

Kuwait, Swiss sign MoU on development, cooperation



Brussels crime lab attacked to 'destroy evidence'



Rousseff urges Senate to vote against 'coup'



Rangers hang on to edge Indians, build AL West lead



AMIR MEETS NEW HEADS OF FOOTBALL, OLYMPIC BODIES

POLICE SEIZE SPORTS OFFICES • IOC, AFC CONCERNED



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High Tide 09:46 & 23:38
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150 FILLS
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40 PAGES

US ALARMED AS TURKEY STRIKES KURDISH MILITIA

ISTANBUL: Turkey warned yesterday it would carry out more strikes on a Syrian Kurdish militia if it failed to retreat beyond the Euphrates River, as Washington condemned their weekend clashes as "unacceptable". Turkish forces pressed on with a two-pronged operation inside Syria against Islamic State (IS) jihadists and the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), shelling over a dozen targets. But strikes against the YPG are hugely sensitive as the Kurdish group - seen as a terror group by Ankara - is allied with Turkey's NATO partner, the United States, in the fight against IS in Syria.

Ankara said it had killed 25 Kurdish "terrorists" in strikes on YPG positions on Sunday, a day after a Turkish soldier died in a rocket attack allegedly by the militia. The Pentagon called the clashes "unacceptable" and urged an immediate de-escalation. Turkey's operation aims to push the YPG back across the Euphrates River to prevent it joining up the region east of the river already under its control with a Kurdish-held area to the west.

Ankara fears the emergence of an autonomous Kurdish region in Syria would bolster Kurdish rebels across the border in southeast Turkey. US Vice President Joe Biden, visiting Ankara last week, said

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KUWAIT: Police cars are seen outside the Kuwaiti Football Association (KFA) headquarters as a strong police presence was needed to allow the KFA's newly-appointed leaders to take possession of the headquarters. (Inset) New Chairman of KFA Fawaz Al-Hassawi speaks during a press conference. - Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat (See Page 2)



KUWAIT: Authorities ordered police to seize the state's football association and Olympic committee offices. The action on Sunday heightened a standoff that has seen Kuwait suspended by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and world football's governing body FIFA since October. The country did not take part in this year's Rio Olympics and will not contest the qualifiers for football's 2018 World Cup.

As part of his keenness on the issue, HH the Amir yesterday received top officials of the two interim committees tasked with taking care of affairs at the Kuwait Olympic Committee (KOC) and the Kuwait Football Association (KFA). The Amir encouraged the officials to exert utmost efforts to promote the sports and youth sector in Kuwait, and to bring those who break the law to justice.

The move came after the government's sports commission ousted Sheikh Talal Fahd Al-Sabah as head of the KFA and KOC. Sheikh Fahd Jaber Al-Ali has been named as the new head of the Olympic committee. Fawaz Al-Hassawi, who was named as new head of the football association, is the owner of English Championship side Nottingham Forest. Police seized the offices of the football association but failed to take over the Olympic committee headquarters.

At a press conference after the football offices were seized, Hassawi promised increased prizes in the Kuwaiti championship. However, the ousted head said authorities had used "threat and intimidation" in an official notice demanding that the KFA offices be handed over. Sheikh Talal, in a statement released by KFA, said he had been accused of "financial violations", over which he demanded an investigation by Kuwaiti prosecutors.

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IS ATTACK KILLS 71 IN YEMEN

ADEN: An Islamic State group militant rammed his explosives-laden car into an army recruiting center in Aden yesterday, killing 71 people in the deadliest jihadist attack on the Yemeni city in over a year. The army, supported by a Saudi-led coalition, is training young recruits to join its nationwide war against Houthi rebels and their allies, as well as other militants. Aden is the temporary base of Yemen's internationally recognized government, which was forced into exile after Iran-backed insurgents seized Sanaa and other parts of the war-

torn country. Security officials told AFP the attacker drove the car bomb into a gathering of recruits at a school in the north of the port city. The recruits were among 5,000 newly enrolled soldiers being trained to fight the Houthi rebels in the north along the border with Saudi Arabia, military sources said. Although the complex was locked as recruits registered inside, the attacker drove in when the gate was opened for a delivery vehicle, officials said.

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ADEN: Fighters loyal to the government gather at the site of a suicide car bombing in this southern city yesterday. — AP

UZBEK PRESIDENT HOSPITALIZED AFTER BRAIN HEMORRHAGE

MOSCOW: Strongman Uzbek President Islam Karimov, who has dominated the Central Asian nation for over 25 years, is in intensive care after suffering a brain hemorrhage, his younger daughter said yesterday. "My father was hospitalized after suffering a cerebral haemorrhage on Saturday morning, and is now receiving treatment in an intensive care unit," Lola Karimova-Tillyaeva, Uzbekistan's ambassador to UNESCO, wrote on Instagram of the 78-year-old leader. She added that "his condition is considered stable" but that "at the moment it is too early to make any predictions about his future health."

Karimov's press service on Sunday announced that the Central Asian leader - long dogged by rumors of ill health - had been hospitalized, without giving details. The former Soviet apparatchik, whose brutal crackdown on dissent has been widely criticized by rights groups, has been at the helm of the strategic country bordering Afghanistan since before it gained independence from Moscow in 1991. The wily leader has played off Russia, China and the West against each other to ensure Uzbekistan avoided total isolation.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told journalists President Vladimir Putin was "deeply grieved"



Islam Karimov

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EL PALO, Colombia: A woman walks past a mural that reads "bilateral ceasefire" on a street in this town in the department of Cauca on Saturday. — AFP

COLOMBIA CEASEFIRE ENDS 52-YEAR WAR WITH FARC

BOGOTA: A historic ceasefire came into effect in Colombia yesterday, ending a 52-year war between the FARC rebels and the government that claimed more than 250,000 lives. The full ceasefire ordered by President Juan Manuel Santos and the head of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), Timoleon Jimenez, began at midnight (0500 GMT yesterday). "This August 29 a new phase of history begins for Colombia. We silenced the guns. THE WAR WITH THE FARC IS OVER!" Santos wrote on Twitter one minute after midnight. A message from the official FARC account at the same time was more restrained: "From this moment on the bilateral and definitive ceasefire begins."

In a statement to reporters in Cuba, where peace talks were held, Jimenez said he had ordered all commanders and units "and each one of our combatants to definitively cease fire and hostilities against the Colombian state." Santos had issued similar orders Thursday to the Colombian military. The ceasefire is the first in which both sides are committed to a definite end to the fighting. "The ceasefire is really one more seal on the end of the conflict. It is the test of fire," said Carlos Alfonso Velazquez, a security expert at the University of La Sabana.

The conflict began in 1964 with the launch of the FARC, a Marxist guerrilla group born out of a peasant uprising.

It has left 260,000 dead, 45,000 missing and 6.9 million uprooted from their homes. To end the war with the FARC for good, Colombians must now vote in an October 2 referendum on the peace accord reached

in Havana after nearly four years of talks. Santos said the exact question that will be put to voters in the referendum would be announced "in the coming days". "We are on the verge of perhaps the most important political decision of our lives," he said in a speech on Saturday.

Opinion polls show Colombians are divided ahead of the referendum. Santos's top rival, former president Alvaro Uribe, is leading a campaign to vote "no" to the peace deal. He says a special justice system envisaged for crimes committed during the conflict would give FARC fighters impunity. Opponents question the FARC's commitment to peace. "I don't think we can believe them," said Felipe Giraldo, a 25-year-old unemployed man in Bogota. Others have a high personal stake in the vote. Adelaida Bermudez, 50, hopes it will bring home her daughter, a FARC fighter for the past nine years. "I hope we'll have peace... so the children come home," she said in Gaitania, in the central region where the FARC was born.

Santos and Jimenez are due to sign the peace agreement sometime between Sept 20 and 30 - possibly at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, said Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin. The end of hostilities will be followed by a six-month demobilization process. Starting Monday, the FARC's estimated 7,500 fighters will head to collection points to surrender their weapons under UN supervision. Guerrillas who refuse to demobilize and disarm "will be pursued with all the strength of the state forces," Santos told El Espectador newspaper. — AFP

LIGHTNING KILLS 323 REINDEER IN NORWAY

STOCKHOLM: More than 300 wild reindeer have been killed by lightning in central Norway. The Norwegian Environment Agency has released eerie images showing a jumble of reindeer carcasses scattered across a small area on the Hardangervidda mountain plateau. The agency says 323 animals were killed, including 70 calves, in the lightning storm Friday. Agency spokesman Kjartan Knutsen told AP it's not uncommon for reindeer or other wildlife to be killed by lightning strikes but this was an unusually deadly event.

"We have not heard about such numbers before," he said yesterday. He said reindeer tend to stay very close to each other in bad weather, which could explain how so many were killed at once. "I don't know if there were several lightning strikes," he said. "But it happened in one moment." Knutsen said the agency is now discussing what to do with the dead animals. Normally, they are just left where they are to let nature take its course, he said. Thousands of reindeer migrate across the barren Hardangervidda plateau as the seasons change. — AP



Some 323 dead wild reindeer struck by lightning are seen littering a hillside on the Hardangervidda mountain plateau in central Norway on Aug 27, 2016. — AFP



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Director General of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and association members, in presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. —Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the interim committee tasked with running Kuwait National Olympic Committee (NOC) Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and association members, in presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with chairman of the interim committee charged with managing Kuwait Football Association (KFA), Fawaz Al-Hasawi and association members, in presence of His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Director General of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah and association members.

AMIR INSTRUCTS OFFICIALS TO EXERT GREATER EFFORTS IN SPORTS

OFFICIALS LAUD AMIR'S DIRECTIVES TO PROMOTE SPORTS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Director General of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah at Bayan Palace yesterday. His Highness the Amir also received Chairman of the interim committee tasked with running Kuwait National Olympic Committee (NOC) Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, on the occasion of forming the NOC new board.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir hosted the chairman of the interim committee charged with managing Kuwait Football Association (KFA), Fawaz Al-Hasawi, and association members, on the occasion of forming the KFA new board.

His Highness the Amir encouraged the officials to exert more efforts to develop the sport and

youth sector in Kuwait, and to bring those who violate the law to justice. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah instructed them to dedicate greater efforts for aiding the young athletes and put all available resources at disposal of realizing 'whatever they aspire to.'

The three meetings were attended by His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. Also attending was the Amiri Diwan Advisor Khaled Boudai.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah called for tackling the domestic sports sector and rebuilding the State international relations in line with

'interests of the homeland and citizens' aspirations.'

His Highness the Premier emphasized necessity to remedy the national sports sector during his reception of Sheikh Ahmad Mansour Al-Sabah, Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Sabah and Fawaz Al-Hasawi. Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah attended the meetings as well.

Amir's directives

In the meantime, the sports officials and figures have shared views on the significance of His Highness the Amir's directives for supporting the Kuwaiti youth and promoting sports. They lauded His Highness the Amir's backing to the efforts seeking to overcome the challenges facing the Kuwaiti sports at present.

His Highness the Amir's recommendations to

advance the Kuwaiti sports will function as a "reset for our work over the coming period," Sheikh Fahad Al-Sabah said. He added that the efforts of the sincere Kuwaitis will enable the committee to forward the Kuwaiti sports. The Kuwaiti flag will again flutter on the world's sports arenas, he stressed.

The Public Authority for Sports (PAS) has got a multitude of plans, views and programs likely to contribute to promoting the Kuwaiti sports, PAS Deputy Chairman Sueliamn Al-Adsani said. The programs are to be implemented for the good of the Kuwaiti youth, he added. Kuwaitis, in all sports bodies, authorities and federations, will do their utmost to advance sports and back youth for the good of the nation, he added.

Furthermore, Fawaz Al-Hasawi voiced gratitude

that His Highness the Amir received the sport officials. He vowed that all of them would work hard so that the Kuwait sports can restore its good old days, especially football.

Deputy KOC chairman Eng Duajj Al-Otaibi said that the meeting with His Highness the Amir offered a good opportunity to listen to his directives and recommendations to promote sports. Otaibi noted that all the sports official are open to athletes and youth, willing to offer proposals and ideas for the good of the sports scene.

Deputy head of the KFA interim committee Assad Haji Taqui said that the meeting with His Highness the Amir earlier Monday was a great honor. Taqui highlighted His Highness the Amir's directives, and support to the sports officials to serve the Kuwaiti people. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Kuwait National Olympic Committee (NOC) Sheikh Fahad Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah and association members.



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with chief of the temporary commission tasked with managing Kuwait Football Association (KFA), Fawaz Al-Hasawi and association members.

COMPETENT INTERIM COMMITTEES TO TAKE CARE OF KUWAITI SPORTS AFFAIRS

A LOOK AT THE COMMITTEES' MEMBERS

KUWAIT: Announcing the dissolution of the Kuwait Football Association (KFA) and the Olympic Committee (KOC), the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) has appointed two committees to take the helm at both bodies. The two interim bodies comprise a host of competent and adept members, not only in sports but also in administration, economy and planning, with women and people with special needs represented.

The committee to take care of the affairs at the Kuwait Olympic Committee for six months is chaired by Sheikh Fahd Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah, Eng Duajj Al-Otaibi as deputy chairman and Yusuf Al-Huseini as Secretary. The members include Jassim Yaqoub Mohammad Al-Yaqoub, Khalid Al-Menaye'a, Rihab Mohammad Sultan Boursesli, Dr Suleiman Al-Abduljader, AbdulRedha Al-Gharib, Ghazi Al-Hajri, Fatema Hayat and Sheikh Fawaz Meshaal Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah.

Sheikh Fahd Jaber Al-Ali Al-Sabah is the head of the West Asian Triathlon Confederation; deputy head of the Arab Triathlon Confederation (ATC); a former deputy chair of the International Weightlifting Federation for two terms; a member of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee for three terms, and Chairman

of the Kuwaiti Boxing and Weightlifting Federation.

Sheikh Fahd's deputy, Eng Duajj Al-Otaibi, is the current head of the Arab and Kuwait Shooting Federations, in addition to the Kuwaiti Shooting Club. With a degree in aviation engineering, and a membership of the British Royal Aeronautical Society since 2002, Al-Otaibi has also been head of the Saad Al-Abdallah Olympic Shooting Academy and the Kuwaiti shooting school since 2011. He has also been a member in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) since 2010, and the International Sport Federation since 2014.

The committee's Secretary Yusuf Al-Huseini is a legal consultant at the PAS' director general's office, and a senior solicitor. He holds an MA in Special Law from Egypt's Ain Shams University and is now working on his PhD.

Committee members include Jassim Yaqoub Mohammad Al-Yaqoub who is a retired Colonel since 2006, and is now head of the monitoring office of the MIM-104 Patriot System in the United States (1997-2000). He played for Al-Nasr Sports Club (1973-1981).

Khalid Al-Menaye'a leads specialized companies in fields like real estate, clubs,

and spas, with a long experience in planning and organizing sports, cultural and social events, as well as designing technical and administrative rules and regulations for promoting sports activities.

Rihab Mohammad Sultan Boursesli has a BA in political sciences and economics from Kuwait University. She was an economic researcher at the Kuwait Municipality and later a senior consultant for administrative development (1986-2011). She has also been a member of the higher council of the Disabled Affairs (2014-present) and Deputy Director General of the Gulf Disability Society (GDS). She represented Kuwait during three sessions (2007-present).

Dr Sulaiman Al-Abduljader has a PhD in financial economics and is a member in the sports privatization and development team in the Public Authority for Sports. He is also a professor at Gulf University for Science and Technology, and headed the board of directors of a real estate company, and share management of other companies.

AbdulRedha Al-Ghareeb has a Master's degree in Physical Education from the United States. He held a number of positions at Kuwait University, and also worked as a lecturer at the College of Basic Education. He is the General Secretary of

the Kuwait Tennis Union since 1984 till now, and the head of the organizing committee for Tennis in GCC, and member of the development committee at the Asian Tennis Union. He also founded tennis game in the Yarmouk Club in 1984.

Ghazi Al-Hajeri is founder of a company specializing in the field of youth and sports entertainment, which is a practical program that connects youth with sports facilities. Fatima Hayat was secretary of the women football committee at the KFA, and enjoys a long experience in promoting society and youth as well as building personal capabilities and skills.

Sheikh Fawaz Meshaal Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah is director of the external relations, and acting director of the information and security follow-up sector at the National Security Apparatus. He owns a long experience in the security educational and youth planning, and strategies of electronic security.

Kuwait Football Association

As for the committee entrusted with managing the affairs of the KFA, also for six months, it is chaired by Fawaz Mubarak Abdulaziz Al-Hasawi, with Assad Haji Taqui as deputy chairman, and Hussein Ali

Ahmad Al-Khudari, Khalid Al-Fadhli, Saad Al-Houti, Dr Sabah Abdullah Al-Otaibi and Salah Jassim Al-Hasawi as members.

Fawaz Mubarak Abdulaziz Al-Hasawi, being Director and shareholder of the Kuwait Commercial Real Estate Center Company, he played for Qadsiya SC (1980-1986) and then in the club's board of directors (1997-2012). Now he is Deputy Chairman of Qadsiya Sports Club, and the owner and chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club.

Assad Haji Taqui worked at the Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) or 35 years, and served the Kuwaiti sports as an athlete and an administrator for 53 years. He was also head of the of International Relations of the Kuwait Football Association (1987-2005), and chaired Kuwait's interim Olympic Committee during the Iraqi invasion of 1990. Taqui was a member of the International Relations Committee of the Asian Football Confederation (1990-2005) and a member of the International Relations Committee of the Asian Olympic Council (1988).

He was also a member of the FIFA's delegations at the 1998, 2002 and 2006 editions of the World Cup tournaments. He was head of the organizing committee of

the 2000 and 2004 editions of the Asian Cup; First Deputy Chairman of the Asian Football Confederation (1994-2005) and head of the sports privatization committee (2016).

Saad Al-Houti was a prominent footballer, who played for the Kuwaiti football team in the 1970s and the 1980s. He was also member of the KFA board of directors. Khalid Al-Fadhli was a goalkeeper of Kuwait's football national team in the 1990s and early 2000s. He also played for Kazma and Kuwait SCs. Since he retired, he has been working as an analyst in TV sports channels.

Dr Sabah Abdullah Al-Otaibi is a graduate of the Kuwait University and has a PhD in administration. Al-Otaibi played for the Al-Arabi football team, and was a member in the club's board of directors. He played for the Kuwaiti national and military teams. Hussein Ali Ahmad Al-Kudhari is a former athlete, and now an instructor of physical education, with BA and Master's degrees in sports science. Salah Jassim Al-Hasawi is a former Kuwaiti national team player (1983-1990) who participated in 150 local games and 40 international matches, and was once a member of the Kuwait Football Association (2006). —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with outgoing Ambassador-Head of Delegation of the European Union to Kuwait Ambassador Adam Kulach. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ali Nasser Al-Roumi.



Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah meets with former Iraqi President Ghazi Ajil Al-Yawar.

AMIR RECEIVES OUTGOING EU AMBASSADOR

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Bayan Palace yesterday the outgoing Ambassador-Head of Delegation of the European Union to Kuwait Ambassador Adam Kulach on the occasion of ending his tenure.

In other news, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness the Crown Prince also hosted, separately, Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah and

the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait to Cyprus, Walid Al-Kandari. He also received Ali Nasser Al-Roumi who presented His Highness Sheikh Nawaf with a book.

Also yesterday, Sheikh Thamer Al-Sabah discussed with former Iraqi President Ghazi Ajil Al-Yawar regional and international issues of mutual concern. Sheikh

Thamer Al-Ali asserted Kuwait's support for Iraq, primarily, on issues dealing with the fight against terrorism, as he wished Baghdad continued peace and stability, a statement by the National Security Bureau noted. Moreover, the meeting also tackled bilateral ties and means of bolstering them. —KUNA

KUWAIT ASPIRES TO JOIN INT'L SECURITIES COMMISSION

CABINET EXAMINES MEASURES TO REHABILITATE ENVIRONMENT

KUWAIT: The Cabinet yesterday examined plans aimed at promoting Kuwait financial market and steps required to join the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). The Government, during its weekly session, examined the fifth annual report about activities of the Capital Market Authority (CMA), presented by Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Mohammad Al-Ali, outlining accomplished tasks for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the CMA accounts, as well as a report by the auditor in charge of the accounts and financial statement (2015-2016).

The broad report envisages the CMA outlook for promoting international rating of Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) to be placed among emerging markets, as well as meeting the requirements to join the IOSCO, in line with the approach to stay abreast of most modern international rules and criteria applied in the securities markets for sake of retaining the Kuwaiti market regional leadership.

Rehabilitate environment

His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on Monday chaired the regular Cabinet meeting at Bayan Palace. Following the session, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Acting Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah stated the session got started with the ministers examining a message addressed to His Highness the Amir from the King of Brunei, expressing satisfaction at his recent visit to the State of Kuwait, noting that it would contribute to cementing the ties between the two friendly countries. It included an invitation to His Highness to visit Brunei.

His Highness the Prime Minister assured the ministers about health of Minister of Public Labor and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Dr Ali Al-Omair following the accident during his recent visit to Romania.

Also in the session, the Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah briefed the ministers about Sunday's visit to the country by the Qatari Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, during which talks focused on security cooperation namely efforts in facing terrorism and extremism in the region.

Moreover, the Cabinet studied the regular report by the environment projects program for the period of time between April and June (2016). In this regard, Deputy Premier, Finance Minister, Acting Oil Minister and chairman of the board of the Kuwaiti liaison environmental projects center, Anas Al-Saleh, outlining measures that have been taken to rehabilitate the environment; adopted by the UN Compensation Commission, concerning the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) and the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources. Also in the same vein, minister Al-Saleh addressed the fellow executives about some main accomplishments and recommendations to speed up execution of some relevant projects.

Italy quake

Meanwhile, the Cabinet commiserated over a deadly earthquake in Italy, while it condemned an attack on the American University in the Afghan capital Kabul. The Cabinet conveyed its deepest sympathies and condolences for the people of Italy over the quake that killed scores of people and injured numerous others, as it wished swift recovery for those wounded in the quake.

Moreover, the Cabinet denounced the attack on the American University in Kabul that resulted in many fatalities and injuries. It also deplored the attack, describing it as a terrorist act that contravenes all religious and humanitarian values, as it urged the international community to ramp up efforts to exterminate the scourge of terrorism. —KUNA

KUWAIT, SWITZERLAND SIGN MOU ON DEVELOPMENT, COOPERATION

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH SWISS PRESIDENT

BERN: Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). Director of Operations at KFAED Marwan Al-Ghanem and Assistant Director General and Head of the Global Cooperation Department of SDC Pio Wennubst were the signatories of the MoU.

Moreover, a series of discussions was held between the Kuwaiti and Swiss delegations, headed by Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, who is on a visit to Switzerland to attend a ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of Kuwaiti-Swiss diplomatic ties, and Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, respectively. The discussions tackled ways to develop ties between both nations as well as regional and international developments.

Kuwait's delegation was comprised of Acting Assistant Foreign Minister for Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's Office Affairs Ambassador Saleh Al-Loughani, Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Walid Al-Khubaizi, Kuwait's Ambassador to Switzerland Bader Al-Taneeb, CEO of the Kuwait Investment

Authority (KIA) Bader Al-Saad, Director General of the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) Sheikh Dr Meshal Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Director of Operations at KFAED Marwan Al-Ghanem and a host of the Foreign Ministry's senior officials.

Amir's greetings

Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled had met in Bern with Swiss President Johann Schneider-Ammann earlier yesterday. During the meeting, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled conveyed greetings from His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to the president. The meeting reviewed the well-established historical friendship ties between the two countries, and means to promote them in all fields, for the good of their peoples. They also addressed regional and international developments.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Khaled extolled in a speech, the camaraderie shared between Kuwait and Switzerland. Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled gave the speech at the opening of the ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of Kuwaiti-Swiss diplomatic ties, with a number of senior diplomatic and political officials in attendance.

Moreover, he noted that commercial ties between both nations have made headway as the volume of trade between Kuwait and Switzerland was worth \$4.47 billion from the years 2006-2015, adding that Kuwaiti investment in the European nation has risen exponentially, reaching \$7.9 billion. Speaking on the ceremony, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said that it is also an occasion to cherish both nations' shared values and beliefs, adding that their political ideologies have always mirrored one another's.

Furthermore, he underscored that both countries espouse the merits of justice and liberty while advocating peace and eschewing evil, pointing to a plethora of examples that demonstrated this, chiefly, their collective concerns over worsening humanitarian conditions in war-torn Yemen.

"Kuwait's progress in humanitarian development has always been a source of pride for us," Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled said, as he highlighted the formation of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED), with the aim of assisting needy and hapless nations.

Meanwhile, he also pinpointed three international donors' conferences hosted by Kuwait to mitigate humanitarian suffering in Syria as a testament to the nation's benevolence, as these conferences had amassed aid worth \$1.6 billion. The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister also foreboded that ties between Kuwait and Switzerland are on course for increased development as both nations work to bring common goals to fruition.

Historic ties

On Sunday, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad expressed content over participating in the ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of Kuwaiti-Swiss diplomatic ties. "Decades-old historic ties between the two friendly countries have seen consensus over many different issues, supported by Switzerland's ever known neutral stance and a mutual perspective of regional and international matters in a bid to spread world peace and human rights respect," said Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled in a statement. —KUNA



BERN: Director of Operations at KFAED Marwan Al-Ghanem Assistant Director General and Head of the Global Cooperation Department of SDC Pio Wennubst sign an agreement between Kuwait and Switzerland yesterday. —KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the regular Cabinet meeting at Bayan Palace yesterday. —KUNA

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief,
management and staff convey their
deepest condolences to

Taleb Kanjo

(Marketing & Advertising Manager)

on the sad demise of his

Uncle

Abdullah Ahmad Melhem

May Allah Almighty rest his soul in peace

In Brief

PAAAFR, FAO DISCUSS PROJECTS

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) organized a workshop with experts from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) yesterday, to prepare for joint projects between the two sides. The workshop is aimed at executing studies and means of running joint projects agreed upon by the two sides, Director of Agricultural Guidance department at PAAAFR Ghanim Al-Sanad said. He noted that the projects include a garden with a variety of plants, and establishing a regional training center on international standards in managing fish traps. — KUNA



UNION INKS TRANSPARENCY DEAL

KUWAIT: The Union of Investment Companies (UIC) has signed an agreement with Almuwazi.com company stipulating swap of information about companies under jurisdictions of the Capital Markets Authority (CMA). The UIC Treasurer and board member, Faisal Sarkho, said in a statement yesterday timing of the deal is very significant after adherence to governance rules has become compulsory on companies under the CMA authority. The binding application of governance by KSE listed and unlisted ones, effective as July 1st, is currently warranted for supplying stakeholders with information easily and explicitly. — KUNA



KRCS DISTRIBUTES AID

KHARTOUM: Kuwait Red Crescent Society continued yesterday distributing relief aid to floods victims in Khartoum through handing 650 parcels to affected families. Head of the Kuwaiti Delegation Ahmad Abdullah Al-Fagaan said that the distribution operations were conducted in Salha region in Omm Durman city for a total of 150 families, and to 500 families in Nefasha region, which is one of the most affected areas from the floods and heavy rains. More than 76 people were killed by the floods that hit the country in the past few months. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Kuwait City's skyline seen from the beach in Sharq. Kuwait's beachfront remains one of the most favorite - and affordable - pastime destinations in Kuwait. — Photo by Joseph Shagra

INFO MINISTER SAYS KUWAITI THEATRE SET FOR RESURGENCE

KUWAIT: The Higher Committee for Theatre is hard at work to bring about the resurgence of local theatre, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday.

In a meeting of the Higher Committee for Theatre, presided over by Sheikh Salman, who is also Chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), he underscored that the committee is working diligently to bring Kuwaiti theatre back to prominence, a statement issued by the Ministry of Information (MoI) noted.

Moreover, Sheikh Salman added that theatre is the cornerstone of the nation's culture, where local plays typically convey nationalistic values. Furthermore, he commended the committee for its work on the imminent release of a series of plays set to feature some

of Kuwaiti theatre's most iconic figures. The meeting tackled ways to revive the educational genre of local theatre, in addition to strategies to boost pecuniary support of these players. — KUNA



Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah



KUWAIT: Kyrgyz arts in Kuwait, the Capital of Islamic Culture. — KUNA

KISR IS KEY PLAYER IN DEVELOPING OIL SECTOR

KUWAIT: Head of water quality monitoring project at the oil research center Abdulhameed Al-Hashem said yesterday that Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has become a key player in boosting the oil sector. The center, which is affiliated to KISR, is responsible for monitoring the quality of water which is injected in the oil wells for increasing production as part of the cooperation between KISR and Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), he said. It also works in determining the concentration of hydrogen sulfide gases, which is associated with the production of oil, he added.

KISR offers research, technical and laboratory services in the oil, gas, and water to oil production operations, he said. KISR was responsible for preparing the 8th strategic

plan and the future plan till 2030, besides setting direct goals in serving the oil production in Kuwait, he affirmed.

The results of such researches and laboratories technical studies help in improving managements of oil reservoirs and increasing the production of crude oil and gas, he added. They will also contribute in increasing the sufficiency of the oil producing wells in the upcoming years, which is of high economic benefit. — KUNA



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KUWAITI DIVERS IN NEW CLEAN-UP OPERATION

KUWAIT: Members of the Kuwait Dive Team, which is affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF), removed abandoned objects and fishing nets obstructing navigation in Kuwait bay. Among the removed items was an iron barrel and a net entangled with foundations of Sheikh Jaber bridge in the northern part of the bay. Some sea creatures

stranded in the net were released alive, said Mahmoud Ashkanani, in charge of marine operations. Such abandoned objects contribute to polluting the sea waters and cause death of marine creatures, he said. Some of the Kuwaiti shores have recently witnessed dead fish washing ashore, promoting authorities to launch investigations. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad honored Amer Refaat, an expatriate resident in Kuwait, for his efforts which helped protect drivers on the road. The senior official loaded Refaat's "great sense of belonging and responsibility," saying that the honoring comes as an encouragement for citizens and residents alike to perform their duties and create positivity that serves the common good.

BURGAN BANK LAUNCHES TRAVEL FESTIVAL CAMPAIGN

ADDITIONAL DISCOUNTS THROUGH QATAR AIRWAYS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank yesterday announced the launch of the 'travel festival' campaign which has been tailored for all Burgan Bank card holders to enjoy an additional 10 percent discounted rate on the offers at Qatar Airways travel packages. To avail the offer, customers are to book their tickets before the 5th of September, 2016, wherein the travelling dates should be in the period between 15th of September, 2016 until 30th of

June, 2017. To place the bookings, customers are to log onto qatarairways.com/travelfestival and use the applicable promo code. To find out more about Burgan Bank's latest offers, or any of its products and services, customers are urged to visit any of the bank's branches, or contact the call center on 1804080. For more information, customers can also log onto the bank's website on www.burgan.com

26 STRATEGIC PROJECTS IN ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

GAS STATIONS READY FOR NEW TARIFFS

By Meshaal Al-Enzi

KUWAIT: The number of strategic projects in Kuwait's development plan for the 2016/2017 fiscal year reaches 26, with a total value of over KD 2 billion, or an average of KD 64 million for each venture, a government official said yesterday.

Kuwait is currently witnessing an era of executing a number of developmental projects, in addition to housing projects and others carried out through the public private partnership (PPP) module, said Hind Al-Subaih, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister of Planning and Development.

Meanwhile, Subaih said that there are six projects to be carried out by the Partnership Technical Bureau in the 2017/2018 fiscal year, with an estimated total value of KD 6 billion, which makes up nearly 25 percent of strategic projects' total cost. In addition, the same fiscal year includes one project for shareholding companies with an estimated value of KD 611 million. Therefore, projects to be carried out through the public private partnership and shareholding companies' concepts would make up 28 percent of strategic projects' total cost.

Annual development plans include several key projects such as the metro and railway project to be carried out as per the PPP concept, in addition to strategic projects in the health and education fields, Subaih added.

Gas stations closed

Gas stations around Kuwait will stop operations half an hour before midnight Wednesday, and will



Hind Al-Subaih

resume work on the early hours of Thursday using the new tariffs for gasoline announced last month. The new prices, which officially become effective on September 1, are as follows: 85 fils for premium gasoline (42 percent increase), 105 for super gasoline (62 percent increase) and 165 fils for ultra gasoline (83 percent).

Price control

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is ready to implement its plan to monitor prices as soon as the new gasoline tariffs are implemented, said Eid Al-Rashidi, the Undersecretary Assistant for Commercial Control and Customer Protection Affairs. Ministry inspectors will tour markets around Kuwait in order to detect any cases in which prices are increased without valid reasons, Rashidi said. He urged consumers to contact the hotline: 135 in case they encounter any fabricated price increase incidents.

Labor protest

Around 200 workers employed by a major company demonstrated outside the Palace of Justice yesterday to demand monthly salaries they have not received in six months, according to their statements. The Asian laborers, whose average monthly salary reaches KD 70 each, said that they went to the Palace of Justice because they could not find anywhere else to demand their rights. The services' director at the Palace of Justice then met the workers and explained to them that the right place to make their complaint is the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor, so they walked there to file their grievance.

Five languages

Kuwait Human Rights Society released booklets containing the domestic helpers' law with all of its articles in five different languages: Arabic, English, Tagalog, Hindi and Urdu. The project was carried out in cooperation with the Dutch embassy in Kuwait. It was produced and distributed in cooperation with the Domestic Labor Department at the Interior Ministry, said Khaled Al-Humaidi, the society's chairman. The booklet is part of a series of publications that also include the labor law, and which aims at raising awareness among expatriate labor forces regarding their rights, Humaidi added.

Lower temperatures

Humidity levels are expected to drop before the weekend, while hot and dry weather with relatively lower temperatures during the night should prevail during the first week of September, veteran meteorologist Essa Ramadan said.



KUWAIT: Officials attend a press conference held yesterday at the KAC headquarters to announce additional flights to Saudi Arabia. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KAC PREPARES FOR HAJJ BY INCREASING FLIGHTS TO SAUDI

CARRIER TO TRANSPORT 2,500 PILGRIMS FROM KUWAIT, 3,000 FROM ABROAD

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: As part of its preparations for the hajj season, Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) announced increasing the number of flights to Saudi Arabia during a press conference held yesterday at the KAC headquarters. The first flight for pilgrims departs today. KAC Regional Director Nasser Khoursheed said the hajj schedule that includes the additional flights will end on Sept 15, 2016. "This year there are 2,500 pilgrims from Kuwait in addition to 3,000 pilgrims from abroad flying onboard Kuwait Airways. This is the first time we have pilgrims from Germany. KAC has set attractive prices for tickets for the hajj season," he noted during the conference.

Bader Al-Shayea, director of the passports department, advised passengers to check the validity of their passports and civil IDs. "After

the GCC meeting, it was recommended to travel with the passport instead of the civil ID, but it's not obligatory. We also advise passengers to make sure they don't have a travel ban before coming to the airport. Also, some people rush to the airport without noticing they have taken the passport of another family member," he said.

Hajj permit

Roumi Al-Roumi, head of the hajj and umrah committee at the Ministry of Awqaf, highlighted the fact that no pilgrim is allowed to leave without a hajj permit. "Expats should have a hajj visa and Kuwaitis should have the hajj permit with them. Otherwise, the pilgrim will be forced to return on the same flight back. I would also like to remind passengers to come on time, take care of their travel documents and cooperate with the organizers of the hajj

campaigns," he pointed out.

Sulaiman Al-Humaidan, representative of the director general of airport security and head of building security, said new gates were set up especially for this season. "Although there will be more gates open, passengers should still come early to the airport as it's the high season. We are present at the airport to serve pilgrims 24/7," he noted.

Mohammed Al-Shatti, from the Civil Aviation Department, said special brochures were printed and will be distributed to pilgrims at the airport that include instructions and advice for pilgrims. He also advised people to limit the number of friends and families seeing off or welcoming pilgrims to avoid overcrowding. Maziad Al-Mutairi, director of the airport, stressed that this year pilgrims will collect their luggage at the airport instead of the cargo area, which was the case in previous years.



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News

In brief

Juveniles' crimes up 122 percent

KUWAIT: Thefts remain the most committed type of crime committed in Kuwait, according to official statistics. A total of 934 theft crimes were committed during the first half of 2016, according to statistics released by the public prosecution for crimes investigated during that period. It is followed by drug and alcohol related crimes (927), murder and battery assault (360), sexual assault (175) and kidnap (139). Meanwhile, the same statistics show that juveniles' crimes have increased by 122 percent, as 1,399 were committed during the first half of 2016 compared to only 617 committed last year. Meanwhile, information technology crimes came in second place among misdemeanor crimes with 1,171 crimes, which is a high rate considering that the cyber-crime law went into effect in January of this year. The public prosecution investigated in a total of 7,868 during the first half of 2016, out of which 4,281 were referred to court while 3,012 (40 percent) cases were shelved. —Al-Qabas

Gas stations ready

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) informed the Finance Ministry that all preparations to start enforcing the new gasoline tariffs by Thursday are finished to guarantee the same level of efficiency at gas stations, sources said. In the meantime, car sale agencies recorded a notable increase in the sale of small-size vehicles compared to a drop in the sale of vehicles that have higher fuel consumption levels. Meanwhile, most taxi drivers say that fares are expected to increase after the gas price's hike becomes effective. —Al-Jarida

VAT delayed

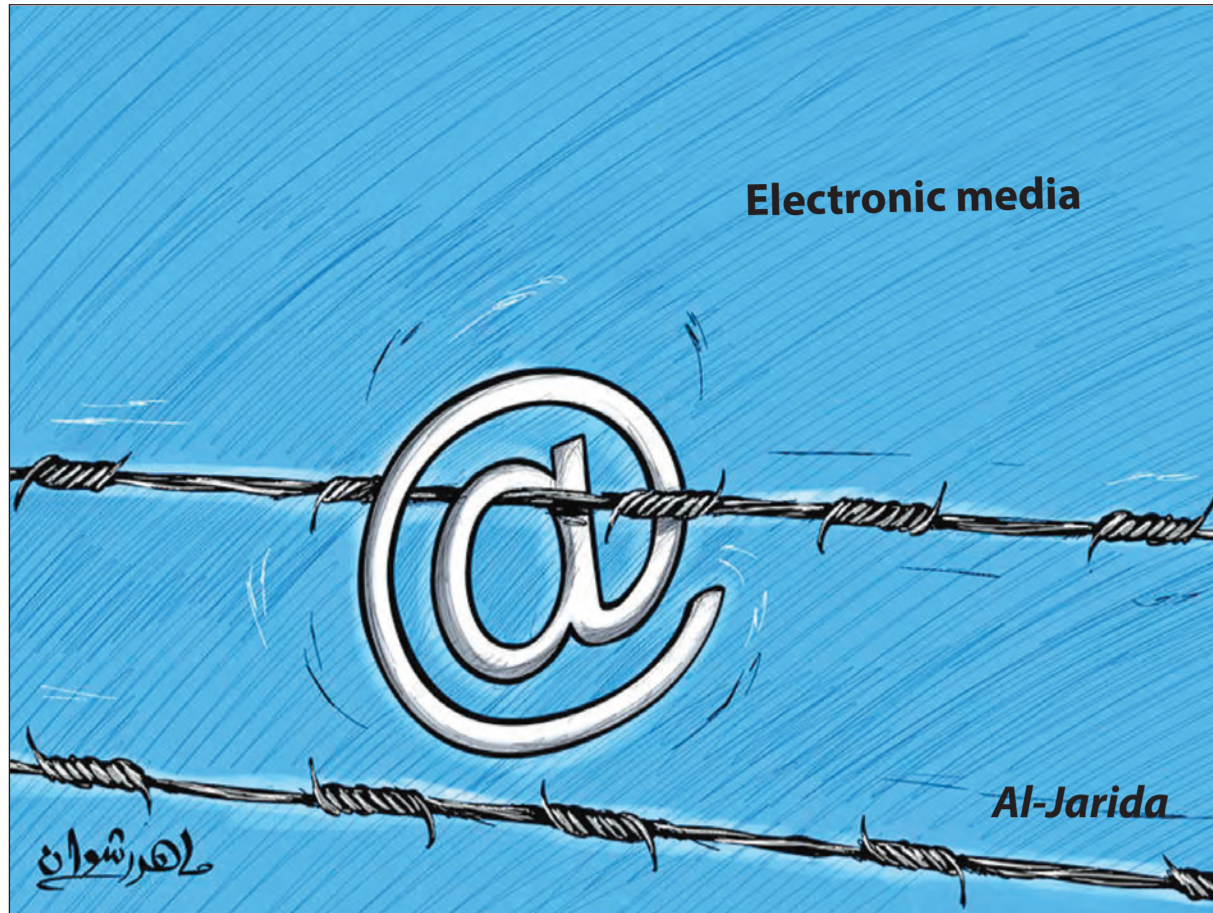
KUWAIT: The value added tax (VAT) proposal which is included in the state's economic reform program has been delayed, said sources, adding that the government has dropped plans to present a draft law on that regard next October. Instead, the government will wait until a decision on that regard is issued by the Gulf Cooperation Council, the sources added. —Al-Anbaa

Drivers' ban

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry has reactivated a law under which expatriates who leave Kuwait after working there as mandoubs (company representatives) or drivers are not allowed to return back to the country unless after two years from the exit date. The decision comes after the ministry detected manipulation in which an employee would agree with his employer to be hired as a representative or driver in order to get an exception to obtain a driver's license. The employee would then leave the country and come back later for another job while retaining their licenses, the sources explained. —Al-Anbaa

Rents going down?

KUWAIT: The successful housing plan in which a large number of units were distributed and power was connected in new cities such as the Jaber Al-Ahmad area is expected to lead to further drop in apartments' rents in Kuwait, said high ranking sources at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW). This factor coupled with others including the drop in oil prices as well as supply and demand has led to notable reduction in the real estate market's inflation, said the sources. —Al-Rai



AL-MANABR AL-QURANIYA SOCIETY HONORS KIB FOR THOUGHTFUL INITIATIVES DURING RAMADAN

KUWAIT: Al-Manabr Al-Quraniya Society honored Kuwait International Bank (KIB), in appreciation of its significant events and initiatives during the month of Ramadan this year, which embraced various national, social and humanitarian activities especially the religious ones that serve Muslims and Islam.

The Head of Corporate Communications at KIB, Nawaf Najia expressed his gratitude for this recognition that once again confirms the bank's vital role and noble mission towards the society and its people, especially during Ramadan, in which KIB strives to commemorate by introducing a variety of events and programs that are addressed to customers, employees and their families.

Najia concluded by thanking Al-Manabr Al-Quraniya Society for their trust and honoring KIB, and hoped for continuous mutual efforts and cooperation between both parties. He also confirmed that the bank will exert all efforts to stay committed to its social mission and promise towards the community and its people.

It is worth mentioning that KIB



strives, through its leading CSR program, to carry out and support numerous CSR initiatives all year long that cover various sectors and activities

such as religious, humanitarian, social, charity, sports, health, medical, national, cultural, educational and many more.

Crime

Report

FAKE DOCTOR ARRESTED

KUWAIT: A Bangladeshi man who arrived in Kuwait on a cleaner's visa acted as a doctor in Rabiya. The man, identified as 'Atwa', became famous very quickly among his compatriots and others, including women who got pregnant out of wedlock. They used to go to him for abortion pills, and he had large quantities of stolen medicine from health centers and hospitals, along with other drugs from unknown sources. Atwa was thinking about moving somewhere else, but tips were received by Farwaniya police, who placed him under surveillance for five days, then his place was raided and he was caught red-handed practicing medicine without a license. A huge amount of medicine, ampules, hormones and expired medicines were found. Atwa was arrested and is awaiting legal action.

False alarm

"Please help, a Daeshi wants to blow up the mosque!" a citizen told police, who rushed to the scene and found that the so-called IS member was the mosque's muezzin who was throwing trash in a container. A security source said a call was received by Interior Ministry operations from a citizen in Qairawan asking for help against a man who was "circling the mosque to plant a bomb". The call was taken seriously, and police went to the mosque and asked the man to give himself up. The muezzin told police he was checking the surroundings of the mosque as he does every day at dawn.

Murder threat

"If I see you in the street, I will run you over," a citizen told his ex-wife. She took his threats seriously and lodged a complaint. The citizen, in her 30s, told Bayan police that she received a call from her ex-husband that included insults and the threat to kill her. Police are working on the case.

Drunk man arrested

A citizen, who was drunk, moved from his hotel to an adjacent hotel through the beach and started flirting with women, which landed him at a Salmiya police station. The citizen, who booked a room in a seaside hotel, drank liquor, then decided to change his hotel in his own way. He then started harassing women, and one of them called the hotel's management. The manager asked the harasser about his room number, but he was not able to speak properly and it was discovered he was not a guest. Police were called, who arrested the infiltrator and detained him for legal action.

Man detained for selling contrabands

A citizen brahly offered 'sexual' products on social media, so detectives arrested and charged him with selling pornographic material and inciting vice. A video clip showed a man promoting pornographic material for sale on social media, and he appeared promising a woman, who he claimed called him, to deliver what she ordered, and said he can provide her with what she needs. Detectives arrested the man in Hawally, and he confessed and handed over the pornographic material he was promoting.

Driver mugged

An Indian expat man surprised by two persons who blocked him in Fahaheel, beat him up and stole the car he was driving, which belongs to his sponsor. A citizen went to the police station accompanied by his driver and told them the Indian was driving to a cooperative when he was stopped by two persons, who beat him, took the car and escaped. Detectives are searching for the two.

Teen driver detained

A juvenile lost his challenge with traffic police when he said they cannot chase him after he was driving recklessly, as he was arrested and his vehicle impounded. The youth made his challenge on social media, so policemen accepted the challenge and went out looking for the vehicle (a pick-up truck), that appeared in the clip without license plates. Police patrols went to Fahaheel industrial area and found him showing off, along with another man driving an SUV. Both were asked to stop, but did not and drove away, until they were forced to stop. The challenger and his friend were detained for questioning, while his car was impounded. —Al-Rai

ABK CONCLUDES STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

IN COLLABORATION WITH LOYAC, MGRP

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) announced the conclusion of its Summer Student Development Program and honored the 13 participating students during a graduation ceremony that was held on Thursday 18 August 2016, at the Bank's Learning and Development Unit in Hawally.

The Bank's program was organized in partnership with the Lothan Youth Achievement Center (LOYAC) and the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP), both of which cooperated with ABK in the selection of the program participants who were national senior students of local universities and colleges.

The five-week long program included lectures, on-site assignments and team projects that provided a firsthand experience of a working environment and encouraged the understanding of team work. The program also raised awareness of the financial sector in general with a focus on the banking industry in Kuwait.

ABK is a supporter of education and youth, and through the Bank's ABK Academy it has offered internship and training opportunities to senior students in local Universities and Colleges. The Bank will continue to collaborate with Kuwait's major educational institutions to build on its active role and build further awareness of Kuwait's finance sector. For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.



KFH HOLDS SUPERVISORY SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEES

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) held supervisory skills training program for a segment of employees working in supervising functions at the bank. This training program comes as part of KFH's internal training and development plan, while emanates from the bank's endeavors to hone the skills of its employees and equip them with all essential ingredients of success to increase their productivity and maintain the pioneering position of the bank. The 3-day training program encompassed 15 employees. It aimed at reinforcing the supervising side of those employees in an attempt to lay the pillars of success at the institution.

The training program tackled different subjects of

which the introduction to the concept of supervision, the characteristics of effective supervisor, in addition to the implementation of the fundamentals of supervision that revolve around monitoring and guiding the executive and management activities in an efficient way.

Moreover, the training program included subjects of theoretical and practical methodology of modern supervisory skills, the illustration of the concept of the supervising process, the roles and duties assigned to the supervisor, not to mention raising the quantitative and qualitative level of institutional performance while keeping healthy, efficient and positive work environment.

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Burkinis and Islam role in France trigger sparks in the presidential race

TUNISIA'S NEW UNITY GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE

ISLAMIC STATE 'CONNECTED' TO BANGLADESH

US OFFERS INTELLIGENCE, LAW-ENFORCEMENT HELP



DHAKA: US Secretary of State John Kerry (left) and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina shake hands ahead of a meeting in Dhaka yesterday. US Secretary of State John Kerry held talks with Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on combating extremism as police killed members of an Islamist group blamed for a deadly cafe siege. —AFP

DHAKA: The United States believes that elements of Islamic State are "connected" to operatives in Bangladesh, Secretary of State John Kerry said yesterday, promising help with intelligence and law enforcement after a wave of militant attacks. Kerry's blunt statement followed the July 1 attack on a cafe in an upscale district of the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka, in which 22 people were killed - mostly non-Muslims and foreigners, including one American.

It directly contradicted the narrative of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government, which has blamed homegrown militants and denied a foreign hand in the hostage taking at the Holey Artisan Bakery that was claimed by Islamic State. The cafe raid was the most shocking of a series of atrocities that has included killings of atheist intellectuals, people from religious and sexual minorities and foreigners, raising fears over the stability of the mainly Muslim nation of 160 million.

Responding to questions after giving a speech, Kerry said he had a "very candid" conversation with Hasina. He said that Islamic State had wide contacts around the world, including in South Asia, adding: "They are connected to some degree with some of the operatives here, and we made that very clear in our conversations." As Kerry's motorcade headed to the US embassy for meetings with opposition leaders, a government minister directly contradicted him. "I told him that there is no such terrorist or militants from outside or who are connected with the (Islamic State), but there are militants inside our country and they are homegrown," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told Reuters.

'Eye off the ball'

Bangladesh's secular government has continued to enjoy the West's support despite mounting concerns over its handling of the escalation in militant activity. Bangladesh's security response has, say analysts, been colored by a political standoff with the Islamist-leaning opposition that boycotted the last general election and is suspected

by the government of links to local militant groups. Michael Kugelman of The Wilson Center, a Washington-based think tank, said the US administration had not paid enough attention to the growing terror threats in Bangladesh, which is now impacting Americans. "It has arguably taken its eye off the ball even as this threat has begun to directly affect Americans," he said.

Police believe that Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, a local militant group that has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, was involved in organizing in the cafe attack. Two days before Kerry's visit, security forces said they had killed three militants, including a Bangladeshi-born Canadian citizen called Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury who was suspected of being the mastermind. Chowdhury is reported to have been the subject of a profile in an Islamic State journal called Dabiq that identified him as its top operative in Bangladesh. The Syria-based militant group also published "selfie" photos of the cafe attackers on its propaganda channels while the hostage crisis was continuing.

Security cooperation

Kerry said "there is much we can do to cooperate" in the fields of intelligence and law enforcement to address security threats from both domestic and trans-national organizations. "That's the nature of the beast that we are dealing with today," Kerry said. "I'm absolutely confident that we will build additional capacity and it will be effective." In a speech, Kerry also touched on the need to uphold democratic principles "to defeat terrorists" and expressed concern over upholding the rights of workers. Bangladesh's economy depends heavily on the fortunes of the \$28 billion garment industry, which is struggling to improve a poor safety record epitomized by the Rana Plaza disaster of 2013 in which a factory collapse killed more than 1,100 people. Kerry was making his first visit to Bangladesh. His armored SUV hit a gate in front of the US embassy, but he was not hurt. —Reuters

BELGIAN CRIME LAB SET ON FIRE

BRUSSELS: Attackers rammed a car through the gates of Belgium's crime institute yesterday and set fire to a lab containing crime scene samples, apparently in an effort to destroy evidence, Brussels prosecutors said. As the blaze in the north Brussels suburb erupted, residents heard at least one explosion and Belgian media reported a bomb attack, but investigators said the noise was probably materials going up in flames.

Belgium has been on high alert since suicide bombings at the Brussels airport and subway killed 32 people on March 22, and security forces remain on standby for another attack. Prosecutors said five people were detained for questioning and released without charge following the incident, which happened at about 2 am in Neder-Over-Heembeek. No one was

injured. "It's probably not terrorism. It's a criminal act," said Ine Van Wymersch, a spokeswoman for the Brussels prosecutor's office. "I cannot confirm that there was any bomb." The forensic facility assists Belgium's justice authorities in carrying out their investigations and the lab contains DNA samples found at crime scenes.

"The location was not chosen randomly," Van Wymersch said. She said the lab contains "sensitive information" being used in ongoing investigations. The fire and damage hampered the efforts of investigators to enter the scene, and she said it would take some time to establish exactly what had been destroyed. "The laboratory does thousands of analyses each year, so we don't know what damage has been done yet," Van Wymersch told reporters. "It is obvious that several individuals would

have an interest in making elements in their justice file disappear."

Belgium's police and army have been deployed in large numbers since suicide bombers attacked Paris last November, leaving 130 dead. Many of the attackers had links to Belgium. Tensions have also been running high in Belgium in recent weeks amid a series of criminal knife and shooting attacks and two hoax anthrax attacks. On Friday, one person was killed and at least four were injured in an accidental explosion at a sports center near the French border. Over the weekend, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel announced new plans to ease the load on the security services, including creating a new force to protect key buildings and using more private security firms for concerts or sports events. —AP



BRUSSELS: Damage can be seen at the building of the National Criminology Lab in Brussels yesterday. Belgian media reported an explosion rocked the building in the early hours of Monday, the cause was not immediately known. —AP

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IS-CLAIMED ATTACK KILLS 18 IN IRAQ OASIS TOWN

WEDDING PARTY TARGETED

KARBALA, Iraq: Attackers armed with suicide vests, rifles and grenades killed 18 people in the Iraqi oasis town of Ain al-Tamer, many of them guests at a wedding party, officials said yesterday. The attack, a rare occurrence in this region southwest of Baghdad, was claimed by the Islamic State (IS) jihadist group. They were carrying Kalashnikovs, hand grenades. One of them blew himself up and the others were killed by the security forces, said the head of central Euphrates operations command, Qais Khalaf.

A local council member and a provincial health directorate source confirmed the death toll in the attack, which took place late Sunday, and said at least 26 others were wounded. Ain al-Tamer is located 50 km from the Shiite holy city of Karbala and on the edge of Anbar province, long a haven for jihadists. IS said in a statement posted on social media that its men, all of them Iraqis, fought the security forces for several hours before detonating their suicide vests.

Officials said the attackers started opening fire in a neighborhood of Ain al-Tamer at around 1830 GMT on Sunday, although it was not immediately what their target was. Five members of one family were among the dead, according to a health official from Karbala province. The five terrorists were carrying lots of weapons and one of them blew himself up in the midst of our citizens, said Farhan Jassem Mohammed of the local council. Some of them were wearing civilian clothes, others military clothes. They infiltrated from the west under the cover of darkness, he said. One of them may have managed to flee. There is an ongoing search, Mohammed told AFP.

Wedding Party

The IS statement mentioned only four attackers. A former mayor of Ain al-Tamer told AFP the attackers started spraying bullets at a nearby wedding party. The attack kicked off as people

were attending a wedding party in the neighborhood. Several among the dead and wounded were at the party, said Mahfouz Al-Tamimi, who is now a Karbala provincial council member.

Military commanders said the attackers came from the Anbar desert to the west, a region that is overwhelmingly Sunni and borders Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria. Iraq's security forces have for months been battling IS fighters in Anbar, notching up key victories in provincial Ramadi and jihadist bastion Fallujah earlier this year. IS recently lost control of an area in Anbar called Jazirat al-Khaldiyyeh, a key crossroads that jihadists used to move fighters and supplies between fronts since they seized large parts of Iraq in 2014. The attack on Ain al-Tamer, in which guerrilla fighters doubled up as suicide bombers, bore the hallmark of IS. The jihadists call such operations *linghamasi* - which literally means *iplungingi* and refers to the act of penetrating deep into enemy territory. — AFP



BAGHDAD: Iraqi security forces in their armored vehicles monitor an area yesterday in the Karrada neighborhood. — AFP

ON SYRIA, US DEMOCRATS LOOK TO DEFLECT THE CONVERSATION

WASHINGTON: In his speech at the Republican National Convention, Donald Trump made six references to the conflict in Syria, pointing to the war-ravaged nation as a source of much of the world's turmoil, particularly immigration and extremism. A week later at the Democratic convention, Hillary Clinton made not one reference to Syria. The conflict in Syria remains a major conundrum for both President Barack Obama and Clinton, his former secretary of state.

With a firm reluctance to enter another US war in the Middle East, the United States has focused its military efforts on fighting the Islamic State group in northern Syria and in Iraq while pursuing so-far failed diplomatic efforts to end the civil war. Now entering its sixth year, the Syria conflict has killed more than a quarter million people, displaced some 11 million, and has turned the once-cosmopolitan, secular country into a hive of factions with dangerously competing interests.

Biggest legacy problems

"Of the two or three biggest legacy problems for the Obama administration, in terms of foreign policy, Syria will figure prominently on that list," said Robert Ford, US ambassador to Syria during the uprising and now a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute. There is an element within the Democratic Party, Ford adds, that "would go as far as to say the United States helped to cause that problem." Clinton has tap-danced around the issue, particularly since her views may not be in line with that of her former boss.

Her closest advisers point out that she often had a more hawkish approach to international relations than many in her party, including Obama, but delving into such a complex situation on the campaign trail risks putting off voters who are more concerned with the situation at home. "There is a benefit to the Syria debate not getting too political at this stage," said Ilan Goldenberg, a Clinton adviser who is senior fellow and director of the Middle East Security Program at the Center for a New American Security. "There will be a rigorous process of us evaluating all our options. It's much more deep than what you get on the campaign trail but my instinct is she'll lean further forward." While Clinton has been one of the most pro-intervention candidates to run for the

presidency in 2016, she has not condoned the forceful removal of Syrian President Bashar Assad from power, calling instead for a peaceful handover. In a December debate, she said she supports the establishment of a no-fly zone "to create those safe refuges within Syria."

Clinton dodges question

The aim would be "to try to protect people on the ground both from Assad's forces, who are continuing to drop barrel bombs, and from ISIS," she said, using an acronym for the Islamic State group. "And of course, it has to be de-conflicted with the Russians, who are also flying in that space," she added. But Clinton dodged a question about whether failure to take more assertive action in Syria damaged American credibility, saying at a later debate that, "as commander-in-chief, you have to be constantly evaluating the decisions you have to make." The type of intervention that many had envisioned - targeting key installations belonging to Assad's government after it was found to be using chemical weapons in 2013 - never came to fruition.

Appetite for intervention of any kind was especially low after the vastly unpopular US-led invasion of Iraq, and Washington was still reeling from the 2012 attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens. Clinton has been forced to answer inquiries over the security failures leading to that attack. Clinton "was very sobered by the Libya experience," Ford said. "She absolutely understood, back in 2012, the need for a more muscular approach (in Syria). I never ever heard her say we need to send in the US military," he added. "But she thought there were people on the ground who we could help."

Founder of ISIS

When it came time for action in Syria, Obama opted to help moderate rebel forces and, a year later, launched airstrikes to target the Islamic State group. Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have also supported a military partnership with Russia to limit a US expansionist role in Syria for years to come. Trump does not often address the Syria conflict, but he's repeatedly blamed the Obama administration for the rise of the



ALEPPO: Syrian civil defense workers inspect damaged buildings, after barrel bombs were dropped on the Bab Al-Nairab neighborhood in Aleppo, Syria. — AP

Islamic State group, which in 2014 took over a third of Syria and Iraq, though much of that territory has since been re-claimed. This month, he accused Obama of being the "founder of ISIS," adding, "I would say the co-founder would be crooked Hillary Clinton."

Trump has said that he doesn't think Assad is the biggest problem in Syria, and has called for the establishment of safe zones inside Syria for refugees so they don't have to flee the country. Outside

observers caution against expecting too much in Clinton's ability to turn this conflict around, saying that any future action is too little, too late. Joe Macaron, a policy analyst at Arab Center Washington DC, warns that "the Syrian opposition's bet on a Hillary presidency might be a rerun of weighing its options in 2011 and 2012 on the expectation of a US intervention under Obama." What political news is the world searching for on Google and talking about on Twitter? — AP

106 STUDENTS DETAINED IN PAKISTAN MADRASSA RAID

QUETTA: Pakistani police raided a madrassa in the restive southwestern city of Quetta and detained 106 illegal Afghan students, officials said yesterday, as the government stepped up a campaign to rein in rogue religious schools. The detentions were made Saturday, and the students, aged between 14 to 18 years who had no documents giving them permission to be in the country-will eventually be deported to Afghanistan, senior police official Nadeem Hussain said.

"We have sealed the madrassa as it did not have any registration documents," he said. Akbar Harifal, the Home Secretary for Balochistan province, of which Quetta is the capital, confirmed the raid and detentions. Pakistan had vowed to keep a closer eye on its 13,000 Islamic seminaries, or madrassas, as part of a "National Action Plan" after the country's deadliest extremist attack, a Taliban assault on a school that left more than 150 people dead in December 2014.

With little oversight of what was being taught to the hundreds of thousands of children enrolled in the country's madrassas, fears intensified after the 2014 attack that some religious schools were breeding grounds for intolerance or even extremism. There was no suggestion that the seminary raided Saturday had links to extremism. Pakistan is home to 1.5 million registered and about as many undocumented Afghan refugees, with growing insecurity in Afghanistan impeding voluntary return programs. Balochistan, the country's biggest and poorest province, has been plagued for more than a decade by a separatist insurgency and sectarian killings. — AFP



SIRTE, Libya: Members of the forces loyal to Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) prepare their weapons as they gather in the coastal city of Sirte, east of the capital Tripoli. — AFP

LIBYAN FORCES CORNER ISLAMIC STATE FIGHTERS

SIRTE: Libya's pro-government forces yesterday cornered Islamic State group jihadists in their last holdouts in the coastal city of Sirte, after heavy fighting that left dozens dead and wounded. The battle for IS's North African stronghold was launched more than three months ago by forces loyal to the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA).

Loyalist forces have been backed by US air raids for almost a month, amid international concern over the jihadists' growing influence. IS overran the Mediterranean hometown of Libya's slain dictator Moamer Kadhafi in mid-2015, sparking fears the jihadists would use it as a springboard for attacks on Europe. Pro-GNA forces yesterday said they had encircled the jihadists in less than two square kilometers of Sirte, after staging an assault the previous day on its last two IS-held districts.

The anti-IS fighters "seized a little more than half of district Number Three and 70 percent of district Number One" in the downtown seafront area, they said. At least 38 pro-GNA fighters have been killed and 185 wounded since they began the "final battle" to retake all of Sirte on Sunday, the hospital for the loyalist forces in the nearby city of Misrata said. The pro-GNA field hospital in Sirte on Sunday called for blood donations. IS casualty figures have been unavailable. The jihadists deployed at least 12 suicide car bombs in a last bid to slow the loyalist advance, pro-GNA forces said.

Mosque retaken

After sporadic clashes during the night, the front was calm yesterday morning, according to an AFP photographer in the city 450 kilometers east of Tripoli. "Our forces are preparing to launch a new assault on the area where Daesh is encircled," said a spokesman for the pro-GNA campaign, Reda Issa, using an Arabic acronym for IS. In district Number Three, loyalists have retaken the Qortoba Mosque, which the jihadists had renamed after slain Al-Qaeda leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the campaign's media office said. IS set fire to

the mosque's library after entering the city, killing an imam and using its courtyard for "torture and executions", it said.

In June 2015, IS fighters seized Sirte, hoisting their black flag above the city. Pro-GNA forces fought their way into Sirte a year later, this June 9, but their advance has been hampered by snipers, suicide bombings and booby traps. More than 400 loyalist fighters have been killed and nearly 2,500 wounded in the battle for Sirte since May, medical sources say. The pro-GNA forces are mostly militias from western cities backing the unity government of premier-designate Fayez Al-Sarraj and the guards of oil installations that IS has repeatedly tried to seize. Backed by US air strikes since August 1, they managed to seize the jihadists' headquarters at the Ouagadougou conference centre on August 10, pinning down IS fighters near the sea.

1,000 IS fighters

As of August 24, US warplanes had carried out 82 strikes, according to the US Africa Command. Since Tuesday, the United States has also begun using more precise AH-1W SuperCobra attack helicopters in the operation. The United States also leads a coalition fighting IS in Syria and Iraq, where the jihadists seized large swathes of territory in 2014.

Analysts say ousting IS from Libya would be a symbolic boost for the country's fragile unity government, but unrest might continue as IS could carry out more scattered attacks across Libya. Before it was seized by IS, Sirte was home to some 120,000 residents, but a pro-GNA military leader said this month that all had fled except for the families of the jihadists. Pentagon spokesman Gordon Trowbridge this month estimated that jihadist fighters in Sirte numbered fewer than 1,000.

IS took advantage of the chaos in Libya after the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed Kadhafi, as rival militias and authorities have vied for control of the oil-rich country. — AFP

THAILAND POLICE LINK BEACH-TOWN BOMBINGS TO MUSLIM INSURGENCY

BANGKOK: Thai police identified yesterday a third suspect wanted in connection with a wave of bombings in tourist towns this month that killed four people and for the first time linked the attacks to Muslim separatists operating in the far south. Thailand's tourist industry had been largely spared a spill-over of violence from a decades-old insurgency in the far south and authorities had at first dismissed any connection between the Aug 11-12 bombings and the separatists.

But police issuing an arrest warrant for a third suspect yesterday said all three of the people they wanted to question had links to previous attacks blamed on the Muslim insurgents. "The three suspects for which we have obtained an arrest warrants are known to have ties to other previous attacks in the southern provinces," deputy national police spokesman Kissana Phathanacharoen said.

Police identified the third suspect as Asamin Katemadi and said he was also wanted in connection with a 2015 bomb attack on the tourist island of Samui. Four Thai people were killed in the coordinated bomb attacks in various tourist town south of Bangkok this month and dozens were wounded, including foreigners. The military government, apparently loath to spread

alarm in the tourist industry, the one bright spot in a generally flat economy, at first dismissed any suggestion the Muslim separatists battling the predominantly Buddhist country's government might be to blame.

Authorities even hinted that supporters of ousted populist premier Thaksin Shinawatra might have been responsible. He denied any link. Thailand's three far-south provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat are majority-Muslim and resistance to central government rule has existed there for decades, resurfacing violently in 2004. More than 6,500 people have been killed in the largely ethnic Malay region since then in bombings and shootings that take place almost daily, according to Deep South Watch, a group which monitors the conflict. Peace talks between the government and shadowy insurgents group began in 2013 under the civilian government of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's sister, but have stalled since the military overthrew her in 2014. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Monday meetings were taking place between the government and various insurgent groups in Malaysia but he insisted that there needed to be a cessation of violence before further terms were discussed. — Reuters



BANGKOK: A man meditates on a bench in front of a lake in Lumpini Park in Bangkok, Thailand. The park is in the heart of the main business district in Thailand's capital and is frequented by joggers and other city dwellers looking for urban green space. — AP

TUNISIA'S NEW UNITY GOVERNMENT TAKES OFFICE

TUNIS: The new Tunisian unity government took office in the birthplace of the Arab Spring yesterday, with Prime Minister Youssef Chahed, the country's youngest-ever leader, facing major economic and security challenges. At 40, Chahed is Tunisia's youngest premier since independence from France in 1956, and the seventh in less than six years since the 2011 uprising that ousted strongman Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. His new cabinet of 26 ministers and 14 ministers of state includes women, "young" and independent ministers, three members of the Islamist Ennahda party and two former members of the powerful UGTT union.

It formally took office on Monday at a ceremony in Carthage just outside Tunis during which outgoing premier Habib Essid, 67, handed over power. "I hope this government will last," Essid said. "The worst thing for this country is the government changing every year or year and a half." Chahed said: "The situation is complicated, but we're optimistic. We will shoulder our responsibilities." "Don't worry about Tunisia and its future," he told his predecessor.

While Tunisia is considered to be a rare success story of the Arab Spring, the authorities have failed to resolve the issues of poverty, unemployment and corruption that preceded Ben Ali's fall. A wave of jihadist attacks, including two deadly assaults last year that killed dozens of foreign tourists, has further



TUNIS: Newly named Tunisian Prime Minister Youssef Chahed (standing at right) delivers his speech at the Parliament in Tunis. — AP

exacerbated problems in the economy, which relies heavily on tourism revenues. Analysts say it is too soon to tell if Chahed can restore security and revitalize Tunisia's battered economy which grew by just 0.8 percent last year compared with 2.3 percent in 2014.

"It is difficult to say if this last-minute government will have the time to prove it is efficient," said political analyst Slaheddin Jourchi. "Current indicators give the impression that failure may be closer than success," he said. The new government won a vote of confidence in parliament on Friday, with 167 out of 217 lawmakers in favor of the line-up. In a rousing speech to parliament, Chahed spoke of the dire state of the economy and said that "we are all responsible" and "we will all have to make sacrifices." "If nothing changes by 2017 austerity will follow," he warned. He also said his government would give priority to fighting corruption and "terrorism".

Chahed was appointed by President Beji Caïd Essebsi early this month after lawmakers passed a vote of no confidence in Essid's government following just 18 months in office. Essid had already been forced into making a sweeping government reshuffle in January, when the country witnessed some of its worst social unrest since the 2011 uprising. A liberal and member of Essebsi's Nidaa Tounes party, the new prime minister was a local affairs minister before his nomination to the premiership. — AFP

AUSTRALIA'S TURNBULL FACES A TOUGH PARLIAMENT AFTER ELECTION SETBACK

CANBERRA: Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull faces a tooth and nail fight with an emboldened opposition and slew of independent lawmakers when parliament returns today for the first time since elections last month in which he took a beating. Turnbull called early polls to break a deadlock in the upper house Senate, where a handful of independents blocked the government's agenda of corporate tax cuts and workplace reforms for more than two years.



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

But the election backfired, leaving the ruling Liberal-National coalition with a one-vote majority in the lower house and dependant on either the opposition Labor Party or eight to 10 independents or minor party Senators to pass legislation. "The government no longer has a working majority. Everything that happens in Parliament now will be affected by the weak support the prime minister has in his own party room," Labor's Manager of Opposition Business Tony Burke told Reuters.

"The Turnbull government won't last three years. On its best day, defeat is only

one vote away." Indeed, Turnbull looks set to face his first defeat as early as this week over a government proposal to hold a plebiscite to legalize same-sex marriage. Labor has garnered enough support from the Greens Party and independents, including newly elected Senator Derryn Hinch, to defeat a measure they call costly and unnecessary. Turnbull enjoyed record-high approval ratings after ousting Tony Abbott in a party-room coup in 2014. Since then, his numbers have sagged as the government failed to chalk up legislative victories. Hinch, a television personality known as "the human headline", rides into office this week on that wave of voter discontent. "I've met every prime minister since (Robert) Menzies," he told Reuters, referring to Australia's longest serving prime minister, who left office in 1966. "I've never seen a prime minister ... who's managed to dribble away their political cache so fast." Further complicating matters for Turnbull is a bloc of protectionist lawmakers led by the far-right One Nation Party.

This month, Treasurer Scott Morrison officially rejected bids by two Chinese companies in the A\$10 billion (\$7.55 billion) sale of electricity provider Ausgrid, which was widely seen as a reaction to the protectionists' growing power. Nationals Party Senator John Williams, who is threatening to break with the government to support a Royal Commission into the financial services sector opposed by Turnbull, acknowledged they were facing an uphill battle. "It will be tough. But people need to make decisions for the future of our country," Williams said. "If we don't ... then I'm sorry to say it but in years to come we're going to hit the financial brick wall and it's going to be a smash then." — Reuters



ROUSSEFF FACES SENATE IN IMPEACHMENT SHOWDOWN

'DILMA - WARRIOR OF THE BRAZILIAN HOMELAND'

BRASILIA: Suspended president Dilma Rousseff arrived yesterday at Brazil's Senate for a dramatic finale to an impeachment trial likely ending 13 years of leftist rule in Latin America's biggest country. Rousseff, 68, was greeted by cheering supporters as she arrived in the Senate to testify for the first time in her defense, just hours before senators were to start voting on her fate. "Dilma, warrior of the Brazilian homeland!" the crowd of supporters shouted.

Rousseff is accused of having taken illegal state loans to patch budget holes. Momentum to push her out is also fueled by deep anger at Brazil's historic recession, political paralysis and a vast corruption scandal centered on state oil giant Petrobras. The first female president of Brazil, who says she did nothing worthy of impeachment, was to speak for about half an hour from the podium, then face questioning from allies and opponents. It was unclear whether Rousseff would repeat her explosive claim on the Senate floor that the trial is a coup d'état aimed at destroying her Workers' Party and restoring the right to power. However, the packed Senate chamber crackled with tension.

Showdown

Rousseff came to the showdown accompanied by heavyweight allies, including her presidential predecessor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and a dozen former cabinet members. A small crowd of loyalists gathered from early morning outside the Senate and supporters shouted "Dilma come back!" from cars as they drove past the building's entrance. However, there appeared to be little Rousseff could say to save her presidency.

Closing arguments will begin after her testimony, followed by voting, possibly extending till tomorrow. Opponents say they will easily reach the needed two-thirds majority - 54 of 81 senators - to remove her from office. In that case, Rousseff's former vice president turned political enemy, Michel Temer, will be confirmed as president until elections in 2018. Temer, from the center-right PMDB party, has already been acting president since May, using his brief period in power to steer the government rightward. He plans to leave today or tomorrow on his first official foreign trip, a G20 summit in China, where officials say he will push to restore the tattered reputation of Brazil's economy.

Tortured under dictatorship

Criticized for lacking a popular touch or appetite for backroom politicking, Rousseff has barely double digit approval ratings. However, supporters outside the Senate said they backed Rousseff's claim to be victim of trumped up charges in a rightwing coup. "I am fighting to defend democracy and the dignity of the people. This has been a persecution against the Workers' Party, Dilma and the Brazilian people," said one of about 100 protesters outside the Senate, retired teacher Marlene Bastos, 65.



BRASILIA: Supporters of suspended president Dilma Rousseff hold a demonstration during the impeachment trial, outside the National Congress in Brasilia yesterday. — AFP

Although most Brazilians have abandoned Rousseff, there is lingering sympathy for a woman who was imprisoned and tortured by the military dictatorship in the 1970s for belonging to a far left urban guerrilla cell. Although her

presidency has been mired in the Petrobras embezzlement and bribery scandal, Rousseff herself has never been charged with trying to enrich herself-unlike many of her prominent accusers and close allies. Temer is hardly more popular, according to opinion polls. He faces harsh questioning over his legitimacy as an unelected president and was loudly booed at the recent Olympic opening ceremony in Rio de Janeiro.

Criminal or scapegoat?

The impeachment case rests on narrow charges that Rousseff took unauthorized state loans to bridge budget shortfalls during her 2014 election to a second term. Allies have spent the Senate trial arguing that these loans were nothing more than stopgap measures frequently employed by previous governments. Opponents, however, have broadened the accusation to paint Rousseff's loans as part of her disastrous mismanagement, contributing to once booming Brazil's slide into recession. Brazil's economy shrank 3.8 percent in 2015 and is forecast to drop a further 3.3 percent this year, the worst performance since the 1930s. Inflation stands at around nine percent and unemployment at 11 percent. Rousseff's side says that decline was caused by forces far beyond the president's control, notably a worldwide slump in commodity prices, which hit exports hard. — AFP

SPAIN STARTS COUNTDOWN TO A 3RD NATIONAL ELECTION IN A YEAR

MADRID: The clock starts ticking tomorrow towards what could be Spain's third national election in a year when acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy faces a confidence vote in parliament for a second term in office. Spain has been without a functioning government since inconclusive elections in December and June failed to hand a convincing mandate to any political party. So far, party leaders have been unable to agree on forming a coalition.

The eight-month political deadlock has delayed investments in infrastructure such as roads and rail and put high-ranking government appointments on hold, leaving some Spanish embassies without an ambassador.

Rajoy's centre-right People's Party (PP) won the most votes in June's election but lacks the majority it needs to win the vote even with support from centrists

Ciudadanos (Citizens), Spain's fourth-biggest party. The opposition Socialists have refused to back Rajoy or smooth the way to a PP-led minority government by abstaining in a second confidence vote, which will be held on Friday if tomorrow's ballot fails. In the second vote a simple majority will suffice to put Rajoy back in power.

The Socialists are unlikely to back down from that position given local elections in September in the northern regions of Galicia and the Basque Country where support for Rajoy's PP could cost votes for the left-wing party. Spain's economy, on the rebound from a recession which ended three years ago, has powered ahead despite the lack of a functioning government, with the latest data showing strong growth fueled by consumer spending and demand for exports. — Reuters

EGYPT SEEKS TOUGHER PUNISHMENT FOR FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

CAIRO: Women's rights activists hailed the Egyptian government yesterday for advocating increased prison sentences for perpetrators of female genital mutilation (FGM) but warned that a new law could shroud the practice in greater secrecy. Egypt's cabinet on Sunday approved a bill, which must be passed by parliament to become law, imposing jail terms of up to seven years for people who perform FGM and up to three years for those who escort a girl or woman to undergo the practice.

It is currently punishable in Egypt by between three months and two years in prison under a 2008 law, which was enacted after an 11-year-old girl died following an FGM procedure. The drive for tougher sentences follows the recent death of a 17-year-old girl of complications during an FGM operation in a private hospital in Suez province.

The Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR), a Cairo-based rights group, welcomed the bill but said it may not deter people from performing FGM and could drive it further underground. "It will also decrease the rate of reporting FGM cases, as imposing a punishment on whoever escorts a girl to have the operation will make families fear reporting cases," Dalia Abd El-Hameed of the EIPR told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. FGM affects an estimated 140 million girls and women across a swathe of Africa and parts of the Middle East and Asia and is seen as a gateway to marriage and a way of preserving

a girl's purity. It causes numerous health problems that can be fatal. More than nine in 10 women and girls aged 15 to 49 have undergone FGM in Egypt, and some 80 percent of the procedures are carried out by medical professionals, according to the United Nations. Yet the proportion of girls aged 15 to 17 in Egypt who have been cut dropped to about six in 10 as of 2014, down from three quarters in 2008, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) said. "We have seen some reduction in FGM in Egypt, but at the same time health professionals and others are still not being held to account for carrying it out," said Suad Abu-Dayyeh of the London-based human rights group Equality Now.

In January 2015, Dr Raslan Fadl was convicted of manslaughter in Egypt's first FGM trial after a 13-year-old girl died in a botched procedure. While Fadl was sentenced to more than two years in prison, he has not yet served his jail term. Rights groups say the current law has not been enforced and that society is permissive of FGM, which is widely practiced among Muslims as well as Christians in the mostly Muslim nation. "Many people still link the idea of honor with female circumcision, so it is not about stiffening the law as much as addressing people's mindsets," said Reda Al-Danbouki of the Egyptian group Women's Centre for Guidance and Legal Awareness. — Reuters

BEIRUT EDITOR FINED €20,000 FOR HARIRI COURT CONTEMPT

LEIDSCHENDAM, Netherlands: A special court yesterday fined the editor of a Beirut-based newspaper 20,000 euros (\$22,000) for publishing secret information about witnesses in the case against the alleged killers of former Lebanese premier Rafiq Hariri. Ibrahim Al-Amin, the editor-in-chief of the Al-Akhar newspaper, was found guilty in July of contempt of court by the UN-backed Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

The prosecutor on Monday urged the court, based in the leafy town of Leidschendam just outside The Hague, to impose a two-year jail term on Amin and a \$75,000 fine. Amin and the pro-Hezbollah Al-Akhar newspaper were convicted of contempt after running two articles in January 2013 with the names and photographs of 32 witnesses in its Arabic print and online editions. The articles were entitled "STL Leaks: The Prosecution's Surprise Witnesses" and "The STL Witness List: Why We Published". Hariri and 22 others, including a suspected suicide bomber, died in a massive car bomb blast on the Beirut waterfront on February 14, 2005.

"I sentence M. Ibrahim Mohammed Ali Al-Amin to a fine of 20,000 euros, to be paid in full

by 30 September, 2016," said judge Nicola Lettieri. He also imposed "a fine of 6,000 thousand euros to be paid in full by 30 September, 2016" on the paper.

The prosecutor Kenneth Scott had also called for a fine of 112,700 euros to be imposed on the paper. But defense counsel Antonios Abu Kasm argued that such a fine would end up "penalizing the employees and their families, who will suffer direct financial consequences, given the already delicate financial situation" of the paper.

Five suspected members of the powerful Shiite movement Hezbollah were originally indicted by the court, set up in 2009, and their trial in absentia opened in January 2014. However, the court has quashed the case against one of the accused, Hezbollah commander Mustafa Badreddine, who is believed to have died in fighting in Syria in May.

Earlier this year the STL acquitted on appeal a senior Lebanese television journalist in a similar case involving the alleged publication of witness names in the highly-sensitive trial. Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah has dismissed the tribunal as a US-Israeli plot, and vowed none of the defendants will ever be caught. — AFP

OPTIONS SOUGHT AS MERKEL'S RADIO SILENCE COMPLICATES PATH TO SOFT BREXIT LANDING

MERKEL WANTS BREXIT CLARITY, REFUSES TO PRE-NEGOTIATE

BERLIN: Triggering the procedure for Britain to exit the European Union is like turning off the engines on an airplane, a top European diplomat says: best only do it if you can see a landing strip. Otherwise, all parties risk a messy outcome. When Britain makes its exit move - by invoking Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty - it will set the clock running on a two-year deadline to leave the EU. Keen to avoid a crash landing, officials on both sides are scoping out how to proceed.

Options include the 'neverland' possibility of simply not invoking Article 50, trying back channel talks to sharpen Britain's sense of what scenarios are possible, and hopping from an interim outcome to a more permanent post-Brexit landing site. The first option is a non-starter for German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Europe's most powerful leader and the first one Theresa May met after becoming British prime minister last month. "The EU can't accept that," said a source close to Merkel, who has no desire to see Britain leave but has a pragmatic focus on holding the rest of bloc together, and does not believe Britain will hold a second referendum on its EU membership.

Even if the British economy's resilience in the immediate aftermath of the country's June 23 vote to leave the EU eases the economic pressure on Britain to press ahead with Brexit, May herself has said "Brexit means Brexit". She has, however, said Britain will not trigger the exit procedure this year. For the British government, the dilemma of when and how to make a Brexit landing is complicated by a refusal on the part of EU leaders, led by Merkel, to discuss potential outcomes until Britain invokes the exit procedure.

"We won't talk beforehand," said the source close to Merkel, speaking on condition of anonymity. Another German government official stressed the strict ban in



BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel greets people at the Federal Chancellery during the open day of the German Federal Government in Berlin, Germany. — AP

Berlin on any pre-negotiating: "We won't talk about substance." In the absence of formal pre-negotiations, the British government must work through the second option: peering through gaps in the clouds of European officialdom to try to work out what its post-Brexit 'landing' options are. Such back channeling could help the British work out what is realistic in order to avoid EU negotiators balking at their position, and the clock running down on the two-year deadline. "You can only nail it down if you are in the realm of the possible," said one European official.

'Special status'

A likely trade-off between EU market

access (which Britain would prefer) and the free movement of people (which is does not want) will probably leave a few achievable 'landing points', leaving British officials to try to identify these in informal meetings with cagey counterparts. Here, they may yet find a way forward. There have been indications from at least one government that there may be room for discussions, rather than negotiations, in advance of Britain triggering Article 50. German officials have also signaled they are ready to make some concessions to strike a deal with Britain. European Affairs Minister Michael Roth has held out the possibility of London achieving "special status" in its ties with the EU after Brexit.

But European leaders do not want Britain to hold the bloc hostage by horse trading on the terms of an exit before it commits to leave. So even if British officials sharpen their sense of the kind of deal they can strike, they still face a tight timeframe to clinch a post-Brexit settlement with the EU. Behind the scenes, there has been a growing realization in Europe's capitals that the two-year window for negotiating Brexit is far too short.

This raises the third option being mooted by some European officials: an interim framework for Britain's ties with the EU, based on an existing model similar to that of Norway or Switzerland. "That might be a temporary solution," said one. Further talks could then result in another landing spot beyond the two-year negotiating window offered by Article 50. A spokeswoman for May said the prime minister and her government were going for a "British deal", to get the best for the country. The trickiest area is the crunch trade-off between market access and the free movement of people, which is sacrosanct to EU leaders. "The price on free movement for prosperity is high," the European official said.

One option to reduce the flow of people to Britain is for it to firm up rules around benefits such that only people from other EU countries with a firm job offer can move to the UK. Merkel has cut May some breathing space to work out her negotiating position, resisting calls from Paris and Brussels - in the days immediately after the Brexit vote - for Britain to leave the EU "as soon as possible". "There was a lot of testosterone flying around in the days after the referendum. That's when Merkel is at her best," said one British official. "She pulled it all back and said 'it's okay to take your time'." But there is a limit to Merkel's patience. The source close to her said: "It's in everyone's interests to have clarity." — Reuters

ITALY 'VULNERABLE BEAUTY' LACKS FUNDS AND ATTENTION AGAINST EARTHQUAKES

ROME: The basilica of Saint Benedict in the medieval town of Norcia swayed but held up last week when a 6.2 magnitude earthquake rocked mountainous central Italy. Just 24 km away in Amatrice, which used to bill itself as the town of 100 churches, the historic centre was flattened and not a single holy place escaped undamaged. The fact that a town in the main quake zone was largely unscathed while others have been crushed might have a lot to do with the vagaries of seismic shocks, which can bring disproportionate damage depending on land formation. But it might also be because picture-postcard Norcia has consistently invested in anti-seismic protection for its ancient buildings, while its less famous neighbors have not. Norcia represents the exception, not the rule in Italy, where the majority of buildings were constructed more than a century ago, well before anti-seismic norms were introduced. The question is whether the heavily indebted country has the will and the money to safeguard all its homes and cultural treasures.

Italy is home to more UNESCO world heritage sites than any other nation, with architectural and artistic masterpieces ranging from Greek and Roman remains to the frescoes of the late Mediaeval painter Giotto and residences or "palazzi" of the Renaissance and Baroque periods. But it is also an active seismic zone, experiencing 36 earthquakes with a magnitude of 5 and above since 1900. Almost every one has brought death and destruction, with nearly 300 people dying in the latest disaster.

Such tragedies inevitably trigger rounds of recriminations about why successive governments haven't done more to defend Italians' lives and heritage. "We should get to the churches, monuments and palazzi before the quakes do, but we always end up chasing them," says Paolo Clemente from Italy's multidisciplinary research centre ENEA. "If everything is left as it is, our cultural heritage is destined to die..."

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi, like other leaders before him, has promised a renewed push to bolster the flimsy earthquake defenses and met the celebrated Italian architect Renzo Piano on Sunday to help devise a national prevention plan. But like many Italians, Renzi has a fatalistic streak. "It's illusory to think you can control everything," he said last Thursday. "It's hard to imagine that (this disaster) could have been avoided simply using different

building technology. We're talking about towns dating back to the Middle Ages."

Red tape

Many experts disagree, saying Italy's towns and cities can be protected so long as you have a very deep pocket. "It is possible to reconcile (artistic) beauty with security when you have money," said Caterina Bon Valsassina, Italy's director general of cultural heritage, arts and landscape. "Once we were rich, but we aren't anymore." Some 40 billion euros (\$45 billion) would be needed to secure Italy's public buildings, according to the National Engineers' Association. The bill would go up to 360 billion euros to upgrade all the building stock, the country's employers association Confindustria estimates.

Italy has the largest debt mountain in the European Union as a proportion of its output after Greece, and its economy has barely grown in the last 17 years. This means there is very little money for major new budget items, such as nationwide earthquake-proofing. Government adviser Mauro Grassi says Italy should spend 4 billion euros a year for the next 20 years on disaster prevention programmes, arguing that this is roughly what the country is spending now on disaster response and reconstruction.

But even if it did, there is no guarantee it would be spent wisely, with corruption, bureaucracy, shoddy workmanship and organized crime all lurking in the shadows. Amatrice's main school was reopened in 2012 after the local authorities spent 700,000 euros on a refurbishment, including anti-seismic protection. It now lies in ruins. "If these buildings had been constructed like they are in Japan, then they would not have collapsed," prosecutor Giuseppe Saieva, who is leading an inquiry into why so many buildings collapsed last week, told la Repubblica newspaper. The reconstruction effort in L'Aquila, a 13th century city walloped by an earthquake in 2009, is still many years from completion. Seven building contractors were arrested in 2014 on allegations they were working with the Mafia. Other delays have been caused by often bewildering red tape that would surely snarl any significant campaign to retrofit buildings with anti-seismic protection. A recently introduced code for assigning public work contracts includes 220 norms. It is designed to root out graft but local authorities say it is a tangled nightmare to follow. — Reuters



LONDON: A picture shows a placard held by a demonstrator at a protest organized by 'Stand up to Racism' outside the French Embassy in London against the Burkinin ban on French beaches. — AFP

BURKINIS AND ISLAM ROLE IN FRANCE CAUSE SPARKS IN PRESIDENTIAL RACE

SARKOZY VOWS TO PROTECT FRANCE SECULAR 'WAY OF LIFE'

PARIS: The campaign to choose a centre-right candidate for the French presidential election has already descended into clashes between former president Nicolas Sarkozy and his main rival Alain Juppe over bans on the burkini swimsuit. The opening barbs between the two leading candidates for November's first-ever centre-right primary came after several French mayors said they would defy a ruling by France's highest Administrative Court which on Friday suspended a ban on the burkini.

The always-outspoken Sarkozy, who was president from 2007 to 2012, has plunged into the row since entering the race last week, saying France has to fight to protect its secular "way of life". "We don't want any external signs of belonging to a religion in our country," he said on Saturday. "I won't be the candidate of fudged compromises, of denying the reality and of half-baked solutions on immigration like the rest of them," 61-year-old Sarkozy told a crowd of young supporters. Juppe, a former prime minister who opinion polls show is France's most popular politician, set the tone for his campaign by telling supporters this weekend he wanted to "bring people together rather than fuelling the fire".

'Respect diversity'

While some observers have complained about the lack of fresh faces in the campaign, 71-year-Juppe is trying to use his age and his moderate stance to his advantage. He argues that at a time when France is under the constant threat of terror attack and its image is under fire abroad over burkini bans imposed by a string of southeastern towns, the country needs someone of his wide experience. "France is diverse and that's a fact," he said. "We don't all have the same origins or the same skin color or religion and that should be respected."

In stark contrast to Sarkozy, Juppe condemned the febrile atmosphere surrounding the issue of the burkini bans which were introduced by around 30 towns in the wake of two more Islamist attacks in France this summer. "Where is this mania which has gripped French society going to end? Are we going to ban long shirts in

schools next?" he asked in a Europe 1 radio interview. Juppe has also poured cold water on the idea of a ban on wearing the Islamic headscarf in universities, a measure that Sarkozy would like to see introduced to bolster France's strict secular code.

'French Guantanamo'

But he reserved his strongest criticism for another key Sarkozy demand, to create internment camps for suspects believed to have been radicalized to prevent them from carrying out attacks. Juppe said he did want to see "a French-style Guantanamo in which thousands of people would be imprisoned without trial". The centre-right primary, due to take place over two rounds on November 20 and 27, appears increasingly crucial because of the deep unpopularity of Socialist President Francois Hollande.

Hollande, who has been dragged down by a moribund economy and has recorded some of the lowest popularity scores of any post-war French president, has said he will decide by the end of the year whether to stand for re-election. Whoever wins the centre-right primary would be in a strong position to win the presidential race next May, most likely in a second-round head-to-head with Marine Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front (FN). It is on the issue of immigration and the place of Islam in France that the stances of the centre-right's candidates truly diverge because their approaches to the economy are broadly similar.

While opinion polls continue to show Juppe will win the primary, at least one poll published on Sunday showed Sarkozy has closed the gap considerably in the space of a week. The TNS Sofres poll showed both candidates would score around 34 percent in the first round. A total of 13 candidates will line up in November's contest, but only two Sarkozy's former Prime Minister Francois Fillon and one of his former ministers, Bruno Le Maire-appear capable of denting the support for either the former president or Juppe. Anyone on the electoral register can vote in the primary if they pay two euros (\$2.2) and pledge to adhere to the "values of the right and centre". — AFP

News

In brief

'Milkmen's kids'-mothers urged to come clean

BERLIN: Germany has drafted a law requiring mothers to inform their partners if their children were fathered by another man, Justice Minister Heiko Maas said yesterday. The measure, dubbed the 'milkmen's kids law' in the media, is to pass the cabinet as early as tomorrow before heading to parliament. It would apply to cases in which men who believe they are not the real fathers seek financial compensation in court. "We need to offer more legal protection for 'false' fathers to seek recourse," Maas said. "The mother should only have the right to remain silent when there are serious reasons for her not to name the biological father." A court would determine if the reasons sufficed for her to keep the father's true name a secret. The measure would allow men who were duped into paying to support a child to demand compensation from the biological father for a period of up to two years. Maas began work on the legislation after a federal court ruling in February 2015 said the government needed to put men tricked into believing they were fathers on firmer legal footing.

'Terrorist attack' kills three Tunisia soldiers

KASSERINE: Three Tunisian soldiers were killed in a "terrorist attack" yesterday near Mount Sannama, a hideout for jihadists at war with the authorities, security sources said. They said the attack also left six others wounded, but without giving details. The soldiers were killed in an explosion, according to Wataniya television. Mosaïque FM radio reported clashes between the army and "terrorist elements" and said the three were killed when a blast hit their vehicle as they combed an area near the town of Kasserine. The defense ministry was unavailable for immediate comment about the deaths, which came as a new unity government took office in Tunisia with security among its top priorities. Jihadist attacks in Tunisia have cost dozens of lives among security forces as well as civilians, and 59 foreign tourists were also killed in 2015. Tunisian forces have been tracking jihadists mainly in the mountainous regions of Chaambi and Sannama, southwest of the capital Tunis.

US drone enters Iran's airspace; Tehran warns

ANKARA: Iran's military detected a US drone entering Iranian airspace yesterday and issued a warning for it to leave, which it subsequently did, Iran's Tasnim news agency reported. "Iran's army air defense detected and warned an American drone in the eastern airspace of the country. It was coming from Afghanistan. The drone left the area," Tasnim quoted the Iranian military as saying. Tasnim gave no details on how the Iranian authorities had warned the unmanned drone to leave its airspace. A US defense official said last week that four of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) vessels "harassed" a US warship on Tuesday near the Strait of Hormuz. Tehran said the ships had only been carrying out their regular duties monitoring foreign ships near Iranian waters.

Church attacker 'obsessed' with Islamic State leader

JAKARTA: A knife-wielding Indonesian teen who tried to attack a priest at a church during a Sunday service was "obsessed" with extremist group Islamic State, a senior minister said yesterday. Indonesian authorities are increasingly worried about a resurgence in radicalism in the world's largest Muslim-majority country, driven in part by a new generation of jihadists inspired by Islamic State (IS). "From the cellphone that was seized by security forces, this youth was obsessed with Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi," Chief Security Minister Wiranto told reporters, referring to the leader of the Middle Eastern militant group. Wiranto, who goes by one name, said a note was found in the attacker's backpack that said "I love Al-Baghdadi" but added the suspect had no known links to existing militant networks. There were no serious casualties in the latest attempted attack, which happened in a church in Medan, northern Sumatra. Police said the attacker had attempted to stab the priest, who suffered minor injuries, and detonate a crude home-made bomb but failed after being restrained by other worshippers.

Reports of gunfire at airport 'false alarm'

LOS ANGELES: Terminals at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) were evacuated briefly late on Sunday after reports of gunfire that police later determined were incorrect, in the second recent false alarm at a major US airport. At least two terminals were closed while security personnel checked them for anything suspicious, according to Officer Alicia Hernandez of the Los Angeles Police Department. The central terminal's arrival and departures areas as well as all other terminals re-opened after about two hours. An investigation was under way, Andy Neiman, head of media relations for the LAPD, said in a Twitter message. The alert came two months after police temporarily evacuated a terminal at New York City's John F. Kennedy International Airport while they investigated reports of gunfire there, also later determined to be false. A preliminary investigation of that incident, which also occurred on a Sunday evening, found no evidence of foul play or suspicious activity. US airport security officials have been on heightened alert in recent months following deadly attacks at international airports in Belgium and Turkey.



AMATRICE, Italy: A picture shows the dam of Scandarello lake yesterday in Amatrice, Italy, a disaster that claimed nearly 300 lives. — AFP



LOS ANGELES: A police officer stands guard as passengers wait in line at Terminal 7 in Los Angeles International Airport. — AP

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OBAMA HEADS TO LAOS - SIGNS OF A TILT AWAY FROM CHINA

FIRST US SITTING PRESIDENT TO VISIT LAOS

VIENTIANE: The secretive communist government of Laos, a country with a population of less than 7 million, rarely causes a ripple on the diplomatic circuit. And yet its sleepy capital will spring to life next week when global leaders arrive for an Asian summit. Barack Obama will be among them, making the last push of his presidency to 'rebalance' Washington's foreign policy towards Asia, a strategy widely seen as a response to China's economic and military muscle-flexing across the region. The might of Laos' giant neighbor to the north is hard to miss in Vientiane: wealthy Chinese driving SUVs overtake tuk-tuks sputtering along the roads and Chinese-backed hotels sprout from noisy construction sites in one of Asia's most low-rise cities.

But diplomats say Obama could be pushing on an open door in Laos, thanks to a change of government there in April. They say the country's new leaders appear ready to tilt away from Beijing and lean

more closely towards another neighbor, Vietnam, whose dispute with China over the South China Sea has pushed it into a deepening alliance with the United States. "The new government is more influenced by the Vietnamese than the Chinese," said a Western diplomat in Southeast Asia. "It's never too late for a US president to visit."

Obama will become the first sitting US president to visit landlocked Laos, where the United States waged a "secret war" while fighting in Vietnam, dropping an estimated two million tons of bombs on the country. About 30 percent of the ordnance failed to explode, leaving a dangerous and costly legacy. Laos has strategic importance to both Vietnam and China. Vietnam has a long land border with Laos that gives it access to markets in Thailand and beyond. For China, Laos is a key gateway to Southeast Asia in its "new Silk Road" trade strategy. Laos, which is developing a series of hydropower plants along

one of the world's longest rivers, the Mekong, aims to become "the battery of Asia" by selling power to its neighbors.

Shifting policy

It is difficult to read policy in Laos because its leaders are so uncommunicative, but Western diplomats have detected some shifts. First, deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad - who ran the steering panel for a \$7 billion Chinese rail project - retired. The project is now believed to be on hold because Laos is unhappy with the terms of the deal. Officials of Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith's new government, many of them educated in Vietnam, have visited Hanoi en masse in recent weeks, their first foreign trip. At two of the past meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which is currently chaired by Laos, Vientiane has taken a more nuanced stance on Beijing than neighboring Cambodia, which is

increasingly seen as a Chinese satellite.

"The US strategic interest in Laos is to see the country be able to exert a certain degree of strategic autonomy because you don't want ... (to) have something akin to the relationship between China and Cambodia," said Phuong Nguyen of the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies think-tank. A defense official in Washington did not comment on wider strategic issues but described Laos as "an important partner." A China foreign ministry spokesman said "we welcome any country, including those inside and outside this region, developing constructive relations, as long as these ties are really beneficial to regional peace, stability and prosperity."

Long-term battle

Beijing has invested around \$1 billion annually in Laos in 2014 and 2015, a step up from the \$4.5 billion invested histori-

cally before 2014, according to figures from China's Ministry of Commerce and state-run media. For the United States, impoverished Laos is not a strong investment draw. "In Laos, we bring 7-8 companies to the table compared with 30-40 companies that Vietnam brings. But China - that's a totally different ball game," said Anthony Nelson, director of the US-ASEAN business council.

"So there's no coincidence that the countries with the lowest levels of development, Laos and Cambodia, are the most willing to advocate for China's position in international discussions." But the Lao are closer culturally to Vietnam than they are to China. Their businesses use Lao language signs and mixed Lao-Vietnamese families incorporate local customs, while Lao-Chinese families tend to be isolated. "We are a bit frustrated with (China). They create their own eco-system," a Lao businessman said. — Reuters

MAHARASHTRA TO GIVE WOMEN SLUM DWELLERS JOINT OWNERSHIP RIGHTS

MUMBAI: The Indian state of Maharashtra will give women slum dwellers equal ownership rights with men, the first such move by the state where millions live in the very poor neighborhoods. About 55 slums in the city of Nagpur will be regularized under a plan to recognize the more than 25,000 families who live there as legal residents. Each family will be given a land title that gives joint ownership to the man and woman, a senior official said. "We have given land titles in the past to slum dwellers, but this time the titles will have the name of the woman as well," said Shrawan Hardikar, commissioner at the Nagpur municipal corporation. "We wish to empower women with equal rights to property as men. Especially for the poorest of the poor who live in slums, land and property are a means of security," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Hundreds of millions of people live in slums in Indian cities because they cannot afford to buy or rent a home. They are often migrant workers who move in search of better economic opportunities. Many live in shacks with no running water or toilets, under the constant threat of eviction or displacement.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra

Fadnavis last week said Nagpur's lead may be applied to slums across the state.

While Indian law gives women equal ownership rights to land and property, women are seldom aware of their rights and are often denied access, said Shivani Chaudhry, executive director of advocacy group Housing and Land Rights Network in India. "We welcome this move to give joint ownership titles, but while these rights exist on paper, in reality women aren't allowed to access these rights," said Chaudhry.

"These steps need to be accompanied by ways to increase women's awareness of their rights and some measure of protection of these rights. Implementation also needs to be monitored to ensure women are really able to access these rights," she said. India ranked 59 of 128 countries in the International Property Rights Index 2016. The index measures factors including the legal and political environment, physical property rights and intellectual property rights. India fared particularly badly in areas such as gender equality that measured women's access to land and to bank loans for property, as well as inheritance rights for widows and daughters. — Reuters



HANGZHOU: Clay figures made by a female artist Wu Xiaoli (front row from right) feature US President Barack Obama, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and other G20 leaders is on display at a shop in Hangzhou in east China's Zhejiang province. China will host the G20 Summit in Hangzhou on Sept 4-5. — AP

CHINA PRESIDENT RESHUFFLES KEY PARTY POSTS AHEAD OF CONGRESS

XI PLACES HIS MEN IN KEY POSITIONS

BEIJING: Chinese President Xi Jinping has reshuffled three top provincial-level Communist Party posts as he seeks to place his men in key positions ahead of a once-every-five-years congress next year, and more new appointments are likely soon. The party congress, expected to be held next autumn, will see Xi further cement his hold on power by appointing close allies into the party's ruling inner core, the 25-member Politburo and the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee.

Xi, who doubles as Communist Party and military chief, is ranked No 1 in the Standing Committee - the apex of power in China. The year leading up to that will focus on Xi appointing more new people into major provincial party and government positions, sources with ties to the leadership say. In a brief dispatch on Sunday, the official Xinhua news agency named two people with whom Xi had previously worked as the new party chiefs in the strategically located southwestern province of Yunnan and the populous southern province of Hunan. The provincial party chief outranks the governor.

In Yunnan, bordering Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam, Chen Hao replaced Li Jiheng, while in

Hunan, Du Jiahao had assumed the party's top job, Xinhua said. Both Chen and Du worked with Xi when he ran China's commercial capital, Shanghai, as its Communist Party chief for a year in 2007, according to their resumes. "Xi is close to both of them due to their time together in Shanghai," a source with ties to the leadership told Reuters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Tibet, considered one of the country's most politically sensitive positions due to periodic anti-Chinese unrest in the devoutly Buddhist Himalayan region, also has a new party chief, named by Xinhua as Wu Yingjie. Wu has spent almost his entire career in Tibet, according to his official resume, having previously served as a deputy governor and propaganda chief, among other roles. Wu, like his predecessor Chen Quanguo, belongs to China's majority Han Chinese ethnic group. China says its rule has brought prosperity and stability to Tibet, rejecting claims from Tibetan exiles and rights groups of widespread repression.

Xinhua said on Monday that Chen would move to Xinjiang as its party boss, another unruly part of the country, due to what the government says is a concerted Islamist-backed campaign of

violence in a region with a large ethnic minority Muslim population. The current party boss, Zhang Chunxian, is expected to move to Beijing to take over a senior role in a party building committee that Xi is overseeing as part of his efforts to instill greater discipline in the corruption-racked party, the source added. Xinhua said Zhang would be given another post, but did not say what. A second source said the governor in Shanxi, a coal-rich northern province beset by corruption scandals, would move to Beijing to take over as transport minister.

Li Xiaopeng is the son of former premier Li Peng, who was deeply involved in the military crackdown on student-led demonstrations for democracy around Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989. The second source said Xi ally Lou Yangsheng, currently a deputy party boss in Shanxi, would be named acting provincial governor, pending approval by the local legislature. Xi and Lou worked together when Xi was party boss in the eastern province of Zhejiang from 2003 until early 2007. The State Council Information Office, which doubles as the party's spokesman's office, did not respond to a request for comment. — Reuters



KATHMANDU: Indira Adhikari (left) and Suman Adhikari are seen at their home in Kathmandu, Nepal. The mother and son have very little hope of getting justice for Muktinath Adhikari, who was dragged out of a classroom he was teaching, tied to a tree and riddled with bullets by alleged Maoists for refusing to part with a portion of his salary to fuel their rebellion. — AP

SURVIVORS OF NEPAL'S INSURGENCY FEAR CRIMES WILL GO UNPUNISHED

KATHMANDU: The image of the teacher's body tied to a tree and riddled with bullets still haunts his son 14 years later. Communist militants allegedly dragged the Nepalese man from the class he was teaching and then killed him for refusing to give part of his salary to fund their bloody rebellion. Suman Adhikari has little hope he will get justice for his father's death - not with the same Maoist fighters-turned-politicians controlling the Himalayan country's government.

Despite international pressure and government promises, including by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Center) themselves, Adhikari and thousands of other conflict victims are still waiting for information about loved ones who were among the 17,000 killed or hundreds who disappeared during the decade-long insurgency demanding an end to the country's now-defunct monarchy. "The Maoists want everyone to forgive and forget whatever happened during the conflict, but that is not acceptable to us," said 40-year-old Adhikari, who works for a Kathmandu-based charity that works with the deaf.

Earlier this month, Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal became Nepal's prime minister, leading the poor and politically fractious country's ninth coalition government in 10 years. His ascent to the top elected position completed the Maoist's political rehabilitation started in 2006 when they signed a UN-brokered peace accord to end their guerrilla campaign against authorities. Meanwhile, Nepal is still beset by ethnic conflict and protests against its new constitution, and coping from widespread damage caused by earthquakes that killed thousands last year.

Truth and Reconciliation

For victims of the old insurgency, the Maoists' rise was nothing to celebrate. Those hoping for resolution from a newly assembled Truth and Reconciliation Committee fear the Maoists will seek to sweep away post-conflict cases by delaying investigations, ignoring advice to prosecute or even legislating for a general amnesty that would absolve all crimes. With the committee's mandate expiring in February next year, some of its 100 staff mem-

bers admit they have neither the time nor the manpower to investigate the more than 53,000 complaints alleging human rights violations unless the government extends its mission. None of the cases have been resolved so far.

"In the time we have left, I don't think we will be able to deal with even a fraction of the number of cases we have in our hands," commissioner Madhavi Bhatta told The Associated Press. They also have asked the government to revise the rules for investigating, for example, to include torture as a listed crime and to extend the six-month statute of limitations on rape so that decades-old assault allegations can be considered. The committee can only recommend prosecution for government lawyers to pursue; it cannot take such action on its own.

'Victims of crimes'

The Maoists have pledged they will not seek amnesty and would help bring justice for "victims of crimes outside of war rules," according to spokeswoman Pampha Bhusal. "We will not suppress these cases but will resolve them," she said. "We are going to resolve all these issues on the basis of international norms and human rights and the peace agreement we signed." Victims and rights groups expressed doubt about the Maoists' sincerity. In one of their recent pushes for a general amnesty, the Maoists in May forced then-Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli to sign an agreement saying the government would "immediately initiate the process to withdraw or give clemency on insurgency-era cases and other politically-motivated cases filed on various occasions."

And former Maoist parliament member Bal Krishna Dhugel was convicted in 2010 of a 1998 murder, but Maoist pressure and a pending clemency request have ensured he remains free despite a Supreme Court order this year not to grant him amnesty. Analysts said the Maoists would have trouble pushing for a blanket amnesty. They do not have the necessary parliamentary majority to vote such an amnesty into law, and even the suggestion could upset their coalition partners and undermine the stability of their government. — AP

NEW DELHI: India is failing to help and protect journalists who are facing violent threats or attacks for their work, an international watchdog agency said yesterday, noting a pattern of resistance in investigating crimes targeting reporters. The Committee to Protect Journalists counted 27 journalists killed for their work since 1992, and noted that it was still investigating more than two dozen cases to determine whether those journalists' deaths were also work-related. Most at risk are small-town journalists investigating corruption, rather than journalists in big cities like New Delhi or Mumbai.

The New York-based watchdog said in a report released yesterday that it could find only one case in 10 years in India in which a suspect was prosecuted and convicted for killing a journalist, but that the suspect was later released on appeal. "Perpetrators are seldom arrested," said Sujata Madhok, a member of the watchdog. "The tortuously slow Indian judicial system, together with corruption in the police force and the criminalization of politics, makes it possible to literally get away with murder."

The watchdog's findings are supported by another report, released in 2015 by India's own media watchdog, the Press Council of India. That report found that even though the country's democratic institutions and independent judiciary were strong, people who killed journalists were getting away with impunity. "The situation is truly alarming," the Press Council said, warning that the trend could

hurt India's democracy, and pressing Parliament to pass a nationwide law ensuring journalists' safety.

The Committee to Protect Journalists blamed successive Indian governments and local officials for doing little to address a problem that has existed for decades. It noted that while newspaper

reports on corruption scandals made for attention-grabbing headlines, those same corruption investigations tended to end abruptly if an involved journalist was killed. "No government in India has been an ardent champion of press freedom," the report said. — AP



MUMBAI: Indian journalists hold placards during a protest against attack on journalists in Mumbai. The Committee to Protect Journalists counted 27 journalists killed for their work since 1992, and noted it was still investigating more than two dozen cases to determine if those journalists' deaths were also work related. — AP



A Palestinian man rides a bike with his children at the Al-Shatee refugee camp in Gaza City yesterday. — AFP

IS ATTACK KILLS 71 IN YEMEN

Continued from Page 1

Witnesses said some recruits were buried when a roof collapsed after the blast which left a gaping hole on the building's facade. Debris was scattered around the complex and nearby buildings were damaged. The assault killed at least 71 people and wounded 98, medical sources told AFP. They could not immediately verify whether all those who died were army recruits. Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said on Twitter that its hospital in Aden "received 45 dead and at least 60 wounded" following the explosion.

Aden has experienced a wave of bombings and shootings targeting officials and security forces. Attacks in the city are often claimed by jihadists from either Al-Qaeda or IS, which have both taken advantage of the chaos in Yemen to make gains in the south and south-east. IS claimed yesterday's bombing on its official propaganda outlet, Amaq. Earlier this month, a suicide bomber drove his vehicle into a large group of army reinforcements sent from Aden to fight jihadists in neighboring Lahj, killing five soldiers, military officials said. No group has claimed that attack.

But on July 20, four policemen were killed in a bombing attack in Aden that was claimed by IS. And in May, twin suicide bombings in Aden claimed by IS killed at least 41 people. Yemeni authorities have trained hundreds of soldiers in the city over the past two months as part of operations to retake neighbouring southern provinces from jihadists. Earlier this month, government forces backed by a Saudi-led coalition entered Abyan's

provincial capital of Zinjibar.

Troops retook other towns across Abyan but have been met by fierce resistance in the key Al-Qaeda stronghold of Al-Mahfid, security sources said. The militants still have a presence in areas surrounding the recaptured towns and control large parts of neighboring Shabwa province, the sources say. The Arab coalition battling the rebels and their allies in Yemen has also been providing troops with air cover throughout their war against the jihadists.

The United States has carried out numerous drone strikes against Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) operatives in Yemen. The Saudi-led coalition intervened in Yemen in March last year and have helped government forces push the rebels out of Aden and four other southern provinces since July 2015. The war in Yemen has also impacted security in Saudi Arabia, where shelling from the kingdom's impoverished neighbor killed three Saudi children and wounded nine other people on Sunday. Cross-border attacks from Yemen have intensified since the suspension in early August of UN-brokered peace talks between the rebels and the Saudi-backed government.

A plane chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) landed at Sanaa airport yesterday, carrying insulin for thousands of people suffering from diabetes. "Yemen's health sector is in a terrible state," said the head of the ICRC in Yemen, Alexandre Faite. "Less than 30 percent of the required medicines and medical supplies have entered Yemen in 2015," he added. — AFP

UZBEK PRESIDENT HOSPITALIZED AFTER BRAIN...

Continued from Page 1

by the illness of the Uzbek president" and was being kept informed of his state through diplomatic channels and the media. "We value our relationship with Uzbekistan," said Peskov.

"In this case we would really like to receive only positive news on the president's state of health."

Karimov lacks a clear successor after being re-elected to a fifth term in 2015 with more than 90 percent of the vote. The country has never held an election judged free and fair by international monitors. Those tipped to rule in the case of Karimov's long illness or death include Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov, Kamoliddin Rabbimov, an independent Uzbek political analyst based in France told AFP.

"I think in the corridors of power they have already started fighting," Rabbimov said, while predicting the elite will be keen to ensure the transition is "more or less stable". "On the one hand the political elite is fighting each other and regrouping but on the other, they understand they need to keep control of the country. They have gained massive wealth under Karimov."

Karimov's elder daughter Gulnara, a flamboyant figure formerly seen as a potential successor, was reportedly placed

under house arrest in 2014 after she openly criticized officials and family members on Twitter. Karimova accused her mother and younger sister of sorcery, compared her father to Stalin and attacked the country's powerful security chief for corruption and harboring presidential ambitions.

Gulnara was "hyperactive, but her ambition was not shared within the family, by her mother and sister," said analyst Rabbimov, while her sister Karimova-Tillyaeva has "no ambitions" for the presidential role. Karimov's younger daughter Karimova-Tillyaeva is based in Paris. She revealed in a 2013 interview that she had not spoken to Gulnara for 12 years. Karimov grew up in an orphanage in the ancient city of Samarkand and went on to study mechanical engineering and economics. He rose up through the Communist Party ranks to head Soviet Uzbekistan in 1989.

His career longevity equals that of the more moderately authoritarian leader of neighboring Kazakhstan, 76-year-old Nursultan Nazarbayev. Karimov has long been condemned by rights activists for his crackdown on dissent - most notoriously in 2005 in the city of Andijan, where government forces are accused of killing hundreds of demonstrators. Facing a wave of international criticism over the alleged massacre, which Karimov's regime rebuffed, Tashkent shut down a US military base used to supply operations in neighboring Afghanistan since 2001. — AFP

US ALARMED AS TURKEY STRIKES KURDISH...

Continued from Page 1

Washington had told the YPG to go back across the Euphrates or risk losing American support. But Ankara says it had seen no evidence of this. "The YPG... needs to cross east of the Euphrates as soon as possible. So long as they don't, they will be a target," said Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu. "In the places where it has moved, the YPG forces everyone out - including Kurds - who do not think like it does, and carries out ethnic cleansing," he added.

Cavusoglu said the pre-war ethnic composition of the area around the city of Manbij west of the Euphrates - captured by the YPG from IS earlier this month - was largely Arab and must not be changed. Turkey accuses the YPG of being an offshoot of Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) which has waged a deadly insurgency on Turkish territory for over three decades. Yesterday, the Turkish air force launched air strikes on PKK targets at their rear bases in northern Iraq, the first since the Syria operation began, state media said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 40 civilians were killed in Turkish shelling and air strikes in northern Syria on Sunday, claims strongly rejected by Ankara. The Turkish government said 13 villages had "been cleared of terrorist elements" and were now controlled by anti-regime Syrian fighters that Ankara refers to as the Free Syrian Army (FSA). Ankara-backed forces captured the IS border stronghold of Jarabulus last week, facing seemingly little resistance from

the jihadists who fled to bases further south.

But the standoff with the Kurdish militia has been intense, with a Turkish soldier killed on Saturday in a YPG rocket attack on his tank. Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook said the reported clashes were "unacceptable and a source of deep concern". "The United States was not involved in these activities, they were not coordinated with US forces, and we do not support them," he said. He called for steps to de-escalate the situation and said Washington had once again told the YPG to retreat east of the Euphrates. This has "largely occurred," he added.

The Jarabulus military council - affiliated to the YPG-dominated Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) - said its forces have withdrawn south of the Sajur River, 20 km south of Jarabulus "to protect the lives of civilians". This goes some way to meeting Turkish demands but it still leaves SDF-affiliated forces in and north of Manbij west of the Euphrates. The Turkish army said in a statement it had fired 61 times on 20 targets in northern Syria in the last 24 hours. It did not say which group was targeted.

Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus confirmed one of the key aims of its unprecedented operation was to prevent the creation of a YPG-controlled corridor stretching from Iraq to the verge of the Mediterranean. "If that happens, it means Syria has been divided," he added, quoted by NTV television. He said all relevant parties had been informed of Turkey's operation in Syria, including the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad, a bitter enemy of Ankara who had been informed by its ally Russia. — AFP

AMIR MEETS NEW HEADS OF FOOTBALL, OLYMPIC...

Continued from Page 1

The government action raised question marks over the "rule of institutions" in the state, he said, charging that it was a "personal" campaign. "They have to understand that what was taken by force from us today shall be taken back tomorrow by the rule of law and the justice of the cause and the support of the international and local Olympic movement."

The sports commission is headed by Youth and Information Minister Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Hmoud Al-Sabah, who has sought greater control over Kuwait's sports bodies. The IOC and FIFA suspended Kuwait last October over a law giving the government the right to intervene in sports bodies. A new law was passed in June but the IOC said this only increased government powers. The IOC and FIFA maintain that Sheikh Talal is the legitimate head of the two associations.

The IOC yesterday strongly condemned the actions of Kuwaiti authorities. "The IOC strongly condemns

these actions which, regrettably, continue to worsen the situation instead of helping to find solutions," said a letter sent by the IOC after the police action. A copy of the letter, sent to Sheikh Salman, was obtained by AFP. "The IOC will hold the government authorities responsible for any loss or damage to the KOC properties and assets, in particular those derived from IOC/Olympic Movement funding," the letter warned. The IOC letter said the Olympic movement would not recognize any of the "the so-called 'interim committee' appointed by government authorities in place of the duly elected office-bearers".

The Asian Football Confederation has also told its members not to cooperate with the new leadership of the KFA. The IOC said it was "still hoping that reason and common sense will prevail" in the standoff. "The IOC calls on the highest authorities of Kuwait to work constructively and responsibly on a solution ... instead of taking actions which have no effect other than to make the situation worse," said the letter. — Agencies

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Issues

THREAT GROWS FOR
BITCOIN EXCHANGES

By Gertrude Chavez-Dreyfuss

When hackers penetrated a secure authentication system at a bitcoin exchange called Bitfinex earlier this month, they stole about \$70 million worth of the virtual currency. The cyber theft - the second largest by an exchange since hackers took roughly \$350 million in bitcoins at Tokyo's MtGox exchange in early 2014 - is hardly a rare occurrence in the emerging world of crypto-currencies. New data disclosed to Reuters shows a third of bitcoin trading platforms have been hacked, and nearly half have closed in the half dozen years since they burst on the scene.

This rising risk for bitcoin holders is compounded by the fact there is no depositor's insurance to absorb the loss, even though many exchanges act like virtual banks. Not only does that approach cast the cyber security risk in stark relief, but it also exposes the fact that bitcoin investors have little choice but to do business with under-capitalized exchanges that may not have the capital buffer to absorb these losses the way a traditional and regulated bank or exchange would.

"There is a general sense in the bitcoin community that any centralized repository is at risk," said a US-based professional trader who lost about \$1,000 in bitcoins when Bitfinex was hacked. He declined to be named for this article. "So when investing, you always have that expectation at the back of your head. I lost a small amount compared to the others, but I know of traders who lost millions of dollars worth of bitcoins," the trader said.

The security challenge for the bitcoin world does not appear to be letting up, according to experts in the currency. "I am skeptical there's going to be any technological silver bullet that's going to solve security breach problems. No technology, crypto-currency, or financial mechanism can be made safe from hacks," said Tyler Moore, assistant professor of cyber security at the University of Tulsa's Tandy School of Computer Science who will soon publish the new research on the vulnerability of bitcoin exchanges.

His study, funded by the US Department of Homeland Security and shared with Reuters, shows that since bitcoin's creation in 2009 to March 2015, 33 percent of all bitcoin exchanges operational during that period were hacked. The figure represents one of the first estimates of the extent of security breaches in the bitcoin world. In contrast, data from the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a non-profit organization, showed that of the 6,000 operational US banks, only 67 banks experienced a publicly-disclosed data breach between 2009 and 2015. That's roughly 1 percent of US banks.

Among the world's stock exchanges, however, security breaches are much higher, with hackers attracted to the large pools of cash moving in and out of these trading venues. The latest survey of 46 securities exchanges released three years ago by the International Organization of Securities Commissions and World Federation of Exchanges found that more than half had experienced a cyberattack.

Moore collaborated on the research with Nicolas Christin, associate research professor at Carnegie Mellon University and Janos Szardi, a PhD student also at Carnegie. In 2013, Moore and Christin wrote a research paper on security risks surrounding bitcoin exchanges when Moore was still a professor at Southern Methodist University. That research entitled "Beware of the Middleman: Empirical Analysis of Bitcoin Exchange Risk" was peer-reviewed and presented at the 17th International Financial Cryptography and Data Security Conference in Okinawa, Japan in 2013.

Recovering Losses

In the most recent study, the rate of closure for bitcoin exchanges in Moore's research edged up to 48 percent among those operating from 2009 to March 2015. Hacking did not necessarily trigger the closure in each case. "A 48 percent closure is not acceptable, but not surprising given that bitcoin is a new technology," said Richard Johnson, vice president of market structure and technology at Greenwich Associates. Johnson has written reports on risk and security issues in the crypto-currency world.

Profitability is a big problem for bitcoin exchanges, with many of them unable to generate enough volume to keep afloat. Bitcoin exchanges overall could be launched for as low as \$100,000 up to \$1 million, said Erik Voorhees, founder and chief executive officer of digital currency exchange ShapeShift. That is a fraction of what US forex exchanges are required to put up. Retail FX trading platform FXCM, for instance, is required by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to have at least \$25 million in capital at all times.

A key factor tied to the risk posed by exchanges is whether customers are reimbursed after closure or after the loss of bitcoins following a hack. Each closure and breach have been handled differently, but Tandy's Moore said the risk of losing funds stored in exchanges are real. In the case of Bitfinex, which is now up and running after the hack August 2, customers lost 36 percent of the assets they had on the platform and were compensated for the losses with tokens of credit that would be converted into equity in the parent company. —Reuters



NEW TANS, SAME OLD 'POLYCRISIS' IN EUROPE

By Alastair Macdonald

The European Union grinds back into action this week after its August break, still dazed by Britain's midsummer vote to quit the EU and facing much the same "polycrisis" as a year ago: A mass of refugees, a fragile economy, hostile Russians and, yes, those Brits, now more awkward than ever. When President Jean-Claude Juncker makes his annual State of the Union address to Parliament in Strasbourg on Sept 14, he might easily repeat last year's warning: the EU had a "last chance" to save itself from a tide of centrifugal nationalisms.

Last week, the EU's remaining Big Three - German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Francois Hollande and their host, Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi - felt they needed to renew their vows at the well-spring of the union, the island of Ventotene, where in 1941 prisoners of Mussolini wrote a manifesto for a united Europe. That they met on the deck of the aircraft carrier Garibaldi reinforced the sense of beleaguered leaders rallying to the EU's defense as they contemplated an obstacle-strewn political calendar for the year ahead.

The EU leaders are first preparing for a summit on Sept 16 in Bratislava - without Britain - that aims to sketch out a post-Brexit future for the Union. On Oct 2, Hungary's rightwing prime minister, Viktor Orban, is set to deliver another slap to Brussels: A largely symbolic referendum to reject an EU quota system for relocating refugees among member states - a scheme Juncker invested much capital in a year ago, but which has barely got off the ground.

Trump

On Nov 8, Orban is hoping for victory for a man he calls the "valiant" Donald Trump in the US presidential election. Few of Orban's EU peers are so enthusiastic. They see Trump as a disruptive maverick whose endorsement of and by Brexit-in-chief Nigel Farage marks him as no friend of the Union. A Trump win could snap a transatlantic coalition on Russia that is already fraying in Europe, where governments from Paris to Bratislava are seeking a review of Ukraine-related sanctions when measures expire at year's

end. Trump might also inject a new dose of post-Brexit uncertainty for world trade.

At home, all the Big Three leaders face their own electoral challenges from eurosceptics. It starts with Renzi, today trying to persuade Italians he has the youthful energy for rebuilding after the latest earthquake in the Apennines, unlike the scandal-tainted Silvio Berlusconi at L'Aquila in 2009, when more than 300 people died. Probably in November, Renzi will put to a referendum the constitutional reforms he says are needed to break a political deadlock that is choking the Italian economy. Polls are tight and the eurosceptic upstarts 5-Star are gunning for the socialist premier, who is expected to resign if he loses.

Hollande is threatened with a drubbing on April 23 at the hands of far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen in the first round of France's presidential election. Her appeal has been enhanced by Islamic State carnage in Paris and Nice and the summer row about burkinis on the beaches, although pollsters doubt she can win a May 7 runoff vote against Hollande or any other survivor from a mainstream party. As for Merkel, she has yet to confirm she wants a fourth term at parliamentary elections due in just over a year. The biggest threat to her re-election remains her decision last year to welcome a million migrants to Germany as EU borders buckled. That has already weakened support for her conservative party.

Hardball

Such threats to domestic survival have often spurred leaders to take potshots at Brussels - even if only the British have taken it to the length of turning most voters against the EU entirely. But even if little has changed in Brussels since last summer, optimists might see reason to hope for more unity now. While rows go on about how, indeed whether, EU states should share out the burden of asylum-seekers stranded in Greece and Italy, what is new is how few are arriving, at least in Greece.

Rights groups were outraged this year by hard-nosed deals with non-EU Balkan states to bar the routes north from Greece and with Turkey to stop Syrian refugees reaching Greece in the first place. But those deals did

slash the numbers arriving. It's something EU officials find hard to boast of. Many admit privately to unease at policies that, along with efforts to pay African governments to stop people setting off for Italy, sit uncomfortably with the Union's lofty humanitarian ideals.

But look again at Merkel, Hollande and Renzi on the Garibaldi, flagship of an EU mission off Libya that is part rescue operation and military deterrent against people smugglers, and a slightly different image of today's EU emerges.

EU Army

All three spoke of Europe getting tougher and more cohesive on security. It is the kind of language that may resonate with sceptical voters dissatisfied with Europe's struggle to thrive in a globalising world and with the likes of Orban and other eastern leaders alarmed by Merkel's earlier open-door policy. Relieved of the need to keep Britons from bolting, Juncker wrung howls of outrage last week from London's europhobic press when he called national borders "the worst invention ever". He also renewed his call for a "European army", which was long just a pipe dream for the Luxemburger as long as Britain had a veto.

The past few days have seen Merkel and a succession of other leaders she has met, including Orban, echo such hopes of joint military structures, indicating one area where EU integration may now forge ahead in response to the British departure. That still leaves a host of issues dividing European leaders in the coming year: whether to be nice or nasty to Britain once it decides to open negotiations; how to shore up weaknesses in the economic cooperation that underpins the euro; how far to ease sanctions in the hope of better ties with Moscow.

Consensus will be a tall order. Merkel, standing on the deck of the Garibaldi, cited security, investment and youth opportunities as three priorities for a post-Brexit new start for a Europe united and strong. But, she warned: "Danger exists, of fragmentation, of selfishness, of retreating into ourselves." —Reuters

TAPE REKINDLES MEMORY OF IRAN MASS EXECUTION

By Jon Gambrell

The scratchy, echo-filled tape recording carries the voice of a man who once was in line to become Iran's supreme leader, talking about one of the darkest moments of the country's post-revolution history still not recognized by its government. The recording has Grand Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri condemning Iran's execution of thousands of prisoners at the end of the country's bloody war with Iraq in 1988. He warns those gathered they've committed "the biggest crime in the history of the Islamic Republic," while criticizing them for misleading the country's then-ailing supreme leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The criticisms by Montazeri, who lived for years under house arrest and died of natural causes after Iran's disputed 2009 presidential election, long ago surfaced in his own memoirs and writings. But the furor ignited by the release of the tapes by his family this month expose the lingering, unhealed wounds of the chaotic years that followed Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, as well as politics now at play in the greater Middle East.

"All advice and criticism from my father was for saving the ruling system - which he had paid so much for," his son, Ahmad Montazeri, recently wrote online. In 1985, Montazeri was selected as Khomeini's successor. But Montazeri's calls for the loosening of clerical control in Iran drew the ire of hardliners - and then came the executions. They happened at the end of Iran's long war with Iraq, which began when Saddam Hussein invaded in 1980. By 1988, one million people had been killed in a conflict that featured trench warfare, Iranian human-wave attacks and chemical weapons assaults launched by Iraq. In July 1988, Khomeini accepted a UN-bro-

kered ceasefire, calling it "more deadly to me than poison." But within days, members of the Iranian opposition group Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, heavily armed by Saddam, stormed across the Iranian border in a surprise attack. Iran ultimately blunted their assault, but the attack set the stage for the sham retrials of political prisoners, militants and others that would become known as "death commissions". Some who appeared were asked to identify themselves. Those who responded "mujahadeen" were sent to their deaths, while others were questioned about their willingness to "clear minefields for the army of the Islamic Republic," according to a 1990 Amnesty International report.

International rights groups estimate that as many as 5,000 people were executed, while

the MEK puts the number at 30,000. Iran has never fully acknowledged the executions, apparently carried out on Khomeini's orders, though some argue that other top officials were effectively in charge in the months before his 1989 death. This month, a website run in Montazeri's honor by his family released the audio. In it, the ayatollah apparently addresses prosecutors, a judge and an intelligence official over the executions, warning they will tarnish Khomeini's image.

'Biggest Crime'

"I believe that the biggest crime in the history of the Islamic Republic, which will be condemned by history, happened by your hands," Montazeri says. He goes on to say that "fighting against ideology with killing is total-

ly wrong." He mentions the death of his son, Mohammad, in the 1981 bombing of the Islamic Republican Party's headquarters in Tehran, which killed at least 72 people. Iran blamed the attack on the MEK, and the US State Department also has said the group was responsible for it. "I got hurt more than anybody from them; they killed my son," Montazeri says.

Shortly after the audio's release, the website took it down. By that point, however, the clip had circulated online as Farsi-language media began reporting on it, sparking criticism of Montazeri's family for releasing it. "My motivation for publishing this file, as I said for several times to many media, was to defend the truth and innocence of Ayatollah Montazeri," his son, Ahmad, recently wrote.

Conflict

The audio now has found its way into the wider conflict between Shiite power Iran and Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia. Relations between the two nations soured in January after the kingdom executed a prominent Shiite cleric and angry demonstrators in Iran responded by attacking two Saudi diplomatic posts. Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic ties with Iran over the attacks, though relations already were strained by the countries supporting opposing sides in Syria's long war and the conflict in Yemen.

In the time since, state television in Saudi Arabia, which is among the world's top executioners, repeatedly has aired a program about the 1988 executions in Iran, complete with a graphic of a figure hanging from the Iranian flag. It also aired video of Maryam Rajavi, the leader of the MEK's political arm, throwing flower petals at pictures of those killed in the 1988 executions at an exhibition in Paris. —AP



In this Nov 23, 1979 file photo, then President of Iran's Ruling Revolutionary Council, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, holds a rifle as he addresses a large rally at Tehran University. —AP

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SOUTHAMPTON SIGN BOUFAL FOR CLUB-RECORD FEE

LONDON: Southampton have signed attacking midfielder Sofiane Boufal from Ligue 1 side Lille on a five-year contract for a club-record fee, the Premier League club said yesterday. The 22-year-old scored 12 goals in 34 appearances for Lille last season, helping them reach the French League Cup final and finish fifth in the Ligue 1 table. Financial details of the transfer were undisclosed but British media reported that Southampton paid 21 million pounds (\$27.5 million) to land the Moroccan international. "I'm very, very happy to sign for Southampton and I am really excited to play in St Mary's Stadium in front of the fans," Boufal told the club's website (www.saintsfc.co.uk). "Southampton showed big interest in signing me, and I can see that this club is the best place for me to continue my progression as a footballer." Southampton travel to Arsenal in their next Premier League game on Sept 10. — Reuters

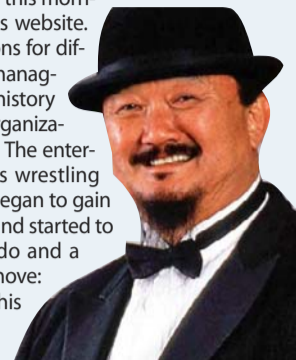


COWBOYS ROMO HAS BROKEN BONE IN BACK

NEW YORK: Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo suffered a broken bone in his back on the third play of Thursday night's preseason game and coach Jason Garrett said the injury would cost the veteran a chunk of the 2016 season. An MRI on Friday revealed Romo's back injury is much worse than anticipated, Garrett announced Saturday, two days after he was knocked out of the game against the Seattle Seahawks. "We're confident that he's going to be coming back and playing football for us this year," Garrett said but provided no timetable on Romo's possible return. A source told NFL Media's Ian Rapoport that the best-case scenario for Romo's return is during the middle of the season. According to a Pro Football Talk source with knowledge of the situation, Romo is expected to miss six to 10 weeks. Romo underwent a pair of back surgeries in 2013 and he missed most of last season with a twice-broken left collarbone. Garrett said the injury is not related to the surgeries Romo had in 2013. The Cowboys went 4-12 last season, including 1-11 with three backup quarterbacks, as Romo missed 12 games. — Reuters

MR FUJI, WWE HALL OF FAMER, DIED AT 82

LOS ANGELES: Harry Fujiwara, best known by his ring name Mr Fuji and who pioneered in WWE as an entertainer and manager, died Sunday morning, WWE announced. He was 82. "WWE is saddened to learn that WWE Hall of Famer Harry Fujiwara, known to WWE fans as Mr. Fuji, passed away this morning at the age of 82," WWE said on a statement on its website. "His career will be remembered by different generations for different reasons but Mr Fuji, whether as a Superstar or manager, is one of the most entertaining performers in the history of WWE." Mr Fuji spent more than 30 years with the organization, and helped expand the sport to the mainstream. The entertainer was born in Honolulu in 1935, and began his wrestling career in 1965 under the name Mr Fujiwara. After he began to gain notoriety in Hawaii, he shortened his name to Mr Fuji and started to compete on the West Coast. Donning a black tuxedo and a bowler hat, Mr Fuji gained infamy with his signature move: taking a bag of salt out of his tights and throwing it in his opponents' faces to blind them. — Reuters



CALGARY: Keith Creel, CP Rail president, presents Ariya Jutanugarn of Thailand with the Canadian Pacific Women's Open trophy after she won the event at Priddis Greens Golf and Country Club on Sunday in Calgary, Canada. — AFP

ARIYA JUTANUGARN WINS IN CANADA FOR 5TH LPGA TITLE

PRIDDIS: Five months after giving away a major championship with a late meltdown, Ariya Jutanugarn ran away with the Canadian Pacific Women's Open at chilly Priddis Greens for her fifth victory in 10 events.

Jutanugarn made a 12-birdie putt on the final hole for a 6-under 66 and a four-stroke victory over South Korea's Sei Young Kim. The 20-year-old Thai player won nine days after withdrawing from the Rio Olympics because of a left knee injury, a problem that almost forced her to skip the event. "I feel like I'm going to withdraw this week because my knee hurt so bad last week," Jutanugarn said. "But when I got here on Monday and Tuesday, it's getting a lot better, and first round it's fine."

Bundled up in a winter jacket between shots with the temperature in the lows 50s on the over-

cast afternoon, the second-ranked Jutanugarn broke a tie with top-ranked Lydia Lo for the LPGA Tour victory lead. Jutanugarn focused on having fun - and did. Blasting 2-iron and 3-wood off the driving holes on the tree-lined course, she birdied the par-5 seventh and par-3 eighth to get to 19 under, then pulled away with birdies on the par-5 12th, par-4 14th, par-3 15th and par-5 18th.

"I felt like I wanted to have fun and be happy," Jutanugarn said. "No matter what's going to happen, I can handle it." That wasn't the case all that long ago. In April at the ANA Inspiration in the California desert, Jutanugarn - at the time, best known for blowing a two-stroke lead with a closing triple bogey at age 17 in the 2013 LPGA Thailand - bogeyed the final three holes to hand the major title to Ko.

Jutanugarn rebounded in a big way, breaking

through in May with three straight victories in Alabama, Virginia and Michigan. She won the Women's British Open in the event before the Olympics, and made it two in a row on the tour Sunday in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies.

"After I won my first tournament, I feel like I reached my goal, and after that I feel like I don't care like what my ranking going to be. I don't care if I'm going to win the tournament or not. The only thing I want to be is I really want to be happy on the course." She has five victories in 10 events a year after missing 10 straight cuts. "I just feel like at that time, the only focus, I'm scared to miss the cut. I really want to make the cut," Jutanugarn said. "But after that I feel like I changed my focus, so right now my focus is like what's going to be good, like what I have to do to be good, so I'm thinking about like what is under my control, not

thinking about like anything else." Jutanugarn matched the tournament record for relation of 23 under set by So Yeon Ryu two years ago at London Hunt in Ontario and the mark for strokes of 265 set by Ryu and also accomplished by Ko in 2013 at par-70 Royal Mayfair in Edmonton.

Kim, a two-time winner this year, closed with a 65. South Korea's In Gee Chun, the 2015 U.S. Women's Open champion, was third at 18 under after a 69. Canada's Alena Sharp had the best result of her LPGA Tour career, birdieing the final two holes for a 67 to finish fourth at 16 under.

"I can't really describe how great it feels to play this well in Canada," said Sharp, from Hamilton, Ontario. Australia's Karrie Webb (64) and Sweden's Anna Nordqvist (68) tied for fifth at 15 under. Webb won the 1999 du Maurier Classic, the then-major championship that folded

because of Canada's restrictions on tobacco promotions, at Priddis Greens. She was second behind Suzann Pettersen at the course in 2009.

"On the back nine, everything went in," Webb said. Three-time champion Ko had a 69 to tie for seventh at 13 under. "I was a little far away going into today," the 19-year-old New Zealander said. "But it's been a great week."

She won three of the previous four years, the first two as an amateur. Canadian star Brooke Henderson shot a 69 to tie for 14th at 11 under. The 18-year-old from Smith Falls, Ontario, is already thinking about next year's tournament at Ottawa Hunt. "We recently became members at the Ottawa Hunt, so it's my home golf course," Henderson said. "It's only 45 minutes from my house." She also will play in her home province next week in the Manulife LPGA Classic in Cambridge. — AP

LANGER WINS BOEING CLASSIC PLAYOFF TITLE

SNOQUALMIE: By the time Bernhard Langer made the turn in the final round of the Boeing Classic, he was five shots out if the lead. At one point Sunday he was tied for 14th after not finishing lower than 13th in any tournament this year. A few hours later, Langer had outlasted Kevin Sutherland and Woody Austin in a playoff and was celebrating his fourth PGA Tour Champions victory this season and 29th overall on the 50-and-over tour.

"I blew tournaments when I had a lead and I've come from seven behind, so you just never know," Langer said. Langer made a 3-foot birdie putt on the first hole of a playoff with Austin and Sutherland to win the Boeing Classic for the second time. A day after his 59th birthday, Langer birdied the par-5 18th in regulation for a 5-under 67 to match Austin and Sutherland at 13-under 203 at TPC Snoqualmie Ridge. Austin also had a 67, and Sutherland shot 64, the low round of the week.

It took a special stretch for Langer to recover from a shaky front nine where he needed a few lengthy par putts to stay on the edge of contention. Langer went out in 1-over 37, but played the back nine in 6-under 30, also making birdies on Nos. 10-13 and 15.

"When he gets hot with that broom," Austin said in reference to Langer's putter, "you can't beat that broom." Langer tied Lee Trevino for second on the career victory, still well behind leader Hale Irwin at 45. Langer also won the Boeing Classic in 2010.

Langer took advantage of Austin and Sutherland both finding bunkers on the 18th in the playoff. Sutherland ended up in a

bunker off the tee, while Austin's second to the par 5 found a greenside bunker. Langer's second shot landed 10 yards short of the green and he nearly chipped in for eagle before making the birdie putt to win.

"You need to be precise and have the nerve and play the golf course the way it needs to be played," Langer said. "There's still a little bit of life left in me."

Gene Sauers, the second-round leader and US Senior Open winner two weeks ago, shot a 72 to finish a shot out of the playoff. Sauers started his day with two straight birdies to reach 14 under. But he struggled on the back nine, bogeying three of the first five holes and allowed the chase group to catch up. Sauers was still in contention until making bogey at the 17th after his tee shot came up short. Sauers made birdie at the 18th to finish alone in fourth.

While Langer rolled through the back nine, Austin was hot on the front nine going out in 32. His first mistake of the round came at the 15th when he went for the green in two on the par 5 unaware he was in a tie for the lead because electronic scoreboards on the back nine were not working. Austin found a bunker and ended up making bogey.

"I would have laid up to the right for sure, absolutely, no question," said Austin, who birdied Nos. 17 and 18 to get into the playoff.

Sutherland started the day seven shots behind Sauers and made eight birdies with no bogeys in his round. Sutherland was attempting to win his first stroke-play tournament on either the regular or senior tour. — AP

REED SECURES FIFTH PGA TOUR VICTORY



FARMINGDALE: Patrick Reed holds The Barclays trophy together with his wife Justine and daughter, Windsor-Wells Reed, 2, after Reed won The Barclays golf tournament in Farmingdale, N.Y., Sunday. — AP

NEW YORK: Patrick Reed ended a frustrating run when he survived two late bogeys to clinch a one-stroke victory at The Barclays on Sunday. Reed carded a closing 70 to finish on nine-under 275 at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale on New York's Long Island. Fellow American Sean O'Hair (66) and Argentine Emiliano Grillo (69) were joint second on eight-under. Reed's victory was his fifth PGA tour title and first in 19 months. It also secured a spot on the United States team for next month's Ryder Cup.

He also vaulted to the top of the FedExCup points list after the first of the four playoff events. Reed was delighted with his win but acknowledged his game needed work after he recorded bogeys at the 16th and 18th holes.

He nearly bogeyed the 17th as well, sinking a six-footer for par to preserve a two-shot lead going to the last. "I have worked pretty hard with my coach for the past couple of weeks," the 26-year-old said in a greenside interview.

"The game shows I'm moving in the right direction but there are some things I need to work on." Reed later said that short stretches of poor play had cost him several chances to win in recent times, but the difference on Sunday was that he had a cushion coming down the stretch. "It's been ... frustrating, because I can easily just pinpoint through almost every event a three-hole or a nine-hole or a couple shots here or there that cost me, instead of finishing 10th or seventh or fifth into a W."

"As the pressure started building there coming down 15, really 14, I just had a couple loose iron shots, a couple loose tee shots, that kind of cost me. "You know, to build yourself a lead to come down the last couple was huge, especially around a place like this, because those last holes are just so difficult."

Joint runner-up Grillo, who finished tied for 13th at the PGA Championship at Baltusrol last month, had thought pre-tournament that seven-under would have a chance of winning on a public course that bears a warning sign that it is "only for highly skilled players." He finished eight-under, but came up just short. "It wasn't a US Open but it was almost like one," he said of the tough layout. — Reuters

PREMIERSHIP BOSSES SLAM 'LUDICROUS' LIONS SCHEDULE

LONDON: Senior figures within English rugby union have hit out at the "ludicrous" fixture schedule for next year's British and Irish Lions tour of New Zealand.

The Lions, a combined side comprised of the best players from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, traditionally go on tour every four years to one of the southern hemisphere giants of New Zealand, South Africa and Australia.

Next year sees the Lions travel to New Zealand where they have won just one Test series and that 45 years ago—with three internationals against the

world champion All Blacks forming the centrepiece of a 10-match tour.

However, their first match takes place at the start of June just a week after the English Premiership and Celtic League finals.

In an age of ever-more gruelling seasons, there are widespread concerns that the Lions will have insufficient time to prepare and are being set up to fail, especially as the scratch team will face what is generally regarded as one of the best sides in New Zealand's outstanding rugby history. And with players in England contracted to their clubs, rather

than the national unions, there are fears among Premiership chiefs that their star names will be in no fit state for the start of the 2017/18 season that follows the Lions tour. "It is ludicrous they are playing 10 games," Mark McCall, the director of rugby at Premiership and European champions Saracens told BBC Radio on Sunday.

"It's going to be tough, and something that needs to be looked at," added McCall, several of whose players are set to be selected for the Lions. The demands of the professional era of rugby union have seen the future of the Lions, who in 2013 end-

ed a 16-year wait for a series win with a 2-1 success in Australia, repeatedly called into question.

Next year, because of the fixture list, the Lions will have limited preparation time and will have to travel to New Zealand in two separate groups, with those taking part in domestic finals travelling to New Zealand in the week of the tour opener. As far as leading British rugby writer Stephen Jones, the long-serving correspondent of the Sunday Times, is concerned, top players will have to head to New Zealand "battered, knackered, beaten up, carrying injury, begging to be injured again". — AFP

SPEEDO USA, THREE OTHER SPONSORS DROP LOCHTE AFTER RIO INCIDENT

NEW YORK: Less than 24 hours after the close of the Rio Olympics, Ryan Lochte took a major financial hit last week for a drunken incident he initially tried to pass off as an armed robbery. In quick succession, four sponsors announced they were dumping the swimmer, who has since apologized and conceded that he embellished what happened during a now-infamous stop at a Rio gas station.

Swimsuit company Speedo USA, clothing giant Ralph Lauren and skin-care firm Syneron-Candela issued statements less than three hours apart, all with the same message: Lochte is out. Before the day was done, Japanese mattress maker airweave followed suit, essentially wiping out Lochte's income away from the pool.

In addition, Speedo USA said \$50,000 that would've gone to the 12-time Olympic medalist was being donated to Save The Children to benefit needy youngsters in Brazil. "While we have enjoyed a winning relationship with Ryan for over a decade and he has been an important member of the Speedo team, we cannot condone behavior that is counter to the values this brand has long stood for," the prominent swimsuit company said. "We appreciate his many achievements and hope he moves forward and learns from this experience." Ralph Lauren, which provided the Polo-branded attire worn by the US team at the opening and closing ceremonies, said it would not be renewing the contract that provided Lochte with financial support leading up to Rio. The statement from airweave said it had a similar arrangement with the swimmer. Both stressed they would continue their support of the US Olympic and Paralympic teams.

Syneron-Candela offers a line of skin-treatment products that deal with issues such as wrinkle reduction.

"We hold our employees to high standards, and we expect the same of our business partners," the company said. Lochte issued a statement through his public relations firm thanking Speedo USA for its long support. He did not immediately address the other companies dropping their endorsements.

"I respect Speedo's decision and am grateful for the opportunities that our partnership has afforded me over the years," Lochte said. Initially, Lochte said he and three teammates - Jack Conger, Gunnar Bentz and Jimmy Feigen were robbed after their taxi was pulled over by armed men posing as police just hours after the swimming competition ended in Rio de Janeiro.

That version quickly unraveled when police said the swimmers, who had attended a late-night party, never reported the incident to authorities and there was scant evidence of

a robbery. Video surveillance emerged showing the athletes getting into a confrontation with armed security guards over alleged vandalism 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, which resulted in the swimmers paying some \$50 in US and Brazilian currency before they were allowed to leave. The incident caused a furor in Rio, where street crime was a major issue heading into the games.

Paul Swangard, managing director of the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center at the University of Oregon, said he wasn't surprised by the decision since most of Lochte's marketing value was tied to campaigns prior to the Olympics. "I would think it was an easy decision to cut ties now," Swangard said. "For someone like Lochte, he's really destroyed almost all of his short-term marketability. Brands can easily seek out other athletes for the next Olympic cycle." The financial costs of losing Speedo and Ralph Lauren are likely to be only the first sanctions that await Lochte, whose antics tarnished a powerful showing by the American team and dominating news away from the stadiums and arenas in the final days of the Rio Games.

Both the US Olympic Committee and USA Swimming have indicated that Lochte will be punished, perhaps endangering the 32-year-old's hopes of competing in a fifth Olympics at Tokyo in 2020. He could also face criminal charges in Brazil, where the other swimmers were initially barred from leaving the country until they were interviewed by authorities.

Feigen wound up donating just under \$11,000 to a Brazilian nonprofit sports organization to settle any potential legal action. Bentz issued a statement saying Lochte tore a sign off a wall at the gas station and got into a heated exchange with the security officers, though Bentz denied the swimmers did any damage to a locked bathroom as authorities alleged. In the last of three interviews with NBC that included ever-changing accounts of the incident, Lochte apologized and acknowledged he "over-exaggerated the story." He made a similar mea culpa to Brazil's main broadcaster, Globo.

Long one of the most popular US athletes, the laid-back swimmer is known for his trademark saying "Jeah!" and such antics as wearing diamond grillz on the medal stand and dying his hair a silvery color before the Rio Games. Lochte also starred in a short-lived reality television show after the 2012 Olympics. — AP



SUZUKA: File photo, Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, right, of Britain speaks next to teammate Nico Rosberg of Germany during a press conference after winning the Japanese Formula One Grand Prix at the Suzuka Circuit in Suzuka, central Japan. — AP

HAMILTON PODIUM SOURS ROSBERG'S BELGIAN WIN

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: Nico Rosberg was handed a much-needed break in the Formula One title battle which he duly converted by winning Sunday's Belgian Grand Prix, but victory could have tasted much sweeter for the German. Rosberg went into the weekend knowing this was his race to lose.

Mercedes team mate and title rival Lewis Hamilton was set to start at the back of the field after taking a planned series of engine-related grid penalties.

That gave Rosberg the perfect opportunity to reignite his title challenge after a run of lacklustre form and make major inroads into the Briton's 19-point advantage in the standings. Instead, he came away still trailing Hamilton by nine points after the reigning triple world champion took full advantage of collisions involving his rivals, race

disruptions and some spectacular overtaking, to finish a shock third.

"I just saw at the end after the chequered flag I looked at the results and I knew Daniel was behind me and then I see Hamilton in third," said Rosberg, who cruised to a comfortable win from pole-position in a chaotic race ahead of Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo.

"I was like 'What, seriously?'. I don't know what happened, I haven't looked at the details, but for sure he must have done a great job."

Rosberg, runner-up to Hamilton in 2014 and last year, opened the season with four wins in the first four races. He led Hamilton by 43 points following May's Spanish Grand Prix, but has steadily lost ground to his former childhood friend who blitzed to six wins from seven races leading up to the Belgian Grand Prix.

The race at Spa-Francorchamps was Rosberg's one "free race", as Hamilton referred to it, in which the Briton was set to serve his long-pending engine-related penalties. With the championship now heading to Monza for the Italian Grand Prix, before the Asian leg which Hamilton has dominated the last two years, Rosberg was asked if he had hoped to come away with more from Sunday's race.

"That's not what I'm focusing on," he told reporters. "I came here, Belgian Grand Prix, and I wanted to win it. So, just happy it worked out, perfect weekend for me." Hamilton, meanwhile, who now has three new engines, was upbeat.

"Definitely things have happened in the right way in that second quarter of the season and to go into the break 19 points ahead and now only lose 10 today I'll take it," he said. — Reuters



RIO DE JANEIRO: File photo, United States' Ryan Lochte competes in the men's 200-meter individual medley final during the swimming competitions at the 2016 Summer Olympics, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Speedo is the first major sponsor to drop swimmer Ryan Lochte as a sponsor. — AP

FERRARI DRIVERS CRITICISE VERSTAPPEN AGGRESSION

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS: A weekend that began at the top of the timesheets for Max Verstappen ended with the Dutchman out of the points and in a war of words with Ferrari rivals after a nightmare Belgian Formula One Grand Prix. The 18-year-old began Sunday's race alongside pole-sitter Nico Rosberg in the first front-row start of his fledgling career.

But any hopes he had of converting his qualifying display into a strong showing in front of legions of his orange-clad supporters, in a race that is the closest he has to a home event, quickly vanished.

Verstappen was leaptfrogged by Kimi Raikkonen and Sebastian Vettel off the line but attempted to make the places up on a tight first corner only for the three cars to collide. "I think it was a very bold move trying to recover those two places in one corner diving down the inside," said German Vettel who was on the outside and collided with Raikkonen before the Finn and Verstappen's Red Bull made contact.

All three were forced to pit with damage to their cars, Raikkonen nearly losing a

lap as mechanics rushed to extinguish flames emerging from beneath his Ferrari. Raikkonen and Verstappen clashed twice more later in the race, including another collision, and the Finn was more upset about the Red Bull driver changing direction at high-speed as he chased him down the flat-out Kemmel straight.

"If I would not have braked we would have had a massive accident," said Raikkonen who criticised Verstappen over the radio during the race. "I'm sure it will happen sooner or later if this doesn't change."

Verstappen has impressed with his racecraft and overtaking skills but his driving has at times been called a bit too aggressive, especially in last month's Hungarian Grand Prix where he also clashed with Raikkonen.

The son of former racer Jos, though, said his racecraft had been fair. "I'm just defending my position and if somebody doesn't like it, it's his own problem," added Verstappen who was fastest on the opening day of practice. — Reuters

BARRETT COMMITS TO NZ RUGBY UNTIL AFTER 2019 WORLD CUP

WELLINGTON: All Blacks coach Steve Hansen's hopes of winning a third successive World Cup have been boosted by flyhalf Beauden Barrett's decision to commit his immediate playing future to New Zealand Rugby until after the 2019 tournament in Japan. The 25-year-old has been in career-best form this season, helping the Wellington Hurricanes to a maiden Super Rugby title and settling any arguments about who would succeed Dan Carter in the All Blacks' number 10 jersey.

"It's great news for the team and great news for Beauden," Hansen said in a statement. "He's fast becoming one of the players in the world."

"He's been a world-class player coming off the bench for some time, he's now graduated into starting test matches for us, and this year he's been nothing short of spectacular." "He'll continue to grow - he's not the finished product yet, by any stretch of the imagination - but as he does, I think we'll see something pretty special, so it's nice to have him signed up and secure." Barrett, who is the eighth player to sign through until the global showpiece in Japan, will also remain with the Hurricanes until 2019. Local media had reported earlier this year that he was a target for the Auckland Blues, though the Wellington-based side said at the time they were certain he would stay in New Zealand's capital.

Originally considered a 'super sub' with his ability to play fullback and blistering pace able to unlock tiring defences, Barrett has seized the starting flyhalf role this season as the All Blacks looked to replace Carter, a three-times World Player of the Year who is now playing club rugby in France. After originally being on the bench for the first two matches of the June series against Wales, Barrett replaced the injured Aaron Cruden for the third game and seized his opportunity, leading the All Blacks to a 46-6 victory. He continued that form as he guided the Hurricanes to the Super Rugby title and has been superb in the All Blacks' first two Rugby Championship clashes against Australia.

"I love playing for the All Blacks and representing my country in the black jersey and I'm loving my footy at the moment," Barrett added.

"The All Blacks are an incredibly special team to be part of and I'm looking forward to playing my role and adding my small part to the legacy over the next few years." — Reuters



SYDNEY: New Zealand's Beauden Barrett is tackled by Australia's Will Genia during their Bledisloe Cup Rugby test match in Sydney, Australia, Saturday. — AP

IMAD BACKS PAKISTAN TO SHOW ONE-DAY CLASS

LONDON: Pakistan all-rounder Imad Wasim insists his side are determined to show their one-day international credentials after a pair of lacklustre efforts against England.

Imad and his team-mates are ninth in the International Cricket Council one-day rankings after defeats in Southampton and at Lord's left them 2-0 down with three to play against England.

Nevertheless Imad says Azhar Ali's team have it in them to battle back in the

third match at Trent Bridge today.

"With the talent we've got, I don't think it's a number nine team," he said. "We have to show that in big matches like tomorrow. I believe we can come back."

"We have to work hard, trust ourselves and show our skills in front of the cameras." Imad concedes England will be even more formidable with Ben Stokes able to bowl again, after figuring as a specialist batsman only in the first two matches, but he is convinced Pakistan will still

measure up. "He's a great cricketer, a genuine all-rounder and one of the best (in the world)," Imad said yesterday.

"When Ben Stokes is fit to bowl, England are definitely even stronger."

"But if we get ourselves right, we're going to give them a tough time." Former World Cup winners Pakistan have slumped below all other Test-playing nations in the ICC's ODI table and Imad knows it is time to make amends for that embarrassment.

"It's the first time we've ever been number nine in the world," Imad said. "But if we stay united - which we are - we're going to show the cricketing world what we're capable of, just like we did in the Test matches. "We're number one in them, and we're really looking forward to putting our rankings up in the one-dayers."

Imad's career-best 63 not out helped Pakistan recover from two for three at Lord's, where they were then unable to defend 251 all out. The Swansea-born all-

rounder is looking forward already to a weekend return to his native country, for the final match of the series in Cardiff. He knows much hard work will be needed for a happy homecoming, and believes Pakistan must simply cast aside their struggles to date. "It's just cricket, and it can happen to any team," he said.

"We're ready, up for it. Whatever is gone is gone - it's done. "We have to get some runs on the board, and give our bowlers a chance." — AFP

AFTER A SET OFF SERENA, MCHALE AIMS FOR US OPEN SUCCESS

NEW YORK: Since Christina McHale won a first-set tiebreaker against her idol Serena Williams at Wimbledon last month, she's played three tournaments and World Team Tennis to prepare for the US Open.

Before considering a rematch, the New Jersey native needs to defeat first-round opponent Mona Barthel of Germany today.

McHale hasn't advanced past the third round of a Grand Slam, but her confidence grew after a 6-7 (7), 6-2, 6-4 loss to the eventual Wimbledon champion, who earned a record-tying 22nd major singles title. "There were a lot of positives I took from my Serena match," McHale said. "The first and most important for me being that I can compete with the best. That match has really motivated me to keep working and improving."

McHale served well early and kept Williams off balance in winning the tiebreaker during the second-round match at Wimbledon. In the second set, McHale went up 40-15 on serve, with two chances to take a 3-0 lead.

But she double-faulted and Williams ran off 11 straight points. McHale also double-faulted on a game point and Williams attacked her second serves to break for 5-4.

It was a lesson in thought management for the 24-year-old McHale. "You think about the big picture all of a sudden," Billie Jean King said. "Your brain goes from one ball at a time to, 'Oh crap, I'm up playing for 3-0 and I'm up a set already. I should win this.'" McHale played nearly every day for two weeks in early August for the New York Empire in the World Team Tennis league co-founded by King. The tennis great knows it's important to stay focused and relaxed during critical points.

"Serena talks about being in the zone," King said. "Everybody understands that means stay in the present and be in the now. It sounds so easy. Before the point is how you tee it up and get ready."

Seventy-five percent of the time in the match, you are not hitting a ball."

McHale started playing tennis in Hong Kong, where she lived from age 3 to 8 and learned to speak Mandarin. She also was a competitive swimmer growing up in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. She turned

pro in 2010, and last year, she moved to South Florida to train at the USTA National Tennis Center in Boca Raton.

Her older sister Lauren graduated from North Carolina, where she played tennis for the Tar Heels. Lauren is engaged to American tennis player Ryan Harrison.

Christina reached a career-high singles ranking of No. 24 in 2012. She's coached by Jorge Toderó, who has guided her the last five years. McHale has posted wins over former No. 1 Caroline Wozniacki and Grand Slam champions Victoria Azarenka, Petra Kvitová and Svetlana Kuznetsova.

"He's gotten me to use my forehand more," McHale said of the Argentine. "I try to hit as many forehands as I can, go to my strength in the pressure moments."

She's currently ranked 55th with a 31-20 record this year. Her first serve percentage is just 59 percent, with 64 percent of those points won. She's had 119 aces and 136 double-faults.

After Wimbledon, McHale upset eighth-seeded Monica Niculescu at the Citi Open in Washington in mid-July. She then lost to Jessica Pegula, daughter of Buffalo Bills and Sabres owners Terry and Kim Pegula, 7-5, 6-2. She bowed out in the second round in Montreal at the Rogers Cup, but joined Asia Muhammad to defeat the top-ranked doubles team of Martina Hingis and Sania Mirza 6-3, 6-4 in the quarterfinals before losing in the semifinals.

McHale, who recently reached the second round in Cincinnati, is among 19 American women in the US Open. Next up is Barthel, who she beat in matchups in Seoul in 2014 and Madrid in 2015. If McHale gets past her, she'll play the winner of Roberta Vinci vs. Anna-Lena Friedsam. Vinci took out Williams in the semifinals of the US Open last year, ending the quest for a calendar year Grand Slam. Patrick McEnroe, who coached the Empire and McHale, calls her "a grinder." "She's right there. I've always been impressed with her work ethic," said McEnroe, who previously helped McHale while leading the USTA player developmental program. "From the first time I saw her, she's really been committed to putting in the work to be the best she can be." — AP



CENTURION: South African bowler Vernon Philander (unseen) bowls out New Zealand batsman Mitchell Santner (C) on the third day of the second Cricket Test Match between South Africa and New Zealand at the Supersport Cricket stadium yesterday in Centurion, South Africa. — AFP

SOUTH AFRICA HOLD ACES DESPITE COLLAPSE

CENTURION: South Africa held on to a strong position despite a top-order batting collapse in their second innings on the third day of the second Test against New Zealand yesterday. South Africa were 105 for six at the close, an overall lead of 372 runs on a pitch at Centurion's SuperSport Park offering assistance to bowlers, with swing, seam and uneven bounce.

New Zealand hit back after conceding a first innings lead of 267, with Tim Southee and Trent Boult taking two wickets each to reduce South Africa to 47 for four. Doug Bracewell and Neil Wagner also picked up wickets, with only Quinton de Kock shining for the South Africans, with his second half-century of the match.

South Africa's three-pronged pace attack was mainly responsible for New Zealand being bowled out for 214 in their first innings. Dale Steyn and Kagiso Rabada took three wickets each and Vernon Philander claimed two.

LAST MAN

Only captain Kane Williamson was able to provide sustained resistance for New Zealand. He was last man out for 77. While his teammates struggled, Williamson remained calm and well-organised, seemingly with time to spare as he combatted the pace threat. He batted for 286 minutes and faced 133 balls in an innings which included eight fours and a six.

With star bowlers Steyn and Philander both returning from long-term injuries, it was the first time they had played in the same Test match as Rabada, South Africa's 21-year-old cricketer of the year. The combination proved relentless, although it took South Africa more than an hour to take the first wicket of the day, when Rabada trapped Henry Nicholls leg before wicket for 36.

Williamson and Nicholls put on 60 for the fourth wicket and enabled New Zealand to make an encouraging start to the day after resuming at 38 for three. New Zealand's resistance crumbled after the breakthrough, although South Africa lost control briefly when Rabada and Steyn peppered number ten batsman Neil

SCOREBOARD	
Scoreboard at stumps on the third day in the second and final Test between South Africa and New Zealand yesterday in Centurion, South Africa.	
South Africa 1st innings 481 for 8 (F. du Plessis 112no, J. Duminy 88, Q. de Kock 82, H. Amla 58, S. Cook 56; N. Wagner 5-86).	Bowling: D. Steyn 20-3-66-3 (w-1), V. Philander 15-1-43-2, K. Rabada 16.3-4-62-3 (nb-1 w-2), D. Pledt 7-0-36-1.
New Zealand 1st innings (Overnight: 38-3)	South Africa 2nd innings
M. Guptill c van Zyl b Philander 8	S. Cook lbw b Boult 4
T. Latham c de Kock b Steyn 4	Q. de Kock c Williamson b Bracewell 50
K. Williamson c de Kock b Rabada 77	H. Amla c Guptill b Southee 1
R. Taylor run out (Bavuma) 1	J. Duminy lbw b Southee 0
H. Nicholls lbw b Rabada 36	F. du Plessis c Taylor b Boult 6
B. Watling c de Kock b Steyn 8	T. Bavuma not out 25
M. Santner b Philander 0	S. van Zyl c Watling b Wagner 5
D. Bracewell lbw b Rabada 18	V. Philander not out 3
T. Southee c de Kock b Pledt 8	Extras (b-4 nb-1 w-6) 11
N. Wagner c de Kock b Steyn 31	Total (for 6 wickets, 34 overs) 105
T. Boult not out 0	Fall of wickets: 1-31 S. Cook, 2-32 H. Amla, 3-32 J. Duminy, 4-47 F. du Plessis, 5-82 Q. de Kock, 6-98 S. van Zyl
Extras (b-5 lb-2 nb-1 w-15) 23	To bat: K. Rabada, D. Steyn, D. Pledt
Total (all out, 58.3 overs) 214	Bowling: T. Southee 10-5-27-2 (w-1), T. Boult 8-0-38-2, D. Bracewell 7-2-19-1, N. Wagner 9-1-17-1 (nb-1 w-1).
Fall of wickets: 1-13 M. Guptill, 2-13 T. Latham, 3-26 R. Taylor, 4-86 H. Nicholls, 5-106 B. Watling, 6-111 M. Santner, 7-144 D. Bracewell, 8-169 T. Southee, 9-214 N. Wagner, 10-214 K. Williamson.	

Wagner with bouncers, probably in retaliation for Wagner's short-pitched assault during South Africa's first innings of 481 for eight declared. Wagner was struck on the helmet by Rabada but responded by sloggng four fours and a six in an innings of 31 before he was caught behind off Steyn. Off-spinner Dane Piedt picked up the wicket of Tim Southee, while Ross Taylor was run out during New Zealand's collapse on the second evening.

Three of the first five wickets came through successful reviews by South Africa after their initial appeals had been turned down. After a maiden over from Southee to Stephen Cook to start the second innings, De Kock hit the first four balls of the next over from Boult for fours

before hitting Southee for four and six off successive deliveries in the third over.

New Zealand hit back, however, with three wickets in 10 balls. Cook was trapped in front by Boult for four before Southee dismissed Hashim Amla, caught at first slip, and JP Duminy, leg before wicket, in the next over. Captain Faf du Plessis and De Kock tried to rebuild the innings but first innings centurion Du Plessis made only six before he was caught at first slip off Boult.

De Kock seemed untroubled by the struggles of his team-mates, going to his second half-century of the match off 42 balls, with eight fours and a six. But one ball later he received a vicious bouncer from Doug Bracewell which he gloved to gully. — AFP



LONDON: In this Friday, July 1, 2016, file photo, Christina McHale of the United States, returns to Serena Williams, of the United States, during their women's singles match on day five of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London. McHale won a first-set tiebreaker against her idol Williams at Wimbledon last month, she's played in three tournaments and World Team Tennis to prepare for the US Open. — AP

OLYMPIC CHAMPION PUIG SETS SIGHTS ON GRAND SLAM VICTORY

NEW YORK: Put the rubbish out, get the shopping done, win an Olympic gold medal. That was the to-do list of Monica Puig, the 22-year-old whose victory in the women's singles in Rio earlier this month made her the first ever Puerto Rican to win Olympic gold.

It was an unlikely but fully-deserved win for the world number 34, catapulting her to hero status and making her a role model for young people in the island Commonwealth that is enduring tough economic times.

Now Puig wants to capitalise on her victory, both on and off the court.

"I know that there's no doubt in my mind that I can probably win a grand slam because the Olympics was one," she told Reuters at Flushing Meadows on Sunday, on the eve of the US Open.

"It just doesn't have the title grand slam but the best players in the world were there, including Serena (Williams)."

"I won the biggest thing on my to-do list and I just want to keep knocking off other ones, and that would be to win a grand

slam." Confident but at-ease despite all the new-found attention, Puig is still coming to terms with her stunning victory in Rio.

"I don't think it's really sunk in," she said. "It's a little bit difficult to process. I was by no means the favourite. It was such a surreal ride." In floods of tears during the medal ceremony, Puig and her gold medal have been virtually inseparable ever since.

"I remember waking up several times in the middle of the night and just looking at my night stand to actually see if my medal was there because I didn't believe it," she said. "I wasn't able to sleep very much for three, four or five days. It was the most surreal feeling in the world to be an Olympic champion that morning."

Along with congratulations from her fellow players, Puig has been subjected to abuse on social media, with many people expecting a let-down at the US Open, where she faces Saisai Zheng of China in the first round. "Unfortunately I'm guilty of reading my Twitter and sometimes the comments under articles but you know what, a

lot of that fuels my fire," she said. Puig, who was greeted by thousands of people when she landed in Puerto Rico after her victory, embraces being a role model. "I see it as a responsibility," she said.

"I know what comes with that responsibility as far as conducting myself in the same way that I have, in a very respectful manner, always setting a good example, especially for the youth of Puerto Rico, which is very important."

"I gave me a lot of hope back to the people of Puerto Rico, which was really important for me because they're going through such difficult times."

"The message is that nothing is ever impossible. People probably thought me winning a medal was impossible and I proved them wrong."

Not surprisingly, Puig says she will have a special role in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

"They have approached me to be flag-bearer," she said. "They've already asked me about the possibility of doing it in 2020 and there's no way I could say no." — Reuters



NEW YORK: Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia serves during her Women's Singles first round match against Petra Kvitová of the Czech Republic on Day One of the 2016 US Open at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center yesterday in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. — AFP

RAMOS SURPRISED BY CASILLAS EXCLUSION FROM SPAIN SQUAD

BARCELONA: Spain defender Sergio Ramos was surprised to learn that the country's record appearance maker and long-time captain Iker Casillas had been left out of the Spain squad by coach Julen Lopetegui.

The Spain players met up with their new manager for the first time on Monday to prepare for the international friendly in Belgium on Sept. 1 and their opening World Cup qualifier at home to Liechtenstein on Sept. 5.

Casillas was the most high-profile absence from Lopetegui's squad announcement since succeeding Vicente del Bosque, although Pedro Rodriguez and Cesc Fabregas, who won the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012, were also excluded. "We were all surprised by the absence of Casillas because he is a historic player, not just in Spanish football but on a global level," Ramos told reporters on Monday at Spain's Las Rozas training base. "It's odd to come here and

not see Casillas but it's a decision he took with the new coach. I can't speak for him, all I can do is respect the decision they have taken." Ramos met with Lopetegui last week. "I didn't know him but I've got a good first impression and we're going to work together to achieve the objectives we have ahead," said Ramos, vice-captain under Del Bosque and now the team's skipper following Casillas's exclusion.

"Apart from the absence of Iker, which is surprising, the group hasn't changed a

lot and the captains and coach want to recover our winning spirit," Ramos added.

"We have to be calm and patient with Lopetegui and let him get to work. We all have to row in the same direction."

Casillas made 167 appearances for Spain and captained them to the 2010 World Cup win and successive European Championship titles in 2008 and 2012.

The Porto goalkeeper was not picked for any of Spain's games at Euro 2016, Del Bosque choosing David de Gea as his

number one, and the coach revealed last month that the captain had reacted angrily to his demotion.

"With his team mates he was OK, but his behaviour with the coaching staff wasn't good. His anger was directed at us," Del Bosque said.

Del Bosque also revealed Casillas was the only player he did not write a letter of gratitude to after resigning as coach following Spain's elimination by Italy in the last 16 of Euro 2016. — Reuters



CLAIREFONTAINE: France's defender Raphael Varane arrives to the French national football team training base in Clairefontaine yesterday, as part of the team's preparation for the upcoming friendly football match against Italy. — AFP

EX-DODGERS OWNER MCCOURT SET FOR MARSEILLE TAKEOVER

MARSEILLE: American businessman Frank McCourt, former owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team, yesterday entered into exclusive discussions for the acquisition of Marseille football club. McCourt sealed the deal in a meeting with incumbent owner Margarita Louis-Dreyfus, who will maintain a minority shareholding, and Marseille mayor Jean-Claude Gaudin, saying afterwards that there was a process under way that would lead to the takeover being completed "before the end of the year." "Being part of Olympique De Marseille (OM) and helping the club achieve success both on the pitch and off, would be an honour and privilege for me and my family," McCourt said.

"Not only is OM one of the oldest and most respected clubs in the world and the only French club to win the UEFA Champions League, it is one of the most iconic brands in all of sports. OM enjoys the passionate support of legions of fans in Marseille, throughout France and around the world."

McCourt added: "As the steward of OM, my ambition would be to help return the club to championship form, to deliver the best fan experience in all of football, to strengthen the club's ties with supporters and the city of Marseille and to guide the club towards long-term financial stability." Should McCourt be safely installed as new Marseille owner, he will become the latest American businessman to have taken over European football clubs.

In Britain, businessman John Henry is at Liverpool, the Glazer family own Manchester United, investor Ellis Short is Sunderland president and entrepreneur Stanley Kroenke has a majority shareholding in Arsenal. French champions Paris Saint-Germain saw their fortunes change for the better after being bought out by a Qatari investment company, while Monaco, 3-1 winners over PS on the weekend, are majority owned by an investment group led by Russian billionaire Dmitry Everybody.

McCourt is president of McCourt LP, a family enterprise founded in 1893 focused on "building

and diligent process... The club are currently mid-table in the French league at the outset of the new season, winning only one of their first three games. "I am sure Frank McCourt will be the best choice to succeed my family and secure a great future for OM," Louis-Dreyfus added. "I know that our efforts may not always have been enough to assure success and I am sorry for that."

"Now a new era begins. To maintain an emotional connection between OM and my family, I would stay with the club and continue to support it as a small minority shareholder." — AFP



MARSEILLE: (From L) Olympique de Marseille's current owner Margarita Louis-Dreyfus, Marseille's mayor Jean-Claude Gaudin and Olympique de Marseille football club new owner Frank McCourt pose for a photograph on the balcony of the city hall of Marseille following a press conference yesterday. American businessman Frank McCourt, former owner of the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team, entered into exclusive discussions for the acquisition of Marseille football club. — AFP

WAYNE ROONEY BACK AS FORWARD FOR ENGLAND

MANCHESTER: Wayne Rooney's midfield experiment with England is over, with the Manchester United captain set to revert to playing as a deep-lying forward for the national team under new coach Sam Allardyce.

Rooney finished last season playing as a central midfielder for United under Louis van Gaal, and played there for England during its European Championship campaign that ended with an embarrassing last-16 loss to Iceland.

New United manager Jose Mourinho has returned Rooney to the No. 10 role behind the striker, and Allardyce also thinks that's his best position. "Wayne's position has changed at Manchester United," Allardyce said on Monday, "and that's the sort of position I'd be looking for him to be playing in."

The player most affected by that positional tweak is Ross Barkley, who was dropped on Sunday by Allardyce in his first squad announcement since replacing Roy Hodgson as England coach. Barkley plays in the same position as Rooney at Everton, and has started the season in good form for his club with two goals in four games. With Dele Alli

included in England's squad, it appears there was no room for another attacking playmaker.

"We have had to make some very difficult decisions, none more so than obviously I would think Ross Barkley," Allardyce said. "But you have to make these decisions. The door will always be open for Ross, but at this moment I felt the squad I picked is the right one."

Looking to put his own stamp on the national team, Allardyce has recalled winger Theo Walcott and also picked an uncapped wide player in Michail Antonio of West Ham. It would suggest Allardyce is looking to play with more width than England did under Hodgson.

Antonio's rise to the national team is being compared to that of Leicester striker Jamie Vardy, in that he started out in non-league football - with Tooting and Mitcham, a club in south London - rather than in an academy of a big club. He had spells on loan at lowly clubs before joining Sheffield Wednesday and then Nottingham Forest. Antonio moved to West Ham last year and has impressed as a right-sided midfielder, especially in the air. He has scored eight headed goals since the

start of last season - including one in each of his last two league games.

"His journey is something that deserves to be in this squad and me to have a look at as a potential player going forward," Allardyce said. "It's a bit similar to Jamie Vardy - it shows if you have got guts and determination and desire, how much it means. He goes forward, creates a career for himself and finally ends up in the Premier League and with us in this squad. I'm looking forward to meeting him."

Marcus Rashford wasn't included by Allardyce, despite going on as a substitute to score United's injury-time winner against Hull in the Premier League on Saturday in his first appearance of the season. Zlatan Ibrahimovic has displaced 18-year-old Rashford up front at United. Rashford will instead play for England Under-21s this week to get some game time.

"Having international experience with the under-21s will be invaluable for us later down the line," Allardyce said. "If he plays for Manchester United on a regular basis, he would certainly - if he is breaking into the Manchester United team - be in my squad. — AP



DUESSELDORF: Germany's head coach Joachim Loew speaks to journalists during a press conference yesterday, in Duesseldorf, western Germany. — AFP

LOEW EYES YOUNG BLOOD FOR CONFEDERATIONS CUP

BERLIN: Germany coach Joachim Loew is aiming to blood some younger players at next year's Confederations Cup with an eye on defending the World Cup in 2018.

"I would like to use the Confederations Cup as a tournament based on the future," said Loew, hinting that some of his senior players would be rested for the competition. "For the Confederations Cup, not all our players will be available. That's why I see that tournament based on the future, one in which I'll be able to bring in young players."

Loew has already brought in three inexperienced players who lost to Brazil on penalties in the final of the Rio Olympics for Wednesday's friendly against Finland and World Cup qualifier against Norway in Oslo on Sunday.

Attacking midfielders Julian Brandt (Bayer Leverkusen) and Max Meyer (Schalke 04), and Hoffenheim defender Niklas Sule "will definitely have the chance of playing Wednesday", Loew said.

The Moenchengladbach run-out against the Finns will be Manchester United reject Bastian Schweinsteiger's 121st-and-final appearance for die Mannschaft.

For his swansong, Schweinsteiger will captain the side against Finland, Loew saying he would name his captain for Norway on Thursday, goalkeeper Manuel Neuer having worn the skipper's armband during the European championships.

"I want to first speak with the team, I want to announce it to them," he said. "I've already made my decision. I'll tell you it after the match against Finland." — AFP

MADRID CITY DEMANDS 18.4M EUROS FROM REAL

MADRID: The Madrid city government said Monday it will pursue Real Madrid for 18.4 million euros (\$20.6 million) in illegal state aid that the European Commission ordered the club to repay.

Real, Spanish champions Barcelona and other clubs were found to have received an "unfair advantage" by the commission in July due to tax breaks and overpriced land deals. "The city hall will establish the measures necessary to carry out the decision of the European Commission to recover the aid of 18.4 million euros granted to Real Madrid," the local government said in a statement.

"At the start of September a two-month period given by Brussels to the city hall to present to the commission the total amount (total owed plus interest) to be

recouped, a description of the measures adopted and the documents that show the club has been ordered to reimburse the aid will expire." The club agreed to sell a plot of land to Madrid's government in 1998, a transaction that eventually was not completed. As compensation for failure to complete the deal, Real received 22.7 million euros from the state in 2011.

The value of the land at the time of the initial agreement in 1998 was just 595,000 euros. The commission's investigation showed that Real Madrid were entitled to compensation of just 4.3 million euros, therefore obtaining an advantage of 18.4 million. The club have already signalled their intention to appeal the Commission's ruling to the European Court of Justice. — AFP

QATAR READY FOR TOUGH WORLD CUP IRAN CLASH

DOHA: Qatar coach Jose Daniel Carreno admitted his side faces a "difficult" match in Iran when the two teams clash in the World Cup on September 1.

The two teams will meet in Tehran's Azadi Stadium as the crucial third round of Asian qualifiers for Russia 2018 get under way. "The match will be difficult and the players know that it will be difficult but we

will do our best to please the Qatari people and get the points," the Uruguayan Carreno told the Qatar Football Association in a video released on its website. Iran and Qatar have been drawn in AFC Group A, alongside South Korea, Uzbekistan, China and Syria.

The top two teams will automatically qualify for the World Cup in 2018. The

team which finishes third will qualify for a play-off. Iran are the top seeds in the group and currently the highest FIFA-ranked team (39th).

Alongside South Korea, they are favourites to qualify from the group. Qatar, ranked 80th, though are desperate to reach a World Cup finals for the first time, their last chance ahead of hosting the

tournament in 2022.

They stormed through the second round group stage, winning seven of their eight games, finishing ahead of China and were joint top scorers across the AFC alongside Australia, with 29 goals.

Qatar warmed up for the clash in Iran with two behind closed doors friendlies in Doha, beating Iraq 2-1 and Thailand 3-0.

Iraq and Thailand are in AFC Group B.

Included in Qatar's squad is Akram Afif, a nineteen-year-old currently on loan to Sporting Gijon from Villarreal, and who earlier this month made history as the first Qatari to play in Spain's La Liga, following the clash on September 1, Qatar will face Uzbekistan in Doha five days later, while Iran travel to China. — AFP

SOCCER BRIEFS

Maradona grounded after passport mix-up

BUENOS AIRES: Diego Maradona was not able to leave Argentina on the weekend because his passport had been reported "stolen", preventing him from travelling to Dubai, according to his lawyer. "It's a very rare occurrence," said Diego Morla, the double World Cup winner's lawyer, Diego Morla. "They told him his passport had been reported as stolen despite Diego holding it in his hands!" Morla hinted that there must have been a fake report which triggered the situation. "Diego is really surprised by this saga, which has strangely happened right after he criticised the government," said Morla. The former Napoli and Argentina legend last month condemned the new Argentinian government saying that since they had come to power Argentina had fallen to its "knees".

Kagawa to heal old wounds in UAE rematch

DUBAI: Japan midfielder Shinji Kagawa is still haunted by his penalty shootout miss in the loss to the United Arab Emirates at last year's Asian Cup and is eyeing revenge when the teams meet again in a 2018 World Cup qualifier on Thursday. Kagawa was in tears after his spot kick hit the post in Sydney as UAE claimed a 5-4 triumph on penalties following a 1-1 draw to end Japan's title defence and set up a semi-final showdown against hosts Australia. "The (UAE) team was different then and so was our coach, the players and the situation but I can still see the torment in my mind," the Dortmund player was quoted as saying by Kyodo news agency ahead of the Asian World Cup qualifier in Saitama. "That was then but this is now and we just have to prepare well to beat them this time." "I'm not sure who is in their team this time and we will have to have a look at some video footage but they have some good players and our coach will have to have a look at how we will take them on over the next few days." After the UAE match, Japan travel to Bangkok to take on Thailand in their next Group B match five days later and Kagawa believes the four-time Asian champions need to be wary of their improving opponents.

Chadli joins West Brom on four-year deal

TOTTENHAM: Forward Nacer Chadli has joined West Bromwich Albion from Premier League rivals Tottenham Hotspur on a four-year contract, both clubs announced yesterday. The 27-year-old becomes Albion's second permanent signing of the transfer window, with manager Tony Pulis having set his sight on bringing in five new players before Wednesday's transfer deadline. Though no financial details were disclosed, media reports said Albion had paid 13 million pounds (\$17.01 million) for Chadli. "I feel very good to be here. It came very quickly but I spoke to the club and they have a good team, a good manager," Chadli told the club's website (www.wba.co.uk). The Belgian international, who joined Spurs from Dutch side Twente Enschede in 2013, made 119 appearances in all competitions for the London club.



Sam Allardyce

ENGLAND'S MANAGER DEFENDS DECISION TO OMIT BARKLEY

LONDON: England manager Sam Allardyce has defended the decision to leave Everton midfielder Ross Barkley out of his first squad for the 2018 World Cup qualifier in Slovakia at the weekend. The 22-year-old has enjoyed an impressive start to the Premier League season and many observers felt he had done enough to deserve a place in the 23-man group named on Sunday.

However, Allardyce, who succeeded Roy Hodgson as manager after England's underwhelming Euro 2016 campaign, said there was still time for Barkley to feature in his future plans. "We have had to make a few difficult decisions and none more so than Ross Barkley," Allardyce told reporters on Monday. "For him it's disappointing, for me, you have to make these decisions. The door will always be open for Ross but right now I feel the squad I've picked is the right one." Marcus Rashford also missed out, instead selected for the under-21 squad against Norway, even though the 18-year-old striker featured for England at Euro 2016 and scored Manchester United's injury-time winner against Hull City on Saturday. "Having international experience in the under-21s will prove invaluable for us further down the line," the former West Ham, Bolton Wanderers and Sunderland manager added. "If he plays for Manchester United on a regular basis, if he is regularly breaking into the United team then it will be a good basis for inclusion in my squad."

Allardyce, 61, will take his first training session with the players later on Monday with several, most notably Manchester City's goalkeeper Joe Hart, involved in speculation over their club futures ahead of Wednesday's transfer deadline day. "If Joe arrives today, and I'm sure if there's anything in the pipeline Joe will tell us this may happen. Then we can get ready if it does," Allardyce said.

Slovakia held England to a goalless draw in their last meeting little at Euro 2016, a game Allardyce expects will have little bearing on Sunday's meeting in Trnava. "The tactics will be different when we play them in Slovakia. That team will have to come out to attack us, they're playing at home, whereas in the Euros, we knew that one point was enough for them. — Reuters



BILBAO: Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez (L) vies with Athletic Bilbao's forward Eneko Boveda during the Spanish league football match Athletic Club Bilbao vs FC Barcelona at the San Mames stadium in Bilbao on Sunday. — AFP

RAKITIC HEADER EARNS BARCA VICTORY IN BILBAO

BARCELONA: Champions Barcelona came through a gruelling La Liga test at a rain-swept San Mames on Sunday, beating Athletic Bilbao 1-0 thanks to Ivan Rakitic's first-half header.

Elsewhere, Las Palmas thrashed Granada 5-1 to top the table with six points from two matches ahead of Barca and Real Madrid on goal difference while Europa League holders Sevilla were held to a goalless draw at Villarreal.

Croatia midfielder Rakitic glanced in Arda Turan's cross to complete a sweeping move started by Luis Suarez and settle the visiting side's nerves after a few early scares, including goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen giving the ball away in his own area. Barca grew in confidence after the break and stand-in captain Lionel Messi spurned two chances while Suarez also failed to capitalise on a couple of clear

opportunities and had a shot cleared off the line in injury time. Luis Enrique's men almost lived to regret their profligacy as Bilbao's Raul Garcia fired narrowly wide and Iker Muniain had a late penalty appeal turned down.

"I'm happy with the result against an opponent of such magnitude," Luis Enrique told a news conference. "We could have wrapped the game up earlier but it was a good performance and the three points are well earned."

Luis Enrique had warned that the visit to San Mames was always one of the hardest away trips for Barca and although they looked comfortable at the start, they soon began to struggle with Bilbao's intense pressing and aggression.

Ter Stegen gave the visitors a fright when he played the ball straight to Benat Etxebarria but the keeper got his body in the

way of the midfielder's shot and later made saves from Aritz Aduriz and Benat again.

RISKY STYLE

Jordi Alba defended the German's risky style, saying: "I wish all goalkeepers were like him, he's the best in the world with the ball at his feet, he's our goalkeeper for the present and will be for many years to come". Barca jitters were calmed in the 21st minute when Rakitic was left unmarked in the area to nod Turan's centre into the corner. Turkey international Turan spurned a chance to double the lead before the break, miskicking at the near post, the first of a series of opportunities that went begging for the champions.

Messi started to make an impact in the second half after a relatively quiet first period but twice missed the target.

The usually prolific Suarez also endured

a frustrating evening in front of goal, inexplicably failing to convert the simplest of chances at the end, taking too long to shoot with the net gaping and seeing his shot scrambled off the line.

Las Palmas followed their 4-2 win at Valencia last week with a dominant display against Granada, Nabil El Zhar scoring twice in the 5-1 rout.

Midfielder Kevin-Prince Boateng netted for the second game running after joining Las Palmas from AC Milan and dedicated his goal to the victims of last week's earthquake in Italy that has killed at least 290 people.

"I leapt off my seat at the goal because of the quality of the counter attack, the shot and because...he hit it with his heart," said coach Quique Setien.

In Sunday's other game, Alaves drew 0-0 at home to Sporting Gijon. — Reuters

MONACO BEAT PSG IN FRENCH LEAGUE

PARIS: Monaco beat defending champion Paris Saint-Germain 3-1 on Sunday to move level on points with Guingamp and Nice at the top of the French league.

Portugal midfielder Joao Moutinho and Brazilian defender Fabinho scored in the first half. Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani pulled a goal back midway through the second half before an own goal from PSG right back Serge Aurier sealed the points for Monaco. All three have seven points, one more than Lyon and PSG. Moutinho, who played in Portugal's European Championship final win against France last month, struck in the 13th minute.

Center half Andrea Raggi's pass freed full back Djibril Sidibe down the right and his cross fell kindly to Moutinho, who ran onto it and hit a firm shot past goalkeeper Kevin Trapp from just inside the penalty area.

Monaco doubled its lead on the stroke of halftime when Brazilian defender Fabinho scored from the penalty spot after countryman David Luiz had fouled another Brazilian, Jemerson, following Moutinho's free kick.

Fabinho, who has scored all four penalties he has taken this season - including two in the Champions League qualifying win against Spanish side Villarreal - coolly sent Trapp the wrong way from the spot.

Shortly after PSG left back Layvin Kurzawa missed a good chance against his old club, Cavani pounced in the 63rd when he headed in Aurier's cross.

But Aurier then turned Sidibe's cross into his own net with 10 minutes left. Monaco was also the last team to beat PSG prior to this game, when it won 2-0 in Paris

on March 20. Earlier, Uruguay striker Diego Rolan scored the winning goal as Bordeaux beat Nantes 1-0. Former France winger Jeremy Menez, who joined Bordeaux from AC Milan this season, beat defender Diego

Carlos and his cross found Rolan at the back post. The 23-year-old Rolan, who netted 15 league goals for Bordeaux two seasons ago, managed only seven last term but has scored two in three games so

far. The win moved Bordeaux up to seventh place, one above Toulouse, which beat Bordeaux 4-1 last weekend but could only draw 0-0 away to Saint-Etienne in Sunday's other game. — AP



MONACO: French referee Ruddy Buquet (C) talks to French Paris Saint Germain's midfielder Adrien Rabiot (L) during the French L1 football match Monaco (ASM) vs Paris-Saint-Germain (PSG) on Sunday at the "Louis II Stadium" in Monaco. — AFP

Sports

Ariya Jutanugarn wins in Canada for 5th LPGA title



Ex-Dodgers owner McCourt set for Marseille takeover



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QATAR READY FOR TOUGH WORLD CUP IRAN CLASH Page 19



TORONTO: Toronto Blue Jays' Josh Thole, right, fields a ball in front of pitcher R.A. Dickey in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in Toronto, Sunday. — AP

DONALDSON HITS 3 HRs, BLUE JAYS BEAT TWINS

TORONTO: Josh Donaldson hit three home runs and Troy Tulowitzki added another one as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Minnesota Twins 9-6 on Sunday afternoon to complete a sweep of the three-game series. Donaldson's second homer of the game was a two-run shot that put Toronto into a 6-5 lead during the four-run seventh. His home run in the eighth gave him the first three-homer game of his career. It was the 10th loss in a row for the Twins, while the Blue Jays remain at the top of the American League East. Toronto reliever Scott Feldman pitched two-thirds of an inning to pick up the win and Twins reliever Pat Light allowed three hits and three runs over 1 1/3 innings to take the loss.

Hernandez earned the win with a scoreless sixth in relief of Vince Velasquez, who allowed one run on five hits and one walk while striking out seven over five innings.

Jonathan Villar in the third - on two hits without a walk. In five starts for Pittsburgh, Nova is 4-0 with a 2.47 ERA. He needed just 75 pitches to get through his six innings of work but left the game because of discomfort in his left hamstring.

won for the first time since June 5 as Texas edged Cleveland. Holland, making his second start since missing two months because of shoulder inflammation, didn't walk a batter and struck out five on four hits. Elvis Andrus drew a one-out walk in the third, stole second and scored on a two-out single to right by Ian Desmond. The Rangers made it 2-0 in the fifth after Adrian Beltre opened the inning with a walk and moved to second on a wild pitch. Jonathan Lucroy's single to center brought Beltre home.

PADRES 3, MARLINS 1

Luis Perdomo induced six double-play balls and Luis Sardinas had the go-ahead RBI double as San Diego defeated Miami at Marlins Park. The six double plays are a Marlins record. It is also a record for the Padres in a nine-inning game. It was the first complete game in the career of Perdomo, who threw 99 pitches. Perdomo, a 23-year-old rookie who had never pitched above Class A before this season, has the best ground-ball rate (59 percent) of any NL pitcher with at least 100 innings this year.

ROCKIES 5, NATIONALS 3

Nolan Arenado was 4-for-4 with three RBIs and Chad Bettis allowed just two runs in seven innings as Colorado posted a series victory with a win over host Washington. Bettis leads the team in wins after he struck out six with one walk while throwing 106 pitches. The Rockies are 4-2 this year against the Nationals. Washington is 8-9 in the midst of a string of 20 games in 20 days and has lost six of its last eight.

ATHLETICS 7, CARDINALS 4

Andrew Triggs recorded his first major league win, tossing six innings as Oakland knocked off St. Louis at Busch Stadium. Triggs allowed three runs on four hits, walked none and fanned a career-high eight. Three relievers took care of the last nine outs, with Ryan Madson pitching the ninth to notch his 27th save in 33 chances. Jaime Garcia was tagged with the loss after going seven innings, yielding five runs and seven hits. Garcia walked one and struck out six.

DOGERS 1, CUBS 0

Adrian Gonzalez hit a fielder's choice that brought home Andrew Toles with the winning run in the bottom of the eighth inning to give Los Angeles a win over Chicago at Dodger Stadium. Right-hander Joe Blanton received the victory in relief. In his lone inning of work, Blanton conceded just one hit in facing four batters. Closer Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth inning with one strikeout for this 39th save, ensuring that the Dodgers would remain two games ahead of the second-place San Francisco Giants in the National League West.

ORIOLES 5, YANKEES 0

Kevin Gausman pitched seven effective innings for his first road win in over two years and Mark Trumbo became the first player in the majors to reach 40 home runs as Baltimore salvaged a frustrating weekend with a victory over New York. Steve Pearce drove in Baltimore's first three runs with a solo home run off CC Sabathia and a two-run single off Adam Warren. Trumbo added some insurance with a 427-foot drive off Ben Heller into the visiting bullpen beyond the left-center field wall. Those hits were more than enough for Gausman, who won his third straight start and turned in his second straight scoreless outing.

WHITE SOX 4, MARINERS 1

Melky Cabrera went 2-for-4 with a double, triple and an RBI, and Chicago pulled away for a win over Seattle. Justin Morneau finished 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. The White Sox won three of four games in the series and concluded a nine-game homestand with a 6-3 record. Robinson Cano went 2-for-4 with a solo home run to power the Mariners. Kyle Seager finished 3-for-4 with a triple as Seattle lost for the sixth time in its past eight games.

RAYS 10, ASTROS 4

Chris Archer produced another quality start at Minute Maid Park and Tampa Bay averted a series sweep with a late power surge over Houston. Archer scuffled through the fourth inning but was otherwise outstanding, limiting the Astros to three runs on four hits and two walks with 10 strikeouts. He reached 200 strikeouts on the season to close the sixth inning for his second consecutive 200-strikeout campaign. The Rays built a four-run lead against right-hander Doug Fister before exploding for five runs in the eighth. Matt Duffy socked a two-run home run, his fifth on the season, and Corey Dickerson hit his 18th home run five batters later.

GIANTS 13, BRAVES 4

Joe Panik highlighted an 18-hit attack with two home runs, leading San Francisco to a shellacking of Atlanta. Madison Bumgarner benefited from the Giants' highest scoring game in more than two months, helping San Francisco post just its second series win since the All-Star break. The win also allowed the Giants to take the season series from the Braves after the clubs split the first six games.

PIRATES 3, BREWERS 1

John Jaso, Gregory Polanco and Starling Marte all hit solo home runs while Ivan Nova struck out four over six innings as Pittsburgh finished off their first-ever four-game sweep of Milwaukee at Miller Park.

Nova stayed undefeated since joining the Pirates, holding the Brewers to just a run-a solo homer by

RANGERS 2, INDIANS 1

Derek Holland allowed one run in six innings and

MLB results/standings

Baltimore 5, NY Yankees 0; Toronto 9, Minnesota 6; LA Angels 5, Detroit 0; Philadelphia 5, NY Mets 1; San Diego 3, Miami 1; Colorado 5, Washington 3; Pittsburgh 3, Milwaukee 1; Chicago White Sox 4, Seattle 1; Tampa Bay 10, Houston 4; Oakland 7, St. Louis 4; Texas 2, Cleveland 1; San Francisco 13, Atlanta 4; LA Dodgers 1, Chicago Cubs 0; Arizona 11, Cincinnati 2; Kansas City 10, Boston 4.

ANGELS 5, TIGERS 0
Jeffrey Marte tormented his old teammates with a two-run home run plus a sacrifice fly while Tyler Skaggs and three relievers combined on a four-hit shutout to help Los Angeles knock off Detroit for the second game in a row. Marte came up after Andrelton Simmons singled to open the fifth inning and hit a 1-2 fastball that was right down the middle for his 10th home run of the season. It broke a scoreless tie and was Marte's second home run and third hit in four at-bats against Anibal Sanchez. Marte hit his sacrifice fly in the sixth to make it 4-0.

PHILLIES 5, METS 1

A.J. Ellis' first hit as a member of Philadelphia, a two-run double in the seventh inning, snapped a tie and jump-started a four-run outburst in a win over New York at Citi Field. The Phillies salvaged the finale of the three-game series. The Mets had their three-game winning streak snapped as they lost for just the second time in the last eight games. Right-hander David

American League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	74	56	.569	-
Boston	72	58	.554	2
Baltimore	71	59	.546	3
NY Yankees	67	62	.519	6.5
Tampa Bay	55	74	.426	18.5

National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Washington	75	55	.577	-
Miami	67	63	.515	8
NY Mets	66	64	.508	9
Philadelphia	60	70	.462	15
Atlanta	48	83	.366	27.5

Central Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Cleveland	73	56	.566	-
Detroit	69	61	.531	4.5
Kansas City	68	62	.523	5.5
Chicago White Sox	63	66	.488	10
Minnesota	49	81	.377	24.5

Western Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Texas	76	54	.585	-
Houston	68	61	.527	7.5
Seattle	68	61	.527	7.5
Oakland	56	73	.434	19.5
LA Angels	55	74	.426	20.5

DIAMONDBACKS 11, REDS 2
Yasmany Tomas homered, Wellington Castillo drove in four runs and right-hander Archie Bradley won his first home start in almost three months in Arizona's victory over Cincinnati. Chris Owings, Michael Bourn and A.J. Pollock had three hits apiece as Arizona tied a season-high with 18 hits. Bourn scored three times and Pollock had two stolen bases. The Diamondbacks won four of seven games on the homestand, their first winning homestand this year not counting an abbreviated three-game sweep of the Mets earlier this month.

ROYALS 10, RED SOX 4
Surging Kansas City exploded for eight runs in the sixth inning and blew past Boston for a win in the rubber game of a three-game series. The win, the 13th in the past 15 games and 17th in the 21 for the defending World Series champions, moved the Royals within two games of an American League wild-card spot. Raul Mondesi ripped a three-run triple and Eric Hosmer collected a two-run single as seven consecutive Kansas City batters reached base in the sixth. Salvador Perez hit his third homer in two games, his 20th of the season, in the second inning, and Kendrys Morales had three hits for the Royals. — Reuters

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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Kuwait real estate activity softens; July sales lowest

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Kuwait real estate prices fluctuate

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A man looks at shirts and neckties that are part of a "Buy One Get One for a Penny" sale at a J C Penney store. The Commerce Department issued its July report on consumer spending, which accounts for roughly 70 percent of US economic activity. —AP

FED HIKE LOOKS CERTAIN AS CONSUMER SPENDING UP CORE PCE PRICE INDEX TICKS UP 0.1%

WASHINGTON: US consumer spending increased for a fourth straight month in July amid strong demand for automobiles, pointing to a pickup in economic growth that could pave the way for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates this year. Yesterday's report from the Commerce Department came several days after Fed Chair Janet Yellen said the case for raising rates had strengthened in recent months. Low inflation, however, suggests the US central bank could wait until its December policy meeting before raising borrowing costs.

"This report is a mixed bag for the Fed. While the consumer sector is continuing to advance solidly, progress towards the Fed's inflation mandate has stalled," said Michelle Girard, chief economist at RBS in Stamford, Connecticut. "It strengthens the case for an increase in interest rates, but does not suggest an urgency for policymakers to act in September."

The Commerce Department said that consumer spending, which accounts for more than two-thirds of US economic activity, rose 0.3 percent last month after a 0.5 percent gain in June. July's increase was in line with economists' expectations. When adjusted for inflation, consumer spending also rose 0.3 percent in July after advancing 0.4 percent in June.

That suggests consumer spending retained much of its momentum from the second quarter, when it grew at a 4.4 percent annual rate, the fastest pace in nearly two years. The jump helped to mitigate some of the impact of a sharp inventory drop and prolonged business investment downturn.

The economy grew at a lackluster 1.1 percent annual rate in the second quarter. July's upbeat consumer spending data lifted the dollar against a basket of currencies. Wall Street rose, boosted by gains in financial

stocks. US Treasuries were trading higher.

Yellen told a gathering of global central bankers last week that "solid performance of the labor market and our outlook for economic activity and inflation" had bolstered the argument for raising interest rates in recent months. The Fed hiked interest rates at the end of last year for the first time in nearly a decade, but has held them steady this year amid concerns over persistently low inflation.

TAME INFLATION

Financial markets are currently pricing in a 30 percent chance of a rate increase at the Fed's Sept. 20-21 policy meeting and a 57.2 percent probability at the December meeting, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool. Last month's consumer spending report added to data on the goods trade deficit, industrial production, durable goods orders and residential construc-

tion that have pointed to an acceleration in economic growth early in the third quarter.

The Atlanta Fed is currently estimating the economy to grow at an annual pace of 3.5 percent in the third quarter. Consumer spending is being driven by a tightening labor market, which is steadily lifting wages. Rising home values and stock prices, which are boosting household wealth, are also supporting consumption.

Last month, there was little sign of inflation even as consumer spending firmed. The personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index, excluding the volatile food and energy components, edged up 0.1 percent after a similar gain in June.

In the 12 months through July the core PCE increased 1.6 percent. It has risen by the same margin every month since March. The core PCE is the Fed's preferred inflation measure and is running below its 2 percent target.

"We remain of the view that services inflation will continue to be firm, but some of its strength will likely be offset by the other components of the PCE basket, leading overall inflation to increase at a moderate pace," said Blerina Urcu, an economist at Barclays in Washington.

Consumer spending last month was lifted by a 1.6 percent surge in purchases of long-lasting manufactured goods such as automobiles. Spending on services rose 0.4 percent, but outlays on non-durable goods slipped 0.5 percent.

Personal income increased 0.4 percent in July after rising 0.3 percent in June. Wages and salaries advanced 0.5 percent. Savings rose to \$794.7 billion from \$776.2 billion in June. "We would look at today's higher savings ... as creating room for spending to run a bit hotter than income in future months," said Andrew Hollenhorst, an economist at Citigroup in New York. —Reuters

QATAR OUTPERFORMS

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Qatar's stock market outperformed the Gulf yesterday as large-caps carried the index higher, but other bourses were little changed as a fresh slide in oil prices and a retreat in Asian share markets kept buyers away.

Qatar's main index added 0.6 percent, taking its gains over the past month to 5.4 percent. Qatar National Bank rose 1.0 percent and petrochemical producer Industries Qatar climbed 2.5 percent.

Both stocks are on a provisional list of about 20 which index compiler FTSE has said may be included in its secondary emerging markets index. A final list of stocks to be included will be announced after the close on Wednesday. Dubai's index edged up 0.1 percent. Courier Aramex climbed 2.3 percent to 4.09 dirhams in a second straight day of unusually heavy trade; it has jumped 7.5 percent over the past week, and is now trading close to the median fair value of 4.02 dirhams estimated by six analysts polled by Reuters.

Other mid-cap shares also outperformed, with Dubai Parks and Resorts rising 1.9 percent and Gulf Navigation Holding adding 2.7 percent. In Abu Dhabi, the index edged down 0.1 percent, with the main drag from large-cap lenders. First Gulf Bank fell 0.4 percent and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank slid 0.2 percent. Saudi Arabia's index ended flat at 6,071 points as petrochemi-

icals and banks were mixed. Saudi International Petrochemical (Sipchem) jumped 5.5 percent but Advanced Petrochemical fell 0.8 percent.

Islamic lender Al Rajhi Bank rose 1.4 percent while Samba Financial Group and National Commercial Bank each lost 0.6 percent. Saudi Telecom Co (STC) retreated 1.3 percent. An Egyptian official said representatives from Saudi Telecom were in Egypt this week to discuss the possibility of obtaining a fourth-generation mobile phone licence there.

The Egyptian index edged down 0.3 percent as stocks favored by foreign funds retreated. Commercial International Bank lost 1.6 percent and Talaat Mostafa Group Holding dropped 2.1 percent. Cleopatra Hospital rose 0.5 percent to 9.25 Egyptian pounds after it reported a second-quarter net profit of 6.6 million Egyptian pounds (\$743,000), a 55 percent year-on-year decline.

Analysts at Pharos Research said the main reason for the drop was 6 million pounds in provisions for doubtful receivables, while revenue was pressured by reduced contributions from outpatient clinics and laboratories.

Pharos has a "hold" rating on the stock with a target price of 10.95 pounds. Earlier this month, Renaissance Capital put a "buy" rating on the stock with a target of 11.95 pounds; in July, EFG Hermes rated it a "buy" with a target of 11.70 pounds.

EGYPT APPROVES VAT AT 13%

CAIRO: Egypt's parliament approved yesterday a long-awaited law introducing a value-added tax of 13 percent, rising to 14 percent in the next fiscal year, a key part of the government's plan to reform the economy and cut its deficit. Parliament had been debating the law for weeks, with dozens of lawmakers opposing the government's initial proposal of 14 percent, for fear of stoking inflation in a country where tens of millions live one pay check away from hunger. The house budget committee had pushed to reduce the rate to 12 percent.

The deadlock was broken on Sunday when Finance Minister Amr El Garhy proposed a compromise of 13 percent for the 2016-17 fiscal year. "The law was passed and got final approval. It will be 13 percent for this year, and at the start of the next financial year will be 14 percent," Yasser Omar, an MP on the house budget committee, told Reuters.

"It's a tax reform that Egypt needed

to begin its economic reform process. This is the start of an economic reform program that will see Egypt have a stronger tax regime that will make the economic system stronger, and will allow it to draw foreign investment."

The VAT law is part of a reform program that formed the basis of a \$12 billion, three-year loan agreed with the International Monetary Fund earlier this month. The IMF deal has yet to be approved by its executive board, but the IMF mission chief for Egypt, Chris Jarvis, has told Reuters previously that disbursement of the first instalment was not contingent on passage of the VAT law.

Egypt also agreed a \$3 billion, three-year loan program with the World Bank in December, but the first tranche has been delayed pending parliamentary approval of measures including VAT. Economists welcomed the news, which they said showed the government continue with politically sensitive reforms that could spark unrest in a country

that has seen street protests unsettle two presidents since 2011. "It's positive for revenue generation and the budget deficit. This shows government commitment to reforms," said Reham EIDesoki, senior economist at Arqaam Capital.

"They are going ahead with one of the difficult reforms that has been pending for a decade and should be followed by the other reforms, such as a devaluation and other fiscal reforms."

VAT will replace the current sales tax, which economists say creates market distortions. It is expected to broaden the tax base in a country where the government struggles to collect income tax because of a large informal economy and widespread avoidance.

The VAT law exempts basic goods and services to protect the poor. Egypt's economy has been struggling since an uprising in 2011 ushered in political instability that drove away tourists and foreign investors, major earners of foreign currency. —Reuters



KUWAIT: Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO Al-Sayer Group Holding, Representative from Toyota Motor Corporation Mitsuru Saito General Manager Parts MENARO, Khalid Al-Saif, General Manager of the General Administration of Customs, Delegate from Al-Tamimi & Co law firm and Senior Management representatives from Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer during the seminar. — Photos by Joseph Shagra.

AL-SAYER TOYOTA GENUINE SPARE PARTS HOLDS IPR SEMINAR

MOHAMED NASER AL-SAYER TOYOTA INITIATIVE WITH KUWAIT GENERAL ADMINISTRATION OF CUSTOMS

KUWAIT: Mohamed Naser Al Sayer (MNSS) Toyota Genuine Spare Parts Division, one of the Al-Sayer Group Holding Companies held an educational seminar on Intellectual Property Rights in collaboration with the General Administration of Customs. The event was attended by Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO Al-Sayer Group Holding, Representative from Toyota Motor Corporation Mitsuru Saito General Manager Parts MENARO, Officials from the Ministry and Embassy, Delegate from Al-Tamimi & Co law firm, Senior Management representatives from Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer, customers from the dealer and fleet segment along with distinguished members from the press and media.

The main objective of the seminar was to associate the strategic objective of fostering partnership among the official authorities directly concerned with matters corresponding to intellectual property rights such as private sector companies represented by MNNS, professional experts and government agencies. The diminishing importance of Intellectual Property Rights law to provide adequate protection for companies producing goods and brand-based services, and protect human health and safety was also stressed as a major concern during the seminar.

According to Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer CEO Al-Sayer Group Holding "Our gathering today is a continuation of our hard work to activate community partnership with concerned government authorities, private sector institutions and experts to clarify and activate the importance of providing adequate protection for companies, with accredited trademarks, producing goods and services for the health and safety of humans and environment against damages accompanying the handling of counterfeit products and sensual damages that can be caused by it. We are pleased to work hand in hand serving consumers and our beloved countries interest."

Highlighting the risk of using counterfeit parts, Mohammed Hilal Business Director MNSS Toyota Spare Parts Division said "The spread of counterfeit parts in the world has become a growing problem that threatens the manufacturers, sellers and consumers alike. The perpetrators of these illegal activities became more professional, they use packaging materials and posters to conceal being absolutely counterfeit, or change it slightly so that the average consumer can't distinguish it because of the difficulty of discovering these differences in any pieces."

Educating The High Risk of Using Counterfeit Parts: The wide spread of counterfeit parts is an ever worsening problem which threatens manufacturers, sellers and consumers alike. Counterfeit parts pose great risks to consumers and the overall community. Such cheap alternative products are made of materials of poor standards and specifications which cannot offer the required performance by the passage of time and which cannot withstand the tough weather conditions.

* For example, counterfeit oil strain is made of cheap and low quality materials for lower costs which allow damaging materials to get into engine delivering poorer performance and shorter engine life.

* Air filter allowing dust into the combustion chamber causing damage to the engine and heavy repair costs.

* Counterfeit brake discs and brake pads which increase the distance required to stop the car on breaking hence threatening consumer life and safety due to poor brake performance apart from damage to the brak-

ing system, the vehicle and higher maintenance costs. * Counterfeit electrical parts delivering poor engine performance and risk to driver. Vehicles catching fire on the road is an example of the greatest risks and results of using counterfeit electrical parts, trading, promotion or using of which is a crime against consumers.

Unique and Advanced Toyota Patented Technology: Toyota believes that improving levels and standards of safety and performance requires proper employment of technology, innovation and continued pursuit of perfection to provide new solutions through its own efforts or in cooperation with leading world organizations, basically to reduce casualties in comparison with world accident figures.

Therefore Toyota recruits massive numbers of qualified technicians and engineers with best training at reputed universities, and technology institutes who have demonstrated best hands on performance and achievements in development and innovation using most advanced equipment and technology to further improve innovation and inventions which positively impact our life.

Stressing the trusted quality of Toyota Genuine spare parts, Saied Al-Shurafa Deputy General Manager Parts and Accessory sales said "Genuine parts are carefully made, checked and tested as they are made of original materials meeting stringent standards properly designed to suit each model. This means that each part meets the high quality standards of genuine parts, assembled and installed by specialist and qualified technicians to ensure proper performance and good condition of vehicle and safety of driver, passenger and people on the road."

Decade Long Anti-Counterfeit Campaign by Al-Sayer: Al-Sayer Group has been promoting customer and overall public awareness about counterfeit parts and their damaging effects and life threatening risks over the past 10 years. These are aimed at educating customer and enhancing his awareness of the existence and risks of using such counterfeits, and to encourage customers to shun such products and go for Toyota genuine parts for safe driving and trouble free vehicle performance. Al-Sayer is using special labels to identify and distinguish genuine parts for customers.

This comes in line with Al-Sayer social responsibility promoting such customer awareness and offering valuable information about modern day technology, safety standards of products, and road safety as well.

ASG is in direct cooperation and coordination with the appropriate government control authorities and Customs authorities providing them with best control tools. For example, they created a special website addressing the subtle difference between genuine and counterfeit parts in addition to providing Kuwait Customs with "Hologram" glasses which detect such difference.

"Let us work hand in hand to stand against this problem by setting action programs and plans and execution mechanism to increase cooperation between both sectors and to open communication channels and exchange advice in related fields between the private and public sector" said Abdullah Alshuwaie Senior Manager Customer Relations and Legal Representative, encouraging stronger anti-counterfeit efforts.

"We will continue to strengthen our marketing efforts towards educating the society about the danger of compromising on quality through purchasing counterfeit

parts. No Counterfeit is our aim and we will fully support you to protect the consumer and Kuwaiti market from this problem" said Mohammad Nasimi Senior Manager After Sales Marketing.

The event was concluded with interactive question & answer session followed by "touch and feel" to facilitate comparison between counterfeit and genuine parts for the guests.



EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.958
Indian Rupees	4.515
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Srilankan Rupees	2.079
Nepali Rupees	2.821
Singapore Dollar	223.210
Hongkong Dollar	38.996
Bangladesh Taka	3.856
Philippine Peso	6.535
Thai Baht	8.773

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.370
Qatari Riyal	83.125
ani Riyal	785.993
Bahraini Dinar	803.640
UAE Dirham	82.389

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	29.550
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.446
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.215
Tunisian Dinar	137.980
Jordanian Dinar	427.010
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.016
Syrian Lira	2.0157
Morocco Dirham	31.604

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.450
Euro	340.260
Sterling Pound	398.330
Canadian dollar	233.370
Turkish lira	102.960

Swiss Franc	311.160
Australian Dollar	230.160
US Dollar Buying	301.250

GOLD

20 Gram	265.930
10 Gram	135.880
5 Gram	68.790

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer

US Dollar	302.200
Canadian Dollr	232.515
Sterling Pound	397.778
Euro	339.193
Swiss Frank	296.575
Bahrain Dinar	798.885
UAE Dirhams	82.505
Qatari Riyals	83.720
Saudi Riyals	81.310
Jordanian Dinar	425.825
Egyptian Pound	33.934
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.077
Indian Rupees	4.499
Pakistani Rupees	2.879
Bangladesh Taka	3.845
Philippines Pessso	6.517
Cyprus pound	159.280
Japanese Yen	3.960
Syrian Pound	2.400
Nepalese Rupees	3.810
Malaysian Ringgit	75.555
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.660
Thai Bhat	9.690
Turkish Lira	102.950

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.390042	0.405042
Czech Korune	0.004511	0.016511
Danish Krone	0.041404	0.046404
Euro	0.0333115	0.0342115
Norwegian Krone	0.032440	0.037640
Romanian Leu	0.075907	0.075907
Slovakia	0.009007	0.019007
Swedish Krona	0.031561	0.036561
Swiss Franc	0.302739	0.313739
Turkish Lira	0.097522	0.107822
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.219874	0.231874
New Zealand Dollar	0.212521	0.222021
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227041	0.236041
Georgina Lari	0.136578	0.136578
US Dollars	0.298300	0.303000
US Dollars Mint	0.298800	0.303000
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003286	0.003870
Chinese Yuan	0.043732	0.047232
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036896	0.039646
Indian Rupee	0.004301	0.004690
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024

Japanese Yen	0.002871	0.003051
Kenyan Shilling	0.002975	0.002975
Korean Won	0.000258	0.000273
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071425	0.077425
Nepalese Rupee	0.002806	0.002976
Pakistan Rupee	0.002666	0.002956
Philippine Peso	0.006317	0.006617
Sierra Leone	0.000050	0.000056
Singapore Dollar	0.216724	0.226724
South African Rand	0.015065	0.023565
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001640	0.002220
Taiwan	0.009381	0.009581
Thai Baht	0.008364	0.008914

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.795553	0.804053
Egyptian Pound	0.023725	0.028843
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422358	0.431358
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019592	0.043592
Nigerian Naira	0.001246	0.001881
Omani Riyal	0.779035	0.784715
Qatar Riyal	0.082250	0.083700
Saudi Riyal	0.079553	0.080853
Syrian Pound	0.001281	0.001501
Tunisian Dinar	0.134353	0.142353
Turkish Lira	0.097722	0.107822
UAE Dirhams	0.080907	0.082607
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

KUWAIT REAL ESTATE ACTIVITY SOFTENS; JULY SALES LOWEST

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

KUWAIT: Midway through the summer season, real estate activity appeared to have softened further, with July sales the lowest in four years. Overall sales across all sectors totaled KD 1.45 billion year-to-date (ytd), down 25 percent from the same period last year. Sales in the residential and investment sector are down about one third ytd from last year, while commercial activity is up for the year. July's price performance, as reflected in NBK's real estate price indices, continued to reflect an ongoing gradual correction that started in 2015, after a 5-year stellar performance.

Seasonality continues to weigh on residential sales. The sector registered 196 transactions, down 26 percent for the month, while KD sales dropped to KD 62.9 million, down by 29 percent month-on-month (m/m) (Chart 2). The residential sector continues to lag last year's transactions and KD sales by 22 percent and 34 percent, respectively. April and July of this year appear to be the weakest months in five years in terms of KD sales and number of transactions.

Residential real estate prices cooled further this month. The NBK residential home price index registered 163.6 points in July, staying relatively flat on the month but retreating by 10.9 percent y/y. The NBK residential home price index has been trending downward since the beginning of 2015, when it peaked at 186 points in January 2015. Similarly, the NBK residential land price index retreated in July; at 183.6 points, the index slid by 5.4 percent y/y, but improved slightly on the month. Land prices were the first to correct, back in 2015, and have shown some signs of stabilizing recent-

Table 1: Real estate sales

	Monthly average		2016			July 2016	
	2014	2015	May	June	July	% m/m	% y/y
Sales (KD mn)	355.8	253.5	210.7	191.5	144.5	-24.6	-41.6
Residential property	158.3	113.4	112.8	88.2	62.9	-28.6	-34.0
Investment property	151.0	102.2	63.6	73.3	61.1	-16.6	-49.4
Commercial property	46.4	37.9	34.4	30.0	20.4	-32.1	-34.7
Number of transactions	635	452	450	370	287	-22.4	-26.0
Residential property	484	323	278	266	196	-26.3	-21.9
Investment property	143	120	163	99	86	-13.1	-32.8
Commercial property	8	8	9	5	5	0.0	-44.4
Transaction size (KD '000)	557	566	468	518	503	-2.8	-21.0
Residential property	334	352	406	332	321	-3.1	-15.4
Investment property	1,085	882	390	741	711	-4.0	-24.7
Commercial property	4,937	5,185	3,819	6,002	4,077	-32.1	17.6

ly. Apartment sales continue to carry the investment sector during the current environment. Smaller single apartments (for investment) represented 64 percent of total transactions. Total sales for the sector totaled KD 61 million, half the sales recorded in July of last year. The sector registered 86 transactions, the lowest on record for the month of July in ten years. The NBK investment-building price index retreated to Q14 levels, erasing earlier year-to-date gains. After making slight price gains since the beginning of the year, the

index stood at 192 points in July, slipping below the 200 mark for the first time since October 2014, and down 15.8 percent y/y. The investment building price index average for the year stood at 208.9 points, supported by solid numbers from January through April. Commercial sector sales cooled down in July following an almost yearlong rally. Sales for the month totaled KD 20.4 million, down 34.7 percent y/y. This was on only five transactions; the largest transaction recorded was a commercial building in Hawally for KD 6 million.

AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-HASSAD ISLAMIC PROGRAM

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on August 24, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfil the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100.

The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000 is: Mohd Saad Qalfas .

The winners of the KD 1,000 prize each: Amal Abbas Aldamkhi, Mohammad Faleh Alazmi, Awadh Radhi Alenezi, Khaled Khashan Alkhalidi, Mohalhal Rashim Al-Shemari, Serajoddin Mohammedreza Sadeghi, Moudi Hajed Almutairi , Abdulwahab Abdullah Alwazzan, Ali Abid Abbas, Mazhar Iqbal Nezar, Rafa A Awad M Mesfer, Almuqdad Mohammad Abbas, Hamad Ruwaished Alazmi , Bader Abdullah Alkandari , Mohd A I F Ibrahim, Ahad Eid Al-enzi, Saad Abdullah Alotaibi , Abid Riaz Ahmed, Shahira Mahmood Zainal , Hasan Shehab, Hasan Ali Eid, Hasan Shehab, Khawla Mohammed Alsaie , Mohammed Hasan Alyahya, Nasreen Mohammed Sharif.

The prize program of "Al-Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000 in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner.

In addition, prizes of Al-Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000/-.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.

SULTAN TELECOM PARTNERS WITH 'PHISHME'

KUWAIT: Today's companies face a truly daunting task when trying to protect their computer systems and sensitive data from compromise. Attackers are better coordinated and more sophisticated than ever before, and their tools are easier to obtain and use.

While there are many security issues for businesses to be concerned about, an all-too-common problem at companies of all sizes is phishing. Vulnerable users are workers in the company who have user accounts and passwords and use desktops, laptops, tablets and other devices to interact with a company's data and network. Hackers target these users because they have access to sensitive data and systems, their account passwords are typically easy to guess or crack, and they are unintentionally often willing to open a malicious file, click on an emailed link or even willingly type their password into a bogus site.

Nearly 16 million phishing emails make it through spam filters; 50 percent (8 million) of the received phishing emails are opened; 10 percent (800,000) of those who open a phishing email click at least one link inside it; and 10 percent (80,000) of those who click a phishing email link provide their personal information.

Phishing is a fraudulent activity defined as the creation of a replica of an existing webpage to trick a user into submitting personal, financial or security data. Phishing attacks, in which criminals lure internet users to websites that impersonate legitimate sites are occurring with increasing frequency and are causing considerable harm to victims.

Phishers use a combination of tricks involving the Web, e-mail, and malicious software (a.k.a. malware) to steal personal identity data and financial account credentials. While detection of phishing e-mails and phishing sites

have been researched, very little has been done to analyze the modus operandi of phishers. Understanding phisher modus operandi can help in better filtering of e-mails related to phishing and in taking down domains involved in phishing. They can also help in proactively tracking domain registrations to flag suspicious phishing-related activity.

"It doesn't matter how deep or high your walls are if somebody opens the gate and lets the enemy walk right in," says Mamoun Sweis, CEO of Sultan Telecom.

But with highly realistic looking emails and websites, and employees downloading documents as part of their jobs, how can companies and organizations protect themselves against Phishing attacks?

Once hackers are inside a system, they can sit there undisturbed for years, with most companies only realizing the problem after

the damage has been done. Prevention is the best possible form of protection! And that's where Sultan Telecom Steps in.

With over 20 years of experience in the field of networking and telecommunication we at Sultan Telecom understand the need for only the best security solutions. Sultan Telecom's Partnership with "PhishMe" is aimed at providing its customers with the best possible defenses against phishing attacks. PhishMe is a leading American provider of anti-phishing CBT and enjoys robust success globally, well-known throughout the security industry, the success of its marketing program and technical innovations has established it as the company to beat when it comes to anti-phishing solutions.

The company was incorporated in 2011, but the PhishMe service launched publicly in 2008. Today, PhishMe is the leading provider

of phishing threat management for organizations concerned about human susceptibility and response to advanced targeted attacks.

PhishMe's intelligence-driven solutions empower employees to be an active line of defense and source of attack intelligence by enabling them to identify, report, and mitigate spear phishing, malware, and drive-by threats. "Clients looking for high-impact anti-phishing behavior management will find PhishMe's solutions to be an excellent fit with their objectives.

PhishMe's Solutions will completely eliminate the possibility of a successful attack and will greatly reduce your exposure to this common attack path, which just might make a potential attacker move on to a more vulnerable target. Sultan Telecom is an ISO 9001:2008 certified company and a subsidiary of The Sultan Center Group.

CONDOLENCES

BURGAN BANK

Board of Directors, Executive Management and Staff

wish to offer their heartfelt
condolences to

Mr. Majed Essa Al-Ajeel

Chairman of the Board
on the sad demise of his

Mother

May her soul rest in peace and may
God grant comfort and strength to the
bereaved family members during this time

DOLLAR JUMPS, BONDS AND STOCKS SELL OFF ON FED

LONDON: The dollar rose to a three-week high against the yen yesterday, while bond yields surged to their highest since June and stocks sold off after senior Federal Reserve officials indicated a US interest rate increase was on the cards soon.

In the past few months, the Fed has been swaying back and forth on whether to raise rates this year, keeping investors across the globe on tenterhooks. But on Friday, at an annual gathering of global central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, Fed Chair Janet Yellen gave one of the clearest indications that a rate hike was probably round the corner. She said the case for an inter-

est rate hike has strengthened in recent months as the US labor market and economy improved. That echoed what other senior Fed officials had been saying in the run-up to the Jackson Hole symposium. And while she gave no hints on the timing of a hike, Fed Vice Chair Stanley Fischer said Yellen's speech was consistent with expectations for possible rate increases this year. Fischer said Friday's nonfarm payrolls report for August was likely to be key to the decision over a hike in the near term. "Fischer confirmed the broad view on the Fed Open Market Committee that the economy has strengthened of late and that interest rates should be raised gradually; possi-

bly again next month if this week's employment report supports a rate rise," said Stewart Richardson, chief investment officer at RMG Wealth Management. The odds of a hike in September rose to 33 percent following the comments, from 21 percent on Thursday, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool.

The prospects of higher US interest rates saw European shares lose ground. Germany's DAX was 0.7 percent lower, while the blue-chip Euro Stoxx 50 was down 0.4 percent. British markets are closed for a holiday. And after closing lower on Friday, Wall Street stock futures pointed to a flat start yesterday.

YIELDS JUMP


Earlier, Japan's Nikkei bucked the trend in Asia, closing 2.3 percent higher, the biggest one-day gain in three weeks, as the yen weakened against the resurgent dollar. The dollar rose 0.5 percent to a three-week high of 102.39 yen. That followed gains of 1.3 percent on Friday, its biggest one-day advance in almost seven weeks. The dollar index was up at 95.769 its highest in two weeks.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 added 2.3 percent to close at 16,737.49. Japanese stocks generally gain on a weak yen because the earnings of the nation's giant exporters are boosted. South Korea's Kospi fell 0.3 percent to 2,032.35. Hong Kong's Hang Seng slipped 0.4 percent to 22,821.74, while the Shanghai Composite inched down 0.01 percent to 3,070.03.

Treasury yields rose to their highest since June, dragging German Bund yields higher. The yield on Germany's benchmark 10-year bond briefly rose more than 6 basis points to minus 0.025 percent - the highest

level since June 24, when the result of Britain's EU referendum sent shockwaves through markets. "We're still cautious about the scope for a September rate hike, but it is increasingly becoming a close call," said Martin van Vliet, senior rates strategist at ING. Investors will turn their focus to a slew of US data this week before the all-important jobs report on Friday. Among the releases to be scrutinized will be US consumer confidence for August, due on Tuesday, while productivity, manufacturing and construction figures are due on Thursday.

Global factory activity surveys will also be released on Thursday. In commodities, crude prices fell on the back of a rally in the dollar and concerns about growing output after exports from Iraq in August exceeded July levels. Iran also said late last week that it would only cooperate in upcoming producer talks in September if other exporters recognized Tehran's right to regain market share lost during international sanctions that were lifted in January. —Agencies



Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -6.27	5,404.70	5,410.97	5,410.08	5,389.89
Weighted Index	▼ -0.61	345.80	346.41	348.03	344.90
KXS 15	▼ -1.34	801.93	803.27	810.59	800.01

Security	Trades						Change
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	
MARIN	88	88	4571	402	2	88	▼ -5.0
IKARUS	32.0	30.5	50,000	1,585	4	30.5	▼ -1.0
IPG	370	370	12,800	4,736	2	370	▼ -5.0
NAPESCO	730	700	32,830	23,015	3	700	▼ -30.0
ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.5	▼ 0.0
GPI	39.0	38.5	1,947,800	75,859	17	39.0	▼ 0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	▼ 0.0
Oil & Gas			2,048,001	105,598	28	753.14	▼ -18.04
KFOUC	166	164	76,214	12,629	4	164	▼ -2.0
BPCB	485	485	49,539	24,026	3	485	▼ -5.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	650	▼ 0.0
ALQURAIN	196	194	32,433	6,297	14	194	▼ 0.0
Basic Materials			158,186	42,953	21	931.02	▼ -4.15
KCEM	375	375	50,000	18,750	2	375	▼ -5.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	315	▼ 0.0
CABLE	380	370	22,100	8,281	5	375	▼ -5.0
SHIP	162	162	31,000	5,022	3	162	▼ 0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	960	▼ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▼ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	▼ 0.0
ACICO	290	280	16	4	2	290	▼ 0.0
GGMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▼ 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	128	▼ 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▼ 0.0
NICBM	204	204	1,000	204	1	204	▲ 10.0
EQUIPMENT	47.0	45.0	3,266,468	148,668	116	45.0	▼ -2.5
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.0	▼ 0.0
GYPSON	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▼ 0.0
SALBOKH	62	60	108,448	6,609	8	62	▲ 1.0
AGLTY	470	465	53,981	25,185	9	465	▼ -5.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	▼ 0.0
CLEANING	40.0	37.5	485,557	18,365	13	37.5	▼ -2.5
KGL	42.5	42.5	41,694	1,772	4	42.5	▼ 0.0
KCCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	▼ 0.0
HUMANISOFT	1,500	1,500	9,250	13,875	2	1,500	▼ 0.0
NAFAIS	180	180	490,561	88,301	4	180	▼ 0.0
SFAWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	400	▼ 0.0
GFC	24.5	22.0	358,200	8,595	20	24.0	▼ 0.0
MAYADEEN	29.0	28.5	191,100	5,532	6	29.0	▼ 0.0
CGC	680	680	500	340	1	680	▲ 10.0
MTCC	57	57	2,500	143	1	57	▼ 0.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	720	▼ 0.0
ALAFCCO	216	214	155,830	33,658	4	216	▼ 0.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	58	▼ 0.0
LOGISTICS	71	70	585,034	40,952	20	71	▲ 1.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▼ 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	▼ 0.0
QIC	75	75	455	34	1	75	▼ 0.0
FCEM	75	75	1,440,000	108,000	14	75	▲ 1.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▼ 0.0
SPEC	75	70	9,945	696	4	75	▼ 0.0
Industrials			7,303,639	532,985	240	1155.55	▲ 0.14
KSH	158	158	750	119	1	158	▲ 10.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▼ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	106	▼ 0.0
CATTL	248	248	10,010	2,482	2	248	▼ 0.0
DANAH	124	110	1,227,476	145,499	60	124	▲ 10.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	▼ 0.0
FOOD	2,440	2,420	10,500	25,580	2	2,440	▼ 0.0
Consumer Goods			1,248,736	173,680	65	1207.46	▲ 20.79
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▼ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▼ 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	208	▼ 0.0
Health Care			0	0	0	0.00	▼ -0.00
KCIN	950	930	12,115	11,289	12	950	▼ -10
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▼ 0.0
SULTAN	55	55	496,292	27,296	8	55	▼ -1
CABLETV	23.0	21.0	88,742	2,036	11	23.0	▲ 3
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▼ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	196	▼ 0.0
OULAFUEL	120	116	144,841	17,000	25	116	▼ 0.0
MUNTAZAHAT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	85	▼ 0.0
JAZERA	840	830	4,531	3,796	2	840	▲ 20
SOOR	120	116	41,131	4,817	22	116	▼ 0.0
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	95	▼ 0.0
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	146	▼ 0.0
ZIMAH	40.0	40.0	457,815	18,313	20	40.0	▼ 0.0
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	▼ 0.0
Mezzan	1,040	1,020	526	547	3	1,020	▼ 0.0
Consumer Services			1,245,993	85,092	103	911.32	▲ 5.01
ZAIN	330	325	310,337	100,980	22	325	▼ 0.0
OOREDOO	1,020	1,020	10,000	10,200	7	1,020	▲ 20
HITSTELEC	38.5	38.0	887,150	33,752	20	38.0	▼ -1
VVA	920	910	48,923	44,527	57	910	▼ 0.0
Telecommunications			1,256,410	189,459	106	580.00	▼ -0.54
NBK	590	580	643,571	376,965	43	580	▼ 0.0
GBK	228	226	6,001	1,356	5	226	▼ 0.0
CBK	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	▼ 0.0
ABK	315	315	1	0	1	315	▼ -5
ALMUTAHED	395	385	18,939	7,366	5	390	▲ 5
KIB	192	190	510,551	97,005	18	190	▼ 0.0
BURG	325	325	330,001	107,250	11	325	▼ 0.0
KFIN	465	455	2,876,296	1,322,958	82	460	▼ 0.0
BOUBYAN	385	380	577,854	220,635	23	380	▼ 0.0
AUB	194	192	1,079,014	207,206	12	192	▼ -2
ITHMR	37.5	37.0	64,200	2,376	4	37.5	▲ 1
WARBANK	168	166	130,333	21,691	59	166	▼ 0.0
Banks			6,236,761	2,364,807	263	779.89	▼ -0.54
KINS	260	260	14,000	3,640	2	260	▼ -5
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	▼ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	▼ 0.0
WINS	110	108	10,368	1,140	3	108	▼ -4.0
KUWAITRE	190	190	10,000	1,900	1	190	▼ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	46.5	▼ 0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	30.5	▼ 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▼ 0.0
Insurance			34,368	6,680	6	997.90	▼ -7.28

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net



National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Performance	
				Daily	Yearly
Dow Jones	18,448.41	18,395.40	-53.01	▼	-0.29
NASDAQ	5,212.20	5,218.92	6.71	▲	0.13
S&P 500	2,172.47	2,169.04	-3.43	▼	-0.16
Financial Times	6,816.90	6,838.05	21.15	▲	0.31
DAX	10,587.77	10,515.92	-71.85	▼	-0.68
CAC 40	4,441.87	4,402.81	-39.06	▼	-0.88
Swiss	8,168.32	8,159.39	-8.93	▼	-0.11
Nikkei 225	16,360.71	16,737.49	376.78	▲	2.30
Topix	1,287.90	1,313.24	25.34	▲	1.97
Hang Seng	22,909.54	22,821.34	-88.20	▼	-0.38
Straits Times	2,857.65	2,829.43	-28.22	▼	-0.99

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Performance	
				Daily	Yearly
Kuwait	5,410.97	5,404.70	-6.27	▼	-0.12
Saudi Arabia	6,071.41	6,078.22	6.81	▲	0.11
Dubai	3,490.27	3,494.30	4.03	▲	0.12
Abu Dhabi	4,499.74	4,495.13	-4.61	▼	-0.10
Bahrain	1,139.34	1,135.82	-3.52	▼	-0.31

KUWAIT REAL ESTATE PRICES FLUCTUATE

KFH Real Estate Report

KUWAIT: Price indicators fluctuated based on various factors related to real estate types. Also, real estate prices have fluctuated in various Kuwait governorates. Residential land price indices decreased in capital governorate by 2.2 percent during Q2 2016 compared to Q1 where average price per meter declined in capital governorate for the second quarter receptivity to less than KD 1000 / sm. Average price/ sm² reached KD 961 in Q2 compared to KD 983 in Q1 due to the continued decline in prices in most of the governorate areas. Prices declined in the highest price areas in the governorate (Shuwaikh Residential Area) by 2 percent. Prices declines in Abdullah Al-Salem district slightly (0.3 percent) compared to Q1. This area is considered as the second highest price area in the governorate.

Shamiya area did not witness any change compared to average price in Q1. Also, Nuzha and Edailiya areas did not witness any change in Q2. Fahaa areas witnessed a decline in prices by 2.5 percent while Qadisiya area recorded a decline by less percentage. Meanwhile average prices stabilized in Kaifan area during Q2.

In regard to areas where average price/ sm is less ie Mansouriya and Rawda, prices have decline by 0.7 percent and 1.6 percent respectively. Decline in prices was more than that in Yarmouk and Surra areas thus recording 2.1 percent and 3.2 percent. Average price declined in Da'eya area by 6.2 percent while it declined by 7.4 percent in Dasmah area.

Low price areas in the governorate recorded the highest decline ratios during Q2 in Q2 compared to Q1 e.g. Gharnata area in which prices declined by 8.8 percent while in Doha they declined by 8.4 percent compared to Q1.

Prices declined in Hawally governorate which recorded the highest decline ratios among all governorates in regard to average price/ M2 of private residence in Q2, thus reaching the KD 900 / M2 for the first time in 2 years. Prices declined by 4.4 percent compared to Q1 thus recording KD 874 / M2 in Q2. Accordingly, decline percentage in the governorate reached 11.5 percent on annual basis compared to the same period last year.

Price per square meter declined in all governorate areas during Q2. Prices declined in the highest price areas of the governorate e.g. Bedaa area by 3.7 percent and by higher percentage 5 percent in Shaab area. Decline ratio reached 5.8 percent in West Mishrif area which is considered as the third highest price area followed by Siddique area which as witnessed a decline by 3.7 percent.

Average value areas e.g. Salam and Hitteen areas which have witnessed a decline by 3.7 percent compared to Q1. Based on this ratio, average prices in nearby areas e.g. Shuhadaa and Zahraa areas have declined. Prices declined in Bayan area by more than 6 percent and more than that in Jabriya area which has recorded 26.2 percent. Prices declined in low price areas in the governorate i.e. Rumaiithiya and Mishrif by 4.7 percent and 4.4 percent respectively. Meanwhile prices declined in the lowest price areas i.e. Salwa by 3 percent compared to Q1 last year.

Prices declined in Farwaniya area which is considered as the second highest decline area among governorate areas as it recorded a decline by 4.2 percent after Hawally governorate. Average price/ M2 recorded was KD 572 in Q2 this year. Price per square meter declined also by 10.5 percent compared to Q2 last year.

Price levels declined in governorate areas during Q2/ Price per square meter declined significantly in Ishbilila area by " percent bearing in mind that this area is considered as one of the highest priced areas in the governorate. Average prices in Rihab area witnessed a decline by 3 percent followed by Farwaniya area by 2 percent and Khaithan area by 1 percent. Decline in price per square meter in average price areas recorded a decline less than the decline recorded in high price areas e.g. Jaleeb Al-Shoyoukh area and Rabiya in which prices declined by 3 percent and 5 percent respectively. Prices declined in Fardoas area by 5 percent while in Andalus prices declined by 6 percent.

Prices decline

Prices declined in low price areas e.g. Omariya and Ardiya by 2 percent and 1 percent respectively. Meanwhile prices declined at higher rate by 6 percent in the lowest price areas i.e. Sabah Al-Naser area.

Prices declined in Ahmadi governorate in Q2 by 2.7 percent compared to Q1. Price per square meter reached KD 505 in Q2 at the governorate level. Price per square meter declined on annual basis by 10.9 percent compared to Q2 last year. Concerning price movements in governorates, prices declined in most areas except stable price areas. Prices stabilized in the southern marine coast strip area and main coast strip area in Q2. Agaila area comes next as the second highest value area per square meter thus recording a stability in price per square meter followed by Mangaf area in which prices have declined by 7.2 percent compared to Q1.

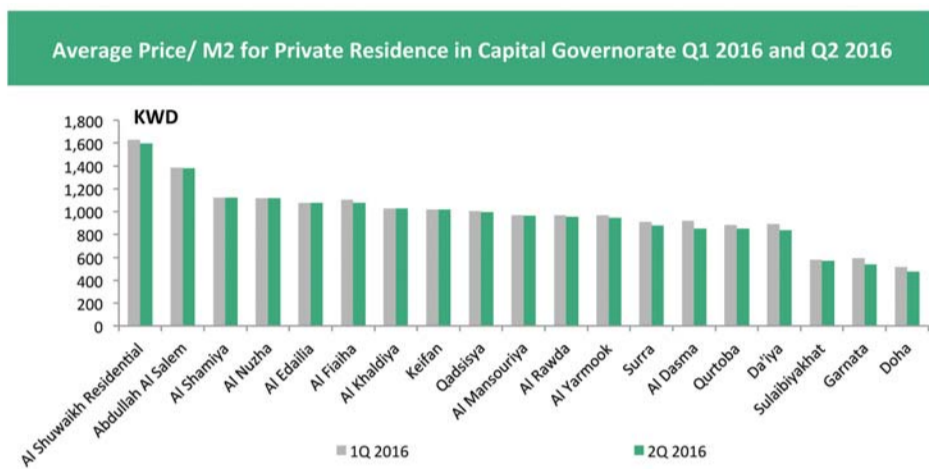
Prices declines in Dhaher area by 3.3 percent and declined at a higher rate 4.4 percent in Jaber Al-Ali area. Prices declined in Fintas area by 3.3 percent. Prices stabilized in Sabahiya, Khiran Pearl areas. Meanwhile, prices declined in Wafra area by 4.4 percent and declined in Sabah Al-Ahmad Marine area by 1 percent in Q2.

Prices declined in Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate thus recording KD 613 in Q2 ie a decline ratio by 1.5 percent compared to Q1. Decline ratio has reached 9.1 percent in Q2 this year compared to the same period last year. Concerning price levels at governorates in Q2 prices have declined in the highest price areas in the governorate i.e.

coastal strip area (B) by 2.1 percent. Prices declined in Sabah Al-Salem area by 7.6 percent and declined in Masayel; area by less than 1 percent compared to Q1 this year.

In average price areas e.g. Addan area, prices declined by 1.4 percent while prices declined at a higher rate in other areas e.g. Qurain, Qosour and Mubarak Al-Kabeer by 4 percent. Funaites and Abu-Fatira areas were the only exception at the governorate level where prices increased by 7.8 percent in Funaites and 8.2 percent in Abu-Fatira area.

Prices declined in Jahra governorate by 4.2 percent thus recording KD 462 / M2 in Q2. This decline ratio is less when compared to Q1 decline ratio by 4.4 percent. On annual basis price levels declined in Q2 this year by 12.6 percent compared to the same period last year. This decline ratio is considered as the highest decline ratio among governorates in regard to private residence price levels.



Prices declined in most of the governorate areas except some areas where prices stabilized. Prices declined in the highest price areas by 3 percent e.g. government houses in Oyouun area. Prices stabilized in Mutlaa street area at Jahraa while they declined by 2.6 percent in government houses at Al-Naseem area.

Concerning price levels at each governorate, price per square meter of investment real estate declined at Capital governorate during Q2 by 1.6 percent compared to Q1 where price decline relatively. Average price per meter reached KD 2,519 in Q2 where average prices declined by 6.3 percent compared to Q2 last year.

At capital governorate level and in one of the highest price areas in Dasmah area, average price per square meter declined by 1 percent compared to Q1 despite the stability of prices in internal areas and Gulf Road while they declined in Abdullah Al-Ahmed road. Decline ratio increased on quarterly basis by 1.9 percent at eastern Maqwa during Q2 due to the significant decline in price levels at Benaid Al-Qar area by 1.4 percent which was impacted by the stability of prices in places located at Gulf road and other main places at 1st Ring Road and 2nd Ring Road. Prices declined in certain locations of Istiqal Street.

Concerning Hawally governorate, the decline ratio of average price per meter recorded in Q1 improved on quarterly basis. Price per meter has declined by 1.6 percent in Q2. This ratio is better than the decline ratio by 3.9 percent recorded in Q1. Despite this improvement the decline ratio has increased on annual basis in Q2 thus recording 12.1 percent compared to the same period last year.

Farwaniya governorate

Prices declined in Farwaniya area by 2.1 percent compared to Q1. Places overlooking airport road recorded a decline by 1.8 percent. Decline ratio was higher in internal areas. Prices decline in Jaleeb Al-Shoyoukh by 3.3 percent. Prices have also declined by 4.8 percent in certain locations at police station road and 3.7 percent in locations overlooking 6th ring road. Average price per meter declined in Khaithan area by 1.8 percent and price levels declined by the same ratio in certain places of Airport Street. Decline ratio reached 2.8 percent in certain internal places.

Prices declined in Ahmadi are by 3.1 percent in Q2 on quarterly basis compared to a decline by 4.3 percent in Q1. Average price per meter reached KD 1,369 in Q2 compared to a decline in prices by 15 percent in the governorate compared to last year. Prices levels in Ahmadi governorate recorded the highest decline ratios among governorates.

Concerning price development in governorate areas, price levels declined in the highest price investment areas of the governorate. Average price per meter declined in Mangaf area by 2.2 percent compared to Q1 followed by Fahaa which has recorded a decline by 4.2 percent. Prices declined by 3.8 percent in highest price places in the governorate. Prices declined by 5.7 percent in certain internal low value places of the area.

Prices declined in Abu-Halifa area by 3.1 percent. Decline ratio reached 5.7 percent in certain internal places of the area. Certain locations at the coastal strip recorded a decline by 1.4 percent compared to Q1. Prices declined in Fintas area by 2.4 percent. Prices declined in Mahboula area by 3.8 percent. Decline ratio reached its highest level among governorate areas thus recording 10 percent in certain internal locations covering an area of 1000 sm.

Commercial real estates at capital governorate witnessed a decline in price per square meter compared to Q1 2016 in most of the areas except some areas which have witnessed remarkable stability. Prices declined in certain places of Mubarak Al-Kabeer St. at the downtown area by 4.8 percent although this area is no longer the

highest price area. Prices declined in certain places of Fahad Al-Salem St. - Qibla area. Average price per square meter declined in Ahmed Al-Jaber Street - Sharq area while prices witnessed the highest decline among commercial area at the governorate as the decline reached 4.9 percent in Mubarakiya area. Prices stabilized in certain areas of Ali Al-Salem Street and Gharabally square compared to Q1 this year.

Prices declined in Hawally area by 2.5 percent during Q2. Price per square meter reached KD 3,332 compared to KD 3,418 in Q1. Price per square meter declined also on annual basis among governorates by 7 percent compared to price levels witnessed in Q2 last year. Average prices per square meter stabilized for the second quarter respectively in areas overlooking 6th ring road at Dhajej area. Prices declined by 4.5 percent in Dhajej area - southern Khaithan and declined in internal areas of Ardiya area by 2 percent compared to Q1 this year.

Prices stabilized in Shuaiba and Mina Abdullah areas in Q2 compared to Q1 this year. This stability comes on the back of the stability witnessed in the highest price areas e.g. Fanar Jewel as well as other internal and main places in the area. Prices stabilized also in Mina Abdullah for the fourth time respectively e.g. gravel warehouses and other internal places.

Prices of farms and livestock farms

Prices of livestock farms and stables in Kuwait stabilized during Q2 compared to Q1 this year compared to the decline by 3 percent in Q1. On annual basis, prices declined significantly compared to Q2 last year by 12 percent. Quarter 2 witnessed stability in prices in most of the governorate areas e.g. usufruct areas e.g. Kbad Livestock Farms covering an area of 2500 M2 at Ahmadi governorate. Prices reached KD 62.5 Thousand in Q2. Prices stabilized also in camel farms compared to Q1 and stabilized also in usufruct land prices declined to reach KD 51.2 Thousand in Wafra Livestock Farms. Prices stabilized in Equestrian stables at Ahmadi Governorate during Q2 compared to Q1. This stability comes on the back of the stability witnessed in prices of equestrian stables area, racecourse area, golf field and internal areas. Prices in Agricultural land of Jahra and Ahmadi governorates did not witness any change during Q2 compared to Q1 prices. This stability comes on the back of the stability in average price in most of the governorate areas. Average price reached KD 3.3 in Wafra Agricultural Area - Ahmadi governorate. Prices stabilized also in Wafra area covering an area of 50 thousand and 100 thousand for the third time respectively.

Average price per square meter in agricultural land reached KD 3.6 in Jahra governorate. Prices in the governorate did not witness any change compared to Q1 due to the stability in prices in Abdali area covering 50000 M2 and in Abdali area - Mutlaa Street covering any area of 100000 M2. Prices stabilized also in livestock farms at Sulaihiya covering an area of 1 Million square meters and an area of 50000sm.

Q2 this year has coincided with the beginning of summer season. Accordingly, demand on such real estates shall increase. Average prices declined in Q2 compared to Q1. This can be attributed to the fact that the end of Q2 has coincided with the wholly month of Ramadan. Prices declined in Ahmadi governorate by 1.1 percent during Q2 compared to Q1. Average price per meter (longitude) of sea front reached KD 16 Thousand despite the stability of prices in the highest price area in the governorate i.e. Benaider and Jelayaa. Prices declined by 2.6 percent in Q2 in the lowest price areas e.g. Nuwaiseeb area.

Average price areas e.g. Mina Abdullah and Dhabe'eya witnessed a decline in prices by 1.7 percent in Q2, Prices declined in Al-Zour sea side area and in public benefit areas in Khairan area by 1.8 percent compared to Q1.

Prices declined in Capital governorate by 9.7 percent. Price per meter at the sea front reached KD 7000. Prices declined in Jahraa governorate by 4.7 percent thus recording

Residential Plot Prices at Hawalli Governorate

Region	Area M2	Building %	Street	Land Market Value (KD)		Market Value/m2 (KD)		Q2 2016
				from	To	From	To	
Shaab	210%	400	Internal	360,000	420,000	900	1,050	975
	210%	400	Main	410,000	480,000	1,025	1,200	1,113
	210%	500	Internal	390,000	460,000	780	920	850
General Average in the Area				470,000	555,000	870	1,026	948
Jabriya	210%	400	Internal	300,000	360,000	750	900	825
	210%	400	Main	350,000	420,000	875	1,050	963
	210%	500	Internal	330,000	400,000	660	800	730
General Average in the Area				438,889	534,444	689	839	764
Rumaiithiya	210%	400	Internal	260,000	320,000	650	800	725
	210%	400	Main	310,000	380,000	775	950	863
	210%	750	Internal	360,000	480,000	480	640	560
General Average in the Area				434,444	522,222	655	795	725
Salwa	210%	500	داخلي	290,000	360,000	580	720	650
	210%	750	داخلي	360,000	480,000	480	640	560
	210%	1,000	الاقصى	700,000	800,000	700	800	750
	210%	1,000	التعاون	900,000	1,050,000	900	1,050	975
General Average in the Area				520,000	621,429	651	784	717
Salaam	210%	400	Internal	320,000	380,000	800	950	875

declined by 5 percent compared to Q2 last year. At governorates level, prices declined by less than 1 percent during Q2 in capital governorate compared to Q1, thus recording KD 1,180 per square meter. This slight increase comes following an increase by 7.5 percent recorded in Q1.

Price per square meter declined by 2.2 percent in Al-Rai area compared to Q1. This decline comes on the back of the major decline in prices in witnessed in other places of the area e.g. Safat Al-Ghanem area till Al-Naser Showroom by 1 percent. Prices stabilized in Ghazzalli St. while they declined by 4.8 percent in Mohammed Al-Qasem St., 7.5 percent in Car showrooms and stabilized in internal streets of the area.

Prices stabilized in East Ahmadi Industrial area which witnessed a remarkable stability in average price per square meter compared to Q1 this year. This stability comes on the back of the stability witnessed in certain places of Mustafa Karam Street and other main areas covering an area of 5000 M2. Prices stabilized also in internal places and warehouses covering an area of 1000 M2.

KD 5,063 due to the decline in certain chalet locations at Kazma area while prices reached 7 percent. Prices stabilized during Q2 in Chalets area of Sulaybiyhat compared to Q1 this year.

Occupancy rates and rentals

Occupancy rates maintained former levels for all types of investment properties ranging between 90 - 96 percent. Occupancy rates improved in commercial properties especially in offices located at capital area.

Private residence rental value

Average rental values have fluctuated among various places and areas. Average rental value for a ground floor, 3 bed rooms, a hall, covering an area of 135 m2 in a private residence real estate with a total area 400 m during Q1 2015 at Hawally governorate ranged between KD 400 - 550. Rental value reached KD 600 at capital governorate. Average rental value at Farwaniya ranges between KD 320 - 370 and reaches KD 400 in certain distinguished areas and ranges KD 320 - 450 in Ahmadi governorate areas while

it increases slightly to KD 550 in certain areas. Average rent ranges KD 400 - 450 in Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate areas including Abu-Fatira, Addan and Sabah Al-Salem. Average value increases to reach KD 500 - 550 in some other areas. Rental value in Jahraa area ranged KD 300 - 420.

Rental value for a full floor in a private residence covering an area of 400 meters ranges KD 800 - 900 at Hawalli governorate and reached KD 950 in some distinguished areas therein, while it is little higher to reach KD 1000 in more distinguished areas. Rental value ranges between KD 1000 - 1100 in most of Capital governorate areas. Rental value ranges KD 680 - 780 in Ghernata while in Farwaniya area it ranges between KD 640 - 740 and reaches KD 800 in certain other distinguished places.

Average rental value ranges between KD 640 - 800 at Ahmadi governorate and reaches KD 900 in certain distinguished areas. Rental value reaches to KD 800 - 900 at Mubarak Al-Kabeer areas including Abu-Fatira area and may reach KD 1000 in areas like Masayel area. Rental value ranges KD 600 - 740 in Jahraa Governorate.

Average rental value for a full first or second floor at a private residence covering an area 400 meter ranges KD 700 - 800 and reaches KD 850 in distinguished places of Hawalli governorate. Rental value reached KD 900 in certain distinguished areas. Rental value in Capital governorate ranged KD 900 - 1000 in most of the governorate areas. The value in certain Farwaniya governorate areas ranges KD 540 - 649 for a full floor and increases in certain areas to reach KD 700.

Rental value at Ahmadi governorate ranged between KD 540 - 700 while it increased slightly in some other areas. Rental value at Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate areas ranged KD 600 - 800 and reached KD 900 in some other areas of the governorate. Rental value at Jahra governorate ranged KD 500 - 640.

Investment residence rental value

Average rental value of a 2 bed room flat and a hall covering an area of 60 m in capital governorate ranged between KD 320 - 340. Rental value for the same area in Hawally governorate ranged between KD 290 - 330. Rental value for the same area ranged between KD 270 - 320 in Farwaniya Governorate and KD 200 - 290 in Ahmadi governorate. Rental values recorded KD 290 - 320 at Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate and KD 270-300 at Jahra governorate.

Rental value of a 2 bed room flats + a hall coving an area of 70 - 74 m ranged KD 350 - 400 at capital governorate and KD 310 - 360 in Hawalli governorate areas. Rental value ranged between 300 - 340 in Farwaniya governorate, KD 300 - 340 in Ahmadi governorate, KD 325 - 350 at Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate and KD 310 - 330 at Jahraa governorate. Rental value for investment apartments covering an area of 80 - 85 m2 ranged between KD 420 - 450 at capital governorate and ranged between KD 365 - 440 at Hawalli governorate areas. Rental value ranged between KD 350 - 420 at Farwaniya governorate areas and ranged KD 330 - 360 at Ahmadi governorate. Rental value approximated KD 380 and KD 360 at Mubarak Al-Kabeer governorate and Jahraa governorate respectively.

Rental value for a flat coving an area of 100 - 110 m2 ranged between KD 470 - 540 in Capital governorate areas, KD 440 - 520 for Hawalli governorate areas, KD 490 for Farwaniya governorate while the value ranged KD 420 - 450 for Ahmadi governorate. Rental value increased slightly in Mubarak Al-Kabeer area ranging KD 450 - 480 and reached KD 430 - 460 at Jahraa governorate.

Prices differ according to different areas, design type, finishing and location. The property age is considered as a basic factor in determining average rental value of the property in Kuwait. We shall focus in this report on new property prices which are increasing rapidly, thus putting more pressure on the rental values of old properties available in the market. When old properties are vacant the land lord will eventually increase rent for the new tenant. Average property trading is considered a significant factor for assessment of rental value. There are distinguished areas, e.g. Shaab, Mirgab, Bneid Al Gar, Sharq and other places inside those distinguished areas e.g. Qatar and Bahrain Streets at Salmiya, real estate buildings overlooking the coast and Qutaiba and Al-Muthanna streets at Hawally. Also, there are less significant areas e.g. Jaleeb Al-Shoyoukh, Abu Halifa and Khaithan.

Commercial property rental value

Average rent of a commercial meter in a ground floor ranged KD 25 - KD 45 / m2 in Hawalli as it reached KD 35/ m2 in Kuwait city while it reached KD 50 in Salmiya. Average rent / m2 at offices ranges KD 6.5 and reaches KD 8 in certain prime areas and grand yards in Kuwait city. Also it has reached KD 7-8 /m2 in certain areas in Hawalli, Fahaael and Mangaf and reached KD 9 in certain places, depending on location, finishing type and services provided to tenants and visitors.

Industrial plots rental value

Average rental price for industrial plots rental values per industrial square meter for a ground floor - showrooms - ranged between KD 14 - 25 at Shuwaikh industrial area and Al-Rai area. Prices differ according to different locations. Average rental price per meter at Ardiya area (warehouses) ranged between KD 6.5 - 8. This value was much higher in Ardiya (crafts) area where average price per square meter ranged between KD 20 - 25. Average price per square meter at East Ahmadi ranged between KD 12 - 18. Prices at Fahaael industrial area ranged KD 14 - 20 per square meter.

ZAIN IRAQ, ERICSSON EXTEND MANAGED SERVICES DEAL THREE-YEAR DEAL TO OPTIMIZE NETWORK AND IT OPERATIONS

BAGHDAD: Zain Iraq and Ericsson (NASDAQ: ERIC) have signed a three-year extension of their network and IT operation and optimization managed services agreement. Under the extended agreement, Ericsson will continue to optimize, transform and manage network and IT operations for Zain's nationwide 3G mobile network in Iraq, which currently includes over 4,200 sites across the country. This agreement will allow Zain to focus on expanding its network and offering appealing voice and highly demanded data services to meet customer needs, especially in the corporate sector.

The deal will result in Zain ramping up its offer to deliver best quality of service and experience to its 11.2 million customers using Ericsson's managed services capabilities. The agreement also sees

Zain benefit from a reduction in operating costs (OPEX) while offering customers improved data service quality and availability, given the pent-up demand for mobile broadband in the country.

Furthermore, Zain will be able to increase its focus on its core customer-facing business activities such as managing customer relationships and offering a shorter time-to-market for the delivery of new services and technologies.

Scott Gegenheimer, Zain Group Chief Executive Officer, says: "Through this agreement, Zain Iraq will be better positioned to support the evolution and growth of the telecommunication industry in the country and ensure that all Iraqis receive urgently-needed quality mobile telecommunication services.



(L-R) Tarek Saadi, head of CU GCP & Zain at Ericsson and Scott Gegenheimer, Zain Group CEO, shake hands after signing the agreement.

Social volatility has led to network instability in this huge and significant market for Zain, and as we strive to continue providing connectivity for our valued customers, our close relationship with Ericsson enables us to maintain vital mobile services and further contribute to the economic and social development of Iraq's economy."

Rafiah Ibrahim, Head of Middle East and East Africa at Ericsson, says: "Today's announcement is another testimony of our long-term partnership with Zain in Iraq and across other markets. Throughout the years, we helped Zain in Iraq to provide a differentiated experience to its customers and we look forward to continuing our partnership and transform Zain's network with our experience centric managed services offerings."



ETIHAD AIRWAYS LAUNCHES GLOBAL SALE WITH UP TO 50% OFF ON 45 POPULAR DESTINATIONS

ABU DHABI: Etihad Airways has launched its annual global sales campaign, targeted at business and economy class guests, with fares available on a wide range of destinations served across the world and fares available for travel until June 2017.

Guests can make the most of this offer over seven days, by booking on etihad.com or via their local travel agent, between 29 August and 4 September 2016.

The sale will offer up to 50 percent off fares to forty-five of the world's most popular destinations from across Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas. In addition, members of the airline's loyalty program, Etihad Guest, will continue to earn miles on all fares in the sale.

Daniel Barranger, Senior Vice President of Global Sales at Etihad Airways, said: "We have continued to expand our global network this year and add further aircraft to the fleet, ensuring we have a high quality product throughout our aircraft and available to the millions of guests who choose to fly with us each year. By including our partner airlines in our new offer, we are providing access to a larger list of destinations and a combined fleet of over 700 aircraft, ensuring we can meet every guest's personal requirements."

The sale will cover a wider range of cities including those served by the Etihad Airways Partners. With a combined network

of over 400 destinations across six continents, the partners provide even greater access across the combined destinations of Etihad Airways, airberlin, Alitalia, Air Serbia, Air Seychelles, Etihad Regional, Jet Airways and NIKI.

For the experience of all guests, Etihad Airways continues to invest in world-leading in-flight products throughout its cabins. The airline has pioneered supporting features such as Flying Nannies to assist parents with young children and Economy Smart Seats, specially designed to provide more comfort and legroom. Additions to the airline fleet have seen Airbus 380s serving Abu Dhabi, London, Sydney, Mumbai, New York and Melbourne while Boeing 787 Dreamliner services have been added to cities including Abu Dhabi, Shanghai, Perth and Dusseldorf, with the new aircraft allocated to serve Johannesburg before the end of the year.

On the ground, new lounges have opened over the last 12 months in New York, Los Angeles and Melbourne while a flagship First Class Lounge and Spa opened its doors in Abu Dhabi in May. Alongside the continuous service updates and improvements onboard, the global sale is another addition to Etihad Airways' diverse strategy of developing world-class products and experiences for its guests and to continue to reimagine travel.

NISSAN'S 2017 PATROL MAKES GLOBAL DEBUT IN ME WITH NEW V6 ENGINE

KUWAIT: Nissan yesterday announced the launch of its new 2017 Patrol V6 which makes its global debut in the Middle East in September 2016 in complement to the current Patrol V8 lineup while offering the same levels of prestige to a broader customer base in the market.

"The new Patrol V6 complements the legendary Patrol V8 which is considered one of the most powerful, spacious and popular SUVs in the Middle East," said Samir Cherfan, Managing Director of Nissan Middle East. "Our Nissan Patrol business has expanded close to 4 times from FY11 to FY15, and with the introduction of the Patrol V6 we aim to grow by 20 percent over the next 2 years."

"Specifically designed and built for the demands of the region while taking into account increasing consumer appeal for more fuel efficient, practical, full-sized SUVs, the Patrol V6 still retains the high levels of power and prestige that the legendary Patrol is famous for and has earned it the title 'hero of all terrains in life.' The new Patrol 4L V6 was designed for and tested in the region to meet all types of terrain and temperature conditions while delivering the same legendary off-road and on-road capability. It delivers best in class power in the V6 category. With 275 horsepower and 394 Nm, the Patrol V6 offers 12 percent more torque in the driving range than the competition while retaining the same towing capacity as the Patrol V8. The Patrol V6 weighs less and enjoys lower ownership costs, making it the ideal choice as a practical, everyday family vehicle while retaining its go-anywhere readiness for any kind of adventure."

Available exclusively in the Middle East in September 2016, the Patrol V6 is identical in design to the Patrol V8 and will be available in both XE and SE grades, each with many optional extras available. Both models have enhanced grade walks and will benefit of new standard specifications such as powered 3rd row seats, meaning they will continue to represent exceptional value for this class and above. Equipped with the Nissan Smart Car Application, the MY17 Patrol is the most connected car in its segment (available in the UAE and gradually expanding across the region).

Its increased fuel economy makes the Patrol V6 an appealing proposition to a wider customer base, while offering better ride quality and a quieter cabin than its competitors. These benefits will make purchasing decisions more practical for Customers seeking prestige and power while prioritizing economic benefits.

Building on a heritage that stems back from 1951 when the first Patrol rolled off the produc-

tion line, the original 60-series Patrol was initially used as a military vehicle due to its all-terrain capability. Over the next 65 years, the evolution of the Patrol saw it become one of the most iconic off-road vehicles ever built, winning 26 awards since 2014 and making it the most awarded SUV in the region.

"Like the existing V8, the new Patrol V6 offers incredible power, exceptional passenger and baggage space, and delivers industry-leading value in a prestige SUV. With this new addition to the current Patrol range, Nissan's commitment to offering incomparable levels of choice to its customers is reaffirmed, and we are certain the new Patrol V6 will continue to raise the bar on what a luxury SUV should be,"

Cool Box, Manual Tilt and Telescopic Adjuster Steering Wheel, Leather shift knob, Chrome door handles, Front Auto Dual-zone Climate Control A/C with Rear Cooler, 2-DIN AM/FM 1CD + AUX input Audio System with 4 speakers, Cruise control, Trip Meter, Cargo net hook, Dual SRS Airbag System with VDC, Hill Start Assist and Hill Descent Control, ABS, EBD and Brake Assist, Rear Differential Lock, Immobilizer with Car Alarm (Vehicle Security System), TPMS (Tyre Pressure Monitoring System), Rear Fog Lamps and Hands Free Phone.

Patrol SE-T1 (in addition to XE features): Coloured and Electric outside rear view mirrors with indicators, Chrome Grille, New LED + halogen Headlamps, New LED Rear Combination



added Cherfan. The Patrol V6 beats its rivals with several milestones including lower engine noise and vibration, better acceleration and a 25 percent improvement on acceleration push on steep inclines.

The new Patrol V6 will be available in 7 variations including the popular Platinum grade. Prices will range between \$47,500 and \$69,500 in the GCC, with local country prices being revealed by each Nissan distributor respectively.

Key specifications

Patrol XE includes: 7 Speed AT, 4L-4H Switch - Full time 4WD w/ Variable 4X4 mode, 18" Alloy Wheels, Remote Keyless entry with Intelligent key, Push Engine Starter, Power Door Locks with Speed-sensing Auto Lock, Power one-touch auto windows - FR&RR, Centre Console w/ Lid and

Lamps, Headlamp levelizer, DTRL (Day Time Running Light), Woody print Interior dEcor, Front fog lamps, Front and Rear Parking Sensors, Welcome Light - FR, Leather steering wheel, Rear view Monitor with camera, iPod/USB/MP3 Connectivity, 6 speakers, Pintle Hook.

Patrol SE-T2 (in addition to SE-T1 features): Pop-up headlamp washer, Remote Engine Starter, Power adjustable driver's seat with power lumbar support, One-touch Power Sunroof, Power Back Door, DVD player on 8" Coloured LCD Screen with Navigation, Audio and Bluetooth(r) Hands-free Phone System with Steering Switch, Flash memory Music server, Fine-vision Meter, Crash Sensitive Automatic Unlock System, Drive Computer with built-in Combination Meters, Automatic Hazard Lighting System, Compass integrated in centre cluster.

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Stand out from the crowd... order Eidiya Delivery Service wherever you are



BURGAN BANK OFFERS FREE EIDEYA DELIVERY TO PREMIER CUSTOMERS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the free Eidiya Delivery service to Premier Banking Customers in collaboration with "Qiblah" company for concierge services to cater to their overall banking expectations. This service enables Premier Banking customers to receive new bank notes before the Eid holidays at their offices or homes, avoiding the burdens of waiting in line at that time of the year.

To request this service, Premier customers can simply contact Qiblah concierge services starting 9 am until 6 pm, by calling 22317755 or emailing Burganpremier@qiblah.com.kw to request the amount of Eid money required and state their address in order for the concierge messenger to deliver it accordingly. It is worth mentioning that the Eideya delivery service comes as part of the bank's wide range of valuable privileges

and benefits that is especially designated for its Premier customers.

Additionally, the bank's collaboration with "Qiblah" for concierge services stems from its commitment of supporting its customers' everyday requirements with unmatched personalized experience. Burgan Bank's premier customers can avail instant concierge services from a selected list of more than 20 services. These services include; travel coordination, airport transfers, visa assistance, themed party planners, valet parkers, gift purchasing, courier service, tickets to major events, payment of school fees, car registrations, car service, traffic fine payment, car wash, limos for occasions, restaurant reservations and others. The free concierge services has been introduced as part of the bank's wide range of valuable privileges and benefits that is especially designated for its Premier customers.

LANDMARK GROUP SIGNS DEAL WITH NREC'S REEM MALL IN ABU DHABI

KUWAIT: Landmark Group, the region's leading retail and hospitality conglomerate, yesterday announced a major new agreement with Reem Mall, Abu Dhabi's latest retail and leisure destination, which will see 23 new stores opening in the UAE capital in 2018.

As part of the agreement, the two million square feet mall, located on Reem Island, will host some of Landmark Group's most popular concepts, including Centrepoint, Home Centre, Max, Iconic, Sports One and Shoexpress. The Groups' popular franchise brands such as New Look, Reiss, Adidas Kids, Ecco, Koton, Yours London, Lipsy, Steve Madden, Carpisa, Nose, Pablosky, Aerosoles, Kurt Geiger, Stride Rite, Puket, Blocco 31, Kazar and Loriblu will add further to the mall's retail offering.

As a key tenant, Landmark Group will occupy a total retail area close to 200,000 square feet within Reem Mall, spread throughout the iconic project. "Reem Mall is set to transform the retail landscape in Abu Dhabi, and this significant new agreement with Landmark Group brings some

of the world's most popular brands to one convenient location," said Shane Eldstrom, Chief Operating Officer for Reem Mall.

He continued, "Landmark Group shares our passion and commitment to the highest quality standards in retail and customer care, which makes them the perfect partner to help bring Abu Dhabi's most anticipated mall to life. We look forward to continuing our successful collaboration into 2017 and beyond."

Manu Jeswani, Director, Landmark Group, said: "Abu Dhabi's impressive mall development offers great potential for retail growth. Its vibrant shopping, arts and entertainment culture is a great attraction for both residents and tourists, and as the offering grows, it increases opportunity for the retail industry. Landmark Group is strategically expanding its



Shane Eldstrom, Chief Operating Officer, Reem Mall.

presence in Abu Dhabi and our partnership with Reem Mall will enable us to bring our offering even closer to our customers. We look forward to working with the mall team on the launch of this great new project". Located within one of Abu Dhabi's most vibrant communities, Reem Mall will bring a new experience in retail, leisure and entertainment. It will house 450 stores including 85 food and beverage outlets as well as popular edutainment and entertainment anchors.

Reem Mall, developed by NREC and UPAC began construction in 2015 and is expected to open in 2018. In addition to leading international and regional retail and restaurant brands, the mall will also house a wide range of entertainment options including the world's largest indoor snow-play park.



HUAWEI HONOR 8 COMING TO KUWAIT

SMARTPHONE SET TO WOW THE MIDDLE EAST WITH ITS BEAUTY, CRAFTSMANSHIP AND DUAL REAR CAMERA



PARIS: George Zhao, President of Huawei Honor speaks during the press conference.

By Islam Al-Sharaa

PARIS: Honor, the world's No 1 smartphone e-brand from Huawei, has announced it is preparing for the launch of its new flagship device: Huawei honor 8, a smartphone that embraces the unique combination of premium technology and unparalleled aesthetics. The much anticipated honor 8 is coming to Kuwait on Sept 6, 2016, available for pre-order Aug 25 on HonorArabia.com.

Hot on the heels of its global launch in China, as well as its US and Europe debut, honor's latest release has received a raft of impressive reviews from users, particularly praising the exquisite craftsmanship and design, as well as the world class dual camera features.

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

Chris Sun Baigong, VP of Huawei honor Middle East CBG, commented: "By listening to our end-users and paying attention to the smallest details, we have taken the holistic approach and created something truly distinctive. Honor 8 has a design that is beautifully stylish coupled with excellent usability, an essential aspect that contributes to its outstanding day-to-day user experience."

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

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

Kuwait Times spoke to Chris to learn more about the new flagship smartphone.

Kuwait Times: What are the main strengths that honor boasts in a market that witnesses ongoing competition?

Chris: Our main strength is always about focusing on the end-user and what they need to ultimately give them a better user experience. After three years developing the brand worldwide, honor has matured and gained acknowledgement for focusing on our end-users and product quality first and foremost over revenue, which are the strategic winning points for the brand. We focus on the performance of our smartphones and how they not only fit seamlessly into the end-user's lifestyles, but also improve and enhance using cutting edge technology and smart features. Ultimately, that is what makes us different and that is the ethos that runs through everything we do.

Honor has access to the ultimate tech innovations, with strong research and development capabilities through our parent company Huawei that allows us to create the best products. The latest launch of our flagship honor 8 reflects this approach, and we are confident in its success with our end-users, as well as our growth as a brand this year - so stay tuned!

KT: What are the main features on which you focus in this product, compared to the previous generation?



PARIS: Chris Sun Baigong, Vice president of Huawei Honor in the Middle east, showcases the new Huawei Honor 8.

Chris: The most important element that we have focused on with this new flagship phone is the design and aesthetics. From our own consumer research, we noticed that smartphone users are highly critical of appearance and the feedback we keep hearing across the board is that "all phones look similar"; this was a key insight for us to consider, particularly as a smartphone is so integral to their daily life. So, not only is there a strong demand for better specs and features which of course is integral to their experience, but also better looking phones.

For Huawei honor, we believe in thinking outside the box. With this in mind, the Huawei honor 8 is encased in 15 layers of carefully crafted glass, integrating quality and design to meet the current personalities and style of this generation. It is the most advanced smartphone in terms of design that we have ever produced and we are incredibly excited to be launching it.

Not only this - but we have incorporated a 12MP dual rear camera into this newest device as we know from our own research just how important the camera and its features are to users. For example, at honor, we always try to predict trends and as such we were the first in the world to bring the most well-known dual rear camera to market with the honor 6 plus. Based on its popularity with our users as well as the feedback on photo quality, we have incorporated it into the honor 8 as well a more advanced dual camera with a RGB and monochrome sensor.

Based on a recent study we did in the UAE, we noticed

that people in the UAE spend almost half of their holidays on their phones and most of that time is spent using the camera and taking photos.

KT: How can you maintain your leadership in a highly competitive and rapidly changing market?

Chris: Huawei honor has 100 percent growth year-on-year which is delivering a 15 percent contribution to Huawei's extensive progression in the Middle East. Globally, honor's revenue contributed 30 percent to Huawei's registered 69 percent revenue growth in 2015 compared to the previous year.

We believe in staying one step ahead with our user-centric approach to product development and unique understanding of the needs of our users. The brand offers innovative high quality, high performance products and services more accessible than other brands. honor is committed to bringing more amazing user experiences to the Middle East with its portfolio (honor 6 Plus, honor 4X, honor 7, honor SX and honor 8). The honor product portfolio spans varying price points to service the diverse consumer needs and demands. The Huawei owned interface, EMUI, is developed directly using feedback from consumers to enhance the experience.

KT: What is the time period or factors separating the launch of two phones? Does your strategy differ among different global markets?

Chris: We pride ourselves in tailoring our strategies and products based on the need for each market. Thus, you will notice that some of our products that we launch in the region we don't launch globally and vice versa. We have access to the biggest R&D centers and thus are always looking for innovation to meet the constantly changing needs for the end user. As a smartphone brand, all of our global markets are equally as important. Globally our consumers are living online more and more, so with our brave factory to consumer business model, we offer these 'digital natives' high quality products more accessibly. This is not different in the Middle East, which is one of the top global markets for honor.

We are no longer in a time where smartphones are just considered a technological device. We know that for the digital generation who live and breathe online, their smartphone is an extension of themselves and a tool that not only fits into their lifestyle, but enhances it. Smartphones are used as the key to many aspects of people's lifestyles. At honor we understand this as the end-user is 'king' in our eyes and we utilize their feedback in order to develop our brand, products and services. ?

KT: What features do you focus on in your products, from battery, applications, high resolution camera and affordable prices for various markets?

Chris: We noticed that in this region, the users' main feature of a phone is the camera and also the design of the phone itself. Thus we decided for our latest flagship - the Huawei honor 8 - to focus on these needs which reflects the definition of beauty and combines it with technology. In this day and age, the mobile phones market is packed with constant changes focusing on configurations, whereas at Huawei honor, we are at the core of the smartphone user experience in addition to configuration, communications and software experience, design of the phone, camera, battery life etc. We always try to incorporate all these important features in a seamless state of the art experience which what we have managed to integrate and achieve with honor 8.



PARIS: The new Huawei Honor 8



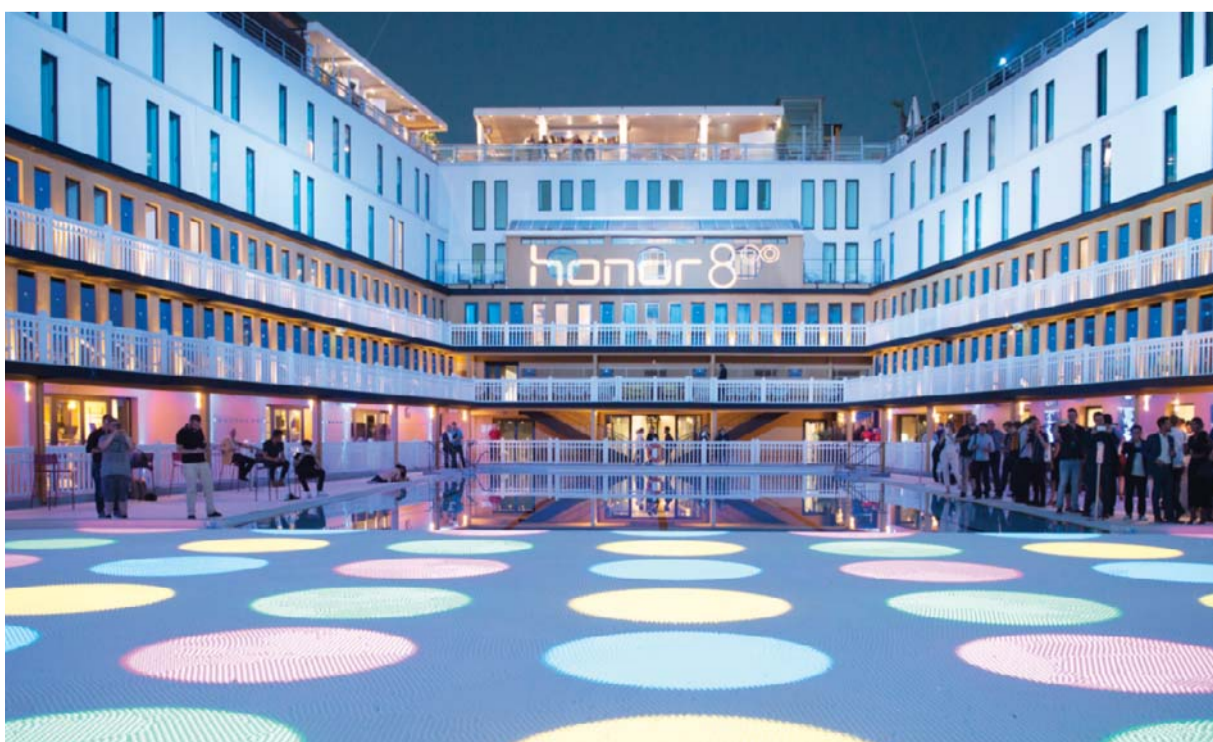
Paris: A model holding the new Huawei Honor 8

With more than 10 years' experience in the ICT industry, Chris is well-placed to head up the honor brand in the Middle East, which is set to revolutionize the smartphone market in this region. Having completed his Bachelor's Degree in Automation in China, he became an account manager at Huawei. Within just one year of joining, he was named "Best New Staff Member of 2005 - 2006" and received the award of "Customer Relationship Enhancement".

In 2007, Chris moved to the United Arab Emirates where he was appointed Etisalat Global Key Account Director, in charge of the International Investment Department, concentrating on new international acquisitions and projects. In 2010, he moved to Islamabad in Pakistan where his work was recognized as being in the "Top Five Best Overall Performance Accounts"- in both 2010 and 2011.

He was assigned as the GM of STC KA in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2012 to seek opportunities within the government sector, large enterprises and SMEs. In his current role as Vice President, Chris led the introduction of Huawei Honor to the region. Since its launch in 2013, Honor had already entered 74 markets and recorded 100 percent growth year-on-year by 2015.

A regular speaker at some of ICT's leading seminars, Baigong says: "We believe in digital, and we believe the digital era has come for Middle East. Honor's vision is to bring more people into the wonderful connected digital world."



PARIS: The location of the press conference that took place on 24-8-2016



PARIS: VP of Huawei Honor Chris Sun Baigong on the far right with members of the media at the event.

CLINTON PROPOSES PLAN TO ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK: Hillary Clinton is rolling out a comprehensive plan to address millions of Americans coping with mental illness, pointing to the need to fully integrate mental health services into the nation's health care system.

Clinton's campaign released a multi-pronged approach to mental health care on Monday, aimed at ensuring that Americans would no longer separate mental health from physical health in terms of access, care and quality of treatment.

The Democratic presidential nominee's agenda would focus on early diagnosis and interven-

tion and create a national initiative for suicide prevention. If elected, Clinton would hold a White House conference on mental health within her first year in office.

Clinton's proposal would also aim to enforce mental health parity laws and provide training to law enforcement officers to deal with people grappling with mental health problems while prioritizing treatment over jail for low-level offenders. "Building on her longstanding commitment to health care for all, Hillary believes everyone should be able to access quality mental health care - without shame, stigma or barriers," said Maya Harris, a senior policy adviser to

Clinton's campaign, in a statement.

The former secretary of state planned to hold a town hall meeting by telephone with stakeholders on yesterday during a three-day fundraising spree in the Hamptons. The policy rollout would overlap with a Clinton plan to address drug and alcohol addiction which she campaigned on in Iowa and New Hampshire after hearing frequently about the problems from voters.

43.6 million adults with mental illness

The federal government estimated in 2014 that about 43.6 million adults in the US had mental illness in the past year, or about 1 in 5 adults age 18 and over. It estimated nearly 10 million adults suffered from serious mental illness.

An estimated 17 million children in the US experience mental health problems, including 1 in 5 college students, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Nearly 1 in 5 veterans returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan experienced post-traumatic stress or depression.

Clinton's campaign said the plan would attempt to integrate the nation's health care system to create a more seamless way of providing both medical and mental health treatment to patients.

It would expand the reimbursement systems for collaborative care models under Medicare and Medicaid that aim to treat patients through a team of health care professionals, including a primary care doctor, a care manager and a behavioral health specialist.

It would also be helped by a Clinton proposal to boost funding for community health centers that she announced earlier in the summer along with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, her primary rival.

Money for the centers, a priority for Sanders, was increased under the Affordable Care Act. Clinton's plan would make the money for the centers permanent and expand it by \$40 billion over the next decade. —AP



SOUTHAMPTON, NEW YORK: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, center left, leaves the home of Marcia Riklis, center right, following a private fundraiser on Sunday. —AP

PLAYING WITH SPORTS CONCUSSION DOUBLES RECOVERY TIME: STUDY

CHICAGO: Continuing to play despite a concussion doubles recovery time for teen athletes and leads to worse short-term mental function than in those immediately removed from action, a study found.

It's billed as the first to compare recovery outcomes for athletes removed from a game or practice compared with those who aren't. The study was small, involving 69 teens treated at a University of Pittsburgh Medical Center concussion clinic, but the results bolster evidence supporting the growing number of return-to-play laws and policies nationwide. The study was published yesterday in the journal *Pediatrics*.

Keeping score

The study involved athletes aged 15 on average from several

sports, including football, soccer, ice hockey and basketball who had concussions during a game or practice. Half continued to play and took 44 days on average to recover from symptoms, versus 22 days in those who were immediately sidelined.

Sidelined players reported symptoms immediately, including dizziness, headaches, mental fog and fatigue, and were diagnosed with concussions by trainers or team physicians. The others, who continued playing for 19 minutes on average, delayed reporting symptoms and were diagnosed later.

Those who continued to play had worse scores on mental function tests performed eight days after the concussion and 30 days after the concussion. Medical

records showed mental function had been similar in all players before their concussions.

Risky returns

Return-to-play policies are widespread, especially in youth athletics, and they typically recommend sidelining players after a suspected concussion until symptoms resolve. One of the main reasons is to prevent a rare condition called second-impact syndrome - potentially fatal brain swelling or bleeding that can occur when a player still recovering from a concussion gets hit again in the head.

The study results show that a prolonged recovery is another important risk from returning to play too soon - one that "no one had really calculated" until now, said Dr. Allen Sills, a Vanderbilt

University neurosurgeon. He was not involved in the research.

Not reported

About 300,000 sports-related concussions occur each year nationwide among all ages. In high school athletics, they occur at a rate of almost 3 per 10,000 games or practices.

Evidence suggests up to 50 percent of concussions in teen sports aren't reported. Athletes are sometimes not aware they've experienced a concussion, or they suspect a head injury but continue playing because "they don't want to let their teammates down," said University of Arkansas concussion researcher R.J. Elbin, the study's lead author. The results "give us more ammunition" to persuade young athletes to heed the return-to-play advice, Elbin said. —AP



WAYNESVILLE, MISSOURI: In this Friday, Oct. 31, 2014 file photo, Jacob Biddle watches a play from the sidelines during a game at Waynesville High School in Waynesville, Mo. Biddle has been unable to play because of a concussion sustained earlier in the season. —AP



MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN: President Barack Obama delivers remarks about health insurance marketplace enrollments and the Affordable Care Act, commonly known as Obamacare on March 3, 2016. —AFP

MORE US COUNTIES TO SEE OBAMACARE MARKETPLACE MONOPOLY

Nearly a third of US counties will likely be served by only one insurer that participates in an Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace in 2017, according to an analysis published Sunday by the Kaiser Family Foundation.

The 31 percent of US counties that will have just a single option of insurers within the ACA's exchanges would represent an increase from 7 percent this year, the non-partisan group found.

UnitedHealth Group Inc and Aetna Inc have decided to largely exit government-run online marketplaces in 2017 that sell subsidized plans created under President Barack Obama's national healthcare reform law, citing low enrollment and high service costs.

The bulk of the decrease in counties with a choice of insurers is due to UnitedHealth's pullback, which was

announced in April. The data underscores the degree to which industry retrenchment is curtailing individual's options within the marketplaces. Insurer departures may lead to higher costs within that market, analysts have said.

One county - Pinal County, Arizona - risks having no insurer options at all within the marketplace, the analysis found. However, the study's authors said another plan offered elsewhere in the state could expand to serve the county. The foundation also said it could take more months and more data for the full impact of the changes for 2017 to become clear.

A spokeswoman for the US Department of Health and Human Services was not immediately available for comment, but the agency has said that the ACA has helped increase the number of options available to individuals. —Reuters



SACRAMENTO: In this July 8, 2016, file photo, a pharmacist holds a package of EpiPens epinephrine auto-injector, a Mylan product. —AP

MYLAN LAUNCHING GENERIC VERSION OF THE EPIPEN

NEW YORK: Mylan says it will make available a generic version of its EpiPen, as criticism mounts over the price of its injectable medicine. The company said yesterday that its US subsidiary will put out a generic version of the EpiPen that will have a list price of \$300 for a two-pack - about half the current price. It will be available in both 0.15 mg and 0.30 mg strengths.

EpiPens are used in emergencies to treat severe allergies to insect bites and foods like nuts and eggs that can lead to anaphylactic shock. People usually keep a number of EpiPens handy at home, school or work. The syringes, prefilled with the hormone epinephrine, expire after a year.

Mylan N.V. said that it anticipates having the generic versions available in the next several weeks. It will continue to market and distribute a branded EpiPen.

The company charges \$608 for a two-pack of the branded EpiPen. Mylan said it will keep in place the \$300 savings card for the branded EpiPen and the revised patient assistance program announced last week.

Consumers and politicians have accused the company of price-gouging, considering that the product has been on the market since 1987 and the price didn't start rising significantly until Mylan

acquired it in 2007. There is also little competition, with the only rival product being Adrenaclick, which carries a list price of \$461.

Mylan CEO Heather Bresch has defended the price hikes, saying the company only received \$274 of the total price for a twin-package while insurers, pharmacies and other parties divvy up the rest.

People usually keep a number of EpiPens handy at home, school or work. The syringes, prefilled with the hormone epinephrine, expire after a year.

Numerous members of Congress and other politicians this week have called for congressional hearings on Mylan's pricing, an investigation by the Federal Trade Commission and action by the Food and Drug Administration to increase competition by speeding up approvals of any rival products.

At least two companies are trying to get US approval to sell a rival brand or generic version of EpiPen. None is likely to hit the US market until well into next year. Relief could come sooner from Imprimis Pharmaceuticals, a compounding pharmacy that prepares medicines to fill individual prescriptions. It said it might be able to sell a version in a few months and would likely charge around \$100 for two injectors. —AP

UAE'S NMC HEALTH EXPANDS INTO SAUDI, RAISES 2017 EBITDA FORECAST

ABU DHABI: NMC Health said yesterday it had expanded into Saudi Arabia through an investment and an acquisition, the first foray into the wider Gulf for the United Arab Emirates-based healthcare provider.

This enabled it to raise its guidance for 2017 group EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization) to \$300 million from the previously-disclosed \$290 million, NMC said in a

statement. NMC, along with other companies, is tapping into substantial growth in the sector as the Gulf's increasingly wealthy population becomes more susceptible to lifestyle diseases such as diabetes. It has taken a majority stake in a new 120-bed hospital in Jeddah by putting \$4 million of equity into the operating company.

NMC will also provide a \$9 million two-year loan to its subsidiary Provita, which will manage

the business. It has also acquired a 70 percent stake in As Salama Hospital in the kingdom's Eastern Province for \$28 million, adding 140 beds to its total count.

"This represents another major advance towards our objective of developing a regional leader in the field of specialist long-term care," said B.R. Shetty, chief executive of NMC. As well as plans to revamp the existing facilities at Khobar-based

As Salama, NMC said its strategy includes possible investment and expansion in the central region of Saudi, which includes the capital, Riyadh.

The London-listed firm now has 1,135 operational beds across its network, which is primarily in the UAE but also includes Spanish fertility firm Clinica Eugén. It generated EBITDA of \$115.9 million in the first half of 2016, up 68.2 percent over same period of last year. —Reuters

SINGAPORE MASS SPRAYS RESIDENCES AS ZIKA EXPECTED TO SPREAD

SINGAPORE: Officials sprayed insecticide and cleared drains of stagnant water in residential areas of Singapore at high risk of further Zika infections yesterday after 41 locally transmitted cases were confirmed in the city state.

Workers wearing fumigation masks travelled methodically through high-rise public housing estates in seven separate areas of the island, inspecting plant pots closely as they sprayed insecticide via thermal fogging machines.

41 and counting

The health ministry on Saturday confirmed Singapore's first locally-transmitted case of Zika, with the tally rising to 41 just a day later. All of the infected people were either residents of the Aljunied district or workers at a construction site owned by GuocoLand in the area. "We expect to identify more positive cases," the ministry said on Monday in its latest update on the outbreak.

"Given that the majority of Zika cases are asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic, and mosquitoes in the affected areas may already have been infected, isolation of positive cases may have limited effect to managing the spread," it added.

Singapore, a major regional financial centre and busy transit hub, which maintains a constant vigil against the mosquito-borne dengue virus, reported its first case of the Zika virus in May, brought in by a middle-aged man who had been to Brazil.

GuocoLand, which is headquartered in Singapore and has developments

across Asia, was ordered on Saturday to stop work on the building site where 36 of the infected people worked. It will remain closed until the company rectifies the conditions that allowed mosquitoes to breed and steps up preventative measures, the health ministry said.

The Zika virus, carried by mosquitoes, was detected in Brazil last year and has since spread across the Americas. It poses a risk to pregnant women because it can cause severe birth defects. It has been linked in Brazil to more than 1,600 cases of microcephaly, where babies are born with abnormally small heads and brains.

The World Health Organization said on Sunday it did not know "which lineage of Zika is circulating" in Singapore or "what the level of population immunity is to this lineage of Zika in Asia."

Singapore's health ministry said some 19 mosquito breeding habitats were detected and destroyed in its first sweep of the Aljunied area on Sunday when it fumigated around a third of the 6,000 homes. "I feel afraid," said Ng Kai Yee, an 18-year-old female student who lives near the construction site believed to be a source of the outbreak. "I heard quite a lot about how harmful Zika virus is to girls, especially pregnant women."

Authorities have urged those living and working in the risk areas, especially pregnant women, to monitor their health and seek medical attention if they are unwell. Of the 41 people known to have been infected, 34 have already fully recovered. Only the first case reported was a woman. —Reuters



SINGAPORE: A worker fogs the corridor of a public housing estate in the vicinity where a locally transmitted Zika virus case was discovered on August 29, 2016. —AFP

SOUTHEAST ASIA NEEDS TO UP ITS GAME TO COMBAT ZIKA 'UNDER-REPORTED AND UNDER-DIAGNOSED'

BANGKOK/KUALA LUMPUR: The spread of the Zika virus across tropical Southeast Asia is likely to be significantly under-reported as local health authorities fail to conduct adequate screening, regional experts said yesterday.

International travel hub Singapore confirmed 41 locally-transmitted cases of the mosquito-borne virus on Sunday and said it anticipated more, raising fears about how quickly it could disperse throughout the region. Other parts of Southeast Asia have reported dozens of cases of Zika, which in Brazil has been linked to thousands of suspected cases of microcephaly, a rare birth defect, but there are fears the true numbers are masked.

"Zika is under-reported and under-diagnosed," Khin Myint, head of the emerging virus research unit at Indonesia's government-funded Eijkman Institute, told Reuters. "We find many cases are not presented in hospitals because it's a relatively mild disease with mild symptoms and people are not going to doctors."

The World Health Organization (WHO) lists Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam as countries with "possible endemic transmission or evidence of local mosquito-borne Zika infections in 2016."

But the Jakarta-based Eijkman Institute, the main body testing for Zika in Indonesia, said it tested only 1,000 people in the past year - a tiny number in Southeast Asia's most populous country. It found just one positive case, despite reports that Zika is prevalent in the country.

Thailand has recorded the highest number of cases in the region at almost 100 infected people across 10 provinces this year. "Thailand's sur-

veys have not been through enough," said Kriengsak Limkittikul, assistant professor at the Department of Tropical Medicine at Mahidol University in Bangkok, noting that people without symptoms are often not tested. "Screening is inadequate in other countries in the region, too, where health authorities are ill-equipped to test," he said.

Vietnam has recorded three cas-

es for Zika, which is a close cousin of dengue and chikungunya and is transmitted by mosquito. There have also been a small number of cases of sexual transmission reported in the United States and elsewhere.

Mixed response

Some countries in the region began ramping up protective measures following the outbreak in

weekend, and plans to roll them out to ports. Authorities are also handing out printed warnings to all incoming passengers, noting Zika has an incubation period of around 10 days before presenting any symptoms.

Malaysian Health Minister Subramaniam Sathasivam said travellers who enter Johor Bahru, where up to 200,000 people commute daily to and from Singapore, will go through thermal screening at border checkpoints. People crossing in private vehicles will not be scanned but handed a pamphlet detailing the symptoms and asking them to report to authorities if they develop those.

Malaysia is also stepping up vector control mechanisms including fogging and larvicidal spraying in Johor Bahru. "What we can do as a country comes down to how well we control our vectors, and at this point of time, dengue is still a bigger problem than Zika because people can die from dengue," Subramaniam said.

Other countries were not responding so quickly. In Thailand, the Department of Disease Control said it was screening athletes returning from the Olympic Games in Brazil, but otherwise not changing its prevention methods. Vietnam and Cambodia made no immediate changes to their border controls.

"Different countries have different economic and political situations and it's not that they don't want to screen the virus, but they don't have the resources and capacity to do it at this stage," said Jasper Fuk-Woo Chan, a clinical assistant professor at the Carol Yu Centre for Infection at the University of Hong Kong. —Reuters



GUADALUPE, MEXICO: An *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is seen inside a test tube as part of a research on preventing the spread of the Zika virus and other mosquito-borne diseases at a control and prevention center on March 8, 2016. —AFP

es of Zika infection, all locally-transmitted, while Cambodia has reported seven cases. Hong Kong confirmed its first case of Zika on Friday, in a woman who had travelled to the Caribbean. A major difficulty is that while Zika can cause mild fever, a rash and red eyes, an estimated 80 percent of people infected have no symptoms. There is no vaccine or treatment

Singapore. Muhamad Subuh, a senior Indonesian health ministry official, said authorities are "in the process of stepping up health checks at main airports and ports, including in Batam," the island closest to Singapore. Indonesia introduced thermal scanners at airports targeting arrivals from Singapore over the

WHY IT MATTERS: CLIMATE CHANGE

WASHINGTON: It's as if Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump live on two entirely different Earths: One warming, one not. Clinton says climate change "threatens us all," while Trump tweets that global warming is "mythical" and repeatedly refers to it as a "hoax." Measurements and scientists say Clinton's Earth is much closer to reality.

As heat-trapping gases in the air intensify and hot temperature records shatter, global warming is taking a toll on Americans' everyday life: their gardens, air, water, seasons, insurance rates and more.

Where they stand

Trump calls attempts to remedy global warming "just a very, very expensive form of tax." He tells coal miners he'll get their jobs back. Solar power now employs four times more people than coal mining.

Clinton proposes to spend \$60 billion to switch from dirty fossil fuels to cleaner energy. She says clean energy is needed, otherwise it would "force our children to endure the catastrophe that would result from unchecked climate change." She promises to deliver on the President Barack Obama's pledge that by 2025, the U.S. will be emitting

30 percent less heat-trapping gases than in 2005.

Why it matters

Dozens of measurements show Earth is warming. And it's worsening. The overwhelming majority of climate scientists and nearly every professional organization of scientists have said climate change is real, man-made and a problem.

The last 15 months in a row have set records globally for heat, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The world is on pace to break the record for hottest year, a record broken in 2010, 2014 and 2015. The five hottest years recorded have all been from 2005 on and it is about 1.8 degrees warmer than a century ago.

But it's more than temperatures. Arctic sea ice keeps flirting with record low amounts. Hot water has been killing coral as never before seen. Scientists have connected man-made climate change to extreme weather, including deadly heat waves, droughts and flood-inducing downpours. They even have connected it as one of several factors in the Syrian drought and civil war that led to a massive refugee crisis.

Climate change is causing the seas to rise, which threatens coastlines. Sea level has risen a

foot in the waters around New York City in the past century, worsening flooding from Superstorm Sandy. And it is making people sicker with worsened allergies and asthma, heat deaths, diseases spread by ticks and mosquitoes, dirtier air and more contaminated water and food, a federal report said in April.

Changing the world's economy from burning fossil fuel, which causes global warming, has a huge pricetag. So does not doing anything. The world's average income will shrivel 23 percent by the year 2100 if carbon dioxide pollution continues at the current pace, according to a 2015 study out of Stanford and the University of California Berkeley.

Just the Obama administration's efforts to cut carbon pollution from 1,000 power plants projects to cost about \$8 billion a year, but save several times more than in reduced health problems.

The world's largest general scientific society warns of "abrupt, unpredictable, and potentially irreversible changes with highly damaging impacts." It may seem improbable that government action can restore balance to something as vast as the climate. But presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush showed that big things can be done about air pollution. They took steps that reduced ozone depletion and acid rain. —AP

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ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER CONDUCTED TECHNICAL MEET ON ROAD MAP TO GLOBAL HSE CERTIFICATIONS PART II



American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter is a premier voluntary, non-profit Health, Safety and Environmental organization, which strives to provide professional guidance, training, consultancy and resources to the industrial and social sectors in the region.

As a part of continuous efforts in its professional journey, ASSE-Kuwait Chapter organized its 212th Technical Meet (2nd in the term 2016-17) on "Road Map to Global HSE Certifications Part II (CRSP, Grad-IOSH & CMIOSH) in Kohinoor Banquet hall, Fahaheel Kuwait on 24th August 2016.

The Technical Meet began with the opening remarks by Mr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Chapter Secretary. Mr. CH. Rama Krishna Chary, President ASSE Kuwait Chapter in his welcome address emphasized the importance of attending such technical meets by ASSE Members. Mr. Adnan Yousef, Head of Technical events committee introduced the speakers for the day Mr. Muhammad Alamgir & Mr. Aamir Rasheed.

Mr. Muhammad Alamgir is a Canadian Registered Safety Professional (CRSP) by BCRSP Canada, Certified Safety Professional (CSP) by BCSP USA, Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner (CMIOSH) by IOSH UK and currently Vice-President of American Society of Safety Engineers Kuwait Chapter (Term 2016/17). He underlined all seven stages starting from application until Certification maintenance programs as well as shared

valuable tips about the preparation of examination. Most, importantly, he encouraged KC members to invest in themselves and enhance their OHS skills in order to get good job opportunities.

Mr. Aamir Rasheed is a Chartered Safety & Health Practitioner (CMIOSH) and presently Head - Professional & Career Development Committee (Term 2016/17). He shared different pathways of becoming Grad-IOSH and then further elaborated to the road map of CMIOSH. Mr. Aamir also emphasized that Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is basic necessity to maintain such certifications and to also keep yourself updated with the modern changes in OHS.

Both Speakers given an extensive information on subject related certifications, advantage, mode of preparation and ways to apply for each credential. Attendees eagerly took part in the discussion, participated in Question and Answer session.

As an honor of appreciation, ASSE Kuwait Chapter Executive Committee honored both speakers for their excellent presentation with memento. Technical Meeting concluded with close out speech from Mr. Sunil Sadanand, Treasurer of ASSE Kuwait Chapter (2016/17) stating that members must utilize this opportunity and move forward to improve their professionalism and ASSE KC will always provide any kind of assistance for its members to develop themselves for serving the society and State of Kuwait.

INDIAN LEARNERS OWN ACADEMY BAGS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD



Indian Learners Own Academy received a prestigious award on the 7th International Education Summit at Delhi on 6th August, 2016. The School Principal, Asha Sharma received this Award on behalf of the School at Hotel Meridian in Delhi. She was presented a trophy and a certificate.

This award has been conferred for teaching pedagogy being followed at school. ILOA has been experimenting with learner friendly teaching methodology from the very inception. The wholesome report of the efforts of the school was presented by the school Principal to the Award committee a month before. The jury of judges of this award scrutinized each detail and all the clarifications were answered satisfactorily. It was voted heavily on the teaching pedagogy and on 6th August 2016, the school was declared the winner. There were 225 applications for the award and only 2 were chosen for teaching pedagogy. Many universities and chains of Pre KG schools were also in the race for excellence in various other fields. Indian Learners Own Academy and Ryan International were the two institutions which were honored for teaching pedagogy.

The award reads "Indian Learners Own Academy, Kuwait is recognized for breaking new grounds in deep learning by impacting various categories of intelligences of learners at school through Innovation in Teaching Pedagogy."

Sharma gives the credit for this award to all the stakeholders, the students, parents, teachers and the Management of the school, who gave their best for improvement in every area. She wishes to congratulate the students, parents, the teaching and administrative faculty of the school for bringing this laurel to the school and hopes that this team work will continue which will take the school to pinnacle of glory and excellence in work.



It was a glorifying moment on Friday at the NECK compound as family, friends and well-wishers celebrated with Mr/Mrs Isaac Baffour as they dedicate their baby David to the Lord. May God continue to guide and protect baby David as he continues to grow to be a blessing to the family.

DR JOHNArts ENTERS LIMCA BOOK OF RECORDS

By Sajeev K Peter

Setting yet another record, well-known Indian caricature artist Dr Johnarts Kalabhavan has entered the prestigious Limca Book of Records by achieving a rare feat by drawing most caricatures on prominent personalities in different areas. The Limca Book of Records, similar to the Guinness Book of World Records, focuses on Indian achievements and honors People of the Year for their individual achievements.

Dr Johnarts has drawn caricatures of 576 personalities in water colour (100 X 70) and has presented to them on stages. His name has already found entry into the India Book

of Records, the Asia Book of Records, Assisted World Record and the Unique World Record for drawing the most number of caricatures of well-known personalities.

He is the first Asian who received the gold membership by the International Society of Caricature Artists (ISCA). Johnarts was conferred with the honorary doctorate by the World Records University in the United States.

Johnarts, who started his career in art with Cochin Kalabhavan, has trained more than 10,000 students in Kuwait over the last 24 years of his career. He has worked as a palace artist in Kuwait and a drawing teacher at the Ministry of Education, Kuwait.



Kunhirama Peruvvanan

9TH GOLDEN Foke AWARD TO KUNHIRAMA PERUVVANAN

Foke an organization of Kannur citizens (Friends of Kannur Kuwait Expats Association) announced its 9th Golden Foke Award to P P Kunhiramaperuvvanan for his outstanding contributions to the art of Theyyam.

Kunhirama Peruvvanan residing in Pazhayangadi Sreestha, started performing Theyyam, at the age of 16 onwards. Mooppilottu Bhagavathi, Kadaghattu Maakkum, Kathivanoor Veeran, Vayanattu

Kula Veeran are some of his plays.

A cash prize of INR 25,000, memento and certificate will be handed to him at a function in Yamuna Theeram Kanayi near Pilathara, Kannur on 3rd Sept 2016. Award Committee Members, K. K. R. Vengara, Dinakaran Kombiloath and Foke Members, Foke president K Shymesh, Soorya Narayanan and Vijayesh declared the award during a press meeting.



REGENCY OPENS ITS 8TH HYPERMARKET IN KUWAIT

Offering a brand new shopping experience to the residents of Khaitan, Grand Hyper will have an inventory of the finest and freshest produce exclusively flown in from around the world.

Kuwait, 28 August 2016- Regency Group, one of the leading players in the Middle East retail sector has announced the launch of their 40th hypermarket in the Middle East and the 8th in Kuwait "GRAND HYPER" at Khaitan- Trio Mall, Muscat Street. The opening ceremony scheduled on September 1, 2016 at 4.30 pm will be attended by eminent dignitaries from across sections of the society.

GRAND HYPER is located at the densely populated Khaitan area. Spreading over 25,000 sq.ft., the hypermarket features an extensive fruit and vegetable market, with the freshest produce exclusively flown in from around the globe, offering uncompromised quality standards. The group's own sourcing centres in India, China, Turkey, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Europe, devoid of middle men, ensure the finest quality inventory at the fairest prices. The department store houses all major brands of garments, electronics, household, toys, stationeries and accessories. Moreover, the in-house bakery ensures a regular supply of freshly baked Arab and French breads and pastisseries. The store also aims to provide shoppers with variety of products and exciting offers that one can enjoy all throughout the year. GRAND HYPER promises the convenience of everything under one roof along with International shopping ambience that rivals the best in the world.

On Launch of the new store Dr. Anvar Ameen Chelat, Managing Director, Regency Group for Corporate Management said "It gives us immense joy to announce the launch of our eighth outlet in Kuwait. We have wit-



nessed an overall growth in the retail segment in the GCC countries and particularly in Kuwait. The consumers have accepted the concept of hypermarkets which provide convenience all under one roof. This new store will make us more accessible and closer to our consumers at Kuwait," said Mr. Ayyoob Kachery, Regional Director, Regency Group, Kuwait.

Mr. Ayyoob Kachery, Regional Director, Grand Hyper- Kuwait said "Our vision at Grand hyper is to be the first choice of customer by setting high standards of customer satisfaction. We at Grand are committed to provide values to stake holders, employees and business partners.

Mr. Suneer, Chief Executive officer of Grand Hyper said, "Despite the not-so-favorable condition prevailing, we could make inroads in to new markets while strengthening in our existing markets.

Explaining the group's strategy in retailing, Mr. Thehaseer Ali, General Manager, Kuwait, said, "Our newest venture in Kuwait is in line with our policy to go closer to our customers and offer an unmatched experience with regard to quality of products, standard of service and pricing. In fact, we are planning to open more outlets in this country as well as other GCC nations and a few other markets."

The promoters state that the launch of this hypermarket in Khaitan is yet another landmark in the history of retail operations of the

group. They conveyed their sincere gratitude and best wishes to The Amir His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah, generous Kuwaiti public and business friendly systems. His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah's wise leadership has steered Kuwait to self-sufficient and investor friendly destination.

The promoters, Regency Group, aim to spread their retail stores in all the major areas of Kuwait and serve the Kuwait population with the right mix of products at the most competitive prices possible. Grand Hypermarket, Khaitan is strategically located and is easily accessible from the major roads like Fifth and Sixth ring roads.

Direct procurement of products from

countries like India, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Bangladesh, etc. enables the store to offer their customers unmatched quality and the best value for their money. Now the people of Farwaniya Governorate have the option of buying a wide range of products under one roof at the most competitive prices available.

Having studied the Kuwaiti market for six years, the promoters were convinced that the growing population, the growth of the economy, increase in the GDP, and the support from the Government of Kuwait to the business community here bode well for them choose this market and spread their business footprint.

The Group has a strong presence in countries U.A.E, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait and India. With a view to enhance retail market segment and tap growing retail potential in the GCC and Africa, the Group has focused its expansion plans in North Africa and Far East Asian countries by 2017.

The press meet was attended by

1. Dr. Anvar Ameen Chelat, Managing Director, Regency Group for Corporate Management;
2. HE Shaikh Dawood Dawood Salman Al Sabah, Chief Patron, Grand Hyper Kuwait
3. Mr. Jasim Mohammad Khamees Al Sarrah, Chairman Grand Hyper-Kuwait
4. Mr. Aboobacker Mohammed, Director, Regency Group for Corporate Management;
5. Mr. Ayyoob Kachery, Director, Grand Hyper- Kuwait;
6. Dr. Abdul Fathah, Director, Grand Hyper-Kuwait;
7. Mr. Mohammed Suneer, Chief Executive Officer, Grand Hyper- Kuwait and
8. Mr. Thehaseer Ali, General Manager, Grand Hyper- Kuwait

AL NASSER ... ALWAYS WITH YOU (DAYMAN MA3AKOM)

As usual and always, Al Nasser (Al Nasser Sports Center) is back again with a new look and great variety of Back to School apparel, footwear to bags, stationary and essentials...

Al Nasser the leading fashion retailer had announced the launching of the new collection for 2016-2017 Back to School season. A collection that meets all the children's needs - making them ready to go back to school!

Mr. / Bassem Jawad, (Group Marketing Director) said that we at Al Nasser this year have selected a distinctive back to school assortment for our children. A stylish, modern collections, mixed with the international fashion lines, process-friendly that suit all ages...

Mr. / Bassem, also added that there will be a variety collection to our children, big choice of shirts, T-shirts and shorts with different sports jackets - Great variety that will satisfy all tastes.

As always, Al Nasser is always with you... In addition to the above,

Al Nasser this year is providing a wonderful collection for kindergarten kids such as comfortable socks and essentials. Moreover, medical shoes are available with open rear which gives the foot more comfortable movement and enjoyable playing time.

As always, and every year we invent and innovate all what meets the society's need, you just need to visit your nearest branch of (Al Nasser), to find the best for your children.. The best prices with the finest quality which was made especially for you.



KDNA PLANS PROTEST TO SAVE KARIPUR AIRPORT

Kozhikode District NRI Association Kuwait is organizing a protest campaign titled "Bring Back the Glory of Karipur Airport" (Calicut International Airport) on September 15, 2016 at Calicut City Traffic Police Station at 4pm in coordination with Malabar Development Forum and UAE Kozhikode District Pravasi Association. This is to protest against the stoppage of operations by bigger flights from the airport in the name of airport expansion and the continuous apathy of the authorities towards the airport of the Malabar region and the save it from destruction.

In connection with this, KDNA urged all the passengers who travel in and from Karipur Airport on 15th September to wear black badge in protest against the mistreatment to Karipur Airport. In addition there will be a formal meeting where organization leaders would express their concerns on this issue. KDNA will coordinate with all likeminded associations to bring back the glory of Karipur airport and the injustice treatment applied to it.

Recently, the airport is going

through a very difficult phase. Attributing the reason for runway expansion, the bigger flights by Emirates and other airlines have been stopped by the authorities stalling its growth. Though the expansion of the runway almost completed, the continuous stopping of these big flights is adversely affecting the airport and is unjustified. As these flights were operating since long, their reinstating after the expansion is essential. But it is learned that authorities will not allow the bigger flights to restart their operation. This is plot against the airport. The passengers from this area who heavily depends on this airport are forced to fly to other airport as airlines could not accommodate the number of passengers as it was handled with many number of bigger flights Also it paved for exorbitant and unjustified fare hike by the current airlines including national carrier Air India who are operating now to Calicut exploiting the passengers extreme desire and dream to arrive in their home town airport. The unjustifiable business interest of other airports and authorities' support to this are believed to be

main reasons for jeopardizing the development and sustenance of Karipur airport. This is adding to the woes of the passengers' and people of the backward four districts of Malabar area who heavily depends this airport. This airport was a culmination of hard work visionary leaders and laymen who wanted to safeguard the future of expatriates going abroad especially to Middle East and Gulf countries.

The Calicut international airport (Karipur airport) stamped its footprint since its operation in the domain of Indian aviation by facilitating air transportation for umpteen numbers of people all over the world especially to Middle East countries. It made its finger prints by helping fly people from the backward Malabar area of Kerala which constitutes large chunk of expatriate's labor in the ME and all over the world. Also it is one of the most profitable airports in India considering its limitation it already proved to be a huge success. It accommodated a large number of passengers and almost all international flight operators had operated from there considering its huge business potential.

BBC FIRST

- 04:05 Doctors
- 04:35 Eastenders
- 05:05 The Musketeers
- 06:00 Eastenders
- 06:30 Death In Paradise
- 07:30 Death In Paradise
- 08:25 Call The Midwife
- 09:25 The Musketeers
- 10:20 Doctors
- 10:55 Eastenders
- 11:25 Death In Paradise
- 12:20 Call The Midwife
- 13:15 The Musketeers
- 14:10 Doctors
- 14:45 Eastenders
- 15:15 Death In Paradise
- 16:10 Call The Midwife
- 17:05 The Musketeers
- 18:00 Doctors
- 18:30 Eastenders
- 19:05 Death In Paradise
- 20:00 Holly City
- 21:00 Friday Night Dinner
- 21:30 Rev.
- 22:00 Slag
- 22:55 Hebburn
- 23:25 Doctors
- 00:00 Eastenders
- 00:35 Holly City
- 01:35 Friday Night Dinner
- 02:00 Rev.
- 02:35 Slag

- 18:30 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 19:20 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
- 20:10 Storage Hunters
- 20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
- 21:00 Dark Woods Justice
- 21:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 22:40 Mega Shippers
- 23:30 Fast N' Loud
- 00:20 Kindig Customs
- 01:10 Dark Woods Justice
- 02:00 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
- 02:50 Mega Shippers

DISCOVERY SCIENCE

- 03:00 Mega Engineering
- 03:48 Smash Lab
- 04:36 Secret Space Escapes
- 05:24 How The Universe Works
- 06:12 How Do They Do It?
- 06:36 Food Factory
- 07:00 How Do They Do It?
- 07:26 Smash Lab
- 08:14 How The Universe Works
- 09:02 Mega Engineering
- 09:50 How Do They Do It?
- 10:14 Food Factory
- 10:38 Secret Space Escapes
- 11:26 Smash Lab
- 12:14 How The Universe Works
- 13:02 How Do They Do It?
- 13:26 Food Factory
- 13:50 Mega Engineering
- 14:38 Secret Space Escapes
- 15:26 Smash Lab
- 16:14 How The Universe Works
- 17:02 Mega Engineering
- 17:50 Smash Lab
- 18:40 How The Universe Works
- 19:30 Battle Factory
- 19:55 Battle Factory
- 20:20 How Do They Do It?
- 20:45 Food Factory
- 21:10 Industrial Junkie
- 21:35 Industrial Junkie
- 22:00 Battle Factory
- 22:25 Battle Factory
- 22:50 How The Universe Works
- 23:40 Smash Lab
- 00:30 How Do They Do It?
- 00:55 Food Factory
- 01:20 Battle Factory
- 01:45 Battle Factory
- 02:10 How The Universe Works

DISNEY JUNIOR HD

- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Hank Zipzer
- 06:25 Jessie
- 06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse

Disney Junior

- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopdidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopdidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopdidoo
- 07:40 Jungle Cubs
- 08:05 Sofia The First
- 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 08:40 PJ Masks
- 09:10 Doc McStuffins
- 09:40 Doc McStuffins
- 09:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Sofia The First
- 11:00 The Lion Guard
- 11:30 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 12:30 Gummi Bears
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Doc McStuffins
- 14:00 The Lion Guard
- 14:30 Aladdin
- 14:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 15:05 Goldie & Bear
- 15:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 16:00 Doc McStuffins
- 16:25 Doc McStuffins
- 16:55 Sofia The First
- 17:25 Sofia The First
- 17:50 The Lion Guard
- 18:15 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:45 Jake And The Neverland 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



LAGGIES ON OSN MOVIES COMEDY HD

- 06:00 Fashion Bloggers
- 06:25 Keeping Up With The 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
- 22:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 22:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:00 Iron Chef America
- 00:00 Ace Of Cakes
- 00:30 Ace Of Cakes
- 01:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts
- 01:30 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts
- 02:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 02:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 12:10 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Coronation Street
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Murdoch Mysteries
- 15:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 16:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 17:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Coronation Street
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 20:30 Don't Tell The Bride
- 21:25 Autopsy: The Last Hours Of...
- 22:20 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 Murdoch Mysteries
- 00:10 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 01:00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 02:30 Murdoch Mysteries

- 16:35 Fatal Attraction
- 17:30 Planet Carnivore
- 18:25 Wild Japan: Snow Monkeys
- 19:20 Sharktraz
- 20:10 Expedition Wild
- 21:00 Fatal Attraction
- 21:50 Planet Carnivore
- 22:40 Wild Japan: Snow Monkeys
- 23:30 Shark Men
- 00:20 Top Cats
- 01:10 Animal Intervention
- 02:00 I, Predator
- 02:50 Dr. K's Exotic Animal

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL HD

- 03:50 Science Of Stupid
- 04:15 Science Of Stupid
- 04:45 Incredibly Small World
- 05:40 Money Meltdown
- 06:05 Money Meltdown
- 06:35 Hacking The System
- 07:00 Hacking The System
- 07:30 Brain Games
- 07:55 Brain Games
- 08:25 UFOs: The Untold Stories
- 09:20 Incredibly Small World
- 10:15 Machine Impossible
- 11:10 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 12:05 Fly Me To The Stars: Japan's Space Challenge
- 13:00 UFOs: The Untold Stories
- 14:00 Brain Games
- 14:30 Brain Games
- 15:00 Hacking The System
- 15:30 Hacking The System
- 16:00 Machine Impossible
- 17:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 18:00 Mission Pluto
- 19:00 Science Of Stupid
- 19:30 Science Of Stupid
- 20:00 Machine Impossible
- 20:50 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 21:40 Mission Pluto
- 22:30 Science Of Stupid
- 22:55 Science Of Stupid
- 23:20 Money Meltdown
- 23:45 Money Meltdown
- 00:10 Machine Impossible
- 01:00 Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey
- 02:00 Mission Pluto
- 02:55 Hacking The System

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

- 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
- 10:30 The Bill Engvall Show
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:30 Life In Pieces
- 13:30 The Bill Engvall Show
- 15:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 16:00 Grandfathered
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Two And A Half Men
- 18:30 Two And A Half Men
- 19:00 Angie Tribeca
- 19:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 21:00 Fresh Off The Boat
- 21:30 Grandfathered
- 22:00 South Park
- 22:30 South Park
- 23:00 Family Guy
- 23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 00:30 Fresh Off The Boat
- 01:00 Grandfathered
- 02:30 Family Guy

OSN FIRST HD

- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 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 Containment
- 20:00 The Family
- 21:00 Chicago Med
- 22:00 Heartbeat
- 23:00 The X-Files
- 00:00 Bones
- 01:00 Chicago Med
- 02:00 Heartbeat

OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 04:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
- 06:00 The Package
- 08:00 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
- 10:00 Non-Stop
- 12:00 Reclaim
- 13:45 Edge Of Tomorrow
- 15:45 Non-Stop
- 17:45 The Expendables 3
- 22:00 The Equalizer
- 00:15 Turkey Shoot
- 02:00 Non-Stop

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

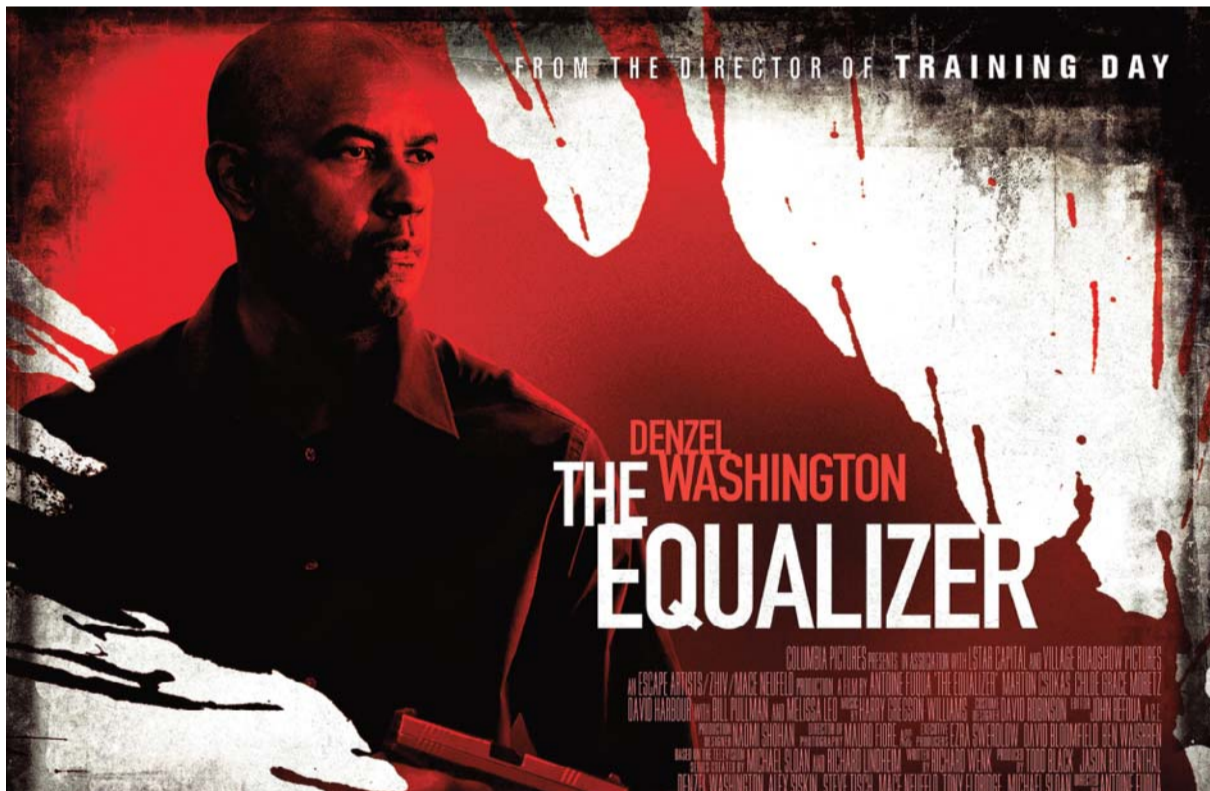
- 04:00 Spy Hard
- 06:00 Indian Summer
- 08:00 Father Hood
- 10:00 Spy Hard
- 12:00 The Bounty Hunter
- 14:00 Space Dogs
- 16:00 Father Hood
- 18:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
- 20:00 Laggies
- 22:00 A Fantastic Fear Of Everything
- 00:00 Adult World
- 02:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!

OSN MOVIES HD

- 04:45 Dawn Of The Planet Of The Apes
- 07:00 Pixels
- 09:00 The Walk
- 11:00 Divergent
- 13:15 Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2
- 15:00 Jupiter Ascending
- 17:15 Paper Towns
- 19:00 Insuper
- 21:00 Final Girl
- 23:00 Trainwreck
- 01:15 Project Almanac

COMEDY CENTRAL

- 03:00 Nathan For You
- 03:25 Nathan For You
- 03:50 Impractical Jokers
- 04:15 Impractical Jokers
- 04:40 Ridiculousness
- 05:05 Ridiculousness
- 05:30 Tosh.0
- 05:55 Tosh.0
- 06:20 Tattoo Disasters
- 06:50 Tattoo Disasters
- 07:15 Hungry Investors
- 08:05 Ridiculousness
- 08:30 Ridiculousness
- 08:55 Nathan For You
- 09:20 Nathan For You
- 09:45 Impractical Jokers
- 10:10 Impractical Jokers
- 10:35 Key And Peele
- 11:00 Workaholics
- 11:25 Lip Sync Battle
- 11:50 Lip Sync Battle
- 12:15 Nathan For You
- 12:40 Nathan For You
- 13:05 Impractical Jokers
- 13:30 Impractical Jokers
- 13:55 Ridiculousness
- 14:20 Ridiculousness
- 14:45 Tattoo Disasters
- 15:10 Tattoo Disasters
- 15:35 Lip Sync Battle
- 16:00 Lip Sync Battle
- 16:30 Nathan For You
- 16:55 Nathan For You
- 17:25 Workaholics
- 17:50 Impractical Jokers
- 18:15 Impractical Jokers
- 18:39 Key And Peele



THE EQUALIZER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION

- 19:03 Workaholics
- 19:27 TUT
- 20:13 TUT
- 21:00 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 21:30 Patton Oswalt: Tragedy Plus Comedy Equals Time
- 22:18 Inside Amy Schumer
- 22:42 South Park
- 23:05 Underground With Dave Atell
- 23:30 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 00:00 TUT
- 00:50 TUT
- 01:40 The Daily Show With Trevor Noah
- 02:05 John Mulaney: New In Town
- 06:55 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:20 Dog With A Blog
- 07:45 Bunk'd
- 08:10 Austin & Ally
- 08:35 Shake It Up
- 09:00 Hannah Montana
- 09:25 Hannah Montana
- 09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:05 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:30 Jessie
- 11:55 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 12:00 The 7D
- 12:15 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 12:40 Hank Zipzer
- 13:05 Star Darlings
- 13:10 Austin & Ally
- 13:35 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Liv And Maddie
- 14:25 Liv And Maddie
- 14:50 Dog With A Blog
- 15:15 Hank Zipzer
- 15:40 Bunk'd
- 16:05 Star Darlings
- 16:10 Gravity Falls
- 16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 17:00 Backstage
- 17:50 Girl Meets World
- 18:15 Bunk'd
- 18:40 Mako Mermaids
- 19:00 Austin & Ally
- 19:30 Jessie
- 19:55 Violetta
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 01:40 Hank Zipzer
- 02:05 Binny And The Ghost
- 02:30 Violetta
- 06:00 Boyster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:35 Super Matrak
- 07:00 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Danger Mouse S1
- 08:40 Camp Lakebottom
- 09:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 09:10 Gravity Falls
- 09:35 Lab Rats
- 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 10:50 Boyster
- 11:20 Boyster
- 11:45 Pair Of Kings
- 12:10 Pair Of Kings
- 12:35 Lab Rats
- 13:00 Lab Rats
- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Pokemon Bw: Adventures In Unova
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Supa Strikas
- 15:40 Supa Strikas
- 16:05 Lab Rats
- 16:30 Danger Mouse S1
- 16:55 Kirby Buckets
- 17:25 K.C. Undercover
- 17:50 Annedroids
- 18:15 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:05 Counterfeit Cat
- 19:10 Gravity Falls
- 19:35 Pickle And Peanut
- 20:00 Lab Rats
- 20:25 Supa Strikas
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty...
- 21:45 Guardians Of The Galaxy
- 22:10 Marvel Avengers Assemble
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 03:00 Man Fire Food
- 03:30 Man Fire Food
- 04:00 Chopped
- 05:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 06:00 Man Fire Food
- 06:30 Man Fire Food
- 07:00 Chopped
- 08:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 08:30 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
- 09:00 The Kitchen
- 10:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 10:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 11:00 Chopped
- 12:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 12:30 Guy's Big Bite
- 13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 13:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 14:00 Man Fire Food
- 14:30 Man Fire Food
- 15:00 Chopped
- 16:00 The Kitchen
- 17:00 The Pioneer Woman
- 17:30 The Pioneer Woman
- 18:00 Chopped
- 19:00 Guy's Grocery Games
- 20:00 Ace Of Cakes
- 20:30 Ace Of Cakes
- 21:00 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts
- 21:30 Andy Bates Brazilian Street Feasts
- 14:05 Botched
- 15:00 WAGs
- 16:00 WAGs
- 17:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 18:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 19:00 E! News
- 20:00 Hollywood Medium With Tyler Henry
- 21:00 Keeping Up With The Kardashians
- 22:00 Botched
- 23:00 E! News
- 00:00 Famously Single
- 00:55 Famously Single
- 01:50 Botched
- 02:20 E! News

H2 HD

- 03:40 Last Days Of The Nazis
- 04:30 Blood And Glory: The Civil War In Color
- 05:20 Ancient Aliens
- 06:10 The Universe
- 07:00 Dogfights
- 08:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 09:00 The Universe
- 10:00 World War II: Lost Films
- 11:00 World War II: Lost Films
- 12:00 Ancient Aliens
- 13:00 Dogfights
- 14:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 15:00 The Universe
- 16:00 World War II: Lost Films
- 17:00 World War II: Lost Films
- 18:00 Ancient Aliens
- 19:00 Patton 360
- 20:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 21:00 The Universe
- 22:00 America: The Story Of The U.S.
- 23:00 Ultimate Guide To The Presidents
- 00:00 Ancient Aliens
- 01:00 Patton 360
- 02:00 Cities Of The Underworld
- 02:50 The Universe

HISTORY HD

- 03:40 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 04:05 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 04:30 Pawn Stars
- 05:00 Time Team
- 06:00 Shipping Wars
- 06:25 Shipping Wars
- 06:50 Swamp People
- 07:40 Mountain Men
- 08:30 American Restoration
- 08:55 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 09:20 Big Rig Bounty Hunters
- 09:45 Alaska Off-Road Warriors
- 10:35 Alone
- 11:25 Time Team
- 12:15 American Pickers
- 13:05 Storage Wars
- 13:30 Storage Wars
- 13:55 Counting Cars: Best Of Car Hunters
- 14:20 Car Hunters
- 14:45 American Restoration
- 15:10 American Restoration
- 15:35 Shipping Wars
- 16:00 Ax Men
- 16:50 Mountain Men
- 17:40 Swamp People
- 18:30 Time Team
- 19:20 American Pickers
- 20:10 Pawn Stars
- 20:35 Pawn Stars
- 21:00 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
- 21:25 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
- 21:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
- 22:40 Britain's Bloody Crown: War Of The Roses
- 23:30 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
- 23:55 Criss Angel: Mindfreak
- 00:20 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
- 01:10 Leapu And Pitbull
- 02:00 Swamp People
- 02:50 Mountain Men
- 03:25 Vera
- 05:15 Eggheads
- 05:45 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
- 07:05 The Chase: Celebrity Specials
- 08:00 Vera
- 09:50 Murdoch Mysteries
- 10:45 Eggheads
- 11:15 The Chase: Celebrity Specials



THE WALK ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times
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Kuwait CINEMA

SHARQIA-1
 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK 11:30 AM
 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK 1:30 PM
 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 3:30 PM
 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 5:30 PM
 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK 7:30 PM
 JAHEEM FI ILHIND 9:45 PM
 THE BFG 12:05 AM

SHARQIA-2
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 11:45 AM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 1:45 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 3:45 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 6:00 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 8:00 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 10:00 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:05 AM

SHARQIA-3
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:30 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 2:30 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 4:30 PM
 SKIPTRACE 6:30 PM
 SKIPTRACE 8:45 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 11:00 PM
 SKIPTRACE 1:00 AM

MUHALAB-1
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 11:45 AM
 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK 1:45 PM
 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 3:45 PM
 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK 5:45 PM
 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 7:45 PM
 SKIPTRACE 9:45 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:05 AM

MUHALAB-2
 SKIPTRACE 1:00 PM
 SKIPTRACE 3:15 PM
 SKIPTRACE 5:30 PM
 JAHEEM FI ILHIND 8:15 PM
 JAHEEM FI ILHIND 10:30 PM
 SKIPTRACE 12:45 AM

MUHALAB-3
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:30 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 2:30 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 4:30 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 6:45 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 9:00 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 11:15 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 1:15 AM

FANAR-1
 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 11:45 AM
 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 1:45 PM
 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK 3:45 PM

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

THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 5:45 PM
 JAHEEM FI ILHIND 7:45 PM
 JAHEEM FI ILHIND 10:00 PM
 JAHEEM FI ILHIND 12:15 AM

FANAR-2
 SKIPTRACE 12:45 PM
 HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE 3:00 PM
 HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE 5:15 PM
 HUNT FOR THE WILDERPEOPLE 7:30 PM
 SKIPTRACE 9:45 PM
 SKIPTRACE 12:05 AM

FANAR-3
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 1:00 PM
 MOHENO DARO - Hindi 3:00 PM
 A FLYING JATT-Hindi 6:00 PM
 A FLYING JATT-Hindi 9:00 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:05 AM

FANAR-4
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 11:30 AM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 1:30 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 3:30 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 5:45 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 8:00 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 10:15 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:45 AM

FANAR-5
 GENIUS 1:00 PM
 GENIUS 3:15 PM
 THE BFG 5:30 PM
 GENIUS 8:00 PM
 GENIUS 10:15 PM
 GENIUS 12:30 AM

MARINA-1
 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK 11:30 AM
 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK 1:15 PM
 MONKEY KING: HERO IS BACK 3:15 PM
 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 5:15 PM
 THE SECRET LIFE OF PETS 7:15 PM
 SKIPTRACE 9:30 PM
 THE BFG 11:45 PM

MARINA-2
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 11:30 AM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 1:30 PM
 SKIPTRACE 3:45 PM
 JAHEEM FI ILHIND 6:15 PM
 JAHEEM FI ILHIND 8:30 PM
 SKIPTRACE 10:45 PM
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 1:00 AM

MARINA-3
 MECHANIC: RESURRECTION 12:00 PM

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PRAYER TIMINGS
 Fajr: 04:02
 Shorook 05:24
 Duhr: 11:49
 Asr: 15:23
 Maghrib: 18:13
 Isha: 19:33

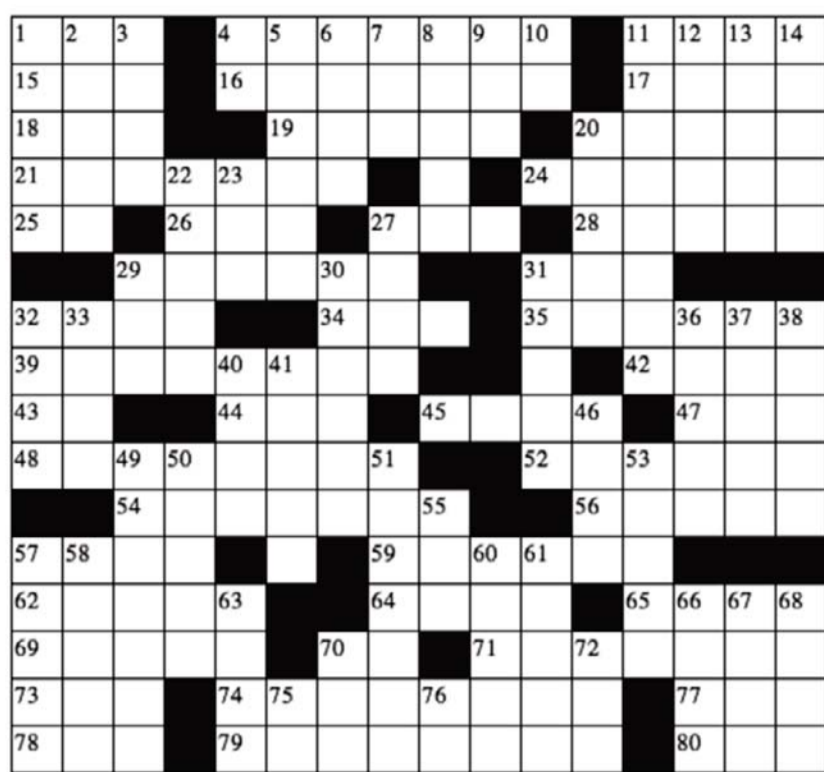
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DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 30/8/2016				Departure Flights on Tuesday 30/8/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	FEG	934	Sohag	13:55
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
MSC	403	Asyut	01:30	AXB	394	Kozhikode	14:45
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
RGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
PJA	642	Amman	01:45	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
KAC	1464	Istanbul	01:50	FBA	832	AI Najaf	15:10
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:00	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
KAC	418	Manila	02:15	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	KAC	188	Dubai	15:50
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	NIA	128	Sharjah	16:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	KAC	252	Alexandria	16:50
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	KAC	266	Beirut	17:10
LMU	5101	Cairo	04:00	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
RBG	551	Alexandria	04:05	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
MEA	406	Beirut	04:10	KAC	781	Jeddah	17:30
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
AVV	653	Alexandria	04:30	JZR	801	Taif	17:45
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	SVA	511	Riyadh	17:45
THY	1414	TZX	05:05	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	6376	Istanbul	05:05	KAC	184	Dubai	18:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	CLX	713	NBO	18:30
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	QTR	1081	Amman	18:45
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	MSR	621	Doha	19:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	285	Cairo	19:30
JZR	529	Asyut	06:40	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
JZR	563	Sohag	06:55	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:30	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:35	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:40	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	KAC	353	BLR	20:55
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
ABY	341	Sharjah	09:05	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
SYR	1070	Damascus	09:15	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	22:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	ALK	230	Colombo	22:25
IRA	675	Lar	09:40	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	THY	1403	ATY	22:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
AVV	651	Alexandria	12:05	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
FEG	961	Sohag	12:55	PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
				KAC	203	Lahore	23:40

CROSSWORD 1358

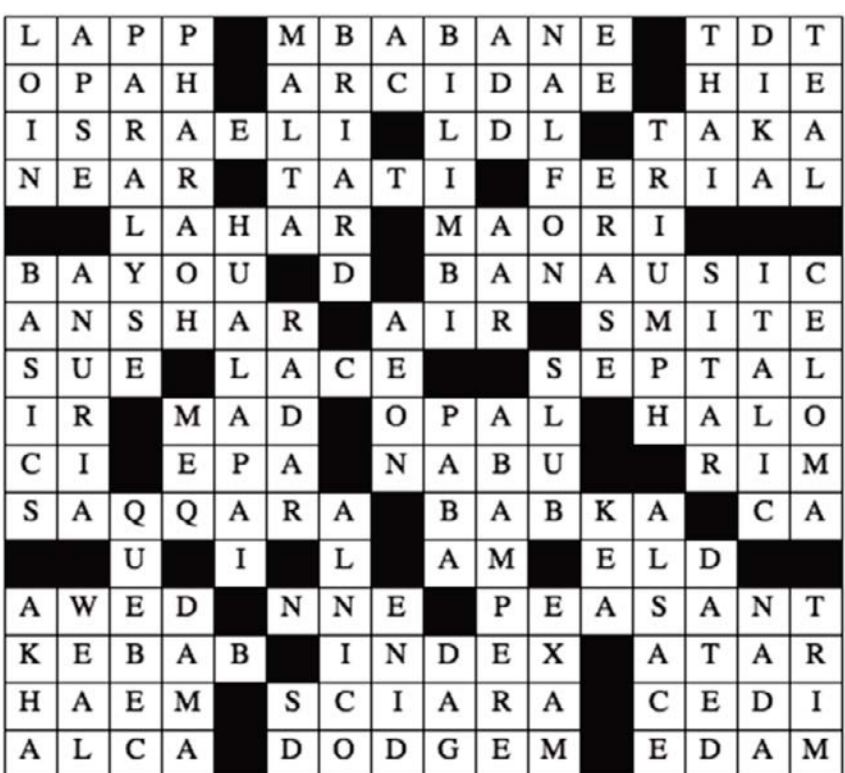


ACROSS

- (of securities) Not quoted on a stock exchange.
- Deciduous trees or some shrubs of North America.
- A fluorocarbon with chlorine.
- (in golf) The standard number of strokes set for each hole on a golf course, or for the entire course.
- Convert into, or infiltrate with melanin.
- The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
- A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
- Pass by, as of time.
- A city in Veneto.
- Small room on a ship or boat where people sleep.
- Dish baked in pastry-lined pan often with a pastry top.
- French novelist.
- A strong post (as on a wharf or quay or ship for attaching mooring lines).
- Make less active or intense.
- An inactive volcano in Sicily.
- An official who evaluates property for the purpose of taxing it.
- A tower with a light that gives warning of shoals to passing ships.
- (in Scotland) A child.
- A cord that is drawn through eyelets or around hooks in order to draw together two edges (as of a shoe or garment).
- The bureau of the Treasury Department responsible for tax collections.
- A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
- A brim that projects to the front to shade the eyes.
- (informal) Of the highest quality.
- A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
- A monocotyledonous grass of the family Gramineae (has only one species).
- Sole genus of the family Naiadaceae.
- A public promotion of some product or service.
- A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
- A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
- Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A metallic element of the rare earth group.
- Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
- The sixth month of the civil year.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A dry cold north wind in SE France.
- Having sections or patches colored differently and usually brightly.
- The use of nuclear magnetic resonance of protons to produce proton density images.
- Type genus of the Aceraceae.
- Not having rhyme.
- A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- Thin fibrous bark of the paper mulberry and Pipturus albidus.
- Decapod having eyes on short stalks and a broad flattened carapace with a small abdomen folded under the thorax and pincers.
- A primeval personification of air and breath.
- The fatty flesh of eel.
- A blow from a flat object (as an open hand).
- Pig-sized tailless South American amphibious rodent with partly webbed feet.
- Remove from political office.
- A statement that deviates from or perverts the truth.
- North American republic containing 50 states - 48 conterminous states in North America plus Alaska in northwest North America and the Hawaiian Islands in the Pacific Ocean.
- A shade of brown with a tinge of red.
- The basic unit of money in Ghana.
- Ancient Italian deity in human shape, with horns, pointed ears and a goat's tail.
- A steep rugged rock or cliff.
- Genus of erect herbs of the Middle East having showy flowers.
- An advanced student or graduate in medicine gaining supervised practical experience ('houseman' is a British term).
- The azimuth of a celestial body is the angle between the vertical plane containing it and the plane of the meridian.
- Any of several small ungulate mammals of Africa and Asia with rodent-like incisors and feet with hooflike toes.
- A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
- (Old Testament) The second patriarch.
- Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago.
- A cord fastened around the neck with an ornamental clasp and worn as a necktie.
- Of the nature of or undergoing an experiment.
- Of or relating to or constituting the Scandinavian group of languages.
- Place a value on.
- An unforeseen obstacle.
- Robust east Asian clump-forming perennial herbs having racemose flowers.
- Any of numerous trees of the family Cupressaceae that resemble cedars.
- An unfledged or nestling hawk.
- (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- (Greek mythology) Monster with nine heads.
- Someone who has or gives or receives a part or a share.
- To gain with effort.
- Rapid and indistinct speech.
- Any of several Old World herbs of the genus Medicago having small flowers and trifoliate compound leaves.
- Lower in esteem.
- A telegram sent abroad.
- The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
- (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
- Disturb in mind or make uneasy or cause to be worried or alarmed.
- An elaborate song for solo voice.
- (computer science) The part of a computer (a microprocessor chip) that does most of the data processing.
- A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
- A condition (mostly in boys) characterized

DOWN

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your support system consists of your family, your home surroundings and those who give you nourishment. These are all comfortable and secure just now. You are able to dispense with some of the irrelevant clutter and develop what is most basic and true-you encourage support. Your confidence has improved over time and your passion moves toward a couple of your goals. Focus and planning bring you closer to success. You are creative in your appearance and may have ideas of designing your own clothes or designing some other area of your living surroundings. A love relationship will be on a more stable foundation. You feel more personal and direct and find that you waste less time with hurt feelings than before.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may be in your own place of business but decide to use the morning to catch up on some of your personal paperwork. Considering you take work home to complete from time to time, you do not feel too bad in taking a bit of time to write a few personal checks of your own. When work does come to your attention you are able to use your creative mind to solve problems and complete projects quickly. A friend may have ideas on new ways for you to invest. Although this may be a good choice, you might feel more secure with further information on the company or type of investment. Beating the odds through cleverness is appealing and may lead to an interest in all kinds of financial speculation. A young child depends on your emotional support tonight.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Quick answers, great wit and an abundant supply of insights and solutions are usually your attraction. Today, some of the work matters that come to your attention may call for a conference with superiors. There are matters about which you are not aware and by seeking advice, you will have a little different idea about how to approach one or two of the work matters. Success follows your careful judgment. You may have ideas about teaching children character issues in the school system and how to implement your ideas throughout the country. This is a good time to write and communicate with real originality. Inventions and breakthrough ideas are possible. Romance and other things that tug at the heartstrings come your way this evening.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may go through a lot of changes that affect your sense of security this year. Your home and family situation could be a focus for growth and real learning-an area of great sensitivity or vulnerability. Events could occur that make it difficult for you to fulfill your plans. If it is allowed, you might wear earphones to listen to some music that will help to block out the outside sounds and allow you to complete your work without interruption. You have a very practical sense of how to make your dreams real-use that vision and show young people how to be positive through the example of your actions. You will reach beyond previous limitations. Your marital status is in the spotlight tonight and all is positive.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Whether you are in your living area or in the work field-taking care of business is a major theme where your emotional orientation is concerned. You crave organization and practicality and you want to get things accomplished. You know just what to do and can act without hurry. Work, achievement and ambition mean a lot to you. This is a good time to set up your appointments or plans for next week's work. Today is a very nice day, perhaps filled with some renewed appreciation for all that is beautiful. This afternoon may find you lavishing affection on those near you. You might feel love or value for an older person and will probably spend some time visiting or aiding in their care. Smile, it is contagious!



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You seem more able to bring imagination to bear on your goals and ambitions now. You might find your ideals taking more of a spiritual turn. You have also learned to concentrate more on the content of a subject instead of the outer covering. There is deep and radical change in how you express and enjoy yourself. You may undergo a transformation away from the superficial and toward deep, emotional release and self-expression. Music and the arts may become your means of psychological expression-certainly more involvement in creative arts is due. An antique dealer has just what you have been looking for-have it put on hold until after your birthday. There is time tonight for friends and family.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today you may be curious about how you might fit into a new job opening. You will be redefining who and what you might want to involve yourself with in the future. A little time alone at the noon break may help you gain some ideas into new possibilities for yourself. You may find yourself being put to good use by your friends, bringing all kinds of good experiences your way. A visitor enjoys the feelings that come with being around you and your surroundings, and may compliment you on your tastes or belongings. Now is the time to stop helping someone close to you. It could be time for this person to stand on her or his own. This may mean a child or a friend is in need of discovering some self-accomplishments.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a nice day that should flow along very well. In particular, you will do well in activities that include children, young people and your home and surroundings. In contemplating the future you may feel real support. The realization that time is slipping by is not too far out of your thoughts and you think about changes that will help you reach your goals. Someone in your life is negative. You may realize that you are not responsible for anyone else's behavior, feelings, words or thoughts. You can be helpful by setting a good example. Let it flow and move forward. Go to your goals list and congratulate yourself on your progress. Think about ways to create changes or action that will help you to gain a closer view of your goals. You influence others.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You may appear very relaxed and easygoing today. Everything seems to be working together and you may find yourself able to communicate very well. This period often brings a sudden change of fortune for the better and is considered a lucky time. While shopping you may find the right piece of clothing for a particular outing, etc. You are someone who usually is filled with energy and optimism. Today you may be purchasing tickets for the latest hit show. Later this afternoon you will become involved in some fun-loving as well as some deep, searching conversations with relatives. You may enjoy activities with your friends later. Parties, social gatherings, and visiting a gadget store or bookstore are some of the things you could involve yourself with now.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

The mind, including all that is mental, is the source of change and adjustment. Letters, writing, speaking and all things having to do with communication and cognitive activity are the topics of the day. Your mind tends to be engrossed with thoughts, ideas and concepts and remains in almost a constant flux. This is a time to absorb and take in new impressions and information. Reach beyond previous limitations. An obligation that was serious in the first place can no longer be regarded as your own. Your marital status is in the spotlight as you discover that your mate is willing to do something to go to a place you have always wanted to experience. You are feeling good and your mood is high. Balance and harmony are most satisfying.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

There could be blocked emotions today along with the feeling of being frustrated by others but you do not let it slow you down for long. Confusing situations can be straightened out rather quickly. By this afternoon most of the frustrations will be forgotten. So far, this has been an incredible week, full of inspirations that have been shared and new insights gleaned. There are new techniques to employ in order to reach your long-term goals. A strong devotional nature becomes apparent to anyone who takes time to know the real you; all else follows upon this inner drive. The search for a mate and marriage in particular are crucial for you. If you are in a relationship, take the opportunity to do some fun activity with a loved one this evening.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Travel and other contacts with faraway people and places will play a big role for you now. You will find that you can really think things through as you use some new information in making clear choices. Career decisions are straightforward and easy to make. You are able to successfully present your ideas and concepts to others. Higher education or philosophical as well as religious contacts could have a part in making good things happen. There is a greater appreciation for things of value and that creates a desire to purchase investments. This could be a period of great material gain; a product review is recommended before a purchase. If you are interested in exceptional antique items, taking a class in the subject would be a smart move.

WORD SEARCH

60's Songs 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

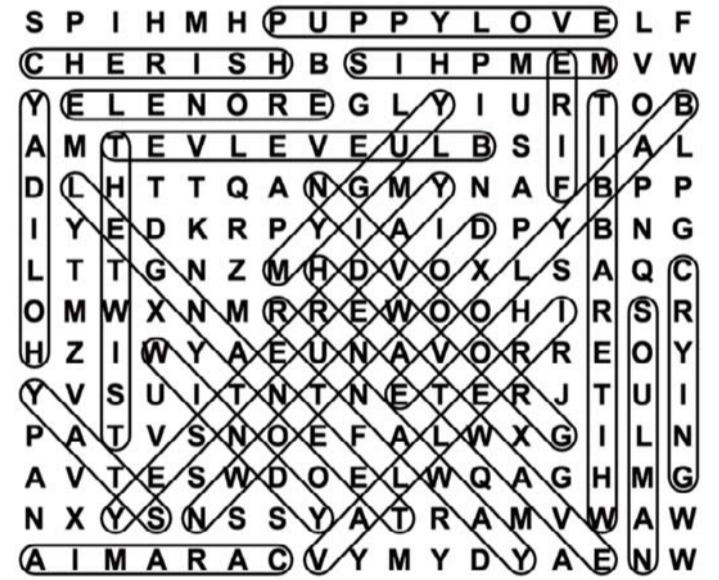


- BLUE MOON
- BUS STOP
- CHAIN GANG
- CRAZY
- DIZZY
- EL PASO
- FINGERTIPS
- GALVESTON
- HAIR
- HEY JUDE
- LAST KISS
- MY GIRL
- PEOPLE
- RESPECT
- SHERRY
- SPOOKY
- SURF CITY
- THE BOXER
- THESE EYES
- VOLARE
- WILD THING
- WIPEOUT
- WORDS

Yesterday Solution

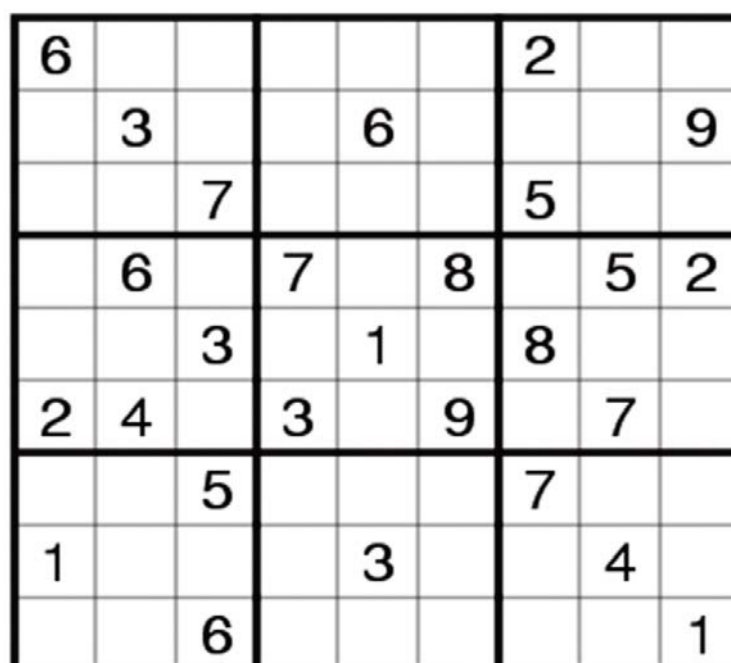
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

60's Songs 1 - Solution

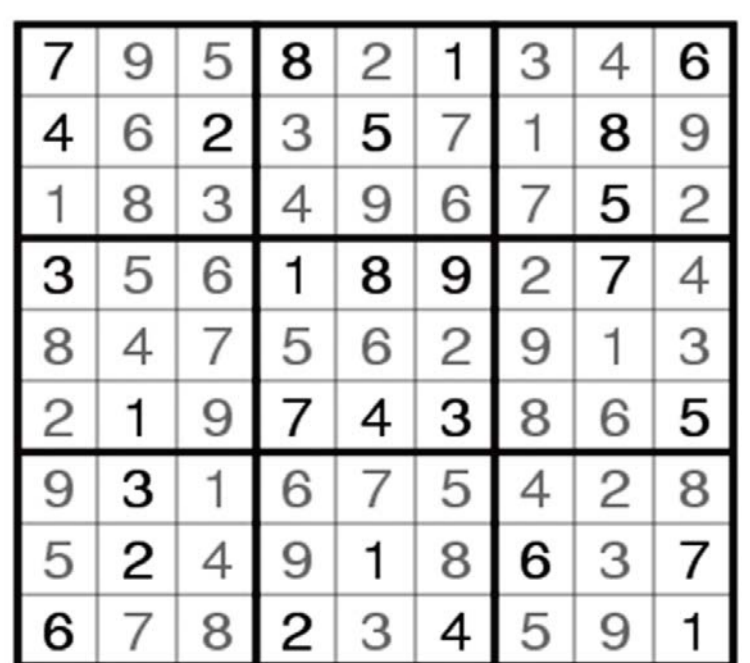


- BABY LOVE
- BLUE VELVET
- CARA MIA
- CHERISH
- CRYING
- DOWNTOWN
- ELENORE
- FIRE
- GROOVIN
- HEATWAVE
- HOLIDAY
- MEMPHIS
- MY GUY
- PUPPY LOVE
- RUNAWAY
- SOUL MAN
- STAY
- TEEN ANGEL
- THE TWIST
- VALLERI
- WHITE RABBIT
- WINDY
- YESTERDAY

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

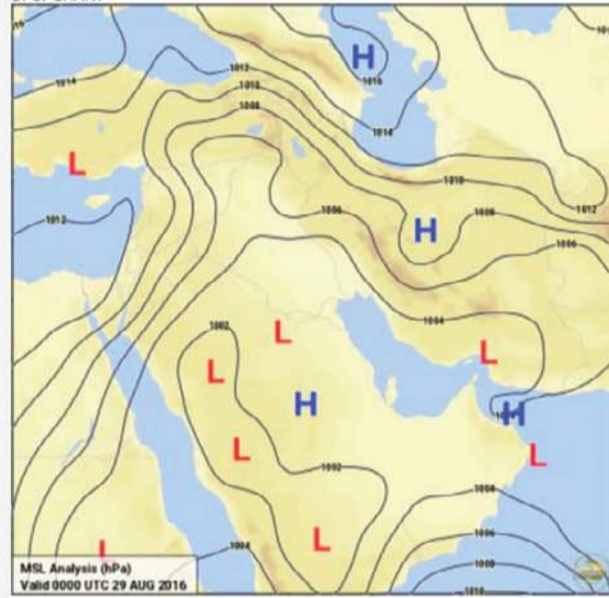
Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

Issued 29/08/2016-07:00 LT UTC +3hr

Max Temperature 48 °C

By Day : Very hot and relatively humid with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h
By Night : Relatively humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly changing to south westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	V.hot R.humid over coastal areas + high clouds	Very hot + R.humid over coasts	very hot	very hot
Min Temp °C	28	29	29	28
Max Temp °C	48	49	49	48
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	north westerly changing to south easterly	north westerly	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	10 - 30	12 - 35	15 - 38

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C REC	Max °C EXP
KUWAIT CITY	35	45
KUWAIT AIRPORT	28	48
ABDALY	29	48
BUBYAN	33	41
JAHRA	32	49
FAILAKA ISLAND	31	44
SALMIYAH	34	41
AHMADI	34	39
JAL ALIYAH	30	49
QAROH ISLAND	34	40
UMM AL-MARADEM	33	39
NUWAISIB	27	45
WAFRA	26	47
MANAGISH	31	49
SALMY	33	48
MUTRIBA	31	50

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	47
Min Temp (°C)	29
Max Rel Hum (%)	38
Min Rel Hum (%)	10
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	36 SE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm
Sunrise	05:24
Sunset	18:14

Prayer Times

Fajr	04:02
Sunrise	05:24
Zuhr	11:49
Asr	15:23
Sunset	18:14
Isha	19:34



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	Psychiatrists
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	Gynaecologists & Obstetricians
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoubi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	Internists, Chest & Heart
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dr. Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	Rheumatologists:
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	Internist, Chest & Heart
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135
Dr. Mohammed Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	25339330
Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25658888
	25329924
	25722291
	22666288
	25330060
	25722290
	24555050 Ext 210
	2611555-2622555
	2575077
	25723123

Psychologists / Psychotherapists	Soor Center	Kaizen center	Noor Clinic	William Schuilenberg, RPC
info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	25716707	23845955	2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

GOSSIP

GABBY DOUGLAS HOSPITALIZED, MISSES MTV VIDEO MUSIC AWARDS



Olympic gymnastics star Gabby Douglas was hospitalized Sunday night, forcing her to miss a scheduled appearance with her US teammates at the MTV Video Music Awards. "Gabby is back in the hospital tonight being treated for a seriously infected past mouth injury. She continues to have deep swelling and adverse reactions to medications," publicist Lesley Burbridge said in an email to The Associated Press. Earlier Sunday, 20-year-old Douglas posted

on social media that she was out of the hospital. "Out of the hospital & resting comfortably," Douglas said on Instagram. "#FinalFive so sad I can't be with u all to present tonight @MTV thank u xoxo #VMAs #myview." Douglas had been scheduled to present an award alongside teammates Simone Biles, Laurie Hernandez, Madison Kocian and Aly Raisman at Madison Square Garden.



Bieber is back on Instagram after a 2-week break

Justin Bieber's nearly 78 million Instagram followers can rejoice: The pop star is back. Bieber left Instagram for two weeks ago amid criticism of pictures of him and Lionel Richie's daughter Sofia from fans of Bieber's ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez. Before his account disappeared, he responded to the negativity by writing, "I'm gonna make my Instagram private if you guys don't stop the hate this is getting out of hand, if you guys are really fans you wouldn't be so mean to people that I like." His account has returned to public view with week-old pictures and videos of Bieber introducing his new dog, Todd. Bieber's return is being celebrated on Twitter with #JustinReactivatedParty. It follows the #JustinDeactivatedParty trend that popped up when he left Instagram.



Mariah Carey's sister arrested on prostitution charges

The sister of pop star Mariah Carey has been arrested on prostitution charges in upstate New York. Police tell the Daily Freeman of Kingston that 55-year-old Alison Carey was arrested in Saugerties (SAW'-ger-teez) on Friday following an investigation at a hotel. Police say she solicited money in exchange for sex from an undercover police officer. Police describe Carey as a transient, and say she advertised her serv-

ices online. Saugerties Police Chief Joseph Sinagra tells the newspaper that she identified herself as the performer's sister when she was arrested. Carey is due in Saugerties Town Court on Aug 30. It wasn't immediately clear if she had an attorney who could comment on the charges.

Parker talks male privilege, consent in new interview

Nate Parker, the actor-director dealing with a 17-year-old rape case casting a storm over his new film and career, opened up about the incident in a new interview. Parker spoke about understanding his male privilege and the definition of consent in a lengthy interview Friday with Ebony magazine in Los Angeles. Earlier this month, the Hollywood trade press began to run stories about a 1999 rape allegation made against Parker when he was a student at Penn State University. Parker was charged and later acquitted. The accuser killed herself in 2012. Earlier this month, he gave two interviews to Variety and Deadline that received much attention. He told Ebony that in those interviews he "was acting as if I was the victim, and that's wrong," Parker wrote, directed and will star in "The Birth of a Nation," out in October. The film, about Nat Turner and the slave rebellion, is already generating Oscar buzz. "I called a couple of sisters that (I) know that are in the space that talk about the feminist movement and toxic masculinity, and just asked questions. What did I do wrong? Because I was thinking about myself. And what I realized is that I never took a moment to think about the woman," he told Ebony he did after his first pair of interviews. "I didn't think about her (the accuser) then, and I didn't think about her when I was saying those statements, which was wrong and insensitive." Parker said that he needs to seek information that will make him stronger,



"that'll help me overcome my toxic masculinity, my male privilege, because that's something you never think about." When asked if he thought about the rape case over the last 17 years, he said he "hadn't thought about it at all." Though Parker was acquitted, his college roommate and "Birth" collaborator Jean Celestin was initially found guilty of sexual assault. Celestin appealed and it was later overturned when the accuser declined to testify for a retrial. "The Birth of a Nation" will be released Oct 7. It had won top prizes at the Sundance Film Festival.

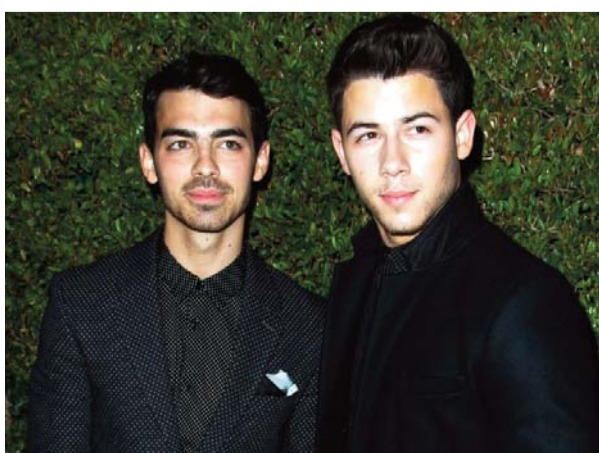
Nick and Joe Jonas get matching tattoos ahead of the MTV VMAs

Nick and Joe Jonas got matching tattoos ahead of the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday night. The siblings may have hit the stage at the glamorous ceremony, held at Madison Square Garden in New York, separately last night but they were determined to get something done as a duo just before their solo moments. Taking to his Snapchat account ahead of the star-studded event in the Big Apple, Nick recorded his older brother getting an arrow carved into his flesh by a body artist before it was his turn to take to the parlor chair for his ink. The 23-year-old hunk got his design on his left bicep, pointing out, while his brother got the same on the right. He later uploaded a photograph on his social networking site of their body art alongside the caption: "Boom" Meanwhile, Nick later took to the stage to perform a rendition of 'Bacon' alongside Ty Dolla Sign while Joe and his new band DNCE collected their prize for Best New Artist. It's an exciting time for Joe and his new group as he recently revealed they would be joining Selena Gomez on the UK leg of her world tour later this year. His love life is also looking up as it's believed he's dating Brazilian model Daiane Sodre following his heart-breaking split from Gigi Hadid, who left him to romance Zayn Malik, last year. A source said recently: "Joe is super happy with Daiane. They've been together for a while now. He's pretty content with the relationship which is out of character for him."



Ariana Grande has confirmed she's dating Mac Miller

The 23-year-old singer sparked rumors she was dating the rapper a few months ago when she uploaded a video on Snapchat of them looking a little too close for comfort but now she's finally announced she's off the market after she was questioned at the MTV Video Music Awards (VMAs) at Madison Square Garden in New York on Sunday. Ahead of her energetic performance with Nicki Minaj, the pint-size beauty promised she would send Mac "your regards" when pre-show host Charlamagne Tha God questioned her on her new relationship status. When he asked where the rapper was, she said: "Being supportive. It's okay to be alone even when you have a boo." The new couple decided to skip the red carpet in order to avoid any unwanted attention but couldn't keep their hands off one another as they watched the show from their seats. However, Mac wasn't the only man in Ariana's life to support her during her performance as her older brother Frankie Grande - who has just finished competing on the UK's 'Celebrity Big Brother' - also watched from the seating area. Ariana and Mac, 24, then went on to dance the night away at an after party in the Big Apple together. Meanwhile, Ariana's new romance comes a year after she split from Big Sean following eight months of dating. It was initially thought the pair's clashing work schedules were to blame for their separation but it was later claimed the 'Into You' hit-maker called time on their love after the 28-year-old rapper sung about her "billion dollar p***y." — Agencies



Drake late to VMAs due to traffic

Drake couldn't accept his trophy at the MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday because he was stuck in traffic. The 29-year-old rapper won the Best Hip Hop Video accolade for his song 'Hotline Bling' at Madison Square Garden in New York but was unable to collect his prize as he was held up. His late arrival to the glamorous event meant the presenter Diddy - who he famously feuded with in the past - kept the silver and gold statue until he turned up later to receive it. It seems Drake wasn't having the best of luck at the ceremony as just after he presented his rumored girlfriend Rihanna with the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award, he tripped over the 28-year-old beauty's dress as they headed backstage. The hunky star missed his step but tried to right himself before anyone noticed by leaping over Rihanna's golden gown. However, he seemingly stamped on her foot by accident as she let out a yelp before checking on the clumsy rapper. Determined to make light of the embarrassing situation, which was caught on camera, Drake claimed: "I'm jumping!" Meanwhile, just before his little blunder, the rapper appeared to be on cloud nine as he declared his love for Rihanna while presenting her with her prestigious award on stage. He said before giving her the trophy: "She's someone I've been in love with since I was 22 years old. She's one of my best friends in the world. All my adult life, I've looked up to her, even though she's younger than me. She's a living, breathing legend in our industry, ladies and gentleman, the recipient of the Michael Jackson Vanguard Award for 2016, Rihanna."



Juan Gabriel, legendary Mexican singer, dies at 66

Juan Gabriel, one of Mexico's leading singers and songwriters, died Sunday. He was 66. TMZ reports that Gabriel died in Santa Monica, Calif., of a suspected heart attack. His body is currently with the Los Angeles County medical examiner, and no foul play is expected. Gabriel had just embarked on the biggest tour of his career. He was in the middle of the US leg of his 22-city MeXXico Es Todos tour, playing to sold-out crowds on 360 stages. He had most recently performed in Los Angeles at the Forum on Friday night. The Mexican icon was one of the country's top earners in music. Over his career, Gabriel has sold more than 30 million records. Last year, he earned \$11.6 million in touring revenue. His 13th album, "Los Duo," was the top-selling Latin album of the year in 2015. Gabriel was born Alberto Aguilera Valadez in the small town of Paracuaro, Michoacan, in 1950, the youngest of ten siblings. He got his start in music at a young age, being sent to boarding school at the age of five where a teacher, Juan Contreras, encouraged his singing and writing talents. He ran away from boarding school at the age of 15. He would go on to sign a record contract with RCA Records in 1971, when he was 21, and officially changed his name. He became known to fans for his songs of love and heartbreak. On stage, he performed his mariachi tunes flamboyantly, jumping about in bright colors and sequined jackets. Over the course of his career, he received many honors, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from La Opinion Tributo Nacional, a People's Choice Latin Music Award and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.





Performers in costume parade on the first day of the Notting Hill Carnival in west London. — AFP photos

More than 100 arrested, dozens hurt at Notting Hill Carnival



London police arrested more than 100 people amid sporadic violence Sunday at the annual Notting Hill Carnival, an annual celebration of Caribbean culture in the British capital that often includes trouble on the sidelines. The Metropolitan Police reported at least four knife attacks during the opening day of the two-day festival in west London. It said four males aged 15 to 20 were wounded, with one 15-year-old boy hospitalized in critical condition. Sunday's festivities included a colorful child-oriented parade through west London that attracted tens of thousands of revelers, many of whom danced in the streets to the sound of steel drums and reggae bands.

Scores of paramedics were on hand to provide MASH-style units for carnival-goers injured or unwell from alcohol or drugs. Medical beds were deployed at roadsides in some locations. The London Ambulance Service reported shortly before midnight that 411 people had received medical care at the carnival, 77 of whom needed to be hospitalized. Police said 105 people were arrested on charges that included drug possession, carrying knives, assault, sexual offenses and theft. The carnival, founded in 1966 by West Indian immigrants following the Notting Hill race riots of 1958, frequently has involved clashes with police. Many local businesses have closed during the event since 1977, when police stormed the carnival amid looting of shops. The 2008 festivities ended in a street riot.

Last year, police arrested 407 people, a record for an event where knifings committed by youth gangs have become a troubling trend. This year police have deployed a 7,000-strong force to keep the peace. The carnival remains one of Europe's biggest street parties with hundreds of thousands attending each year. It takes place at the end of August on the last two days of a three-day weekend. — AP



Revelers line the streets on the first day of the Notting Hill Carnival in west London.



AWARDS



US singer Beyonce accepts an award on stage. AP/AFP photos

Beyonce proves she's in a lane of her own at **MTV VMAs**



Beyonce attends the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards at Madison Square Garden.



Beyonce accepts the award for "Video of the Year" onstage.



From (left) Jack Lawless, JinJoo Lee, Cole Whittle and Joe Jonas of DNCE accept the award for Best New Artist onstage.

Beyonce proved once again she is the contemporary rock star, and she used the MTV Video Music Awards stage to showcase her skills and outshine her peers, from Rihanna to Britney Spears. Beyonce won eight awards, including video of the year, and performed five songs from her visual album "Lemonade" in an epic 16-minute concert Sunday that had the audience at Madison Square Garden in awe. She sang live, danced heavily and worked the crowd as she ran through "Pray You Catch Me," "Hold Up," "Sorry," "Don't Hurt Yourself" and "Formation," which won the top prize over Adele, Drake, Justin Bieber and Kanye West.

"First of all, I'd like to thank my beautiful daughter and my incredible husband for all of their support," said Beyonce, who walked the carpet with daughter Blue Ivy and the mothers of Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown and Eric Garner - who all appeared in "Lemonade" movie. It was reminiscent of the 2014 VMAs, when Beyonce also performed for 16 minutes and accepted the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard award. This year it was awarded to Rihanna, who split up her performances throughout the night, singing hits such as "Work," "We Found Love" and "Love on the Brain." But the biggest moment for Rihanna came when Drake - in a tuxedo - presented the award to his former girlfriend. He said he met Rihanna in 2005 on the set of her first music video for "Pon de Replay."

My family, my fans, my country

"She's someone I've been in love with her since I was 22 years old," Drake said as Rihanna blushed and the audience cheered loudly. "She's one of my best friends in the world. All of my adult life I've looked up to her even though she's younger than me." Rihanna, 28, thanked her family, friends and hometown of Saint Michael, Barbados, for helping her succeed in her 11-year-career. "My success started as my dream, but now my success is not my own. It's my family, my fans, my country...it's women, it's black women," she said.

Beyonce's top-notch performance starkly contrasted with that of Spears, who returned to the VMA stage after 10 years. Not only did she lip sync, in typical fashion, but she did so badly. Spears performed her hit "Make Me..." and danced slickly, but she didn't actually sing a word of the song live. She was joined by rapper G-Eazy - and she lip synched the hook to his hit song, "Me, Myself and I." In true Kanye fashion, the rapper ranted onstage, touching on subjects from music to his beef with Taylor Swift to violence in his hometown Chicago before he debuted his music video for "Fade," which starred Teyana Taylor. He talked about his "Famous" video, which features what appear to be naked images of himself, his wife Kim Kardashian, Swift, Donald Trump and others. He even pointed to former girlfriend Amber Rose, who was in the audience and is also in the video.

Drake won best hip hop video for "Hotline Bling" and Calvin Harris won best male video for "This Is What You Came For." David Bowie - who died from cancer earlier this year - received four nominations for "Lazarus" and won best art direction. The music video, which shows him looking frail in bed with bandaged eyes, was released just days before the

icon's Jan 10 death. Performers included Nick Jonas, The Chainsmokers, Ty Dolla Sign and Ariana Grande, who brought spin class to the VMA stage when she sang the reggae-tinged "Side to Side" with Nicki Minaj.

Introducing Future

In one of several odes to the recent Olympic Games, Michael Phelps said he's been inspired by hip-hop music before introducing Future, who Phelps said he listened to before swimming and making the grimace that went viral. The rapper-singer-producer performed his hit "(Explicative) Up Some Commas." Jimmy Fallon, who presented video of the year, dressed as Ryan Lochte and even sported the platinum



Beyonce (center) and guests arrive for the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards.

blonde hair. As Lochte - who is dealing with trouble after filing a false robbery report over an incident during the Rio Olympics - Fallon lied onstage about writing Justin Bieber's "Sorry" and directing the clips nominated for video of the year.

Other presenters include Alicia Keys, Puff Daddy and four of the Final Five gymnasts (Gabby Douglas was hospitalized for a mouth infection). Adele was behind Beyonce with eight nominations, but the British singer did not attend the show and did not win any Moon Men. Beyonce's wins included best female video, pop video, breakthrough long-form video, choreography, direction, cinematography and editing. — AP



Photos show Rihanna (center) performing onstage during the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards.

AWARDS



Ty Dolla \$ign poses in the pressroom.



Ansel Elgort poses in the press room at the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards.



Britney Spears arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards.



Naomi Campbell poses in the press room at the MTV Video Music Awards.



Sean 'Diddy' Combs speaks onstage.



Alex Pall, left, and Andrew Taggart of The Chainsmokers, perform with Halsey at the MTV Video Music Awards.



Actress Dascha Polanco



From (left) Ally Brooke, Lauren Jauregui, Normandi Kordei, Dinah Jane Hansen and Camila Cabello of Fifth Harmony and Ty Dolla \$ign accept the award for Best Collaboration.



Future performs on stage.

Winners

Video of the year: Beyonce, "Formation."
Female video: Beyonce, "Hold Up."
Male video: Calvin Harris feat. Rihanna, "This Is What You Came For."
New artist: DNCE.
Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award: Rihanna.
Pop video: Beyonce, "Formation."
Hip hop video: Drake, "Hotline Bling."
Rock video: twenty one pilots, "Heathens."
Electronic video: Calvin Harris & Disciples, "How Deep Is Your Love."
Collaboration video: Fifth Harmony feat. Ty Dolla \$ign, "Work from Home."
Breakthrough long-form video: Beyonce, "Lemonade"
Song of summer: Fifth Harmony feat. Fetty Wap, "All in My Head (Flex)."
Art direction: David Bowie, "Blackstar" (Jan Houllévigue).
Choreography: Beyonce, "Formation" (Chris Grant, JaQuel Knight, Dana Foglia).
Direction: Beyonce, "Formation" (Melina Matsoukas).
Cinematography: Beyonce, "Formation" (Malik Sayeed).
Editing: Beyonce, "Formation" (Jeff Selis).
Visual effects: Coldplay, "Up&Up" (Vania Heymann). — AP



Nick Jonas



Singer Tinashe



Hailee Steinfeld speaks onstage.



Jimmy Fallon presents the award for Video of the Year.



Kim Kardashian West, left, and Kanye West arrive at the MTV Video Music Awards.



Drake presents Rihanna with the The Video Vanguard Award.



Ariana Grande arrives at the MTV Video Music Awards.



Madison Kocian, Aly Raisman, Simone Biles and Laurie Hernandez present Best Female Video onstage.



Model Heidi Klum



Shameik Moore, left, and Jaden Smith introduce the award for best collaboration video.



Chance The Rapper poses in the press room at the MTV Video Music Awards.



Nick Cannon



Performers in costume pose on the second day of the Notting Hill Carnival in west London yesterday. Nearly one million people are expected by the organizers in the streets of west London's Notting Hill to celebrate Caribbean culture at a carnival considered the largest street demonstration in Europe. — AFP

How to convert your spare room into a dream closet

Longing for a bigger closet?

Remember that rooms in your home don't have to be used the way they were originally intended. Get creative and convert a small room into the ultimate walk-in closet, says Egypt Sherrod, host of HGTV's "Flipping Virgins" and "Property Virgins." "Homes built before the '80s just didn't have the room size that today's buyers have become used to, or the walk-in closets we've been trained to expect," she says. You've picked out your dream flooring, new appliances and cabinets-okay, so how are you going to pay for that renovation? Giving up a room can be a big decision. The trick is doing it on a minimal budget and retaining the flexibility to use the room differently in the future, says Kevin O'Connor, host of PBS' "This Old House."

Choosing the space

Ideally, use the bedroom closest to the master bedroom, says Sherrod: "That way you have the option of opening up the wall to go directly in." Creating a doorway in a wall is relatively minor construction and can easily be undone, experts say.

DIY creativity

The simplest way to convert a small room is by lining the

walls with clothing racks on wheels and with free-standing wire shelving units. You can customize the space by adding colorful bins and baskets. Or you can create shelving that expresses your personal style. For a recent "This Old House" episode, O'Connor worked with a homeowner to build closet storage out of black metal pipes with wooden shelves. The industrial look brought a dose of style to the space, and the unit was sturdy.

"The few places they anchor to the wall give you nice rigidity," O'Connor says, but the shelves also are easily removable.

Another DIY project: To fill the centre of a room that Sherrod converted to a closet, she brought in two large bureaux of the same height and arranged them back-to-back. She had a sheet of granite cut to cover the tops, creating a work island that combines storage and a flat surface for arranging accessories or stacking folded laundry.

Interior designer Mikel Welch, previously a competitor on "HGTV Design Stars," says another option is bringing in a pretty table for the centre of the room. "For those who like to lay out their attire to help them choose their outfit for the day, a table would be perfect," he says. And for changing or trying

things on, "having a snazzy upholstered bench or chaise in the space will certainly come in handy." The finishing touch: Prop up a framed, full-length mirror on one wall. "It's sort of a boutique hotel look," O'Connor says, and easy to remove if you repurpose the room.

Consider a system

For a finished look with no DIY effort, there are many closet systems that offer a mix of hanging space and shelves. Some are free-standing and others are anchored to the walls.

The more permanent systems are made to look like built-ins, Welch says, and "are a great way to maximize the space with a more customized look." He recommends California Closets and Poliform for portable closets and wardrobe units. He also likes the Italian brand Porro Storage: "They put a chic spin on a typical storage unit," he says. Additional pieces worth considering: "A great planning tool is a valet rod, which is a pullout rod that you can lay out your outfit for the next day on or use for staging for a trip," says Sarah Fishburne, director of trend and design at Home Depot. "I use mine all the time." If you have enough space, she suggests adding jewelry trays and racks designed for belts and ties: "Some

spin, and some you can slide out with plenty of space," she says.

Bonuses and obstacles

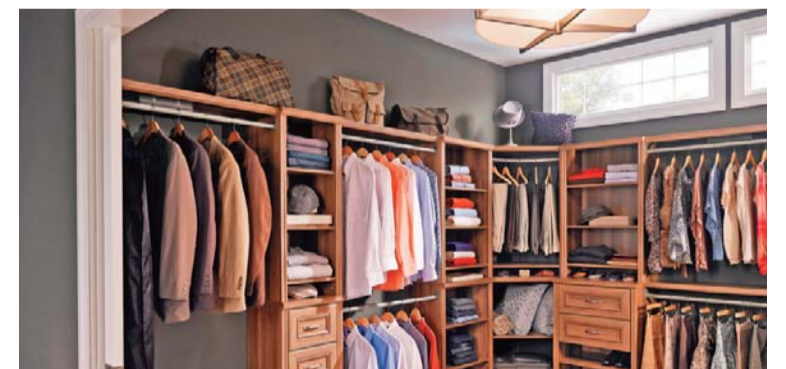
A bedroom repurposed as a closet has ventilation and natural light that's lacking in many closets. "For people who care about getting the tie to match the jacket," O'Connor says, "there's nothing better than natural light."

For the best possible lighting, Fishburne suggests adding dimmers to a walk-in closet and choosing lightbulbs carefully (she likes LED daylight bulbs).

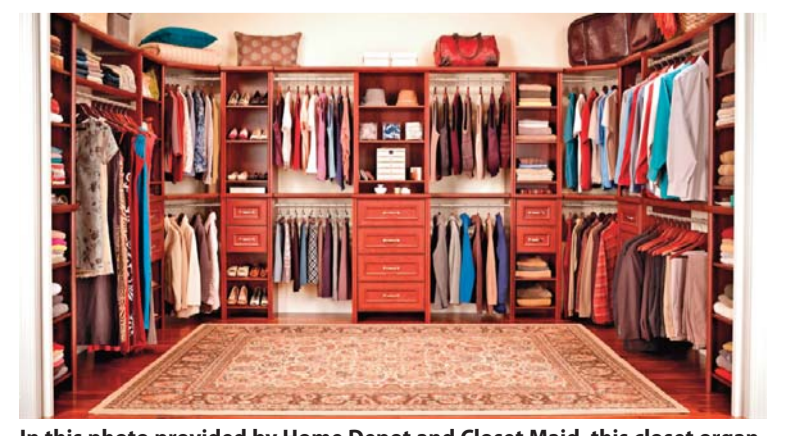
One challenge: Closet doors are designed to swing out, but bedroom doors generally swing into the room. So the door to your new walk-in closet will swing in unless you decide to remove it. Adding sliding pocket doors can be expensive, O'Connor says, but they're a nice luxury to finish off your ultimate walk-in closet. — AP



In this photo provided by Home Depot and Home Decorators Collection, this closet organization system available at Home Depot includes a center island that serves as storage, seating and a work surface for folding clothes or organizing outfits. — AP photos



This photo provided by courtesy of Closet Maid shows a closet system available at Home Depot that offers a mix of hanging space, open shelving and closed storage, perfect for quickly converting a spare room into a dramatic walk-in closet.



In this photo provided by Home Depot and Closet Maid, this closet organization system available at Home Depot offers a built-in appearance, but can be removed to be used elsewhere if the homeowner needs change.