1	56	▼ -4.0
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	21.5	— 0.0
MAZAYA	114	114	140,000	15,960	4	114	— 0.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	— 0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
TIJARA	39.5	37.0	124,000	4,847	10	39.5	▲ 2.5
TAMEER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	22.0	— 0.0
ARKAN	79	75	328,282	24,881	19	75	▼ -5.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	156	— 0.0
ABYAAR	23.0	22.5	175,500	3,949	11	22.5	— 0.0
MUNSHAAT	51	51	29,000	1,479	1	51	▼ -1.0
FIRSTDUBAI	62	61	327,552	20,051	12	62	— 0.0
KBT	39.0	38.5	698,450	27,000	24	38.5	▼ -0.5
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	166	— 0.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	— 0.0
ALMUDON	27.5	27.0	127,000	3,454	7	27.5	— 0.0
MARAKEZ	30.0	27.5	84,667	2,509	11	30.0	▲ 2.5
REMAL	32.0	32.0	80,197	2,586	2	32.0	— 0.0
AWJ	69	67	30,100	2,035	10	67	▲ 1.0
Real Estate			5,406,838	297,923	221	827.99	▼ -2.22

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
KINV	86	85	49,081	4,172	6	86	▲ 1.0
FACIL	176	176	100	18	1	176	▲ 2.0
IFA	33.5	33.0	1,301,407	43,546	10	33.0	▼ -0.5
NINV	102	102	628,089	64,065	8	102	▼ -2.0
KPROJ	550	540	135,000	73,250	5	550	— 0.0
COAST	41.0	41.0	369,000	15,129	11	41.0	▼ -0.5
SECH	47.5	47.0	1,307,000	62,059	20	47.0	▼ -0.5
SGC	90	90	350	32	2	90	— 0.0
ARZAN	31.5	31.5	4,000	126	1	31.5	▲ 0.5
MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	86	— 0.0
KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	24.5	— 0.0
ALAMAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	— 0.0
ALOLA	49.0	48.0	1,140,378	55,259	40	48.0	▼ -1.0
ALMAL	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.5	— 0.0
GIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	— 0.0
AAYAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	32.0	— 0.0
BAYANINV	32.5	32.5	100,500	3,266	3	32.5	— 0.0
OSOUL	0.0	0.0	0	0			

OIL PRICE RECOVERY TO HELP KUWAIT BRING DOWN DEFICIT

MOODY'S ANALYSIS ON IMPLICATIONS OF CURRENT OIL PRICES

KUWAIT: Oil prices have fluctuated in recent months, driven in part by a number of technical and temporary supply disruptions, which have contributed to slightly higher prices than at the beginning of 2016. Consequently, we adjusted our short-term estimates for oil prices upward in June, maintaining our medium-term assumptions of \$40-\$60 per barrel. While our revised oil price estimates were accompanied by positive adjustments in our short-term forecasts for GCC countries' deficit and debt trajectories, economic, fiscal and external challenges persist. This FAQ explains the limited credit implications of the recent oil price fluctuations.

How do the recent oil price fluctuations affect GCC sovereign creditworthiness? We do not expect the recent oil price dynamics to have a material impact on the credit profiles of GCC sovereigns, which will remain under stress over the medium term.

What are the credit implications of higher oil prices in 2016-17? As we noted at the time of our rating actions in May, cyclical or temporary increases in the price of oil will not on their own change our assessment of GCC sovereign creditworthiness. In the near term, the principal rating driver will be government actions to address structural problems exposed by significantly lower oil prices than in 2014. Which countries benefit most from higher oil prices?

All GCC countries will face some near-term relief from higher oil prices. Under our revised oil price assumptions of \$40 per barrel on average this year, Kuwait (Aa2 negative), Qatar (Aa2 negative) and Oman (Baa1 stable) will realize the largest fiscal and current account deficit reductions in the region compared with our previous forecasts given their higher dependence on oil. Will higher oil prices affect the reform momentum? It may. Saudi Arabia (A1 stable), the UAE (Aa2 negative) and Qatar have been the most proactive in formulating fiscal and economic adjustment plans to date. But a faster-than-expected rise in the price of oil reduces near-term incentives for reform, particularly for countries that have a lower capacity and willingness to institute tough adjustments.

Does the oil price recovery affect the governments' debt issuance plans? Since most of the expected fiscal deficits in 2016 are now financed, we do not expect higher oil prices to affect debt issuance plans for the rest of the year. However, we expect 2017 volumes to be lower than what we had anticipated earlier this year, assuming that the GCC governments advance their reform agenda as planned.

1. How do the recent oil price fluctuations affect Moody's view of GCC sovereign creditworthiness?

Our sovereign credit analysis incorporates our central expectations of key variables such as the price of oil in our growth, debt and current account forecasts. Assigned ratings also take into account the uncertainty around those expectations and any upward or downward risks. The high degree of uncertainty around the future price of oil, and the volatility and potential for downside shocks that it implies, is reflected in the significance we place on a broad price range over point estimates over the medium term. While we have upwardly revised our estimated oil prices for the next few years to reflect the recent price recovery, our medium-term outlook remains unchanged at \$40-\$60/barrel, and we continue to view this as a challenging time for oil market participants. As such, we do not expect recent oil price dynamics to have a material impact on the credit profiles of GCC sovereigns, which will remain under stress in the medium-term. None of the likely oil price recovery scenarios would

have a broad, swift impact on our GCC sovereign ratings.

The slight rise in oil prices combined with a slow recovery in demand, prompted us to adjust our forecasts for 2016 and 2017 to \$40 and \$45, respectively.

The oil market's recent rise has been supported by transitory factors, including temporary supply disruptions in Canada (Aaa stable) and violence in Nigeria (B1 stable), which has curtailed production, as well as technical factors such as a weaker US dollar and financial market activity.

However, global oversupply will continue to depress oil prices for an extended period. Capital spending, which determines future production capacity, has dropped substantially and the US rig count has declined by about 70 percent. But non-OPEC supply remains at historically high levels and the global competition for market share is not over. Saudi Arabia and Russia (Ba1 negative) have both increased production to their highest levels since the early 1990s, and Iran (unrated) continues to increase its production.

The low oil price environment continues to have material, and in some cases profound, implications for economic growth and the balance sheets of GCC sovereigns, which largely rely on oil and gas to drive growth, finance government expenditures and generate hard currency for servicing foreign-currency-denominated debt. Economic and fiscal strength, liquidity risk and external vulnerability are important factors in our sovereign risk analysis.

In May, we downgraded the ratings of Saudi Arabia (to A1 stable), Bahrain (to Ba2 negative), and Oman (to Baa1 stable), and confirmed the Aa2 ratings of Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE while assigning negative rating outlooks to all three (see Exhibit 2). These actions were driven by our view then, as now, that lower-for-longer oil prices resulted in a material deterioration in the credit profiles of Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain. While also true to varying degrees in the case of Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE, the far stronger net asset positions of the latter three sovereigns buffer the negative effect of lower oil prices. Consistent with our medium-term assumptions for oil prices, those sovereigns' credit profiles remain weaker than they were before the structural change in the oil market. We expect GCC sovereigns' net debt positions to continue to erode over the medium term, as debt burdens increase and reserve assets are drawn down. As such, our current ratings are consistent with our medium-term assessment that GCC sovereigns will face continued challenges in adjusting to a 'lower for longer' oil price environment.

2. What are the credit implications of higher oil prices in 2016-17?

In the nearer term, a more rapid than expected recovery in oil prices to the top end of our medium-term range could ease some of the more acute fiscal and external pressures facing GCC sovereigns and, should it be sustained beyond next year, could lead to upward rating pressure on a case-by-case basis, provided that the complementary policy measures to reduce structural fiscal vulnerabilities to low oil prices have been taken. Given the significant challenges ahead, the credibility and effectiveness of GCC sovereigns' policy response will remain key to our analysis and ratings' outlook.

While most GCC countries are undertaking some expenditure cuts, these are not sufficient to offset large revenue losses and contain budget deficits, even with slightly higher oil price levels than those prevailing at the time of the review. A number of GCC sovereigns have also introduced measures

to boost non-oil revenues, including ambitious diversification plans, new taxes and the privatization of state-owned companies, but experience suggests that these are subject to implementation risks and will in any event take time to yield results.

We therefore expect that all GCC sovereigns - and especially Oman, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia given the magnitude of their fiscal and current account deficits - will continue to rely on debt issuance, drawdowns of fiscal reserves, or a combination of both to finance the fiscal deficits. This will result in a sustained, albeit uneven, deterioration of their net asset positions over the near term.

3. Which countries would benefit most from higher oil prices?

The recent uptick in oil prices allows for short-term improvements in GCC governments' balance sheets by reducing fiscal deficits and slowing the build-up of government debt. Lower current account deficits as a result of higher hydrocarbon export receipts also improve external liquidity and slow the drawdown of foreign-exchange reserves and sovereign wealth fund assets. All GCC countries will face some near-term relief from the recent rise in oil prices. On average, hydrocarbons made up roughly 45 percent of GDP, 80 percent of government revenues and 65 percent of the goods exports in the region in 2014. Countries that are more dependent on hydrocarbon receipts will be more sensitive to changes in oil prices; however, our forecasts also take into account fiscal consolidation measures (or lack thereof) that have been implemented in response to the drop in oil prices by around 60 percent since mid-2014.

We assess the relative benefit of higher oil prices on the GCC countries by quantifying its impact on the fiscal and current account deficits of the GCC countries. Oil prices averaging \$40/barrel this year rather than \$33/barrel under our previous estimates will allow the largest fiscal and current account deficit reductions for Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, followed by the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE are the most strongly positioned GCC sovereigns in terms of both the size of their financial assets compared to government spending and low fiscal break-even oil prices, while Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain have a higher fiscal break-even oil price along with much lower financial assets on which to draw, which contributes to the ratings gap.

Oil prices averaging \$40 this year will not turn fiscal deficits to surpluses in any of the GCC countries, although Kuwait and the UAE may now see a small current account surplus in 2016 (according to the IMF) given their lower external break-even oil prices, which the IMF estimates at \$36.7 and \$38.7, respectively. Kuwait, which relies on hydrocarbon revenues for around 90 percent of revenues, will be able to generate an additional 6 percent-7 percent of GDP in revenues annually over 2016-17 given higher oil prices, bringing its fiscal deficit down to 3 percent of GDP in 2016 and almost 0 percent in 2017, from our previous forecasts of 9.9 percent and 6.4 percent, respectively (see Exhibit 4). We project fiscal gains of around 4 percent-5 percent of GDP for Qatar and 3.5 percent-4.5 percent of GDP for Oman, and smaller but sizeable gains of 1.5 percent-3 percent of GDP for Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain over 2016-17.

Under a \$40-45 oil price scenario, fiscal deficits would be considerably lower for Kuwait, Qatar and Oman. On the external side, higher oil prices will benefit Kuwait, the UAE and Oman the most by reducing the current account deficits by an average

of 4 percent-7 percent of GDP (with Kuwait facing the largest gains), followed by Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Under our previous oil price assumptions, we expected Oman to face the largest fiscal and current account deficits in the GCC of around 19 percent and 23 percent of GDP, respectively, in 2016, but we now forecast lower deficits of 15 percent and 18.5 percent. For Kuwait and the UAE, we now expect a turn from current account deficits to small surpluses in 2017.

Under a \$40-45 oil price scenario, current account deficits for Kuwait, the UAE and Oman would improve the most. However, the slight rebound in oil prices will only partly compensate for the overall oil price slump for Oman, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, and imbalances will remain considerable. The weaker credit profiles of these three GCC countries are characterized by the larger borrowing requirements and lower financial buffers. These countries are also more susceptible to short-term price swings that could impair liquidity. We expect their fiscal and external deficits to persist beyond 2017. Their respective policy roadmaps will influence their ability to attract external funding, maintain investor confidence and minimize the impact of adjustment measures on growth and domestic liquidity.

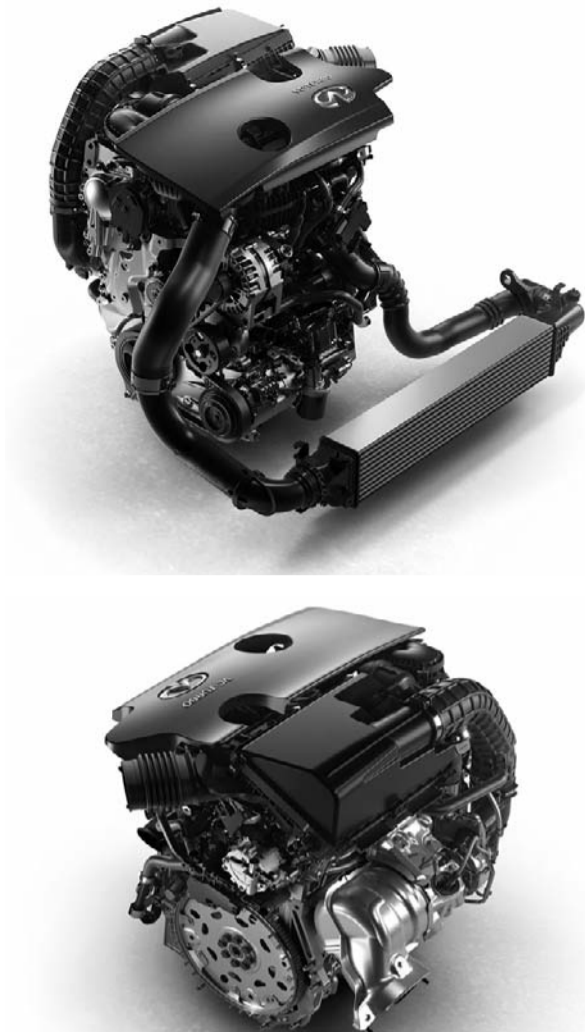
The credit profiles of Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE remain strong despite the oil price drop mainly due to the availability of large fiscal buffers, which allow more room to adjust without large increases in debt. Higher oil prices would give these countries more time and fiscal space to formulate effective policy responses to absorb deficits. We expect these three countries to post smaller fiscal deficits in 2016-17, which could turn to surpluses from 2020 onwards.

4. Will higher oil prices affect the reform momentum?

During our rating review of 18 oil-exporters, including the GCC countries, we looked at each sovereign's institutional capacity to implement an effective response to low oil prices. Most GCC sovereigns have outlined policy measures including subsidy reforms, new taxes and structural reforms intended to diversify the economic base. However, the significant challenges of responding to the oil price shock, lack of clarity around specifics and implementation risks prompted us to assign negative outlooks to even the strongest GCC countries and downgrade three of the six countries' ratings. We believed then, as we do now, that socio-economic factors risk constraining the ability of governments to formulate and to implement policies that support economic diversification and growth without exhausting fiscal and external buffers.

Kuwait is challenged by its long and burdensome executive and legislative processes that have long hampered policy implementation - for instance, it was the last GCC country to announce fuel subsidy reforms (it did so only in August 2016, and the measures will be implemented in September).

However, it faces less pressure to reform given an extraordinarily high level of financial buffers of over 500 percent of GDP. On the other hand, Oman has greater fiscal challenges and lower buffers, and faces high institutional and social constraints due to the highly concentrated decision-making process and succession risks, and relatively lower GDP per capita levels. Our assessment of institutional strength is also weaker in Bahrain and Saudi Arabia than it is in Qatar and the UAE and where the social impact of fiscal reforms is most likely to hamper policy implementation.



INFINITI VC-T: THE WORLD'S FIRST PRODUCTION-READY VARIABLE COMPRESSION RATIO ENGINE

KUWAIT: Infiniti will present VC-T (Variable Compression-Turbocharged), the world's first production-ready variable compression ratio engine and one of the most advanced internal combustion engines ever created, on 29 September at the 2016 Paris Motor Show (Mondial de l'Automobile).

More than 20 years in development, INFINITI's new four-cylinder turbocharged gasoline VC-T engine represents a major breakthrough in internal-combustion powertrain technology.

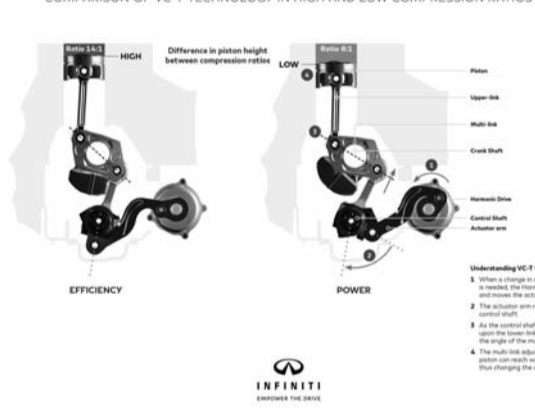
Roland Krueger, president of Infiniti Motor Company said, "VC-T technology is a step change for INFINITI. It is a revolutionary next-step in optimizing the efficiency of the internal combustion engine. This technological breakthrough delivers the power of a high-performance 2.0-liter turbo gasoline engine with a high level of efficiency at the same time."

VC-T technology signifies a new chapter in the story of the internal combustion engine - engines are no longer limited by a fixed compression ratio. The ingenuity of VC-T engine technology lies in its ability to transform itself and seamlessly raise or lower the height the pistons reach. As a consequence, the displacement of the engine changes and the compression ratio can vary anywhere between 8:1 (for high performance) and 14:1 (for high efficiency). The sophisticated engine control logic automatically applies the optimum ratio, depending on what the driving situation demands.

VC-T technology delivers multiple customer benefits including significantly reduced fuel consumption and emissions, greatly reduced noise and vibration levels; it is also lighter and more compact than comparable conventional engines.

More information on the world-first VC-T engine will be presented by INFINITI at Mondial de l'Automobile on 29 September, with the company's press conference taking place at 12:30.

INFINITI VC-T ENGINE
COMPARISON OF VC-T TECHNOLOGY IN HIGH AND LOW COMPRESSION RATIOS



TISSOT TO OPEN 4TH NEW YORK CITY BOUTIQUE AT WORLD TRADE CENTER

SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY NBA LEGEND NATE 'TINY' ARCHIBALD

NEW YORK: Swiss Watchmaker Tissot announced the opening of a groundbreaking new watch boutique in the United States located at New York's Westfield Mall in the World Trade Center. This marks Tissot's fourth boutique in New York, with three other boutiques already established in Times Square, Fifth Avenue and Wall Street, making Tissot one of the largest watch companies with a continued retail venture in the city.

Tissot joined the entire Westfield World Trade Center Mall in opening their doors with a special "Family Day" in collaboration with the 9/11 Tribute Center and HEART 9/11 and with support from the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. As Official Timekeeper of the NBA, Tissot provided a special experience for these families and New Yorkers with a meet-and-greet and autograph signing with NBA Legend Nate "Tiny" Archibald at the new boutique. Nate is a born and raised New Yorker who spent 14 years in the NBA, making his mark as an NBA Champion, 7x

NBA All-Star and ultimately being enshrined in the Hall of Fame in 1991.

Visitors to the boutique were also invited to enter for a chance to spin a "Wheel of Prizes" which included a Tony Parker signed jersey, tickets to an upcoming NY Knicks game, a Tissot Everytime watch and much more. Fans could also play the new basketball video game "HOOPS by Tissot" for a chance to win a Tissot watch. "HOOPS by Tissot" is available for download on Apple and Android.

The boutique will signify a new retail concept for Tissot with animated graphics, unique customer experiences, striking brand ambassador visuals and of course a broad watch selection from Tissot's many collections; Touch Collection, T-Sport, T-Lady, T-Classic, T-Heritage, T-Gold, Pocket and Special Collections. A "Watchmakers Corner" will also be a featured element with a Swatch Group watch specialist available for on premise sizing and repairs.

"Tissot's potential for market growth in the United

States is limitless, and our introduction of the Tissot World Trade Center boutique - our fourth in New York City - is a testament to our dedication to developing a love for traditional Swiss watches in America," said Fran ois Thi baud, Tissot President. "Tissot proudly welcomes New Yorkers and visiting guests alike to experience our quality products and celebrate the opening of this new retail mecca in the heart of downtown Manhattan."

"The World Trade Center is a symbol of hope, opportunity, progress, and perseverance," said William Hecht, Westfield's Chief Operating Officer in the United States. "Westfield is profoundly proud to be a part of this project and to introduce new experiences and energy to Lower Manhattan. We are incredibly excited to open our doors to our neighbors, New York and tri-state area families, visitors, and all of our partners on August 16th."

The store will be located in the Westfield World Trade Center Mall, located at 185 Greenwich St.





AL-SAYER OFFERS CHANCE TO WIN CASH PRIZES 'MEET THE CHALLENGE WITH COFRAN'

KUWAIT: Al-Sayer Commercial Engineering, one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies is offering chance to grab exciting cash prizes "Meet the Challenge With Cofran" Scratch & Win promotion. Customer buying 4 liters Cofran oil from any of the participating outlets between 17 July and 16 October 2016 will get the chance to win guaranteed prizes such as valuable cash vouchers or other gifts.

Ahmad Abdulhamid Mohamad

became the first lucky customer to win cash voucher worth KD 1000. An awarding ceremony was organized at the Cofran Center, attended by Krishna Kumar General Manager Tires, Oil, Paint and Garage Equipment, Vivek Kohli Senior Manager Oil, Paint & Garage Equipment along with Al-Sayer Cofran representatives.

According to Krishna Kumar, General Manager Tires, Oil, Paint and Garage Equipment, "I thank our customers for their active support and congratulations to the first winner of this scratch and win contest. We are pleased to receive such great response from our customers. There are many more exciting cash prizes to be won and I encourage customers to take advantage of this opportunity."

Once Cofran, always Cofran

Synthetic oil from France gives you incredible performance because of its refined technology in oils. Cofran always proves the ability to work in the toughest weather conditions to meet the different needs of vehicle as much as possible.



BURGAN BANK LAUNCHES 'BACK TO SCHOOL' CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced the launch of its "Back to School" Campaign in collaboration with Clarks footwear, which provide 'BuBa' Kids Account holders an attractive discount on all kids back-to-school footwear collection. The promotion is valid from 24 to 27 August 2016.

The bank is offering its BuBa Kids Account holders 50 percent discount when shopping at Clarks kids footwear located in 360 Mall, Al-Fanar and The Avenues Mall.

Burgan Bank presents this offer as part of its efforts in accommodating optimal customer convenience with the provision of added value benefits and aims to provide their Customers with the best offers and shopping opportunities to commence their academic years with positivity and enthusiasm.

The BuBa Kids account is a special account designed for Children up to 14 years old, it can be opened with a minimum opening balance of KD 10. BuBa account holder will be entitled to a free branded ATM VISA Electron card which offers them discounts at selected merchants.

To find out more about Burgan Bank's BuBa Account as well as the latest promotions, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch or call the Bank contact center on 1804080, or visit the bank's website at www.burgan.com.

Established in 1977, Burgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second

largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Burgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks.

The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Burgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years.

Burgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.

ZAIN LAUNCHES ALL-NEW INTERNET PLANS FOR POSTPAID AND PREPAID CUSTOMERS

POSTPAID INTERNET PLANS STARTING AT KD 6 FOR 250 GBs

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of its all-new Internet plans for postpaid and prepaid customers. The new plans were designed to offer customers flexibility and comfort to choose the plan that specifically suits their unique Internet consumption habits.

The new plans come as part of the company's tireless efforts to offer its largest customer base an unsurpassed Internet consumption experience on its most advanced nationwide network. Zain designed four new plans for postpaid customers and three new plans for prepaid customers, all with new prices that are within reach.

Zain's new Internet plans for postpaid customers start at KD 6 for 250 GBs, and customers have the option to add any of the following smart devices to the plan of their choice: hotspot LTE-A device, Router LTE-A device, touch hotspot LTE-A device, Playstation 4, Xbox One, iPad Mini 4, iPad Pro 9.7", or iPad Pro 12.9" (noting that routers are with 12 months commitment and other devices with 24 months commitment).

The company also designed three new Internet plans for prepaid (eeZee) customers, which offer flexibility and convenience on how they want the plans to best suit their unique lifestyles starting at KD 6 for 250 GBs.

This offering comes in line with Zain's aim to provide its customers with a superior telecommunications experience, and springs from its core understanding of postpaid and prepaid customers' needs. The offer aims at providing customers with a superior content consumption experience with Zain's nationwide LTE-A network.

By launching these exciting new plans, Zain continues to reinforce its leadership position and its pledge in offering the best services and offers to meet customers' professional and personal telecommunications needs.

KD 6	KD 10	KD 13	KD 16
250 GB	500 GB	1 TB	Unlimited Internet

Call 107 to learn more
A Wonderful World

KD 3	KD 9	KD 12
200 GB	1 TB	1.5 TB
1 month	2 months	3 months

GOLD SLIDES LOW ON US RATE HIKE TALK

LONDON: Gold fell to a two-week low yesterday as upbeat comments from Federal Reserve officials on the US economy boosted expectations that the central bank could lift interest rates sooner rather than later.

The Fed's No 2 policymaker, Stanley Fischer, said on Sunday the US central bank is close to hitting targets for full employment and 2 percent inflation. That followed comments last week from New York Fed President William Dudley that the labour market is improving, and from San Francisco Fed chief John Williams that waiting too long to lift rates could be costly for the economy. Gold is highly sensitive to US interest rates, increases in which boost the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding gold, while lifting the dollar, in which it is priced. Spot gold was down 0.4 percent at \$1,335.97 an ounce at 1130 GMT, while US gold futures for December delivery were down \$6.30 an ounce at \$1,339.90. —Reuters



BRITISH AIRWAYS OFFERS STUDENTS AND TEACHERS ADDED BENEFITS

KUWAIT: British Airways is offering students and teachers travelling overseas for the new school term up to 10 per cent discount on advertised fares, one additional piece of checked baggage and flexibility on date changes to ticket bookings.

The benefits are currently available for all students and teachers flying in World Traveller with British Airways from Kuwait to the UK, Europe or North America when they book through a British Airways shop or travel agent, Elite Holidays, in Kuwait.

"Studying abroad is a once in a lifetime opportunity and our experience shows that students travelling abroad need to take a lot of extra baggage, particularly if they are on their maiden trip, but the worry of excess baggage can be a concern for them," says Paolo De Renzis, Head of Middle East, Africa and Central Asia Sales for British Airways. "If you are a teacher starting a new job, we will help make sure that you have enough allowance so that when you arrive in a new country, you will have everything in your suitcase to get the new academic year off to the best possible start."

When purchasing a ticket and checking-in at the airport, students and teachers need to provide valid identification to take advantage of the travel offers. All flights from Kuwait arrive at the airline's home at London Heathrow Terminal 5. British Airways customers can enjoy stress-free onward connections to cities in the UK and Europe from Heathrow.

A full timetable of British Airways' flights to London and beyond is available online at ba.com, where students and teachers can find the lowest fares and book, pay and check-in online for their flights.

This offer is for students and teachers holding a valid student or teacher ID/student visa or student offer letter. At airport check-in student/teacher must present their student/teacher ID/student visa or student offer letter. Failure to do so will mean that they are not able to use the ticket for travel and they will need to purchase a new ticket.



SPACEWALKING ASTRONAUTS INSTALL NEW FRONT DOOR FOR VISITORS

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA: Spacewalking astronauts installed a new front door for visitors at the International Space Station on Friday, the crucial first step in welcoming commercial crew capsules as soon as next year.

The two Americans, Jeffrey Williams and Kate Rubins, hooked up the docking port - their major objective - in just a few hours. They were about to tackle some extra chores, but a problem cropped up with the right earpiece in Williams' helmet and he had trouble hearing. Mission Control decided to play it safe and bring them inside about a half hour early. The spacewalk concluded at the six-hour mark.

"We're done for the day," Mission Control advised the crew. Williams assured flight controllers that his helmet was dry. The last NASA spacewalk in January was cut short because of a small water leak in one helmet. A much bigger leak, from the suit's cooling system, almost led to a spacewalker's drowning in 2013.

The station's new gateway arrived last month, packed in the trunk of a SpaceX Dragon cargo capsule. Americans haven't rocketed into orbit from their home turf since NASA's last shuttle flight in 2011. SpaceX and Boeing expect to resume human launches from Cape Canaveral in another year or two. But their crew capsules can't dock without this new-style parking spot, which replaces the now obsolete shuttle setup and is meant to be internationally compatible.

Friday's success paved the way for these future spaceships. "Thanks for your help in getting the front door on the space station," Mission Control radioed. SpaceX is shooting for a test flight of its souped-up Dragon with two astronauts as early as a year from now. Boeing is aiming for a two-person shake-down of its Starliner capsule in early 2018. Until then, Russia will keep providing all the rides - at a hefty price for US taxpayers.

NASA started using private US companies to carry out cargo shipments a few years back. Commercial crew launches will be an even bigger advance. This commercial handoff is freeing up NASA to focus on true outer-space exploration; the space agency is working to get astronauts to Mars in the 2030s. This is actually NASA's second new docking ring. The first was destroyed in a

SpaceX launch accident last summer. NASA ultimately wants two of these 3 1/2-foot-by-5-foot-on-the-inside parking places at the lab. Another one - cobbled together from spare parts - should fly up in about a year.

Flight controllers in Houston set the spacewalking stage earlier in the week, using a robot arm to move the docking port to within a few feet of its intended lock-down position - the very spot where Atlantis undocked on July 19, 2011, to close out the shuttle era. An hour into Friday's spacewalk, the mechanical arm let go, and Williams and Rubins took over, connecting a slew of hooks and cables. The last of the 12 hooks were driven into place, firmly securing the port, as the 250-mile-high complex soared over the Indian Ocean.

The space station is currently home to two Americans, one Japanese and three Russians. Up there for five months, Williams and two of the Russians will return to Earth in a couple weeks. Williams will conduct one more spacewalk with Rubins on Sept. 1 to retract a radiator.

A newcomer to spacewalking, Rubins is only the 11th American woman to conduct a spacewalk and the 12th in the world. The first professional virus-hunter in space, she has been experimenting with a DNA decoder also delivered last month.

SpaceX's crew Dragon ship will fly on the company's own Falcon rocket from a former shuttle launch pad at Kennedy Space Center and, at mission's end, splash down off the Florida coast. Boeing's Starliner, meanwhile, will launch aboard the United Launch Alliance's trusty Atlas V rocket and parachute down somewhere in the American Southwest, possibly New Mexico. These test flights - intended to go all the way to the space station and dock - will last about two weeks. NASA will provide most if not all of the initial test pilots.

One of four NASA astronauts training for these test flights, Robert Behnken noted last week that the space agency has come a long way since 2011, when he kept being asked, "Hey, now that they've retired the shuttle, is there still a NASA?"

"We can't tell you exactly what month this launch is going to be," Behnken said during a visit to Kennedy Space Center. "But we're well on a track to actually get launches off the Florida coast happening again." —AP



SELLAFIELD, ENGLAND: The Sellafield Nuclear Power Station is seen in a May 23, 2007, photo. Developers see factory-assembled small modular reactors (SMRs) taking the place of some conventional nuclear plants. —AFP

NUCLEAR DEVELOPERS HAVE BIG PLANS FOR PINT-SIZED POWER PLANTS IN UK

HELP WITH LOOMING POWER CRUNCH

LONDON: A range of mini-nuclear power plants could help solve Britain's looming power crunch, rather than the \$24 billion Hinkley project snarled up in delays, companies developing the technology say.

So-called small modular reactors (SMRs) use existing or new nuclear technology scaled down to a fraction of the size of larger plants and would be able to produce around a tenth of the electricity created by large-scale projects, such as Hinkley. The mini plants, still under development, would be made in factories, with parts small enough to be transported on trucks and barges to sites where they could be assembled in around six to 12 months, up to a tenth of the time it takes to build some larger plants.

"The real promise of SMRs is their modularisation. You can assemble them in a factory with an explicable design meaning consistent standards and predictable costs and delivery timescale," said Anurag Gupta, director and global lead for power infrastructure at consultancy KPMG.

In a nuclear power plant, heat is created when uranium atoms split. Different reactor designs use this heat in different ways to raise the temperature of water and create steam, which then powers turbines to produce electricity. Manufacturing advancements mean SMR developers are only a few years from being able to replicate this technology on a smaller scale, and plants could be ready for deployment by the mid-2020s. "From a technical perspective there is no reason why you wouldn't be able to make a smaller version of an already commercially viable nuclear technology such as PWR (pressurised water reactor)," Mike Tynan, director of Britain's Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (NAMRC), said. There are

already more than 100 nuclear plants using PWR technology in operation across the globe. NuScale, majority owned by U.S. Fluor Corp, is developing 50 megawatt (MW) SMRs using PWRs which could be deployed at a site hosting up to 12 units generating a total of 600 MW. The 50 MW units would be 65 feet (20 metres) tall, roughly the length of two buses, and nine feet in diameter.

Rolls-Royce, which already makes components for PWR nuclear submarines, is part of a consortium developing a 220 MW SMR unit which could be doubled for a larger-scale project. Rolls-Royce Chief Scientific Officer Paul Stein said the first 440 MW power plant would cost around 1.75 billion pounds (\$2.3 billion) but costs would likely fall once production is ramped up. "One of the advantages of the SMRs is that they cost a lot less (than large nuclear plants), and it is an easier case to present to private investors," Stein said.

Costs, viability questioned

Critics, however, say there is no guarantee that SMR developers will be able to cut costs enough to make the plants viable. "SMR vendors say factory production will save a lot of money, but it will take a long time and a lot of units to achieve what they are calling economies of mass production," said Edwin Lyman, nuclear expert at the U.S.-based Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). "Factory manufacture is not a panacea. Just because you are manufacturing in a factory, it doesn't mean you are certain to solve problems of cost overruns," he said.

Costs are a sensitive issue and could have played a part in Britain's decision to review the \$24 billion project to build the two new Hinkley

Point nuclear reactors led by French utility EDF and Chinese partner China General Nuclear.

Almost half of Britain's electricity capacity is expected to close by 2030, as older, large nuclear plants come to the end of their operational lives and coal plants shut as part of the country's efforts to meet its climate goals.

The two new reactors at Hinkley Point are supposed to provide around 7 percent of Britain's electricity, helping to fill that supply gap. Nuclear developers are confident SMRs could be up and running by the late 2020s, in time to help bridge the looming electricity supply shortfall. A study carried out by the National Nuclear Laboratory, a government owned and operated advisory body, said Britain could host up to 7 gigawatts (GW) of SMR capacity by 2035, more than double the capacity of Hinkley. But anti-nuclear green groups such as Greenpeace argue that with advances in renewable technology, such as offshore wind, Britain may not need any new nuclear plants.

This week Britain approved Dong Energy's plans to expand an offshore wind farm project that could ultimately span an area of the North Sea more than twice the size of London and produce up to 4 GW of electricity, more than Hinkley Point.

Nuclear power defenders say the intermittent nature of renewable electricity production and lack of grid-scale storage mean nuclear plants are needed to ensure continuous supply of power if the country is to meet its emission reduction targets. "Working alongside renewables, nuclear provides the reliable low carbon energy required to balance variable wind and solar generation," said Tom Greatrex, chief executive of the Nuclear Industry Association. — Reuters



CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA: In this March 24, 2015 photo made available by NASA, engineers in the Space Station Processing Facility at the Kennedy Space Center. —AP

POKEMON'S A NO-GO ON BANGKOK'S ROADS

BANGKOK: The hunters have become the hunted. Police in Bangkok announced a crackdown yesterday against Thai drivers playing Pokemon Go following complaints that the craze was bringing further gridlock to an already notoriously congested metropolis.

The mobile app-which encourages users to hit the pavements in search of digital monsters-was made available in Thailand earlier this month delighting many in a country where Japanese subcultures have a significant following.

But the game has since sparked a flurry of headlines in the local press as well as unease among the kingdom's military leaders. "The police chief has asked all policemen to detain any Pokemon players who play while using the roads," deputy national police spokesman Colonel Krissana Pattanacharoen told reporters.

"People have a right to play the game but it must not affect other people's rights," he added. Colonel Veeravit Vatchanapukka, from the city's traffic police, said teams of officers on motorbikes would stake out key arteries in the capital hoping to catch driv-

ers in the act.

"We do not aim to arrest many people, instead we hope this programme will raise awareness with people about carelessness," he told AFP. Bangkok is not exactly an ideal playground for Pokemon players. The sweltering Thai capital is notorious for its long traffic queues while the World Health Organisation says Thailand has the second highest road fatality rate in the world. Pavements are patchy and those that exist are often littered with hurdles ranging from street vendors and fire hydrants to potholes and tangled wiring.

But that hasn't stopped hordes of players embracing the game in public spaces, including those jumping into cars and onto motorbikes to hunt down digital monsters.

Some of the city's motorbike taxi drivers, who career through the gridlock at knuckle-whitening speeds, are even offering hourly rates for Pokemon hunters. Two weeks ago the spokesman for Thailand's junta chief warned Thais against obsessive playing of the game. "Thai walking culture is not like Japan and there are limited pavements," the spokesman added. —AFP



SENEGAL: Bulldozers prepare a field for construction on what is slated to be Senegal's largest solar plant in Santhiou Mekhe on July 11, 2016. —AFP

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IN SENEGAL? THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

DAKAR: Hunched over her laptop, eyes locked on the screen, Maritime Seye listens to the step-by-step instructions given by her teacher. The 18-year-old isn't studying math or history, however. With 24 other Senegalese students, she is learning to develop a mobile app to raise awareness about the environment.

In small groups, the students develop apps focusing on environmental issues, in the format of their choice - such as a game, quiz or a platform to look up potentially unfamiliar terms, such as "endangered species".

Seye has called her app "Weer Weeld", which means "a healthy planet for a healthy life" in Wolof. Users must choose which between four pictures - for example, a person drinking dirty water, another smoking, industrial fumes and people planting trees - to pick what represents the most positive contribution to the planet.

Choosing the correct image - in this case, tree planting - rewards the user with points, before all pictures appear with a caption explaining the dangers or benefits linked to the activities. "I'm interested in developing a phone app because I use them all the time," Seye told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

The three-day workshop, organised by the Goethe Institute and mJangale, a Senegalese after-school programme, aims to improve students' literacy, numeracy, and foreign language skills. Christelle

Scharff, co-founder of mJangale and professor of computer science at Pace University in New York, teaches participants to use MIT App Inventor - a drag-and-drop tool allowing users to create a basic phone app. The students follow her every click on a computer screen projected on the wall. "The goal is to introduce young people to computing, as well as to make them more knowledgeable about the environment," Scharff explained, walking between the groups to check their progress. "So it's applying computing to something. We didn't want kids to just develop an app, but also to gain knowledge in another area."

The Android apps will be made available on Google Play, where they can be downloaded for free. Idriss Sall Diop, 18, just passed his baccalaureate. "This is totally new to me, I've never studied IT and just started using computers," he admitted from his front-row seat. "Young people are interested in social media but not necessarily in the environment," he added. "I think these apps are a way around that - we're always keen to learn about new things." Adja Aissatou Sy, communications manager at Senegal's Ministry of Environment, said at the workshop that teenagers have limited awareness when it comes to environmental issues. "Mobile apps are a good way to share information and broaden young people's knowledge on this topic," she explained. — Reuters

CAMBODIA DEPLOYS POLICE AS PART OF EXAM CHEAT CRACKDOWN

PHNOM PENH: Cambodia deployed 1,570 police at high-school exam test sites across the country yesterday as part of a government crackdown on bribery and corruption in the education system.

Testing sites were cordoned off in the capital Phnom Penh and students were patted down by officials to check for cheat sheets and mobile devices as their relatives waited outside. "We are doing all of this to guarantee transparency and quality in the education system," Ros Salin, a Ministry of Education spokesperson, told Reuters.

In past years, students brought mobile phones and cheat sheets into exam rooms and bribed teachers to ignore cheating. San Chey, executive director at advocacy group Affiliated Network for Social Accountability Cambodia, said cheating was deep rooted in the Cambodian education system. "Before, bribes in exams and test leaks were done openly, which helped to push up the pass rates," he said.

The government blitz on cheating has seen exam pass rates drop in recent years. In 2014, the Grade 12 exam pass rates was cut in half to 40.67 percent and in 2015 it fell to 55.87 percent, according to Education Ministry figures.

Nearly 25,000 officials were involved in this year's examination in which 93,755 students were expected to take their final exams before university.

"I appeal to all students to study hard for the exams and to not bring any documents or electronic devices into testing sites," Education Minister Hang Chuon Naron said in a video address on Sunday. "If there are violations, you will automatically fail." —Reuters



PHNOM PENH: Students sit for the final examinations at the Sisowath High School yesterday. —AFP



BANGKOK: Thai Royal police deputy national spokesman Colonel Krissana Pattanacharoen (R) speaks in a weekly press conference at the Royal Thai Police headquarters yesterday. —AP

HARAMBE LIVES: KILLED ZOO GORILLA GETS A SECOND LIFE ONLINE

CINCINNATI: With online declarations such as "Harambe Lives!" the Ohio zoo gorilla shot and killed after a 3-year-old boy got into his enclosure has taken on life after death. The late 17-year-old great ape has shown up in tongue-in-cheek petitions to rename the hometown Cincinnati Bengals, to add his face to Mount Rushmore or the Lincoln Memorial, and to put him on the dollar bill. He has grown the angel wings and halo of a deity in social media memorials.

He's even been mock-nominated for president. The Harambe phenomenon is fed by genuine sadness over his death, continued controversy over the circumstances that led to it, and the penchant of many social media users for satire - which sometimes turns offensive.

"There is a word we like to use in our discipline, in pop culture studies, and that is 'polysemic': has many meanings," said Jeremy Wallach, a professor of popular culture at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. "Harambe definitely is that, a sign that possesses many different interpretations." Harambe remembrances began soberly, with a legitimate "Justice for Harambe" petition seeking to hold the

boy's mother responsible in his May 28 death. The county prosecutor ruled there was no cause for charges. The zoo reopened its gorilla exhibit with a higher, reinforced barrier and urged support for gorilla conservation efforts.

Continued reminders.

But the zoo's hopes of moving on have been countered by all the continued reminders. "We are not amused by the memes, petitions and signs about Harambe," Thane Maynard, Cincinnati Zoo director, said by email. "Our zoo family is still healing, and the constant mention of Harambe makes moving forward more difficult for us. We are honoring Harambe by redoubling our gorilla conservation efforts and encouraging others to join us."

Esther Clinton, who also specializes in popular culture at Bowling Green, said the Kong-like proportions of the craze reflect lingering questions. "There are a lot of people who really do feel bad about what happened to him," she said. "There's a sense of here's this poor guy, just in his cage imprisoned by humans, minding his own business; a kid climbs into his cage and he gets shot. It brings up all sorts of

questions: About the zoo model, about the rights of non-human primates, about parenting."

The Harambe phenomenon turned ugly in June, when images were posted on a Facebook page likening Adam Goodes, a retired Australian football player of indigenous ancestry, to the ape. They were pulled down and the page apologized. Twitter got caught in a similar controversy after racial posts about "Ghostbusters" star Leslie Jones, who is black, included a Harambe comparison. The social media site recently announced two new settings aimed at curbing harassment.

Social media users like to satirize controversies. "Never Forget #Harambe," read posts accompanying Harambe's photo superimposed on sculptures, above cityscapes, among famous dead people such as Muhammad Ali or John F. Kennedy. Some Twitter users routinely add the hashtag #RIPHarambe even to posts that have nothing to do with him.

He has surfaced in rewritten song lyrics, comedians' acts, at sports events and in rap songs. On Change.org, a recent search turned up 253 references to Harambe. They include the early Justice



CINCINNATI: In this May 30, 2016 file photo, Alesia Buttrey, of Cincinnati, holds a sign with a picture of the gorilla Harambe during a vigil in his honor outside the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. —AP

for Harambe petition and the recent petition to rename the Cincinnati Bengals the Harambes, which has received more than 21,000 signatures. Other petitions want a Harambe emoji, a Harambe character in Pokemon Go, to clone Harambe, even to

canonize him. WCPO-TV web editor James Leggate recently declared that enough was enough, by starting an online petition to end the Harambe online petitions. "At first, the petitioners had good intentions," he wrote. —AP



LUBUMBASHI, KATANGA, DR CONGO: This file photo taken on May 23, 2016 shows a child and a woman breaking rocks extracted from a cobalt mine at a copper quarry and cobalt pit. —AFP

DR CONGO'S SECOND CITY POISONED BY YEARS OF MINING

'LACK OF EXPERTISE'

LUBUMBASHI, DR CONGO: "In this stream, the fish vanished long ago, killed by acids and waste from the mines," says Lubumbashi resident Heritier Maloba, staring into the murky waters of his childhood fishing hole.

Pollution caused by copper and cobalt mining has not only poisoned the Katapula, a tributary of the mighty Congo River and one of the main waterways in this second city of the Democratic Republic of Congo, but has also induced widespread illness. "High concentrations of toxic metals ... cause respiratory disorders and birth defects," particularly in people living near the mines, said toxicologist Celestin Banza of the University of Lubumbashi.

The damage has spread through acids in untreated waste released into nature, polluting the air, the water, and much of Lubumbashi, a city of more than two million residents in the country's southeast.

Until recently, Lubumbashi was the capital of Katanga province whose fabulous copper wealth was first tapped by Belgian colonists early in the 20th century.

Last year, Katanga was divided into four new provinces. Mining is prevalent in the two southern ones. Hindered by neglect during the regime of dictator Mobutu Sese Seko (1965-1997) and in the second Congolese war (1998-2003), the mining industry rose from the ashes of devastating conflict. Between 2010 and 2014, mineral production led strong economic growth and lifted the country up to the rank of the world's fifth copper producer and top producer of cobalt.

With demand for cobalt driven by its use in mobile phones and electric car batteries, the trade has come at a dire environmental and health cost for DR Congo.

'Lack of expertise'

"Mining pollution in Katanga is an undeniable reality," admits member of parliament Davon N'Sa Mputu Elima, who served as environment minister in 2012-14. He says that mining firms put up considerable resistance to a 2009 amendment in the country's environmental code, which imposed stringent new health and safety requirements.

Such protective measures are often not enforced because of what the MP calls "a lack of expertise" among administrative officials responsible for seeing that mining firms comply.

The public health risks listed by Banza, the toxicologist, also include metabolic disorders, certain tumours, burning sensations in the eyes and the throat, and even "short-term sterility." "You get the feeling you're suffocating as you breathe," says Viviane Kibwe, a mother of four in a city where mining installations can be located



LUBUMBASHI, KATANGA, DR CONGO: This file photo taken on May 23, 2016 shows a man carrying a bag of copper at a mine quarry and cobalt pit. —AFP

hard by people's homes, schools and fields.

Plumes of smoke and clouds of dust rise into the air carrying dangerous particles, while used water containing cleaning chemicals and mineral alloys runs off untreated into streams.

A 2012 toxicology study by the Carter Center found that many ailments in the area are indeed the result of prolonged exposure to harmful chemicals. The foundation set up by US former president Jimmy Carter in 1982 also criticised "several flaws" and "ambiguity" with regard to the treatment of waste in DR Congo's mining code of 2002.

Eric Monga, chairman of the Katanga branch of the Business Federation of the Congo, counters that sustainable and safe mining practices have become "an ethical rule" observed by companies. "An approved study on the environmental impact is a requirement before any operations," he says.

Yet Belgian and Congolese experts carrying out health studies since 2008 find that concentrations of cobalt, copper, lead and even uranium in urine samples "largely exceeded the reference values accepted by the World Health Organization," Banza says. This is particularly true among children, according to the professor.

'Nothing has grown'

At the Shinkolobwe mine some 150 kilometres (95 miles) northwest of Lubumbashi—the

source of the uranium used in the Hiroshima atomic bomb—thousands of people worked for many years without the slightest protection. Banza told AFP that he plans to publish a new public health report demonstrating that people in the south of the former Katanga are far worse affected by breathing difficulties than people in the north, mainly farmland.

"My colleagues and I have recorded a comeback of cardiac and respiratory diseases, (particularly) among children and women," says Jean-Marie Kazadi, senior medical expert for the new Haut-Katanga and Lualaba provinces.

Yet many thousands of people work arduous shifts in the mines, desperate to make a living in conditions worsened by a global tumble in copper prices. The high price of mining is also evident at Kipushi, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) south of Lubumbashi, where savannah abruptly gives way to a broad strip of scorched, barren land where the state mining firm Gecamines used to dump acidic waste. "For more than 30 years, nothing has grown in this place," says Mwalimu Kasongo, a retired teacher of 76.

Former minister N'Sa Mputu says several bird species that once thrived in the area have now "disappeared". For Lubumbashi resident Maloba, now an unemployed man in his 30s, the childhood fishing expeditions remain a distant memory, with little hope of ever catching anything more in his beloved river. —AFP

FACTS AND BACKGROUND ABOUT FENTANYL

Prince died of an overdose of the powerful opioid fentanyl, according to autopsy results released in June. Among the questions investigators were reviewing was whether Prince had a prescription for painkillers before his death.

A person close to the investigation of Prince's death told The Associated Press on Sunday that pills found in Prince's home marked as acetaminophen-hydrocodone actually contained fentanyl, suggesting they were counterfeit pills obtained illegally. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

Prescription opioid overdoses reached nearly 19,000 in 2014, the highest number on record. Total opioid overdoses surpassed 29,000 that year when combined with heroin, which some abusers switch to after becoming hooked on painkillers.

Some information on fentanyl: What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid, 50 times more potent than heroin, that's responsible for a recent surge in overdose deaths in some parts of the country. It also has legitimate medical uses.

Doctors prescribe fentanyl for cancer patients with tolerance to other narcotics. It comes in skin patches, lozenges, nasal spray and tablets. Because of the risk of abuse, overdose and addiction, the Food and Drug Administration imposes tight restrictions on fentanyl; it is classified as a Schedule II controlled substance.

Some pharmaceutical fentanyl is illegally diverted to the black market. But most fentanyl used illicitly is manufactured in clandestine labs. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has tied fentanyl seizures to Mexican drug-trafficking groups. On the street, fentanyl is sold alone as powder, added to heroin or made into counterfeit OxyContin pills. Users don't always

know when they're taking fentanyl, increasing the risk of fatal overdose.

The DEA issued a nationwide alert about fentanyl overdose in March 2015. More than 700 fentanyl-related overdose deaths were reported to the DEA in late 2013 and 2014. Since many coroners and state crime labs don't routinely test for fentanyl, the actual number of overdoses is probably much higher.

What is a lethal dose?

It's tricky with opioids like fentanyl. Anyone who takes prescription opioid painkillers for a long time builds up a tolerance to the drugs. A dose that could kill one person might provide medicinal pain relief to another.

Experts in medical toxicology say it's important to know how much opioid medication a person has been using before a death to know how to interpret post-mortem blood levels. Pill bottles and medical history may become crucial evidence.

Does pain treatment lead to addiction?

Prince had a reputation for clean living, and some friends said they never saw any sign of drug use. But longtime friend and collaborator Sheila E. has told the AP that Prince had physical issues from performing, citing hip and knee problems that she said came from years of jumping off risers and stage speakers in heels.

Becoming tolerant to opioid painkillers may lead some patients to seek stronger drugs from their doctors. Some users - whether they start as recreational users or legitimate pain patients - become addicted, experiencing an inability to control how much they take, so they use much more than is prescribed or seek out drugs on the black market. With good management, however, opioids can offer relief to people with only a small risk of addiction, according to a 2010 review of the available studies. —AP

DA HENDERSON, WHO LED EFFORT TO ERADICATE SMALLPOX, DIES AT 87

NEW YORK: Donald A. Henderson, who headed the World Health Organization vaccination effort that wiped out smallpox in 1977 and later became a US bioterrorism expert, has died from complications following a hip fracture, officials said on Sunday. He was 87.

The 1966-1977 smallpox program at first was given little chance of succeeding. It required the development of labs around the world to produce vaccines, a constant scramble for funding, arm-twisting of governments to join in, and halting outbreaks as soon as they emerged by focusing on vaccinating people who came in contact with those infected, Henderson told the WHO.

"The most important legacy of smallpox eradication was its demonstration of how many people could be protected through vaccination, so rapidly and inexpensively with a well planned program and quality-control monitoring," the man

known as "D.A.," said in an interview published by the World Health Organization a few years ago.

Smallpox is a highly infectious virus that kills 30 percent of its victims and scars the rest for life.

In 1972, he flew to Belgrade in the former Yugoslavia to help stamp out the last smallpox outbreak in Europe, the WHO said.

After the campaign to wipe out the disease, Henderson became dean of the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health from 1977 to 1990, expanding the school's reach and making it a national leader in addressing HIV/AIDS, said Michael Klag, dean of the school. "D.A. was a force of nature who, until relatively recently, seemed invulnerable. Public health has lost a hero," Klag wrote adding, smallpox is the only human disease ever to have been eradicated. —Reuters

UK NURSE TREATED FOR EBOLA ACCUSED OF CONCEALING TEMPERATURE

LONDON: A British nurse who developed Ebola working in Sierra Leone is facing disciplinary action over allegations she lied about her temperature during health checks on her return.

The Nursing and Midwifery Council alleges that Pauline Cafferkey "allowed an incorrect temperature to be recorded" at Heathrow Airport on Dec. 29, 2014, and intended to conceal from Public Health England staff that she had a temperature

higher than 38 Celsius (96 Fahrenheit).

The council said Thursday that a full hearing on the allegations is scheduled for next month. Cafferkey could lose the right to practice.

Cafferkey, now 40, became critically ill shortly after she returned from West Africa at the end of 2014 and was treated in an isolation unit at London's Royal Free Hospital. She was twice re-hospitalized with complications. —AP

MORE POTENTIALLY DEADLY BACTERIA FOUND AT MARYLAND HOSPITAL

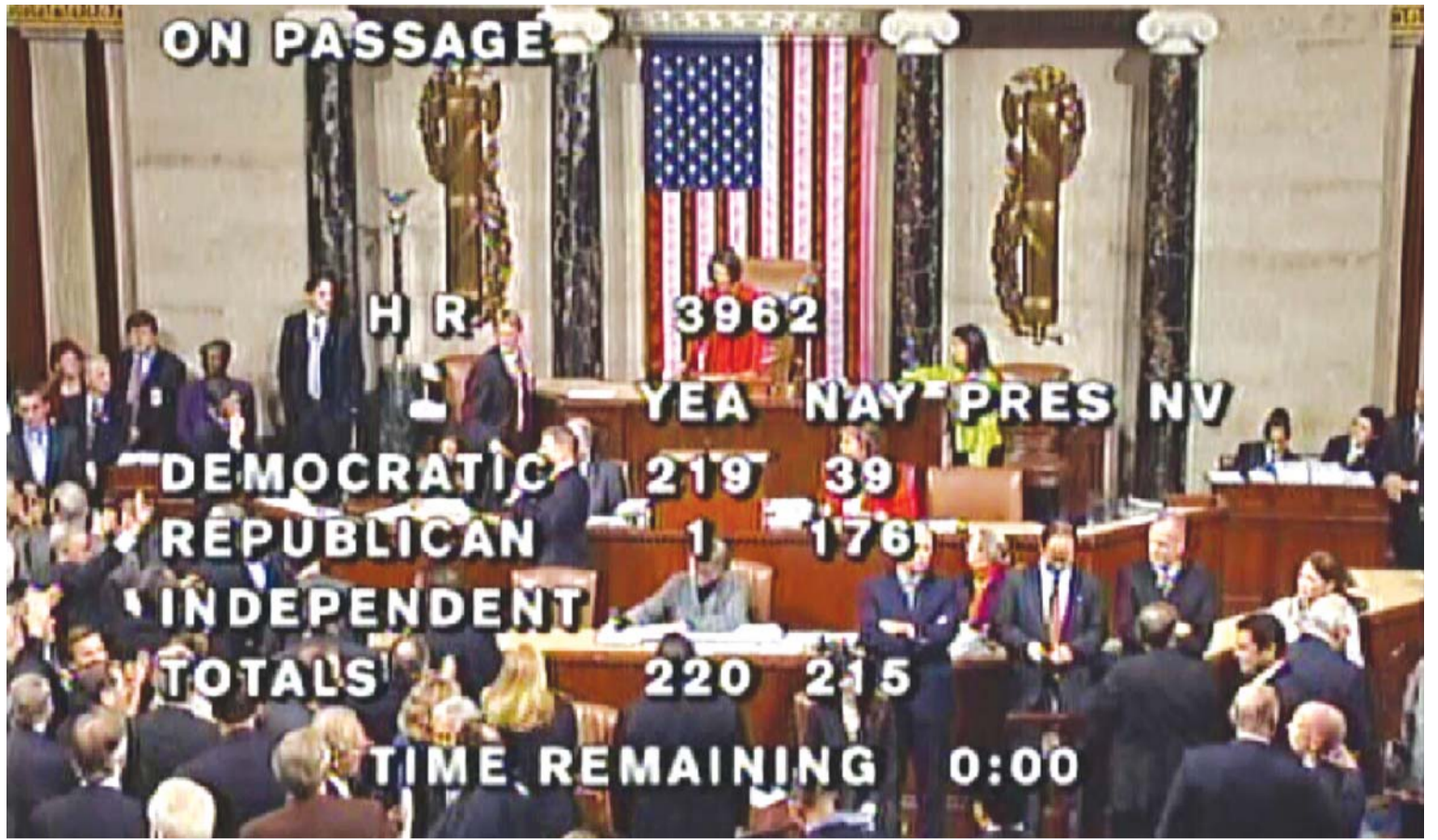
UPPER MALBORO: Officials say they've found another instance of a potentially deadly bacterium inside a Maryland hospital that was shut down earlier this month. Prince George's Hospital Center officials announced Tuesday evening that the presence of the bacteria *Pseudomonas* was discovered in at least one patient care area outside of the neonatal intensive care unit.

The bacterium was first found Aug. 9 in the water pipes after two newborns died. An infectious disease expert is investigating whether the deaths are linked to *Pseudomonas*. A number of babies were transferred out of the NICU as a precaution. Crews worked Wednesday to disinfect the plumbing infrastructure for the entire hospital. It's unclear where the bacteria came from. —AP

HEALTH OFFICIAL: GULF COAST STATES MOST VULNERABLE TO ZIKA

MIAMI: A National Institutes of Health official said Sunday that the Zika virus could "hang around" the United States for a year or two. Dr. Anthony Fauci told ABC's "This Week" that other Gulf Coast states, besides Florida, are most vulnerable to the spread of the disease. "I would not be surprised if we see cases in Texas and Louisiana, particularly now where you have the situation with flooding in Louisiana," said Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. "There are going to be a lot of problems getting rid of standing water." Mosquito-borne Zika cases have been found in two neighborhoods of Miami-Dade County—the Wynwood neighborhood and Miami Beach. They are the first areas on the US mainland where health officials determined mosquitoes were transmitting Zika, which has spread through Latin American and the Caribbean. The discovery last week of non-travel-related infections in Miami Beach prompted the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to expand its travel warning for pregnant women to include the area known for nightclubs, pedestrian thoroughfares and beaches, as well as

Wynwood, a neighborhood known for art galleries and boutiques. Fauci said mosquito control is the best way to stop the spread of the Zika virus, which can cause severe birth defects, including microcephaly, in pregnant women. "With our experience with other similar viruses like dengue, this is something that could hang around for a year or two," Fauci said. "Hopefully, we get to a point to where we could suppress it so that we won't have any risk of it." Meanwhile the mayor of Miami Beach said city workers are doing everything in their power to go after mosquitoes in the popular tourist destination. Mayor Philip Levine told New York radio station AM 970 that Miami Beach is running smoothly, despite the Zika concerns. "Those 15 mosquitoes have been put under arrest. They've been apprehended. We have them in jail right now," Levine joked on "The Cats Roundtable Show." "All kidding aside, we have contained the small little outbreak of Zika, which was very limited," he added. "It's something we're watching. It's closely contained and it certainly hasn't disrupted the business of Miami." —AP



WASHINGTON: This Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009 image made from video shows the final vote for health care bill 3962 in the House Chamber of the US Capitol. —AP

REPEAL OR RETAIN 'OBAMACARE'?

ELECTION OPENS FINAL ACT

WASHINGTON: Election Day 2016 will raise the curtain on the final act in the nation's long-running political drama over President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. If Republican Donald Trump wins, the unraveling begins. "We have an obligation to the people who voted for us to proceed with 'repeal and replace,'" said Sen. John Barrasso, a Wyoming Republican.

If Democrat Hillary Clinton goes to the White House, it gets very difficult for Republicans to keep a straight face about repealing "Obamacare." "There just won't be any credible way to keep talking about repealing the Affordable Care Act," said Ron Pollack, executive director of Families USA and a supporter of the law. After years of debating health care politics and policies, Americans remain divided over the 2010 law, which was passed without a single Republican vote when Democrats still controlled both houses of Congress. What happens next could affect health insurance for nearly everyone. It's not just the millions who have gained coverage through expanded Medicaid in a majority of states and subsidized private health insurance in every part of the country.

It's also anyone with an existing medical condition who now can apply for health insurance without fear of being turned away. It's millennials weighing paying monthly premiums against paying a fine for remaining uninsured. It's women whose birth control is covered free by their employer, and parents who can keep late-blooming kids on their workplace plans until age 26.

People's worries

Brian Greenberg of Stamford, Connecticut, is in his early 30s, and his insurer has already spent more than \$845,000 on medical care for the Crohn's disease patient. A financial services professional, Greenberg worries about a return to lifetime dollar limits on coverage, a type of cutoff that was previously allowed.



PHOENIX: Deborah Paddison stands outside her home on Friday, July 15, 2016, while she recovers from her latest orthopedic surgery. She fears she would become uninsurable if the Affordable Care Act was repealed. —AP

Deborah Paddison, of Phoenix, fears she would become uninsurable. For most her life she has battled rheumatoid arthritis, an autoimmune disease that attacks the joints and tissues. Paddison works as a freelance editor and writer and says her independence is due in part to subsidized coverage under the health care law.

The law's tangible benefits for Greenberg, Paddison and millions of other Americans present a major challenge for Republicans. They have honed their legislative strategy for repealing most, if not all, of Obama's law, but they still have to work out key parts of their plan for replacing it. Among the questions would be

what to do with the exchanges that serve as marketplaces for people buying private health insurance policies. Many of the exchanges have come under stress as major insurers have pulled out over rising costs, a factor that has reduced competition and consumer choice.

The framework that GOP congressional leaders have released isn't detailed enough to allow a full comparison with current law. The Center for American Progress, a think tank aligned with the Clinton campaign, estimates 24 million people will lose coverage by 2021 if the law is repealed and says the Republican replacement will not fill that hole.



MIAMI BEACH: Mayor of Miami Beach Philip Levine, speaks during a news conference Friday. —AP

CONGRESSWOMAN, MAYOR SAY MORE RESOURCES NEEDED TO STOP ZIKA

MIAMI BEACH: US Republican Debbie Wasserman Schultz and Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine say more federal resources are needed to combat the spread of the Zika virus in South Florida.

They're holding a news conference at a popular Miami Beach cafe in an effort to urge Congress to return from its summer break to deal with the virus outbreak.

President Barack Obama requested \$1.9 billion in emergency funds in February to

develop a vaccine and control the mosquitoes that carry the virus.

But lawmakers left Washington in mid-July for a seven-week recess without approving any of the money. Mosquito-borne Zika cases have been found in two neighborhoods of Miami-Dade County. They're the first areas on the US mainland where health officials determined mosquitoes were transmitting Zika. —AP

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Kuwait Times
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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
د. فهد علي المخيزيم

Consultant Pediatrician إستشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

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

JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL & SPA AWARDED SECOND GREEN GLOBE

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa, Kuwait's idyllic resort, has been certified by Green Globe, the global certification for sustainable tourism, for the second consecutive year. Following an inspection process, the luxurious landmark's sustainability management plan met all international standards for sustainable practices.

In-line with the hotel's dedication to sustainability practices, Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa has successfully and consistently practiced energy and water conservation,

reduced electricity consumption, and implemented many eco-friendly initiatives for the wellbeing and safety of its guests and Kuwait community.

General Manager, Hakan Petek, said: "Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel & Spa is dedicated to improve the environment and the quality of the wellbeing of our community. It is an honor to be awarded once again for these achievements, which would not be possible without the hard work and persistent dedication of our colleagues. It is truly a testament to their continuous pursuit for excellence in delivering exceptional services."

Working hand-in-hand, colleagues have worked continuously to raise environmental awareness and uphold eco-friendly practices across all aspects of the hotel, as well as through the Corporate Social Responsibility practices and initiatives that the hotel and its colleagues engage in.

Commenting on the hotel's achievements, Carol Roncoletta, Director of PR & Communications and a member of the hotel's Green Committee, added: "Since opening in 2013 we have organized several initiatives with the objective to make a positive contribution to the local community and the environment. We have covered social and charitable activities; we have invested in environmental initiatives and actively promoted the rich heritage of Kuwait and its traditions. The key to our success is our guests and colleagues. We remain committed to raise awareness through our initiatives in the coming years and deliver our promise, Stay Different™."

Further recognizing its eco-friendly practices, the hotel has also won this year the titles of Eco Luxury Hotel of the Middle East as well as Luxury Hotel of Kuwait at the Luxury Lifestyle Awards, the international coveted award for the luxury segment.



JOY JOHN THURUTHIKARA HONORED

Joy John Thuruthikara, Managing Director of J & A Group has been honored by ROTARY International Club, (A world famous organization which is approved by UN, UNCISO & WHO) through providing their prestigious best upcoming entrepreneur award of the year 2016. This award was given to him for his outstanding achievement in Business and involvement

in Social and Charity activities in India & abroad. The function was held in Swiss Bell Hotel Auditorium, Kuwait City in the presence of large number of community leaders on 12th Aug. 2016 and the meeting was presided by Rtn. PP. MPH. Dr. J Moses, Secretary of Rotary International. This prestigious award was handed over by the Hon. Justice K. G. Balakrishnan, former Chief

Justice of India and Certificate of Excellence was handed over by His Excellency the Ambassador of India to Kuwait Mr. Sunil Jain. This occasion was blessed by Rtn. Swami Gururatnam Jaana Thapaswi-the organizing secretary of Shanthigiri Asramam. On this occasion Rtn. Major Donor P.G. Muralaedarhan, OICC General Secretary B.S.Pilla,

G.Sekharan Nair-Bureau chief of Mathrubhumi News Paper, Suresh C. Pillai - CEO of Mark Technologies, Shemej Kumar K.K. gave given the speech in the function. The function was blessed in presence of different social and community leaders along with key personalities of the society. The vote of thanks was delivered by Nissam.



AWARENESS FOR HAJJ

As the hajj season is in full swing, health ministry authorities are holding campaigns to bring awareness to pilgrims on how to stay healthy while performing the rituals. Rumaithiya specialized health center held an awareness day, under the supervision of Dr Sadiqa Bualyan, as advice was given to the public. Several health ministry departments and private companies participated.



A UNIQUE MEDLEY COMMEMORATED

'Diversity: the art of thinking independently together' —Malcolm Forbes

Our Independence Day is undoubtedly as much a day to celebrate as it is to reminiscence and to reflect. The fact that we are a sovereign nation is to be celebrated; our journey so far to be remembered and where we stand and are headed, reflected upon. The Embassy of India in Kuwait as well as the Writers' Forum, Kuwait precisely decided to do all of the three. The two collaborated and decided to commemorate this Day not just by celebrations but also by engaging in musings and reflections.

On the evening of August 15, 2016, the Writers' Forum, Kuwait (WFK) organised an evening of diversity, creativity and unity. The platform was one, poets were many; their expressions were in diverse languages and the audience represented all of India. The Kavi Sammelan and Mushaira held in the Embassy Auditorium received the whole-hearted support of the Indian Embassy, and particularly of H.E. Shri Sunil Jain, the Ambassador of India in Kuwait, who also graciously accepted to be the

Chief Guest on the occasion.

From about 6pm, Indian citizens from all regions and strata of society began to arrive in the Auditorium, anticipating to be immersed in the nectar of literary diversity. H.E. Shri Sunil Jain arrived sharp at 6.30 pm, flanked by the President of WFK Umesh Sharma and the Vice-President of WFK- Dr. Waseem Siddiqi. The General Secretary of the WFK, Tajwer Sultana welcomed the audience and the guests, while also speaking eloquently on the true meaning of Independence in our lives. She exhorted all those present to look within and seek independence from one's weaknesses as well.

A well-known personality in the literary circuit and the former President of WFK—Mrs Maimuna Chogule who was to preside over the Kavi Sammelan and Mushaira was invited to come on to the stage to light the lamp, preceded by H.E. Shri Sunil Jain, and along with the President Umesh Sharma, the General Secretary Tajwer Sultana and the Joint Secretary Sunil Sonsi. The audience stood in reverence for the

National Anthem. Floral bouquets were presented to the Honourable Ambassador and to Maimuna Chogule, following which the H.E. Shri Sunil Jain spoke on the importance of Independence Day in the lives of us all and on the need to celebrate the diversity of India. He congratulated the WFK for its unique identity and for bringing together the literary heavyweights in various Indian languages on one platform. The President of WFK then presented his speech, echoing the sentiments of patriotism and the contributions each one can possibly make towards the enriched nation that we are.

As is customary in the WFK, the preceding President and the General Secretary are honoured too for their services during their tenure, and accordingly H.E. Shri Sunil Jain presented mementoes to Dr. M. U. Beg and Rajesh Verlekar respectively. A much admired Punjabi poet and one of the leading torchbearers of the Forum—S. Gurbakash Singh Dogra, who is planning to relocate to India shortly, was also honoured on the occasion by the H.E. Shri Sunil Jain.

The most remarkable feature of the evening was not just the presence of 25 poets on the stage but the fact that their creative and original expressions were going to be in ten different languages of India. It is not very often that we find poetry flowing in diverse Indian languages from one platform. The onus of steering the program from the beginning till its zenith was on Afroz Alam—an Urdu poet regarded in high esteem and a member of WFK himself. The mantle of making the poetry in various regional languages, understood to the audience, by offering a translation in English, rested with Dr. Navniit Gandhi who herself writes poetry in Hindi and is a member of WFK. The program began on a melodious note, with Swathi Shaker—a music teacher, presenting a patriotic song.

The eagerly awaiting audience was rewarded for its patience as the Kavi Sammelan and Mushaira began with gusto, and the following poets were invited to recite their original works: Rajesh Verlekar (English); Rajiv Athavle

(Gujarati); Aamir Diwan, Navniit Gandhi, Nazneen Ali, Syed Qamar Minto, Umesh Sharma, and Vijay Dhillon (Hindi); Ameer Uddin Ameer (Kannada); Jyothi Das, Reshmy Krishnakumar and Vibheesh Tikkodi (Malayalam); Chhaya Athavle (Marathi); Gurbakash Singh Dogra (Punjabi); Preeti Rajgolikar (Sanskrit); Satya Narayanan (Tamil); Aamir Kidwai, Kamaal Ansari, Sayeed Nazam Kadpawwi, Shahjahan Jaffery, Shakeel Jamshedpuri, Tajwer Sultana and Afroz Alam (Urdu). As is again a custom, the President for the evening—Maimuna Chogule was invited towards the culmination of the program to present her poetry (in Urdu) and the Presidential remarks on the evening.

The Joint Secretary of WFK—Sunil Sonsi conveyed sincere gratitude towards all those who had extended their sincere support and co-operation for the evening to become a memorable one.

The audience left enriched and elated, and also enjoyed tea and refreshments before they left the Embassy premises.



SA SCIENTISTS DISCOVER ROOIBOS' UNIQUE ANTI-AGEING POTENTIAL

Rooibos is part of the fynbos family and endemic to the Cederberg region of the Western Cape.

South African wonder herb, Rooibos, is sure to turn the anti-ageing revolution on its head following a new round of research into its anti-ageing potential beyond that of its well-known antioxidant properties.

Rooibos—already a proven agent in thwarting the effects of ageing and promoting general health—has further been put through its paces by two leading scientists from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in a bid to beat the rate at which age-related diseases develop, which makes this research study so significant.

Lead scientist, Prof. Maryna van de Venter said it was the first time a study such as this had been attempted.

"Our research focussed primarily on the preservation of healthy fat tissue as the redistribution of fat—a natural process which occurs with age—particularly to the abdominal region, has been linked to the onset of many age-related diseases such as cardiovascular disease, type II diabetes and cancer. Our aim was to slow down the rate at which these diseases develop as a way to improve the quality of an individual's life.

Co-researcher, Dr Trevor Koekemoer, emphasised that the mere fact that their work suggested that the anti-ageing effects of Rooibos could be ascribed to more than its well-known antioxidant effects, was an important finding.

"The discovery opens doors to ways in which Rooibos could prevent or at least delay the detrimental effects of ageing and holds profound implications for the industry. Our findings could spur novel therapeutic approaches for improving general health in the aged and potentially lead to a breakthrough in the field of regenerative medicines," he said. - Source: www.sagoodnews.co.za



MESSAGE FROM THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the State of Kuwait wishes to inform the public that with effect from August 21st, 2016, the Chancery will be relocating from its present location to a new place - BLOCK 1, STREET 103, HOUSE NO. 8 WEST MISHRIF. Phone - 25379540/25379541. Fax - 25387719.

AL THURAYA CITY'S CAR RAFFLE WINNER

Holiday Inn Kuwait Al Thuraya City is delighted to announce that Samir Sayed won a Discovery Sport 2016, prize of the hotel's summer promotion.

Kuwaiti nationals and locals staying at the Holiday Inn during the months of June and July were entitled to raffle coupons for the draw of the car. There were a total of 1,000

coupons associated with this promotion. The winner of the draw was announced on 15th August 2016, 11am, in Al Thuraya City's Auditorium and in the presence of a

joint committee from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Interior. Mr. Sayed held coupon no. 0289.

US EMBASSY KUWAIT CALLS FOR 2017/2018 FULBRIGHT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING ASSISTANT (FLTA) PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The United States Embassy in Kuwait calls on Kuwaiti nationals, early career English language teachers, and recent graduates of journalism, mass media, or American or English literature programs to apply for the Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) Program. The Embassy is accepting applications until September 3, 2016.

The FLTA Program is a nine-month, non-degree program for early career English teachers or recent graduates in journalism and media or American or English literature. It is fully funded by the Department of State and provides the opportunity for participants to teach Arabic for U.S. students, refine their teaching skills, increase their English language

proficiency, and extend their knowledge of the society and culture of the United States. At the same time, successful candidates help strengthen foreign language instruction at US colleges and universities by serving as teaching assistants for classes in their native language.

Fluency in English is mandatory, demonstrated by a score of no less than 79-80 for TOEFL IBT or 6.0 for IELTS. Ideal candidates for the program have a desire to meet people and become a part of their host community by participating in community events and campus activities. Fulbright FLTA participants are creative and self-reliant team players, who are able to maintain excellent relationships with

faculty, staff, and students.

A complete application package includes:
- An online application through <https://apply.embark.com/student/fulbright/flta/>
- Original academic transcripts with certified English translations
- A graduation certificate
- Three letters of reference
- A TOEFL or IELTS score report
Short-listed applicants will be contacted by the Embassy for interviews. Successful candidates will be notified starting March 2017. Program dates are September 2017- June 2018. Visit us online at [@USEmbassyQ8](http://kuwait.usembassy.gov)

BBC FIRST

03:25 Mad Dogs
04:10 Casualty
05:05 The Musketeers
06:00 Casualty
06:55 Casualty
07:50 Death In Paradise
08:45 Call The Midwife
09:40 The Musketeers
10:35 Casualty
11:30 Death In Paradise
12:25 Call The Midwife
13:20 The Musketeers
14:15 Casualty
15:10 Death In Paradise
16:05 Call The Midwife
17:00 The Musketeers
18:00 Doctors
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Silent Witness
22:50 Doctor Who: The Husbands Of River Song
23:50 Doctors
00:50 Silent Witness

COMEDY CENTRAL

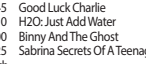
03:00 Nathan For You
03:50 Impractical Jokers
04:40 Ridiculousness
05:30 Tosh.0
05:55 Tosh.0
06:20 MLE Chowdown: The Turkey Bowl
07:15 Catch A Contractor
08:05 Ridiculousness
08:55 Nathan For You
09:45 Impractical Jokers
10:35 Key And Peele
11:00 Workaholics
11:25 Catch A Contractor
12:15 Nathan For You
13:05 Impractical Jokers
13:55 Ridiculousness
14:45 MLE Chowdown: The Turkey Bowl
15:35 Catch A Contractor
16:30 Nathan For You
17:25 Lip Sync Battle
17:50 Impractical Jokers
18:39 Key And Peele
19:03 Workaholics
19:27 Lip Sync Battle
19:50 Lip Sync Battle
20:13 Catch A Contractor
21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
21:30 Di Hughley: The Endangered List
22:18 Lip Sync Battle
22:42 Tosh.0
23:05 South Park
23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
00:00 Tosh.0
00:25 Underground With Dave Attell
00:50 Brotherhood
01:15 Tosh.0
01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
02:05 Hannibal Buress: Live In Chicago

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

03:00 Extreme Engineering
03:48 Smash Lab
04:36 Meteorite Men
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 Extreme Engineering
09:50 How Do They Do It?
10:14 Food Factory
10:38 Meteorite Men
11:26 Smash Lab
12:14 How The Universe Works
13:02 How Do They Do It?
13:26 Food Factory
13:50 Extreme Engineering
14:38 Meteorite Men
15:26 Smash Lab
16:14 How The Universe Works
17:02 Extreme Engineering
17:50 Smash Lab
18:40 How The Universe Works
19:30 Sci-Fi Science
19:55 Magic Of Science
20:20 How Do They Do It?
20:45 Food Factory
21:10 Mega World
22:00 Sci-Fi Science
22:25 Prank Science
22:50 How The Universe Works
23:40 Smash Lab
00:30 How Do They Do It?
00:55 Food Factory
01:20 Sci-Fi Science
01:45 Prank Science
02:10 How The Universe Works



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:25 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mook
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:20 Dog With A Blog
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Austin & Ally
08:35 Shake It Up
09:00 Hannah Montana
09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:40 Good Luck Charlie
11:30 Jessie
11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
12:00 The 7D
12:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:25 Hank Zipzer
13:05 Star Darlings
13:10 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:50 Dog With A Blog
15:15 Hank Zipzer
15:40 Bunk'd
16:05 Star Darlings
16:10 Gravity Falls
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:20 Backstage
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Bunk'd
18:40 Mako Mermaids
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Jessie
19:55 Violetta
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 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
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:30 Binny And The Ghost
02:50 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopedidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopedidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopedidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopedidoo

07:40 Jungle Cubs
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:40 PJ Masks
09:10 Doc McStuffins
09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
10:00 Sofia The First
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
12:30 Gummi Bears
13:00 Sofia The First
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
16:55 Sofia The First
17:50 The Lion Guard
18:15 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 Loopedidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopedidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopedidoo
02:45 Art Attack



00:45 CalimeroDisney XD
06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Danger Mouse S1
08:40 Camp Lakebottom
09:05 Counterfeit Cat
09:10 Gravity Falls
09:25 Lab Rats
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Supa Strikas
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Danger Mouse S1
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 Counterfeit Cat
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



03:15 Famously Single
04:10 Dash Dolls
05:05 Just Jillian
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 El News
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
14:05 WAGS
16:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 Botched
20:00 LA Clippers Dance Squad
21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
23:00 Famously Single



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

07:00 Chopped
08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 Chopped
12:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Man Fire Food
15:00 Chopped
16:00 The Kitchen
17:00 The Pioneer Woman
18:00 Chopped
19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
20:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Man v Food
22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:00 Iron Chef America
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:00 Man v Food
02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



03:40 Missing In Alaska
04:30 Monster Quest
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Dogfights
08:00 Cities Of The Underworld
09:00 The Universe
10:00 Missing In Alaska
11:00 Monster Quest
12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 Dogfights
14:00 Cities Of The Underworld
15:00 The Universe
16:00 Missing In Alaska
17:00 Monster Quest
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 Dogfights
20:00 Cities Of The Underworld
21:00 The Universe
22:00 Ancient Aliens
23:00 Hangar 1: The UFO Files
00:00 Ancient Aliens
01:00 Dogfights
02:00 Cities Of The Underworld
02:50 The Universe



03:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Search For The Lost Giants
06:00 Shipping Wars
06:50 Swamp People
07:40 Mountain Men - Closest Calls
08:30 American Restoration
08:55 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
09:45 Banger Boys
10:35 Alone
11:25 Search For The Lost Giants
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars
14:45 American Pickers
15:35 Shipping Wars
16:00 Ax Men
16:50 Mountain Men - Closest Calls
17:40 Swamp People
18:30 Search For The Lost Giants
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
21:00 Ax Men
21:50 Down East Dicking
22:40 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels
23:30 Swamp People: Swamp Christmas
00:20 Ax Men
01:10 Outlaw Chronicles: Hells Angels
02:00 Swamp People
02:50 Mountain Men - Closest Calls



03:25 Tonight At The London Palladium
04:20 Don't Tell The Bride
05:15 Eggheads
05:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
08:00 Tonight At The London Palladium
08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
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 Coronation Street
14:45 Murdoch Mysteries
15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
16:30 Grantchester
17:25 Don't Tell The Bride
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Coronation Street
19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
20:30 Grantchester
21:25 Don't Tell The Bride
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale



03:45 Gorilla Murders
04:40 Hunter Hunted
05:35 Cobra Mafia
06:30 Man V Lion
07:25 Gorilla Murders
08:20 Hunter Hunted
09:15 Dr. K's Exotic Animal



SWORD OF VENGEANCE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 Harvey Beaks
08:36 Breadwinners
09:00 Get Blake
09:24 Rabbids Invasion
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Harvey Beaks
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 Henry Danger
15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 The Loud House
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Breadwinners
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants

03:00 The Wire
03:30 Treme
04:00 True Blood
04:30 Preacher
05:00 Entourage
05:30 The Wire
06:00 Treme
06:30 True Blood

03:00 Empire
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 The Family
07:00 Bones
08:00 Quantico
09:00 The Flash
10:00 Wicked City
11:00 Bones
12:00 Quantico
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 Quantico
19:00 The Flash
20:00 The Fosters
21:00 Devious Maids
22:00 The Americans
23:00 Empire
00:00 Bones
01:00 Devious Maids
02:00 The Americans

03:00 Attila
04:30 Hercules Reborn
06:15 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
07:45 Crimson Tide
09:45 Henry Danger
12:00 Airplane vs. Volcano
13:45 6 Ways To SUNDOWN
15:45 Crimson Tide
17:45 The Berlin File
20:00 Sword Of Vengeance
22:00 Close Range
23:30 Watchmen
02:30 Mega Shark vs. Mecha Shark

04:00 Life In Pieces
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
06:30 The Bill Engvall Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Life In Pieces
10:30 The Bill Engvall Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:30 Life In Pieces
13:30 The Bill Engvall Show
15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
16:00 Grandfathered
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 The Simpsons
18:30 Black-ish
19:30 Crowded
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
21:30 Grandfathered
22:00 You're The Worst
22:30 Bordertown
23:00 Family Guy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Fresh Off The Boat
01:00 Grandfathered
02:30 Family Guy

04:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey
06:30 Nitro Circus: The Movie
08:15 Sleepless In Seattle
10:15 The Hundred-Foot Journey
12:30 Raising Helen
14:30 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
16:30 Sleepless In Seattle
18:30 Krippendorff's Tribe
20:15 What We Do In The Shadows
22:00 Save Your Legs!
00:00 Behaving Badly
02:00 Krippendorff's Tribe

03:00 Two Night Stand
05:00 Dying Of The Light
07:00 Rosewood Lane
09:00 Reach Me
11:00 Dying Of The Light
13:00 Miss Julie
15:15 Grand Central
17:00 Reach Me
19:00 October Gale
21:00 Lucky Them
23:00 Clouds Of Sils Maria
01:15 Grand Central

03:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
05:00 Underdog
07:00 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame



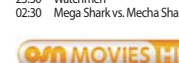
WATCHMEN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



04:00 Life In Pieces
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
06:30 The Bill Engvall Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Life In Pieces
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11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
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22:30 Bordertown
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 The Night Of
04:00 Vice Principals
04:30 Little Britain USA
05:00 Conspiracy
07:00 The Pentagon Wars
09:00 Sugar
11:00 Witness Protection
13:00 Game Change
15:00 Lansky
17:00 Witness Protection



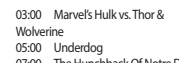
03:00 Attila
04:30 Hercules Reborn
06:15 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
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09:45 Henry Danger
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21:00 Lucky Them
23:00 Clouds Of Sils Maria
01:15 Grand Central



03:00 Marvel's Hulk vs. Thor & Wolverine
05:00 Underdog
07:00 The Hunchback Of Notre Dame



04:15 Testament Of Youth
06:30 Paradise
08:30 Wont Back Down
10:30 The Railway Man
12:30 Testament Of Youth
14:45 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
16:45 Wont Back Down
18:45 Walk The Line
21:00 McFarland, USA
23:30 Starred Up
01:30 Eden



03:00 Barely Lethal
05:00 A Promised Land
07:00 Persecuted
09:00 Barely Lethal
11:00 Still Alice
12:45 Peter Pan Live!
15:00 The Duff
17:00 Paranoia
19:00 Mortdecai
21:00 Lost River
23:00 Wild
01:00 Indisious: Chapter 3



04:00 Shadow Witness
05:45 Veronica Mars
07:45 The Song
09:45 Step Up Revolution
11:30 Left Behind
13:30 Born To Race: Fast Track
15:15 The Song
17:15 The Judge
19:45 True Story
21:30 The November Man
23:30 Annabelle
01:15 The Judge



03:30 The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya
06:00 Blue Elephant 2
07:45 Columbus In The Last Journey
08:15 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
10:45 Daddy Im A Zombie
12:15 The Tale Of The Princess Kaguya
14:30 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
16:00 Scooby-Dool And The Beach Beastie
18:00 Alpha Dogz: Pups United
20:00 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
22:00 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
23:45 Scooby-Dool And The Beach Beastie
01:15 Columbus In The Last Journey
02:45 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels

CLASSIFIEDS

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SHARQIA-1		FANAR-2	
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	12:00 PM	WAR DOGS	12:15 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	2:15 PM	WAR DOGS	2:30 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:15 PM	SKIPTRACE	5:00 PM
THE BFG	6:30 PM	WAR DOGS	7:15 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	9:00 PM	WAR DOGS	9:45 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	11:45 PM	SKIPTRACE	12:15 AM
SHARQIA-2		FANAR-3	
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	1:00 PM	RABID DOGS	11:30 AM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	3:15	SUICIDE SQUAD	1:30 PM
PM THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	5:30 PM	RABID DOGS	4:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	7:30 PM	MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	6:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	9:45 PM	THE BFG	9:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	12:05 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	11:45 PM
SHARQIA-3		MARINA-1	
SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	1:45 PM	THE BFG	2:45 PM
SKIPTRACE	4:00 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:15 PM
SKIPTRACE	6:15 PM	THE BFG	7:30 PM
SKIPTRACE	8:30 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	10:00 PM
SKIPTRACE	10:45 PM	SUICIDE SQUAD	12:30 AM
SKIPTRACE	1:00 AM		
MUHALAB-1		MARINA-2	
THE BFG	11:30 AM	SKIPTRACE	11:30 AM
MOHENJO DARO - Hindi	2:00 PM	SKIPTRACE	2:00 PM
THE LEGEND OF TARZAN	5:00 PM	JAHEEM FI ILHIND	4:15 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	7:15 PM	JAHEEM FI ILHIND	6:30 PM
THE BFG	9:45 AM	SKIPTRACE	8:45 PM
SUICIDE SQUAD	12:15 AM	JAHEEM FI ILHIND	11:15 PM
MUHALAB-2		MARINA-3	
SKIPTRACE	12:45 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	11:45 AM
SKIPTRACE	3:15 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	1:45 PM
THE BFG	5:30 PM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	4:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	8:00 PM	NOTICE	4:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	10:15 PM	Special Show "THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS"	6:00 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	12:30 AM	THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	8:00 PM
		SKIPTRACE	10:15 PM
		SKIPTRACE	12:30 AM
MUHALAB-3		AVENUES-1	
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	11:30 AM	LIFE ON THE LINE	1:00 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	1:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	3:00 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D	3:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	5:00 PM
THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS	5:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	7:00 PM
SKIPTRACE	7:45 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	9:00 PM
SKIPTRACE	10:00 PM	LIFE ON THE LINE	11:00 PM
SKIPTRACE	12:15 AM	LIFE ON THE LINE	1:00 AM
FANAR-1		AVENUES-2	
SKIPTRACE	12:00 PM	THE BFG -3D-4DX	12:15 PM
SKIPTRACE	2:15 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	2:45 PM
MIN 3D SANA	4:30 PM	THE BFG -3D-4DX	5:15 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	7:30 PM	THE LEGEND OF TARZAN -3D-4DX	7:45 PM
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	9:45 PM		
JAHEEM FI ILHIND	12:05 AM		

NOTICE
 JUNE 26, 2016

Mr. Akashnand son of Mr. Arvind, resident of 3/43, Morkhandi, Basvakalyan Taluka, Bidar, Karnataka and Miss Sunita Kumari Paswan daughter of Mr. Jagdish Paswan, resident of 16/40, Einstein Avenue, PO - B - Zone, Durgapur, Bardhaman, West Bengal, both Indian nationals, presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Krishan Kumar Pahal)
 First Secretary (Consular)
 And Marriage Officer

Embassy of India, Kuwait.
 Ph. 00965-22533315

REPORTER/EDITOR WANTED

REQUIREMENTS:

- Previous journalism experience
- Knowledge of Filipino community in Kuwait
- Driving license and own car
- Transferrable visa 18 (applicants must be current residents of Kuwait)
- Ability to start immediately
- Fluency in English

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Post Graduate in computer
 having more than five years of
 overseas experience in
 Admin/HR field (Visa-article
 18 transferable). Contact
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 (C 5205)
 22-8-16

FOR RENT
 Excellent flat in
 Salmiya - Block
 10 - (two rooms,
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 kitchen and two
 bathrooms).
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96019919

FOR RENT
 Commercial flats in
 Salmiya - Hamad
 Al-Mubarak st. -
 excellent location, on
 a main st. (2 rooms
 on master, living
 room - 2 bathrooms
 and kitchen).
 Tel:
96019919

REQUIRED

**Competent
 Executive Secretary**

- University graduate
- Good communication skills with Excellent command of English Language
- Good knowledge in Microsoft office
- Minimum 10 years experience
- Strong analytical and presentation skills
- Transferable Residency in Kuwait

Please email C.V. (Maximum 2 Pages) to the following address:
executive.sec2016@gmail.com

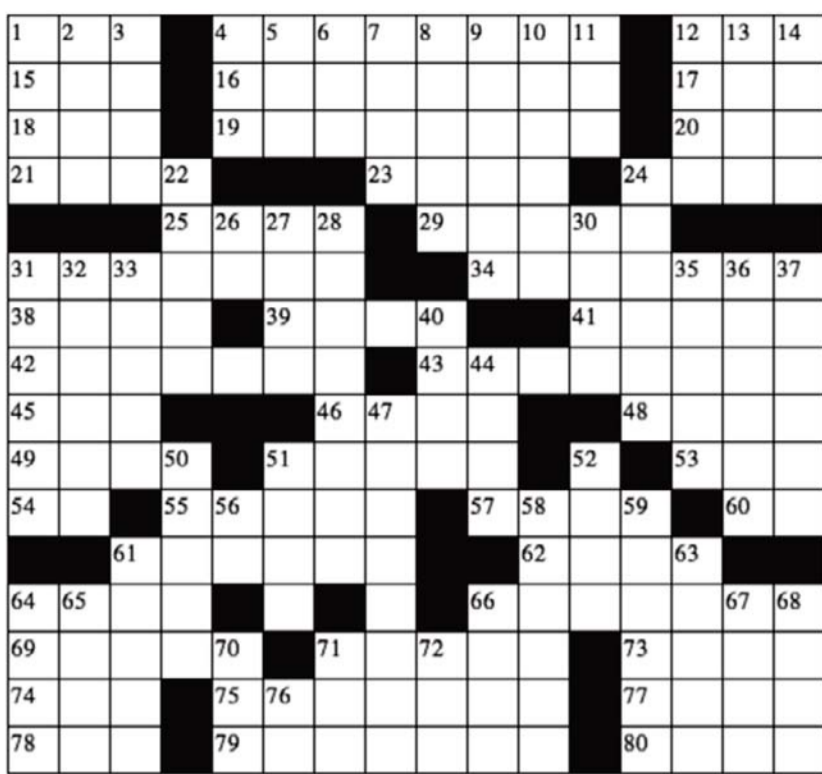
Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	KLM	411	Amsterdam	00:55	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:45
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05	CLX	713	Bangkok	14:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	MSC	404	Asyut	02:30	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50	AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:50	FBA	832	AI Najaf	15:10
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	RJA	640	Amman	16:00	KAC	177	Vienna	02:55	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
MSC	403	Asyut	01:30	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	KAC	783	Jeddah	03:30	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	JZR	563	Sohag	16:25	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	KAC	680	Muscat	16:55	RJA	645	Amman	03:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	KAC	562	Amman	16:55	FDK	802	Damascus	04:00	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
LMU	5101	Cairo	04:00	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	SYR	342	Damascus	04:05	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	RBG	552	Alexandria	04:45	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	KAC	781	Jeddah	17:30
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	LMU	5111	Cairo	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55	FEG	962	Sohag	06:00	JZR	801	Taif	17:45
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	104	London	19:00	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	104	Dubai	19:05	RJA	643	Amman	06:25	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	875	Bahrain	19:05	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:05	THY	6376	Dubai/Istanbul	06:35	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	KAC	123	Sharjah	19:15	JZR	240	Amman	06:55	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	ABY	123	Mumbai	19:15	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	JAI	572	Dubai	19:45	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:15	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	BAW	156	London	07:55	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	FDB	054	Dubai	08:25	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30	KAC	513	Tehran	09:15	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	KAC	619	Doha	09:30	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25	JZR	562	Sohag	09:50	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:50	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35	MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	NIA	151	Cairo	22:10	IRA	674	Lar	10:40	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40	QTR	1089	Bahrain	21:50
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:2								

CROSSWORD 1351



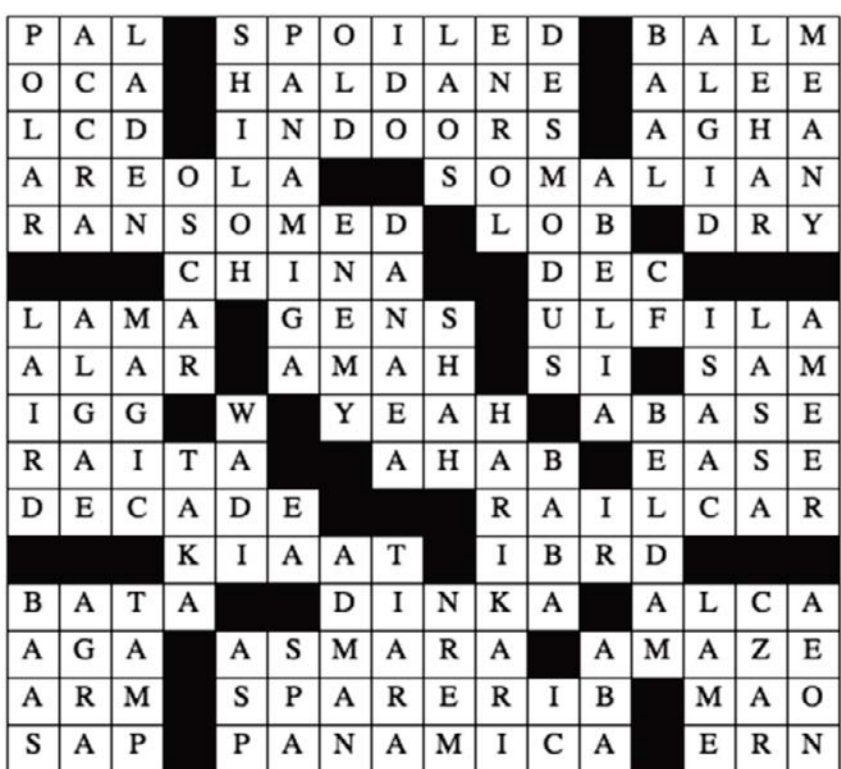
ACROSS

1. A federal agency established to regulate the release of new foods and health-related products.
4. Freetail bats.
12. A white linen liturgical vestment with sleeves.
15. The syllable naming the sixth (submediant) note of a major or minor scale in solmization.
16. A cephalosporin antibiotic (trade name Ultracel).
17. Primitive predaceous North American fish covered with hard scales and having long jaws with needle-like teeth.
18. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
19. Holding that only material phenomena can be known and knowledge of spiritual matters or ultimate causes is impossible.
20. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
21. A small cake leavened with yeast.
23. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
25. The first of three divisions of the Hebrew Scriptures comprising the first five books of the Old Testament considered as a unit.
29. Minute floating marine tunicate having a transparent body with an opening at each end.
31. A genus of evergreen shrub that grows in New Zealand.
34. Having sections or patches colored differently and usually brightly.
38. A light springing movement upwards or forwards.
39. A rounded projection or protuberance.
41. A river of southwestern Africa that rises in central Angola and flows east and then north (forming part of the border between Angola and Congo) and continuing northwest through Congo to empty into the Congo River on the border between Congo and Republic of the Congo.
42. A person who lacks good judgment.
43. English poet (1618-1857).
45. Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
46. On, to, or at the top.
48. Studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills (rather than occupational or professional skills).
49. (used especially of vegetation) Having lost all moisture.
53. Step on it.
54. A silvery malleable metallic element that resists corrosion.
55. Tired to the point of exhaustion.
57. United States physiologist (born in Germany) who did research on parthenogenesis (1859-1924).
60. Being ten more than one hundred forty.
62. A less than average tide occurring at the first and third quarters of the moon.
64. Small ornamental ladies' bag for small articles.
69. Left-hand page.
73. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
74. To make a mistake or be incorrect.
75. A port and the capital of Guinea.
77. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
78. A negative.
79. Type genus of the Adelgidae.
80. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.

DOWN

1. Loose or flaccid body fat.
2. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
3. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
4. A large cask especially one holding a volume equivalent to 2 butts or 252 gals.
5. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
6. Acute delirium caused by alcohol poisoning.
7. Type genus of the family Arcidae.
8. A bar or bars of rolled steel making a track along which vehicles can roll.
9. A mass of ice and snow that permanently covers a large area of land (e.g., the polar regions or a mountain peak).
10. A mountain in south central Alaska.
11. (nautical, aeronautical) Situated at or toward the stern or tail.
12. Largest known toad species.
13. Young sheep.
14. (informal) Exceptionally good.
22. The 1st letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
24. An esoteric or occult matter that is traditionally secret.
26. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
27. Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
28. Durable fragrant wood.
30. A Chinese breed of small short-legged dogs with a long silky coat and broad flat muzzle.
32. Put (things or places) in order.
33. A convex shape that narrows toward a point.
35. The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
36. Of or relating to or obtained from milk (especially sour milk or whey).
37. German engineer (born in France) who invented the diesel engine (1858-1913).
40. A group of countries in special alliance.
44. A translucent mineral consisting of hydrated silica of variable color.
47. Of or relating to or shaped like a toroid.
50. The principal evil jinni in Islamic mythology.
51. A circular segment of a curve.
52. A short high tone produced as a signal or warning.
56. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
58. Toenail having its free tip or edges embedded in the surrounding flesh.
59. The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
61. Having or covered with protective barbs or quills or spines or thorns etc..
63. Type genus of the Percidae.
65. A three-tone Chadic language.
66. Swift timid long-eared mammal larger than a rabbit having a divided upper lip and long hind legs.
67. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
68. A French abbot.
70. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
71. Used of a single unit or thing.
72. 10 grams.
76. A doctor's degree in optometry.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You are always looking for new ideas that will gain the attention of those you teach or that will help you excel in some task at work. Today, however, others seem to be teaching you. A conference or business exhibition may find you conducting a test so that people will have to have hands-on experience with a product that you sell-making it impossible for anyone to walk away without a purchase. Your mind is full of practical ideas, especially related to your job or skills. You are always coming up with new ideas that will manage things better and make things work. People in the workplace depend on you to make the day a more agreeable one-if you are not at work, they miss you. This evening you will join your co-worker friends for a fun get-together.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today you may be out of touch with your feelings-perhaps out of focus. There may be romantic inclinations, but work is where you feel the pull to be attentive. Something new is stirring and all of the employees seem to sense that change is in the air. There may be a move of your offices to another building or some big improvements have been accepted. The work on the offices finally gets underway this afternoon and progress happens with the future changes as well as the present business. You are at your best when you are with your loved ones and tonight would be a good time for quiet interactions. Look into the possibilities of signing up for a yoga class. There are many different types of exercise classes that are quite helpful in stress relief.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You pour a lot of energy into most things you do and can have good result in very quick order. This is the time in which you will be able to focus and produce some of your best work. Your outgoing nature is what others see when you teach, guide or help in some way. Your increased self-confidence should bring you in touch with some rather interesting personalities. Concentrate on securing your business contacts for now. At home you may decide to adapt some fragrance for healing and uplifting. Try aromatherapy with incense or potpourri. Myrrh, bayberry, blueberry, vanilla, pine and cedar are all good choices. Your healthcare options, such as massage, music therapy and meditation are pathways to teach, heal or just enjoy.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A changeable quality in your personality is just what is needed in the workplace. You adapt easily to other people's moods and if needed, can step in where others fear to tread. Your intuitive abilities are heightened-you may sense and feel things that others do not. A higher-up has spoken, but co-workers do not understand; you just smile, enter the office of the higher-up and offer to help bridge the gap, so to speak. Results from your efforts could be clearer messages in the workplace. At least for this time, you have managed to create peace where there may have been problems. You love to work, be in charge and create things for others to enjoy. You are original and daring... Your enthusiasm replaces the indifference and negative attitude of others!



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You do well to take charge today, if not of your own work, perhaps in guiding others. You could feel great support from those around you for whatever is to be accomplished. You feel healthy and natural. You are outgoing, overflowing and very generous to those who have less, particularly today when you feel so fortunate and someone in need comes to your attention. It is easy to talk to you, as you seldom fail to exhibit compassion and interest in others. You are proud of yourself and of your family. One member of your family comes to your attention and is determined to show off a talent that will please you. You join in celebrations today with the appreciation of life and all its intricacies. You are happy and motivated.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Equipment failure may have you on the phone most of this morning. It could be that your computer at home would be better than this one on your desk. You opt for home, but higher-ups say to just take a break. This may be one of those days that you just go with the flow. This may be the time to make use of the old beeper. Between yourself and a friendly co-worker, you can keep each other updated. Later this afternoon you may find yourself volunteering to work late... But not too late. You could find that there are some fantastic opportunities to relieve stress in some fun ways this evening. You enjoy spending a little extra money to eat in a fine restaurant or see a movie with a very good friend and perhaps, several of your co-workers or a loved one.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

We all have times of disappointment and this may be one of those days where you become disappointed in someone or some product. There is always a chance for improvement and if asked to help change, correct, return, guide or instruct-you will go the extra mile to do so. Talk things over and find out what is underneath the surface. With your attention or guidance, difficult situations will work out right. Rising above a difficult situation today is most admirable and may get your attention that you had not thought possible. Good advice from a guide or older person may be in the forecast-a good day. There is a feeling of knowing someone or having been somewhere before when a friend treats you to dinner at a new place this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You could experience sudden rebellious lapses when you have heard just about enough from one person or people or sounds. This could be loud music or loud conversation. If you are in the workplace, removing yourself for a break would not be a bad idea. If you are at home, your own music or a walk around the block may create a good enough break for you; consider that you probably needed the break anyway. As energies and concentration returns, you can complete any task that is before you with less confusion. Friends appreciate your gestures of kindness and goodwill this afternoon when you might offer to help care for young people while the adults take a break from moving, painting, yard work, etc. You enjoy sports and might have fun coaching.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Some of the changes you will be making this day will really just be to your benefit. You might decide to update your resume, conduct research and add your name to a list or sign up for noon classes at a nearby youth organization. Your goals might be to continue working in order to support some cause or sign up for an adoption or do some volunteer work. Whatever the case, you make a difference for others and serve yourself at the same time. Small changes often have big effects later on. Make the right choice and it rebounds to your benefit; the wrong one, or no choice at all, does you no favors. This is a good day for practical ideas and planning about your work or vocation. You may receive some recognition or special attention today.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

If you have a new home, you might be considering the new antitheft devices or perhaps you will get a dog or two. During the noon break at work today bring up the subject and listen to what others do to feel secure. A community newspaper will be helpful by informing you of neighborhood updates and happenings. You might join a neighborhood group for support and information. A clear-minded insight into your own plans and methods is available to you through one or more of these steps. You will find much goodwill from those around you today. Politics and community activities can captivate you and create future ideas. A progressive and helpful mood is developing. This could mean that you will want to participate in community activities.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

It may be time to look in other directions for a career... Your idea of how a company should treat the employees or customers may be quite different from the opinion of the company or employer. You could become caught up in some political matter. Another choice seems the wise move-you have waited long enough. Intuition regarding work or health is valuable now; heed it. Laugh at little problems and keep moving forward. Your confident outlook will see you through any difficulties now. Exhibit your abilities to be candid and direct and save the emotions for study at a later time. Remember to use your mind and not your emotions. There may be talk this evening about some ideas for travel or short trips and you are ready to have an adventure.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You will finally be able to leave work early today. Although your career is moving along quite well, you will not be tempted or persuaded to stay late this evening. A relative, friend or neighbor is having a big bash after a wedding or some similar ritual this evening and you have never had the opportunity to go to this type of celebration. This may be some celebration that most people either your age or from your part of the country would never see. You will want to shop and get a gift as well as some fun clothing for yourself. It may be difficult to concentrate. You could feel real support and harmony at this time for circumstances and those around you. When you shop, consider going where an employee can advise you regarding your purchase.

WORD SEARCH

Christmas Season - Word Search
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- BELLS
- CANDLES
- CANDY CANES
- CAROLS
- DECORATIONS
- EGGNOG
- FAMILY
- FRIENDS
- FRUITCAKE
- GIFTS
- HOLLY
- LIGHTS
- MISTLETOE
- ORNAMENTS
- POINSETTIA
- SINGING
- SKATES
- SLEIGH
- SNOWFLAKES
- SNOWMAN
- SONGS
- TREE
- WREATH

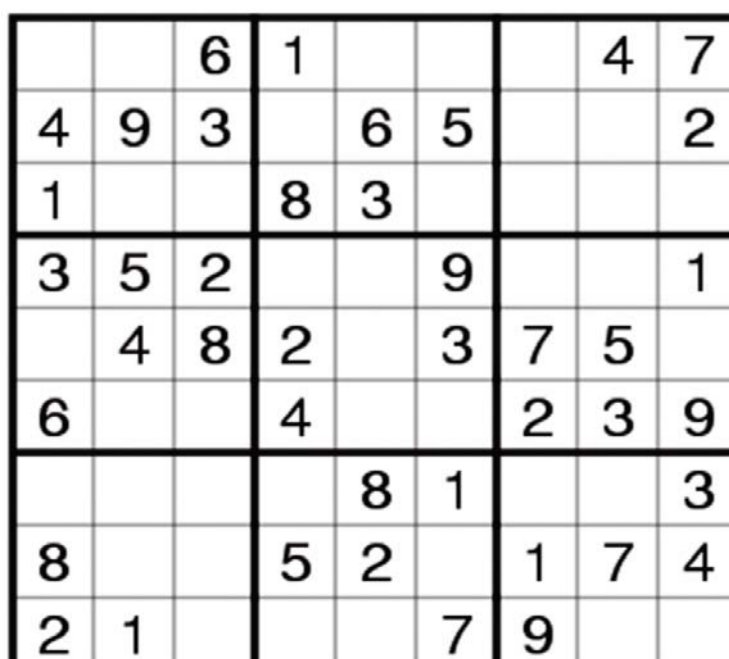
Yesterday Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
Christmas - Solution



- ANGEL
- BELLS
- BETHLEHEM
- CANDLES
- CAROLS
- FRANKINCENSE
- GABRIEL
- GIFTS
- GOLD
- JESUS
- JOSEPH
- MANGER
- MARY
- MISTLETOE
- MYRRH
- ORNAMENTS
- SHEPHERDS
- SINGING
- STABLE
- STAR
- WISE MEN
- TREE
- WREATH

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

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

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630 Fax: (+965) 24348714 www.met.gov.kw

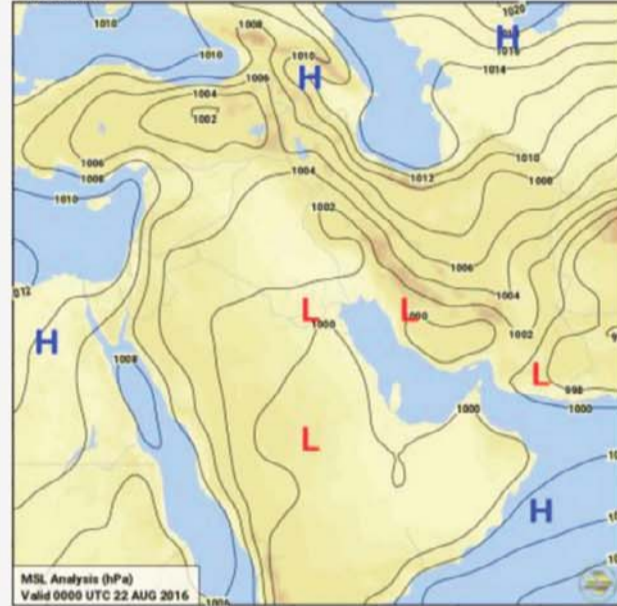
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 22/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 46 °C

By Day : Hot weather and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h
By Night : Humid weather especially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h and some high clouds will appear

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	Hot + relatively humid + scattered clouds	Hot + relatively humid + high clouds	Hot + relatively humid + scattered clouds	Hot + relatively humid
Min Temp °C	28	28	27	29
Max Temp °C	45	44	44	45
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 32	10 - 32	06 - 16	08 - 28

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C	REC	Max °C	EXP
KUWAIT CITY	36		44	
KUWAIT AIRPORT	29		46	
ABDALLY	27		47	
BUBYAN	30		43	
JAHRA	30		47	
FAILAKA ISLAND	31		45	
SALMIYAH	34		41	
AHMADI	35		41	
JAL ALIYAH	29		48	
QAROH ISLAND	34		42	
UMM AL-MARADEM	34		40	
NUWAISIB	30		47	
WAFRA	32		47	
MANAGISH	27		48	
SALMY	27		46	
MUTRIBA	30		48	

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	48
Min Temp (°C)	30
Max Rel Hum (%)	31
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 S
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:20
Sunset	18:22

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:57
Sunrise	05:20
Zuhr	11:51
Asr	15:26
Sunset	18:22
Isha	19:43

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
Dr Adrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
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Paloma Faith is pregnant

The 'Picking Up The Pieces' hitmaker has revealed she's expecting her first child with her long-term boyfriend Leyman Lahcine and is planning to take some time off in order to focus on her journey into motherhood. Writing on her blog yesterday she said: "I am so delighted to tell you I am going to take a short while off to have a baby. I have spent my whole life wanting to be a mother and now the time has come for me to so I feel so lucky." And, although she's spent a large proportion of her latter life in the public eye, the flame-haired beauty is adamant she wants to keep her unborn child away from the spotlight. She explained: "I hope

that you will respect my new family with our privacy in a time which should be calm and without anxiety. I really do not want this child to be in the public eye as it won't have chosen to and I hope everyone can understand that." The 35-year-old singer has also asked her fans not to criticize her pregnancy body as she doesn't want the added stress. She said: "I am nervous and excited about being a mum and just need to be normal and low key for a while." "Pregnancy and motherhood is a very personal thing: daunting, new and worrying at times and I don't want to add to it by having to 'look' a certain way when pregnant or be photographed pregnant of with my

child. "I wasn't raised like that and I don't want my child to be. I want the baby to have the freedom of a normal life." Meanwhile, although she's taking some time off to focus on her unborn baby - whose due date remains a mystery - Paloma is adamant she'll return "full of energy" next year. She said: "I am grateful for your understanding and promise to return fully fledged when I have this moment of solitude and new life. I am beyond happy about it."



LEA MICHELE'S IDEAL MAN

Lea Michele wants a man who can look after himself. The 'Scream Queens' star has revealed she would like to date someone who she can "come together with" and make "a really good team". She said: "I was reading an interview with Reese Witherspoon and she said how it was vital to find a partner who really takes care of their side of the road. And that is something I find important. "I take care of myself, and I spend a lot of time and energy doing that, so I need someone else to look after themselves too. It's only then that you can come together and be a really good team." The 29-year-old actress tragically lost her boyfriend Cory Monteith in July 2013 and has penned a number of tracks about him for her upcoming album. She added to Women's Health magazine: "Obviously the last track was a song about Cory. And

on this new one, the last song is about him again. But it's very hopeful song because I'm in a different place. I'm stronger." Meanwhile, Lea previously admitted she "feels the best" she has done about her body in her whole life. She shared: "I'm very comfortable in my skin. I was on Broadway and I had to take my clothes off there as well. "It wasn't that crazy for me, but then again, at the end of the day when you're taking these pictures you're like, 'Oh wait, these are going to be on newstands for the whole world to see.' But I'm very happy with how it came out. I feel the best I've ever felt in my whole life. I'm going to be 30 in three weeks, so I think it was the perfect time to do that."



Natalie Portman: Lena Dunham inspired me

Natalie Portman deals with criticism better because of Lena Dunham. The 'Black Swan' star credits the 'Girls' actress for "inspiring her" to not worry about the negative responses she can get. She told Entertainment Weekly: "I do think the 'vanity project' concept is definitely used more against women. I found myself very affected by seeing reviews like that as a kid, growing up, when Barbra Streisand directed 'The Mirror Has Two Faces' [in 1996]. I remember, as a 12-year-old, reading reviews saying it was a 'vanity project' and talking about how she lights herself and stuff, and it made me reluctant to try taking on multiple roles on this film. To be a writer, director, and actress, I was like, 'Oh my God, they're going to kill me for this!' "I remember seeing 'Tiny Furniture', Lena Dunham's film, and when the credits rolled I started crying because it was written by Lena Dunham, starring Lena Dunham, produced by Lena Dunham, and directed by Lena Dunham... This young woman has no fear of saying, 'I did it, I did all of this.' And it was so good. It inspired me to not be afraid of that criticism." Meanwhile, the 35-year-old actress previously admitted she finds it hard to watch herself on screen. She shared: "It's hard [to see myself on screen]. And I think it was good for me because normally I can't watch myself at all, and watching myself makes me cringe, and I cover my face, and it's very hard to watch. "I think people who aren't in film experience that when they hear their voice on an answering machine or something. "So to have to watch myself in a way that was constructively critical was really good for me because it made me a little bit more easy on myself because I wasn't allowed to walk away screaming."



Mayim Bialik grateful to have a 'wonderful' ex-husband

Mayim Bialik is "tremendously grateful" to have such a "wonderful" ex-husband. The 'Big Bang Theory' star split from her husband of nine years, Michael Stone, in 2013 but is glad they have been able to keep things civil for the sake of their two children Frederick, eight, and Miles, 10. She said: "I'm a working mom and every night when I'm working, he's the one feeding them dinner, giving them a bath, reading them goodnight stories, tucking them in and making sure they sleep well. "The best thing I can do is be tremendously grateful for what a wonderful ex-husband I have and what a great dad he is and to continue to shatter the image of the perfect family I thought my intact family would be." The 40-year-old actress admits there are still things about Michael that annoy her but insists they work hard to always put their children first. Speaking in a vlog posted to her YouTube account, she added: "Being divorced is not a fun way to raise kids. Things my ex did when we were married that annoyed me then, annoy me still. "Life is not a dress rehearsal. My kids get one chance to be kids and this is their situation. I have to put them first because I'm their mom and he's their dad." Meanwhile, Mayim previously admitted she thinks actors are "overpaid". She said: "I don't make as much money as people think I do. I don't think about the money a lot. I am an employed actor and we are all overpaid. I am grateful to be employed. But I still need to think about what is next and I think about it a lot. "I don't think the pay has anything to do with the quality of the show. We have an extraordinary cast and amazing writing staff and people all care passionately about putting on a show every week."

Barton ordered to pay \$200,000 after pulling out of movie

Mischa Barton has been ordered to pay \$200,000 after she ditched a movie to go on holiday. The 30-year-old actress will have to pay out the hefty sum to screenwriter Daniel Lief after he sued her when she bailed on his movie 'Promoted', for which she had been cast in the lead role. Lief - who decided to sue the 'Notting Hill' actress when he saw pictures of her on social media travelling around Europe - claims the delay in production and the need to recast the lead role cost him more than \$300,000, TMZ reports. Meanwhile, Mischa has found herself involved in another big legal dispute after she has accused her estranged mother Nuala Barton of deliberately delaying the sale of the Beverly Hills home they both own by making sure potential buyers couldn't access the house. And it is not the first time Mischa has taken legal action against her mother after previously filing court papers to recoup "loss of earnings" she claims she has suffered. A source said: "She is heartbroken by this, and she didn't want to do it. She hates the attention, but she didn't have a choice. "When she said to her mom, 'I'm going to have to sue you for the rights to what I own,' her mom said, 'Fine, get out of the house. You will never sue us.' This was two years ago. And [Mischa] got the point where she said, 'I don't care.'" Mislabelled pills have been

found at Prince's home. The 'Purple Rain' hitmaker tragically passed away at the age of 57 from a self-administered fentanyl overdose and now investigators have reportedly found counterfeit drugs, which contain fentanyl, at his Paisley Park estate. The pills were located in bottles of vitamins and aspirin in his dressing room, the Minneapolis Star Tribune newspaper reports. A spokesperson for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) also

told the newspaper that they "haven't assigned a time limit" to the investigation and insist it will be "ongoing and thorough". Meanwhile, Prince's friend and collaborator Judith Hill previously revealed the singer "fought for his life" after he took an overdose of Percocet on a flight only days before he passed away. She recalled: "We knew it was only a matter of time; we had to get down. We didn't have anything on the plane to help him. [When we arrived at the hospital], he was awake, which was such a relief to me, because I thought he was gone... He wasn't dreary or drowsy, or anything. He wanted to watch 'Zootopia'. He loved those films. I was going to pull it up on my phone. He said, 'No, no, no, not here. We're going to pick a special time and place to watch that.' He was very cooperative that whole night, serious about getting help. "He did it because he was concerned, and he wanted to do the right thing for his own body. And that's the part that breaks my heart, because he was trying. He was trying... He told me, 'I had to fight for my life. I remember hearing your voices from afar and saying to myself, 'Follow the voices, follow the voices, get back in your body, you gotta to do this.' And he said it was the hardest thing he'd ever done, to get back into his body like that."



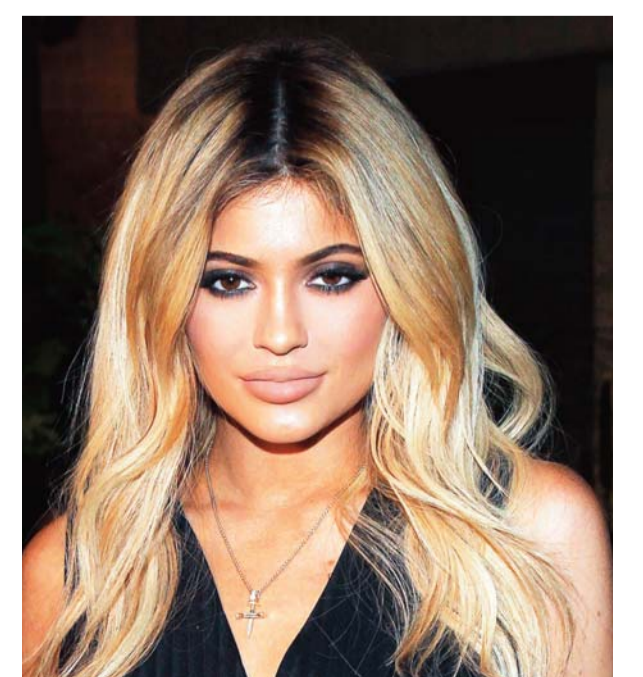
Wu's Hugo Boss womenswear collection 'more feminine'



The 33-year-old fashion designer - who was named the Art Director of the German luxury label in 2013 - has admitted his upcoming capsule for the fashion house will see the tailored garments "softened up". Speaking to the Telegraph.co.uk about his forthcoming clothing line, he said: "We've softened her up, she's become more feminine. The straight lines have become more curved, the tailoring has become softer." And the creative mastermind has revealed he is open to working long hours because he loves throwing himself into the creative processes and getting his "hands dirty". Jason - who oversees the production of 12 collections per year - explained: "I love getting my hands dirty, and I don't mind working crazy-long hours and weekends." Meanwhile, Jason - who was born in Taipei, Taiwan, before him and his family moved to Canada - has admitted he learnt English by reading fashion magazines, which gave him the "fashion bug" and inspired him to start creating his own designs with the sewing machine his mother bought him at 10 years old. He explained: "That's really how I learnt English. And it was when I got bitten by the fashion bug. "She wanted my brother and me to have opportunities other than those that were available growing up in Taiwan in the 1980s. "It was much less acceptable there for a boy to be interested in anything that might be seen as feminine." Meanwhile Jason - who launched his first fashion venture with clothes line for dolls at the age of 16 before he debuted his first fashion line in 2006 has admitted he felt "more courageous" when he was younger to break into the fashion industry. He said: "I was much more courageous when I was younger. I'd never been to New York before, and I took a train, by myself, from Connecticut, and went to have a meeting with Integrity Toys. "When I talk about it now, it doesn't seem believable, but that's how I started. "My friends were working as baristas and I was going off to China to look at production."

Kylie Jenner wants to release foundations and blushers

Kylie Jenner wants to release foundations and blushers to Kylie Cosmetics. The 19-year-old 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star - who has built up her beauty brand for over two years - has admitted she is desperate to expand her ever growing make-up line to include "foundations, concealers, blushes and bronzers". The beauty mogul - who celebrated her birthday on the Turks and Caicos Island with her family and friends earlier this month - shared her aspirations for this year on her website thekyliejenner.com. She wrote: "I can't believe I'm 19!!! When I look back at the past year and all that has happened, it's seriously crazy. I can't even imagine what this next year will bring - not only for me, but for my friends and family too! Check out some of my hopes and dreams for my 19th year! "Kylie Cosmetics dream achievement: I want to release foundations, concealers, blushes and bronzers!" And the brunette beauty - who is set to launch two new eye liner sets in brown and black, which will include a gel pot, eyeliner and brush, to her e-store today - has admitted she is "obsessed" with the pink cheeky powder, especially British make-up artist and beauty mogul Charlotte Tilbury's two-part palette in her Cheek to Chic Swish and Pop cosmetic line. Speaking previously about her essential make-up products, Kylie - who is currently dating 'Rack City' hitmaker Tyga - said: "I'm seriously obsessed with blush. I have tried so many different brands and I love a lot of them, but there's one that stands out! "Charlotte Tilbury's Cheek to Chic Swish and Pop collection is a two-part blush and my favorite palette is Love is the Drug. You're supposed to 'swish' the outer shade on your cheekbone and 'pop' the center color on the apple of your cheek and blend the two."



GOSSIP



'Gandalf' turned down \$1.5m to officiate Sean Parker's wedding

Sir Ian McKellen turned down £1 million to officiate a wedding dressed as Gandalf. The 77-year-old actor - who portrays the legendary character in the 'Lord Of The Rings' movies - was asked to appear at the wedding of Napster founder Sean Parker, but refused. He said: "I was offered one-and-a-half million dollars to marry a very famous couple in California, which I would perhaps have considered doing but I had to go dressed as Gandalf. So I said, 'I am sorry, Gandalf doesn't do weddings.'" However, the 'X-Men: Days of Future Past' star insists he had no idea who was behind the offer. He said: "He was a very rich man, that's all I know. I don't go dressing up - except in plays and things at places like this." Whilst a source added to the Mail on Sunday newspaper: "The offer to Sir Ian to officiate was made through a

mutual friend of Sir Ian's and Sean Parker." And Ian would have no problem in actually officiating the wedding if he wanted to after he got his qualification to marry his friend Sir Patrick Stewart and Sunny Ozell in 2013. Meanwhile, Sean reportedly splashed out a total of £7.5 million on his wedding to Alexandra Lenas in Big Sur, California in 2013. Guests at the Tolkien-themed bash were handed custom-made outfits by the film's costume designer Ngila Dickson whilst they dined on suckling pigs. The couple's wedding cake was a whopping 9ft tall whilst guests "in need of a cuddle" were allowed to get up close and personal with a pen full of bunnies. In the end, the wedding was conducted by a Unitarian Universalist minister.



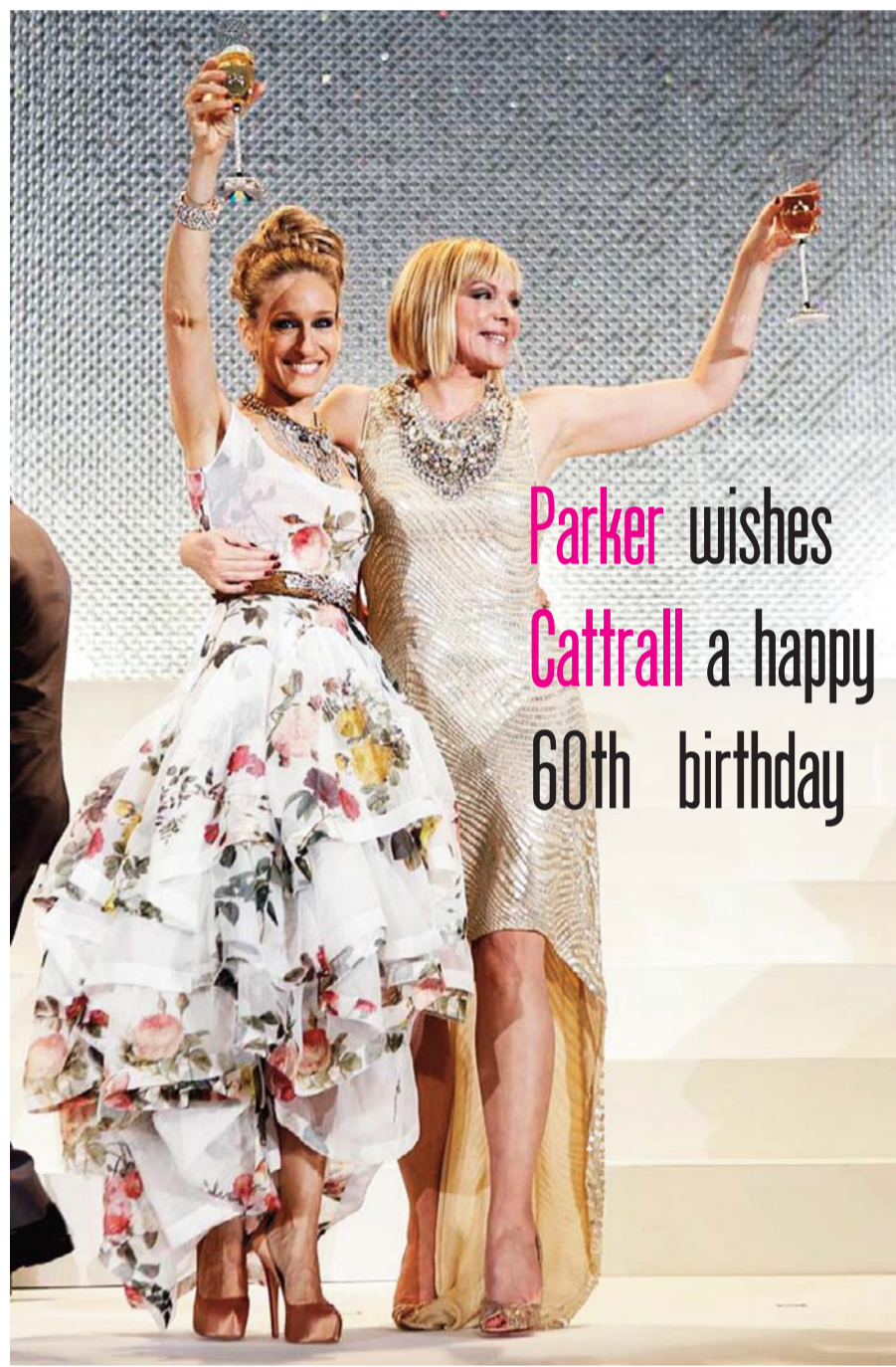
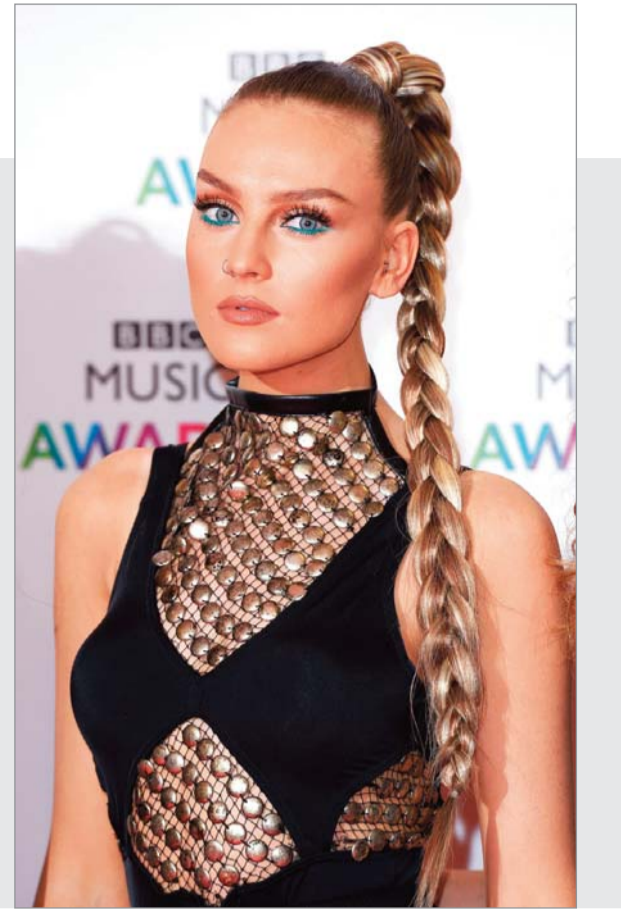
Heard, Robbie and Delevingne denied entry to a club

Amber Heard, Margot Robbie and Cara Delevingne were reportedly denied entry to a club in London over the weekend. The 'Magic Mike XXL' star - who recently reached a divorce settlement with her former spouse Johnny Depp - was seen out in the British capital with the 'Suicide Squad' stars but they were reportedly denied entry to strip club SophistiCats in Marylebone. A source told Mail Online: "They were seen talking to security and then not entering the club. Cara threw her hands up in the air in a frustrated fashion before they all headed for Chiltern Firehouse." Meanwhile, the 30-year-old actress - who is currently getting over her recent divorce from Depp - previously revealed she would be donating her entire divorce settlement to charity. She said in a statement: "As described in the restraining order and divorce settlement, money played no role for me personally and never has, except to the extent that I could donate it to charity and, in doing so, hopefully help

those less able to defend themselves." As reported in the media, the amount received in the divorce was \$7 million and \$7 million is being donated. This is over and above any funds that I have given away in the past and will continue to give away in the future. "The donation will be divided equally between the ACLU, with a particular focus to stop violence against women, and the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, where I have worked as a volunteer for the past 10 years alongside organizations like the Art of Elysium. "Over the years, I have seen firsthand how more funding for staffing, better equipment and better medication can make the difference between life or death for a child. "I know these organizations will put the funds to good use and look forward to continuing to support them in the future. Hopefully, this experience results in a positive change in the lives of people who need it the most."

Perrie Edwards wants to go speed dating

The Little Mix singer went on a date with Luke Pasqualino recently but has admitted she's still single and is keen to find a "hunky man" by trying out the matchmaking game. Asked if the girls in the group - also comprised of Jesy Nelson, Jade Thirwall and Leigh-Anne Pinnoch - are single, she told the Daily Mirror: "We are! [I'd look for] someone honest, fit, a hunky man. I said in the group chat I'd love to do speed-dating, it'd be so much fun! Total jokes." The 23-year-old blonde beauty - who split from Zayn Malik last summer - enjoyed a date with the former 'Skins' actor when the pair took a trip to see 'Aladdin' in London's West End before partying the night away at nightclub Mahiki. A source said at the time: "It was their first date, but things are going well. They met on a night out and really hit it off, then arranged to meet up - and it seemed like they had lots of fun. Hopefully, it blossoms into something more." Perrie's date with Luke no doubt came as a surprise to her former fiancé Zayn Malik, who previously revealed he would love for the hunky star to play him in a movie about his life. He said: "I always say the same person, but I always forget his name. I know his name's Luke. ... He was in the British 'Skins'; he plays Freddie." And Luke responded at the time to say he would jump at the chance. Zayn, 23, reportedly dumped Perrie last year via text after four years together but later penned the single 'It's You' about the 'Black Magic' hitmaker. He said at the time: "I just felt like I needed to put myself out there on that just because it was a form of therapy for me and it did help get me through some stuff."



Parker wishes Cattrall a happy 60th birthday

Sarah Jessica Parker has wished happy birthday to her "sister" Kim Cattrall. The 51-year-old actress celebrated her 'Sex In The City' co-star's 60th birthday with a sweet message on Instagram. She wrote: "Happy birthday you beauty @kimcattrall. Sending love and the very best for a perfectly marvelous, joyous, healthy and adventure filled birthday year. Your ol' pal, fellow mischief maker and "sister", S J xxx (sic)" And Sarah and Kim might not have even known each other as the blonde beauty - who played Carrie Bradshaw in the hit show - previously admitted she nearly turned down the program because she was concerned about "nudity and language issues". She wrote: "He [her agent Kevin Huvane] called me up and said, 'Darren Star reached out to me. 'He's written this pilot [Sex and the City] and tells me he wrote it with you in mind - you were in

his head when he was writing it. I'm going to send it to you. I've read it. I think it's really good. You should meet with him." "And I said, 'Really? I feel like I've got it all right now. I can do a play, then do a movie, then do a play, then do a movie. There's a lot of flexibility. What could be better? Do I really want to go back to making a television series when I'm maybe held hostage signing a long-term contract?" "I met with Darren, and there were a couple of concerns that I had-like I really wasn't keen on doing nudity and language issues-but Kevin continued to say to me, 'This is different. You have never done anything like this before. No one's ever done a part like this. Do this.'"

JOHN NEWMAN MET GIRLFRIEND ON FLIGHT

John Newman met his new girlfriend on a plane. The 'Love Me Again' hitmaker recently struck up a relationship with an air hostess after they hit it off while she was working on his flight to Bornholm in Denmark. He explained: "I'm dating somebody who is really supportive of me and really lovely. "She's not in the industry. She's actually an air hostess and that sounds really, really bad. We met on a plane. I was flying from Copenhagen to Bornholm, this tiny little island off Denmark because I was filming there. "She was working, it wasn't like any weird flight thing, we started talking and she was amazing. "I honestly couldn't care about fame or celebrity as she's just brilliant and I really enjoy spending time with her." And the 26-year-old singer's new romance is also helping him stay positive after being told earlier this year that he needs to undergo life-saving surgery on a brain tumor. Speaking to The Sun newspaper, he said: "I've got to go in for big surgery and radiotherapy so I don't have to put up with this thing again-I don't have to live knowing it might come back. They're going to get rid of it this time." However, this isn't the first time the talented star has had a brush with death as just four years ago he was told he had a benign growth the size of an egg pushing on his brain and was starting to make him go blind. He explained: "It's different because it was so brutal last time. It was, 'You need to get this sorted immediately, you're in a really bad place. It's grown really big and you're starting to go blind.' I basically went in and they took it out before it did some really bad damage. "It has been monitored so much since then, they've been watching it grow, they didn't want to tell me too early because it might stop, now they know it's coming back."



Miranda Lambert gets 'engaged' to six-year-old fan

Miranda Lambert has got "engaged" - to a six-year-old fan. The 32-year-old singer - who divorced Blake Shelton last year after four years of marriage - was thrilled to receive a proposal from a young supporter and promised they can tie the knot, but not for several years. Speaking to the audience at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey on Saturday, Miranda said: "I forgot to tell you something really important. I got engaged today! There's a little 6-year-old boy here named Sebastian. He asked me to marry him. I said yes, in 25 years." And Miranda - who was performing as support act for headliner Kenny Chesney - showed off the pink ring "gentleman" Sebastian had given her when he popped the question. The 'Vice' hitmaker said: "Look at this beautiful ring! He got on one knee. He was such a gentleman. It may be my favorite proposal ever." The next day, Miranda, who is dating Anderson East, uploaded two photos taken during Sebastian's proposal to fans on

Instagram. She added the caption: "I said YES! But he has to wait 25 years. This sweet boy Sebastian is a little gentleman." Sebastian had got into the meet-and-greet session with his idol



after spotting fan Sarah Goddard, who was wearing a sticker to grant her access to see the country singer, and asking her to propose on his behalf - but she went one better and brought him into the room with her. Sarah explained to People magazine: "I told his mom he could come in with me 'as my son' so he could propose to Miranda himself. "He bought the ring himself ... his mom said he's been holding on to it since Christmas, waiting for an opportunity to propose to Miranda." Sarah shared her involvement in the proposal on her Instagram, sharing a picture of the ring with the captions: "I made Sebastian's dream come true, he is the sweetest. He even practiced his proposal with me @mirandalambert "Can't believe Miranda just acknowledged Sebastian the 6yr old boy I got a M&G who proposed to her with a pretty pink ring @mirandalambert." She also uploaded a video with the caption: "The moment when Miranda tells the entire stadium about Sebastian's proposal. He is such a sweet boy."

Murphy's sobriety strengthens faith

Eddie Murphy thanks God that he has never taken drugs. The 55-year-old actor thinks there are a number of times he could have "wound up crashing and burning", such as when he was offered cocaine by his late 'Saturday Night Live' castmates John Belushi - who died from a cocaine and heroin overdose in 1982 - and Robin Williams, who committed suicide two years ago. And Eddie admits his narrow escapes only serve to strengthen his faith. He said: "I don't drink-I don't have like this moral thing about it, I just don't do it-and I didn't get high. "[One night out] Belushi and Robin Williams offered me some blow (cocaine) and I didn't take it, and Belushi called me a 'tightass.' Then, years later, I was like, 'Wow, that's a trip.'" [If I'd accepted it] The Eddie Murphy story would have been totally different. "There are a bunch of things like that that I look back on and be like, 'Wow.' And that just reaffirms my faith. I know that God is real. There's been a bunch of times when I could have wound up crashing and burning." The 'Mr Church' star - who has eight children from past relationships and three-

month-old daughter Izzy with girlfriend Paige Butcher - claims he hasn't read a newspaper for 20 years as he is no longer interested in negative stories about himself or the industry. Speaking on The Hollywood Reporter's 'Awards Chatter' podcast, he said: "I used to be the hippest of them all. I used to know everything about everything. I used to read about everything that was going on and I knew everybody's name and

anybody in pop culture. Anything that was written about me I would read. "And for the last maybe 20 years-I haven't read a newspaper in 20 years, or read a corporate magazine, I don't read corporate magazines or stuff, I don't read stuff about me. I really don't read stuff about me. "Like, if there's an article about me, someone has to read through it before they even give it to me. I don't want to see anything that has anything negative. I don't want to read any of that thing. So I don't know what y'all think." And Eddie has no interest in interacting with his fans on social media as he doesn't even own a computer. He added: "I don't have a computer, I don't have email, I don't have any of that thing. "I don't need to be on social media interacting with the fans, tweeting that I just ate strawberries. Nothing has made me go, 'Oh, yeah, get me on, too, I want to be on there with y'all! I just had strawberries too!' "I'm going to the store now! "Look at this picture of this baby!" "I don't feel any pressure to live up to any whatever-expectation-anyone may have."



Malaysian rapper remanded for 'insulting Islam'

A Malaysian court yesterday remanded a rap artist in custody for a music video entitled "Oh my God" which allegedly insults Islam because it was partly filmed in a mosque. Namewee, whose real name is Wee Meng Chee, will be held for four days, a Penang district police chief, Mior Faridalathrash Wahid, told AFP. He said the rapper was being investigated for defiling a place of worship with the intention of insulting a religion. The rapper, who is also a film director, could face up to two years in jail, a fine, or both penalties if convicted, according to local media. The word "Allah" and sounds of the Islamic call to prayer were said to have been used in the four-minute Mandarin-language music video.

The video featured footage of Namewee and other singers, dressed in outfits representing various cultures and religions, performing inside a Penang mosque and a church as well as Hindu, Buddhist and Taoist temples.

Namewee was arrested at Kuala Lumpur International Airport while returning from overseas late Sunday. Amnesty International yesterday criticized the arrest, calling it a "another sign of the increasing repression by the Malaysian authorities against government critics including artists". "Amnesty International calls for Namewee to be released immediately and unconditionally if he is being detained purely for the peaceful exercise of his right to freedom of expression," said a regional deputy director Josef Roy Benedict.

"The organization also calls on the government to repeal or review all laws that unduly restrict the right to freedom of expression." Malaysia generally practices a moderate brand of Islam. But Muslim moderates and followers of other religions have expressed concern at a steady rise in conservative Islamic attitudes. Earlier this year cinema posters and a billboard advertisement for a

Hong Kong blockbuster film were modified to erase a half-man, half-pig character. Pork and its by-products are forbidden under the religion. In July several groups filed police reports claiming Namewee's music video had insulted Islam.

In response he posted a YouTube video explaining that he had no intention of insulting any religion and that the song was written to "promote harmony". The original music video is no longer available online but an edited version without footage of the mosque scenes was uploaded to YouTube over the weekend. Namewee has ruffled political and religious feathers several times over the years. He first hit the headlines in 2007 when he posted a video that featured him rapping to Malaysia's national anthem using allegedly seditious lyrics. — AFP



File photo shows Malaysian rapper Wee Meng Chee, better known as Namewee, speaking during an interview with AFP at his office in Kuala Lumpur. — AFP



A picture taken on December 4, 1988 shows then Belgium's minister for economic affairs Willy Claes (left) and Belgian jazz composer and harmonica player Jean-Baptiste Frederic Isidore Thielemans known as 'Toots' (right) posing after a concert at the Theatre de la Monnaie, on the occasion of the minister's 50th anniversary, in Brussels.



A picture taken on December 4, 1988 shows then Belgium's minister for economic affairs Willy Claes (left) and Belgian jazz composer and harmonica player Jean-Baptiste Frederic Isidore Thielemans known as 'Toots' (right) posing after a concert at the Theatre de la Monnaie, on the occasion of the minister's 50th anniversary, in Brussels.



This file photo taken on July 15, 2008 shows US music producer Quincy Jones (right) gesturing next to jazz harmonica player Toots Thielemans (far left) at the end of the "Quincy Jones' 75th Anniversary Celebration" night on the Auditorium Stravinski stage at the 42nd Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux. — AP/AFP photos

Belgian jazz legend 'Toots' Thielemans dies at 94

Belgian legend "Toots" Thielemans has died after a 70-year career as the world's most famous harmonica player during which he made music with some of the biggest names in jazz. Jean-Baptiste Frederic Isidore Thielemans, known affectionately as "Toots", died in his sleep in a Brussels hospital early yesterday, his manager Veerle Van de Poel said. He was 94. "It comes as a bit of a shock and surprise as he was doing very well after suffering a fall last month," Van de Poel told AFP.

Born in 1922 in the working class Marolles district of Brussels, Thielemans got his big break when he joined Benny Goodman on a European tour in 1950 before moving to the United States where he teamed up with other jazz greats, including Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra. He took up the harmonica as a hobby and then during World War II, as described on his official website, he became hooked on jazz. The nickname followed, taken from US musician Toots Mondello, a swing jazz saxophonist, and Toots Camarata, a trumpet player, composer and arranger. "He brought a rather banal instrument intended for campsites to almost sacred heights," said jazz historian Marc Danval. Gypsy-jazz great Django Reinhardt and Ray Ventura were major inspirations. A chronic asthma condition also influenced his unique style of play.

'One of the greatest'

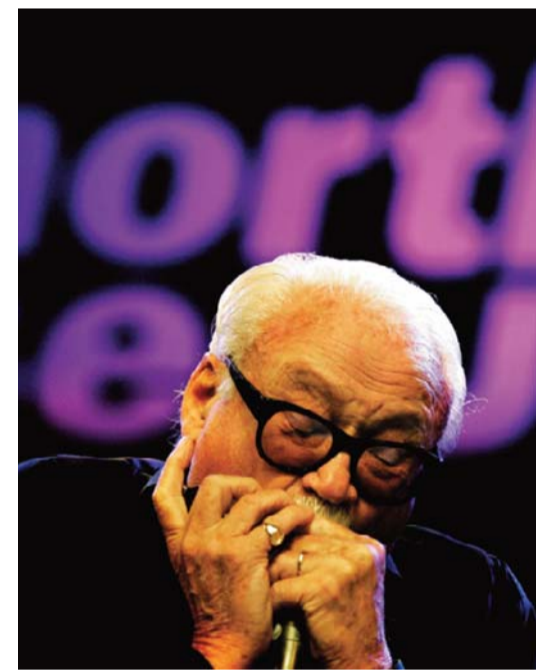
Buoyed by the commercial success of his now standard "Bluesette" in 1962, he played harmonica on the soundtrack for the hit Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight film "Midnight Cowboy"

in 1969 and many others. Thielemans also accompanied non-jazz artists such as Paul Simon, Billy Joel, Stevie Wonder and Nick Cave. He also played the closing theme on the popular children's TV program Sesame Street. In 2001, Belgian King Albert II made him a baron, sealing his status as one of the country's best-known figures on a par with Tour de France great Eddy Merckx.

In recent years, Thielemans had to cope with failing health but he refused to let this put him off and in 2012 he played a concert in Brussels to mark his 90th birthday before setting out on a world tour. However, age and poor health caught up with Toots, and he gave up touring in 2014. "We have lost a great musician, a heart-warming personality. All my thoughts are with the family and friends of Toots Thielemans," Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said in a tweet. For musician and producer Quincy Jones, who famously took Michael Jackson's career to new heights with "Thriller", Toots was one of the all-time greats. "I can say without hesitation that Toots is one of the greatest musicians of our time," Jones is quoted as saying on Thielemans' website. A jazz festival held in his name was due to take place next month in the Belgian town of La Hulpe where Thielemans resided. — AFP



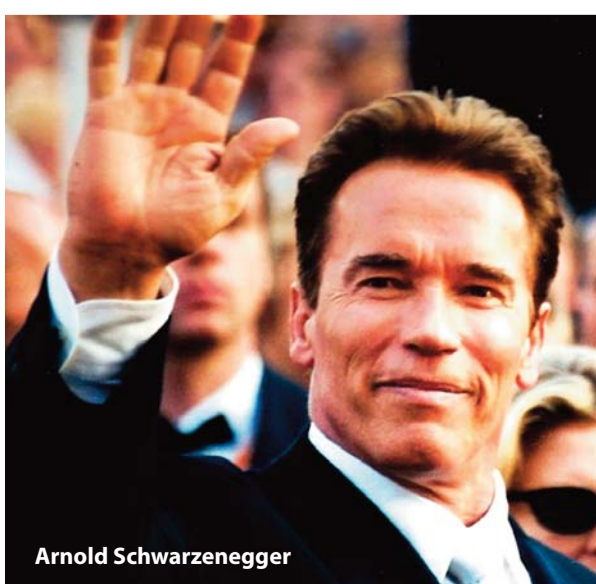
These file photos taken on February 29, 2012 shows musician Toots Thielemans playing harmonica at a press conference for the Toots90, to present the events organised for the 90th anniversary of the artist, in La Hulpe, Belgium.



Schwarzenegger says he wants world to be fitter

Arnold Schwarzenegger says being a bodybuilding champion, movie star and governor of California is not enough—he wants people to be fit too. "To me, it was not only important to be a bodybuilding champion and to do movies and to be the governor, but also to use my power of influence to promote health and fitness all over the world," Schwarzenegger told reporters at the unveiling of the inaugural Arnold Classic Asia Multi-Sport Festival in Hong Kong.

The event, which will run until Sunday, features a range of activities such as fencing, bodybuilding, rugby, yoga, weightlifting, arm wrestling, chess and solving Rubik's cube puzzles. "It doesn't matter—you maybe like gymnastics, I maybe like bodybuilding, but your exercise is as important as my exercise. So what we want to do is celebrate and bring everyone together," he said. Schwarzenegger has held similar events elsewhere around the world. — Reuters



Arnold Schwarzenegger

Lindsay Lohan wants to meet Putin, Russian TV host says

Troubled US star Lindsay Lohan has demanded a meeting with President Vladimir Putin in return for appearing on a Russian chat show, its host said, confirming US media reports. Andrei Malakhov, who hosts the top-rating "Pust Govoryat" or "Let Them Talk" show, told LifeNews Russian website late Sunday that Lohan "really does have a desire to meet the Russian president." "I don't know what she wants to discuss with him — saving Amur tigers or the problems of people with drug addiction," he said.

US entertainment news site TMZ earlier said that Lohan sent Russian Channel One television a list of demands including a meeting with Putin and photos with him as well as a private jet, a one-year visa and a fee of 500,000 British pounds (\$650,000, 580,000 euros). "The actual fee was a little lower," Malakhov told LifeNews. "I also want to earn 80 million a year and have dinner with the Queen, but dreams and reality are different things. You need to look at the situation soberly—unlike Lindsay Lohan," Malakhov was quoted as saying.

He posted a link to the LifeNews report on his official Twitter account, along with a message calling Lohan a "naughty girl." A spokeswoman for Channel One earlier on Sunday confirmed to RIA Novosti news agency that Lohan had been asked to appear on the show, but said the conditions had not yet been discussed and the TMZ report "did not correspond to reality." Lohan, a 30-year-old former child star who appeared in hit films "The Parent Trap," "Freaky Friday" and "Mean Girls" has struggled with drug addiction.

Russian television wants to interview her about her relationship with Russian-born Egor Tarabasov, whose father is reportedly a businessman from Moscow. Lohan has accused Tarabasov of violent abuse. Putin in 2010 met Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio at a summit on protecting tigers but has failed to set a date for a meeting with British singer Elton John to discuss gay rights. — AFP



Lindsay Lohan

DiCaprio, girlfriend unhurt after fender-bender in Hamptons

Authorities say actor Leonardo DiCaprio and his Danish supermodel girlfriend weren't injured when their vehicle was involved in a minor accident in the Hamptons over the weekend. Police in the village of East Hampton say the accident occurred around 4:30 pm Saturday on Montauk Highway on Long Island's east end, where the 41-year-old Oscar-winning actor and 24-year-old Nina Agdal were traveling together.

A department spokeswoman tells Newsday the accident, first reported by the New York Post, was "just minor" and no one was taken to a hospital. Officials had not released any other information yesterday. DiCaprio is a frequent visitor to the Hamptons, where he has rented homes and frequents hotspots. The couple was spotted at a popular restaurant in Montauk in June. — AP



FEATURES



Photo shows Doubtful Sound, a remote fjord within Fiordland National Park in New Zealand's South Island. — AP photos



Photo shows a sheep pasture at Katiki Point, about an hour's drive north of the city of Dunedin in New Zealand's South Island.



Photo shows a yellow-eyed penguin calling to its mate as it returned to its nest after a day of fishing at Katiki Point, in New Zealand's South Island.



Photo shows visitors admiring a waterfall during a cruise of Milford Sound in New Zealand's South Island.



Photo shows a stand of trees shaped by the strong winds on Otago Peninsula, in New Zealand's South Island.

Wildlife and wilderness galore in New Zealand's South Island

As a chilly dusk fell on this tiny bay famous for wildlife and Jurassic-era fossilized trees, a white-coated figure waddled gingerly across tide-slicked rocks - me, trying to get out of sight to prevent scaring off yellow-eyed penguins I hoped would come ashore. A 2-foot-tall penguin popped out of the ocean, gave me a puzzled stare from its lemon-hued eye, and marched to its nest in the cliffs.

Nearly four times closer to the South Pole than to New York or London, first settled by Maori around 950 and by Europeans 900 years later, the southernmost part of New Zealand's South Island is so pristine it's a toss-up who feels most surprised in meeting, you or the wildlife. During an eight-day drive along the 380-mile (610-kilometer) two-lane Southern Scenic Route, I watched some of the world's rarest penguins commute home, rode horses across rivers where "The Lord of the Rings" was filmed, and sailed in fjords and hiked mountain trails among tree-sized ferns and moss-draped beech trees that looked like giant bonsais.

A rainforest filter

I started in late June (winter in the Southern Hemisphere) in

Queenstown, a buzzing ski-and-outdoors town on a turquoise lake, and ended in the stately Edwardian city of Dunedin, with a detour to its Otago Peninsula and up to Moeraki. In between, endless vistas opened up of swirling ocean and massive mountains in all hues of South Island's precious pounamu, the greenstone that's crucial to local Maori culture. From Queenstown to tiny Te Anau, the gateway to Fiordland National Park, snow-capped ranges, corrugated by the ongoing collision of the world's two largest tectonic plates, cascade to the horizon. In their expansive shade, I trotted by horse along a fast, steely river near Glenorchy and hiked a few miles of the Alpine Routeburn track, starting through a rainforest filter of draping moss and ending by a tarn at Key Summit with peaks 360 degrees around.

Imagine mixing Hawaii with the Alps, then magnify it by a million: 3,000-foot (900-meter) ridges tumble into the still, dark waters of Milford and Doubtful sound, where it rains about 22 feet (7 meters) a year and waterfalls sprout everywhere. The car-antenna chewing kea, the world's only alpine parrot, lives here, as do dolphins and seals in large colonies where the fjords end in the Tasman Sea. Tourists flock to Milford with its

picture-perfect Mitre Peak, but Doubtful Sound is three times as long and its remoteness far more mesmerizing. Along the southern and eastern coasts, the mountains fade into ubiquitous sheep pastures. Deserted beaches stretch out, from the pebble-covered Gemstone Beach near Riverton to the sandy half-moon of Tautuku Bay in the Catlins region, where dirt roads meander past farms shielded by thick tree stands doubled over by the winds.

Wildlife sightings

It was here that I saw my first hoiho, as yellow-eyed penguins are called in Maori, one of only 2,000 estimated to exist. Farther up the coast at Katiki Point, I happened upon their evening rush hour and watched half a dozen paddle out of the ocean after a day of fishing, green, then hurry up the cliffs as their mates called out. On Otago Peninsula, royal albatrosses soared on their 10-foot (3-meter) wingspans at Taiaroa Head, while at Sandfly Bay, sea lions plopped belly-down and wiggled their 700-pound (300-kilogram)-plus bulk in the sand like sunbathers. Just opposite the peninsula, in 19th-century Carey's Bay Historic Hotel, I had the best dish on the trip, fresh

green-lipped mussels and Otago clams and scallops in cream. Runners-up: homemade gnocchi with wild venison at Etrusco and blue cod at Plato, both in Dunedin; "swine" burgers at Queenstown's Fergburger; lamb roast at Te Anau's The Ranch; fish and chips at Hampden's Lockies.

Of Otago's wines, my favorite was the intense Felton Road Chardonnay Bannockburn. One late afternoon toward the end of the trip, I accompanied a surfer friend to Aramoana beach, 15 minutes from Carey's Bay. After I had strolled to where the white beach ended in a rocky cove, he called out from the waves, asking about my wildlife sightings of the day: Had I seen any penguins? Sea lions? Seals? As I bellowed back successive "Nos," a mustachioed head rose from the wet boulders next to me. There was no mistaking the message in the fur seal's groggy eyes. Mumbling an apology, I walked softly away, while the seal settled back into its post-deepwater-fishing nap. — AP

Today's wood walls make a modern statement



This undated photo provided by wood artist Peter Glassford shows one of his collages made out of offcuts of Parota and Rosa Morada, two Central American hardwoods.

The phrase "wood walls" should no longer conjure up images of gloomy paneled basements or cabins sheathed in dated, knotty pine. Today's wood walls are riding high on the decor trend curve. Some pay homage to wood walls' early or midcentury roots. Wainscoting, that charm-filled wall treatment in old timey colonials and capes, might now be painted a dramatic deep violet, decked out with a lattice motif, or be given an exaggerated scale higher or lower than the standard chair rail.

Then there's the reclaimed wood wave, popularized by celebrity renovators Joanna and Chip Gaines of HGTV's "Fixer Uppers" series. The couple frequently uses rough-hewn boards from old barns and farmhouses. Fans of their Waco, Texas, store Magnolia Market can buy T-shirts hash-tagged "shiplap." Designers suggest creating feature walls with either a sleek contemporary look or a rustic modern vibe. Horizontal, vertical, herringbone or mosaic patterns add depth and dimension.

Peter Glassford of San Antonio fused his studio art background and his marketing and design job with a high-end Mexican furniture maker to create sculptural installations with the tropical hardwood off-cuts left over from furniture making. He now produces mass-market collage squares representative of his original signed art. The dramatic 3-D designs, which can be lacquered in custom hues, evoke the Abstract Expressionist work of American sculptor Louise Nevelson.

"Each panel is unique, like a small curation of random shapes that celebrates chance, free of patterns," Glassford says. Architects are adding

wood feature walls to contemporary homes. Angela Robinson used horizontal boards on a bedroom wall at Inn the Estuary, a bed and breakfast in Nanose Bay, British Columbia. The panels blend a modern sensibility with a respect for the wilderness.

"I love to incorporate natural textures and materials," says Robinson. "Wood adds warmth and, depending on how it's finished, can make a space feel more traditional, contemporary, rustic or refined." When using wood, appreciate its characteristics, Robinson advises. "Keep in mind that wood is a natural material that dents, scratches, swells and ages in time. I think that the more wood is used and aged, the more unique and beautiful it looks." If you're interested in trying wood tiles, check out sites like www.pebbletileshop.com, which sells wood reclaimed from old Southeast Asian fishing boats. Marine-grade material like this makes a great kitchen backsplash.

Woodworker Jerry McCall of Sacramento, California, band-saws reclaimed wood into thin planks that can be adhered to a wall with adhesive or peel-and-stick tabs. His company, Stikwood, offers weathered versions of the planks, as well as oak, fir, maple and cherry boards. Salvaged flooring from sports arenas, complete with game markings, makes a unique statement. McCall thinks the appeal lies in wood's warmth, history, and a comfort and calmness it brings to a space. "The perfect antidote to the chaos of our modern lives," he says. — AP



This photo provided by Stikwood shows a baby room with a wood wall designed by Carrie Rodman. — AP photos



This photo provided by Stikwood shows a bedroom with a wood wall.

Lifestyle

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2016

Malaysian rapper
remanded for
'insulting Islam'

38



A runner participates in the annual Color Run in Centennial Park in Sydney. The Color Run is a 5km fun run started in the US in 2012 and is inspired by the traditional Hindu festival Holi, where people throw natural coloured powders as the seasons change from winter to spring. — AFP

The memory of all that: Can you still find Sinatra in Vegas?

Popular Frank Sinatra tunes in Las Vegas hotel lobbies have been replaced by the likes of Sia and Rihanna. The final tower of the famed Riviera Hotel and Casino has fallen, and the Sands Hotel and Casino is long gone. A tribute show to the Rat Pack draws mainly retirees. True, Sinatra's Sin City presence is fading, and many sites connected to Ol' Blue Eyes long have disappeared. But Sinatra fans can still locate pieces of his Las Vegas legacy with a little homework.

In downtown Las Vegas, amid the street performers and costumed superheroes taking selfies with visitors, Sinatra aficionados can have a drink at a bar reportedly frequented by the Rat Pack - the name given to Sinatra and his pals, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis, Jr. The Bar Prohibition inside the

historic Golden Gate Hotel and Casino is surrounded by black and white photos of the trio. The venue even has a sign that says, "Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr and Dean Martin drank here. Make your own history at Bar Prohibition!"

Sinatra and Elvis Presley

The vintage feel is dampened, however, by video poker machines lining the small bar. And you likely won't be hearing Sinatra songs. Instead, dealers in fedoras sling cards to the likes of Katy Perry's "Roar." Farther down Fremont Street sits the Golden Nugget, a casino where an older Sinatra headlined from 1984 to 1989. A dressing room remains somewhat intact from his days as a performer. The casino's flashy front gives visitors a feeling that they are

entering a classic Sinatra venue and inside the period furniture completes the backdrop.

Outside downtown, fans can grab dinner at the Golden Steer Steak House. Sinatra and Elvis Presley both ate at this half-century-old hangout (though not together), and there is even a booth named in honor of Ol' Blue Eyes. With reservations, visitors can have a meal in that private booth and pick a dish as Sinatra would have after a long show. Along the strip, catching any Sinatra ambiance can be more challenging. Only the art deco-style Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel remains from the original "Ocean's 11," a 1960 film featuring Sinatra and the Rat Pack. Sinatra didn't headline the Flamingo but did play at the nearby Caesars Palace - a hotel dramatically transformed since the crooner's days. The Sands Hotel, where Sinatra recorded a live album, has been replaced by The Venetian.

'Luck Be a Lady'

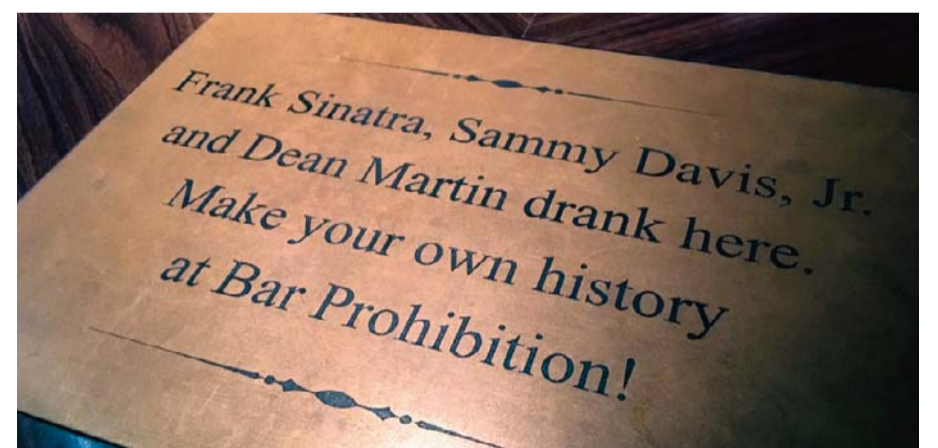
Sinatra's "Luck Be a Lady" sometimes is played during a water show at the Bellagio and the fountains of Wynn Las Vegas regularly blast Rat Pack songs. Inside the Encore at Wynn Las Vegas resort and casino is an upscale Italian restaurant named Sinatra. It houses the singer's Academy Award for best supporting actor in "From Here to Eternity" and his Grammy Award for "Strangers in the Night." Two blocks from the strip, fans can catch a 75-minute tribute show "The Rat Pack is Back!" at Tuscany Suites & Casino. Come early and have dinner before performers re-enact the classic show from the 1960s - complete with ethnic jokes and alcohol-fueled humor to fit the era's sensibilities. "It's 1960, folks," says David DeCosta, playing a fedora-wearing Sinatra. "We can say whatever the hell we want."

Sinatra would never have been seen walking around Vegas without a suit jacket and tie on, but today it's rare to find visitors not wearing shorts and T-shirts. One of the few Sinatra markers you'll find here is on the city's Walk of Stars. In 2010, Las Vegas paid homage to Sinatra and Martin by giving them each a star along Las Vegas Boulevard. "Just trying to have a little fun here, folks," Sinatra and Martin used to tell audiences. Las Vegas has transformed itself in many ways in the years since Sinatra's heyday, but you can still find that spirit of fun tracing his footsteps here. — AP

In this Jan 26, 1974, file photo, Frank Sinatra performs at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.



In this Aug 12, 2016 photo courtesy of Russell Contreras, Rat Pack tribute performers Kyle Diamond, left, David De' Costa, second from left and Drew Anthony, right are shown with Associated Press reporter Russell Contreras, second from right, at the Tuscany Suites and Casino in Las Vegas. — AP photos



A plaque is shown at the historic Golden Gate Hotel and Casino's Bar Prohibition in Las Vegas announcing where Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr and Dean Martin regularly visited during their popular days as Las Vegas performers.



Posters advertising an upcoming Rat Pack tribute show is shown at the Tuscany Suites and Casino in Las Vegas.

