

SUBSCRIPTION

Kuwait Times



THE FIRST DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016

THULQADA 24, 1437 AH

No: 16975

Mol receives first batch of e-passports

3



11 Turkish police killed in PKK suicide bombing

7



Court rejects appeal over Pistorius sentence

42



150 Fils

TOP COURT IN FRANCE SUSPENDS BURKINI BAN

A VICTORY FOR COMMON SENSE: CFCM



Min 29°

Max 47°



PARIS: A woman wearing a headscarf (right), and who refused to be identified, stands outside the Conseil d'Etat, France's top administrative court, in Paris, yesterday. (Inset) Marwan Muhammad, head of the Collective Against the Islamophobia in France, answers reporters outside the Conseil d'Etat in Paris yesterday. — AP

PARIS: France's highest administrative court yesterday suspended a controversial ban on the burkini by a French Riviera town after it was challenged by rights groups.

In a judgement expected to set a precedent, the State Council ruled that local authorities could only restrict individual liberties if wearing the Islamic swimsuit was a "proven risk" to public order. The judges said there was no such risk in the case before the court concerning Villeneuve-Loubet, one of around 30 towns to have introduced the bans. The French Council of the Muslim Faith (CFCM) hailed the ruling as a "victory for common sense". Police have fined Muslim women for wearing burkinis on beaches in several towns, including in the popular tourist resorts of Nice and Cannes, sparking controversy in France and abroad. The burkini bans have triggered a fierce debate about women's rights and the French state's strictly-guarded secularism.

'Line in the sand'

Amnesty International welcomed the ruling. "By overturning a discriminatory ban that is fuelled by and is fuelling prejudice and intolerance, today's decision has drawn an important line in the sand," Amnesty's Europe director John Dalhuisen said.

"French authorities must now drop the pretense that these measures do anything to protect the rights of women," he said. The CFCM's secretary general Abdallah Zekri said: "This victory for common sense will help to take the tension out of a situation which has become very tense for our Muslim compatriots, especially women." The State Council heard arguments from the Human Rights League and an anti-Islamophobia group. A court in Nice had upheld the Villeneuve-Loubet ban this week.

President Francois Hollande said Thursday that life in France "supposes that everyone sticks to the rules and that there is neither provocation nor stigmatization". Anger over the issue was further inflamed this week when photographs in the British media showed police surrounding a woman in a headscarf on a beach in Nice as she removed a long-sleeved top.

The office of Nice's mayor denied that the woman had been forced to remove clothing, telling AFP she was showing police the swimsuit she was wearing under her top, over a pair of leggings, when the picture was taken. Prime Minister Manuel Valls on Thursday condemned any "stigmatization" of Muslims, but maintained that the burkini was "a political sign of religious proselytizing". — AFP

KUWAIT DETAINS IS CYBER ARMY MEMBER

GOVT STAFFER NAYEF ARRESTED AFTER LONG SURVEILLANCE

DUBAI: Kuwaiti authorities have detained a government employee suspected of belonging to the Islamic State-linked "Cyber Caliphate Army", and hacking official websites of foreign countries to spread militant ideology, local media reported yesterday.

The Arabic-language Al-Qabas reported that the 26-year-old man identified as Othman Zebn Nayef was arrested after months of surveillance. Al-Qabas quoted the interior ministry's public information department as saying in a statement that Nayef confessed to being "a main member of the so-called Caliphate Cyber Army", believed to be the electronic arm of Islamic State.

An English-language daily, which carried a similar report, did not identify the depart-

ment where he had worked, but said he was caught using his office computer to "hack official social media sites of some 'friendly and sister' countries to spread the extremist thoughts of the so-called Islamic State".

The statement said Nayef's arrest had helped capture two suspects in Iraq and one in Jordan on Thursday, but provided no further details. Kuwait has waged a crackdown on Islamist militants since a suicide bomber killed 27 people in an attack on a mosque in Kuwait City in June 2015. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a separate report, Al-Qabas said that around 150 Kuwaiti nationals and residents who hold no citizenship, known as Bedoon, were in Syria fighting within armed groups

trying to topple President Bashar Al-Assad, and that up to 11 have died in the fighting. The newspaper quoted unnamed sources as saying that some of those fighters have been trying to find ways to return home as they face "extortion" and robbery from fellow militants.

Kuwaiti authorities announced last month having dismantled three IS cells plotting attacks, including a suicide bombing against a Shiite mosque and hitting an interior ministry target.

The Kuwaiti government, an ally of the United States, has stepped up its monitoring of individuals and charities suspected of collecting donations for militants linked to Al-Qaeda in Syria and in Iraq. — Reuters

Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: Kuwait coast guards guarding the territorial waters. — KUNA

News

In Brief

Kuwait to participate in the IEF15 in Algeria

KUWAIT: Kuwait will participate in the 15th International Energy Forum (IEF15) that will be held in Algeria on 26-28 September. In a statement received by KUNA yesterday, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Algeria Mohammad Al-Shabu, after meeting with the Algerian Energy Minister Nouredine Bouterfa on Thursday, stressed the solid bilateral relation, and finding ways to enhance it. Ambassador Al-Shabu added that he hoped the forum will succeed and conclude with good results that will help in enhancing cooperation in the energy sector, pointing out the importance of that forum. He mentioned that the Kuwaiti delegation in IEF15 will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh, and with the participation of OPEC member states.

US ship fires at Iranian vessel in Arabian Gulf

WASHINGTON: A US official said on Thursday that repeated approach by Iranian vessels to US Navy patrol crafts in the Arabian Gulf are acts that “unnecessarily escalate tensions.” A US Navy patrol ship has fired three warning shots at an Iranian vessel that came within 200 yards of USS Squall “when it failed to leave the area after the Navy had fired flares and had a radio conversation with the Iranian crew,” the CNN reported, citing the official. The report indicated that in the same incident that took place in the northern part of the Arabian Gulf another US patrol craft and a Kuwaiti Navy ship were also harassed. US State Department spokesperson Elizabeth Trudeau in the daily briefing Thursday said that several incidents of Iranian vessels approaching US Navy patrols were reported the past couple of days. Trudeau reiterated that those actions “were unsafe, they were unprofessional,” noting that “we don’t know what the intention of the Iranian ships were.” “But that behavior is unacceptable as our ships were in international waters,” and that such incidents “unnecessarily escalate tensions,” added.

Kuwaitis in Italy safe after quake: Envoy

ROME: Kuwait’s Ambassador in Rome Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled Al-Sabah has been in contact with the relevant Italian authorities to make sure Kuwaitis in the country are all safe after last night’s quake. Soon after the incident, the embassy contacted the Italian foreign ministry, and the registered Kuwaitis and members of the Kuwaiti missions and offices in the country to see they were safe, the envoy told KUNA. All of them, and their families are safe, he stressed. The ambassador added that Military Attache Commodore Bashar Abul-Redha had contacted the Kuwaiti military students receiving training in Italy and found they were all safe and sound. Further, teams from the embassy will tour the hospitals where quake victims are receiving treatment to see if there are any Kuwaitis among them, he said. Meanwhile, Sheikh Ali Al-Khaled said that he had expressed to the Italian officials Kuwait’s solidarity with the country in the aftermath of the devastating quake.

UAE pledges to treat 1,500 injured Yemenis

ABU DHABI: The Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) announced that some 1,500 people who sustained injuries in the war in Yemen will receive medical care in hospitals in the UAE, Sudan and India. The humanitarian gesture is in implementation of the directives given by UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan - Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, WAM reported citing an ERC press release. The move, which comes under the close follow up of Sheikh Hamdan bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Ruler’s Representative in the Western Region, and the ERC President, underlined the continuous support provided by the UAE to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people and strengthen their resilience to face the difficult circumstances they were enduring as a result of the ongoing crisis in the country. The ERC in co-ordination with the Yemeni government has put in place all facilities required to immediately airlift the wounded to the designated hospitals.

KUWAITI-IRAQI EFFORTS HELP IN RESTORING TIES

BAGHDAD: Iraqis and Kuwaitis worked very hard together to overcome the bitterness of the past, bringing the relations back to their former glory, said former Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki. Speaking during his meeting with the visiting delegation from the Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) recently, Al-Maliki said that he worked hard to normalize relations with Kuwait during his tenure as Prime Minister as well as Vice President of Iraq. He stressed that the media in both countries played an integral part in solidifying ties between Kuwait and Iraq, adding that with the normalization of relations, both nations could pursue various fields of cooperation.

Al-Maliki, who is head of the state of law coalition, called on Kuwaitis to invest in Iraq, saying that there were various opportunities for both Iraqis and Kuwaitis to pursue mutual business and commercial ventures. Regarding the situations in



Former Iraqi Prime Minister Dr. Nouri Al-Maliki poses for a group photo with the visiting Kuwait Journalists Association delegation. — KUNA

Iraq and the Arab world, Al-Maliki noted that the attempts to create sectarian strife in the country and the turmoil sweeping the region were threats to the stability of

all Middle Eastern countries. Finding solutions to problems in Iraq and the Middle East is a must to overcome obstacles faced by the region, said the Iraqi official.

On the economic and security situation in Iraq, Al-Maliki said that both domains needed to be addressed seriously by all sectors of the Iraqi society or else everyone will be doomed.

He noted that solutions to Iraq’s problems include steps that would bring composure to the national economy, in addition to strong security campaigns to defeat the so-called Islamic State (IS) in Iraq. Hopefully after the liberation of Mosul from IS, Iraqis will come together for the sake of their country, said Al-Maliki who warned against disunity amongst the people.

He said that during his tenure as Prime Minister he tried his best to bring back the country from ruins, launching several projects aimed at the development of Iraq; however, the dire security situation and various factors made it hard for his cabinet to achieve goals that would please all Iraqis. The Kuwaiti delegation included President of the Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) Adnan Al-Rashid, Deputy Director General for Editorial Sector and Editor-in-Chief of Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) Saad Al-Ali, and head of local department in Kuwaiti daily Al-Qabas Ibrahim Al-Saidi and other journalists. — KUNA

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Interior Ministry Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Residency Affairs Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah receives the first batch of electronic passports.— KUNA photos

MOI RECEIVES FIRST BATCH OF E-PASSPORTS



KUWAIT: A delegation of the Ministry of Interior, currently on a mission in Germany, received the first batch of electronic passports from the manufacturing company in the European nation on Thursday, a senior official of the ministry declared yesterday. Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Residency Affairs at the Ministry of Interior (MoI), said the delivery would reach Kuwait early next week. Others would be dispatched in stages in the coming months. Maj Gen Sheikh Mazen is in Germany, at present, along with a number of senior ministry officers for this particular task. — KUNA

'YOUTH DYNAMISM AND TERRORISM'

KUALA LUMPUR: A visiting Kuwaiti official affirmed yesterday that Kuwait has resolved to fight terrorism and extremism as well as boosting moderate thoughts, particularly among the young generation. The affirmation was made, in remarks to KUNA, by Dr Abdullah Al-Shanfa, in charge of Kuwait moderation center. He and Mohammad Al-Tarrah, chief coordinator at the center, took part in a seminar themed "youth dynamism and terrorism ... Understanding and confrontation."

Al-Shanfa told the Kuwaiti news agency that he addressed the gathering about Kuwait's experience in combating extremism and terrorism and presented a paper illustrating Government's efforts to face thoughts of deviation. The center, affiliated with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, launches publicity campaigns against religious radicalism and violence. Kuwait was among the first nations that have engaged in guiding the youth toward moderation in behavior and thinking, he said, stressing on the necessity to protect them against discords' incitement, violence and education intended to transform them into terrorists. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Kuwait Moderation Center in charge Dr Abdullah Al-Shanfa pictured with Mohammad Al-Tarrah, Chief Coordinator at the center. — KUNA

MUNICIPALITY COLLECTS OVER KD 1 MILLION WORTH OF OVERDUE FEES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality has collected KD 1.41 million worth of overdue fees for four years of the current year, said an official of the body yesterday. Mohsen Al-Duwaikh, director of municipal permits in Al-Assima (capital) Municipality, said in a statement that his department staff have been put on alert to collect the overdue payments between April and July. The sector of advertisement permits sector collected KD 1.024 million and the department charged with supervising

health licenses garnered KD 17,614. He called on merchants, owners of stores, restaurants and other businesses to renew expired licenses for their advertisements and abstain from publicizing unlicensed new ones, warning that violators would be fined. The Municipality has already facilitated procedures for issuing and renewing these permits online. It started a campaign, themed 'renew your advertisement where you are,' in August.— KUNA

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Crime

Report

Kuwaiti swindled KD 10,000

KUWAIT: A citizen was swindled by an Asian expat who convinced her of a business and then took her KD 10,000 and disappeared. The citizen told Jabriya police that an Asian took KD 10,000 in front of witnesses. Hawally detectives are working on the case.

Saudi, boyfriend arrested

Hawally Police have arrested a woman and her boyfriend. Drugs and a knife were found in their possession. Patrol officers stopped their car in order to check their IDs. The girl was found to be a Saudi citizen who was reported absconding.

Kidnapping and beating

The judge has refused to grant bails to two bedoons who were charged with kidnapping and beating a Saudi youth over a girl. The suspects videotaped the incident. The Public Prosecution earlier released the victim and the girl who published the clip over social media. The incident took place earlier this month, when a video clip was posted on the social media. Two bedoons were seen beating a Saudi. They recorded it so that the girl can see and hear what they were doing.

Ethiopian dies

An Ethiopian who was on the beach lost her life when waters swept her away while swimming. A security source received a call about a woman drowning in Kheiran waters, so police patrols and paramedics rushed to the area. The woman's body was recovered by the paramedics.

'Indecent gestures'

A woman has filed a complaint against an Egyptian man whom she accused of molesting her. She claimed the Egyptian invited her for a dinner at a restaurant in Nugra, after which they ended up in a family cabin. According to the woman, the man started making indecent gestures - trying to kiss her by force. She then screamed. The suspect escaped as customers and workers rushed to her rescue. Police are working on case. — Al Rai

GCC, US, UK WORKING ON YEMENI PEACE ROADMAP

JEDDAH: Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir and visiting US State Secretary John Kerry said that they have agreed with the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmd on resuming talks on the Yemeni crisis, to conclude a comprehensive solution in the country's problem. Al-Jubeir and Kerry urged all the concerned parties to cooperate.

The conference followed the 140th session of the GCC Ministerial Council, and a separate meeting for the GCC Foreign Ministers with Kerry and UK's Secretary of State for Middle East and Africa Tobias Ellwood. The meetings in Jeddah have discussed regional developments, mainly ideas for pushing ahead the peace efforts in Yemen, to conclude a diplomatic solution based on the three major references; the GCC Initiative and its Implementing Mechanism, the outcome of the Yemeni National Dialogue, and the UN Security Council Resolution 2216, Al-Jubeir told said.

Participants uttered rejection to the unilateral steps taken by the Ansarullah movement and the General People's Congress (GPC), which both formed a presidential council and seized reserves in the Central Bank of Yemen, the Saudi chief diplomat said. Al-Jubeir said they discussed the deterioration of the financial institutions and the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. He emphasized that the Saudi-led coalition is abiding by the international law in Yemen, and does its best to avoid targeting civilians. In addition, Al-Jubeir stressed the necessity of demanding Houthis to lift the siege imposed on Yemeni cities, to open access for humanitarian aid, urging all the concerned parties to respond to the efforts by the UN envoy for a peaceful solution to the crisis. Al-Jubeir reaffirmed that the Saudi-led coalition intervened in Yemen upon request by the Yemeni legitimate government, and also to protect the country's borders, after an extremist militia, similar to Lebanon's Hezbollah, seized power there threatening security and stability in the Kingdom and the entire region. — Agencies



KUWAIT RADIO WINS 2 AWARDS AT JORDAN FESTIVAL FOR ARAB MEDIA

AMMAN: The two programs, 'Maraheb' (welcome) and 'Ahlam Al-Zarazir' (dreams of swallows) produced by Kuwait Radio, have respectively won the gold and silver awards, of the Third Jordan Festival for Arab Media. The gold award of the competition of live broadcasting radio program and the silver award of the radio social series competition were handed to Director of Kuwait Radio Main Saad Al-Findi.

The Festival's Secretariat granted recognition awards to Kuwait TV for its 'Bayya'et Al-Nekhi' serial, the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense for its continued participation in the annual event. The two awards were received by the TV representative Amer Al-Amer and the media advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Lt-Gen (retired) Abdulaziz Al-Ris. The awards came in recognition of the active efforts of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Information which is keen taking part in the media events on the regional Arab level, said the Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Media Planning and Development Mohammad Al-Ghawwash. "Our participation in Jordan Festival



is in implementation of the instruction of the Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah to support the Arab media joint action," Al-Ghawwash, who doubles as President of the Arab States Broadcasting Union (ASBU), said in statements to KUNA. He added that the

Ministry's delegation took part in all symposia and seminars held on the sidelines of the festival which is sponsored by the Arab League. The three-day festival provided the Arab broadcasters with an opportunity to share experience in making use of the advances in information technology and media industry. — KUNA





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KFH ONLINE SERVICE RECORDS GOOD TURNOUT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House KFH's Gold Opening, Selling & Purchasing Transactions Online Eservice has witnessed good turnout of clients. This service allows KFH clients to open and conduct gold selling and purchasing transactions online in an easy and secure manner, which confirms KFH's keenness to optimally avail the technological development for the sake of best serving clients as per international standards.

Innovating this, gold trading has become more streamlined and easier than ever before. Clients considered that this service affirms KFH's leadership in coping with the latest technological development in the banking sector, yet it reiterates KFH's pioneering role in offering unique Eservices, which constitutes a competitive advantage and meets clients' aspirations.

The accelerating pace of the demand of electronic banking transactions has become explicit and concrete which calls on

going further in availing technology for the best interest of customer service. The "Gold Account" from KFH reflects KFH's ceaseless efforts in innovating sharia-compliant financial services and products in a bid to offer clients the opportunity to diversify their investments since it is a low-risk and a store of value product. Gold account is a good investment vessel as it combines both saving and investment purposes.

It is worth noting that each gold biscuit weighs 100 grams and has a purity value of 999.9, the purest form of gold. Each gold biscuit is issued and certified by KFH and the Ministry of Commerce. KFH offer clients the gold in competitive pricing and in a flexible purchasing process Gold is viewed as one of the most important investments in the world. It is an important commodity for clients wishing to diversify their saving and investment portfolios, yet achieving good returns when gold prices surge.



OOREDOO CONCLUDES ITS SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM WITH MGRP

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, has announced the conclusion of its summer internship program for fresh graduates, which was held in collaboration with the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP). This program, led by Ooredoo's Human Resources Department, hosted nine students. Commenting on the successful conclusion of the program, Chief Human Resources and Administration Services Officer Saleh Al-Houti said: "We have always been keen on conducting training programs for students and fresh graduates, those initiatives do come in line with our CSR strategy, which primarily focuses on supporting youth. We strongly believe that these programs do help youth refining their skills and potentials, forming brighter future. We hope that any of them will receive a chance to join the Ooredoo family in the future."

Eman Al Ansari, Manager of Training and Development department at the Manpower and government Restructuring Program said: "I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Ooredoo

Kuwait and its team members for fostering this group of fresh graduates during their intensive training period. We look forward to conducting more training programs with Ooredoo to enable more students to benefit from this in-depth course."

The students who participated in the internship program visited various departments within Ooredoo and got familiar with the different working policies within each one. The students were distributed across different departments to ensure maximum exposure and benefit, where one student was assigned to the Corporate Communications division, five students were assigned to Ooredoo branches, one student was assigned to B2B and the two remaining students were assigned to the Human Resources and Administration Services department. Ooredoo Kuwait is keen to continue supporting youth through its annual training program, and other initiatives that contribute to the development of Kuwait's youth.

AHLI UNITED BANK WINS CITIBANK'S COVETED STP EXCELLENCE AWARD

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced yesterday that it has won the coveted Citibank Straight-Through-Processing (STP) award for the fourth consecutive year. The award recognizes AUB's excellent quality and accuracy in delivering commercial payments and processing transactions, and its continued efforts and keenness to win the high profile award on an annual basis. AUB's latest accolade demonstrates its excellence in SWIFT automated processing of transfers and deposits along with applying the latest ground breaking technologies to drive STP compliant services that are have been outlined by Citibank. AUB Senior General Manager of Operations &

Information Technology Jehad Saud Al-Humaidhi said, "We are proud to win Citibank's STP award. AUB has once again succeeded in adopting strong measures in relation to international electronic payment transfers that fully comply with Citi's rigorous correspondent banking and processing accuracy criteria. This important recognition is a testimony to the Bank's operational excellence and efficiency, and one which showcases how crucial STP is to AUB's customer service operations." "AUB continues to strive to ensure fast, accurate and reliable execution of payment instructions through continuous investment in information technology systems

and people," added Al-Humaidhi.

The STP award is a tribute to the high caliber and superior efficiency of AUB's operational capabilities. With state-of-the-art technology and operational infrastructure, the Bank's team of seasoned professionals is well placed to meet the full needs of individual and corporate customers alike. It worth noting that, the Bank has also received the prestigious annual Award from Commerzbank, Frankfurt for outstanding performance in the STP of payments for the fifth year in a row. This award similarly recognizes the high level of operational efficiency at Ahli United Bank.



International

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016

Scandals mount for Morocco's Islamist Party

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Hope for survivors fades as Italy quake toll climbs

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Clinton: Trump unleashes radical fringe in the GOP

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CIZRE: Smoke still rises from the scene after Kurdish militants attacked a police checkpoint with an explosives-laden truck, killing several police officers and wounding dozens more, according to reports from the state-run Anadolu news agency. — AP

PKK SUICIDE BOMBING KILLS 11 OFFICERS

ATTACK COMES TWO DAYS AFTER TURKISH OFFENSIVE IN SYRIA

ISTANBUL: The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) yesterday claimed a suicide truck bombing on a police building in Turkey's southeast that killed 11 officers and wounded dozens more. The blast came two days after the Turkish army launched an offensive in Syria that the government says is not only aimed against Islamic State (IS) jihadists but also a Syrian Kurdish militia detested by Ankara.

The blast tore the facade off the headquarters of the Turkish riot police in the town of Cizre, a bastion of PKK support just north of the Syrian border. The local governor's office said 11 officers were killed and 78 people injured, three of them civilians. Four people were said to be in critical condition. The state-run Anadolu news agency said the explosion took place 50 meters from the building, at a control post.

The PKK said it carried out the assault in retaliation for the "continued isolation" of the group's jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan and the "lack of information" about his welfare. Cizre, a majority Kurdish town, has been badly hit by renewed violence between the

PKK and government forces since the collapse of a ceasefire last year. Turkish security forces have been hit by near daily PKK attacks since a two-and-a-half year truce with the state collapsed in July 2015, leaving hundreds of police officers and soldiers dead.

'Bare-faced lie'

Turkey's operation in Syria aims to push both IS and the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) militia that is fighting the jihadists out of the border region. Ankara considers the YPG, which has links to the PKK, as a terror group bent on carving out an autonomous Kurdish region on Turkey's border. On Friday, the army sent four more tanks over the border, according to an AFP photographer at Karkamis on the Turkish side of the frontier.

Kurdish activists have accused Turkey of being more intent on preventing Syrian Kurds creating a stronghold than fighting IS jihadists. But Prime Minister Binali Yildirim on Friday denounced as a "bare-faced lie" suggestions in Western media that

the Syria operation was singling out Kurds. "They either know nothing about the world or else their job is to report a bare-faced lie," he said. Ankara's hostility to the Syrian Kurdish fighters has put it at odds with its NATO ally, the United States, which supports them in the fight against IS. On Wednesday, Turkish tanks and fighter jets helped pro-Turkish rebels rout IS from the town of Jarabulus, on which the YPG appeared to have designs.

On Thursday, Turkey shelled Kurdish fighters in the area, saying they were failing to observe a deal with the US to stop advancing west into IS-held territory. Anadolu quoted security sources as saying the military would continue to intervene against the Syrian Kurdish fighters until they began to retreat. In a separate incident on the border, three Turkish soldiers were injured by mortar shells fired from Syria that landed in Yayladagi district, Dogan news agency reported. The agency said there had been clashes between local Turkmen and Syrian regime forces in Latakia, from where the shells were fired.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin—who until late June had been locked in a bitter feud over the shooting down of a Russian war plane—agreed to step up efforts to ensure aid reached Syria's conflict-torn northern Aleppo province. The two also emphasized the need to fight "all terror groups" in Syria, Anadolu agency said. Visiting Turkey on Wednesday, US Vice President Joe Biden said Washington had warned YPG not to move west of the Euphrates river after recent advances, or risk losing American support.

Murat Karayilan, one of the top Iraq-based leaders of the PKK, accused Turkey of doing a deal with IS to vacate Jarabulus. "ISIS has never abandoned a town in one day without putting up a fight," he told the pro-PKK Firat news agency, using another acronym for IS. The PKK has kept up its assaults following the unsuccessful July 15 coup by rogue elements in the military aimed at unseating Erdogan. The government for its part has vowed to press on with the campaign to eradicate the PKK from eastern Turkey. — AFP

TUNISIA PARLIAMENT SET TO VOTE ON NEW GOVT

TUNIS: Tunisia's premier-designate called for "sacrifices" yesterday as parliament convened to vote on a cabinet line-up he has proposed to tackle pressing economic and security challenges. It is likely that a majority of parliament's 217 members will vote in favor of the line-up, making Youssef Chahed, at 40, the country's youngest prime minister since it won independence from France in 1956. But as Tunisia continues to find its bearings after the 2011 uprising that toppled longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Chahed would also be the North African nation's sixth premier in less than six years.

The prime minister-designate addressed the assembly on Friday morning ahead of the vote of confidence, which is not expected before 2000 GMT. Chahed stressed the "necessity" of his proposed unity government to address mounting economic challenges not resolved since the 2011 revolution. "We have until now been unable to realize the objectives of the revolution. Our youth have lost hope,

the trust of citizens in the state has decreased," he said. "We are all responsible" and "will all have to make sacrifices".

The premier-designate, whose speech was met with resounding applause, said his government would give priority to fighting corruption and "terrorism". While Tunisia is considered a rare success story of the Arab Spring, the authorities have failed to resolve the issues of poverty, unemployment, regional disparities and corruption that preceded Ben Ali's fall. If his government is approved, Chahed will also have to address security in the country after a wave of jihadist attacks, including two that killed dozens of foreign tourists last year. Chahed was appointed by President Beji Caid Essebsi early this month after lawmakers passed a vote of no confidence in Premier Habib Essid's government following just 18 months in office.

On Saturday, Chahed—a member of Essebsi's Nidaa Tounes party—said he would head a 27-member cabinet which will also include 14

ministers of state, eight women "in important" positions and "14 young" ministers. The premier-designate said that the line-up would remain unchanged despite reservations among several allied parties. Chahed, a liberal who was local affairs minister before his nomination, should get around 60 votes from the Nidaa Tounes party from which he hails. He should also be able to count on the votes of 69 lawmakers from the Islamist Ennahda party, the largest in parliament. Rached Ghannouchi's party tomorrow said it had reservations over the line-up, in which it has three ministers, but said these would not prevent it from giving the proposed cabinet its vote of confidence. Chahed may also win votes from the 24 lawmakers of the Al-Horra bloc, created after a split from Nidaa Tounes, and the 10 representatives of the liberal Afek Tounes party. The vote on the new cabinet comes after Tunisia in January witnessed its worst social unrest since the 2011 uprising. — AFP

MOODS CHANGE A YEAR AFTER AUSTRIA'S MIGRANT DISASTER

VIENNA: The gruesome discovery of 71 dead migrants in a truck in Austria last August shocked Europe and led countries to open their borders to a massive influx of people fleeing war and poverty, mainly from the Middle East. But a year on, the mood in Europe has changed. Razor-wire fences have gone up, borders are firmly shut again, and the European Union has struck a controversial deal with Turkey to keep migrants from reaching Greece—the main entry point into the bloc, along with Italy. While the measures have led to a sharp drop in arrivals, experts warn the crisis is far from over.

"In absolute terms, the number of people hoping to find asylum in Europe via one route or another is even higher than a year ago as a result of growing conflicts," Gerald Tatzgern, the head of Austria's anti-human trafficking force, told AFP. "We can't exclude that such a catastrophe won't happen again," he said, in reference to the grisly discovery made on August 27, 2015, near the town of Parndorf.

When Austrian police opened the back of a poultry refrigerator lorry left on the side of a motorway close to Hungary, they saw an atrocious sight. The stench of human decay emanated from the cargo container where bodies of migrants lay piled on top of each other, crammed into a small rectangular space. Among them was a baby girl, not even a year old. Investigations would later reveal that the victims—all from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan—had been dead for two days. The men, women and children had suffocated shortly after smugglers had picked them up in Hungary, a key transit country on the so-called Balkan migrant trail.

'Spirit of solidarity'

The case sparked international revulsion, highlighting the plight of desperate people putting their lives in the hands of traffickers. On the day of the discovery, German Chancellor Angela Merkel was in Austria for a migrant crisis summit with Balkan leaders. Upon hearing the news, she said the deaths were a clear call to action to tackle the issue "quickly and in... a spirit of solidarity". Days later, Germany—the favoured destination of many migrants—announced it would welcome all Syrian refugees.

The move triggered a wave of arrivals. By the end of 2015, more than a million people from the Middle East, as well as Asia and Africa had landed on European shores, creating the continent's biggest refugee crisis since World War II. Countries on the migrant trail organised trains and buses to transport people to Austria and Germany, where they were greeted with applause and cheers.

Waning enthusiasm

Since then, the enthusiasm has waned. The crisis has fuelled anti-migrant sentiment and boosted the popularity of far-right parties across Europe. The Balkan migrant route was shut earlier this year after countries clamped down on their borders. In the face of growing public hostility, the EU signed a deal with Turkey in March to stem the influx. But fears are growing that the pact could collapse amid a deepening rift with Ankara over its crackdown following a failed July 15 coup. Migrant arrivals have been slightly on the rise again in recent weeks, particularly in Italy which has rescued some 94,000 people in the Mediterranean so far this year.

Another 54,000 migrants remain stuck in Greece. However, EU member states have become reluctant to accept more migrants and some have begun imposing restrictions. Austria, which last year received the bloc's second-highest number of asylum requests on a per-capita basis, has capped applications for this year at 37,500. Vienna is also considering the introduction of an emergency decree in September allowing it to reject migrants directly at the border. —AFP



DARAYA: Syrian army soldiers rest in a street in the government-controlled part of the besieged town of Daraya yesterday as thousands of rebel fighters and civilians prepared to evacuate under an accord struck a day earlier. — AFP

SYMBOL OF REVOLT: TEARS AS DARAYA IS EVACUATED

BLOW FOR BELEAGUERED OPPOSITION

DARAYA: Rebels and civilians, many in tears, began evacuating the Syrian town of Daraya yesterday after a four-year army siege, in a blow for the beleaguered opposition. The evacuation came after a deal struck by President Bashar Al-Assad's government and opposition forces in the town, which is near Damascus and was one of the first to rise up against the regime.

The fighters and their families left the devastated town aboard buses escorted by ambulances and Red Crescent vehicles, an AFP reporter said. The first bus to emerge from Daraya carried mostly children, elderly people and women. Government troops waved their weapons in celebration when buses carrying rebels left the town, and taunted the fighters by chanting pro-regime slogans. Inside Daraya, which has been surrounded by loyalist forces since 2012 and suffered constant bombardment, tearful residents said final goodbyes, a local rebel told AFP. "This is the hardest moment, everyone is crying, young and old," he said on condition of anonymity.

State news agency SANA, which announced the deal on Thursday, said 700 rebels and their families would go to rebel-controlled Idlib and thousands of civilians would be taken to government reception centres. The evacuation is expected to last until Sunday, and a military source said the army would then enter Daraya. A rebel official told AFP the civilians would go to regions under regime control around the capital and rebels will go to Idlib "or sort out their situation with the regime". A military source said 300 rebels and their families would be evacuated during Friday.

'Weeping residents'

Daraya council said on Facebook that civilians would be taken to the government-held town of Hrajela in Western Ghouta, outside Damascus. "From there they will continue to the areas they wish to go to," it said. The council said fighters and their families would be taken to northern Syria, escorted by the Red Crescent. The United Nations said it was not involved in negotiating the deal, although a UN team would enter Daraya to identify civilian needs.

UN envoy Staffan de Mistura said it was "tragic that repeated appeals to lift the siege of Daraya... and cease the fighting, have never been heeded". It was "imperative" that its residents be protected and evacuated only voluntarily, he said. "The world is watching." Daraya is

just 15 minutes drive from Damascus and even closer to the government's key Mazzeh air base.

Daraya was seen as a symbolic bastion of the March 2011 uprising that began with peaceful protests against Assad's government, before degenerating into a war that has killed more than 290,000 people. Rebels accused the government of killing some 500 people in a military operation in Daraya in August 2012. Yesterday's evacuation provoked anger and bitterness among opposition supporters, and the rebel said residents wept as they prepared to leave. "People are saying goodbye to one another, children are bidding their schools farewell, mothers are saying goodbye to the martyrs in the graves," he said. "People are gathering their memories and the few possessions they have left to preserve the memory of the four years of siege, hunger and shelling."

Daraya 'destroyed'

The rebel said the decision to evacuate had been taken because of deteriorating humanitarian conditions. "The town is no longer inhabitable, it has been completely destroyed," he said. In four years, just one food aid convoy entered Daraya, in June, shortly after a convoy carrying medicine. The arrival of the food was followed by heavy regime bombardment that residents said stalled distribution.

According to the UN, nearly 600,000 live under siege across Syria, most surrounded by government forces, although rebels and jihadists also use the tactic. Long sieges have prompted rebels in several locations to agree evacuation deals with the regime, prompting activists to accuse Damascus of using "starve or surrender" tactics.

Yesterday, the UN said only a single full aid convoy had reached besieged areas of Syria in August, denouncing the "wholly unacceptable" level of access. In Geneva, US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov discussed efforts to resume Syrian peace talks, with De Mistura briefly joining them. As the meeting got under way, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan agreed to step up efforts to ensure humanitarian aid reaches civilians in the battlefield northern city of Aleppo. Moscow and Washington back opposing sides in the Syria war which has become a complex conflict involving several regional powers as well as jihadists. — AFP

WOMEN 'TAINTED' BY BOKO HARAM BECOME OUTCASTS

MAIDUGURI: Starving and alone, five-year-old Umar was left for dead in a camp for internally displaced people in northeast Nigeria. The reason? He is the son of a Boko Haram fighter.

It took a Boko Haram widow to rescue Umar. Fatima Salisu had been held captive by the insurgents for 16 months and was forced to marry an Islamist fighter before she escaped to the camp outside the northeastern city of Maiduguri.

Like Umar, the 25-year-old native of Cameroon is an outcast. Salisu says the other women never share food or board with her and they refuse to call her anything but a "Boko Haram wife." "They don't allow us to come near them. Everyone treats us with contempt," Salisu told AFP, speaking outside the camp to avoid attracting attention. "We are not wanted." She can tolerate the jeers, but she worries about Umar and other children who are bullied. Salisu said one Nigerian soldier had told her to "let him die. He is a Boko Haram child and we will throw him into the garbage." She said she fears

the ill treatment could turn the children against society.

New underclass

Umar is not alone. Experts warn of a growing divide between women who were captured and children born to Boko Haram militants and the rest of the population. This new Boko Haram underclass is struggling to reintegrate into a society reeling after years of devastating attacks by the insurgents in their bloody pursuit of an independent Islamic state. "Ostracising the children of insurgents will impede the process of community reconciliation and rehabilitation - and that, distinct from any potentially radicalizing effects - makes it a troubling development," Hilary Matfess, a Washington-based analyst, told AFP.

The United Nations estimates that this year seven million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in northeast Nigeria. At risk are 1.4 million children who have been displaced by the conflict and 20,000 children in the northeast who have been separated from their families, according to an

August UNICEF report. Among the most pressing needs is the reintegration of women and children who are returning to their communities after being held captive by Boko Haram. But the conflict has made people in the northeast wary. "There has been a serious breakdown of trust in communities across the north," Matfess said. "A number of women, most famously the Chibok girls, were abducted into the insurgency, but a significant number of women joined the insurgency of their own accord," said Matfess. "Telling the difference once women return to their communities-whether through escape or liberation by the security forces-is next to impossible."

'We were forced'

Even family members don't sympathize with relatives "tainted" by Boko Haram. "Our blood relations stigmatize us," said Hafsa Ibrahim, a 27-year-old who was kidnapped from the town of Bama and forcibly married to a Boko Haram fighter. "They think it was with our consent that we got married to Boko Haram," Ibrahim said, choking

back tears. "We were forced." Some local politicians have acknowledged the problem.

"We must show love to these innocent children as much as we should support the innocent mothers," Borno State Governor Kashim Shettima has said, warning that otherwise the Boko Haram children will "inherit" the fervor of their fathers. Entrenched "deterministic views" in northeast Nigeria hold that biological fathers transmit "bad blood" to the children—"a child of a snake is a snake" is one saying encapsulating this idea, according to global organization International Alert in a 2016 report on the topic.

With the Nigerian army claiming a series of successful attacks on Boko Haram, winning back territory and freeing thousands of people, the need to reintegrate captives has never been greater. But if life in the camp is any indication, much work still needs to be done. "Whenever the child cries they tease him, and tell him to go meet his Boko Haram father in the bush," Salisu said about her adopted boy. "They show no love." —AFP

HUNGARY TO CONSTRUCT BIGGER MIGRANT FENCE

BUDAPEST: Hungary will build a new, "more massive" fence on its southern borders to defend against a possible surge in the number of migrants, Prime Minister Viktor Orban said yesterday. Orban, who earlier said migrants were "poison," said on state radio that there may soon be a "greater need for security" and the fortified barrier would be able to stop "several hundreds of thousands of people" at the same time, if needed. He did not say when construction could start.

Orban said the surge could take place if, for example, Turkey allows the millions of refugees living there to leave for Western Europe. "Then, if we can't do it nicely, we have to hold them back by force," Orban said. "And we will do it, too." Hungary built fences protected with razor wire on its southern borders with Serbia and Croatia last year, when nearly 400,000 people passed through the country on their way west.

The fences have greatly slowed the flow of people entering Hungary, which is also beefing up its police force with 3,000 new "border hunters" to tighten control at the fences and introduced controversial legislation which allows officials to return migrants to Serbia if they are caught within eight kilometers of the border. Hungary has denied repeated allegations that officers have used force to "escort" the migrants and refugees back to Serbia.

Orban reiterated his call for the stronger protection of Europe's external borders, saying joint efforts were needed to defend the borders between Serbia and Macedonia and Greece. "Immigration and migrants damage Europe's security, are a threat to people and bring terrorism upon us," Orban said, adding that this was caused by allowing the uncontrolled entry of large numbers of people "from areas where Europe and the western world are seen as the enemy." Orban's virulent anti-migrant stance also includes a government-sponsored referendum on Oct 2 seeking political support for the rejection of any European Union plans to resettle migrants among its member countries. —AP

SCANDALS MOUNT FOR MOROCCO'S ISLAMIST PARTY AHEAD OF ELECTION

SUPPORTERS, MEDIA SLAMMING FOUL PLAYS

RABAT: Beachside trysts, a three-ton drug bust and a dodgy attempted land deal: the scandals facing Morocco's ruling Islamist party are piling up ahead of crucial parliamentary elections, leading some supporters to cry foul. The Justice and Development Party (PJD), which has led a coalition governing the North African kingdom since late 2011, finds itself in a fight for re-election in October's vote as opponents take advantage of the rumors dogging the group.

Last week two vice presidents of the PJD's religious wing were suspended after the couple, both in their 60s, were found in a "sexual position" on a beach south of Rabat and arrested, local media reported. It was, according to the Le360 news site considered close to circles in Morocco's royal court, "the cherry on the cake" of scandals involving the Islamists. While the party itself is keeping a low profile, its backers accuse opponents in parliament and the media of conjuring a slur campaign to damage PJD credibility.

"It is an old practice to defame and discredit the other (party) in the fight for power," historian Maati Monbij told AFP. "Some people at the heart of the state worry about the PJD coming first in elections." Following years in opposition, the party found itself the head of a coalition in 2011 tasked with guiding Morocco through a turbulent period that saw other North African states convulsed by the Arab Spring uprisings. That vote followed concessions from King Mohammed VI, the scion of a monarchy that has ruled the country for 350 years. A new constitution curbed some, but not all, of the king's near-absolute powers as autocratic regimes fell in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Now, as a new election looms, the mounting controversy around the PJD provides a fillip for its rivals, most notably the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM).



RABAT: This combination of pictures created yesterday shows the vice presidents of the Unity and Reform Movement (MUR) Islamist party, Fatima Nejjar (L) attending a conference in Rabat at an unknown date and Moulay Omar Benhammad attending a conference in the Moroccan capital on August 7, 2014. —AFP

String of accusations

The list of accusations against the PJD is long and varied. Last year, a woman filed a sexual harassment case against a PJD candidate near Marrakesh. A party member was arrested last month in the southwest of the country in possession of three tons of cannabis. And a PJD governor is accused of using his political influence to try to force through the sale of 200 hectares (500 acres) of southeastern farmland. The latest furor caused by the in flagrante arrest of Omar Benhammad, 63, and Fatima Nejjar, 62, is all the more damaging to a party that extols Islamic moral behavior.

Some social media users in Morocco have reveled in the case, posting videos of Nejjar in full Islamic headdress exhorting female students not to give in to "temptation and vice". Their case is a "tough lesson" for "a movement that calls people who go to festivals scoundrels, those who go out at night lewd, and that say men and women who mix will go to hell," the Al Ahdath daily wrote. "Do as I say not as I do," said a glib Huffington Post Morocco piece. Akhir Saa, a newspaper close to the rival PAM party, went further, claiming that successive scandals were a "big blow for political Islam represented by the PJD." —AFP



AMATRICE: Italian firefighters and soldier walk amid ruins during operation aiming at reopening the road in Rio, a little village near Amatrice, central Italy two days after a 6.2-magnitude earthquake struck the region killing some 267 people and injuring at least 367 people. —AFP

HOPE FOR SURVIVORS FADES AS ITALY QUAKE TOLL CLIMBS

MORE THAN 900 AFTERSHOCKS HAVE RATTLED REGION

AMATRICE: An increasingly forlorn search for victims of the earthquake that brought carnage to central Italy entered a third day yesterday as a day of mourning was declared for victims of a disaster that has claimed at least 267 lives. Flags will fly at half-mast across the country today to coincide with the first funerals. Releasing the new confirmed death toll, Immacolata Postiglione, head of the Civil Protection agency's emergency unit, indicated there had been no survivors found overnight in any of the remote mountain villages devastated by Wednesday's powerful pre-dawn quake.

At least 367 people have been hospitalized with injuries but no one has been pulled alive from the piles of collapsed masonry since Wednesday evening. "There is no one under the rubble here but in Amatrice there is still hope that survivors could be found today," survivor Fabrizio Micozzi told AFP in the hamlet of San Lorenzo Flaviano. Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has declared a state of emergency for the regions affected by Wednesday's quake, which occurred in an

area that straddles Umbria, Lazio and Marche. Renzi also released an initial tranche of 50 million euros (\$56 million) in emergency aid.

The first funerals will be held in the city of Ascoli-Piceno for 40 of the victims who died in the villages of Arquata del Tronto and Pescara del Tronto in the mountains of the Marche region. President Sergio Mattarella will attend. A total of 46 people died in the two villages. The youngest was born in 2012, the oldest in 1924, according to a list published by the local prefecture. Some 2,100 people who spent the night in hastily-erected tented villages were shaken by a 4.8 magnitude aftershock just after 6:00 am (0400 GMT). The tremor underlined the perilous nature of a rescue effort involving more than 4,000 emergency service staff and volunteers. More than 900 aftershocks have rattled the region since Wednesday's 6.0-6.2 magnitude first one triggered the collapse of hundreds of ill-prepared old buildings across dozens of tiny communities playing host to far more people than usual because of the summer holidays.

Wearing only a slipper

Many of the survivors camping out in the tents were carrying plastic bags containing the handful of possessions—clothes, ID documents, phones and wallets—they had been able to grab before fleeing their homes in terror. Over a dinner provided by an emergency cell of an Italian chefs' organisation on Thursday evening, one survivor told how close she had come to being trapped in a house in the tiny hamlet of Illica.

"I managed to get out alive because I found a hole in the wall and managed to make it bigger and I made it out onto a roof and walked across until I got to a terrace and managed to get down from there," said Elisa. "We shared clothes, there were people going around with one slipper on, those who were basically naked until 11:00 am. "When dawn came it was devastating because then we really understood what the damage was, and that there were people who couldn't be found, who were missing, who were dead."

COMFORT FOOD FOR QUAKE SURVIVORS

ACCUMOLI: In a children's play park in the tiny Italian village of Illica, survivors of this week's earthquake are enjoying a meal that gives new meaning to the term "comfort food". As they prepare for a second night under canvas the homeless villagers sit down at long trestle tables to a freshly-cooked dinner rustled up by volunteers from the federation of Italian chefs. It is a rare moment of relaxation, distraction and pleasure for people whose lives have been turned upside down.

"The cooks are excellent," says Silvia Micozzi, 28, as she settles down to enjoy a hearty plate of pasta and beans alongside her cousin and fellow survivor Elisa Piluzzi. "They give us what we need. It is very well organized, it means a lot to us." With overnight temperatures plunging to around 10 degrees Celsius, the survivors need nourishing, warming fare, said Roberto Rosati, the president of the federation's emergency department. "It is a bit chilly so we have made a soup with beans and a bit of spice," he told AFP. Rosati is a veteran of the emergency operations put in place after previous deadly earthquakes in L'Aquila in 2009 and Emilia-Romagna in 2012 and for last year's flooding in Campania.

Like a village fete

"When these awful occasions call for it we are ready to leave," he says, explaining that the food will get better in the coming days as more sophisticated equipment is set up. "For the moment it's not a field kitchen, it's a kitchen in a field," he says. "It's always like this for the first two days. Tomorrow (Friday) we'll be set up with a field kitchen so we'll be able to make something a bit more elaborate, a bit tastier. "Because even in these dire cases it's important to give a good meal to those who have lost everything."

With a dozen blue tents set up in a field on the edge of the hamlet, the gravel paths between them indicate this temporary village is going to be in use for quite a while. The tables have been laid out so carefully with plastic plates and cutlery and paper covers, that you might think everything was being prepared for a village fete. Except that instead of Chinese lanterns, it is a blinding halogen lamp that provides the light. The only soundtrack is provided by a helicopter whirring overhead and lorries crunching their gears. Rather than roars of laughter, sighs are the order of the day and instead of enticing fumes from a barbecue it is smoke from nervously puffed cigarettes that fills the air.

Apocalypse at dawn

Over dinner, the talk inevitably returns to the life-changing events of the last 48 hours. By their sides, some of the diners place plastic bags containing the handful of critical possessions they were able to grab before fleeing their homes when the quake struck before dawn on Wednesday. Elisa Piluzzi, 27, tells how she had to burrow her way to safety by crawling through a hole in a wall after bashing it out to be wide enough to squeeze through.

From there she climbed onto a roof and finally made it into the open. As dawn broke soon afterwards the full apocalyptic scale of what had happened was revealed. "There were people going around with one slipper on, those who were basically naked until 11:00 am. When dawn came it was devastating because then we really understood what the damage was, and that there were people who couldn't be found, who were missing, were dead." The sun has long since dropped behind the mountains, and dusk and the night-time chill are enveloping the ruins of the nearest village house. The gate to the park holds up a road sign bearing the village's name: it is all that is left of Illica. —AFP

AFRICAN MIGRANTS IN QUAKE ZONE TO HELP

PESCARA DEL TRONTO: African migrants hoping to start a new life in Italy after risking their lives crossing the Mediterranean have headed to the area of Wednesday's earthquake, helping local people who lost everything in the disaster. Wearing bright orange overalls, the group from a temporary hostel about 50 km away blended in yesterday with other volunteer workers who have come from all over Italy. "We need to

help the people here," said a 20-year-old man from the West African state of Benin, who gave his name only as Abdullah.

"We saw people losing their lives and we feel bad. It's to show respect for them and their dignity," he told Reuters Television on the outskirts of Pescara del Tronto, one of the devastated villages. Using shovels, hoes and rakes, the group of about 20 migrants helped to

prepare the ground for tents and cleared a field for helicopter landings. During a break, the migrants, who are all Muslims, knelt to pray near one of the tents. "It was their idea. They wanted to do something, so we helped make it happen," said Letizia Dellabarba of the Human Solidarity Group (GUS) charity that brought the migrants to Pescara del Tronto.

Hopes of finding more survivors faded

yesterday three days after the powerful quake hit central Italy, with the death toll rising to 267. Italy has taken in more than 420,000 boat migrants, most from Africa, since the start of 2014. The influx has caused political friction, with some right-wing parties lambasting the government for not doing more to halt the flow. Even the tragedy of the earthquake did not temper some anti-immigrant sentiment in the country. —Reuters



SRINAGAR: Kashmiri people shout pro freedom slogans during a protest march. —AP

'DEADLY, VIOLENT MIX' READY TO COMPOUND KASHMIR'S MISERY

REGION FEELS MORE PRISON THAN 'PARADISE'

SRINAGAR: His apples are ripe for plucking but Abdul Shakoor is resigned to this year's crop becoming another victim of a 50-day explosion of violence in Indian Kashmir that shows no sign of abating. "My main crop will be ready soon for harvest but buyers from outside are nowhere to be seen," said Shakoor, who runs an orchard in the Himalayan territory's southern town of Shopian. "We had a meeting of growers recently and we ended up pledging that we would be willing to forgo this year's harvest in solidarity with the separatist cause."

The rose-red apples are one of the divided region's most famous exports, both an economic mainstay and symbol of its lush beauty and fertile soil. But as summer draws to a close, this year's crop is doomed to rot given the general shutdown since the army shot dead a charismatic militant on July 8. In the backlash over Burhan Wani's shooting, 66 civilians have been killed, many while defying a sweeping curfew to join banned protests. Two members of the Indian security forces have also been killed, making it the deadliest chapter in Kashmir's troubled history since a similar spike in 2010.

Schools, shops and most banks remain shut, and normal economic activity has been paralyzed. Residents say the region feels more like a prison than the "paradise" that Prime Minister Narendra Modi evoked recently. Since Modi's Hindu nationalist government came to power in 2014, there had only been sporadic violence but tensions have never been far from the surface in India's only Muslim-majority state. Modi has spoken of his "pain" at the violence and on Thursday dispatched one of his top lieutenants to Kashmir's capital.

'We'll find a solution'
"Do not question our understanding of the situation... We know what the problem is, and we'll find a solution," Home Minister Rajnath Singh told reporters in Srinagar. Modi has laid much of the blame for the unrest on Pakistan which has a history of supporting Kashmiri separatists and like India lays claim to the whole of the region which was split between the two countries after independence in 1947. While the Indian-controlled part has guarantees of autonomy, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party is officially committed to scrapping that section of the constitution and critics say its stance is exacerbating tensions.

The BJP is now part of a coalition government in Kashmir, performing strongly in last year's state elections in areas where the state's Hindus are concentrated. "New Delhi has reneged on its commitments by whittling down the autonomy," former chief minister Omar Abdullah told an AFP reporter.

Despite the government's talk of wanting to restore peace, thousands of security reinforcements have been sent to the region in the last few days, some setting up camp in schools that have been closed. "Without any political initiatives it's all coming down to us. And what we do has its own consequences," a senior army officer told AFP on condition of anonymity. A top police officer, who was not authorized to speak to the media, said a "brutal suppression" was likely.

"For the first time the militants and the public are on the same page. It is a deadly mix." There is already deep anger about the security forces' routine use of crude pump-action pellet guns which spray blinding metal shards to break up protests. The guns are meant to minimize fatalities in protests although the law

gives the armed forces a relatively free hand to use lethal force, especially against suspected militants.

Many of the 66 killed are students, such as Amir Nazir, who was on a visit from his university to his home town of Bijbehara when he was shot by police chasing a group of protesters. "No constitution in the world can justify my son's killing, but we have seen such deaths regularly in Kashmir," said Amir's father Nazir Ahmed Lattoo. "It's state terrorism." Hospital authorities say they have treated at least 500 patients with eye injuries caused by pellet guns, many of whom will never recover full vision. The economic cost is hard to boil down to figures but some estimates put the cost to the local economy at one billion rupees (15 million dollars) every day.

Empty houseboats

As well as its impact on agriculture, the unrest has devastated the tourist industry, with many of Kashmir's famous houseboats lying empty on Dal Lake at the height of the summer season. The shutdown has evoked memories of the 1980s when Indian-administered Kashmir became one of the world's most militarized zones as the army sought to crush a mass uprising. Rights groups say 70,000 people were killed in the fighting and thousands more disappeared after being taken away by security forces.

The intervening years may have been calmer but Abdullah said the army's tactics can only exacerbate the ongoing crisis. "You have youngsters who are lying injured in hospitals today whose only demand is that if I can get out of here, lay my hands on a weapon," he said. "It is almost like the fear that had set in about joining the ranks of militants, that has completely evaporated." —AFP

MODI GOADED PAKISTAN IN DELIBERATE YET RISKY MOVE

NEW DELHI/ISLAMABAD: When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi met top aides to prepare last week's annual Independence Day address, some senior bureaucrats warned him against mentioning Baluchistan, arch-rival Pakistan's restive southwestern province. Referring to Baluchistan in such a prominent speech would be a highly unusual move bound to ratchet up tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors more used to trading barbs over Kashmir, the cause of two of their three wars.

According to a senior official at the meeting in early August, the more hawkish politicians in the room, angered by what they saw as Pakistan's recent trouble-making in Kashmir, thought differently, and so did Modi. By siding with the hawks, and including Baluchistan in his address, Modi signaled a more muscular approach towards Pakistan. That dims prospects of bringing the bitter rivals closer together to reduce economic pain and the risk of more violence, an issue that will be high on US Secretary of State John Kerry's agenda when he lands in New Delhi on Monday for a three-day visit.

"The bureaucrats suggested that talking about Baluchistan is a good idea but may be the Independence Day speech was not a good platform for it," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the meeting's sensitivity. Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar "rejected these ideas", while Home Minister Rajnath Singh "supported him (Parrikar) by saying we should do everything to silence Pakistan", this official said. India's Ministry for External Affairs declined to comment on the debate about Modi's speech. His office, and the defense and home ministries, did not respond to requests for comment. Speaking from the ramparts of the 17th-century Red Fort in Old Delhi on Aug. 15, Modi thanked the Baluch people for their support after a number of separatist leaders published videos praising him for acknowledging their cause previously. He also lashed out at supporters of "terrorism", in a more familiar broadside against India's old foe.

Crossing the red line

Pakistan has seized on Modi's speech as evidence that India has a hand in a decades-long Baluch separatist campaign, in which insurgents in the resource-rich yet impoverished region have launched sporadic attacks and demanded independence. India denies the charge. A senior foreign ministry official in Islamabad said Modi had "crossed the red line". Indian officials said Modi's speech was designed to remind the world about alleged human rights abuses by Pakistani forces in Baluchistan, just as Pakistan accuses India of abusing civilians in the disputed region of Kashmir during recent unrest. But outside Modi's entourage, questions are being asked about what strategic reward, if any, India can hope to gain by raising the geopolitical stakes.

"Politically, it's much less useful in terms of Pakistan using this as evidence of Indian meddling. It gives them ammunition," said Daniel Markey, a South Asia expert at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, referring to Modi's mention of Baluchistan. But he added: "There is a strategic utility in looking a little unhinged, in sending that message." A New Delhi-based diplomat from a major power with traditionally close ties to India said it will only escalate tension. —Reuters



VARANASI: Indian devotees carry their luggage and wade through the flooded water in Varanasi, India. Misery eased somewhat, with rains ebbing over the past three days in Uttar Pradesh state, where 200,000 people had moved to relief centers after their homes were submerged, said Deepak Singhal, a state official. —AP

SINGAPORE SHROUDED IN SMOG AS HAZE RETURNS TO SE ASIA

SINGAPORE: Acrid smog blanketed Singapore yesterday as the city-state was hit by the year's first major outbreak of haze, an annual crisis sparked by forest fires in neighboring Indonesia. Singapore's air quality index reached unhealthy levels with conditions deteriorating through the day, marking the worst haze episode in the city since vast parts of Southeast Asia were blanketed in smoke in 2015. Last year's haze outbreak was among the worst in memory, shrouding Malaysia, Singapore, and parts of Thailand in acrid smoke.

The blazes are started illegally to clear land, typically for palm oil and pulpwood plantations, and Indonesia has faced intense criticism from its neighbors over its failure to halt the annual smog outbreaks. Indonesian police said a total of 463 people have been arrested over forest fires so far in 2016. This is more than double the number

arrested over the blazes in the whole of 2015 but the data suggest that most of this year's arrests involved smallholders. Singapore's National Environment Agency (NEA) said the Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) breached "very unhealthy" levels of 215 during

the day. PSI levels above 100 are deemed unhealthy and people are advised to reduce vigorous outdoor activity.

Visibility virtually zero

The NEA added that the smoke was being blown from fires in central Sumatra, the

Indonesian island just across the Malacca Strait from Singapore. Visibility from high-rise offices and other vantage points was virtually zero. An AFP photographer said he could hardly see the skyline from one of the city's highest points at Mount Faber, while haze kits sold out at a drugstore chain by lunchtime. Food server Marcus Tan, 28, who works at a riverside restaurant with outdoor seating, said he was worried the haze would aggravate his asthma. "I know I'm supposed to wear a mask so I don't have another asthma attack. But do you think anyone will want to eat food served by someone wearing a mask?" he said.

Smog was also visible in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of neighboring Malaysia, over a few days last week but did not breach unhealthy levels. Singapore last September closed schools and distributed

protective face masks as the air pollution index soared to hazardous levels following three weeks of being cloaked in smoke. Indonesia's Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said on its website that the number of "hotspots" on Sumatra had increased in the past 48 hours.

A hotspot is an area of intense heat detected by satellites, indicating a blaze has already broken out or that an area is very hot and likely to go up in flames soon. As of Friday, there were 69 hotspots on Sumatra, up from 43 two days earlier, the agency said. In the Indonesian part of Borneo island-another area where large numbers of smog-belching fires occur every year-there were 31 hotspots as of midnight Thursday local time, it added. However there were far fewer fires than at the peak of last year's crisis, when hundreds burned out of control. —AFP



SINGAPORE: Tourists look at photographs taken on their smartphones in front of a hazy financial skyline. —AP

PHILIPPINES' TOP COP TELLS ADDICTS - KILL DRUG LORDS

'KILLING THEM IS ALLOWED BECAUSE YOU ARE THE VICTIM'

MANILA: The Philippines' police chief has called on drug users to kill traffickers and burn their homes, escalating President Rodrigo Duterte's deeply controversial crime war that has claimed 2,000 lives. "Why don't you give them a visit, pour gasoline on their homes and set these on fire to register your anger," Ronald dela Rosa said in a speech aired on television yesterday. "They're all enjoying your money, money that destroyed your brain. You know who the drug lords are. Would you like to kill them? Go ahead. Killing them is allowed because you are the victim."

Dela Rosa was speaking Thursday to several hundred drug users who had surrendered in the central Philippines. Dela Rosa's comments followed

Duterte's own controversial directives that have sparked criticism from the United Nations and human rights groups. Duterte, 71, won May elections in a landslide on a vow to kill tens of thousands of suspected criminals in an unprecedented blitz that would eliminate illegal drugs in six months. He promised on the campaign trail that 100,000 people would be killed and so many bodies would be dumped in Manila Bay that fish would grow fat from feeding on them.

Days after his election win, Duterte also offered security officials bounties for the bodies of drug dealers. And when he took office on June 30, Duterte told a crowd in Manila: "If you know of any addicts, go ahead and kill

them yourself as getting their parents to do it would be too painful." The UN special reporter on summary executions, Agnes Callamard, said such directives "amount to incitement to violence and killing, a crime under international law". However Dela Rosa and Duterte have insisted they are working within the law and their aides have dismissed some of their comments as merely "hyperbole" meant to scare drug traffickers.

'Sad, mad and sorry'

After a barrage of bad headlines, Dela Rosa yesterday apologized for his remarks the previous day and described them as due to an "emotional outburst". "Yesterday, I said that because I felt so bad. I was in front of those poor people, pushers and users, they looked like zombies. I was so mad, that's why I said that," he told reporters. "I'm sorry if I said something unpleasant. Many people are reacting. I am very sorry. I am just a human being who gets mad."

When asked earlier yesterday if Duterte supported Dela Rosa's call to murder and commit arson, presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella denied that was the police chief's intent. "There is no such call. It's a passionate statement," Abella said, without elaborating. Dela Rosa told a Senate inquiry this week that the confirmed number of people to have died in the drug war was 1,946. He said police had shot dead 756 suspects in self-defence. He said there were another 1,190 killings under investigation, but they were likely due to drug gangs murdering people who could implicate each other. —AFP



QUEZON CITY: Protesters stage a "die-in" to dramatize the rising number of extra judicial killings related to Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's "War on Drugs" yesterday in front of the Philippine National Police headquarters. —AFP

CHINA HOTELS BLOCK MUSLIM NATIONALS

BEIJING: Police have ordered some low-end hotels in the Chinese metropolis of Guangzhou not to allow guests from five Muslim-majority countries to stay, though China's foreign ministry said it had never heard of the policy. Three hotels with rooms costing about 150 yuan (\$23) a night told Reuters that they had received police notices from as early as March telling them to turn away people from Pakistan, Syria, Iraq, Turkey and Afghanistan. "I'm not clear of the reason. We just can't take them," one hotel worker said by telephone.

The notice appears only to apply to cheaper hotels at the bottom of the price scale. All of the five countries have been beset by terrorist attacks in the past few years, or in the case of Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan have been in states of war. Hong Kong's South China Morning Post said yesterday the rule appeared to be a security measure coinciding with a development forum being held in Guangzhou this week, and also ahead of next week's G20 summit in Hangzhou, though the two cities are more than 1,000 km (620 miles) apart.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said he was not aware that such an order had been issued in Guangzhou. "I've never heard that there is this policy being followed in China," Lu told a daily news briefing. "Moreover, as far as China is concerned, our policy in principle is that we encourage people from China and other countries to have friendly exchanges and are willing to provide various convenient policies in this regard."

The Guangzhou city government information office and police in the southern city could not be reached for immediate comment. Two high-end hotels told Reuters they had not been told they had to turn away guest from the five countries. Guangzhou is the capital of the export powerhouse province of Guangdong and is home to a sizable foreign population, many of whom are traders from Africa. China has a Muslim population of its own, many of whom live in the violence-prone far western region of Xinjiang where the government says it faces a concerted campaign from Islamist extremists. China has also been courting the Muslim world, and the oil-rich Middle East in particular, and has for many years also had close ties with Pakistan. —Reuters

TRUMP IMMIGRATION STANCE CREATES CONFUSION

VOTERS' UNDECIDED ON TRUMP'S DEPORT-THEM-ALL STANCE

AKRON, Ohio: Dean Green supports Donald Trump partly because of the GOP presidential nominee's tough, deport-them-all stance on illegal immigration. But the 57-year-old Republican paused as he complained about US immigration policy and acknowledged that deporting all 11 million people in the US illegally would separate families. "I don't want to break up families," Green said. It has been 30 years since the country embarked on an immigration overhaul, and the ambivalence of voters like Green is one reason why. Polls often show that majorities favor letting people illegally in the US stay and also back tougher laws to deport them.

'Emotional issue'

"The electorate is conflicted and that's a fundamental problem," said Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster. "This is such an emotional issue that reason and facts have very little to do with how people stand." Trump is now either caught up in, or trying to exploit, that contradiction as he considers "softening" his controversial immigration stance. He won the GOP primaries on the strength of an aggressive immigration policy, calling for the immediate deportation of the estimated 11 million people in the US illegally and construction of a Mexican border wall. But as he trails in the polls and struggles to overcome record lows with minority voters, he has sounded a softer tone.

"To take a person who's been here 15 or 20 years and throw them and their fam-



Anti-Trump protesters demonstrate outside a meeting between Donald Trump and minority Republicans at Trump Tower, Thursday Aug. 25, 2016, in New York. —AP

ily out, it's so tough," Trump told a Fox News town hall, quoting what some "really strong" supporters had said to him. He even polled the audience on whether to allow some people in the country illegally to stay, a key part of President Barack Obama and Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's agendas. Todd Schulte, president of FWD.us, which advocates for an

immigration overhaul that would let people in the country illegally remain here while increasing border security, said that Trump's words mean little until he commits to a real policy change. But just the fact that the candidate has to utter them is telling, he said.

"Opposition is not just toxic with Latinos and Asians and African-

Americans, but with white voters," Schulte said. A Pew survey released Thursday found 24 percent of the public favoring toughening border security first and 29 percent letting people stay in the country. Forty-five percent called for both. Trump's proposed wall is opposed by 61 percent of the country but backed by 78 percent of his supporters.

Views of immigrants have shifted over time, but remain conflicted, said Mark Lopez of Pew. In the early 1990s, two-thirds of Americans surveyed by Pew characterized immigrants as a burden on society, but now nearly two-thirds see them as a benefit. Lopez noted that happened as large numbers of immigrants settled in the US and had children. However, a Pew survey last year found 50 percent of Americans believe immigrants make the economy worse compared to 28 percent who believe they make it better. (The survey did find majorities think immigrants improve food and music.)

Complications

Immigration has created complications for both parties. During the Democratic primary, as she courted groups that favor a softer stance on immigration, Clinton had to disavow her prior opposition to providing driver's licenses for people here illegally and also her support for deporting Central American children who flooded the border in 2014. But the Democrat's contradictions are dwarfed by those in the GOP. During the

GOP primary Trump slammed rivals like former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Ohio Gov. John Kasich for backing "amnesty" - letting people here illegally remain. But in exit polls in 20 primary states, 53 percent of Republican voters supported letting those immigrants stay, even as Trump won the primaries.

Ayres recalled a focus group in the Deep South during which conservative voters complained about illegal immigrants. One man said he wanted them to pay taxes, work and learn English. Ayres told the man that was precisely the bipartisan proposal that had passed the Senate in 2013 and was being held up in the Republican-controlled House. "But that's amnesty," the man responded. "I don't support that." "That's when I turned around and cracked my head against the wall," Ayres said.

Roy Beck, president of Numbers USA, which pushes for less immigration, sees Trump's shift through that prism. "Trump is much more like an average American than he is like a politician," said Beck, whose group still downgraded Trump in its voter guide this week. "He's thinking about these things, people are talking to him and he's reflecting that." Mark Krikorian of the Center for Immigration Studies, which also advocates for less immigration, doesn't think the Republican nominee should be cut any slack. Trump has changed his position on many issues, but immigration is the one that launched his candidacy, he said. —AP

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AS RACIAL POLITICS EMERGES, OBAMA'S LEGACY IS MIXED

WASHINGTON: When Barack Obama became the first African-American to win the White House in 2008, his victory was a turning point in US race relations that set high expectations for progress to come. Nearly eight years later, with Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton attacking each other over racial politics, the legacy of Obama's presidency looks decidedly mixed, black leaders said. To some, the tone of the Republican presidential nominee's campaign, as well as a recent series of racially charged shootings involving police, show that the United States has come no closer to overcoming its history of racial strife.

Having a black president, two attorneys general and a chief of homeland security did not result in basic fairness for victims of racially charged violence, said Cornel West, an academic and former Obama supporter who has become a high-profile critic of the Democratic president. "How many policemen who have murdered unarmed innocent black civilians have gone to jail with that kind of black power at the top? Zero," West said. Obama could have acted more directly while in office to help blacks, West added, citing persistently high childhood poverty among African-Americans. "The (economic) recovery has not filtered over into black and working poor communities," he said.

Others said Obama showed leadership on race while making real achievements on healthcare and the economy that helped Americans of all ethnicities. Al Sharpton, a civil rights leader with close ties to the White House, described

Obama as a "transformative" president held back by the need to serve varying constituencies and compromise with lawmakers who had different priorities. "He tried to be as balanced and respectful as he could, to the chagrin of many in the black community, who felt that he was leaning over backwards," Sharpton said.

Unemployment among African-Americans fell by half under Obama, Sharpton noted, while Obama's remarks on race elevated the issue. In 2012 at the White House, Obama referred to Trayvon Martin, a black youth gunned down by a white Hispanic man, as a boy who would have resembled the son he did not have. "We've never had a president do that," Sharpton said.

False sense of progress

Andrew Young, a former Atlanta mayor, congressman, US ambassador to the United Nations and adviser to slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr, said Obama, as a black leader, had to seek compromise more than previous white presidents. "It was easier for (Jimmy) Carter or Lyndon Johnson, even Bill Clinton as southern whites to do things specifically for black people," Young said. Backlash from white working class voters had contributed to Trump's rise, Young said. "We really haven't had a complete psychological adjustment to a multi-racial society," he said. "That's what's rallying people behind Trump. They're frustrated by the complexities of this day and age. And (Trump), like others,

gives a simple answer and blames it on somebody else."

Clinton, the Democratic presidential nominee, blasted Trump on Thursday as a divisive candidate who was stoking racist groups. Trump criticized Clinton, saying she had let black Americans down and was falsely labeling Republicans as bigoted. Clinton supporters were more likely to want to address race relations than Trump supporters, a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll of more than 2,800 people found in late March.

Obama has said race relations are not as bad as some suggest. Friends say he never expected his presidency to wipe away centuries of racism and slavery's legacy. "To expect to erase all of that legacy of injustice or racism and discrimination in eight years is unrealistic," said Valerie Jarrett, a White House adviser and close Obama friend. "Were there people who probably had a false sense of progress based just on an election? Sure," she said. The administration wants to advance criminal justice reform legislation before Obama leaves office, aiming for a win on an issue watched closely in the black community. But prospects of passage in Congress during an election year are uncertain. Obama, who has made clear his disdain for Trump and his frustration with Congress, has said he hoped his own voice on race would help improve things for future generations. "We plant seeds, and somebody else maybe sits under the shade of the tree that we planted," Obama said at a news conference in July. —Reuters

CLINTON: TRUMP UNLEASHES RADICAL FRINGE IN THE GOP

'CAMPAIGN WILL MAKE AMERICA HATE AGAIN'

MANCHESTER: Hillary Clinton says Donald Trump has unleashed the "radical fringe" within the Republican Party, including anti-Semites and white supremacists, dubbing the billionaire businessman's campaign as one that will "make America hate again." Trump is rejecting Clinton's allegations, defending his hard-line approach to immigration while trying to make the case to minority voters that Democrats have abandoned them.

The back-and-forth accusations came Thursday as the two candidates vie for minorities and any undecided voters with less than three months until Election Day. Weeks before the first early voting, Trump faces the urgent task of revamping his image to win over those skeptical of his candidacy. In a tweet shortly after Clinton wrapped up her speech in the swing state of Nevada, Trump said she "is pandering to the worst instincts in our society. She should be ashamed of herself!"

Clinton is eager to capitalize on Trump's slipping poll numbers, particularly among mod-

erate Republican women turned off by his controversial campaign. "Don't be fooled" by Trump's efforts to rebrand, she told voters at a speech in Reno, saying the country faced a "moment of reckoning." "He's taking hate groups mainstream and helping a radical fringe take over one of America's two major political parties," she said. Trump tried to get ahead of the Democratic nominee, addressing a crowd in Manchester, New Hampshire just minutes before Clinton.

Turning tables

"Hillary Clinton is going to try to accuse this campaign, and the millions of decent Americans who support this campaign, of being racists," Trump predicted. "To Hillary Clinton, and to her donors and advisers, pushing her to spread her smears and her lies about decent people, I have three words," he said. "I want you to hear these words, and remember these words: Shame on you." Trump tried to turn the tables on Clinton, suggesting she was

trying to distract from questions swirling around donations to The Clinton Foundation and her use of her private email servers. "She lies, she smears, she paints decent Americans as racists," said Trump, who then defended some of the core - and to some people, divisive - ideas of his candidacy.

Clinton did not address any of the accusations about her family foundation in her remarks. Instead, she offered a strident denunciation of Trump's campaign and the so-called alt-right movement, which is often associated with efforts on the far right to preserve "white identity," oppose multiculturalism and defend "Western values." Clinton's campaign also released an online video that compiles footage of prominent white supremacist leaders praising Trump.

Trump, who also met Thursday in New York with members of a new Republican Party initiative meant to train young - and largely minority - volunteers, has been working to win over blacks and Latinos in light of his past inflammatory comments and has been claiming that the Democrats have taken minority voters' support for granted. "They've been very disrespectful, as far as I'm concerned, to the African-American population in this country," Trump said.

Many black leaders and voters have dismissed Trump's message as condescending and intended more to reassure undecided white voters that he's not racist. Cornell William Brooks, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told C-SPAN's "Newsmakers" Thursday that Trump has not reached out to the organization for any reason. He added that Trump refused the group's invitation to speak at its convention. "We're going to make it clear: You don't get to the White House unless you travel through the doors of the NAACP," Brooks said. "More importantly, you don't get to the White House without addressing the nation's civil rights agenda." —AP

ROUSSEFF DEFENSE BEGINS IN AN IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

BRASILIA: Brazil's suspended president Dilma Rousseff is to begin her defense case yesterday in the Senate impeachment trial that could see the one-time leftist guerrilla ejected from office within days. Rousseff, 68, is accused of breaking the law when she took unauthorized loans to bridge budget gaps during her 2014 reelection. Allies, including former economy minister Nelson Barbosa, will argue that the budgetary maneuvers were common practice in previous governments and had never been considered illegal.

Rousseff loyalist Senator Gleisi Hoffman told AFP she thought that impeachment could still be defeated. "I think it's possible to reverse the process because there are senators who even though they've shown they favor impeachment have said they could change their minds," she said. The hearings began Thursday when the Senate heard from opponents of the first woman to lead Latin America's biggest economy. Now the trial is slowly building to Monday when Rousseff herself will testify in a piece of political theater that could determine whether 13 years of rule by her leftist Workers' Party comes to a sudden end.

Senate leaders expect a final vote on her fate to take place in the first part of next week and Rousseff opponents are confident they will muster the necessary two-thirds majority to bring her down. Senator Raimundo Lira, a strong backer of impeachment, told AFP that senators "have already made up their minds and I don't think there will be any change at the vote." If Rousseff goes, her former vice president turned bitter enemy, Michel Temer, will be sworn in, signaling a sharp shift for Brazil to the right. The left and right are now bitterly divided, heralding further instability for a country already struggling to resurrect its once buoyant economy.

Rousseff's ally and predecessor, Workers' Party founder Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, said in a speech in Rio that "a week of national shame" had begun. Rousseff, who was tortured and imprisoned by the 1970s dictatorship for membership in a Marxist urban guerrilla group, calls the process a coup. She said late Wednesday that she'd resist "with the same force that I fought against the military dictatorship." But her opponents see the drama in equally stark terms. "Impeachment of Rousseff is a great victory for democracy, a liberation for our country from the left which wanted to hang on to power," said Senator Janaina Paschoal, one of the authors of the impeachment petition against the president. —AFP



NEVADA: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton greets members of law enforcement who escorted her motorcade before leaving Reno-Tahoe International Airport in Reno. —AP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

Saudi minister tempers
hopes for output freeze

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British economy escapes
Brexit blow, for now

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Declining inventories
curb US Q2 growth

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016



Milk price rise fails to
placate French users

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JACKSON HOLE: Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen (center) strolls with Stanley Fischer (right), vice chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Bill Dudley, the president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, before her speech to the annual invitation-only conference of central bankers from around the world, at Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park, north of Jackson Hole, Wyoming yesterday. — AP

CASE FOR RATE HIKE GROWING: YELLEN

GLOBAL MARKETS STIR AS FED CHIEF EYES CASE FOR RATE RISE

WASHINGTON: Justifications for an interest rate increase in the United States have grown in recent months, US Fed chief Janet Yellen said yesterday.

In an address to a central banking symposium at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Yellen took note of strong job growth, saying gradual increases in the Fed's benchmark rate in the coming years should be expected. "In light of the continued solid performance of the labor market and our outlook for economic activity and inflation, I believe the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has strengthened in recent months," Yellen said, according to her prepared remarks.

Yellen's words returned a measure of clarity on the intentions of US monetary policymakers, who have been publicly at odds in recent months over the need to raise rates in the near-term. As the stewards of monetary policy in the world's largest economy, the Federal Reserve's thinking is intensely scrutinized by market players everywhere, driving investment decisions in commodities, equities and foreign exchange markets around the globe.

Less fuzzy message

Fed watchers had complained this year that US central bankers' public pronouncements had been inscrutable and sometimes contradictory, leaving investors perplexed. Her remarks raised the likelihood that the Fed will increase the rate from its current ultra-low 0.25-0.50 percent level by the end of the year, and as early as its next meeting in September.

The Fed had at the end of 2015 raised rates for the first time in nearly decade, ending the policies designed to respond immediately to the Great Recession. But policy makers quickly veered off this course early this year, fearing that the US economy was growing more weakly than they had foreseen and global risks, especially from China and Europe, had risen.

Despite her clear signal that a rate hike was now more likely, Yellen cautioned that Fed decisions would depend on economic conditions that could vary widely. "Our ability to predict how the federal funds will evolve over time is quite limited because monetary policy will need to respond to whatever disturbances may buffet

the economy," Yellen says, adding that some such conditions were visible "only in hindsight."

"For these reasons, the range of reasonably likely outcomes for the federal funds rate is quite wide," Yellen cited the range of predictions from Fed policy makers according to whom there was a 70 percent probability that rates would be between 0 percent and 3.25 percent by the end of 2017. The range expanded to 0-4.5 percent by the end of 2018.

"When shocks occur and the economic outlook changes, monetary policy needs to adjust," Yellen said. Yellen earlier this year had said Britain's surprise June vote to exit the European Union had been one factor causing the Fed to forestall an increase in rates. Economists have also said the US elections also add a measure of uncertainty to global economic outlook.

Yellen said the economy was now adding jobs at an average rate of 190,000 per month and that household spending remained strong. Her assessment was more straightforward than Fed pronouncements at previous meetings, which had taken note of the mixed economic picture of

relatively low inflation and weak productivity.

Yellen's speech coincided with a downward revision in the already anemic second-quarter economic growth rate from the US Commerce Department, which said that the economy grown 1.1 percent a percentage point slower than originally estimated. US stock markets, which opened slightly higher, added to gains, with the S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average both trading up 0.5 percent within an hour of the speech's delivery.

But after sharp swings, the US dollar was flat against the euro at \$1.1286 and slightly lower against the yen at 100.28 yen.

European stock markets stirred at the end of a tranquil week as Fed chief indicated there was a case for raising US interest rates. Market watchers were waiting for Yellen to show her hand in an address to an annual gathering of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

European stocks advanced as news of her comments emerged with London and Frankfurt rising 0.3 percent and Paris gaining 1.0 percent in late afternoon trading. — AFP



ASSALUYEH: Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh speaks during a press conference in southern Iranian port town of Assaluyeh on the shore of the Gulf, yesterday. — AFP

IRAN WANTS PRE-SANCTIONS OIL MARKET SHARE: MINISTER

TEHRAN: Iran wants its pre-sanctions share of the crude market, Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh said yesterday, dampening the prospects of agreement on an output freeze at an OPEC meeting next month. "Iran had no role in disrupting the stability of the oil market and after the (lifting of) sanctions we seek to revive our share in the global crude market," he said, quoted by the ministry's SHANA news service.

Zanganeh had given a brief boost to world prices on Thursday after announcing he would attend the informal OPEC meeting in Algiers on a possible output freeze with non-cartel producer Russia in late September. But yesterday he insisted there could be no talk of Iran abandoning its ambitions to restore its market share after last year's nuclear agreement with world powers led to the lifting of sanctions on its oil exports.

"Iran will cooperate with OPEC on improving prices and the state of the crude market, but we expect our right to restore our lost market share in the market to be considered," Zanganeh said. "Iran has made its sacrifices for the market and it's no longer the time for Iran," another Iranian website, Mizan Online, quoted him as saying. Tehran says it has doubled its exports of oil and gas to 2.7 million barrels per day (bpd) since signing the nuclear deal in July last year. Its total output has risen from 2.7 million bpd to 3.85 million bpd, close to the level before international sanctions were imposed in 2012. "When the instability occurred in the market, ... Iran's oil exports were less than one million bpd," Zanganeh said. "We expect those who disrupted the market's stability to take the highest responsibility in restoring stability." — AFP

KUWAIT OIL PRICE DOWN 17 CENTS, STANDS AT \$43.69 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went down Thursday by 17 cents to settle at \$43.69 per barrel as opposed to \$43.86 pb the day before, said Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. The price of oil in the world markets went down after US energy reports showed an unexpected increase in crude reserves in the US, the world largest consumer of oil. This led to an increase of supplies by 2.5 million barrels in contracts with expectations of a decrease by 500,000 barrels.

The Brent crude price was down by 91 cents to \$49.05 per barrel, the same occurred with the American crude which went down by \$1.33 to \$46.77 per barrel.

The price of OPEC basket went up three cents on Thursday and settled at \$45.28 per barrel as oppose to \$45.25 pb the day before, said a statement yesterday. According to the OPEC bulletin, the annual average for the basket in 2015 was at \$49.64 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 Meruy (Venezuela). — KUNA

SAUDI MINISTER TEMPERS HOPES FOR OUTPUT FREEZE

OIL PRICES DROP AFTER AL-FALIH REMARKS

LOS ANGELES: Saudi Arabian Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih tempered expectations that the world's major oil producers would look to freeze production next month, telling Reuters on Thursday that the "market is moving in the right direction" already. "We don't believe any significant intervention in the market is necessary other than to allow the forces of supply and demand to do the work for us," he said in an interview following a speech at the US-Saudi Arabian Business Council in Los Angeles.

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) will meet on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum (IEF), which groups producers and consumers, in Algeria from Sept. 26-28. Oil rallied last week in part on anticipation of a freeze, but those hopes have waned in the last couple of days.

Speaking publicly for the first time since talk about freezing production surfaced in the last few weeks, Al-Falih said there have not yet been any specific discussions of a production freeze by OPEC, even though world supply remains high. His comments suggest the chances of a pact are minimal, as he pointed to a market rebalancing and steady demand.

Benchmark Brent crude has rebounded sharply since January but struggled to stay above \$50 a barrel. Saudi Arabia recently hit a record in terms of barrels-per-day production, and other member nations, including Iran, have said they will boost output.

The kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter, started to raise production from June to meet rising seasonal domestic demand as well as higher export requirements. Al-Falih did not say whether there was a specific level of output that would be necessary to stabilize the market. Saudi Arabia produced 10.67 million barrels per day of crude oil, the most in its history, in July, and Al-Falih said on Thursday that production has remained around that level, though he could not cite a specific number for August.

A previous attempt to freeze output at January levels to support prices collapsed in April after Saudi Arabia said it wanted all producers, including Iran, to join the initiative. Since Al-Falih's appointment in April, Saudi Arabia has taken a softer tone toward Iran at OPEC.

Al-Falih said no specific production level for a freeze has been broached yet. "If there is consensus that emerges between now and the Algiers meeting, Saudi Arabia as always will be a constructive player in these discussions and we will be willing to participate," he said Thursday. GLGL

Meanwhile, oil prices fell yesterday as OPEC's key producers cast doubt on the need to cut output, denting hopes of a deal to tackle a global supply glut.

US benchmark West Texas Intermediate for delivery in October was down 18 cents at \$47.15 a barrel. Brent North Sea crude for October delivery lost 32 cents to \$49.35 a barrel compared with the close on Thursday. "Comments from the Saudi energy minister quelled expectations of a production freeze, which rekindled concerns over the ongoing oversupply," said Lukman Otunuga, research analyst at trading group FXTM. Oil prices had rallied last week and entered a bull market—a 20-percent rise from recent lows—after OPEC and Russia announced plans to discuss the supply crisis, which has hammered the crude market for more than two years. But prices have taken a beating this week on concerns about prospects for success at the September meeting in Algiers.

In an interview with Bloomberg News, Falih said: "I don't believe that an intervention of significance is required. I certainly don't advocate a cut." But he added that a "freeze (in output around current levels) signifies that everybody is content with where the market is today and they want it to be trending in that direction". — Agencies



YOKOHAMA: Young children eating lunch at an official nursery school in Yokohama. Abe has come under fire for his call for the nation's women to both bear more children to stem a falling population, and to keep working to boost the struggling economy, without providing proper childcare facilities to support this dual demand. — AFP

TUNISIA PM WARNS OF AUSTERITY, JOB CUTS

TUNIS: If Tunisia does not overcome its economic difficulties, an austerity program will be inevitable next year with thousands of public sector job cuts and new taxes, prime minister-designate Youssef Chahed told parliament yesterday. Chahed has promised his new government will take tough decisions to help growth in the economy and create jobs with the North African state under pressure from international lenders to push through economic reforms and trim public spending.

Lawmakers met yesterday to vote whether to approve Chahed's new government - a broad coalition of secular, Islamist and leftist parties, independents and trade union allies which he believes can deliver on economic reforms.

"If the situation continues like this then in 2017 we will need a

policy of austerity, and dismiss thousands of public sector employees and impose new taxes," Chahed told lawmakers before the vote. Chahed, an ally of President Beji Caid Essebsi, promised a tough line on the economy. But critics question whether he has the political clout to overcome the labor union opposition and party infighting that have dogged past governments. He said growth this year would not surpass 1.5 percent, below the official target of 2.5 percent for the year.

Tunisia is struggling with lower tourism revenues after two Islamist militant attacks on foreign tourists last year hit what is one of its key industries. Strikes and protests for jobs have also hurt state phosphate production, another key revenue earner for the state. — Reuters



SAMSUNG APPOINTS APTEC AS ITS DISTRIBUTOR FOR ENTERPRISE-FOCUSED PRINTING SOLUTIONS

DUBAI: Samsung has appointed Aptec, an Ingram Micro (NYSE: IM) company, a leading technology sales, marketing and logistics enterprise, as the official distributor for the Gulf region for its wide range of enterprise-focused printing solutions.

Aptec, is the largest value-added distributor in the Middle East, Turkey and Africa. Established in 1980, Aptec is also the oldest distributor in the region, with a wide network of resellers and a rich portfolio of products to offer IT solutions for businesses.

Sherif Fahim, Head of Printing Solutions at Samsung Gulf Electronics commented, "We are certain that Aptec's geographical cover-

age, decades of experience, extensive customer base and value-added services, especially within the Gulf, will create a whole new range of possibilities for our printing technology. Primed to deliver substantial cost savings to businesses and boost their mobility and productivity, our printing solutions range from hardware to business applications."

Bahaa Salah, managing director of Aptec, Gulf and Near East region, added, "This partnership with Samsung presents a great and exciting opportunity to further enhance and enrich our enterprise solutions offerings to the channel. As a key point in the value chain, we strive to create sales and profitability

opportunities for vendors and resellers through unique marketing programs, logistics services, technical support, financial services, and product aggregation and distribution."

Samsung's growing printing solutions portfolio includes the latest in the ProXpress series. Set to lower total cost of ownership with a larger toner capacity and reduced power consumption (with Instant Fusing System technology), Samsung's latest ProXpress C3060 series with its Dual CPU (800MHz & 400MHz) ensures better productivity by cutting print times. The ProXpress C30 series is optimized for small and medium-sized company users, especially in business sectors such as professional services

and retail, where printing quality, usability and operation costs are prioritized.

Another key feature of the C30 series is its high-quality graphics. With resolutions of 9,600 x 600 dots per inch and Samsung's Rendering engine for Clean Pages (ReCP) technology, printed, copied and scanned documents and images are optimized, with unnecessary details omitted and unclear elements enhanced. Any Samsung eXtensible Open Architecture (XOA) embedded devices or selected independent software vendor (ISV) solutions such as Rindale, Scanshare and Cirrato can be easily integrated with the C30 series.

CHINA, US STILL IN TALKS ON TRADE PACT DESPITE HURDLES

BEIJING: China and the United States are still in frequent discussion about a bilateral trade pact, despite a challenging global trade environment, a Chinese commerce official said on Thursday.

China is keen to maintain open markets for its goods as its economy grows at its slowest pace in 25 years, but it faces rising trade tensions as its imports deteriorate faster than exports, setting it up for another record trade surplus.

Last year, the US trade deficit with China was \$336.2 billion, according to the US Trade Representative's office. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump threatened on Wednesday to slap tariffs on Chinese products to show Beijing the United States is "not playing games anymore".

The United States - China's second-largest trade partner after the European Union - has imposed anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Chinese products and also brought cases against China at the World Trade Organization. "The global economy has not emerged from its difficulties, which has led a lot of countries to adopt trade protectionist policies," China's Ministry of Commerce spokesman Shen Danyang said in a rare conversation with reporters over coffee in a Starbucks cafe near Tiananmen Square.

Chinese steel exports have surged this year even as global growth remains weak, prompting complaints that China was dumping excess capacity. "There is no evidence China is dumping steel products. Growth in exports is due to greater competitiveness of Chinese firms, as costs have fallen," Shen said.

In response to claims by the head of the US Export-Import Bank (EXIM) Chairman Fred Hochberg that China gave its exporters 10 times more financing than the United States did in 2015, Shen said there are disagreements on what constitutes subsidies. If there are disputes, the two sides can take it to the WTO, he said.

Shen did not offer any details on plans announced on Tuesday to open more sectors to foreign investment, but said foreign companies are not investing in China as much as before because competition from Chinese companies is increasing. — Reuters

FOUR KD 5,000 WINNERS IN NBK'S JAWHARA WEEKLY DRAWS FOR AUGUST

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced four lucky winners in Al-Jawhara weekly draws during the month of August. The draws were conducted under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce Representatives.

Sara Marzouq Falhan, Boushra Mohammed Al-Tobali, Ahmad Abdul Hussain Ghouloum and Yasser Galal Eldin Fahmy each won KD 5,000. The winners expressed their gratitude and thanked NBK for its great services and promotions.

NBK has doubled customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts. NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly.

Each KD 50 in a customer's account entitles them to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances in each draw. The new feature introduced to Al-Jawhara Account enables customers to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing or transferring from Al-Jawhara account.

Al-Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al-Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners' accounts the day after the draw.

Al-Jawhara accounts are available for both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any of NBK's branches around Kuwait, or through NBK website for existing customers.



IRAN, SOUTH KOREA TO BEGIN TRADE IN EUROS

TEHRAN: Iran and South Korea are to start trading in euros, legally circumventing US sanctions on dollar transactions with Tehran, a senior official announced yesterday. After months of talks with Washington, at the urging of Iran, Seoul will "with US approval... convert South Korean won to euros without any direct intervention of dollars", Deputy Foreign Minister Hamid Baedinejad said on his Instagram page. If other

countries with "local and limited currencies" also traded in euros, it would "lead to easier commerce between Iranian traders and businesses and those countries", he added.

A landmark deal between Tehran and world powers, signed in July last year and which came into force in January, saw many international sanctions on Iran lifted in exchange for curbs to its nuclear program. — AFP



CAMEMBERT: At the Fromagerie Durand in the Normandy's village of Camembert, northwestern France shows the dairy's sign. The Fromagerie Durdand, located some kilometers away from Lactalis group, struggles to survive in front of the dairy giant. — AFP

MILK PRICE RISE FAILS TO PLACATE FRENCH USERS

TALKS BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND UNIONS COLLAPSE

PARIS: Europe's biggest dairy group Lactalis told French farmers yesterday it would raise milk prices in a bid to repair relations, but agricultural unions said the move fell short of their demands.

The price of milk has soured the atmosphere between producers and unions and talks in France Thursday had failed to strike a deal on higher prices.

Producers said yesterday it was up to Lactalis to come up with a new offer which the group did, raising prices by 15 euros (\$17) per 1,000 litres (250 gallons) from September 1. But the move did not impress the FNSEA agricultural workers' union, which vowed to continue its protest and demanded urgent talks with local authorities.

Lactalis described the union's reaction as "irresponsible". Unions have

been blockading the Lactalis factory outside the northwestern city of Laval since Monday urging price rises.

French and other European producers say current retail prices scarcely cover production costs, never mind allowing for distribution costs and profit. In a statement, Lactalis said "despite the irresponsible attitude of FNSEA, the Lactalis group is increasing, from September 1, the price of milk. The group added it recognized the "real difficulties experienced by milk producers". Lactalis spokesman Michel Valet told AFP that Lactalis made the proposal "to show we are still moving forward and negotiating. "Yesterday we were speaking to people who did not want to negotiate," said Valet, adding he hoped to find common ground. The issue has also made waves in other countries,

including Britain, with producers saying plunging prices in a dairy industry hit by over-production and a Russian embargo mean they cannot cover their costs. Last month, Brussels announced a 500 million euro (\$553 million) package to help keep milk farmers afloat.

The abolition of European Union milk quotas in April 2015 helped trigger a collapse in prices that have not recovered despite an initial aid package agreed last September.

The French agriculture ministry meanwhile announced yesterday it will next week unveil a plan to regulate production in line with the EU package, which includes compensation for farmers who produce less milk. France is to receive about 50 million euros of the EU money which the French state may double. — AFP

FRENCH CONSUMER MORALE RESILIENT AFTER ATTACKS

PARIS: French consumer confidence picked up in August, shrugging off two Islamist militant attacks the month before and Britain's shock vote to leave the EU, data showed yesterday, a sign the French economy started the third quarter on a stronger footing. The brighter outlook among consumers, France's traditional growth engine, will reassure the government after official data confirmed the euro zone's second-largest economy ground to a halt in the second quarter.

Coming after brisk growth in the first quarter, the surprise stagnation in April-June was brought about by caution among companies, which drew down their inventories and cut investments, and consumers, who put a brake on spending, in a quarter marked by violent street protests, strikes and floods. But despite bloody attacks in Nice and Normandy, which took place after the previous consumer

confidence poll, and the fallout of Britain's Brexit referendum, this month's survey provided more positive clues about the current quarter.

French households' opinion about their personal financial situation improved markedly, INSEE said, gaining 7 points to reach the highest level since October 2007.

French consumers, whose high saving rate has frustrated the government's hopes to see them boost spending, also reported to pollsters that their saving capacity had improved but that now was a less opportune time to save.

That is good news for President Francois Hollande's government, which is currently preparing next year's budget bill and mulling whether growth in future quarters will be strong enough to cut taxes less than a year before a presidential election. — Reuters

GERMAN ECONOMY SET FAIR ON GROWTH PATH

BERLIN: Germany's domestic economy is set fair for further growth, with robust household and government spending propelling a self-reinforcing cycle of activity, though Britain's Brexit vote has unnerved German companies trading abroad. Data and surveys released this week showed domestic demand cementing its role as the main driver of Europe's biggest economy, more than compensating for a sluggish export sector that is facing waning demand.

A robust labour market, rising wages and ultra-low borrowing costs suggest the spending power of German consumers will rise further, the GfK sentiment indicator showed yesterday. The survey showed the consumer mood improved unexpectedly heading into September, hitting one of its highest points in the past 15 years. That reinforced expectations that private consumption, along with state spending, will drive an economic expansion tipped to reach 1.7 percent in 2016 - a forecast that could well be bumped higher.

The GfK institute said it expected private consumption, which accounts for roughly 50 percent of GDP, to grow by 2 percent. "There are still no signs of consumer fatigue in Germany," said Sal. Oppenheim economist Ulrike Kastens. "Private consumption remains an important pillar for the German economy, in addition to construction."

BUDGET SURPLUS

But an unwillingness to invest on the part of companies - which Kastens termed the economy's Achilles' heel - remains a barrier to faster growth. The private sector is holding back investment due to a number of external risks and uncertainties, not least the timing and terms of negotiations between Brussels and London on their future relationship.

German exports to Britain - its third biggest market - stagnated in the first half of the year ahead of the 23 June referendum in which Britons voted to leave the European Union.

Brexit-related risks were a major factor in a sharp and unexpected drop in morale among German company executives in August, as measured on Thursday by the benchmark Ifo index.

Even so, Tuesday's survey among purchasing managers by research firm Markit - also closely watched - showed German private sector growth remained robust overall. That points to further expansion in an economy that grew a robust 1.1 percent in the first half of the year. The solid upswing generated a record budget surplus over the same period, allowing Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaueble to increase state spending on roads, housing and migrants ahead of federal elections in 2017, while sticking to his goal of running a balanced budget.

Some analysts now think economic growth will pick up speed in the third quarter, to 0.5 percent from 0.4 percent in the second. For 2016 as a whole, the government and national central bank expect GDP to expand by 1.7 percent, matching last year and the strongest growth rate in four years. — Reuters

LOAN GROWTH IN EUROZONE PRIVATE SECTOR IMPROVES

FRANKFURT: Private-sector loans in countries using the EU's single currency rose slightly in July, the European Central Bank (ECB) said yesterday, in welcome news for the ailing eurozone. In July, approved loans rose 1.3 percent from a year ago, slightly faster than growth of 1.2 in June, an ECB statement said. Credit specifically for households and companies was up 2.0 percent in July after a rise of 1.9 percent in June.

The statistics are deemed a key indicator of the eurozone's economic health. Borrowing is a main financing source for corporate investment, which in turn should boost the eurozone's currently fragile economy. The ECB has launched a raft of policy measures to get credit flowing, most significantly a massive program to buy public sector bonds to pump liquidity into the system.

The ECB beefed up that program earlier this year and also launched a scheme of ultra-cheap loans to banks on condition they hand them on to households and businesses.

Growth in the overall money supply, known as M3, slowed slightly to 4.8 percent in July, down from the 5.0 percent recorded in June, the ECB also said. The ECB regards M3 money supply as a barometer for future inflation. Analysts said the report could ease pressure on the ECB to take further action to boost the economy at its governing council meeting next month. "The ECB will likely be pretty pleased with the July credit data, and it modestly dilutes the case for further stimulus at the 8 September policy meeting," Howard Archer of IHS Global Insight said. — AFP

LONDON FIRMS LOSING FAITH IN QUICK-FIX ACCESS TO EU AFTER BREXIT

LONDON: Big financial groups in London are losing faith in a quick fix to get access to the European Union after Britain leaves the bloc and are instead drawing up contingency plans to avoid becoming hostage to Brussels politics. In the aftermath of Britain's vote to leave the EU, legal experts said banks, insurers and asset managers in London using so-called EU passports allowing them to sell services across the bloc should keep their access because regulations in Britain would be equivalent to those within the trading zone.

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson also said in July he expected financial firms in the country to retain rights to sell within the EU, given the desire of European firms to have reciprocal access to London.

But many in the City of London, Europe's biggest financial centre, are having second thoughts about relying on such an equivalency fix as it will be Brussels not Britain that decides whether the rules are the same. Having equivalent rules is a condition for market access and Britain would almost certainly comply on Day One of Brexit, simply because it would have been enforcing EU-wide financial services regulations up to that point.

But what worries financial firms is that equivalence could, in theory, be withdrawn by Brussels at a month's notice, which is an element of risk some are not prepared to shoulder. "There is not a very clear structure for how equivalence is granted, and it's likely to be at best a highly politicized environment," said Mark Hemsley, chief executive officer of Bats Europe, the region's biggest share trading platform. "While on the face of it equivalence appears to be a very attractive route because it implies very little work, when you get down to the first level of detail there are unanswered questions," he told Reuters in an interview.

WATERTIGHT ACCESS

European heavyweights Germany and France have played down hopes of an easy deal to keep London's financial hub intact and Frankfurt, Paris, Dublin, Luxembourg, Milan and Amsterdam are all vying to woo UK-based firms that need watertight EU access.

Hemsley said barring a clear signal that Britain would have full access to the single European market, Bats would start work on a second base next year, with Dublin being one of the more attractive locations in the EU.

The EU passporting arrangements have been central to Bats success. Founded in 2005 in the United States, Bats first took on the main U.S. exchanges before expanding to Europe in 2008. Centred in London with an EU passport, allowing unhindered trade across the bloc, Bats Europe has been able to snatch large chunks of share trading from centuries-old national European stock exchanges to become the market leader.

Other firms such as British insurers Admiral Group and Beazley Plc have also said they may shift some operations to Dublin, or elsewhere in the EU to have guaranteed passporting rights following Brexit. US banking giants Goldman Sachs and Bank of America both rely on EU passports for their London-based European operations and have said they may restructure some businesses when Britain leaves.

The passport so cherished by financial firms throughout the European Union is granted under a law known as the Markets in Financial Services Directive, or MiFID.

An updated version called MiFID II that comes in on January 2018 includes an equivalence provision for firms in countries outside the bloc that want to do business with EU customers. "MiFID II is critical because of the need for continuity in global securities trading, but equivalence on its own is unworkable," the head of regulation at a foreign bank in London said, referring to the lack of guarantees that equivalence would be maintained.

HIGH RISK STRATEGY

The EU's executive, the European Commission, is the body that decides if the financial rules in a country outside the EU are equivalent, and allow market access.

As Britain would almost certainly leave the EU after MiFID II came into force it should be compliant initially. But if the EU amended MiFID later, that would force Britain to make similar changes, or risk having equivalence withdrawn. There is no set timeline for equivalence decisions and they not only cover countries but every firm wanting recognition from Brussels to trade across the bloc. —Reuters



LONDON: A member of staff locks a door after the retailer BHS (British Home Stores) closed at the end of its last day of trading in Bromley, south east London. —AFP

BRITISH ECONOMY ESCAPES BREXIT BLOW, FOR NOW

BRITONS SEEM UNFAZED SO FAR BY EU REFERENDUM RESULT

LONDON: Britain's high streets are heaving with shoppers despite June's shock vote to leave the European Union, big companies have reported few signs of distress and some tabloid newspapers are even talking about a post-Brexit economic boom. The overwhelming view from economists is that it is too early to know how Britain will cope with years of Brexit uncertainty - but there is a growing belief the country can avoid a recession that only weeks ago was regarded as likely.

On the face of it, the early optimism contrasts with the pre-referendum warning from former Prime Minister David Cameron that a Brexit vote would put a "bomb under the economy". Retail sales in August reversed much of an immediate post-Brexit vote fall, with retailers reporting their strongest sales in six months, industry data showed on Thursday, partly due to a weaker pound attracting overseas buyers. Official figures out last week showed the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell unexpectedly in July. Before the June 23 referendum, the British finance ministry had warned a Brexit vote would mean homeowners facing higher borrowing costs, pushing the economy into a "DIY recession", and that equity prices were likely to fall.

However, nearly half of mortgage borrowers look set to gain from the Bank of England's interest rate cut on Aug 4, while British equity markets have risen. Some British newspapers which supported the Leave campaign have hailed such news. "Remainers were WRONG!" the Daily Express declared earlier this month, adding: "Brexit Britain booms".

But most economists do not share this jubilation and caution these positive sig-

nals may have little bearing on the long-term outlook for the economy, which must contend with years of uncertainty as Britain extricates itself from the EU.

'WE DON'T KNOW'

New British Prime Minister Theresa May has said she will not trigger the EU's Article 50 this year, to begin formal talks with the bloc to negotiate the terms of Britain's exit from the EU and its future trading relationship with the bloc. "The fact that the UK avoided an immediate crisis does not tell us much about the future," said Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg Bank, adding he thought Britain would probably avoid a technical recession - defined as two consecutive quarters of falling economic output.

Business surveys and some forward-looking indicators of inflation already offer reasons for caution. Price pressures in factories - which feed through into consumer prices - shot higher after the pound's post-referendum plunge, posing a threat to consumers' future spending power.

Market research firm GfK's gauge of consumer confidence also fell sharply after the vote. The survey often predicts changes in household spending in the following quarters.

A YouGov/CEBR gauge of consumer morale, published yesterday, showed consumers have regained some of the confidence they lost after the referendum, but researchers warned this positive trend could easily change next year. The outlook for the housing market, the bedrock of British consumer wealth, is also unclear: a Reuters poll on Thursday suggested the Brexit vote will have a negative impact on

both prices and turnover.

Charles Goodhart, a former BoE interest-rate setter, said so far there had been almost no data on important areas of the economy such as investment, inventory levels and construction.

"I think it would be very dangerous to take a position either that it's all going to be alright and that the fears were massively overdone, or that the fears were justified," said Goodhart, a professor at the London School of Economics, said. "The answer is, frankly: we don't know."

FTSE RISES

While the mood among economists remains one of concern, it has brightened across financial markets. Investors were braced for a global economic shock after a vote for Brexit, but the FTSE 100 index of UK blue-chip companies is about 8 percent higher since the referendum, helped by overseas earnings that will benefit from the fall in the value of the pound.

The more domestically focused FTSE 250 index of mid-sized companies is up by about 5 percent. Many big companies have reported little immediate impact from the vote in Britain, including retailers John Lewis and Next, the world's biggest staffing company Adecco and carmaker BMW.

Some major employers - carmaker Nissan, for example - say their plans for investment in Britain will hinge on the trade deals it strikes with other countries. Martin Sorrell, chief executive of the world's largest advertising group WPP, said there was little clarity on when Britain would even begin negotiating its EU exit and that his company's clients were increasingly cautious. —Reuters

GOLD EDGES OFF 4-WEEK LOW AHEAD OF YELLEN SPEECH

LONDON: Gold edged higher yesterday as markets braced for a speech by Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen later in the session, which is being closely watched for clues on the direction of US interest rates. Yellen is scheduled to address a meeting of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, at 1400 GMT. Top Fed officials have pushed the case for a rate hike in the past week, citing improvement in US data.

Gold is highly sensitive to rising US interest rates, which increase the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion, while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced.

Spot gold was up 0.4 percent at \$1,326.90 an ounce at 1125 GMT, while US gold futures for December delivery were up \$5.20 an ounce at \$1,329.80. The spot price hit a four-week low on Thursday of \$1,317.46 an ounce. The metal has slid for five straight days, falling on Thursday after US jobless and durable goods data beat forecasts, and Kansas City Fed President Esther George said it was time for the Fed to raise US rates gradually. If Yellen chooses to retain a neutral tone, gold could remain caught in its recent range between \$1,310 and \$1,375. "We'll have to see whether Yellen deviates from the consensus view, which is that she'll say nothing, really, to alter the status quo," Societe Generale analyst Robin Bhar said. "Gold is treading water right now and is unlikely to see too much action."

"(We would need) volatility in the currency markets or the rate markets to provide some trading incentives for gold." The dollar held steady against the euro yesterday, leaving it little changed on the week, as investors focused on Yellen's speech. It could rise sharply, weighing on gold, if Yellen indicates rates will rise sooner rather than later.

"There is a chance that Yellen could decide that a stronger signal about near-term policy would now be appropriate in light of diminished risks globally and an improved US labor market," HSBC said in a note. — Reuters

HAPAG-LLOYD CEO SAYS PLANNED UASC MERGER BENEFITS TO SHOW IN 2017

HAMBURG: German container shipping line Hapag-Lloyd expects to reap a third of targeted annual synergies of \$400 million from its planned merger with Arab rival UASC next year, and realize them fully from 2019, its CEO said yesterday. The company, which swung into the red in the first half of this year as tumbling freight rates hurt its business, signed a binding agreement with United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) in July to form the world's fifth largest shipping company by the end of 2016. The merger will give it greater scale as it seeks to weather a downturn in global shipping.

"We plan to realize the full synergies from 2019 and in that way to lower our costs permanently," Chief Executive Rolf Habben Jansen told a shareholders meeting on Friday, held to decide whether to approve a related capital increase. Hapag-Lloyd will still face merger costs next year. It estimates total merger costs at around 150 million euros (\$169 mln) and has said they will be booked in its 2016 and 2017 balance sheets.

Some of the controlling shareholders have committed to backstop a cash capital increase of \$400 million planned through a rights issue within six months of the deal closing.

The company hopes this will be achieved by the end of this year, depending on approval from around a dozen or so cartel authorities. Habben Jansen also affirmed significantly lower earnings before interest and taxes for 2016. Freight rates fell 20 percent in the first six months of this year and the CEO has said they will take between 18 and 24 months to stabilize.

UASC shareholders backed the merger, which will create a group with an estimated value of 7 to 8 billion euros, in June with a relative valuation of the two businesses at 72 percent for Hapag-Lloyd's shareholders and 28 percent for UASC's shareholders. Through the deal, Hapag-Lloyd gains access to bigger ships on the important Asia to Europe trade route. UASC for its part gets wider access to trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific loops, where Hapag-Lloyd is strong. — Reuters



BELLINGHAM: Joe Russo, of Medway, Massachusetts, puts a bag of potting soil into a cart while shopping at a Home Depot store location, in Bellingham, Mass. The US economy expanded at a sluggish pace this spring as businesses sharply reduced their stockpiles of goods and spent less on new buildings and equipment. — AP

DECLINING INVENTORIES CURB US Q2 GROWTH

CONSUMER SPENDING GROWTH REVISED UP TO 4.4% RATE

WASHINGTON: US economic growth was a bit more sluggish than initially thought in the second quarter as businesses aggressively ran down stocks of unsold goods, offsetting a spurt in consumer spending. Gross domestic product expanded at a 1.1 percent annual rate, the Commerce Department said on Friday in its second estimate of GDP. That was slightly down from the 1.2 percent rate it reported last month.

The revision, which was in line with economists' expectations, also reflected more imports than previously estimated as well as weak spending by state and local governments. The economy grew at a 0.8 percent pace in the first quarter. It grew 1.0 percent in the first half of 2016.

The economy has struggled to regain momentum since output started slowing in the last six months of 2015, which puts it in danger of stalling. While data so far for the third quarter has been mixed, a buoyant labor market should continue to support consumer spending and underpin growth. Output will also likely get a boost as businesses restock warehouses after liquidating inventories in the second quarter.

The GDP data likely has no impact on the near-term outlook for monetary policy. Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen could offer guidance on interest rates yesterday when she addresses the annual global central bankers' gathering in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The US central bank hiked interest rates at the end of last year for the first time in nearly a decade, but has held them

steady since amid concerns over persistently low inflation. Most economists expect another rate hike in December.

The dollar slightly trimmed losses against a basket of currencies after the data, while US stock futures were little changed. US Treasuries rose. The government also reported that after-tax corporate profits fell at a 2.4 percent rate last quarter after increasing at an 8.1 percent pace in the first quarter. Weak profits could limit an anticipated rebound in business spending. With profits declining, an alternative measure of growth, gross domestic income, or GDI, increased at only a 0.2 percent rate in the second quarter, the weakest since the first quarter of 2013. GDI measures the economy's performance from the income side. It increased at a 0.8 percent pace in the first quarter.

INVENTORIES PLUNGE

Business inventories fell \$12.4 billion in the second quarter, the first drop since the third quarter of 2011, instead of the \$8.1 billion reported last month. As a result inventories sliced off 1.26 percentage points from GDP growth, the largest drag in more than two years, and up from the 1.16 percentage points subtraction in last month's estimate.

It was the fifth straight quarter that inventories weighed on output. Economists say some of the inventory drawdown could partially be attributed to robust consumption. Consumer spending, which makes up more than two-thirds of

US economic activity, was revised up to show it increased at a 4.4 percent rate—the fastest since the fourth quarter of 2014. Consumer spending, which was previously reported to have advanced at a 4.2 percent rate, accounted for the bulk of the rise in output last quarter.

With consumption accelerating, imports were revised to show them growing at a 0.3 percent rate instead of declining at a 0.4 percent rate. There was also a modest downward revision to export growth. As a result, trade contributed one-tenth of a percentage point to GDP growth in the second quarter instead of 0.23 percentage point as reported last month.

Business spending on equipment fell at a 3.7 percent rate and not the 3.5 percent pace reported last month. Business spending on equipment contracted for a third consecutive quarter, the longest stretch since the 2007-2009 recession, though the pace of decline slowed. Business spending has been hurt by cheap oil, which has squeezed profits in the energy sector, forcing companies to cut capital spending budgets. There are signs that the worst of the decline is probably over, with a report on Thursday showing demand for manufactured capital goods rising in July for a second straight month.

There were also downward revisions to investment in nonresidential structures, which include oil and gas wells. Residential construction spending estimates were also trimmed. — Reuters

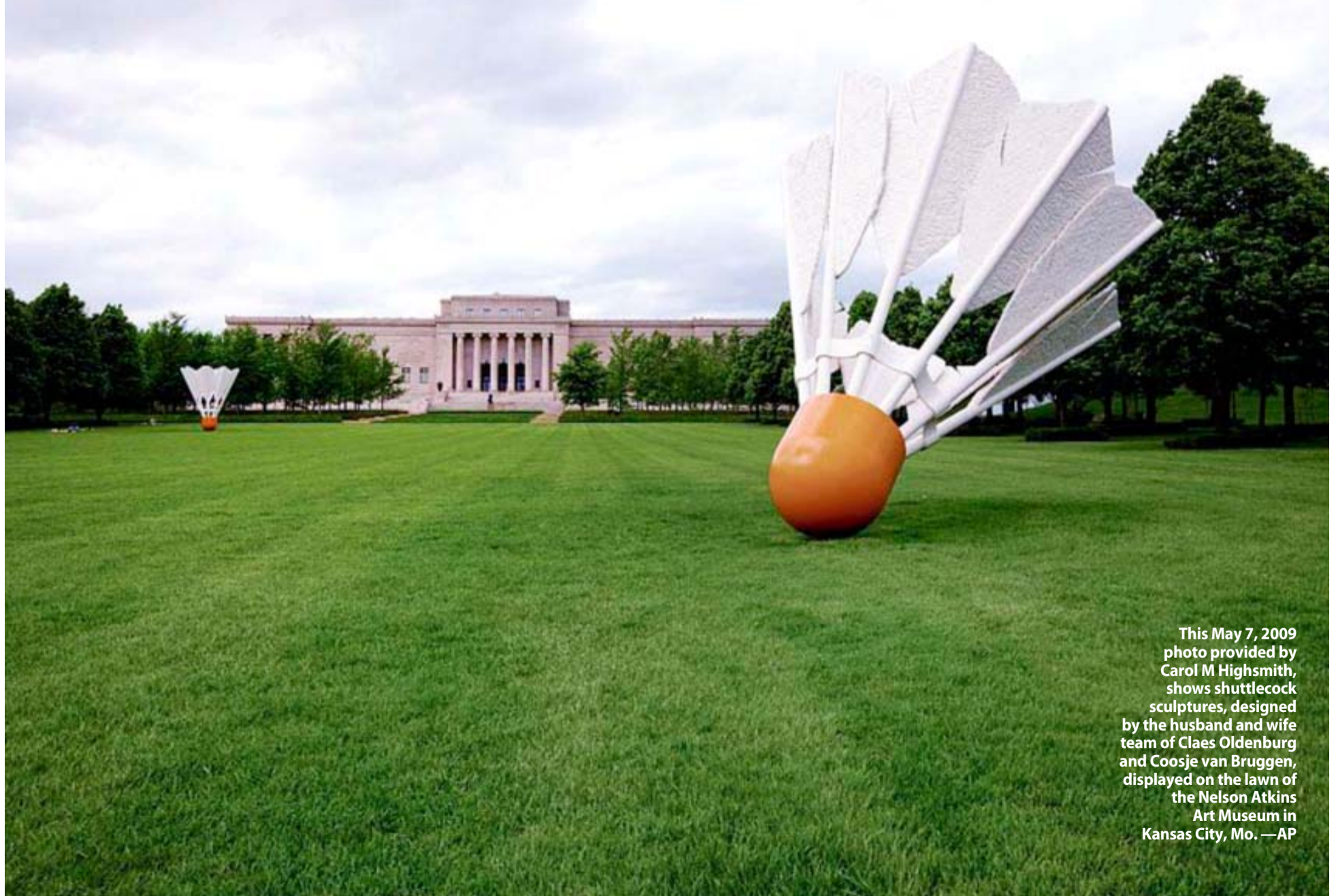
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A Miami 'cocaine cowboy' finds redemption with love locks

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This May 7, 2009 photo provided by Carol M Highsmith, shows shuttlecock sculptures, designed by the husband and wife team of Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, displayed on the lawn of the Nelson Atkins Art Museum in Kansas City, Mo. —AP

Japan warns on measles after infected fan joins **Bieber concert**

Justin Bieber



Japanese authorities have warned of a possible measles outbreak after a fan who went to a Justin Bieber concert near Tokyo was diagnosed with the contagious disease, officials said yesterday. A 19-year-old man had a fever of more than 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) and a rash over his body after returning from Indonesia earlier this month, the Disease Control and Prevention Center (DCC) and local media have said. Despite the condition, the man, whose name was withheld, went to Bieber's concert on August 14 at Makuhari Messe in Chiba, east of Tokyo, where some 25,000 fans gathered for the event, they said.

The man, from the western Japanese city of Nishinomiya, then stopped in Tokyo and neighboring Kanagawa prefecture before returning home on August 19, when he was finally diagnosed with measles. "Measles is highly infectious," an official at Japan's health and welfare ministry told AFP. "It could lead to a fatal case," he added, issuing warnings to hospitals across the nation to be aware of an outbreak. Concert organizers on their website also asked those who attended to see doctors if they developed symptoms. So far, however, there have been no reports of anyone who attended the concert contracting measles. — AFP

RUDY VAN GELDER, LEGENDARY RECORDER OF JAZZ, DEAD AT 91

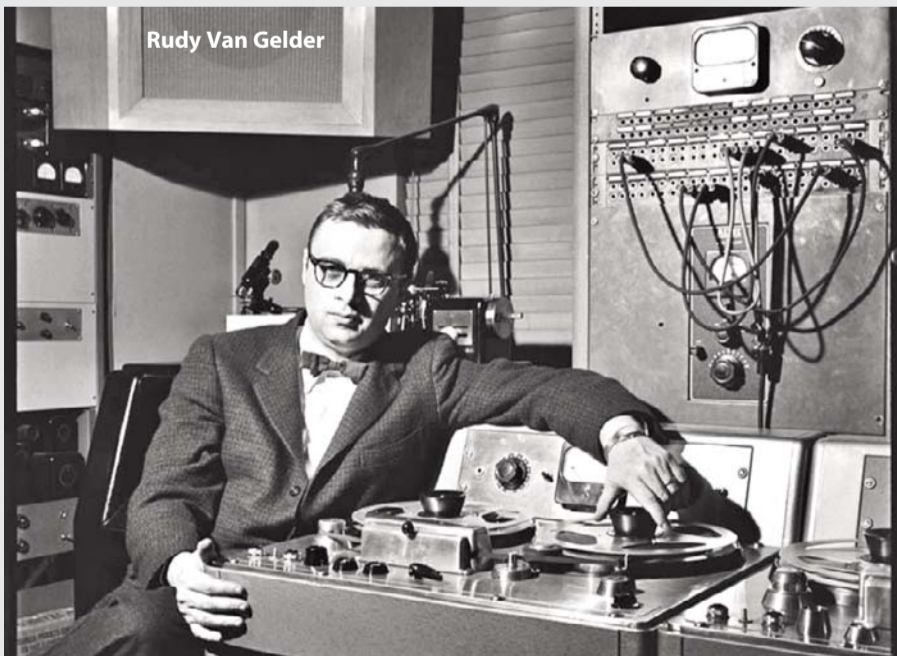
Rudy Van Gelder, who recorded some of jazz's masterpieces starting in his parents' living room as artists took to his intimately precise sound, died Thursday. He was 91. Van Gelder supervised John Coltrane's spiritually rooted 1964 "A Love Supreme," often called the greatest jazz album of all time, as well as works by Miles Davis, Herbie Hancock, Thelonious Monk, Sonny Rollins and Horace Silver. His death was confirmed by Blue Note Records, where he spent decades as the key recording engineer, and by his nephew Gregg Van Gelder, who owns a music shop in upstate New York.

"His importance to the legacy of jazz cannot be overstated," Blue Note Records said in a statement on Facebook. An optometrist by training, Van Gelder in the 1940s became determined to be a recording engineer—a profession that barely existed at the time—as he discovered live jazz in New York and became fascinated by radio. He transformed his parents' living room in New Jersey into a recording studio where artists initially came over from New York for the competitive rates, as Van Gelder kept working as an optometrist to buy gear.

The immediacy of his sound—which captured the rawness and subtleties of the instruments—

drawn the attention of Blue Note, for which he first cut an album in 1953. Van Gelder's techniques soon became known as the "Blue Note Sound." A key ingredient was his use of the then-new German-manufactured Neumann U47 microphone, which he altered and strategically placed to capture sound at close range.

"In those days—even into the 1950s—the quality of the equipment and records themselves couldn't keep up with what musicians were playing live," he told the blog JazzWax in 2012. "I had to experiment to find the best way to set up musicians and microphones so the sound would be as warm and as realistic as possible," he said. Van Gelder moved out of his parents' house to a more professional studio, inspired by a design by Frank Lloyd Wright, that he opened nearby in 1959. He called "A Love Supreme" the most powerful of his recordings in the 1960s. But he said he only reached that conclusion in 2002, when he remastered the Coltrane album for a digital reissue and finally listened more leisurely to the music. — AFP



Rudy Van Gelder

On a roll: 'Sausage Party' maestro bids for elusive Emmy

With eight Oscars, 11 Grammys and a Tony vying for space on his mantelpiece, Alan Menken's bill for dry-cleaning tuxedos might well match the box-office take of most Off-Broadway openings. The legendary US composer has picked up more than 100 nominations at major awards ceremonies in an illustrious career spanning five decades that has produced some of Disney's best-loved animated movies. With this year's awards season about to hit full stride, the 67-year-old New Yorker is vying to join exalted company as a member of the select "EGOT" club—winners of the Emmy, Oscar, Grammy and Tony.

"Awards are a wonderful barometer of how much your career is appreciated by your peers," he told AFP. "But if I don't win, I'll live." "Ever since I got the Oscars, the Grammys and the Tony, that whisper in my ear from people kept coming: 'EGOT, EGOT, EGOT!' It's like a monkey on my back." Only 12 entertainers in history have joined the EGOT club, including such luminaries as John Gielgud, Audrey Hepburn and—among those still alive—Whoopi Goldberg and Mel Brooks. Menken gets to be the 13th if "A New Season," his song from musical comedy "Galavant," wins for outstanding original music and lyrics in September's Emmy Awards for television. Menken hopes the ditty—with its rhyming couplet "We're gonna have to kill ya if you sing the freakin' song/It didn't win an Emmy, now it's time to move along"—might tickle the Television Academy.

'Oklahoma' and 'Carousel'

Born in Manhattan to aspiring actress Judy Menken and her boogie-woogie piano-playing dentist husband Norman, the aspiring maestro grew up watching Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals like "Oklahoma" and "Carousel." After graduating from NYU in musicology, he formed a writing partnership with Howard Ashman on "Little Shop of Horrors" (1982), which went on to become the highest grossing Off-Broadway show ever. The pair were hired by Disney to write "The Little Mermaid" in 1989 and Menken has since scored many of the studio's biggest hits, including "Beauty and the Beast," "Aladdin" and "Pocohontas."

Two years ago, he was approached by the team behind "Sausage Party," the first R-rated computer-animated feature in history, to lend his songwriting chops to a project that would be Disney for adults. The movie has been a huge critical and commercial hit, but is some-

thing of a departure for Menken, who was not used to penning lyrics liberally sprinkled with four-letter words. "Sausage Party" may look like children's fare, but no Pixar movie ever sent up the world's major religions or featured a drawn-out intimate scene involving animated groceries.

"The music is the straight man in this," Menken said. "Even before I was involved, the directors were attempting a score with very epic, traditional Hollywood music." The composer believes writing-producing team Evan Goldberg and Seth Rogen, who also stars, imagined it would be "a hoot" to have a Disney grandee providing the music for a parody of the studio's output. — AFP



This file photo shows composer Alan Menken posing after being honored with a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California. — AFP

Dwayne Johnson named world's highest-paid actor

Dwayne Johnson is rocking Forbes' highest-paid actor list. Johnson commanded \$64.5 million between June 2015 and June 2016, more than doubling his earnings from the previous year and bumping Robert Downey Jr from the top of the list, where he was perched for three consecutive years. A bulk of Johnson's earnings come from his roles in the "Fast & Furious" franchise, the disaster movie "San Andreas," and the HBO series "Ballers," as well as upfront fees for "Fast 8" and the "Baywatch" movie.

Johnson ranked No. 11 last year with around \$31 million. "Want to say two things about this," Johnson tweeted about the news. "I started w/\$7 bucks. If I can overcome, so can you. Waffle House on me!" Downey dropped down to eighth with \$33 million, tying with Indian actor Shah Rukh Khan. Jackie Chan was runner-up again with \$61 million, thanks to hits at the Chinese box office. Matt Damon demanded \$55 million following the success of "The Martian." Tom Cruise (\$53 million) and Johnny Depp (\$48 million) rounded out the top five.

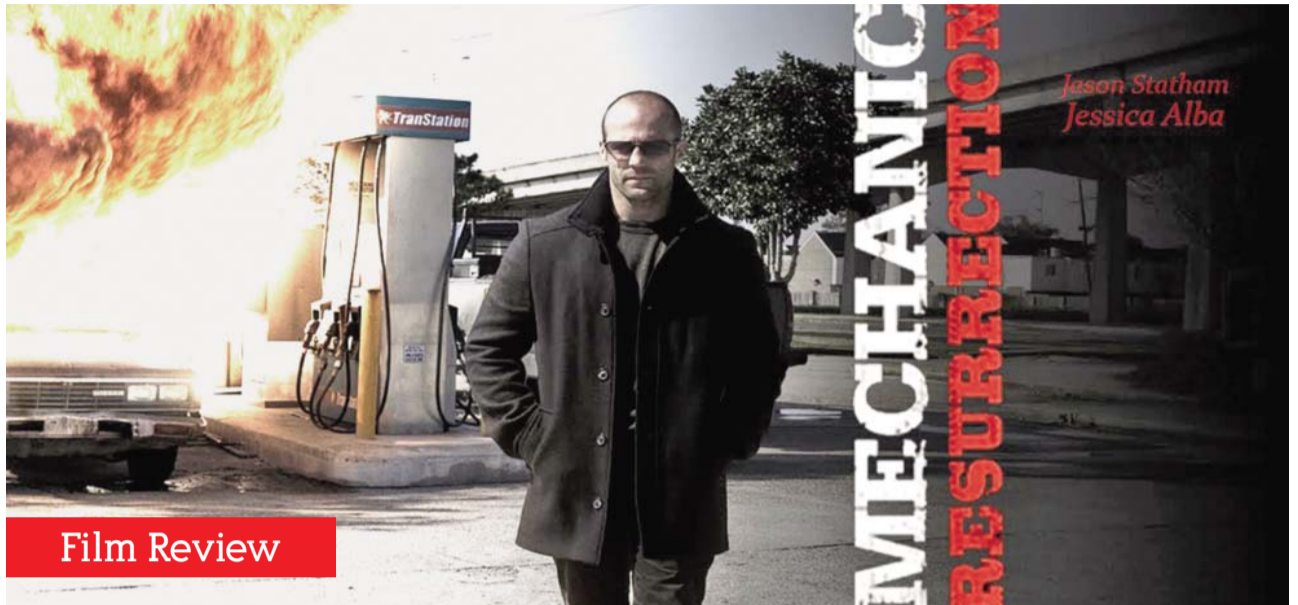
Johnson earned about \$20 million more than his female counterpart, Jennifer Lawrence. "The Hunger Games" heroine topped Forbes' highest-paid actresses list on Tuesday with \$46 million — 72% of Johnson's income. She comes in sixth on the overall list (ahead of Ben Affleck, who made \$43 million), further highlighting Hollywood's ever-present gender pay gap, which the actress wrote a scathing essay about last year. Combined, the top 10 men on the list earned \$457 million, more than double the top 10 women's \$205 million pay. Additionally, 18 actors reeled in more than \$20 million, versus four on the actresses' side. The lists also shows that women over 40 earn less than men at the same age. In fact, 95% of the top-earning actors are over 40, compared to half of the actresses. At 26, Lawrence is the youngest actor on both lists, while Harrison Ford is the oldest.

Here are the 20 highest-paid actors:

1. Dwayne Johnson — \$64,500,000
2. Jackie Chan — \$61,000,000
3. Matt Damon — \$55,000,000
4. Tom Cruise — \$53,000,000
5. Johnny Depp — \$48,000,000
6. Ben Affleck — \$43,000,000
7. Vin Diesel — \$35,000,000
8. Shah Rukh Khan — \$33,000,000
9. Robert Downey Jr — \$33,000,000
10. Akshay Kumar — \$31,500,000
11. Brad Pitt — \$31,500,000
12. Adam Sandler — \$30,000,000
13. Mark Wahlberg — \$30,000,000
14. Salman Khan — \$28,500,000
15. Leonardo DiCaprio — \$27,000,000
16. Chris Pratt — \$26,000,000
17. Will Smith — \$20,500,000
18. Amitabh Bachchan — \$20,000,000
19. Matthew McConaughey — \$18,000,000
20. Harrison Ford — \$15,000,000 — Reuters



In this June 10, 2016 file photo, Dwayne Johnson attends the premiere of his film, 'Central Intelligence' in Los Angeles. — AP



Film Review

'Mechanic: Resurrection'

"You're different!" So says an old colleague (Michelle Yeoh) who hasn't seen Arthur Bishop, the mission-improbable hitman in "Mechanic: Resurrection," for a long time. "Older," he replies, coming out and stating the obvious. In fact, Jason Statham doesn't merely look older than he did when he last played Arthur Bishop, in the 2011 thriller "The Mechanic." He looks leaner and meaner, more squinty with resolve, more brutally and methodically sociopathic. With his hair cropped closer than usual, Statham has become a total bullet-head, a human ice pick-a machine of death.

For a while now, Jason Statham has been the thinking man's smart/dumb B-movie action star. His films, or at least a lot of them, swim around in the grindhouse muck of bloodsport and revenge, a genre that has spawned such brooding blocks of wood as Steven Seagal and Chuck Norris. But Statham, unlike most action-pulp icons, is a genuine actor, with a darting intelligence and finesse. He has often been much better than the movies he's in, and he has flirted with the A-list as well. It's seriously doubtful that an action star pushing 50 would be considered for the role of James Bond, but it would be fascinating to see what Statham could do with it.

Daredevil stunts

The closest he has probably come is the character of Arthur Bishop, assassin for hire, whose signature is that he kills and makes it all look like an accident; it's his way of leaving no traces. Five years ago, in "The Mechanic," Bishop trained a new protege (played by Ben Foster), but the movie, loosely based on a 1972 Charles Bronson film, was ludicrous-a series of overwrought daredevil stunts and situations. It was too much over-the-top action, with not enough (borderline) plausibility. "Mechanic: Resurrection" is the movie "The Mechanic" should have been—a bite-sized Bond film, or maybe a grittier homicidal knockoff of the "Mission: Impossible" series, with a lone-wolf renegade as the entire team. Bishop, living undercover in Brazil, is hunted down by his boyhood frenemy, Craine (Sam Hazeldine), who orders him to perform three kills. He has no desire to do any of them, but Craine holds a trump card: Gina (Jessica Alba), whom Bishop has res-

cued and fallen for. He thought he was finished with murder-for-hire, but now he has to kill for love.

It's part of the film's compact efficiency that in scene after scene, Bishop carries off in about 20 minutes what Tom Cruise and company would spend an entire hour to plan. There's a downside to that: In a great M:I adventure, like Brad Bird's hypnotically intense "Mission: Impossible-Ghost Protocol," the stakes were high, and when Cruise slithered around on the tallest skyscraper in Dubai, the effect was pure heart-in-the-throat, hands-clawing-the-seat poetic vertigo. In "Mechanic," there's a scene that's a knockoff of that Dubai spider-walk, with Bishop using electronic suction cups to slither up to the penthouse swimming pool of a mining billionaire in Sydney. Bishop, unlike Cruise's Ethan Hunt, has no short circuits or slip-ups; he's too manly for that.

Perfectly executed

He swings around on his harness, then drills a hole in the pool's glass bottom and inserts a tiny cone, which gets injected with fluid until it cracks the glass. (The villain falls right through.) It's as impeccable as a physics equation: The result is one kill (of a really, really bad guy), but the spirit is that of a heist thriller. It is all, in every sense, perfectly executed. Everything else Bishop does is just as pinpoint. His first target is an African warlord who has barricaded himself inside an Alcatraz-like prison fortress. Bishop gets himself arrested and placed in the prison, then arranges to save the warlord's life as a way of getting invited to dinner. It's all staged, by director Dennis Gansel, with enough connect-the-dots ingenuity to spin you right past your disbelief or, at least, to make an enjoyable wink at it. Then Tommy Lee Jones shows up, wearing the wardrobe of a Eurotrash playboy, as a weapons dealer with a circular lair that evokes the one in "On Her Majesty's Secret Service." Jones phones in his performance but classes up the proceedings; at last, Statham can share scenes with an actor as quick as he is. —Reuters

Sarah Paulson in talks to join 'Ocean's Eight'

Sarah Paulson is in negotiations to join "Ocean's Eight," the all-female spinoff of "Ocean's Eleven." If the deal goes through, Paulson would join Sandra Bullock, Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Rihanna, Helena Bonham Carter, Mindy Kaling, and Awkwafina. Gary Ross, whose credits include "The Hunger Games" and "Free State of Jones," is directing. Bullock's character will be the leader of a group of thieves and cons who try to pull off a major heist. Ross is directing from a script that he co-wrote with Olivia Milch.

"Ocean's Eleven" director Steven Soderbergh and Ross will produce with executive producer Susan Ekins. Village Roadshow is co-producing and co-financing, as it did with the three previ-

ous "Ocean's" movies starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt. Greg Silverman and Jesse Ehrman are overseeing the film for the studio. Production is scheduled to begin in October in New York. Paulson has been nominated this year for Emmys for "American Horror Story: Hotel" and for her portrayal of Marcia Clark in "The People v OJ Simpson: American Crime Story." She's been nominated four other times—three for "American Horror Story" and once for "Game Change." Paulson recently joined Ryan Murphy's upcoming FX anthology series "Feud." She's also appearing in the recently completed "Rebel in the Rye." — Reuters



Sarah Paulson

'Plannerjunkies' make calendars and to-do lists fun with colours, stickers, tape and more

Keeping a to-do list or a schedule is much more than time management for a dedicated group of calendar keepers. They're using colored pens and pencils along with scrapbooking materials like stickers and washi tape to track appointments, reminders and milestones. Look no further than social media. The "planner community" likes to share photos of layouts and entries on sites like Pinterest, YouTube and Instagram, using hashtags like #plannernerd, #plannerobsessed, #plannerjunkies and #plannerlove.

The planners under discussion can be desk or pocket notebooks, journals, inserts into binders - any planning tool that can be decorated. Erin Condren of Los Angeles introduced her LifePlanner in 2007, providing templates with a range of designs and fonts to customize a planner, and has turned it into a business at ErinCondren.com. She says there's a market for "a colorful approach to not only scheduling every day but truly celebrating every day."

Initially, she thought her customers would be "45-year-old women who couldn't grasp digital technology, but that's not the case." She especially enjoys watching her 14-year-old daughter, Kate, use her planner. "A Sunday night for her, she's got everything color-coded. She's got stickers that say, 'Math exam!' She's ready to conquer the week," says Condren. "To be honest, my

community has taken it to a whole other level," Condren says. "It's inspiring me. I'm a little embarrassed to open mine."

Katy Halliday of Chicago, the mother of a 2-year-old son and a 3-month-old daughter, considers herself part of the planner community. She uses hers as a way to be artistic. "I used to be in a choir and that was my creative outlet. This is something I can do at home with the kids, and it's something for mommy," she laughs. Halliday keeps track of meal planning and nap times with stickers in her planner.

Juliette Perkins of Hampshire, United Kingdom, says she puts "a mixed bag" of entries into her planner, including schedules, hours slept, steps taken, meetings, appointments, parties and lists. It's also a way to connect with other people. Perkins is part of Facebook groups dedicated to the love of planning.

To get started, she advises, be conservative with supplies like colored pens and stickers. "Try to avoid buying all the cute stuff you see," she says. "If you buy too many stickers or too much washi early on, you'll inevitably get overwhelmed." "The great thing is, there are no rules." — AP



These photos provided by Juliette Perkins show a day planner. — AP photos

AMERICAN GUITARIST USES MUSIC AS HEALING FORCE IN KABUL

Strumming their guitars and clapping together, American musician Lanny Cordola and his Afghan pupils sing a Bob Marley tune as they sit on a hill in Kabul. The song is one of several the guitarist has taught the children to play at The Miraculous Love Kids music school he founded where he hopes to help some 50 students, mostly girls from poor families. He wants to help them find a safe place to express themselves and escape the hardships of daily life in Kabul.

"My hope is that ... everybody in Afghanistan will pick up a guitar and sing and make music," Cordola said. "Music is a healing

force. It's a peace making force. It's a way to communicate things without even having to know languages." Cordola, originally from Los Angeles, said he was moved to act after hearing about two sisters Parwana and Khorshid, who were killed in a suicide attack four years ago while selling items on a street in Kabul. He raised money and moved their family into a new home in Kabul.

One of his best students is 12-year-old Mursal, Parwana and Khorshid's sister. "Playing guitar really makes me happy and it takes me to my dream world but it cannot ease the pain of losing my two sisters," Mursal said. "My ambition is to become a good guitarist

and a guitar teacher in the future."

"I wish for peace and stability in Afghanistan and I also urge the people to encourage girls to learn guitar so they can become a better future for Afghanistan," said 14-year-old Shiba Rahmani, another student. Cordola, who has worked with the likes of Guns N' Roses guitarist Slash and singer Nancy Sinatra, has also collaborated with Pakistani singers on other projects for children in Afghanistan and Pakistan, according to the school's website. — Reuters

NY'S MET EXTENDS HIT TECH-LINKED FASHION EXHIBIT

New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art said Thursday it is extending the hours of the "Manus x Machina: Fashion in an Age of Technology" exhibition that has drawn near-record visits. The exhibit in the US museum's Costume Institute explores handmade and machine-made creation of haute couture and avant-garde ready-to wear in more than 170 ensembles, with the oldest dating to the early 20th century. "Manus"-hand-and "Machina"-machine-has attracted more than 664,000 visitors since its May 5 opening, the Met said.

That has pushed it into the Costume Institute's second place for attendance, topping "Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty" in 2011, which drew slightly more than 661,000 visitors. The department's most popular show, last year's blockbuster "China: Through the Looking Glass", attracted nearly 816,000 visitors and is the Met's fifth most-visited exhibition. The Met said it was adding six more

hours of viewing time on "Manus x Machina's final weekend. The museum will close at midnight on September 2 and 3, instead of its normal time at 9:00 pm. The exhibit ends on September 5.

The exhibit already was extended by three weeks from August 14. The signature piece is a 2014 wedding ensemble with a six-yard (meter) train by Karl Lagerfeld for Chanel made of scuba knit, a synthetic material, and hand-embroidered. Among the other designers are names from some of the world's leading fashion houses, including Balenciaga, Pierre Cardin, Chanel, Dolce & Gabbana and Yves Saint Laurent. "Manus x Machina" was the inspiration for the Met's annual gala this year, whose star-studded attendees included Beyonce, Lady Gaga, Madonna, Taylor Swift, Kim Kardashian, Bradley Cooper and Johnny Depp. — AFP



A Chanel wedding ensemble by Karl Lagerfeld for House of Chanel during the press preview of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute spring 2016 exhibition 'Manus x Machina: Fashion in an Age of Technology' in New York. — AFP



Indian models showcase creations by designer Manish Malhotra during the Lakme Fashion Week (LFW) Winter/Festive 2016 in Mumbai. — AP/AFP



A Model displays a creation of Indian designer Hemang Agrawal.



A model displays a creation of Weaver's Studio.

LAKME FASHION WEEK



A model displays creation of Payal Singhal.



Models display creations of Indian designer Bina Rao.



Photo shows locks left on a fence by people at Love Park in North Miami, Fla.



Mickey Munday talks to a reporter in Love Park in North Miami, Fla.

A Miami 'cocaine cowboy' finds redemption with love locks



Mickey Munday walks in Love Park in North Miami, Fla.



Mickey Munday shows locks left by people on a fence at Love Park in North Miami, Fla.

When he was one of Miami's notorious "cocaine cowboys" in the 1980s, Mickey Munday made millions of dollars flying loads of drugs for Colombia's Medellin and Cali cartels. He knew infamous Medellin kingpin Pablo Escobar. He liked to fly his illicit cargo to out-of-the-way landing strips in the Everglades using night-vision goggles. He sunk his drug profits mainly into real estate rather than exotic cars and yachts. Now Munday, who served nearly a decade in prison, has created a makeshift park next to his quiet North Miami home. The park has a place for people to put padlocks and is dedicated to love - something that might atone a little for his notorious past.

"I have dealt with some of the most dangerous people in the world," Munday, 71, said in a recent interview. "Most of them are dead or in jail forever. I'm lucky." Using his push lawnmower, Munday carved a pair of interlocking hearts in the grass above the word "love" cut into the rocky soil. With local artist Maurizio Raponi, he built a metal sculpture also containing the same four letters in red. And he strung a series of fence posts with plastic-covered chains so people could attach padlocks as a symbol of lasting love - similar to the clusters of locks found on bridges in Europe. It's even got a sign: the "Lock-In Love Park."

Little messages

"I've always done crazy things like this," said Munday, brushing aside his long blonde-and-gray hair. "It's a little something to feel good about. Every day you hear about so much crap." On a recent visit, there were about three dozen locks on the chains. Some people left little messages on them, such as "Believe," while others wrote names or initials of spouses, lovers, children, friends and pets. Three 11-year-old girls attached a trio of locks together and declared themselves sisters forever, Munday said.

Someone else attached a blue steering-wheel locking device. "I don't know if it's a guy who misses his Mustang or what," said Munday, who lives in a house adjacent to the lot along a wide canal. "Every day I come out here, there's new locks. Each one of them has a

little bit of a story." A neighbor, Steve Holmes, attached a lock with an "H" written on it to signify love within their family. He said his 4-year-old daughter gets excited every time she sees it.

"She says, 'Daddy there's our lock!'" Holmes said. "It's just to promote unity in the neighborhood. It's a positive thing to do." Back in his cocaine cartel days, Munday was part of an organization linked to dozens of murders and shootings that made South Florida the nation's violence capital. As told in the 2006 "Cocaine Cowboys" documentary - in which Munday plays a large part - there were suitcases full of cash, hit men with machine guns, drug-laden speedboats, night drops of drugs in the swamps, clandestine landing strips and numerous close calls with law enforcement.

I tried to be a ghost

A self-taught pilot, Munday estimates he could make about \$2.5 million a night running drugs between Colombia and Florida. But rather than buying flashy exotic cars, yachts, expensive clothes and hitting the nightlife like many of his contemporaries, he invested the money into real estate. "I tried to be a ghost. I didn't want to be seen," he said. "I never had anything to do with all the violence." In 1987, he was among 30 people indicted by a Miami federal grand jury on drug trafficking charges, but it took about three years for federal agents to track him down. Munday was arrested in 1990 living under an assumed name in Richmond, Virginia, and soon after began his prison stint.

He was paroled in 1999. The feds had long since seized all his drug-related assets. He mainly gets around on a bicycle these days. His fledgling love park had been used for years as a canal access point by the South Florida Water Management District, but he had only seen crews use it a few times a year. There was a fence there with a sign that read: "No Parking. Discharging of Firearms Prohibited."

The lot was also overgrown with weeds. A few months ago, Munday saw two boys fishing there and a man in a wheelchair on a sidewalk. It turned out the man was a veteran wounded in Afghanistan and the boys were his sons - and he couldn't get to the canal's edge because there was no opening in the existing fence. So Munday installed a new fence with metal posts sunk into concrete, and now it has an opening. "I said, 'I'm fixing this,'" Munday said. "It's more than big enough for a wheelchair. Now he can go fishing with his kids."

The love park concept gradually grew from there. Munday and Raponi said they'd like to install similar artwork and places for love-symbol padlocks at other parks around Miami, using a metalworking shop Raponi owns. Munday was asked whether this project atones somewhat for the criminal life he previously lived. "It does, but I didn't mean it that way. I did it for fun. I didn't just put art in a park, I put in a whole park," he said. "Maybe it will make people reach out and touch something."

A friend of Munday's, Holly Cleveland, said she recently surprised her husband on their anniversary by taking him over to the park and attaching a lock with their wedding date written on it. Then, they threw the key into the canal. "You lock in your love and you throw away the key. It meant a lot to be able to share it with my husband," she said. "I know Mickey has had a reputation in the past, but I know him as a really great guy. It's him of all people. That makes it even more interesting." — AP



Mickey Munday, left, and local artist Maurizio Raponi, right, walk in Love Park in North Miami, Fla. — AP photos

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016



Sunlight filters through the clouds over Canyonlands National Park as seen from Orange Cliffs Overlook near Moab, Utah.

Park Service marks centennial with new citizens, monument

The National Park Service celebrated its 100th birthday yesterday with events across the US including the creation of a giant, living version of its emblem in Washington, DC, a naturalization ceremony on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon and an outdoor concert at Yellowstone National Park. The centennial comes as the agency that manages national parks as well as historic places welcomes a new national monument and nature forces some changes in the party in the West.



Roman Pontner, of Germany, looks at Canyonlands National Park from the Green River Overlook near Moab, Utah.—AP photos



In this March 27, 1996, file photo, a mule train winds its way down the Bright Angel trail at Grand Canyon National Park, Ariz.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, 2016



A rainbow appears in the distance as seen from Grand View Point in the Island in the Sky District at Canyonlands National Park near Moab, Utah.

Living emblem

More than 1,000 kids and adults used brown, green and white umbrellas to create a living version of the park service emblem on the National Mall, which the agency photographed from a helicopter above. The emblem contains elements symbolizing the major facets of the national park system. A Sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, mountains and water represent scenery and recreation and the



In this March 25, 2011, file photo, rafts piloted by guides from Far Flung Outdoor Center of Terlingua, Texas, emerge from Heath Canyon, carved by the Rio Grande through Big Bend National Park, Texas.

arrowhead shape represents history and archaeology. The first 1,000 participants were allowed to keep their umbrellas and got T-shirts commemorating the event.

New monument

The park service's newest national monument, Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine, was being readied to welcome its first visitors since President Barack Obama used his executive authority to create it on Wednesday. Donated by Burt's Bees co-founder Roxanne Quimby, the expanse features views of Mount Katahdin, the tallest mountain in Maine.

Visitors are already allowed into the woods, which was open to the public before the designation. There currently is no fee. The brochures for the monument are printed and signs are going up, and the National Park Passport Stamp beloved by park visitors is now available. The monument's creation was opposed by state lawmakers and critics who fear that it will hinder efforts to rebuild a forest-based economy in the region. Quimby's son said many parks in the service's system have been criticized upon creation but "when we look to the future, we see huge amounts of success."

Nature intrudes

For a time, both fire and ice hindered travel into Yellowstone National Park on the park service's centennial anniversary.

Authorities closed a portion of the popular Beartooth Highway to the park's northeast entrance Wednesday night because of snow and ice from a summer snowstorm, but the road reopened yesterday's morning. At the other end of the park, a portion of the road leading to Yellowstone's South Entrance remained closed because of a wildfire. Visitors head-



Visitors look at Grand View Point in the Island in the Sky District at Canyonlands National Park near Moab, Utah.



In this June 7, 2001, file photo, Brigitte Pentek, of Lewisburg, W.Va., uses binoculars to watch a gopher while waiting for her husband on one of the trails near Logan's Pass at Glacier National Park, Mont.



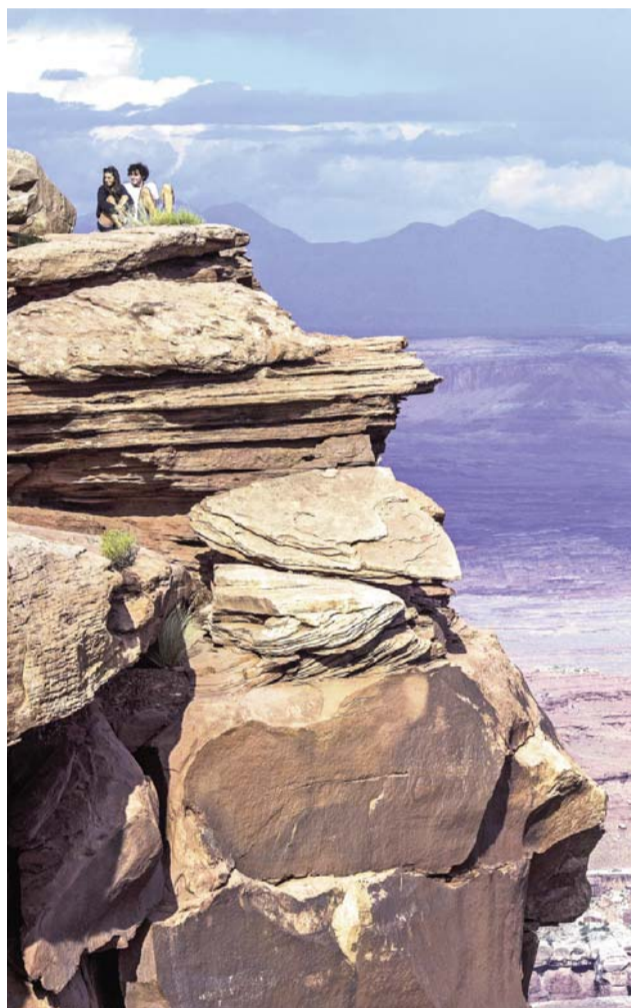
In this Sept 6, 2009, file photo, hikers make their way to Sunset Point from Thor's Hammer in Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah.



The "House on Fire" ruins are shown in Mule Canyon, near Blanding, Utah.



In this January 2006, file photo, the sun rises over Crater Lake, Ore, in Crater Lake National Park.



In this undated file photo, the sun sets as Mount McKinley casts its reflection on Reflection Pond at the west end of Denali National Park Road a few miles east of Camp Denali in Denali Park, Alaska.

ing to the yesterday's celebration and concert with Emmylou Harris and John Prine at the Roosevelt Arch from the south faced an hour-long detour into Idaho.

Climate change

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell hiked to see the stunning view from the Hidden Lake Overlook in Montana's Glacier National Park and met with scientists to learn more about how climate change could cause the glaciers to disappear there as soon as 2030. Jewell told The Associated Press that climate change is a concern for the future of other national parks from Alaska to the Florida Everglades. She also attended the celebration in Yellowstone.

Free admission

The park service is offering free admission to all its sites through Sunday. They're among 16 free days scheduled throughout the centennial year. Some parks are serving birthday cake and offering ranger talks for the occasion. — AP



In this September 2012, file photo, a cloud hovers over Mount Rainier at sunset in a view from Klapatche Park Camp at Mount Rainier National Park, Wash.



Kimberly Quaide and her husband Michael walk with their baby Madeline, watching as the sun at dawn illuminates mountain peaks as seen from Signal Mountain in Grand Teton National Park, Wyo.



In this undated file photo, the sun sets as Mount McKinley casts its reflection on Reflection Pond at the west end of Denali National Park Road a few miles east of Camp Denali in Denali Park, Alaska.



In this Feb 24, 2016 photo, tourists take picture of wildflowers near Badwater Basin in Death Valley, Calif.



In this Aug 3, 2011, file photo, tour participants stand in the rotunda area of Mammoth Cave in Mammoth Cave National Park, Ky.



SINGAPORE: An autonomous vehicle is parked for its test drive on Wednesday. —AP

WORLD'S FIRST SELF-DRIVING TAXIS DEBUT IN SINGAPORE

SINGAPORE: The world's first self-driving taxis began picking up passengers in Singapore starting Thursday. Select members of the public can hail a free ride through their smartphones in taxis operated by nuTonomy, an autonomous vehicle software startup. While multiple companies, including Google and Volvo, have been testing self-driving cars on public roads for several years, nuTonomy says is the first to offer rides to the public.

Its launch in Singapore is beating ride-hailing service Uber, which plans to offer rides in autonomous cars in Pittsburgh, by a few weeks. NuTonomy is starting small - six cars now, growing to a dozen by the end of the year. The ultimate goal, company executives say, is to have a fully self-driving taxi fleet in Singapore by 2018, to help cut the number of cars on Singapore's congested roads. Eventually, the model could be adopted in cities around the world, nuTonomy hopes.

For now, the taxis only run in a 2.5-square-mile (6.5 square kilometer) business and residential district called "one-north," and pick-ups and drop-offs are limited to specified locations. Riders must have an invitation from nuTonomy to use the service. The company says dozens have signed up for the launch, and it plans to expand that list to thousands of people within a few months.

The cars - modified Renault Zoe and Mitsubishi i-MiEV electrics - have a driver in front who is prepared to take back the wheel and a researcher in back who watches the car's computers. Each car is fitted with six sets of Lidar - a detection system that uses lasers to operate like radar - including one that constantly spins on the roof. There are also two cameras on the dashboard to scan for obstacles and detect changes in traffic lights.

Testing time-frame

The testing time-frame is open-ended, said nuTonomy CEO Karl Iagnemma. Eventually, riders may start paying for the service, and more pick-up and drop-off points will be added. NuTonomy also is working on testing similar taxi services in other Asian cities, the US and Europe, but he wouldn't say when. "I don't expect there to be a time where we say, 'We've learned enough,'" Iagnemma said. Doug Parker, nuTonomy's chief operating officer, said autonomous taxis could ultimately reduce the number of cars on Singapore's roads from 900,000 to 300,000.

"When you are able to take that many cars off the road, it creates a lot of possibilities. You can create smaller roads, you can create much smaller car parks," Parker said. "I think it will change how people interact with the city going forward."

NuTonomy, a 50-person company with offices in Massachusetts and Singapore, was formed in 2013 by Iagnemma and Emilio Frazzoli, Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers who were studying robotics and developing autonomous vehicles for the Defense Department. Earlier this year, the company was the first to win approval from Singapore's government to test self-driving cars in one-north. NuTonomy announced a research partnership with Singapore's Land Transport Authority earlier this month. Singapore is ideal because it has good weather, great infrastructure and drivers who tend to obey traffic rules, Iagnemma says. As a land-locked island, the city of 5.4 million people is seeking creative ways to grow its economy, so it's been supportive of autonomous vehicle research.

Auto supplier Delphi Corp., which also is working on autonomous vehicle software, was recently selected to test autonomous vehicles on the island and plans to start next year. "We face constraints in land and manpower. We want to take advantage of self-driving technology to overcome such constraints," said Pang Kin Keong, Singapore's Permanent Secretary for Transport and the chairman of its committee on autonomous driving.

Olivia Seow, 25, works in startup partnerships in one-north and is one of the riders nuTonomy selected, took a test ride of less than a mile on Monday. She said she was nervous when she got into the car, and then surprised as she watched the steering wheel turn by itself. "It felt like there was a ghost or something," she said. But she quickly relaxed. The ride was smooth and controlled, she said, and she was relieved to see that the car recognized even small obstacles like birds and motorcycles parked in the distance.

"I couldn't see them with my human eye, but the car could, so I knew that I could trust the car," said Seow, who hopes to use the time freed up during her commute, thanks to the technology, or use the service to help her father get around town as he grows older. —AP

WHATSAPP IS GOING TO SHARE YOUR PHONE NUMBER WITH FACEBOOK MAKING MONEY IS THE GOAL

SAN FRANCISCO: Global messaging service WhatsApp says it will start sharing the phone numbers of its users with Facebook, its parent company. That means WhatsApp users could soon start seeing more targeted ads and Facebook friend suggestions on Facebook based on WhatsApp information - although not on the messaging service itself.

The move is a subtle but significant shift for WhatsApp, used by more than 1 billion people around the world. When it was acquired by Facebook for an eye-popping \$21.8 billion two years ago, executives promised privacy would be safeguarded. "This is a strong-arm tactic on the part of Facebook," said Jeff Chester, executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy in Washington, D.C. "They continue on a campaign on to run roughshod on our privacy rights."

WhatsApp is giving users a limited time to opt out of sharing their information with Facebook, although they must take the extra step of unchecking a box to do so. It also says Facebook won't post phone numbers online or give them out to anyone.

Making money from WhatsApp

But the giant social network has been looking for ways to make money from WhatsApp since it bought the service two years ago. At the same time, Facebook has pledged not to interfere with a longstanding promise by WhatsApp's co-founders to respect users' privacy and keep ads off its messaging platform.

WhatsApp on Thursday offered a glimpse of its plans for turning on the money spigot, releasing new documents that describe the company's privacy policy and the terms of service that users must agree to follow. The documents are the first revision of those policies since 2012, before Facebook acquired WhatsApp.

One change follows through on previous hints by WhatsApp executives, who have

said they're exploring ways for businesses to communicate with customers on WhatsApp. That could include using WhatsApp to provide receipts, confirm a reservation or update the status of a delivery.

Companies could also send marketing offers or messages about sales to individual customers, according to the new documents, which note that users will be able to control or block such messages. WhatsApp says it will continue to bar traditional display ads from its service. "We do not want you to have a spammy experience," the company tells users in a summary of the new policies.

Another change is potentially more con-



NEW YORK: This Feb. 19, 2014, file photo, shows WhatsApp and Facebook app icons on a smartphone. —AP

troversial: WhatsApp says it will begin "coordinating" accounts with Facebook by sharing WhatsApp users' mobile phone numbers and device information, such as the type of operating system and other smartphone characteristics. The company says Facebook will employ the phone number internally to better identify WhatsApp users on Facebook, so it can make friend suggestions or show targeted advertising.

The ads would come through a Facebook program called "Custom Audiences," which lets a business upload lists of customers and phone numbers or other contact informa-

tion the business has collected from warranty cards or other sources. Facebook matches the list to users with the same information and shows them ads. Facebook says it doesn't give out users' information to advertisers.

WhatsApp phone numbers are valuable to Facebook. While the social network already has many phone numbers, it doesn't require users to provide them, and doesn't always have the most current number for everyone on Facebook. But anyone on WhatsApp must provide a current phone number because that's how WhatsApp knows where to deliver messages.

The coordination of accounts may draw fire from privacy advocates. WhatsApp has long promised not to employ user data for advertising. Its acquisition by Facebook two years ago sparked complaints from activists who worried the new owner would start mining WhatsApp accounts. Though both companies pledged WhatsApp would operate separately from its parent, the Federal Trade Commission warned them publicly, in a 2014 letter, against changing how they employ WhatsApp user data without users' consent.

WhatsApp says current users have up to 30 days to accept the new policy terms or stop using the service. Once they accept, they have 30 more days to opt out of sharing with Facebook.

Privacy groups have praised WhatsApp for building powerful encryption into its services, making it impossible for the company or anyone else to read users' messages. WhatsApp promises that encryption will remain, so neither WhatsApp nor Facebook would be able to use message content for advertising purposes.

But privacy activists also criticized the 30-day window to opt out. "Very few people opt out, it should be an informed opt in," Chester said. "No data should be used unless people are informed honestly about how it's going to be used." —AP



LOS ANGELES: Actress Leslie Jones arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of "Ghostbusters" on July 9, 2016. —AP

JONES WEBSITE HACK REVEALS STARS' TRICKY CYBER LANDSCAPE

LOS ANGELES: The hateful hack of comedian Leslie Jones' personal website reveals the tricky cyber landscape celebrities tread and the murky legal protections that exist for personal digital content.

While Jones' supporters have been vocal with their outrage and Department of Homeland Security investigators are looking into the breach of Jones' website that exposed intimate photos and personal documents, experts say little can be done to prevent online hacks and harassment. Internet trolling is impossible to predict and difficult to prosecute.

Jones' site remained offline Thursday and the actress-comedian has stayed away from social media since the Wednesday attack. Her representatives did not respond to inquiries from The Associated Press.

Those who broke into Jones' site and replaced its usual content with naked photos, a driver's license and racist video are clearly breaking the law, said attorney Jonathan Steinsapir, but "trolling" a celebrity with sexist or racist posts online is not a crime.

Was a previous target

Jones was targeted on Twitter last month, receiving a barrage of racial slurs and obscene photos. The "Ghostbusters" actress called on the site to do more to curb harassment, and Twitter banned several users as a result. "She's done all the right things," said Brendesha Tynes, a University of Southern California professor who specializes in cyberbullying and social media. "You report, you block, 'Äi she's done all those things. One thing she definitely needs to do is to really rally her tribe."

Apart from technological solutions like hard-to-crack passwords, public social-media support is one of the best defenses against online trolls, said Dorie Clark, a branding and social media expert. "Ultimately, the best thing you can do as an insurance policy is to create a community of loyal fans and friends that will stand up and defend you and essentially try to fight back against the trolls and the negative posts," she said.

Such support also offers psychological support to trolling victims, who might experience depressive symptoms after an attack, Tynes added. Scarlett Johansson said she was "truly humiliated and embarrassed" when stolen nude photos of her were published online. The hacker in that case was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison. Most often, though, technology moves faster than the law. "The availability of media now and how quickly information spreads, 'Äi I don't think the law has kept up with that," said Steinsapir, who specializes in intellectual property and copyright law.

For example, once stolen photos are disseminated online, it's not only tough to track who's republishing them, it's practically impossible to prosecute.

"The problem is that the material from the hack eventually finds its way into other people's hands and gets posted on Reddit or whatever," Steinsapir said, "and it's very hard to go after those people."

Going offline entirely isn't an option for most celebrities. Entertainers are generally expected to help market their shows on their social media platforms, Clark said. And Jones, who took a break from Twitter after last month's attack, returned to the platform to live-tweet the Olympics, which won her a trip to Rio and a commentator gig on NBC. —AP

ACTIVIST DISCOVERS IPHONE SPYWARE, SPARKING SECURITY UPDATE

ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS CLICK THE LINK

AJMAN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: The suspicious text message that appeared on Ahmed Mansoor's iPhone promised to reveal details about torture in the United Arab Emirates' prisons. All Mansoor had to do was click the link.

Mansoor, a human rights activist, didn't take the bait. Instead, he reported it to Citizen Lab, an internet watchdog, setting off a chain reaction that in two weeks exposed a secretive Israeli cyberespionage firm, defanged a powerful new piece of eavesdropping software and gave millions of iPhone users across the world an extra boost to their digital security. "It feels really good," Mansoor said in an interview from his sand-colored apartment block in downtown Ajman, a small city-state in the United Arab Emirates.

Cradling his iPhone to show The Associated Press screenshots of the rogue text, Mansoor said he hoped the developments "could save hundreds of people from being targets." Hidden behind the link in the text message was a highly targeted form of spyware crafted to take advantage of three previously undisclosed weaknesses in Apple's mobile operating system.

Two reports issued Thursday, one by Lookout, a San Francisco mobile security company, and another by Citizen Lab, based at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs, outlined how the program could completely compromise a device at the tap of a finger. If Mansoor had touched the link, he would have given his hackers free reign to eavesdrop on calls, harvest messages, activate his camera and drain the phone's trove of personal data.

Fix for the vulnerabilities

Apple Inc. issued a fix for the vulnerabilities Thursday, just ahead of the reports' release, working at a blistering pace for which the Cupertino, California-based company was widely praised.

Arie van Deursen, a professor of software engineering at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, said the reports were disturbing. Forensics expert Jonathan Zdziarski described the malicious program targeting Mansoor as a "serious piece of spyware."

A soft-spoken man who dresses in traditional white robes, Mansoor has repeatedly drawn the ire of authorities in the United Arab Emirates, calling for a free press and democratic freedoms. He is one of the country's few human rights defenders with an international profile, close links to foreign media and a network of sources. Mansoor's work has, at various times, cost him his job, his passport and even his liberty.

Online, Mansoor repeatedly found

himself in the crosshairs of electronic eavesdropping operations. Even before the first rogue text message pinged across his phone on Aug. 10, Mansoor already had weathered attacks from two separate brands of commercial spyware.

When he shared the suspicious text with Citizen Lab researcher Bill Marczak, they realized he'd been targeted by a third.

Citizen Lab and Lookout both fingered a secretive Israeli firm, NSO Group, as the author of the spyware. Citizen Lab said that past targeting of Mansoor by the United Arab Emirates' government suggested that it was likely behind the latest hacking attempt as well.

been targeted by an unusually sophisticated piece of software which some have valued at \$1 million. He told AP he was amused by the idea that so much money was being poured into watching him. "If you would give me probably 10 percent of that I would write the report about myself for you!"

The apparent discovery of Israeli-made spyware being used to target a dissident in the United Arab Emirates raises awkward questions for both countries. The use of Israeli technology to police its own citizens is an uncomfortable strategy for an Arab country with no formal diplomatic ties to the Jewish state. And Israeli complicity in a cyberat-



AJMAN, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: Human rights activist Ahmed Mansoor uses his iPhone on Thursday. —AP

Executives at the company declined to comment, and a visit to NSO's address in Herzliya showed that the firm had recently vacated its old headquarters - a move recent enough that the building still bore its logo.

In a statement released Thursday, which stopped short of acknowledging that the spyware was its own, the NSO Group said its mission was to provide "authorized governments with technology that helps them combat terror and crime."

The company said it couldn't comment on specific cases. Marczak said he and fellow-researcher John Scott-Railton turned to Lookout for help to pick apart the malicious program, a process which Murray compared to "defusing a bomb." "It is amazing the level they've gone through to avoid detection," Murray said of the software's makers. "They have a hair-trigger self-destruct."

Working over a two-week period, the researchers found that Mansoor had

tack on an Arab dissident would seem to run counter to the country's self-description as a bastion of democracy in the Middle East.

There are awkward questions, too, for Francisco Partners, the private equity firm which owns the NSO Group. Francisco is only an hour's drive from the headquarters of Apple, whose products the cybersecurity firm is accused of hacking. Messages left with Francisco partners' offices in London and San Francisco went unreturned. Israeli and Emirati authorities did not return calls seeking comment.

Attorney Eitay Mack, who advocates for more transparency in Israeli arms exports, said his country's sales of surveillance software are not closely policed. He also noted that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has cultivated warmer ties with Arab Gulf states. "Israel is looking for allies," Mack said. "And when Israel finds allies, it does not ask too many questions." —AP

AMAZON STARTS CAR RESEARCH AND REVIEW SITE

NEW YORK: Amazon is starting a site offering research, reviews and other information on new and used cars. The latest venture by the e-commerce powerhouse will compete with established players in the field including CarSoup.com, Edmunds.com, truecar.com and cars.com.

Amazon Vehicles won't sell cars. But in addition to car specifications, images, videos and customer reviews, the new

site will let customers ask each other questions about cars. Amazon.com Inc. already sells car parts and accessories in its Amazon Automotive store. From its roots as an online bookseller, the Seattle company has expanded into a myriad of arenas. Most recently it launched a site for handmade goods, introduced a voice-recognition speaker and has begun creating original movies and TV shows. —AP



03:20 Hunderby
03:45 Friday Night Dinner
04:10 Father Brown
05:00 Doctors
09:00 Eastenders
09:30 Eastenders
10:00 Eastenders
10:30 Eastenders
11:05 Father Brown
13:25 Casualty
14:20 Doctors
14:50 Doctors
15:25 Father Brown
16:10 Death In Paradise
17:05 Death In Paradise
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:00 Big School
19:30 Big School
20:00 Holby City
21:00 Maigret
22:30 Thirteen
23:25 An Inspector Calls
01:00 Doctors
01:30 Eastenders
02:05 Holby City



03:00 Key And Peele
03:25 Tosh.0
03:50 Tosh.0
04:15 Ridiculousness
05:05 Gym Rescue
05:55 Impractical Jokers UK
06:20 Key And Peele
06:50 Tosh.0
07:15 Tosh.0
07:40 Ridiculousness
08:05 Ridiculousness
08:30 Gym Rescue
09:20 Key And Peele
09:45 Tosh.0
10:10 Tosh.0
10:35 Tosh.0
11:00 Impractical Jokers UK
11:25 Hungry Investors
13:05 Tosh.0
14:20 Impractical Jokers UK
14:45 Lip Sync Battle
15:10 Key And Peele
15:35 Workaholics
16:55 Key And Peele
19:03 Tattoo Disasters
19:50 Lip Sync Battle
20:37 I Live With Models
21:00 The Daily Show - Global Edition
21:30 South Park
21:54 Broad City
22:18 Tosh.0
22:42 Tosh.0
23:05 Inside Amy Schumer
23:30 The Daily Show - Global Edition
00:00 Hannibal Buress: Live In Chicago
00:50 South Park
01:15 Broad City
01:40 The Daily Show - Global Edition



03:40 How Do They Do It?
06:00 Fast N' Loud
10:10 Gold Divers
11:00 Yukon Men
11:50 Trailblazers
12:40 Storage Hunters UK
13:55 Storage Hunters
14:20 Storage Hunters
14:45 Dallas Car Sharks
15:10 Dallas Car Sharks
15:35 Dallas Car Sharks
16:00 Dallas Car Sharks
16:25 Dallas Car Sharks
16:50 Alaskan Bush People
17:40 Railroad Alaska
18:30 Mythbusters
19:20 World's Top 5
20:10 Incredible Engineering
Blunders: Fixed
21:00 Alaskan Bush People
21:50 Railroad Alaska
22:40 Jungle Gold
23:30 Chaos Caught On Camera
23:55 Chaos Caught On Camera
00:20 Chaos Caught On Camera
00:45 Street Outlaws
01:35 Street Outlaws
02:25 Street Outlaws



03:00 Mega Builders
03:48 Smash Lab
04:36 Race To Escape
05:24 How The Universe Works
06:12 How Do They Do It?
06:36 Food Factory
07:00 How Do They Do It?
07:26 Food Factory
07:50 Food Factory
08:14 Food Factory
08:38 Food Factory
09:02 Food Factory
09:26 Smash Lab
10:14 Smash Lab
11:02 Smash Lab
11:50 Smash Lab
12:38 Smash Lab
13:26 How Do They Do It?
13:50 How Do They Do It?
14:14 How Do They Do It?
14:38 How Do They Do It?
15:02 How Do They Do It?
15:26 Extreme Engineering
16:14 Mega World
17:02 Mega Builders
17:50 Industrial Junkie
18:15 Industrial Junkie
18:40 Mega Engineering
19:30 How The Universe Works
20:20 How The Universe Works
21:10 How The Universe Works
23:40 Extreme Engineering
00:30 Mega World
01:20 Mega Builders
02:10 Industrial Junkie
02:35 Industrial Junkie
Discovery World
03:00 Discovery World
09:00 Discovery World
15:00 Discovery World



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Jessie
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:20 Dog With A Blog
07:45 Bunk'd
08:10 Austin & Ally
08:35 Backstage
09:00 Alex & Co.
09:25 Girl Meets World
09:50 Bunk'd
10:15 Mako Mermaids
10:40 The Suite Life Movie
12:05 Star Darlings
12:10 The 7D
12:20 Alex & Co.
12:45 Alex & Co.
13:10 Alex & Co.
13:35 Alex & Co.
14:00 Alex & Co.
14:25 Jessie
14:50 Jessie
15:15 Girl Meets World
15:40 Girl Meets World
16:05 Descendants Wicked World
16:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug

And Cat Noir
17:00 Gravity Falls
17:25 Cheetah Girls: One World
19:00 Star Darlings
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Jessie
19:55 Liv And Maddie
20:20 Mako Mermaids
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou

06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Jungle Cubs
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:40 PJ Masks
09:10 Doc McStuffins
09:40 Doc McStuffins
09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Sofia The First
11:00 The Lion Guard
11:30 Sofia The First: The Curse Of Princess Ivy
12:30 Gummi Bears
13:00 The Lion Guard
13:30 The Lion Guard
14:00 The Lion Guard
14:30 The Lion Guard
14:55 Goldie & Bear
15:05 Sofia The First: The Curse Of Princess Ivy
16:00 Doc McStuffins
16:25 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:25 Sofia The First
17:50 The Lion Guard
18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 PJ Masks
21:30 Aladdin
22:00 Jungle Cubs
22:25 Gummi Bears
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack

Kardashians
07:20 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
08:20 E! News
09:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
10:15 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
11:10 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
12:05 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
13:05 E! News
14:05 Just Jillian
15:00 Botched
16:00 Botched
17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
19:00 E! News
20:00 #RichKids Of Beverly Hills
21:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
22:00 Just Jillian
23:00 E! News
00:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
00:55 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
01:50 Botched
02:20 E! News



03:00 Man Fire Food
03:30 Man Fire Food
04:00 Chopped
05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
06:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
06:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
07:00 Chopped
08:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
09:00 The Kitchen
10:00 Siba's Table
10:30 Siba's Table
11:00 The Pioneer Woman
11:30 The Pioneer Woman
12:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
12:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:00 Chopped
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 Man Fire Food
16:00 Guy's Big Bite
16:30 Guy's Big Bite
17:00 Siba's Table
17:30 Siba's Table
18:00 Ace Of Cakes
18:30 Ace Of Cakes
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Kitchen Inferno
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Ace Of Cakes
22:30 Ace Of Cakes
23:00 Chopped
00:00 Kitchen Inferno
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Ace Of Cakes
02:30 Ace Of Cakes



06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Guardians Of The Galaxy
08:15 Supa Strikas
08:40 Kirby Buckets
09:10 Mighty Med
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 Lab Rats
10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 K.C. Undercover
11:20 Supa Strikas
11:45 Supa Strikas
12:10 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
13:00 Luck Of The Irish
14:30 Phineas And Ferb
14:45 Danger Mouse S1
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
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
19:45 Pickle And Peanut
20:00 Lab Rats
20:25 Supa Strikas
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse



03:40 Ancient Impossible
04:30 Decoding The Past
05:20 Ancient Aliens
06:10 The Universe
07:00 Patton 360
08:00 Cities Of The Underworld
09:00 The Universe
10:00 Ancient Impossible
11:00 Decoding The Past
12:00 Ancient Aliens
13:00 Patton 360
14:00 Cities Of The Underworld
15:00 The Universe
16:00 Ancient Impossible
17:00 Decoding The Past
18:00 Ancient Aliens
19:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
20:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
21:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
23:00 Third Reich
01:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
02:00 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved
02:50 The Universe: Ancient Mysteries Solved



03:15 EJ NYC
04:10 EJ NYC
05:05 EJ NYC
06:00 Fashion Bloggers
06:25 Keeping Up With The



BRICK MANSIONS ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION



- 03:40 Swamp People
- 04:30 American Restoration
- 05:00 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 06:00 Ice Road Truckers
- 06:50 Ice Road Truckers
- 07:40 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 08:05 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 08:30 Car Hunters
- 08:55 Ax Men
- 09:45 American Restoration
- 10:35 Leepu And Pitbull
- 11:25 Fifth Gear
- 12:15 The Curse Of Oak Island
- 13:05 American Pickers
- 13:55 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 14:20 Pawn Stars South Africa
- 14:45 Time Team
- 15:35 American Restoration
- 16:00 Fifth Gear
- 16:50 American Restoration
- 17:40 Shipping Wars
- 18:05 Shipping Wars
- 18:30 Pawn Stars
- 18:55 Storage Wars
- 19:20 American Restoration
- 19:45 American Restoration
- 20:10 Alone
- 21:00 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The Rock
- 21:50 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
- 22:40 Time Team
- 23:30 Alone
- 00:20 Mankind The Story Of All Of Us
- 01:10 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The Rock
- 02:00 Fifth Gear
- 02:50 American Restoration



- 03:05 Emmerdale
- 03:30 Emmerdale
- 03:55 Coronation Street
- 06:00 Eggheads
- 06:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 07:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 08:30 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 09:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 11:00 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 11:50 Grantchester
- 12:40 Vera
- 14:30 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 15:20 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 16:10 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 17:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 18:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 19:00 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 19:50 Tonight At The London Palladium
- 20:40 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 22:10 Eggheads
- 22:40 Coronation Street
- 23:10 Coronation Street
- 23:35 Coronation Street
- 00:05 Coronation Street
- 00:35 Coronation Street
- 01:00 Don't Tell The Bride
- 02:00 Coronation Street
- 02:30 Coronation Street
- 02:55 Coronation Street



- 03:45 Wild Scotland: Highlands
- 04:40 Man V. Monster
- 05:35 Hunter Hunted
- 06:30 Monster Fish
- 07:25 Nordic Wild
- 08:20 Dr. K's Exotic Animal
- 09:15 Zoo Confidential
- 10:10 Make You Laugh Out Loud
- 11:05 Fish Tank Kings
- 12:00 Shark Men
- 12:55 Dead Or Alive
- 13:50 Animals Behaving Badly
- 14:45 Mega Hammerhead
- 15:40 Japan's Hidden Secret
- 16:35 Predator Patrol
- 17:30 Expedition Wild
- 18:25 Animals Gone Wild
- 19:20 Mega Hammerhead
- 20:10 Japan's Hidden Secret
- 21:00 Predator Patrol
- 21:50 Expedition Wild
- 22:40 Animals Gone Wild



AVENGERS: AGE OF ULTRON ON OSN MOVIES HD

- 23:30 Shark Men
- 00:20 Dead Or Alive
- 01:10 Animals Behaving Badly
- 02:00 Gorilla Murders
- 02:50 Animal Armory



- 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
- 15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 16:00 Grandfathered
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 The Simpsons
- 19:00 Baby Daddy
- 20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 21:30 Grandfathered
- 22:00 Saturday Night Live
- 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 Outlander
- 04:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Shark Tank
- 07:00 Bones
- 08:00 Once Upon A Time
- 10:00 Chicago Med
- 11:00 Bones
- 12:00 Once Upon A Time
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 15:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Shark Tank
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 Once Upon A Time
- 19:00 The Night Shift
- 20:00 Shark Tank
- 21:00 Chicago Med
- 23:00 Mad Dogs
- 00:00 Bones
- 01:00 Chicago Med



- 03:00 Vinyl
- 04:00 Tell Me You Love Me
- 05:00 Taking Chance

- 06:30 Nightingale
- 08:15 As You Like It
- 10:30 RKO 281
- 12:30 Joe's Palace
- 14:30 Capturing Mary
- 16:45 RKO 281



- 04:00 Armored
- 06:00 Brick Mansions
- 08:00 I, Robot
- 10:00 Hidalgo
- 12:30 Armored
- 14:15 Brick Mansions
- 16:00 I, Robot
- 18:00 Deja Vu
- 20:15 Dracula Untold
- 22:00 Faster
- 00:00 Psycho
- 02:00 Mercenaries



- 04:00 Bottle Rocket
- 06:00 Jack
- 08:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 10:00 Bottle Rocket
- 12:00 Hope Springs
- 14:00 Bringing Down The House
- 16:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
- 18:00 Blended
- 20:00 The Foot Fist Way
- 22:00 Ted
- 00:00 Scary Movie 4
- 02:00 The Foot Fist Way



- 03:00 Rudderless
- 05:00 Memories
- 07:00 Welcome To The Punch
- 09:00 The Melancholy Fantastic
- 11:00 Draft Day
- 13:00 Stranded
- 15:00 Shanghai Calling
- 17:00 The Melancholy Fantastic
- 19:00 Blue Ruin
- 21:00 Scenic Route
- 23:00 Only God Forgives
- 01:00 Shanghai Calling



- 03:30 Inside Llewyn Davis
- 05:30 Monkey Kingdom

- 07:00 The Signal
- 09:00 Breathe In
- 10:45 Legends Of The Fall
- 13:00 Ed Wood
- 15:15 Belle
- 17:00 Breathe In
- 19:00 Les Miserables
- 21:45 Ashes
- 23:30 Carlos
- 02:15 Breathe In



- 03:00 Big Eyes
- 04:45 Big Game
- 06:30 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
- 09:00 Cinderella
- 11:00 Goosebumps
- 13:00 The Good Dinosaur
- 15:00 Believe
- 17:00 The Imitation Game
- 19:00 Ricki And The Flash
- 21:00 Bravetown
- 23:00 Danny Collins
- 01:00 Poltergeist



- 03:00 Miffy The Movie
- 04:30 The Heart Of The Oak
- 06:00 Delhi Safari
- 08:00 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
- 10:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend
- 11:30 Marco Macaco
- 13:00 Miffy The Movie
- 14:30 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 16:00 Jock The Hero Dog
- 18:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend
- 20:00 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama
- 22:00 Daddy I'm A Zombie
- 23:30 Jock The Hero Dog
- 01:00 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
- 02:45 Captain Sabertooth And The Treasure Of Lama Rama



- 04:00 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This
- 06:00 My Old Lady
- 08:00 The Best Of Me
- 10:00 Stonehearst Asylum
- 12:00 What If
- 14:00 So Undercover
- 15:45 The Best Of Me
- 17:45 Everest
- 20:00 Run All Night
- 22:00 Unfinished Business
- 00:00 The Taking Of Deborah Logan

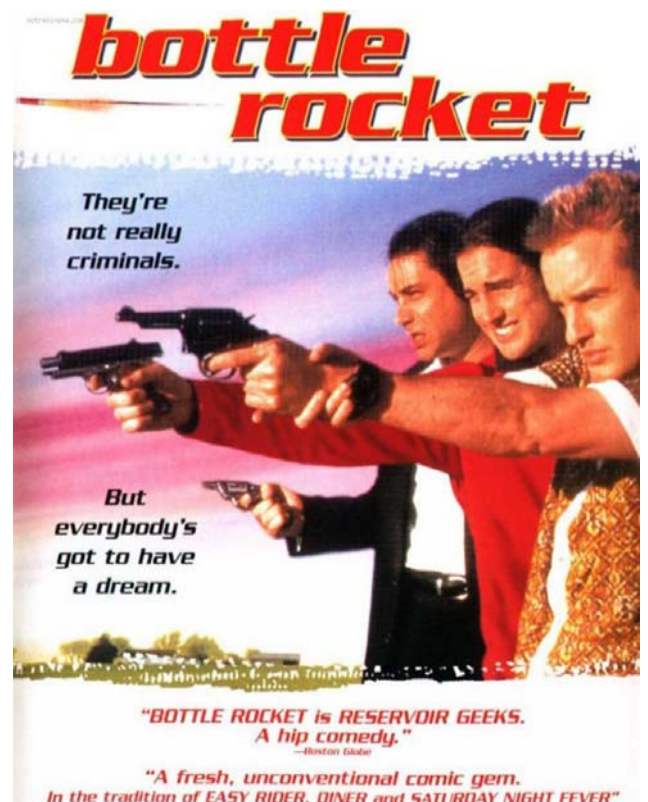
- 00:10 Mega Factories
- 01:00 Science Of Stupid
- 01:30 Science Of Stupid
- 02:00 Machine Impossible
- 02:55 Wicked Tuna



- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Harvey Beaks
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 05:00 Max & Shred
- 05:24 Henry Danger
- 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:48 Winx Club
- 08:12 Harvey Beaks
- 08:36 Breadwinners
- 09:00 Get Blake
- 09:24 Rabbids Invasion
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Winx Club
- 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:00 Breadwinners
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Harvey Beaks
- 14:12 Rabbids Invasion
- 14:36 Henry Danger
- 15:00 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 15:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 16:36 The Loud House
- 17:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 17:24 Harvey Beaks
- 17:48 Breadwinners
- 18:12 Henry Danger
- 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 19:24 Game Shakers
- 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:24 Breadwinners
- 21:48 Breadwinners
- 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 22:36 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 23:48 Henry Danger
- 00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 00:36 Max & Shred
- 01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
- 01:24 Sanjay And Craig
- 01:48 Sanjay And Craig
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants



- 03:50 Mission Pluto
- 04:45 Shark Men
- 05:40 Wicked Tuna
- 06:35 Mygrations
- 07:30 Wild Congo
- 08:25 Dog Whisperer
- 09:20 Dog Whisperer
- 10:15 Laverstoke Mill
- 11:10 Narco Bling
- 12:05 Hacking The System
- 12:30 Hacking The System
- 13:00 Science Of Stupid
- 13:30 Science Of Stupid
- 14:00 Machine Impossible
- 15:00 Explorer
- 16:00 Engineering Connections
- 17:00 Mega Factories
- 18:00 Locked Up Abroad
- 19:00 Explorer
- 20:00 Engineering Connections
- 20:50 Mega Factories
- 21:40 Locked Up Abroad
- 22:30 Explorer
- 23:20 Engineering Connections



BOTTLE ROCKET ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY



SHARJAH ENVIRONMENT AND PROTECTED AREAS AUTHORITY STANDS AS BEACON OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION IN THE REGION

One of the most important animal sanctuaries in the region

The Sharjah Environment and Protected Areas Authority is striving to protect endangered animals, including the Arabian Leopard and Arabian Cobra by providing a habitat for the rare species of animals. The authority has set up one of the most important animal sanctuaries in the GCC and Middle East, a region affected by wars and natural disasters that threaten the environment and wildlife.

The importance of conservation is made explicit with the patronage and directives of His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, who has provided all the necessary support, including the facilities, equipment, experts and budget for the natural reserves and protected areas in Sharjah. The invaluable

support will enable the EPAA to conserve the environment and wildlife in the Emirate.

HE Hana Saif Al Suwaidi, Chairperson of the Environment and Protected Areas Authority in Sharjah, stated that the accomplishments made by the authority are attributed to the directives His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi who follows up with their work in detail. His Highness has issued decisions to prevent manmade environmental degradation and to provide adequate care for the endangered and war-affected animals. This includes providing a breeding habitat for any vulnerable species.

Currently, the eight reserves, protected areas and their seven sanctuaries are home to over 25,000 animals representing more



than 250 various species of vertebrates, carnivores, reptiles and birds. The number is growing, thanks to the veterinary care by specialists for each species of animal, in accordance with international standards.

Furthermore, the EPAA plays a key role in raising community awareness of the need to take care of the environment and wildlife and maintaining a safe and animal-friendly environment. To this end, the authority implemented the directives of His Highness the Ruler of Sharjah with regards to taking certain measures to prevent or minimize environmental harm.

Recently, the EPAA has completed the first phase of the Breeding Centre for the Predatory and Dangerous Animals, the first of its kind in the GCC countries that extends over an area of 27,000 square meters in Desert Park in Sharjah. Animals in the centre vary from mixed wildlife and predators to reptiles. Many kinds of cages that meet international design standards have been provided for the centre, as it contains dangerous animals such as lions, tigers and snakes.

The EPAA holds the ethical responsibility for the welfare of all species of birds. The authority provides much-needed training for critically endangered birds, especially those in war-torn countries, on how to use safe migration routes, stopover points and how to avoid war-torn areas. These birds are released by the EPAA with a lead bird flying in a flock together to Europe, Africa and Asia through the UAE and to other Eastern countries. This will be repeated many times until the birds are trained on how to use safe migration routes.

Breeding the Arabian Cobra, a species of cobra found in the Arabian Peninsula, is one of EPAA's tasks. This species was acquired from Taif Centre in the KSA for the purpose of breeding, as it is crucial to the food pyramid. The Arabian Leopard is another endangered species of which the EPAA is in charge. This species is generally found in the Arabian Peninsula (Oman, UAE, KSA and Yemen) and is at risk due to wars and trafficking.



ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSES KILLED 8 PEOPLE A DAY IN OHIO LAST YEAR

PAINKILLER FENTANYL DEATHS ON THE RISE

COLUMBUS, OHIO: Accidental drug overdoses killed 3,050 people in Ohio last year, an average of eight per day, as deaths blamed on the powerful painkiller fentanyl again rose sharply and pushed the total overdose fatalities to a record high, the state reported Thursday.

Over one-third of those deaths were fentanyl-related, which more than doubled from the previous year and increased from just 75 in 2012.

Authorities who had been targeting prescription painkiller abuse say the problem has changed quickly in recent

tain progress on this, we need all hands on deck."

Kasich's belief

Republican Gov John Kasich said he believes the state is making progress, despite the latest record death toll.

"It makes me feel terrible, but what makes me feel good is how many people did not die because of our efforts," he said Thursday at a special judicial summit on opioids in Cincinnati involving authorities from nine states.

He said stepped-up prescription

quickly last year that scientists with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention visited the state to study the problem. States release overdose data at various times, and Ohio's overall rank nationally wasn't yet available.

A record 47,055 people died from drug overdoses in the U.S. in 2014, according to the latest figures from the CDC. The number was up 7 percent from 2013, spurred by large increases in heroin and opioid painkiller deaths.

Officials express hope of making headway, citing progress in expanding access to life-saving naloxone and curbing prescription opiate abuse.

Ohio emergency medical personnel last year administered nearly 19,800 doses of naloxone, known by the brand name Narcan. Naloxone can be dispensed by pharmacists without a prescription under changes made in 2015, and more than 900 pharmacies around the state now offer that.

Meanwhile, guidance issued for prescribers helped reduce the number of opioid doses given to patients last year by 81 million compared with 2011 figures, decreasing the leftover drugs that might be available for abuse, according to the state report.

State officials said their strategies to tackle the problem during the next year include working with lawmakers to stiffen penalties for illicit fentanyl sales and to make it easier to establish opiate treatment programs.

They are also expanding a public awareness campaign and an addiction treatment program made available through drug courts.

Other plans will support local drug task forces and step up drug-seizure efforts. In addition, the state is integrating an automated prescription reporting system into more electronic medical records and pharmacy dispensing systems to cut down on doctor shopping by addicts.

Many of the responses aren't drug-specific, meaning they could still be useful however the problem evolves next, said Dr. Mary DiOrio, the state medical director. "We're really going to be agile enough that we can address things that come up," she said. —AP



CINCINNATI: Ohio Gov. John Kasich speaks at the Regional Judicial Opioid Initiative opening summit on Thursday. —AP

years as users turned to heroin, fentanyl and even stronger drugs.

It's an epidemic that can only be effectively addressed through cooperation and a combination of prevention, early intervention, up-to-date treatment, and life-saving measures such as the opioid overdose antidote naloxone, said Dr. Mark Hurst, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' medical director.

"This isn't an issue that, as state departments and agencies, we're going to be able to solve unilaterally," Hurst said. "It requires communities, it requires families, it requires individuals, it requires schools. If we're really going to make good progress and sus-

monitoring and new guidance for prescribers helped sharply reduce opioid doses dispensed in the state, and said Ohio has other action in the works to curb prescription drug misuse.

He also wants more discussion about the dangers of drugs to reach children throughout their school years. The previous generation grew up accustomed to relatively easy access to prescription painkillers, which has fueled the overdose epidemic, the governor said.

"These are battles that we need to win so that we can wage a more effective war," Kasich said.

Ohio has been among the states hardest hit by the overdose epidemic. Fentanyl overdose deaths spiked so



LOS ANGELES: Actress Arielle Kebbel, Pulse Nightclub and onePULSE Foundation founder, Barbara Poma and actress Candis Cayne attend a cocktail reception Benefit for onePULSE Foundation at NeueHouse Hollywood on August 19, 2016. —AP

HOSPITALS WON'T BILL FLORIDA NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING VICTIMS

MIAMI: Two hospitals that treated victims of this summer's attack on the Orlando gay night club Pulse will not bill survivors for out-of-pocket medical expenses—more than \$5 million—officials announced Thursday. "The Pulse shooting was a horrendous tragedy for the victims, their families, and our entire community," Orlando Health president and CEO David Strong said in a statement.

"During this very trying time, many organizations, individuals, and charities have reached out to Orlando Health to show their support. This is simply our way of paying that kindness forward."

The health network's main hospital treated most of the 53 injured people who required immediate medical attention in the aftermath of the June 12 massacre, which left 49 dead.

Nine victims died after arriving at the hospital. Orlando Health will not charge patients or their families directly, and will for other ways to shoulder costs instead, including federal funds, private insurance, disability insurance and the state's crime victim compensation program.

Florida Hospital, which treated a dozen club-goers, said it would not even bill victims' insurance for care costs or any potential follow-up surgery. "It was incredible to see how our community came together in the wake of the senseless Pulse shooting," Florida Hospital's president and CEO Daryl Tol said in the local Orlando Sentinel newspaper. "We hope this gesture can add to the heart and goodwill that defines Orlando."

Florida Hospital said treatment costs at its facility totaled more than \$525,000. The authorities are still investigating the attack that ended when police killed the gunman, Omar Mateen, a 29-year-old US citizen of Afghan origin, after a three-hour standoff. —AFP

VIOLENCE HAS TAKEN YEARS OFF OF LIFE EXPECTANCY IN SYRIA

LONDON: The ongoing violence in Syria has taken years off of people's life expectancy, according to a new analysis published in the journal Lancet on Wednesday.

Since the Arab uprising began in 2010, about six years have been shaved off of men's life expectancy in Syria while women have lost about five years.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, researchers found that the lives of people in Yemen, Tunisia and Egypt were about three months shorter than expected, according to the new study based on health data from 22 countries.

"Recent conflicts have shattered the basic (health) infrastructure in a number of countries," said Ali Mokdad at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, who led the research. "Millions of people are

facing dire water shortages and poor sanitation that will lead to disease outbreaks."

Mokdad and his colleagues warned the ongoing violence could reverse health advances made in the Middle East during the past two decades and that Syria could fall behind Africa in their attempts to reduce child deaths. Researchers found that heart disease was the top killer and said there had been a spike in mental health problems and injuries linked to the trauma of war.

"We should be more alert to emerging disasters," wrote Riyadh K. Lafta of the Mustansiriya Medical School in Baghdad, Iraq in an accompanying commentary. Lafta warned future emergencies might arise from the "new sophisticated weaponry used in conflict." —AP

BURNED FIREFIGHTER FEELS NORMAL AGAIN AFTER FACE TRANSPLANT

FEELS LIKE 'A NORMAL GUY'

NEW YORK: A Mississippi firefighter who received the world's most extensive face transplant after a burning building collapsed on him said Wednesday that he feels like "a normal guy" for the first time in 15 years.

Patrick Hardison, 42, said he can now eat, see, hear and breathe normally, thanks to last year's surgery. He has a full head of hair and hits the gym twice a week. "Before the transplant, every day I had to wake up and get myself motivated to face the world," Hardison told reporters at NYU Langone Medical Center. "Now I don't worry about people pointing and staring or kids running away crying. I'm happy."

Hardison was a volunteer firefighter in Senatobia, Mississippi, when a building collapsed on him in 2001. He had 71 reconstructive surgeries before the transplant. While there have been nearly 40 face transplant surgeries since 2005, Hardison's was the first to include a scalp and functioning eyelids. Doctors have since fixed up some features and removed his breathing and feeding tubes.

Hardison has no scars on his face, and although he resembles his old self, some of his features are different. His eyes are smaller and his face is rounder, but he still has sandy brown hair. "I don't get up and look

in the mirror and focus on that," he said. "I get up and just go along with my day."

Best moments of his life

The divorced father of five said



NEW YORK: Former Mississippi firefighter Patrick Hardison, 42, speaks during a press conference marking one year after his face transplant surgery on Wednesday at New York University Langone Medical Center. —AP

one of the best moments of his life was seeing his children for the first time after the August 2015 surgery. Four of his children attended the

news conference.

His 21-year-old daughter, Alison, said she cried after seeing him because she was so relieved. "I walked into the room and I was just speechless," she said. "He gave me a hug and

our cheeks touched, and his cheeks were kind of warm, and that was something I hadn't felt in 14 years." She said her father "wasn't normal

on the inside" before the surgery. "He was very unhappy," Alison Hardison said. "Now he's happy with himself and happy with life." Patrick Hardison can finally drive and live independently thanks to his new field of vision. Previously, he could see only through "pinholes" because doctors had sewed his eyelids partially shut to protect his eyes, he said.

Eduardo Rodriguez, chairman of Langone's plastic surgery department, said Hardison has not had any issues with transplant rejection, which is due to his medications, his children and his strength. "He's a remarkable individual," Rodriguez said.

The surgery is estimated to cost about \$1 million, according to NYU, but the hospital covered the cost. Rodriguez was recently awarded \$2.5 million from the Defense Department to continue face transplant research.

Hardison said he hopes to meet this fall with the family of his donor, a 26-year-old artist who died in a bike accident in Brooklyn. "I'd like to say that I'm the same old Pat, but that would not give enough credit to the amazing journey I have gone through this past year," Hardison said. "The road to recovery has been long and hard, but if I had to do it again, I'd do it in a heartbeat." —AP

UN AGENCY: NO CONFIRMED ZIKA CASES LINKED TO RIO OLYMPICS

GENEVA: The UN health agency says reports from national authorities indicate no confirmed laboratory cases of the Zika virus in anyone associated with the Rio Olympics. The World Health Organization announced the findings Thursday in its weekly situation report on Zika. A recent epidemic of the mosquito-borne virus, which first erupted in Brazil, has been linked to brain-related birth defects in newborns and other nervous system troubles in some adults.

Before the Games, some medical experts expressed concerns the Games might cause the virus to spread faster than normal by drawing large numbers of foreign athletes and visitors who might carry it back home. The virus can also be spread through sex. Some Brazilian fans jeered US athletes who made light of the risk or stayed home over fears about Zika. —AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times

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فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
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KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (25/08/2016 TO 31/08/2016)

SHARQIA-1 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK JAHEEM FI ILHIND THE BFG	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:30 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	GENIUS THE BFG GENIUS GENIUS GENIUS	3:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:30 AM	MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM
SHARQIA-2 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	MARINA-1 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS SKIPTRACE THE BFG	11:30 AM 1:15 PM 3:15 PM 5:15 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	AVENUES-7 A FLYING JATT-Hindi THE BFG A FLYING JATT-Hindi MOHENJO DARO - Hindi THE BFG	12:30 PM 3:30 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM
SHARQIA-3 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE MECHANIC: RESURRECTION SKIPTRACE	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:45 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM	MARINA-2 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION SKIPTRACE JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND SKIPTRACE MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:45 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM	AVENUES-8 MR. FUZZYPANTS (NINE LIVES) MR. FUZZYPANTS (NINE LIVES) MR. FUZZYPANTS (NINE LIVES) MR. FUZZYPANTS (NINE LIVES) MR. FUZZYPANTS (NINE LIVES) WAR DOGS WAR DOGS	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM
MUHALAB-1 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS SKIPTRACE MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	MARINA-3 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-9 GENIUS GENIUS GENIUS MIN 30 SANA GENIUS GENIUS	11:45 AM 2:15 PM 4:30 PM 6:45 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM
MUHALAB-2 SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND SKIPTRACE	1:00 PM 3:15 PM 5:30 PM 8:15 PM 10:30 PM 12:45 AM	AVENUES-1 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE	12:45 PM 2:45 PM 4:45 PM 6:45 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM	AVENUES-10 JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND ABU SHANAB PMJAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND RABID DOGS	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:30 AM
MUHALAB-3 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:45 PM 9:00 PM 11:15 PM 1:15 AM	AVENUES-2 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX THE BFG -3D-4DX MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX MECHANIC: RESURRECTION-2D-4DX	12:15 PM 2:30 PM 4:45 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	AVENUES-11 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D ATMOS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D ATMOS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D ATMOS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D ATMOS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D ATMOS MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-1 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 7:45 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM	AVENUES-3 SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE	12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	360 -- 1 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS -3D MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	12:30 PM 2:30 PM 4:30 PM 6:30 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM
FANAR-2 SKIPTRACE HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE	12:45 PM 3:00 PM 5:15 PM 7:30 PM 9:45 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-4 SKIPTRACE THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS A FLYING JATT-Hindi NO SAT+TUE Special Show "MIN 30 SANA SAT Special Show "SKIPTRACE" TUE SKIPTRACE JAHEEM FI ILHIND SKIPTRACE	4:00 PM 11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM	360 -- 2 JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND JAHEEM FI ILHIND RIOT	11:30 AM 1:45 PM 4:00 PM 6:15 PM 8:30 PM 10:45 PM 1:00 AM
FANAR-3 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MOHENJO DARO - Hindi A FLYING JATT-Hindi A FLYING JATT-Hindi MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 6:00 PM 9:00 PM 12:05 AM	AVENUES-5 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION NO SUN Special Show "MECHANIC: RESURRECTION" 6:00 PM SUN MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	11:45 AM 1:45 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 4:00 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:15 PM 11:30 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:05 AM	360 -- 3 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK LIFE ON THE LINE WAR DOGS WAR DOGS	12:00 PM 2:00 PM 4:00 PM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM 10:00 PM 12:15 AM
FANAR-4 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	11:30 AM 1:30 PM 3:30 PM 5:45 PM 8:00 PM 10:15 PM 12:45 AM	AL-KOUT.1 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	1:00 PM 3:45 PM 5:45 PM 1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM	AL-KOUT.2 SKIPTRACE SKIPTRACE GENIUS SKIPTRACE GENIUS SKIPTRACE	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM 9:00 PM 11:00 PM 1:00 AM
FANAR-5 GENIUS	1:00 PM	AVENUES-6 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION MECHANIC: RESURRECTION	1:00 PM 3:00 PM 5:00 PM 7:00 PM		12:30 PM 2:45 PM 5:00 PM 7:15 PM 9:30 PM 11:45 PM

REQUIRED CIVIL ENGINEERS (INDIAN)

- Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering with Minimum 5 to 8 Years of Experience
- Must have Kuwait Society Engineering Membership
- Fluency in English and Arabic Preferable
- Transferable Visa (#18)

Please define the needed job in the email subject and send your CV to careers@future-services.net

FOR SALE

Nissan Patrol Jeep - 2011, black color, excellent condition, single owner, parking sensors, bluetooth radar, camera, and navigation. Contact: 50543333. (C 5207) 27-8-206

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Fatima Mary Fernandes, holder of Indian Passport No. K4564810, 303 Dattatray, Opp Char Kop bus depot, Kandivali (W) Mumbai - 67, hereby change my name to Violet Mary Dsouza. (C 5296) 25-8-2016

PRAYER TIMINGS



Fajr: 03:56
Shorook 05:20
Duhr: 11:51
Asr: 15:26
Maghrib: 18:22
Isha: 19:43

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e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net

 **EMERGENCY**
112

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



Flight Schedule

DIAL 161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

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

Arrival Flights on Saturday 27/8/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
SAI	441	Lahore	01:30
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15
KAC	418	Manila	02:15
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
RJA	644	Amman	03:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05
AVV	653	Alexandria	04:30
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00
THY	1414	TZX	05:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
QTR	8511	Doha	05:25
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	06:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
IRA	673	Ahwaz	07:15
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:05
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
RJA	648	Amman	09:30
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45
SYR	341	Damascus	10:05
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
AVV	651	Alexandria	12:05
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
FEG	933	Sohag	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
KAC	620	Doha	13:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	13:55
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05
KAC	178	Vienna	14:15
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
KAC	742	Dammam	14:55
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
KAC	118	New York	17:00
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
FDB	8053	Dubai	17:45

JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
THY	1282	TZX	17:50
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
KAC	678	Muscat/Abu Dhabi	17:50
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20
KAC	176	Geneva/Frankfurt	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
JAV	621	Amman	18:45
KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	104	London	19:00
GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45
FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
ABY	121	Sharjah	20:10
MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
KNE	231	Riyadh	20:50
FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
KAC	174	Munich	20:55
ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
KLM	417	Amsterdam	21:25
THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
KAC	676	Dubai	21:35
QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
NIA	151	Cairo	22:10
ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
JZR	189	Dubai	22:10
JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
AIC	981	Chennai/Ahmedabad	22:25
MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30
JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
JAI	574	Mumbai	23:05
MSC	403	Asyut	23:10
MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
JZR	513	Sharm el-Sheikh	23:30
FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
JAD	301	Amman	23:45

Departure Flights on Saturday 27/8/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:10
MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
KLM	411	Amsterdam	01:05
MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
SAI	442	Lahore	02:30
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:50
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
KKK	6505	Istanbul	02:55
KAC	177	Vienna	02:55
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
RJA	645	Amman	03:55
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
RBG	552	Alexandria	04:45
JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
AVV	654	Sohag	05:30
FEG	934	Sohag	06:00
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	240	Amman	06:55
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
QTR	8512	Doha	07:25
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
IRA	672	Ahwaz	08:15
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	173	Munich	08:35
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	619	Doha	09:30
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30

JZR	482	Istanbul	09:45
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
IRA	668	Mashhad	10:05
RJA	649	Amman	10:15
QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
SAW	704	Damascus	10:45
KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	153	Istanbul	11:00
SYR	342	Damascus	11:05
KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
AVV	652	Asyut	13:05
JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
FDK	802	Damascus	13:15
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:20
FEG	932	Alexandria	13:55
MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:45
KNE	382	Taif	14:55
KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
KAC	617	Doha	15:15
QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
SVA	505	Jeddah	16:00
BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	675	Dubai	17:00
FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
JZR	512	Sharm el-Sheikh	17:15
QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
JZR	188	Dubai	17:35
UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
FDB	8054	Dubai	18:40
KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
KAC	563	Amman	19:00
THY	1283	TZX	19:05
QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
JAV	622	Amman	19:45
GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
DLH	634	Doha	20:50
ABY	122	Sharjah	20:50
KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
MSR	619	Alexandria	21:30
QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
KLM	417	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
THY	1401	ADB	22:25
KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
JZR	238	Amman	23:05
JZR	554	Alexandria	23:05
ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30

WORDSEARCH PUZZLE

Summer

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| BARBECUE | FLOWERS | SANDALS |
| BASEBALL | GARDENING | SKATEBOARD |
| BEEES | GOLF | SPRINKLERS |
| BICYCLE | HOT | SUNSHINE |
| BLUE SKY | ICE CREAM | SUNTAN |
| CAMPING | INSECTS | SWIMMING |
| FISHING | MOSQUITOES | VACATION |
| FLIES | PICNIC | |

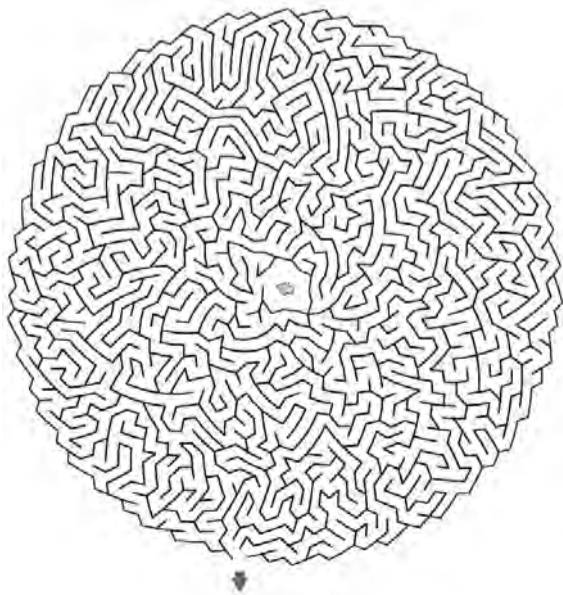
Yesterday's Solution

Winter 2

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

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| BLIZZARD | HAIL | SKIS |
| BOOTS | HOCKEY | SLED |
| CARNIVAL | ICE FISHING | SLIPPERY |
| CHRISTMAS | KNIT CAP | SNOW BLOWER |
| EGG NOG | OLYMPICS | SNOW SHOVEL |
| FIREWOOD | PARKA | SNOWFLAKE |
| FREEZE | SEASON | SOLSTICE |
| GLOVES | SKIING | |

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1355



ACROSS

- (computer science) The part of a computer (a microprocessor chip) that does most of the data processing.
- Regarded with deep or rapturous love (especially as if for a god).
- An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- A widely distributed system consisting of all the cells able to ingest bacteria or colloidal particles etc, except for certain white blood cells.
- The quality of constantly diligent and attentive.
- A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
- (Judaism) Sacred chest where the ancient Hebrews kept the two tablets containing the Ten Commandments.
- A quality of refined gracefulness and good taste.
- A metric unit of volume or capacity equal to 10 liters.
- A woman's loose unbelted dress.
- A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
- Fearless and daring.
- A streamlined enclosure for an aircraft engine.
- Being ten more than one hundred forty.
- Goddess of criminal rashness and its punishment.
- A trivalent metallic element of the rare earth group.
- A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
- The closing section of a musical composition.
- Having been read.
- The basic unit of money in China.
- An officer of a corporation or others who have access to private information about the corporation's operations.
- A city of central China.
- A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
- A card game in which cards face up on the table are taken with eligible cards in the hand.
- Not softened by the addition of padding.
- Howler monkeys.
- A populous province in northeastern China.
- Seeming unaffected by pleasure or pain.
- The Mongol people living the the central and eastern parts of Outer Mongolia.
- A machine or person that adds.
- A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- Forced to turn and face attackers.
- A family of Afroasiatic tonal languages (mostly two tones) spoken in the regions west and south of Lake Chad in north central Africa.
- A Hindu prince or king in India.
- A master's degree in business.
- Any of various dark heavy viscid substances obtained as a residue.
- Shrubby tree widely distributed along tropical shores.
- An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
- Narrow wood or metal or plastic runners used for gliding over snow.

- On or outside the dura mater.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- Crowd or pack to capacity.
- A republic in western South America.
- Capital of modern Macedonia.
- (medieval legends) The bride of King Mark of Cornwall who fell in love with the king's nephew (Tristan) after they mistakenly drank a love potion that left them eternally in love with each other.
- Be false to.
- A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
- The Bantu language of the Buganda people.
- Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
- A cephalosporin that can be given parenterally (trade name Zinacef) or orally by tablets (trade name Cefitin).
- Someone who etches.
- A usually soluble substance for staining or coloring e.g. fabrics or hair.
- A fence formed by a row of closely planted shrubs or bushes.
- The biblical name for ancient Syria.
- An open sore on the back of a horse caused by ill-fitting or badly adjusted saddle.
- Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand.
- Having a smooth, gleaming surface.
- Of or relating to the spleen.
- A condensed but memorable saying embodying some important fact of experience that is taken as true by many people.
- Submerged aquatic plant having narrow leaves and small flowers.
- A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
- Of or relating to either of the two major arteries supplying blood to the head and neck.
- A Loloish language.
- No longer in use.
- (of tempo) Slow adv.
- From the kapok tree.
- Thunderous verbal attack.
- Antibacterial drug (trade name Nydradid) used to treat tuberculosis.
- Either of two phenols derived from naphthalene.
- Dearly loved.
- State of uncertainty or perplexity especially as requiring a choice between equally unfavorable options.
- Very small free-living arachnid that is parasitic on animals or plants.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
- East Indian tree bearing a profusion of intense vermilion velvet-textured blooms and yielding a yellow dye.
- An Iranian language spoken in Afghanistan.
- Used as a Hindi courtesy title.
- Slightly open.
- A tight-fitting headdress.
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Being one more than fifty.

Yesterday's Solution

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

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

ALONSO TO JOIN HAMILTON AT BACK OF GRID FOR BELGIAN GP

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Fernando Alonso will start the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix near the back of the grid after the Spaniard's McLaren team replaced his power-unit with a fresh one following yesterday's opening practice session. The double world champion and his team mate Jenson Button switched to the fifth of their permitted five power units heading into the weekend with engine-supplier Honda introducing an updated version.

But Alonso's sprung a water leak during yesterday morning's 90-minute practice session, limiting him to just three laps with no time on the board.

The new power unit, which will cost Alonso 35 places on the grid, is of the same updated specification Honda has introduced this weekend.

Marcus Ericsson will also drop 10 places on Sunday's grid, after his Sauber team fitted a sixth turbocharger to his Ferrari-powered car.

World championship leader Lewis Hamilton is also set for a hefty grid drop for exceeding his permitted allocation of engine components.

The Briton is already set for a 30-place grid drop, with Mercedes fitting his car with two new power units ahead of each of Friday's practice sessions.

The possibility of Hamilton taking on a third new power unit ahead of Saturday's final practice session to push him even further down remains open, a team spokesman said.

The Formula One grid comprises 22 cars. Grid penalties cannot be carried over to the next event which means Hamilton, Alonso and even Ericsson are likely to start together at the back.

But just where they line up relative to each other will depend on when they were hit with their respective penalties, the number of places they have to drop and where they qualify. — Reuters



SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Scuderia Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel drives during the second practice session at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Spa yesterday ahead of the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix. — AFP

VERSTAPPEN ON TOP IN RED BULL ONE-TWO

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Dutch teenager Max Verstappen delighted his army of fans in the forests of the Ardennes yesterday afternoon when he topped the times in second free practice for this weekend's Belgian Grand Prix. The 18-year-old Red Bull driver, who was born 50 kilometres away from the sprawling and majestic Spa-Francorchamps circuit at Hasselt in Belgium, clocked a best lap of one minute and 48.085 seconds.

That allowed him to outpace Australian teammate Daniel Ricciardo by two-tenths as the Renault-powered outfit delivered a strong one-two showing. It was the third time in Verstappen's brief Formula One career that he had topped the session times and did so in front of thousands of supporters camping under the trees in the unexpected heat-wave conditions. "Compared to our rivals, we showed great pace today," said Verstappen. "I am very happy to finish P1, but of course it's only practice. It's not qualifying or the race." He dismissed suggestions that he could realise a dream by taking pole at his 'home' circuit. "I never dream," he said. "I just want to work and then we'll see where we end up."

With Hamilton due to start from the back of the grid after taking two successive new power units, Verstappen may have a chance to claim a memorable win. Hamilton had accumulated a minimum 30-place grid penalty by the end of the day and it is expected to increase on Saturday if he takes another new power unit in final practice. "I am cool about it and for sure, it is going to be an interesting race on Sunday," said a smiling Hamilton.

German Nico Huelkenberg was third-fastest for Force India ahead of his compatriot Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari, Mexican Sergio Perez in the second Force India and championship contender Nico Rosberg of Mercedes. "I'm not entirely happy, as you can see," said Vettel. "I'm struggling a

bit with the balance of the car. It didn't feel great out there, but that's up to us, myself and the team to work on that and improve the car."

Rosberg had been fastest in a Mercedes one-two ahead of championship leader and defending champion Hamilton in the morning session, but both men concentrated on preparation for the race with long runs on medium tyres. Finn Kimi Raikkonen, newly married during the month-long European summer break, was seventh in the second Ferrari ahead of Frenchman Romain Grosjean of Haas, Briton Jenson Button of McLaren and Mexican Esteban Gutierrez in the second Haas.

Hamilton, clearly focused on his race rather than qualifying, was 13th, one place behind Alonso, who was 12th for McLaren having missed out on the morning session due to a water leak.

The team was forced to change his power unit and install a new one, which led to him taking a grid penalty.

Both Rosberg, who trails Hamilton by 19 points in the title race with nine races remaining, and Hamilton were given new Mercedes power-units for the opening free session, a move that the team confirmed will bring Hamilton at least a 15-place penalty on the grid.

After taking a second power unit for the second session, Hamilton is expected to have another installed for third practice on Saturday morning, actions that may lead to him taking an overall record grid penalty of 75 places. A series of engine failures early in the year meant Hamilton quickly reached the limit of new parts he is allowed for the season while Rosberg, who won the opening four races without problems, is within the limits.

Mercedes policy is aimed to be as fair as possible to both drivers and to give Hamilton sufficient new parts to last for the rest of the season with all of his penalties served at one race. — AFP



SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Red Bull Racing's Belgian-Dutch driver Max Verstappen sits in his car in the pits during the second practice session at the Spa-Francorchamps circuit in Spa yesterday ahead of the Belgian Formula One Grand Prix. — AFP

ROSBERG HAS TO BLANK OUT BAD MEMORIES

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Nico Rosberg would have spent much of the summer break agonizing over how a 43-point lead over Lewis Hamilton in the Formula One championship had turned into a deficit of 19.

The German would also have devoted his energy toward planning a reversal of fortune in the title fight and how to stop his Mercedes' teammate's ominous momentum, beginning with this weekend's Belgian Grand Prix. Chasing his first F1 title, Rosberg has appeared to wilt under pressure over the past few races, handing the initiative back to Hamilton as the British driver chases a third straight drivers' championship and fourth overall.

Having failed to win any of the first five races, when he was hampered by mechanical woes and engine troubles, Hamilton has roared back to win six of the past seven, with an increasingly exasperated Rosberg unable to stop him and to contain his own frustration.

Victory on Sunday would be a 50th career win for Hamilton. More importantly, perhaps, it would deal another blow to Rosberg's fragile confidence.

A third straight year as runner-up to Hamilton - his rival since they were racing karts as teenagers - would be unbearable for Rosberg having won the opening four races of the season.

"I know I'll have the best car out there and I'm massively pumped to be back on track," a defiant Rosberg said. "It's like a clean slate at this stage."

The German driver insists that "what's happened so far this season is in the past," but it

is clear that Rosberg will need a more steely approach over the nine remaining races and must not take Hamilton's resurgence so personally.

For his part, Hamilton did well to contain what must have been huge frustration early on, and is not shy in reminding Rosberg that he has slashed his lead away. "The first half of the season was a bit of a roller-coaster, so it's great to be in the position I'm in," said Hamilton, who has won twice at Spa. "The way myself and the team have performed gives me huge confidence."

Last year, Hamilton won here from pole - five years after his other win - with Rosberg finishing second after recovering from a poor start. Stretching through the Ardennes forest, the Spa circuit is the longest of the year at just over 7 kilometers (4.3 miles), and features famed F1 corners such as Eau Rouge and Blanchimont, an incredibly steep hill and moody weather conditions that can leave one part of the track damp and another part dry.

These ingredients make it arguably F1's most pure test of drivers' pure skill, and is regularly cited alongside Japan's Suzuka as the race they enjoy most. Unlike another iconic track in Monaco, which is twisty, sinewy, notoriously slow and tough to overtake on, Spa is incredibly fast with more than 70 percent of the race at full throttle and average speeds around 230 kilometers per hour (143 miles per hour). "Spa is a great track, one that every driver enjoys," said Hamilton, who has extra incentive to win there again. "It's been such a proud few weeks for British sport, with the Olympics ... I'll do my best to keep the flag flying." — AP

RYDER CUP COMES INTO VIEW AT FEDEX CUP

FARMINGDALE: The FedEx Cup is all about the \$10 million bonus at the end of the four playoff events. For a dozen or so Americans, the only cup that matters now is one that doesn't pay a dime.

The Ryder Cup couldn't be ignored Thursday. Patrick Reed shared the lead after the opening round at the Barclays. Rickie Fowler, J.B. Holmes and Kevin Chappell were among those one shot behind. All four of them are very much in the mix to make the U.S. team, with qualifying for the top eight spots ending after this week.

"Of course it's on my mind," Reed said after his 5-under 66 gave him a share of the lead with Martin Laird. It's easy to forget about the FedEx Cup and its big bonus because there are still 15 rounds left to reach that point. The opening day at Bethpage Black, one of the toughest on the PGA Tour schedule, was just trying to beat the wind and stay in the game.

LEADERS: Reed had a good laugh at his own expense on Tuesday when he was asked to bang the gavel for the ceremonial bell closing at the New York Stock Exchange. Dressed in a blue suit with an

American tie, he banged once, twice ... and on the third try, he broke the gavel.

The only thing he broke Thursday was par. Reed opened with 10 pars, a strong feat considering he started on the tougher back nine, and then ran off three birdies and an eagle for a 66.

Martin Laird also had a clean card, with four birdies on the front nine and a shot out of the rough to the elevated green on the 16th to 6 feet for his fifth birdie. He's not worried about the Ryder Cup. He is No. 89 in the FedEx Cup, so the first order of business was to be among the top 100 to advance to next week.

RYDER RAMIFICATIONS: Fowler looked like a shoo-in to be on the Ryder Cup team when he started the year in great form. But missing the cut in two majors and not doing much in the other two haven't helped. He is No. 12 and would need at least a two-way tie for fourth this week to have any chance.

Opening with a 67 was a good start. "That's the No. 1 priority coming into the year," Fowler said. "I'd say that's always one of the main goals coming into a

Ryder Cup year. Even in the off year, you're thinking about it. That was the whole reason playing last week, trying to get more points. It would be nice to have a chance to make that team without having to get picked."

J.B. Holmes was at No. 8 until Reed passed him last week. Holmes moved into position with his third-place finish at the British Open, but he has been pressing since then and has missed his last three cuts. The big hitter spent two hours with the shortest club in the bag - his putter - earlier this week, and it paid off.

As for Chappell? Depending on however else does, he probably has to win to make the team.

BETHPAGE: The Black is a big ball park, the start of a playoff series that favors the big hitters - the TPC Boston next week, Crooked Stick in Indiana after that, and then East Lake. That also was the rotation in 2012, and it would have seemed to put the medium hitters at a disadvantage.

Or maybe not. Brandt Snedeker won the FedEx Cup in 2012. — Reuters

REED, LAIRD SHARE LEAD AT BARCLAYS

FARMINGDALE: Patrick Reed didn't break anything except par. Two days after Reed broke the gavel during the ceremonial closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange, the American kept a clean card and shot 5-under 66 to share the lead with Martin Laird at The Barclays.

Reed was dressed in a blue blazer with an American tie when he was asked to bang the gavel three times at the stock exchange closing on Tuesday. On the third hit, the top of the gavel flew off into the crowd, and Reed later made a joke at his own expense on Twitter.

"They told me to give it 3 good hits, so I did!" he tweeted. He was much better with a golf club in hand at Bethpage Black, running off three birdies and an eagle on the front nine to close out his 66.

The start of the FedEx Cup playoffs, with a \$10 million bonus waiting at the end, was more about a cup that doesn't pay a dime. A dozen or so Americans are still in the mix to make the Ryder Cup team. Qualifying ends after this week for the top eight, and then Davis Love III has four captain's picks over the next month.

Reed is winless this year and holding down the No. 8 position in the Ryder Cup standings. "Of course it's on my mind," Reed said. "But really at the end of the

day, it's just trying to get better and play this tournament. Because if I play well, that means those other guys are going to have to play even better to try to catch me."

Reed and Laird, who also played bogey-free, were one shot ahead of three other Ryder Cup hopefuls - Rickie Fowler, Kevin Chappell and J.B. Holmes, whose 67 was the best score among those who played in stronger wind in the afternoon. Defending champion Jason Day, the No. 1 seed in the playoffs, was among those at 68. Of the 18 players who broke 70, five played late. Chappell likely would have to win The Barclays to make the team, while Fowler needs at least a two-way tie for fourth to have a mathematical chance. Fowler went from Rio de Janeiro for the Olympics to North Carolina for the Wyndham Championship to help his cause, but only tied for 22nd.

"That's the No. 1 priority coming into the year," Fowler said. "I'd say that's always one of the main goals coming into a Ryder Cup year. Even in the off year, you're thinking about it. That was the whole reason playing last week, trying to get more points. It would be nice to have a chance to make that team without having to get picked."—AP



FARMINGDALE: Jordan Spieth of the United States plays his second shot on the par 3, 17th hole during the second round of The Barclays in the PGA Tour FedEx Cup Play-Offs on the Black Course at Bethpage State Park yesterday in Farmingdale, New York. — AFP



JOHANNESBURG: South African chief state prosecutor Gerrie Nel (L) speaks to the judge during an appeal hearing at the high court in Johannesburg, yesterday as the State challenges a ruling against convicted murderer Paralympian Oscar Pistorius who received six years for the murder of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp. — AFP

COURT REJECTS APPEAL OVER 'LENIENT' PISTORIUS SENTENCE

JOHANNESBURG: A South African judge yesterday rejected an appeal by state prosecutors against Oscar Pistorius's "shockingly lenient" six-year jail sentence for murdering his girlfriend. Thokozile Masipa—the same judge who imposed the punishment on the Paralympic athlete last month—said she was not persuaded there was a "reasonable prospect of success on appeal". "The application for leave to appeal against the sentence is dismissed with costs," she said in the High Court in Johannesburg. Prosecutors had been pushing for a tougher sentence against the fallen 29-year-old double-amputee sprint star over the murder of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp in 2013.

They now have the option of directly petitioning the Supreme Court of Appeal to ask it to extend the term—which is less than half the minimum 15-year sentence for murder in South Africa. Masipa presided over Pistorius's lengthy trial in the glare of the world's media, and South African law empowers the trial judge to grant or reject applications to appeal their own judgements. "The sentence of six years is shockingly lenient and disturbingly inappropriate," prosecutor Gerrie Nel argued in court. Pistorius shot Steenkamp, a model and law graduate, in the early hours of Valentine's Day in 2013, saying he mistook her for a burglar when he fired four times through the door of his bedroom toilet.

At his sentencing in July, Masipa listed mitigating factors, including the athlete's claim he believed he was shooting an intruder. The prosecution yesterday again questioned

Pistorius's failure to testify during the sentencing hearings, saying it raised the question of whether he had shown remorse. Nel also said the punishment had "resulted in an injustice and had the potential to bring the administration of justice into disrepute". He described it as flawed and that "another court may find that this court misdirected itself".

Pistorius is serving his sentence at Kgosi Mampuru II prison in the capital Pretoria.

'ENOUGH IS ENOUGH'

Masipa had also originally convicted Pistorius of the lesser charge of culpable homicide, the equivalent of manslaughter, in 2014. But an appeals court upgraded his conviction to murder in December last year.

Pistorius's defence said it was an "insult" to suggest that the court's sentencing had been flawed and that it was time the case came to a close. "Enough is enough. What does the state want?" defence lawyer Barry Roux said. "This case has been exhausted beyond a point of any conceivable exhaustion," he added, accusing the prosecution of sending Pistorius "like a ping pong ball between courts."

However, the prosecution still has recourse to a higher court. "Any party who has to apply to the trial judge for permission to appeal and is unsuccessful, the option is open for them to petition the Supreme Court of Appeal," said Stephan Terblanche, a law professor at the University of South Africa.—AFP

PROTEAS, BLACK CAPS SHOOTOUT FOR TEST HONOURS

CENTURION: South Africa and New Zealand go into a one-match shootout for series honours when they meet in the second and final Test starting at SuperSport Park in Centurion today.

The Proteas can nudge up one place to sixth in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test rankings if they win, while the Black Caps will remain fifth irrespective of the result.

But the reputation of Test cricket is at much at stake as rankings points after a farcical first Test in Durban where less than 100 overs of cricket were played before a wet, soft outfield prevented any play on the last three days. There was even less cricket in a Test match between the West Indies and India in Port of Spain, also because of outfield conditions.

It is the first time Test cricket has been played in

South Africa in August, almost two months before the usual start of the season. Preparing grounds for winter conditions has been a challenge - which Durban failed to meet after re-seeding the outfield only two months before the match. Following reports from the match referees, the outfields in Durban and Port of Spain were condemned as "poor" by the ICC.

Centurion groundsman Rudolph du Preez had the advantage of planting winter grass much earlier than Durban, with work starting in April, almost immediately after the 2015-16 season. He said it was necessary to plant winter grass because fielders struggled on dry, dormant summer grass when the same two countries met in a one-day international in August last year. "The players are used to sliding in to stop the ball, which on dormant turf you can-

not do. That was the major consideration when switching to winter turf."

With virtually no rain falling on the South African Highveld during winter and no rain predicted during the Test - Du Preez is confident that conditions will be suitable for Test cricket. He said more time had been necessary to prepare the pitch because cool conditions meant it took longer to dry out after watering. Du Preez said he did not expect uneven bounce to be as much of a factor as it has been in the later stages of matches in recent seasons.

"It might not deteriorate as we are used to. It might be a little bit slower, it might be holding back a bit more," he said. Centurion has been a fortress for South Africa in Test cricket, with the home side having won 16 of the 21 Tests at the ground. —AFP

WOOD GLAD TO BE BACK FIRING FOR ENGLAND

SOUTHAMPTON: Mark Wood was delighted to give England a taste of what they had been missing for nearly a year after topping the 92mph mark on his return to international duty. Durham fast bowler Wood was back in England action during Wednesday's 44-run rain-marred win in the first one-day international against Pakistan at Southampton.

Persistent ankle problems meant this was the 26-year-old Wood's first England appearance since a Test against Pakistan in Dubai in October last year. His figures of one for 57 in 10 overs were good, if not outstanding, but of potentially greater long-term significance was the sight of Wood beating Pakistan batsmen with sheer pace.

Significantly, his lone wicket Wednesday came courtesy of a top-edged pull by Sharjeel Khan through to England wicket-keeper Jos Buttler. Wood, if he can stay fit, has the ability to provide England with an out-and-out express fast bowler that they have lacked in his absence. But while others get excited by the speed Wood generates, for the bowler himself it's just all part of the job.

"The analyst gets quite worked up when I come in and he says 'you're bowling at 92', he always lets me know," Wood said. "But when I'm bowling I'm not thinking about how quick I'm trying to bowl, I'm just thinking about either a plan or trying to knock someone's head off or something."

"It's not that specific about trying to bowl as fast as I can, I just give it everything I've got and if it's that fast that's brilliant."

'DESPERATE TO PLAY'

Wood, however, believes he can be quicker still. "When you get that rhythm and match fitness back. I've been rushed back through to get some game time having missed the first half of the summer," he said.

"And I've been desperate to play so I've not really had that time where I've been getting used to bowling and bowling again. "I've only played two Championship games, and in one of those I only bowled 14 overs. So if I get that match fitness back up hopefully I can bowl even quicker." —AFP



LONDON: England's Jason Roy jumps to control the ball during a friendly warm-up soccer match with Ben Stokes, left, during a nets session at Lord's, London, yesterday. —AP



DAMBULLA: Sri Lankan cricketer Tillakaratne Dilshan plays a shot during a practice session at The Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket stadium in Dambulla yesterday. Australia and Sri Lanka will play their third one-day international match tomorrow in Dambulla. —AFP

RANATUNGA BEMOANS SRI LANKA RELIANCE ON SPIN

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's heavy reliance on its spin bowlers threatens to undermine their chances at the next cricket World Cup on the faster pitches of England, according to former skipper Arjuna Ranatunga. Ranatunga, who led Sri Lanka to their first and so far only World Cup triumph in 1996, told reporters he had been heartened by Sri Lanka's recent whitewashing of Australia in a home Test series and their strong showing at the start of the subsequent ODIs.

But the recent success has been largely due to the performances of spinners such as the veteran Rangana Herath and the left-armer Amila Aponso, who took 4-18 as Sri Lanka won the second ODI on Wednesday. Ranatunga, himself a medium-pace bowler as well as a powerful middle order batsman, said such a formula for

success would not work beyond the Indian sub-continent where pitches are much less conducive to spin. "We need to build our all rounders and fast bowlers. Spin alone is not enough to play in conditions like in England. If we are preparing for the next World Cup in England, spin alone won't do," he told Sri Lanka's Foreign Correspondents Association in Colombo late Thursday. "I am not putting down their achievement (in beating Australia), but they need to go out (of the sub continent) and prove themselves. At the moment we are depending entirely on spinners."

Sri Lanka's reputation as one-day specialists, which was first earned during Ranatunga's era, has grown over the years after they reached two of the last three World Cup finals.

But the next tournament in 2019

will be a major challenge for a team who failed to win any of their nine internationals in all formats on a recent tour of England.

The dearth of speedsters has already been acknowledged as a problem by Sri Lanka's board, which recently tasked its most successful pace bowler Chaminda Vaas with identifying fast bowling talent across the island. Ranatunga, who is now a government minister, had warm praise for the current skipper Angelo Mathews.

"Even if you fail once or twice, you need to be able to pick yourself up and remain focused," Ranatunga said in reference to the England tour.

"I have a lot of faith in Mathews. I think he will end up being the best captain Sri Lanka ever produced. He has huge potential. He is able to keep the players together as a team. —AFP

MOORE LOSES NO-HITTER WITH TWO OUTS IN 9TH, GIANTS TOP DODGERS

LOS ANGELES: San Francisco lefty Matt Moore lost his no-hit bid with two outs in the ninth inning on a soft, clean single by Corey Seager, and the Giants beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-0 in Major League Baseball on Thursday night. Moore's try ended on his 133rd and final pitch - he missed most of the last two seasons after Tommy John surgery. He was immediately pulled after Seager's hit plopped onto the grass in shallow right field. Giants center fielder Denard Span sprinted for two outstanding catches, including a leadoff grab in the ninth, to give Moore a chance. Moore earned his first win for the Giants since they got him in a trade with Tampa Bay on Aug. 1. Moore nearly gave San Francisco a major league record five straight years with a no-hitter. And he almost became the first Giants pitcher to no-hit the archrival Dodgers since 1915, when New York's Rube Marquard stopped Brooklyn.

NATIONALS 4, ORIOLES 0

Max Scherzer allowed two hits over eight innings and Bryce Harper had a two-run double as Washington avoided a four-game home-and-home sweep with a victory over Baltimore. Scherzer (14-7) struck out 10 and did not walk a batter. He retired 12 straight after Adam Jones' fourth-inning double and 21 of 22 before Mark Trumbo's leadoff single in the eighth. Jayson Werth's solo home run staked Washington to a 1-0 lead. Daniel Murphy's RBI double in the eighth came before Harper's second hit helped the Nationals pull away. The Nationals had lost four straight including three in a row to the Orioles, who won twice in Baltimore before the teams shifted to Washington. Ubaldo Jimenez (5-11) allowed one run and five hits over six innings. Trumbo stole second base with two outs in the eighth, but J.J. Hardy flied out to deep center field on Scherzer's 95th and final pitch. Mark Melancon allowed one hit in the ninth.

METS 10, CARDINALS 6

St. Louis pitcher Adam Wainwright lost his glove trying to tag out Yoenis Cespedes and lost the game, too, when Alejandro De Aza homered and drove in five runs for New York. Seth Lugo (1-2) pitched five scoreless innings for his first big league win. The Mets took two of three to win their first series at Busch Stadium since 2008. Brandon Moss hit two home runs for the Cardinals and Jedd Gyorko and Stephen Piscotty also connected. The Mets led 3-0 in the fifth when Wainwright (9-8) and Cespedes were involved in a bizarre play. Cespedes tried to go from first to third on a bloop single by James Loney. When several Cardinals chased the ball, Wainwright covered third base. Cespedes slid and his cleat pinned Wainwright's glove to the bag - he would've been out, but when Wainwright pulled away his hand, the mitt stayed stuck under Cespedes' foot. Because Wainwright didn't control the ball, Cespedes was called safe in a ruling upheld by replay. Moments later, De Aza hit a three-run homer to make it 7-0.

BRAVES 3, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Matt Wisler, called up from the minor leagues in time to start for Atlanta, didn't allow Arizona a hit for six innings. The 23-year-old Wisler (5-11) allowed a run and two hits with four strikeouts and three walks in eight innings. Jim Johnson pitched the ninth inning for his 12th save. Paul Goldschmidt broke up Wisler's no-hit bid with a leadoff single in the seventh. Goldschmidt scored on Chris Owings' ground-out. Robbie Ray (7-12) was the loser.

ANGELS 6, BLUE JAYS 3

Albert Pujols reached the 100-RBI mark for the 13th time, the fifth player in history to achieve the feat, Mike Trout had three hits and drove in four runs, and Los Angeles beat Toronto. Jered Weaver pitched 5 2/3 innings to snap a three-start losing streak and



LOS ANGELES: San Francisco Giants' Joe Panik, left, and Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Ross Stripling watch Panik's home run during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Thursday in Los Angeles. —AP

help the Angels win consecutive games for the first time since Aug. 2-3. The Angels also prevented J.A. Happ from becoming the first 18-game winner in the majors. After winning 11 straight decisions, Happ (17-4) suffered his first loss since June 10 at Detroit. He allowed four runs and six hits in five innings. One day after his 584th home run moved him past Mark McGwire into sole possession of 10th place on the career list, Pujols joined Jimmie Foxx, Lou Gehrig, Alex Rodriguez and Babe Ruth as the only players with 100 or more RBIs in 13 seasons.

RANGERS 9, INDIANS 0

Cole Hamels allowed only two singles over eight innings for his 14th victory, Carlos Gomez hit a three-run homer in his first at-bat with Texas and the AL-best Rangers beat Cleveland in the opener of a four-game series matching division leaders. Hamels (14-4) retired 19 straight batters after Francisco Lindor's two-out single to left in the first. The only other baserunner for the Indians was Carlos Santana after a leadoff hit in the eighth, though he was stranded at second after advancing on a passed ball. Adrian Beltre and Rougned Odor also homered for the Rangers (75-53). Josh Tomlin (11-8) lost his fifth consecutive start in August.

ROYALS 5, MARLINS 2

Alcides Escobar homered and drove in two runs to lead surging Kansas City past Miami. Salvador Perez and Kendrys Morales also drove in runs. The defending champion Royals have won 15 of 18 to pull within four games of the second AL wild card spot. Edison Volquez (10-10) pitched five innings and allowed two runs, both unearned, and three hits. The Royals' bullpen, which has been a successful formula for the reigning two-time AL pennant winners,

pitched four scoreless innings to push its franchise-record scoreless streak to 38 2/3 innings - the best in the majors since 2002-03 when San Francisco tossed 39 1/3 straight. Kelvin Herrera pitched the ninth for his ninth save in 11 chances. Tom Koehler (9-9) was the loser.

PIRATES 3, BREWERS 2, 10 INNINGS

Andrew McCutchen hit a home run and a pair of RBI singles, including the tiebreaker in the 10th inning, and Pittsburgh beat Milwaukee to stop a nine-game skid at Miller Park. McCutchen has 44 RBIs in 56 career games at Miller Park, his highest total at any opposing park. McCutchen homered into the second tier of seats in left field off Wily Peralta in the first for his 18th home run of the season. He then hit an RBI single that beat the shift in the third. Pinch-hitter John Jaso blooped a single off Carlos Torres (2-3), advanced on a sacrifice, took third on a ground out and scored on McCutchen's liner through the right side of the infield. Antonio Bastardo (2-0) picked up the win in relief, and Tony Watson pitched a scoreless 10th for his eighth save.

RAYS 2, RED SOX 1

Enny Romero earned his first major league save, relieving with two outs in the ninth inning and fanning Boston slugger David Ortiz to give Tampa Bay a four-game split. After Tyler Sturdevant struck out Hanley Ramirez and Jackie Bradley Jr. to begin the ninth, Romero was summoned. Romero sent Ortiz to the ground with a high-and-tight 1-2 fastball, then got him to look at strike three. A day earlier, the 40-year-old Ortiz reached 30 home runs and 100 RBIs. Ortiz was rested for the final day of an 11-game road trip that saw Boston go 7-4. The Red Sox, who began the day tied with Toronto for the AL East lead, lost

the final two games of the series. Mikie Mahtook ended a stretch of 34 hitless at-bats with a go-ahead double in the seventh off Drew Pomeranz (10-10). Jake Odorizzi (9-5) improved to 6-0 in eight starts since the All-Star break. He gave up one run and five hits in seven innings.

WHITE SOX 7, MARINERS 6

Todd Frazier tied it with an RBI single in the seventh inning and lifted Chicago past Seattle with a line drive down the left-field line in the ninth. Adam Eaton led off the ninth with a bloop single off Nick Vincent (3-4) and went to second on Tim Anderson's sacrifice. Jose Abreu was walked intentionally before Frazier's liner over third scored Eaton, leading to a pileup of players behind the pitcher's mound. David Robertson (4-2) worked around a walk and two incidents of fans running on the field in the ninth that delayed play for several minutes. Robinson Cano hit his 29th home run and the Mariners wasted a solid return off the disabled list by James Paxton in their third straight loss.

TIGERS 8, TWINS 5

James McCann had a three-run homer and finished with four hits, Daniel Norris pitched into the seventh inning and Detroit completed a sweep for Minnesota's seventh straight loss. The Tigers are 10-2 against the Twins this year. They have won eight in a row at Target Field. Norris (2-2) struck out five in 6 1/3 innings, allowing six hits without a walk in his longest and strongest start this season. He took a shutout in the sixth, surrendering RBI singles by Robbie Grossman and Eduardo Escobar over his last two innings. Francisco Rodriguez struck out two in a perfect ninth for his 35th save. Jose Berrios (2-4) was the loser. —AP

PITTSBURGH RB CONNOR TOPS LIST OF NOTABLE PLAYER COMEBACKS

NEW YORK: The most stirring comeback of the college football season already has taken place. Less than a year after his cancer diagnosis, Pittsburgh running back and 2014 Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year James Conner rejoined his teammates for training camp.

Conner's remarkable story is one of several examples of high-profile college football players returning to action after missing much of the 2015 season. Here's a look of some notable players returning from injury this season:

GEORGIA RUNNING BACK NICK CHUBB

After rushing for 1,547 yards as a freshman in 2014, Chubb was on a similar pace last season until he tore the posterior cruciate ligament as well as two other ligaments in his left knee Oct. 10 at Tennessee. Chubb rushed for 747 yards and averaged 8.1 yards per carry but played in just six of the Bulldogs' 13 games. Chubb is working out with his teammates again and is hopeful he will be ready for the Sept. 3 opener with North Carolina. His return would boost a Georgia rushing attack that is missing Sony Michel, who ran for 1,161 yards last year but has a broken forearm that leaves his status for the start of the season uncertain.

PITTSBURGH RUNNING BACK JAMES CONNER

The 2014 ACC player of the year tore his right medial collateral ligament in the 2015 opener, knocking him out for the remainder of the season. Two months later, he was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma. Conner was declared cancer free in May and joined his teammates for the start of training camp. Conner rushed for 1,765 yards and scored 26 touchdowns for Pittsburgh in 2014. Conner joins a backfield that also includes Qadree Ollison, who rushed for 1,121 yards last season and was named the ACC offensive freshman of the year.

BYU QUARTERBACK TAYSON HILL

Injuries have wrecked Hill's last two seasons after he threw for 2,938 yards and ran for 1,344 yards in 2013. He played just four games in 2014 before a leg fracture and ligament tear knocked him out for the remainder of the season. Hill returned last year and suffered a season-ending foot injury in the Cougars' opener. Hill is back and has been named the starting quarterback after winning a preseason competition with Tanner Mangum, who set BYU freshman records for passing yards (3,377) and touchdown passes (23) last year.

BAYLOR QUARTERBACK SETH RUSSELL

Although he played in just seven games last season, Russell still threw for 2,104 yards and 29 touchdowns. Russell was gaining Heisman Trophy attention and had Baylor undefeated and in playoff position before he suffered a season-ending neck injury. He set a single-season school record by averaging 10.06 yards in total offense per play. Russell has been cleared to return and will try to lead a team reeling from off-field issues and adapting to interim coach Jim Grobe.

CLEMSON WIDE RECEIVER MIKE WILLIAMS

After catching 57 passes for 1,030 yards and six touchdowns in 2014, Williams played in just one game last year. Williams' season ended when he fractured his neck colliding with the goal-post padding as he made a 4-yard touchdown catch on Clemson's opening drive of the year. Williams now is back and should emerge as one of Heisman Trophy candidate Deshaun Watson's favorite targets this year for the second-ranked Tigers.

NOTRE DAME QUARTERBACK MALIK ZAIRE

Zaire played brilliantly in a season-opening 38-3 rout of Texas last year but broke his ankle a week later against Virginia and missed the remainder of the season. DeShone Kizer replaced Zaire and threw for 2,884 yards with 21 touchdown passes and 10 touchdown runs. With Zaire healthy again and Kizer back as well, No. 10 Notre Dame has an uncertain quarterback situation as it heads into the season. Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly has said both Kizer and Zaire will play in the Sept. 4 season opener at Texas, though a starter hasn't been announced. Zaire isn't the only guy in the Notre Dame backfield returning from injury. Running back Tarean Folston also returns after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee during last year's season opener. — AP

US SWIMMER LOCHTE'S LEGAL TROUBLES MOUNT IN BRAZIL

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazilian police charged American swimmer Ryan Lochte on Thursday with filing a false robbery report over an incident during the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

A police statement said Lochte would be informed in the United States so he could decide whether to introduce a defense in Brazil. The indictment will also be sent to the International Olympic Committee's ethics commission, it said.

"The investigation was concluded on Thursday and Olympic American swimmer Ryan Lochte was indicted for the crime of falsely reporting a crime," the statement said. It said the case was turned over to a special Brazilian court that has jurisdiction over crimes related to major sporting events. The court, which was established before Brazil hosted soccer's 2014 World Cup, is authorized to receive cases straight from the police when lesser charges are involved, without a need for prosecutors. The swimmer's spokeswoman, Melissa Nathan, said Lochte had no comment. During the games, Lochte initially said that he and fellow swimmers Jack Conger, Gunnar Bentz and Jimmy Feigen were robbed at gunpoint in a taxi by men with a police badge as they returned to the Olympic Village from a party Aug. 15.

Video surveillance emerged showing the athletes getting into a confrontation with security guards at the gas station when their taxi pulled over to let them use the restroom. While there have been conflicting versions over whether the guards pulled their weapons on the swimmers, Lochte has since acknowledged he was highly intoxicated and that his behavior led to the confrontation. Lochte left Brazil shortly after the incident. Three days later, local authorities took Conger and Bentz off an airliner heading to the United States so they could be questioned about the robbery claim. They were later allowed to leave Brazil, as was Feigen, after he also gave testimony. Feigen, who initially stood by Lochte's testimony, was not charged.

Under Brazilian law, the penalty for falsely filing a crime report carries a maximum penalty of 18 months in prison. Lochte could be tried in absentia if he didn't return to face the charge. The United States and Brazil have an extradition treaty dating back to the 1960s, but Brazil has a long history of not extraditing its own citizens to other nations and U.S. authorities could take the same stance if Lochte is found guilty.



RIO DE JANEIRO: This file photo taken on August 03, 2016 shows US swimmer Ryan Lochte holding a press conference in Rio de Janeiro, two days ahead of the opening ceremony of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. US swimming star Ryan Lochte has been charged with making a false statement about being robbed at gunpoint during the Olympics, Brazilian police said yesterday. — AFP

That is currently the case of the head of Brazil's football confederation, Marco Polo del Nero, who faces charges in the wide-ranging scandal entangling international soccer's ruling body, FIFA. He has not travelled outside Brazil for more than a year to avoid being arrested by U.S. authorities somewhere else. The charges in Brazil raise questions about the future for Lochte, who is planning to take time off from swimming but wants to return to compete in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. He has 12 Olympic medals, second only to Michael Phelps among U.S. male Olympians.

Lochte lost four major sponsors early this week over the controversy, including Speedo USA and Ralph Lauren. But on Thursday he picked up a new sponsor - Pine Bros. Softish Throat Drops. Pine Bros. said people should be more understanding of the swimmer and said he will appear in ads that say the company's product is "Forgiving On Your Throat." — AP

CROSBY LEADS CANADA IN WORLD CUP OF HOCKEY

VANCOUVER: The process of selecting Sidney Crosby as Canada's captain for the World Cup of Hockey was a simple one. "It was: 'This is what we're going to do. Any questions? Next,'" general manager Doug Armstrong recalled.

Crosby wearing the "C" for Canada was a no-doubter given his track record of scoring the winning goal on home ice at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, serving as captain for the undefeated, gold medal-winning team at the 2014 Sochi Games and leading the Pittsburgh Penguins to two Stanley Cups.

Chicago Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews and Montreal Canadiens defenseman Shea Weber will be the alternates. That was

the leadership group in Sochi under coach Mike Babcock, and as much as everyone knows the upcoming World Cup is a different tournament, Hockey Canada doesn't want to fix what's already golden. That includes Crosby, who Armstrong said was the unanimous choice to be captain.

"If we had gone the other direction we would've been trying to out-think ourselves, and that wasn't necessary," Armstrong said in a phone interview Thursday. "It was going to be Sid. What he's done obviously - the 'Golden Goal' and then the big gold in Sochi, the Stanley Cup - he's the face of hockey and he's a great captain. We're not looking to reinvent the wheel here on that front."

Crosby scored the most important Canadian goal in a generation when he beat U.S. goaltender Ryan Miller in overtime to win gold in Vancouver, then handled a different role in Sochi. Opponents focused on shutting down Crosby, but he performed stellar in a two-way role along with Toews and the rest of the forwards. "He played as hard as he could," Babcock said on a conference call. "Every shift he was on the ice for 37 seconds at a time and led that way."

Crosby is 29 and is coming off another Cup run with the Penguins. He was the Conn Smythe Trophy winner as playoff MVP, adding that to his career accomplishments. Armstrong called Toews and Weber being the alternates another "no-brainer." Beyond their NHL accomplishments, they along with Crosby have experience leading a veteran group of talented stars in international competition.

"Because everyone on our team is capable of being a captain, for them to be a bunch of leaders is going to be important for our group to have success," Babcock said, adding that the familiarity helps. "They know me. I know them. They know what's expected." Toews has won three Cups as Chicago's captain. Babcock said he's thrilled to coach Toews, who's "determined like no other" player.

"He's a humble leader," Babcock said. "He takes his business very seriously and very personally. He goes about his job with such determination that he makes you a better person and a better coach just to be around him." Weber spent six seasons as captain of the Nashville Predators before being traded to Montreal for P.K. Subban in late June. Canada begins training camp Sept. 5 in Ottawa. The World Cup begins Sept. 17 in Toronto. — AP



SOCHI: In this Feb. 23, 2014, file photo, Canada's Sidney Crosby skates during the first period of the men's gold medal final hockey match against Sweden at the Sochi Winter Olympics in Russia. Canada has chosen Crosby as its captain for the upcoming World Cup of Hockey. Crosby returns as Canada's captain after wearing the "C" for the 2014 Sochi Olympics. — AP



RIO DE JANEIRO: Petra Kvitova, of the Czech Republic returns to Ekaterina Makarova, of Russia, in the women's tennis competition at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. —AP

KVITOVA, RADWANSKA ADVANCE IN NEW HAVEN

NEW HAVEN: Two-time defending champion Petra Kvitova needed just an hour Thursday to beat Ekaterina Makarova 6-3, 6-1 and move into the semifinals of the Connecticut Open, despite suffering from a cold.

Looking to join Venus Williams and Caroline Wozniacki as a four-time winner in the tournament, Kvitova overpowered the Olympic doubles champion, breaking her four times - three during the 25-minute final set.

"I think that sometimes I can't really pay too much attention how I feel," Kvitova said. "It's just going out there, just being strong mentally, think about the next point, think about the tennis."

The Olympic bronze medalist and two-time Wimbledon champion has been criticized during her career for inconsistent play. But the Czech star will be looking for her fifth consecutive appearance in the finals here and her third straight title. She also won in 2012.

"They should look at New Haven," she said about her critics. "It's always nice to coming somewhere when you feel, you know, at a home and you know you can play well. It always gives you little bit more confidence than normally."

She will face top-seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland in the semifinals. Radwanska beat lucky loser Kirstin Flipkens of Belgium 6-1, 6-4.

The world's fourth-ranked player had an easy time in the first set, but needed a break in the ninth game of the second set to secure the win over the 30-year-old Flipkens, who struggled with an injury to her left hand.

Flipkens, who upset Venus Williams at the Olympics, had lost in the second round of qualifying in New Haven. But she was moved into the main draw after Lesia Tsurenko withdrew with a right knee injury, then beat Belinda Bencic and Caroline Garcia.

Ukraine's Elina Svitolina advanced with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Elena Vesnina, Makarova's double's partner in Rio. Svitolina outran her Russian opponent and took advantage of 33 unforced errors.

"I was trying to push her to make those errors," she said. "I think in the end she was just going for too much." The 21-year-old Svitolina will play Johanna Larsson, the 28-year-old Swede who upset second-seeded Roberta Vinci of Italy 7-6 (9), 6-1. Larsson lost in qualifying, but got into the main draw when Svetlana Kuznetsova withdrew because of a shoulder injury.

Larsson is the third lucky loser to advance to the semifinals in New Haven, joining Samantha Stosur (2006) and Tsurenko (2015).

Vinci said she was bothered by an injury to a tendon in her left foot that has been giving her problems since the Olympics.

"I was thinking always to my pain, and I lost," Vinci said. "But now I have two or three days off before New York to try to recover." —AP

TOP WOMEN'S PLAYERS AT THE 2016 US OPEN

Women to watch at the US Open, which begins Monday:

SERENA WILLIAMS

Seeded: 1
Age: 34
Country: United States
2016 Match Record: 33-5
2016 Singles Titles: 2
Career Singles Titles: 71
Major Titles: 22 - U.S. Open ('99, '02, '08, '12, '13, '14), Wimbledon ('02, '03, '09, '10, '12, '15, '16), Australian Open ('03, '05, '07, '09, '10, '15), French Open ('02, '13, '15)

Last 5 U.S. Opens: '15-Lost in Semifinals, '14-Won Championship, '13-W, '12-W, '11-Lost in Final.

Topspin: A year ago, came within two victories of first calendar-year Grand Slam since Steffi Graf's in 1988, but lost to Roberta Vinci in U.S. Open semifinals. ... Part of Williams' year's wait for her 22nd major singles title, which she got at Wimbledon last month, equaling Graf's Open-era record. Now seeks No. 23 at Flushing Meadows. ... Can become first woman with seven US Open titles in professional era. ... Will tie Graf's record of 186 consecutive weeks at No. 1 in WTA rankings, but could drop from top spot after US Open.

ANGELIQUE KERBER

Seeded: 2
Age: 28
Country: Germany
2016 Match Record: 47-14
2016 Singles Titles: 2
Career Singles Titles: 9
Major Titles: 1 - Australian Open ('16)

Last 5 U.S. Opens: '15-3rd, '14-3rd, '13-4th, '12-4th, '11-SF.

Topspin: Could have overtaken Serena Williams at No. 1 in the rankings by winning title on hard courts in Cincinnati this month, but lost in the final. Has another chance to move up to No. 1 for first time, depending on U.S. Open results. ... Very first Grand Slam semifinal appearance came at Flushing Meadows five years ago. ... Beat Williams in Australian Open final in January, then lost to her in Wimbledon final in July. ... Won silver medal at Rio Olympics.

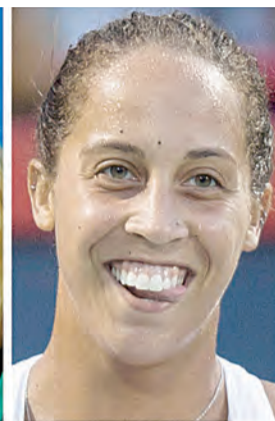
GARBINE MUGURUZA

Seeded: 3
Age: 22
Country: Spain
2016 Match Record: 28-13
2016 Singles Titles: 1
Career Singles Titles: 3
Major Titles: 1 - French Open ('16)
Last 5 U.S. Opens: '15-2nd, '14-1st, '13-Did Not Play, '12-1st, '11-DNP.

Topspin: Won first Grand Slam title at Roland Garros in June, beating Serena Williams in the final. ... One of three players who could take over from Williams at No. 1 after the U.S. Open. ...



KERBER



KEYS



KVITOVA



MUGURUZA



S. WILLIAMS



V. WILLIAMS

These 2016 file photos show, top row from left, Angelique Kerber, of Germany; Madison Keys, of the United States; and Petra Kvitova, of the Czech Republic. Bottom row, from left are, Garbine Muguruza, of Venezuela; Serena Williams, of the United States; and Venus Williams, of the United States. —AP

Has a 1-3 career record in New York, but her flat strokes and fearless style should work on the Flushing Meadows hard courts.

VENUS WILLIAMS

Seeded: 6
Age: 36
Country: United States
2016 Match Record: 21-11
2016 Singles Titles: 1
Career Singles Titles: 49
Major Titles: 7 - U.S. Open ('00, '01), Wimbledon ('00, '01, '05, '07, '08).
Last 5 US Opens: '15-QF, '14-3rd, '13-2nd, '12-2nd, '11-2nd.

Topspin: Bowed out of Rio Olympics in first round of singles and doubles, but stuck around for mixed doubles and wound up earning a bronze medal with Rajeev Ram. ... Experienced something of a renaissance at Wimbledon, making it to the semifinals at a Grand Slam tournament for the first time since the 2010 US Open. ... Last year at Flushing Meadows, made it to the quarterfinals before losing to her younger sister Serena.

MADISON KEYS

Seeded: 8
Age: 21
Country: United States
2016 Match Record: 34-11

2016 Singles Titles: 1
Career Singles Titles: 2
Major Titles: 0 - Best: SF, Australian Open ('15).

Last 5 U.S. Opens: '15-4th, '14-2nd, '13-1st, '12-DNP, '11-2nd.

Topspin: Coming off a semifinal run at the Rio Olympics and now settled into the top 10. ... Her power-based game, built around a big serve and forehand, would seem to be better suited to the U.S. Open's hard courts than her results have shown. ... Pulled out of the Connecticut Open tuneup tournament the week before Flushing Meadows with a bad neck.

PETRA KVITOVA

Seeded: 14
Age: 26
Country: Czech Republic
2016 Match Record: 25-17 (playing in Connecticut Open)
2016 Singles Titles: 0
Career Singles Titles: 17
Major Titles: 2 - Wimbledon ('11, '14).
Last 5 US Opens: '15-QF, '14-3rd, '13-3rd, '12-4th, '11-1st.

Topspin: The US Open is the only Grand Slam tournament where she hasn't reached the semifinals. ... Won a bronze medal in singles at the Rio Olympics, looking quite comfortable on a slow hard court. —AP

FIFA COURT WANTS QATARI ELECTION CANDIDATE BANNED

GENEVA: A Qatari candidate for election to FIFA's ruling council faces being banned from soccer for not telling the truth in an ethics investigation.

FIFA prosecutors have asked ethics judges in a final report that Saoud Al-Mohannadi be banned for "no less than two years and six months," the ethics committee investigation chamber said on Friday in a statement. A 20,000 Swiss francs (\$20,600) fine was also requested.

The case does not involve Qatar's 2022 World Cup bid which was also investigated, the statement said. "The investigation against Mr Al-Mohannadi concerned his failure to properly cooperate and provide truthful information to the investigatory chamber," ethics prosecutors said.

Al-Mohannadi, a Qatar Football Association vice president and former general secretary, faces charges related to "duty of disclosure" and "general obligation to collaborate."

He previously passed an integrity check by FIFA to be a candidate for the ruling council chaired by President Gianni Infantino.

Al-Mohannadi was announced on Aug. 12 by the Asian Football Confederation among four men competing for two vacant FIFA seats. The vote by AFC member federations is on Sept. 27 in Goa, India.

The Qatari official was making his second attempt to join FIFA's ruling panel after failing to win election in April 2015.

Qatar has been without a delegate on FIFA's executive committee or council since former AFC President Mohamed bin Hammam was suspended by the ethics committee in 2011 and banned for life a year later.

Bin Hammam was first investigated for allegedly bribing Caribbean voters in his 2011 bid to become FIFA president.

Though he won his appeal against a life ban in

that case, FIFA and the AFC followed up with a separate case relating to his financial management of the Asian governing body.

Bin Hammam resigned his soccer positions in December 2012, and was subsequently expelled again by the FIFA ethics committee.

It was unclear yesterday if Al-Mohannadi was an uncooperative witness in either of those ethics investigations against Bin Hammam. In most cases, FIFA's ethics committee observes confidentiality rules to not reveal details of an investigation.

"Until a formal decision is taken by the adjudicatory chamber of the ethics committee, the accused party is presumed innocent," ethics prosecutors said yesterday.

In 2014, the ethics committee decided that Qatar's successful World Cup bid - and rival bidders, including 2018 host Russia - broke rules but that the result was not compromised. —AP



Matches on TV (Local Timings)

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Tottenham v Liverpool	14:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Everton v Stoke City	17:00
beIN SPORTS 9 HD	
Southampton v Sunderland	17:00
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Chelsea v Burnley	17:00
beIN SPORTS 11 HD EN	
Leicester v Swansea	17:00
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Watford v Arsenal	17:00
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	
Crystal v Bournemouth	17:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
Hull City v Man United	19:30
beIN SPORTS 2 HD	

SPANISH LEAGUE

Osasuna v Real Sociedad	19:15
beIN SPORTS 12 HD EN	
SD Eibar v Valencia	19:15
beIN SPORTS 1 HD	
Real Madrid v Celta	21:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	
Leganes v Atletico	23:15
beIN SPORTS 3 HD	

ITALIAN CALCIO LEAGUE

SS Lazio v Juventus	19:00
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
SSC Napoli v AC Milan	21:45
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Dortmund v FSV Mainz	16:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	
Augsburg v Wolfsburg	16:30
beIN SPORTS 4 HD	
Eintracht v Schalke 04	16:30
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	
Monchengladbach v Bayer 04	19:30
beIN SPORTS 5 HD	

FRENCH LEAGUE

Dijon v Olympique Lyonnais	18:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Nancy Lorraine v Guingamp	21:00
beIN SPORTS 10 HD	
Montpellier v Stade Rennes	21:00
beIN SPORTS 8 HD	
OGC Nice v Lille OSC	21:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
Caen v Bastia	21:00
beIN SPORTS 6 HD	
FC Metz v Angers	21:00
beIN SPORTS 7 HD	

GUARDIOLA RETURNS TO BARCELONA WITH CITY IN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

MANCHESTER: Manchester City's new coach Pep Guardiola will be heading back to Barcelona after the Premier League club was pitted against his former team in the Champions League draw. Guardiola, who also spent most of his playing career at the Catalan club, steered Barcelona to two Champions League titles as well as a number of other trophies during his time as coach from 2008-12.

The two teams play each other on Oct. 19 in Barcelona and Nov. 1 in Manchester. Borussia Moenchengladbach and Celtic complete Group C. Cristiano Ronaldo also returns to his first club as holder Real Madrid has been drawn against Sporting Lisbon. Borussia Dortmund and Legia Warsaw are also in Group F.

Surprise Premier League champion Leicester faces Porto, Brugge and FC Copenhagen in its first time in Europe's premier competition. The eight four-team groups begin play on Sept. 13-14.

Group A:

Paris Saint-Germain and Arsenal will be favorites to progress but Basel boasts a fearsome record against English clubs in European competition.

Neither team has ever won the European Cup but PSG reached the quarterfinals in the last four seasons. However, it is now without Swedish star Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who moved to Manchester United in the offseason. Arsenal was eliminated in the round of 16 in the last six seasons.

Since 2011, Basel has helped eliminate Manchester United and Liverpool from the Champions League, as well as knocking Tottenham out of the Europa League. Ludogorets is playing in the group stages for only the second time in the Bulgarian club's history, having reached the same stage two years ago.

Group B:

Napoli will be hoping for better luck than the last time they reached the group stages. In 2013/14, Napoli became the first - and so far only - team to fail to progress after picking up 12 points, losing out to Dortmund and Arsenal in a three-way head-to-head.

It should have an easier time this campaign, as it has been pitted against Benfica, Dynamo Kiev and Besiktas.

Group C:

While Guardiola will be highly familiar with Barcelona, many of City's players will also know the Catalan club well.

Barcelona beat City at the last-16 stage in 2014 and 2015, while goalkeeper Claudio Bravo has just completed a move from the Spanish champion to Guardiola's new side.

"It's good for Pep because he knows Borussia very well from his time at Bayern and Barcelona as well so we will see," City's Director of Football Txiki Begiristain said.

"He had been back to Barca before with Bayern Munich so it's not the first time he's been returned to the Camp Nou. Barcelona will start as favorites for the group but that is nothing new, they are a fantastic side."

City also played Moenchengladbach in the group stage last year en route to the semifinals. Celtic will be hoping for a repeat of the 2012-13 season when it managed a shock 2-1 home win over Barcelona 2-1 in the group stage.

Group D:

Bayern Munich will be out for revenge when it faces Atletico Madrid after losing to the Spanish side on away goals in last season's semifinals. In May, Atletico lost the final on penalties to Real Madrid - finishing runner-up to its bitter rival for the second time in three years. Contrasting sides in PSV Eindhoven and Rostov make up the group.

PSV has played regularly in European competition since the 1970s, while it is Russian side Rostov's maiden appearance in the European Cup.

Group E:

A group where anyone could win it or finish bottom.

None of the teams have ever won the competition although Leverkusen and Monaco have both reached the final - in 2002 and 2004 respectively. Tottenham last played in the Champions League in 2010-11, reaching the quarterfinals, while CSKA Moscow made a group stage exit in 2013-14.

Group F:

Matches between Real Madrid and Borussia Dortmund are swift becoming classics. Madrid beat Dortmund in the quarterfinals in 2014, avenging its semifinal defeat the previous campaign.

No team has successfully defended the Champions League since its inception in 1992 but Madrid forward Gareth Bale hopes his side can become the first to do so, with the final being staged in his home city of Cardiff.

"It would be amazing to experience a Champions League final in Cardiff," Bale said. "It is obviously a difficult group but it always is in the Champions League. We fancy our chances to get through but we know there are going to be some difficult games."

Meanwhile, as well as providing a former player in Ronaldo, Sporting had more players than any other club in Portugal's Euro 2016-winning squad - Rui Patrício, Joao Mario, William Carvalho and Adrien Silva.

Legia Warsaw completes the group, becoming Poland's first team in the Champions League proper in 20 years.

Group G:

Apart from two-time winner Porto, Group G is devoid of Champions League pedigree.

Leicester, which was in the third tier of English football in 2009, is making its debut in the competition. Copenhagen reached the last 16 in 2010/11, one of only four previous times it has made it into the Champions League proper, while Brugge has also had only sporadic appearances in the group stages.

Group H:

Juventus and Sevilla face each other in the group stages for the second successive season.

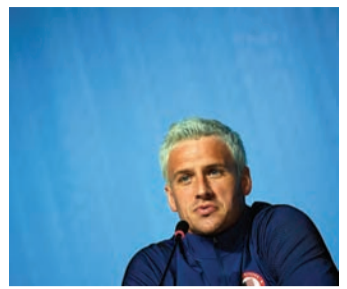
Juventus beat Sevilla 2-0 at home but lost 1-0 in Spain, which meant it finished second in the group and faced Bayern Munich in the last 16 rather than Dinamo Kiev. The Turin side lost after extra time in the second leg in Germany.

"We missed an opportunity at Sevilla last year," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri wrote on Twitter. "It will be a red-hot atmosphere in Lyon and Zagreb: we need to be focused, we know our aim."

Sevilla was eliminated from the Champions League and went on to win the Europa League for the third season in a row.

Lyon completes the group along with Dinamo Zagreb, which established one of the worst records in a group stage campaign, having lost all six games with a goal difference of minus 19 in 2011. —AP

Sports



US swimmer
Lochte's legal
troubles mount
in Brazil

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MANCHESTER UNITED FC
FENERBAHÇE SK
FEYENOORD
FC ZORYA LUHANSK

OLYMPIACOS FC
APOEL FC
BSC YOUNG BOYS
FC ASTANA

RSC ANDERLECHT
AS SAINT-ÉTIENNE
1. FSV MAINZ 05
GABALA SC

FOOTBALL CLUB ZENIT
AZ ALKMAAR
MACCABI TEL-AVIV FC
DUNDALK FC

FC VIKTORIA PLZEN
AS ROMA
FK AUSTRIA WIEN
FC ASTRA GIURGIU

ATHLETIC CLUB
KRC GENK
SK RAPID WIEN
US SASSUOLO CALCIO

AFC AJAX
R. STANDARD DE LIÈGE
RC CELTA DE VIGO
PANATHINAIKOS FC

FC SHAKHTAR DONETSK
SC BRAGA
KAA GENT
KONYASPOR

FC SCHALKE 04
FC SALZBURG
FC KRASNODAR
OGC NICE

ACF FIORENTINA
PAOK FC
FC SLOVAN LIBEREC
QARABAG FK

FC INTERNAZIONALE
AC SPARTA PRAHA
SOUTHAMPTON FC
HAPOEL BEER-SHEVA FC

VILLARREAL CF
FC STEAUA BUCURESTI
FC ZÜRICH
OSMANLISPOR A.S



MONACO: Boards displaying the groups of European football teams are pictured during the UEFA Europa League group stage draw ceremony, yesterday, in Monaco. — AFP

UEFA ANNOUNCE CHANGES TO CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

TOP FOUR EUROPEAN LEAGUES TO HAVE FOUR GUARANTEED PLACES EACH

MONACO: UEFA announced significant changes to their flagship Champions League yesterday, saying they had managed to “keep it in the family” after staving off the threat of a breakaway league by Europe’s top clubs.

From 2018/19 season, the top four European leagues—currently Spain, Germany, England and Italy—will each be guaranteed four places in the group stage, UEFA competitions director Giorgio Marchetti told reporters.

Stung by criticism that the competition has become too predictable, UEFA emphasized that it would continue to be open for teams from Europe’s smaller national leagues although the number of places set aside for them would drop from five to four. Europe’s top clubs had discussed the possibility of forming a breakaway Super League but UEFA’s

acting general secretary Theodor Theodoridis played down the threat.

“From the very beginning, the feeling was the ideal solution for everybody would be a solution in the family,” he told reporters. “We spoke to everyone...the feeling we had was that they always wanted to stay.” UEFA also stopped short of guaranteeing captive places for certain big clubs, another possibility which sources said had been discussed privately in meetings over the past few months.

Under the present system, the top three leagues have three places each while their fourth-placed teams must play off over two legs for a place in the group stage. The fourth ranked league, currently Italy, have only two guaranteed places plus one in the playoff round. UEFA uses a complicated coefficient to determine the rankings of the national

leagues. Marchetti said the format itself would remain the same with a qualifying stage, followed by a 32-team group stage and then a knockout contest. The champions and runners-up of the fifth and sixth-ranked leagues, at present France and Russia, will continue to have two places while the champions of the seventh to 10th ranked leagues, currently Portugal, Ukraine, Belgium and Turkey, will also qualify automatically.

The biggest losers were the 11th and 12th ranked leagues, currently Switzerland and the Czech Republic, who will lose their guaranteed places in the group stage.

Instead, they will now compete in a qualifying competition with national champions from all other European leagues for four places in a qualifying competition played in July and August.

Theodoridis said it was an achievement just to keep any places for teams from the smaller leagues who struggle to compete on level terms with the elite clubs. “We started this process by having one target, keeping the dream alive having all national associations having access,” he said.

UEFA has been without a president since last December when Frenchman Michel Platini was banned for eight years by global soccer body FIFA for ethics violations, later reduced to four on appeal by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

UEFA will hold an election to find a replacement for Platini in Athens on September 16. Michael van Praag, Angel Maria Villar and Aleksandar Ceferin, the heads of the Dutch, Spanish and Slovenian federations respectively, are the three candidates. — Reuters