

Interior Ministry probes police station video



Man shoots dead five, injures 20 in Serbian café



Wales thump Belgium, book first ever semis



Taliban leader warns US 'end the occupation'

Ramadan Timings

Emsak:	03:08
Fajer:	03:18
Shrooq:	04:53
Dohr:	11:52
Asr:	15:26
Maghreb:	18:51
Eshaa:	20:23

150 FILS
NO: 16923
40 PAGES

HOSTAGE CARNAGE LEAVES 20 DEAD IN BANGLADESH

KUWAITIS SAFE; ISLAMIC STATE CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY

Min 35°
Max 46°
High Tide 04:20 & 17:50
Low Tide 09:59

QIYAM PRAYERS HELD AMID TIGHT SECURITY

INTERIOR, AWQAF MINISTERS JOIN WORSHIPPERS • ATTENDANCE MUTED

By Shakir Reshamwala

KUWAIT: Thousands of worshippers converged on the Grand Mosque early yesterday to spend the night of the 27th of Ramadan in prayer and supplication, as Kuwait is on heightened security alert amid turmoil in the region. But the number of worshippers was markedly fewer than in previous years, which used to witness the faithful praying on the streets, and vehicles caught in a snarl stretching for kilometers.

The low attendance was possibly due to tightened security measures and multiple layers of security checks. Worshippers had to pass through metal detectors and body pat downs before entering the mosque under the watchful gaze of security forces. Streets surrounding the mosque were cordoned off, and traffic was light. Huge marquees that were pitched outside the mosque in previous years to house worshippers were not set up this year, as Ramadan tents were banned by the interior ministry this year. Eid prayers in open grounds have also been canceled this year due to security concerns.

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KUWAIT: Kuwaiti men pray at the Sunni Grand Mosque in Kuwait City yesterday during the Laylat Al-Qadr, or Night of Destiny. (Inset) Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah (second right) and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Yaqoub Al-Sanea (center) pray at the Sunni Grand Mosque in Kuwait City yesterday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

DHAKA: Islamist militants killed 20 people, most of them foreigners, inside an upmarket restaurant in Bangladesh's capital, before security forces stormed the building and ended a 12-hour standoff yesterday. Islamic State said it was responsible for one of the most brazen attacks in the South Asian nation's history, but that claim has yet to be confirmed. It marks a major escalation in a campaign by militants over the past 18 months that had targeted mostly individuals advocating a secular or liberal lifestyle in majority-Muslim Bangladesh.

The gunmen, who stormed the busy restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic area late on Friday night, ordered all Bangladeshis to stand up before they began killing foreigners, a source briefed on the police investigation said. Among the dead was the wife of an Italian businessman killed by a machete. She was found by her husband after he spent all night hiding behind a tree outside the cafe while the gunmen were inside, Agnese Barolo, a friend who lives in Dhaka and spoke to him, told Reuters.

Seven Italians were in the cafe when the attack started, including several working in the garment industry, Italian media have reported, while seven Japanese citizens were unaccounted for. The killing of foreigners will likely shatter the confidence of the expatriate community in Bangladesh, many of whom work for multinationals in the country's \$26 billion garment sector that accounts for around 15 percent of the economy. Bangladesh is the world's second largest apparel exporter after China. Thirteen hostages were rescued, including one Japanese and two Sri Lankans, the army said.

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RAMADAN EXPERIENCE; AN ACT OF OBEDIENCE

Ramadan Kareem

By Teresa Leshner

Ramadan is like spring cleaning to me: an annual ritual that results in the cleansing of the body, the airing out of the mind, and the beautification of the soul. It provides the opportunity for reorganization and fine tuning of the soul that is needed periodically to remind us of our roles and responsibilities and to commit to a fresh start in our faith. Even though it's been more than 35 years since my first Ramadan, I still gain new insights and lessons each year.

In a purely physical sense, fasting provides an opportunity to quit or at least interrupt unhealthy habits. Caffeine, sugar and nicotine cannot be consumed throughout the day as is the habit of many people. When fasting ends at sunset, the body craves plenty of liquids and a nutritious and balanced meal. By the end of Ramadan I usually have accomplished a healthy weight loss and improved eating habits. However, compared to the spiritual benefits of Ramadan, this is insignificant.

My first fasts of Ramadan were more an exercise in obedience than anything else. Being a new experience and in the summer months as well, fasting was a hardship that I endured because it was required by my new faith. The Quran, which was first revealed in the month of Ramadan, instructs, "O you who believe! Fasting is ordained for you as it was ordained for those before you that you might attain piety." (2:183)

As required for every adult Muslim, I abstained from all physical satisfaction during the hours of fasting: food, drink, smoking and sexual intimacy from the break of dawn until sunset every day of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. My first Ramadan at age 19 was difficult as I did not have the benefit of early training as my own children now do. It was a new experience to me and I was not used to denying myself anything, especially food and water, nor was I raised with fasting being a social norm or expectation.

However, I firmly believed in the authenticity of the Quran as God's word and the role of Muhammad (PBUH) as God's messenger. I reasoned that if I believed in this, then I must also accept everything prescribed and prohibited for the Muslim by these two sources. I didn't necessarily understand the reason for everything, but like a child obeying his wise and loving parents, I did not question God's authority.

So fasting to me was an act of obedience, making it also an act of worship, since I acknowledged an order or will more important than my own. If accepting that God's will is more important than my own is the first step towards piety, then I achieved that much. For my obedience, I am promised forgiveness and rewards in the Hereafter. The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whoever fasts in the month of Ramadan with full consciousness of his faith and a sense of accountability will have all his previous sins forgiven."

It is also said that God rewards every good act from ten to 700 times but He is especially generous regarding the fast. God says, "The reward of the fast is different; it is observed for Me alone, therefore I shall Myself give its reward, for the faster restrains himself from food and other desires only for My sake." To me this is real faith: adopting a lifestyle that most certainly entails some sort of sacrifice because of a belief in something for which there is no physical proof or agreed certainty. Faith is believing in something more than the here and now, even though it has never been recorded as a physical reality.

If a measure of faith is obedience, then Ramadan is a chance to prove my faithfulness to my Creator. Each annual fast is a renewal, and a fresh start in life. What better season is there than Ramadan?

EIGHTEEN INJURED IN MAKKAH STAMPEDE

RIYADH: Eighteen pilgrims have been injured in a stampede near Islam's holiest site, Saudi media reported yesterday, as the kingdom continues to review safety after a deadly crush during last year's hajj. The incident happened on Friday night near the Grand Mosque in Makkah, the Al-Riyadh newspaper said, as Muslims gathered in large numbers to mark the Night of Destiny, one of the high points of the holy fasting month of Ramadan.

All the injured were treated at the scene and none

required admission to hospital, the newspaper cited a health official as saying. Every year, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims flock to Makkah to carry out the lesser umra pilgrimage during Ramadan—especially during its last 10 days. They include the Night of Destiny, when the angel Gabriel is believed to have given the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) the verses of the Quran.

The incident comes as Saudi authorities continue to unveil new safety measures for this year's hajj in September. A crush at last year's hajj killed more than

2,000 pilgrims in the worst disaster to ever strike the annual ritual. According to figures from foreign officials, at least 2,297 pilgrims died. Saudi Arabia issued a death toll of 769. Newspapers reported on Friday that, among new security measures, hajj pilgrims this year will have to wear an electronic safety bracelet to store their personal information, including address and medical records. The hajj and umra pilgrimages bring millions of Muslims to the holy places in Saudi Arabia every year. — AFP

ANONYMOUS SMS THREATENS, WARNS IRANIAN JOURNALISTS

TEHRAN: Hundreds of journalists in Iran have received an anonymous text message warning against contact with "hostile" organizations outside the country, the ISNA news agency reported. "All contact and collaboration with hostile elements based abroad, by mail or other methods of communication, is a crime and will be brought to justice. This SMS is the last warning," the message said. Iranian media reported that as many as 700 journalists and public figures received the SMS on Friday evening.

Lawmaker Ali Motahari said the message had "created worry among journalists." "The intelligence ministry cyber-police must find the origin of this SMS and inform the public, and the judiciary must act against those responsible," he said. "The Press Supervisory Board is responsible for the media and other bodies must not interfere." Some journalists who received the message

said on social media that they would lodge complaints.

Iran bans its citizens from having any contact with Persian-language media based overseas, including the BBC's Persian service and Voice of America. In April, an Iranian court sentenced four journalists arrested in November 2015 to between five and 10 years in prison for "colluding" with foreign governments and harming "national security". The journalists, some of whom work for reformist media outlets, were part of a group arrested by the elite Revolutionary Guard, which accused them of being "members of a network of infiltrators linked to Western governments" it said were hostile to the Islamic republic.

Iran last month accused a British-Iranian woman, an employee of the Thomson Reuters Foundation which supports journalists around the world, of seeking to

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ALEPPO: A man wraps bodies in shrouds following a reported airstrike at a market in the rebel-held district of Tariq Al-Bab, in the northern city of Aleppo. — AFP

31 KILLED IN SYRIA

BEIRUT: Syrian government shelling of a rebel-held town killed 31 people, including two medics yesterday, as a two-year local truce broke down after suspected Al-Qaeda militants killed a captured regime pilot. The bombardment struck the town of Jayrud, 60 kilometers northeast of Damascus, where the army says Islamist rebels killed the pilot after he was forced to eject on Friday.

In its statement about the incident, the military said the attack "will not go unpunished." The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said yesterday's attack was the first bombardment of the town in at least two years. "Prominent figures in Jayrud have had a local truce with the regime for at least two years, and neither fired on each other," Observatory head Rami Abdel Rahman said. He said at least 31 people were killed, including two medics. It was not immediately clear how many of the rest were civilians.

Activists in the town said the head of the local medical centre and several colleagues were killed. "There have been at least 45 air strikes today. The town's medical centre was hit and its director Amjad Al-Danaf was killed," activist Abu Malek Al-Jayrudi said via the Internet.

Continued on Page 13



DHAKA: Bangladeshi passengers try to climb on to the roof of an overcrowded train as they head home ahead of Eid al-Fitr at a railway station in Dhaka. Hundreds of thousands of people working in Dhaka leave for their home towns every year to celebrate Eid al-Fitr with their family. — AP

In Brief

MINISTER CONDEMNS BAHRAIN'S BLAST

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior will dedicate all its efforts to help Bahrain maintain its security and safety, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah reiterated yesterday. This reiteration was made during a phone conversation between the Kuwaiti Minister and his Bahrain counterpart Lieutenant General Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, after a blast that struck East Eker village, south of Manama, Bahrain yesterday, killing a woman and wounding three children, the Ministry's Public Relations said in a press statement. — KUNA



NATIONAL UNITY REPELLED TERRORISM

MANAMA: Bahrain and Kuwait have demonstrated national unity in repelling terrorism and discords, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Al-Sabah said. During a meeting with the head of the Jaafarite Awqaf in the Kingdom of Bahrain Sheikh Mohsen Al-Asfour yesterday, Ambassador Sheikh Azzam said the solidarity between the people and leaders in the two countries solidified the internal front against seditions and surrounding dangers. — KUNA



KRCS DISTRIBUTES IFITAR TO REFUGEES

BEIRUT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) continued on Friday handing out iftar (fastbreaking) meals to Syrian refugee families in northern Lebanon. Nabil Al-Hafedh, head of KRCS' mission, said the society distributed up to 250 iftar meals to Syrian refugees in Al-Minieh District, north of Lebanon. At the beginning of Ramadan, the society has launched the humanitarian campaign of distributing up to 30,000 iftar meals, clothes of Eid Al-Fitr and other aid to Syrian refugee families in Lebanon. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: The Liberation Tower and other skyscrapers are flanked by dust in Kuwait City. Kuwait is currently experiencing a climatic condition locally known as 'Bawareh.' During this season, northerly and northwesterly winds occasionally blow, causing the rise of dust during daytime, before it subsides by night. This season often lasts until the end of July. — KUNA

SHEIKH JABER AL AHMAD CAUSEWAY ON TRACK FOR COMPLETION BY 2018

KUWAIT: The Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Causeway, a key project on the state national development plan, will be among the longest bridge worldwide. It is on track for completion in November 2018. The project, also known as the Subbiyah Causeway, aims to link south and north Kuwait, as well as coping with the increasing traffic jam over the coming three decades.

It consists of two parts: the Main Causeway that will link Kuwait City to the Subbiyah New Town area to the north, stretching 37.5 km, starting from the Ghazali Road intersection and ending at the Subbiyah highway. About 27 km of it is a marine bridge structure. The second bridge, Doha Link, will be 12.4 km and will pass through the Kuwait Bay area towards the west, linking the Shuwaikh Port with the Doha motorway.

Up to 59 percent of the Main Causeway has been achieved, and 30 percent in the Doha Link, Assistant Undersecretary for Road Engineering at the Ministry of Public Works Eng. Ahmad Al-Hessan said. He added that the Doha link aims to end traffic jams in Shuwaikh, and on the Ghazali Road resulting from the trucks using the Port.

The Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Causeway also includes two artificial islands, the first to be built on a total area of 300,000 square meters near Kuwait city, and the second near Subbiyah New Town. They will have government buildings, a marina and green spaces in addition to areas for future investment projects. — KUNA



HEALTH MINISTRY HOSTS WORLD MEDICAL CONSULTANTS

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Health is set to receive five world consultants specializing in various medical fields next month in order to check and treat specific cases and conduct surgeries, a ministry official said yesterday. During their stay in the country, the doctors are also expected to deliver scientific lectures and attend medical workshops with a view to revamping health services at local hospitals and clinics, the ministry's public relations and information chief Faisal Al-Dosari said in a press release. The international medical consultants, who come from Britain, Spain, Brazil, Greece and India, specialize in the areas of plastic surgeries, radiation therapy, tumors, ophthalmology and orthopedics, he added.

The world doctors' visit to Kuwait is part of the Health Ministry's programs to provide better health and medical services to people and to exchange experience between local and international doctors, he pointed out. Dosari emphasized that the selection of doctors is based on recommendations made by the ministry's chief doctors. — KUNA

US HAILS 'PROGRESS' MADE BY KUWAIT-HOSTED YEMEN PEACE TALKS

WASHINGTON: The US on Friday hailed peace talks between Yemen's government and the Ansarullah Movement, which are being hosted by Kuwait, as leading to "progress toward a road map to end the conflict." The comments were made by US State Department spokesman John Kirby after the Yemeni parties signed a commitment document designed to guide a new phase of negotiations following a two-week period ending on July 15. "We continue to call on delegations to uphold the cessation of hostilities and to return to Kuwait with a commitment to swiftly reach an agreement that will bring the Yemenis the peace and security that they deserve and a chance to begin to rebuild their economy," he told a briefing. "These talks offer the best chance, as we said before, to reach a lasting agreement," Kirby said.

Kirby went on to emphasize the importance of allowing unfettered humanitarian access throughout Yemen. He also pledged US support of the efforts of UN special envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad. "Now's the opportunity, the time for the parties to make the compromises and commitments that will benefit their people and bring stability to Yemen, a country and a people who have suffered far too long," he said. — KUNA

4 OUT OF 10 PERSONS IN KUWAIT OBESE

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Deputy Chairman of Cancer Aware Nation (CAN) campaign Dr Khalid Al-Saleh said the campaign works on fighting obesity through several programs, including an awareness program that covers several schools. Saleh said in a press statement said obesity is considered among the most dangerous problems in the world, and the reason behind it is the standard of living and the unhealthy habits of people. He added that the World Health Organization (WHO) considers smoking and a high income level are among the factors that contribute to the rise of obesity rates in Arab countries. He said Kuwait tops the list worldwide in obesity with 42.8 percent of the total population, which means that 4 out of 10 persons are having some degree of obesity that needs treatment.

Saleh said the campaign conducted a control pilot study

on an awareness program about physical activity and healthy nutrition in schools. He said two schools were chosen - the first saw the implementation of the physical and nutrition program, while the other school was followed remotely without the program, with 50 female students from both schools chosen. He said the program was applied for three months on the female students of one of the schools. The weight and BMI of each student was recorded, then the nutrition program was implemented, which confirmed the program succeeded in reducing the students' weights.

Logistic city

Kuwait Ports Authority asked Kuwait Municipality to give it a license to establish a 'logistics city', allowing the authority to carry out investment and commercial activities in it. A letter by KPA Director General Sheikh Yousuf Abdullah Al-Nasser Al-Sabah to Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-

Manfouhi said that based on the instructions of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad to make Kuwait an international financial and commercial center, KPA has decided to build a logistics city in its warehousing areas called Kuwait Logistic City. The letter added that this will improve Kuwait's image in this vital area, as the World Bank indicates in the logistics performance index of world countries a drop in Kuwait's ranking compared to other GCC countries, each of which has more than one logistics city.

Compensation

Kuwait has approved Iraq's request to defer compensation due over the former Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait until 2018. A statement by Iraq's Finance Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said he received Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq Ghassan Al-Zawawi, who confirmed that instructions were given on the agreement to postpone the payment until Jan 1, 2018.



Flames coming out of a fire reported in a house under construction in Qusour.



A firefighter puts out flames in a Taima house.

MINISTER ORDERS PROBE INTO POLICE STATION VIDEO

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department said an investigation committee was formed at the instructions of Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khalid Al-Sabah over a video clip that appeared on social media, showing the Khaldiya police station being deserted while official documents and items were present. The committee will find out who is responsible for what happened in the form of negligence that is contrary to the procedures followed.

Officers released

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mohammad instructed that all police officers held for disciplinary reasons be released on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr. Based on the instructions, Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lt Gen Suleiman Al-Fahd ordered their release at the end of working hours of the last day of Ramadan.

No injuries in fires

Firemen put out a fire that broke out in a house under construction in Qusour. The fire was on the roof and was put out and kept from spreading. Meanwhile, a fire in a Taima house prompted the occupational fire center to respond. The fire was put out with no injuries reported. Another fire broke out in Firdous. Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh fire station responded, backed by Ardhiya station and the fire was put out quickly. Separately,

a fire broke out in a house used as a nursery, and Jahra occupational fire center backed by Jahra center responded and put out the fire, which was on the third floor. No injuries were reported. Also fire broke out in debris in an abandoned house in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. Firemen fought the fire and kept it from spreading. In another incident, Sulaibkhat fire station men rushed to an area where a lift malfunctioned. Firemen used hydraulic equipment to lower the lift and release those stuck inside, without injuries. Furthermore, Salmiya sea fire station men removed a boat that sunk at the Ras Al-Ardh harbor, and no injuries were reported.

Food safety

A total of 250 kg of meat products were destroyed, along with other foodstuff that were not substandard or spoiled, during a campaign targeting cooperatives, shops and butcheries. Commenting on the crackdown, Director of food and markets at Farwaniya governorate's branch in Kuwait Municipality Mohammad Al-Azmi said inspection campaigns will continue to safeguard consumers' health around the country. In other news, Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations department said the public cleanliness and road occupation department in Ahmadi carried out a field campaign in Dhaher area. Director of Ahmadi's branch Fahad Al-Shtaili said the campaign was carried out with the participation of 14 dump trucks and 4 bulldozers on a daily basis during June, and resulted in hauling 312 loads as Dhaher landfill was cleaned completely.

SCPD, UNDP SIGN AGREEMENT TO TRAIN KUWAITI YOUTH

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Secretariat General of the Supreme Council for Planning and Developmental (SCPD) signed the Junior Professional Officers (JPO) program with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for training the third batch of students. The ceremony took place in the presence of Secretary General of SCPD Dr Khalid Mahdi and the UN Resident Coordinator of the UNDP Zainab bin Jalloun. Mahdi said the program is the third of its kind, to send a group of Kuwaiti youth who meet the conditions to work at the UN and its organizations around the world. He said Kuwait patronizes this program in cooperation with UNDP so that those youth are appointed at UN organizations to gain administrative and technical experience in the field of international organizations.

Mahdi said Kuwait is the first Arab country in supporting this program with 10 youth, adding the program is a joint action between the Secretariat General of the Higher Planning and Development Council as the strategic partner of the UNDP in cooperation with all UN organizations. He said most of those organizations expressed willingness to employ Kuwaitis during Kuwait's participation in an international conference recently.

Power outages

Several residents of Fintas, Fahaeel, Reqqa and Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh complained against power outages on Friday, and demanded speedy restoration of power under extremely high temperatures during Ramadan. Emergency teams were sent to restore power to the houses.



KUWAIT: Secretary General of SCPD Dr Khalid Mahdi (left) and the UN Resident Coordinator of the UNDP Zainab bin Jalloun are seen during the ceremony.

SECURITY SITUATION

Local spotlight



By Muna Al-Fuzai

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Disturbing news is circulating on social media these days about the presence of extremist militias on the Kuwaiti borders. In the light of a series of security reports and uncovering of weapons caches in various parts of the country, these reports make me and many people wonder if we are safe from these extremists, who may try to sneak into the country and cause chaos and killing.

Every human desires to secure himself, his family, money and property, and it is the state's duty to provide this service. I know this is not easy in a tense world of sectarianism and contradictions. This article seeks to raise the question about our security situation and calls on the state to crush these militants completely, before they undertake any possible criminal act.

But aside from anxiety over the future, we also have to think about what is happening internally, because internal security is very important, especially with respect to publications by the media regarding fatwas and opinions that may merely be interpretations that may create misunderstandings. It is the duty of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs to carefully monitor the religious discourse and keep it away from extremism, especially in our multi-confessional country.

Political or social rumors and false news spread rapidly in Kuwait, like in any other Arab country. This is a risk, especially if the rumor is related to the security of the country. Social media accelerates the dissemination of inaccurate news in Kuwait, and this news circulates through social media with false exaggerations.

Constant security threats indicate the need for careful follow-up. The cancellation of Eid prayers outside mosques for security reasons is a wise decision taken due to the current delicate situation. Kuwait's mosques are safe for people who come to pray.

With chaos continuing in Syria and Yemen, there are potential risks and fear that the chaos may move to the Gulf states through the transmission of conservative ideas and extremism. What is happening in Iraq, Syria and Yemen, where people are killing and terrorizing in the name of Islam, is a new culture of weapons and killings that shouldn't be underestimated.

The focus of the Gulf is to stay united in the GCC. Relations between Gulf states are stronger than ever, despite the impact of regional conflicts and Iran's attempts to intervene in the region by supporting militias. The greatest danger that could have catastrophic repercussions on Gulf states is a victory of armed and sectarian militias. This will create a criminal monster, leading to new formations of extremist groups in places not far from the borders of Gulf countries, especially Kuwait, which borders Iraq and Saudi Arabia. We must not become a new land of sectarian conflicts.

Kuwaiti writers and media in general have a duty to draw attention to the seriousness of spreading such rumors and false news and alert the ministry for full control of the borders and security of the state.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah recently visited the VIP Protection Unit at the ministry's General Department of Special Security Forces. The minister was briefed on the security plan to secure the residence of members of delegations participating in the ongoing Yemeni peace talks in Kuwait. The minister then visited the central operations and the 112 emergency operators' rooms.



OOREDOO SPREADS THE RAMADAN SPIRIT AMONG CHILDREN IN HOSPITALS

KUWAIT: Aiming at spreading the Ramadan spirit among children in hospitals, Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, has recently organized series of visits to pediatric hospital in Kuwait including Fawzia Al-Sultan Rehabilitation Institution, Al-Razi and Ibn Sina hospitals. The main objective behind Fawzia Al-Sultan Rehabilitation Institute was to learn more about its mission and the responsibilities of its different departments, in addition to receiving a comprehensive idea about the physical and pro-

nunciation therapies provided to patients. During the visit, the volunteers got insights about the institution's volunteers program that aims at aiding families who are unable to afford treatments, helping them to raise funds.

While visiting Al-Razi and Ibn Sina hospitals, the volunteers distributed gifts to children, their families and the members of the nursing staff as a gesture to celebrate the holy month and share its spirit. These hospitals visits come in line with the company's CSR strategy and form key part of

the charitable initiatives and activities adopted by Ooredoo during the month of Ramadan. Ooredoo Kuwait has recently announced a number of key initiatives for Ramadan, mostly focused on its volunteer program. Ooredoo's volunteer program is fully operating the daily iftar meals during the holy month at Ooredoo's tent. Additionally, Ooredoo collaborated with Abdullah Al-Nouri institution to aid Syrian refugees in different part of the world, in addition to other charitable initiatives.



Ramadan Quiz 2016

ETIHAD AIRWAYS ABU DHABI

LULU HYPERMARKET

Ruby Tuesday

Answer & Win Fabulous Prizes

Kuwait Times annual Ramadan Competition returns with one YES or NO question published every day throughout the holy month of Ramadan. All thirty coupons with the correct answers must be sent to the newspaper to be eligible for the raffle draw. All coupons must be received by Friday 8th July 2016 at Kuwait Times Office.



KUWAIT: A group photo of journalists and KFH representatives.

GHALIAH PARTICIPATES IN IFTAR DISTRIBUTION AT OOREDOO TENT

KUWAIT: A number of Ghaliah employees participated in distributing meals in Ooredoo's iftar tent last week. The meal distribution was attended by Senior Manager of CSR, Sponsorships and Social Media Yousef Al-Shallal along with the General Manager of Ghaliah, Abdul-Razag Al-Mutawa.

Earlier this month, Ooredoo announced that it will be distributing 17,000 iftar meals during the Holy Month of Ramadan through a distribution center outside its head office and in its iftar tent, which Ooredoo is running for the second consecutive year. The tent is located opposite Ooredoo's head office on Soor Street in Kuwait City. The meal distribution drive is fully operated by Ooredoo's volunteer program members, after the great success of the program last year. In addition to the iftar distribution drive, Ooredoo is conducting several charitable events, such as visits to nursing homes, orphanages and patients at different hospitals across Kuwait to celebrate girgian.



Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win

28) Fasting was ordained in the...

Second year of Hijrah

YES NO

Date: _____

Name: _____

Civil ID.: _____

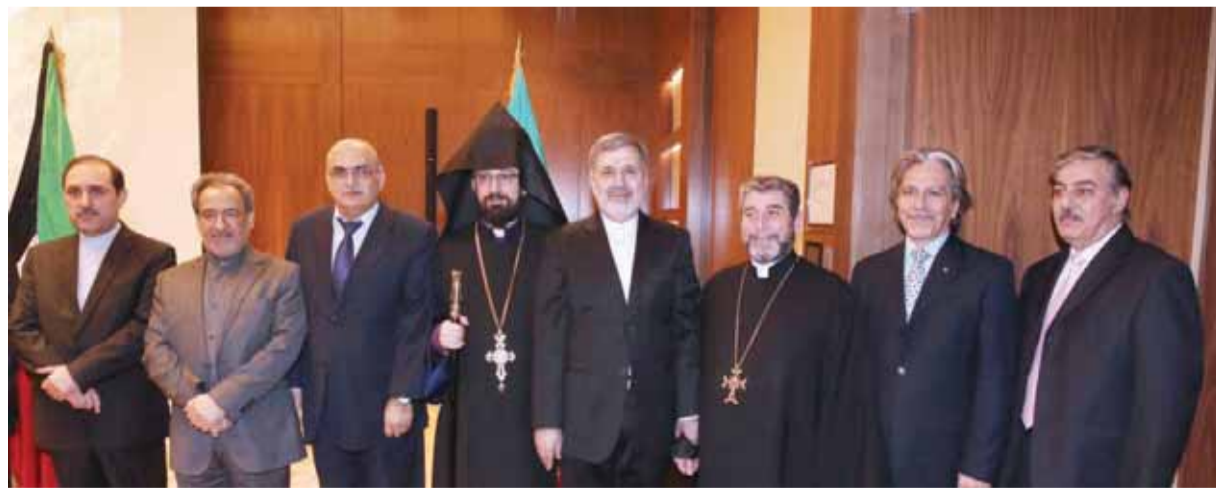
Tel: _____

Email: _____

Espresso Ramadan Kareem Baby sebamed



KUWAIT: Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Ali Redha Enayati hosted a 'ghabqa' at Crowne Plaza Hotel recently. Diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Young Voices

'I PRAY AND DONATE TO BECOME A BETTER MUSLIM'

By Ben Garcia

Nearly a quarter of Kuwait's entire population is under the age of 14 and yet with the exception of school assemblies, we never hear their voices. During Ramadan, Kuwait Times likes to publish a special series that engages with its readership in a more direct, personal way to learn their concerns, issues and viewpoints.

This Ramadan, we will chat with some of our youngest readers about their lives in Kuwait, in an attempt to see the world through their eyes. What do they see for the future of our beautiful country? What would they improve and how would they change it? By listening to their future plans, stories, and experience in Ramadan, we can remind ourselves and hopefully our readers of the ties that bind us all together as a species. These are the voice of Kuwait's future and we invite them to share their thoughts with us here.



Zainab: I love to eat, so I want to learn how to make food for myself.

Zainab Khairallah is an 8-year-old girl studying in the American Academy of Kuwait.

Kuwait Times: What do you know about Ramadan?

Zainab: Ramadan is a holy month when Muslims fast. I pray and give donations during the holy month to become a better Muslim.

KT: What are your favorite toys?

Zainab: Instead of playing with toys, I enjoy watching tutorials of hairstyling, makeup and cooking shows on YouTube. I want to be a master in everything I love!

KT: What do you love about Kuwait?

Zainab: Kuwait is my home, I was born here and I love this country.

KT: Do you have pets?

Zainab: No, I do not want a pet now. Maybe later when I grow up, I can have one.

KT: What do you hate about Kuwait?

Zainab: I hate the hot weather. But the only way to fight it is to be at home all the time and play.

KT: When not in school, what do you do?

KT: What place would you like to visit?

Zainab: I want to visit the Philippines. The climate and people there are just amazing! I am fond of greenery and nature. I also love their tradition.

KT: How do you help in the house chores?

Zainab: I help our housemaids set the table, arrange the living room and help by taking care of the youngest member in the family.

KT: What do you do in your spare time or school break?

Zainab: When I am at home, I watch TV, but also play with my siblings and read books. I also visit some relatives and sometimes go out with my parents to different places.

KT: What place you love the most in Kuwait?

Zainab: The Scientific Center's aquarium. I like watching sharks and different species of fish. I love to swim and slide at the pool at Aqua Park. I also love the Entertainment City and places for kids in Kuwait. I also enjoy the company of people I love the most: my family and friends.

KT: What do you like about Ramadan?

Zainab: Fasting, praying and reading the Holy Quran and the variety of food in iftar and suhoor. Those are the things I like about Ramadan.

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KUWAIT: Thousands of worshippers performed the 'Qiyam' prayers in the Grand Mosque early yesterday, the 27th night of Ramadan amid heightened security measures. Muslims around the world observed 'Laylat al-Qadr' on that night, which marks the night Muslims believe the first verses of the Holy Quran were revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the archangel Gabriel. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah inspected the security preparations at the Grand Mosque during the 'Qiyam' prayer Friday night. Minister of Justice, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane and Interior Ministry officials accompanied Sheikh Mohammad during the tour.



KUWAIT: Deputy Director General for the Prevention Sector Affairs at Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) Major General Khalid Al-Mikrad toured the Grand Mosque, where he visited firemen, policemen and paramedics and was briefed on preparations and plans. Mikrad then went on a similar tour to the Bilal bin Rabah Mosque. — By Hanan Al-Saadoun





Australians swing against ruling coalition in knife-edge election



JERUSALEM: Palestinian Muslim worshippers pray overnight yesterday outside the Dome of the Rock in the Al-Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City. Laylat al-Qadr, or Night of Destiny, marks the night the first verses of the Holy Quran were revealed to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) through the Archangel Gabriel. — AFP

US ADMITS KILLING UP TO 116 CIVILIANS

NONCOMBATANTS KILLED IN DRONE STRIKES OUTSIDE WAR ZONES

WASHINGTON: The US government accepted responsibility on Friday for inadvertently killing up to 116 civilians in strikes in countries where America is not at war, a major disclosure likely to inflame debate about targeted killings and use of drones. President Barack Obama's goal for the release of the numbers, which are higher than any previously officially acknowledged but vastly below private estimates, is to create greater transparency about what the U.S. military and CIA are doing to fight militants plotting against the United States.

But the figures, which covered strikes from the day Obama took office in Jan 2009 through Dec 31, 2015, were below even the most conservative estimates by non-governmental organizations that spent years tallying US strikes in countries such as Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. "The numbers reported by the White House today simply don't add up and we're disappointed by that," said Federico Borello, executive director for the Center for Civilians in Conflict.

Drone advocates, including those within the US military, argue the strikes are an essential part of reducing the ability of militant groups to plot attacks against the United States. They say the government goes to great lengths to avoid civilian casualties. Critics of the targeted killing program question whether the strikes create more militants than they kill. They cite the spread of jihadist organizations and militant attacks throughout the world as evidence that targeted killings may be exacerbating the problem.

"We're still faced with the basic question: Is the number of bad guys who are taken out of commission by drone strikes greater or less than the number of people who are inspired to turn to violent acts,"

said Paul Pillar, a former senior CIA specialist on the Middle East and now a professor of security studies at Georgetown University. Pakistani lawyer Mirza Shahzad Akbar, who says he represents a hundred families of civilians killed by drones, questioned the validity of the data even before their release by the Director of National Intelligence.

He said Washington needed to better explain its criteria for declaring someone a civilian, something that can be difficult



to do from a camera on a drone. "President Obama is worried about his legacy as a president who ordered extrajudicial killings of thousands which resulted in a high number of civilian deaths," Akbar told Reuters. "As a constitutional lawyer himself, he knows what's wrong with that."

Beyond The Edges Of US Wars

Obama issued an executive order on Friday requiring annual disclosure of such strikes, which fall outside America's conventional wars. Such data do not include strikes in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, significantly lowering the number of casualties. In Afghanistan, for example, 42 people were killed and 37 wounded in a mistaken US military strike on a hospital in the Afghan city of Kunduz last year. A US official, speaking to Reuters on condition of anonymity, said the total of 473 strikes disclosed by the Obama administration on Friday included strikes in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia.

Many of those are believed to have taken place in Pakistan, where NGOs also say a large number of civilians were killed. The New America think tank estimated up to 315 civilians

have been killed in Pakistan in US strikes since 2004 and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism believed the civilian death toll could be as high as 966. In Somalia, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism estimates that up to 10 civilians were killed in up to 31 drone strikes since 2007.

"Last month, a drone killed a relative of mine and a dozen of his camels and goats," local elder Mohamed Ismail from Wanlaweyn in southern Somalia told Reuters. Officials said the US disclosure of the data was meant partly to accept responsibility for such deaths. "Anytime we inadvertently cause the death of a civilian, it's something that we deeply regret," a senior administration official said.

Do Drone Strikes Work?

The question of whether drones spread militant extremism is unclear, many experts say. "Time and again, the assertion is made that the impact is negative. Then when you look hard at the data, it becomes clear that it isn't clear where these opinions came from," said Anthony Cordesman at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. Asfandyar Mir, a researcher and doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago, said research showed that CIA drone strikes in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal agency corresponded with a reduction in insurgent violence and seriously disrupted the operations of the Pakistani Taliban, al Qaeda and the Haqqani network.

Mir and Dylan Moore of Stanford University studied data collected by three US universities showing that there were on average four to 11 fewer insurgent attacks per month in North Waziristan between 2008 and 2012, when CIA drone strikes surged, and 27 to 63 fewer casualties compared to 2007. In 2007, there were about 12 attacks per month that produced about 55 casualties per month in the mountainous district bordering Afghanistan, an extremist stronghold where nearly 80 percent of the CIA drone strikes in Pakistan took place.

"The areas that were targeted by the drone strikes since 2008 have clearly been significantly less violent," Mir told Reuters, adding "They make it extremely difficult to organize." Extremist groups "are organizations at the end of the day. They are like any other bureaucracy. They need men, they need money, they need to invest in coordination. Drones made the access to all these things extremely difficult," he said.

In Somalia, the acting governor of the Lower Shabelle region, Ali Nur, told Reuters that drones have killed several al Shabaab leaders while minimizing civilian casualties. But he suggested the strikes could do more harm than good. "They just infuriate Al Shabaab instead of eliminating it. They all attack a town, kill only one leader, stop operation and leave the town, allowing Al Shabaab to harass and massacre civilians and forcing them to join Al Shabaab." — Reuters

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IRANIAN WOMEN PUSH FOR MORE OPEN STADIUMS

TEHRAN: Iranian women report they are being barred from attending a major volleyball tournament featuring the Olympic-bound men's national team, reigniting a debate about whether Iran should be allowed to host international matches. Despite a commitment from volleyball's world governing body that women would be able to attend this weekend's World League tournament at the Azadi Sport Complex in Tehran, Iranian women who have pushed to make sporting events more open say they haven't been able to purchase tickets despite multiple efforts to buy them online.

Female fans are traditionally barred from attending male-only sporting events in Iran - efforts by authorities to enforce strict interpretations of Islamic norms - but many women are pushing to change that practice. The International Federation of Volleyball, Switzerland-based FIVB, streamed the Argentina-Italy and Iran-Serbia matches Friday, showing a segregated section of women in the stands. It was unclear if the women were members of the general public or invited guests and VIPs. A female announcer handled substitutions during Iran's match.

FIVB released a statement noting that the Iranian federation said Friday's matches sold out within five minutes, and that 466 of the 5,000 tickets were allotted for a section set aside for women. The area of seats, shown repeatedly on the livestream, didn't appear that large. From the moment tickets became

available, the website for sales said the female allotment had been filled, according to several women who say they tried to purchase tickets.

"Honestly when I saw their 'statement,' I said, 'If FIVB were Pinocchio, their nose was from Lausanne to Tehran. Why they lie this much?'" said a 32-year-old Iranian female representative from a group called Open Stadiums. She declined to give her name out of concern for retaliation. The Open Stadiums Twitter account identifies itself as "A movement of Iranian Women seeking to end discrimination and let women attend stadiums."

Tara Sepehri Far, an Iran researcher with Human Rights Watch, has tracked the controversy. "We've been following the case closely and I am disappointed to say that despite FIVB's claims to have assurances from the Iranian Volleyball Federation, the tickets have not been available to women so far," she said in an email to The Associated Press along with a screen shot of the ticket website.

Iran rallied to win Friday's match against Serbia in five sets before a wildly enthusiastic standing-room only capacity crowd of 12,000. In 2012, the longtime ban on women from soccer matches in Iran was extended to volleyball. Former US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice last year called the ban "ridiculous" and said that nations that are part of international bodies should respect women's rights. — AP



BANGALORE, India: In this Sept 8, 2015 file photo, Iranian women watch the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying football match between Iran and India. — AP



HEBRON: Palestinian women pass under a barrier blocking the road at the southern main entrance of Hebron yesterday after Israeli troops locked down the occupied West Bank city. — AFP

ISRAEL LOCKS DOWN FLASHPOINT HEBRON AFTER DEADLY ATTACKS

TROOPS CLOSE ALL EXIT ROADS

HEBRON: Israeli troops locked down the occupied West Bank's most populous city Hebron and surrounding villages yesterday after two Israelis were killed in Palestinian attacks nearby. The crackdown comes amid a flare-up in nine months of deadly violence as the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan looms, and after the major diplomatic players called for urgent steps by both sides to revive the moribund peace process. Troops closed all exit roads from Hebron except for the main northern one through the town of Halhul towards Jerusalem, an AFP correspondent reported.

The army announced on Friday that it would close off the flashpoint city and deploy two additional battalions to the area. The measures were described as the "most substantial steps on the ground" since 2014, when Israeli forces carried out a huge search operation in the southern West Bank for three young hitchhikers abducted and later found murdered by Palestinian militants.

Hebron has been one of the main focuses of the wave of deadly unrest that has rocked Israel and the Palestinian territories since last October. At least 214 Palestinians, 34 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese have been killed. The army has said that around 80 of the attacks on Israelis have been carried out by Palestinians from the Hebron area. Several hundred Jewish settlers live in a tightly

guarded enclave in the heart of the city of more than 200,000 Palestinians, a persistent source of tensions.

On Thursday, 19-year-old Palestinian Mohammed Nasser Tarayra broke into the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba on the outskirts of Hebron and killed 13-year-old Israeli-American Hallel Yaffa Ariel in her bedroom before being shot dead by a security guard. And on Friday, 48-year-old Michael Mark was killed after his car was fired on by a suspected Palestinian gunman south of Hebron. The army was conducting searches for the gunman yesterday but there were no immediate reports of any arrests. An army spokesman said the closure was "intended to break the chain of lethal attacks". "The physical presence will also disrupt, prevent and foil additional attacks, inspired by the attackers of the last 48 hours," Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lerner told AFP.

'They Must Feel the Consequences'

On Friday, Sarah Tarayra, 27, was shot dead after drawing a knife on Israeli forces in Hebron. She was a relative of the Kiryat Arba attacker, and both were from Bani Naim, a village just outside Hebron. Lerner said the army had revoked the Israeli work permits of all residents of the village. The army said no decision had been taken on how long the closure would remain in place, but Internal Security Minister Gilad Erdan said it

should stay "for an extended period of time".

"The terror and incitement atmosphere in the Hebron area is backed by the public and local leadership, and they must feel the consequences of their murderous acts in their daily lives," he said in a statement. In a report released on Friday, the Middle East diplomatic Quartet of the European Union, Russia, the United Nations and the United States said Israel's persistent expansion of Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories was "steadily eroding the viability of the two-state solution". It called on Israel to halt its demolition of Palestinian homes and confiscation of Palestinian land.

But it also urged the Palestinian Authority to act "to cease incitement to violence and strengthen ongoing efforts to combat terrorism, including by clearly condemning all acts of terrorism". The Quartet's recommendations are to serve as the basis for push to revive the Middle East peace process which has been comatose since US-brokered talks collapsed in April 2014.

The group said the Palestinian Authority's lack of control over the Gaza Strip, which is run by the Islamists of Hamas, was another major obstacle, along with the "dire humanitarian situation" in the territory which has been devastated by three wars since 2008. A rocket launched from Gaza hit the southern Israeli city of Sderot on Friday, causing damage to a building but no casualties. — AFP

SALARY SCANDAL TAKES DOWN DEVELOPMENT FUND BOSSES

TEHRAN: The entire management of Iran's development fund was forced to resign yesterday as part of a mounting scandal over lavish executive salaries, the ISNA news agency reported. Iran has been gripped by the scandal ever since the pay slips of executives at several public companies were leaked two months ago, showing salaries more than 100 times that of their average workers. It has provided ammunition for hardline opponents of moderate President Hassan Rouhani less than a year before he faces re-election.

Seyed Saffar Hosseini, a former reformist minister who was hand-picked by Rouhani to head the development fund, had been particularly targeted by Iran's conservative media. His leaked pay slip showed he was paid 580 million rials (\$17,000) per month. Hosseini resigned along with the rest of the development fund's management, which oversees investment in infrastructure. Media reports said he had agreed to repay some \$140,000 to the state.

Hosseini was labour and economy minister under reformist president

Mohammad Khatami, who was in power from 1997 to 2005, and his daughter was elected to parliament in this year's legislative elections. The news came just two days after Economy Minister Ali Tayebnia sacked the directors of four banks "for receiving unconventional salaries and loans". The conservative media have also accused Hossein Fereydoun, the president's brother and special advisor, of influencing the appointment of the head of Refah bank, who was among those fired on Thursday after it emerged he earned some \$60,000 a month. Fereydoun has denied playing any role in the appointment.

Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei renewed calls on Saturday for the government to crack down on exorbitant salaries. The economy minister has set a salary cap of \$5,500 a month for bank directors, local media reported, with wider regulations for public companies to follow. One reformist official, Abdollah Nasser, claimed hardline opponents of the government have 3,000 pay slips of top officials that they intend to use to discredit Rouhani ahead of the election in May. — AFP

S SUDAN RISKS RETURN TO FULL-SCALE WAR

JUBA: An international conflict research group said South Sudan is at risk of falling back into full-scale war, just two months after the government and rebels formed a coalition government aimed at ending more than two years of conflict. The International Crisis Group said Friday that the two sides are flouting a peace agreement they signed in August and are preparing for widespread conflict. The group's South Sudan researcher Casie Copeland said the two sides have not shown willingness to compromise on issues such as oversight of security arrangements. The warning comes after violence rocked three of the country's 10 states in June.

Meanwhile, the head of the interna-

tional ceasefire monitoring team said its workers are increasingly harassed, intimidated and detained while trying to do their work. The UN Security Council on Friday issued a statement expressing "deep alarm" over the fighting in Wau which broke out on June 24, resulting in the displacement of an estimated 70,000 people, including 12,000 sheltering near a base for the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan.

The Security Council called for a ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid to reach civilians in need, including nearly 9,000 people sheltering at a school. Council members also demanded that the rival factions implement all aspects of the peace agreement. — AP



WAU, South Sudan: Men and women wait to be registered as displaced persons in a South Sudan Red Cross compound on Friday. — AFP



GAZA CITY: Palestinian men look at the damage following an Israeli air strike on a workshop yesterday. — AFP

ISRAEL BOMBS GAZA STRIP IN RESPONSE TO ROCKET FIRE

GAZA CITY: Israeli air strikes hit four sites in the Gaza Strip yesterday, causing damage but no injuries, officials said, after Palestinian militants fired a rocket that struck a building in southern Israel. The four sites included a workshop, two locations for Hamas's armed wing and a military training site for militant group Islamic Jihad, the security official said on condition of anonymity. Two of the sites were in Gaza City while the other two were in Beit Lahia, in the north of the enclave, run by Islamist movement Hamas. All of the sites have been previously targeted by Israel, the official said.

Israel's military said in a statement it had "targeted four locations that were components of Hamas's operational infrastructure in the northern and central Gaza Strip" in response to the rocket. A rocket launched from the strip hit a building in the southern Israeli city of Sderot late Friday, damaging it but causing no injuries, the military said. Israeli media said the rocket had hit a kinder-

garten, but the military had not provided further details.

Medics said they treated two people for shock. No group in Gaza claimed responsibility for firing the rocket, which came hours after Israel announced a lockdown on the city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank and cuts in monthly tax payments to the Palestinian Authority in response to attacks. In one of several attacks in recent days, a 19-year-old Palestinian fatally stabbed a 13-year-old US-Israeli national in her home at the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba on the outskirts of Hebron. Friday's rocket is the 13th projectile fired from the Gaza Strip to have hit Israel since the start of 2016.

Smaller, more radical Islamist groups have often been blamed, with Hamas forces either unwilling or unable to prevent the rocket fire. Israel holds Hamas responsible for all rocket attacks from Gaza. Palestinian militants in Gaza and Israel have fought three wars since 2008. — AFP

NURTURED BY EU FUNDS, WALES FACES CASH LIMBO



PORT TALBOT: This photo taken on March 30, 2016 shows the Tata Steel steel plant in south Wales. — AFP

NEWPORT, United Kingdom: Britain's Brexit vote has put Wales's EU funding in doubt, dealing a potentially heavy financial blow to one of Britain's poorest regions which relies on money from Brussels for farmers' subsidies and urban regeneration. "Wales are in a bit of trouble, we get a lot of money from the EU," said Anna Preece, shocked by the referendum vote to quit the European Union. Wales, like England, voted "Leave" in the June 23 referendum, in contrast to the United Kingdom's other two constituent parts, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

On the streets of Newport, a small coastal city in southeast Wales close to the English border, 43-year-old charity worker Preece was visibly upset by the result in her country and Britain overall. The vote count is "quite shocking," said "Remain" voter Preece, in reference to the 52.5 percent of voters in Wales who supported Brexit. "I was really quite surprised it was so high, especially in the rural areas," she told AFP.

In Newport, where attractive riverside apartments have replaced wharfs that once exported vast quantities of coal mined from the Welsh Valleys, the "Leave" vote stood at 56 percent. That was similar to the vote in Neath Port Talbot, home to the already at-risk Port Talbot steel plant owned by India's Tata. The highest "Leave" vote in Wales was 62 percent in Blaenau Gwent, home to Ebbw Vale, hit hard by the decline in Britain's steel industry.

"Welsh voters almost certainly voted against their economic self-interest," said politics academic Brian Klaas at the London School of Economics. "The little town of Ebbw Vale... would likely have turned to bust without EU support," he added. "EU funding is key to the vitality of the Welsh economy and net migration is low, but Welsh voters still voted against immigration and against continuing financial support from Brussels."

'It's All Scaremongering'

A pre-referendum study by Cardiff University said that in 2014, Wales received an estimated £245 million (\$326 million) more from the European Union than it paid in. The overall net benefit to Wales was around £79 per head in 2014, the report said, amid fears that Wales could now lose funding for a new metro system serving Cardiff and nearby areas such as Newport. "It's all scaremongering," said Tracy Stokeswhiting when asked if she was worried about potential cuts, with the 53-year-old "Leave" voter insisting that it would be business as usual at her Newport clothes shop "La Belle Femme".

"The European suppliers are not going to stop sending stock to the UK," she said, adding that many of her goods arrive from EU members France and Italy. European aircraft maker Airbus, which assembles wings in Broughton, north Wales, has meanwhile assured staff that the UK remains a vital part of its operations. — AFP

POLES MARK 70 YRS SINCE POST-HOLOCAUST POGROM

KIELCE, Poland: Seventy years after dozens of Polish Holocaust survivors were bludgeoned to death in the Kielce Pogrom, psychologist Bogdan Bialek is intent on reconciling Poles and Jews. For years, the 61-year-old Catholic has organized annual memorial marches in Kielce, a city of 200,000 people 150 kilometres (93 miles) south of the capital Warsaw. "Even if I were alone, I would walk to remember the dead. A man on his own, that's already a huge crowd, it's an entire city," Bialek told AFP ahead of a weekend march.

On July 4, 1946, Kielce erupted in a frenzy of hatred after a rumor was spread that a Jewish family had held a Christian boy in a cellar overnight. Before the war, Jews made up a quarter of Kielce's 80,000 residents, only about 500 of whom are estimated by historians to have survived the Holocaust. But a year after the war ended, the town was whipped up into a new anti-Semitic frenzy, fuelled by tales of Jews needing to have blood transfusions from Christian children to survive, or using Christians' blood to make matzos (unleavened Jewish bread).

Communist police, soldiers and workers from a nearby steelworks raided a house on 7/9 Planty Street sheltering Holocaust survivors, including some from the infamous Auschwitz-Birkenau Nazi German death camp. At least 42 Jews were killed and over 40 injured in the worst anti-Semitic attack in postwar Poland, according to the Washington-based United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The pogrom went down as one of the darkest

moments in the thousand-year-long history of Polish Jews.

A formal Polish enquiry put the Jewish death toll at 37, with other victims including three non-Jewish Poles and two people killed during a robbery. After the pogrom, tens of thousands of Jews left the country for good. Nine people were sentenced to death for their role in the killings, but the Communist authorities of the time tried to blame regime opponents for the crime.

Under Wraps

In time, a leaden silence came to shroud the case, with the Communist regime preferring to keep it under wraps. "When I arrived in Kielce in 1978, I was surprised by the silence; nobody wanted to talk about it," Bialek said. When communism fell in 1989, locals in Kielce held a memorial for the victims of the pogrom. But for Bialek it was too little and too official. "There were many ceremonies, but they were attended by politicians or municipal leaders. That didn't suit me as we had to follow the heart, not the head," he said.

In 2000, he and a friend decided to organize the first March of Memory and Prayer. On her first visit to Kielce in a half-century in 2004, Marek Edelman, then the last surviving leader of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, found it to be "a completely different city". Several years ago, the son of one of the workers who took part in the pogrom attended the remembrance ceremony, where he delivered a short heart-rending speech and hugged one of the survivors. — AFP



LONDON: Thousands of protesters gather in Parliament Square as they take part in a March for Europe, through the center of London yesterday to protest against Britain's vote to leave the EU, which has plunged the government into political turmoil and left the country deeply polarized. — AFP

ANTI-BREXIT PROTESTERS STAGE MARCH IN LONDON

BITTER LEADERSHIP BATTLE IN CONSERVATIVE PARTY

LONDON: Thousands marched through London yesterday to protest against Britain's vote to leave the EU, which has sparked political turmoil and polarized public opinion. Chanting "We love you EU", waving European flags and carrying colorful banners with slogans like "Brexit is a mistake", they set off late morning to march towards the Houses of Parliament. "The Leave Campaign Lied", "Save our Future" and "Never Gonna Give EU up", read others, the latter referring to the 1980s hit by Rick Astley. Organizers claimed more than 40,000 were taking part. Police did not immediately give figures.

"I think the Leave campaign misled people, we are (making) a wrong decision because of the lies," protester Casey, 37, told AFP at the start of the march. "I would like us to reconsider and I don't want to leave the EU."

Seismic Vote

The seismic June 23 vote prompted the resignation of Prime Minister David Cameron - who had backed the failed Remain campaign. It also unleashed a bitter leadership battle in the ruling Conservative party and chaos in the main opposition Labour party, whose leader, Jeremy Corbyn, is now facing all-out revolt. "We can prevent Brexit by refusing to accept the referendum as the final say and take our finger off the self-destruct button," said organizer Keiran MacDermott on the march's Facebook page. "Let's not leave the next generation adrift... Let's march, let's protest, and let's stop Brexit."

Britons, many worried by immigration, voted 52 percent in favor of withdrawing from the EU bloc with 48 percent against. The favorites to succeed Cameron have meanwhile been pushing for a delay in starting the process that will eventually see Britain leave the 28-member EU. Frontrunner Theresa May and high-profile rival Michael Gove have both said they do not expect Article 50 - the formal procedure for leaving the bloc - would be invoked this year.

EU leaders including French President Francois Hollande have urged a swift divorce, fearful of the impact of Britain's uncertain future on economic growth and a potential domino effect in eurosceptic member states. Last week's shock vote plunged financial markets into crisis, wiping trillions off equities around the world and sending the pound to its lowest point in more than three decades against the dollar.

The Bank of England revealed it could slash interest rates this summer to counter the downbeat economic outlook - which it said had "deteriorated" because of Brexit - and potentially re-activate quantitative easing to pump more cash into the economy. In further fallout, finance minister George Osborne warned Friday that the government would abandon its promise to achieve a budget surplus by 2020, sparking forecasts of more austerity spending cuts-backs and tax hikes.

'Liars, Liars'

The vote to leave the EU was deeply split.

Voters in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the capital London backed remaining, while those that chose to leave were largely from less affluent areas in England and Wales. But there was also a rough generational split. Younger voters were likelier to vote Remain - many of whom worried about their right to travel and work in the EU - while their Baby Boomer elders were likelier to vote Leave.

The narrow victory has triggered anger in Britain among those who wanted to remain in the EU and more than four million people have signed a petition calling for a second referendum. A poll for BBC's Newsnight program found that 16 percent of voters think Britain will stay in the bloc, and 22 percent said they do not know if it will leave. In the coming days, meanwhile, Conservative MPs will whittle down the party leadership candidates to two in a series of votes and the rivals will then tour the country to appeal to some 150,000 party members for their vote.

British media reported yesterday that energy minister and Brexit backer Angela Leadsom has become the favorite to face Theresa May on the ballot paper. Gove, who torpedoed fellow anti-EU campaigner Boris Johnson's leadership hopes on Thursday, cast doubt on whether May could lead the country out of the EU after supporting a "Remain" vote. However, Gove has also faced fierce criticism for turning on his one-time ally Johnson. — AFP



KIELCE, Poland: This picture taken on June 23, 2016 shows the house on 7/9 Planty street, where communist police, soldiers and steelworkers killed 37 Jews on July 4, 1946. — AFP

GUNMAN SHOOTS DEAD 5, INJURES 20 IN SERBIA CAFE

BELGRADE: A man shot dead five people, including his wife, and injured another 20 in a cafe in northern Serbia early yesterday, police said, with jealousy the suspected motive. The man "entered the cafe and opened fire with an automatic rifle, killing his wife and another woman, then he continued to shoot at other citizens in the cafe," a police statement said. It was the third mass shooting in recent years in Serbia, which has tried to shrink the large number of illegal weapons in circulation since the 1990s Balkan wars.

"It was horrible. Some people were screaming and there was blood everywhere," cafe owner Ljubomir Milinovic told state-run news agency Tanjug. N1 television station quoted Interior Minister Nebojsa Stefanovic as saying that the weapon was illegal and jealousy was believed to be the motive. The latest incident happened at about 1:40 am (2340 GMT Friday) in the town of Zitiste, around 80 km north of Belgrade. Police arrested the alleged shooter, born in 1978 and identified only by his initials Z S, and

opened a probe into the killings.

Stefanovic said the attacker tried to flee the scene but was foiled by police. "We are all shocked that something like this could happen, since this was a very quiet man who had no police record," the minister said, according to Tanjug. N1 channel reported that the attacker argued with his wife in the cafe, left the building and returned with a Kalashnikov-type rifle. Two people were killed instantly in the shooting and three others died in hospital in the nearby city of Zrenjanin, according to N1. The other injured victims, some of them severely, were taken to various Serbian hospitals but were not in critical condition, reports said.

Unlawful Weapons

Police have previously said there could be up to a million unregistered weapons in Serbia, including guns and grenades, left over from the 1990s conflicts. This latest shooting spree came a day after the interior ministry launched a new amnesty to encourage owners of illegal weapons to

hand them in to their local police stations. A similar drive last year netted about 4,000 weapons. A stricter gun control law came into effect in March in Serbia, which is home to about seven million people. In another shooting spree last year, a 55-year-old man opened fire in a northern town in an apparent drunken rage over his son's wedding, killing six people including the bride and her parents.

In 2013, a 60-year-old Serbian war veteran shot dead 13 people in the country's worst massacre in two decades as he rampaged through his tiny village about 50 km south of Belgrade. The dead included his son and his mother as he went house-to-house, mainly shooting people as they slept peacefully. Individual shooting incidents are reported almost daily in Serbia, with domestic violence a common theme. After yesterday's attack, the government body for gender equality called for tougher gun control to prevent another incident where "in a burst of anger, someone decides to use an automatic rifle to kill his wife and her friends". — AFP



ZITISTE, Serbia: People clean the ground at a cafe after a man shot dead five people in this village in northern Serbia yesterday. — AFP

BILL CLINTON OFFERS REWARDS, RISKS TO WIFE'S CAMPAIGN

DES MOINES, Iowa: His popularity among Democrats is off the charts, he's a fundraising powerhouse and his administration is hailed by many as a high-water mark of economic prosperity. Without question, one of the key assets in Hillary Clinton's second campaign for the White House is her husband, Bill. And yet, there are still times when the former president can step in it.

The latest headache came this past week, when Bill Clinton crossed paths at the Phoenix airport with Attorney General Loretta Lynch. He popped inside her plane for a private chat, ignoring the fact that Lynch's Justice Department is in the midst of an investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email account and server during her time as secretary of state.

While Lynch said their conversation was social and her department's probe of Clinton wasn't discussed, she nevertheless acknowledged Friday it "cast a shadow" on the public's perception of the case. "I certainly wouldn't do it again," Lynch said of the meeting. Bill Clinton's impromptu visit with Lynch followed other moments Clinton's campaign would surely likely to have back, including his scolding of Black Lives Matter protesters at a Philadelphia campaign event in April. But despite the potential for such slip-ups, many supporters argue the benefits of Bill Clinton greatly outweigh the risks.

"He's not the most effective surrogate on the Democratic side, he's not the most effective surrogate in 2016: he's probably the most effective surrogate ever,"

said Matt McKenna, a former spokesman for the former president. "He is a remarkably effective fundraiser. He is a remarkably effective strategist. He is an incredible counselor not just to the campaign, but to her."

More Involved

Heading into the general election, the Clintons continue to navigate the unique terrain of an ex-president campaigning for his wife. Bill Clinton stayed out of sight during the early months of his wife's campaign as she reacquainted herself with voters. But he started getting more involved in the fall and has been a vigorous presence ever since, doing more than 400 public events since January in 40 states and territories. "She's got the best ideas, she's got the best record of doing it and she's the best changemaker I've ever known," Clinton told a cheering crowd of more than 350 gathered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in May.

Bill Clinton has largely appeared in smaller cities, enhancing the reach of the campaign, and has taken an active role in fundraising. "I had him in my home a few months ago, and people love him. When he's with them he's so good," said John Morgan, an Orlando attorney and longtime Clinton fundraiser. He added: "The guy fills rooms. He fills a room. For raising money, Number One, he does that." During the long Democratic primary, Bill Clinton, who is ferociously protective of his wife, grew increasingly frustrated with her Democratic rival, Bernie



NEW YORK: In this June 7, 2016 photo, former President Bill Clinton stands on stage with his wife, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, after she spoke during a presidential primary election night rally. — AP

Sanders, and his supporters. But he has largely created less drama than in 2008, when he drew scrutiny for a number of statements, including equating then-Illinois

Sen. Barack Obama's wins in the South Carolina Democratic primary with Jesse Jackson's victories in the state in 1984 and 1988. — AP

FIRST US WOMAN PRESIDENT: HOW GREAT A MILESTONE?

WOMEN DIFFER OVER BREAKTHROUGH

NEW YORK: On the day Cheryl Lawson Walker graduated from college, she hadn't thought very much about the future and her place in it - or the obstacles she might face as a woman. The place was Wellesley; the year was 1969, and the women's movement was just emerging as a force in America. But on that day, for the first time, a student had been selected to address the commencement at the women's school: Hillary Rodham, the student government president. The two women lived in the same dorm, where they'd chatted over their salads at communal meals.

Rodham's speech sent a jolt through the class. "We were just thrilled that she felt empowered enough and articulate enough" to speak so boldly, rebutting the remarks of the U.S. senator who spoke before her, which many had found condescending, Walker recalled. Rodham was "much more forward-looking" than many of her classmates, she said, and it would be some years before they, too, really recognized the obstacles they would have to overcome.

The speaker that day - now known as Hillary Clinton - is edging closer to breaking the ultimate glass ceiling as the presumptive Democratic nominee for president of the United States. Her election would surely be a major milestone for women. But her fellow alumnae don't all feel the same way about its significance.

To be sure, for some, the election of the first female president would be a thrilling moment they've been waiting for years to see, the culmination of a struggle that lasted much too long. "I can't even articulate all the reasons it's important," Sarah Schlesinger Hirschfeld, 56, a New York doctor, said. "I think it's tremendously important for all women, whether they know it or not, to see a woman in the most important leadership role in the country - and for men to see it, too."

But to others, the milestone has been eclipsed by other advances - seeing women achieve positions of power in different arenas, or witnessing the election of the first African-American president. Walker, now 68, supports Clinton, but falls into the latter camp. "I know some people are hugely excited by it, see it as symbolically an enormous step, but I don't happen to be among them," she said. "I just think it's a good next step. Certainly not a milestone like it was when Barack Obama was elected."

And the recently retired literature professor said her young female students, many of whom supported Sen. Bernie Sanders (as have her own children, ages 32 and 35), feel the same way: "For them, the idea of electing a woman is nowhere near as significant as electing the first African-American president was."

A recent poll found that while three-quarters of registered women voters felt America was ready for a female president, only about a third considered it very important to see one in their lifetime. (The poll was taken before Clinton clinched the nomination.) "The numbers aren't high," Debbie Walsh, director of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, said. She attributes it partly to a generational divide, with younger women having grown up accustomed to seeing women in positions of power. "It's almost as if (some) people feel like it's already happened, but it hasn't," she said of the milestone.

You sense the divide when you talk to Wellesley women of various generations - from women in their 70s who left college years before feminism took hold, to contemporaries of Clinton, to women in their 20s now emerging into the workforce. Though the women interviewed all said they planned to support Clinton over Donald J. Trump, some were vocal supporters of Sanders in the primaries. Even among those who supported Clinton all along, their views on the milestone aren't necessarily what one might expect.

Sense of Pride

In May, a group of Wellesley '62 grads gathered for one of their frequent, informal reunion weekends, meeting for meals on campus and in nearby Boston and celebrating their 75th birthdays. They came from an accomplished class, including a former head of the United States Tennis Association, the first African-American woman in the country to chair an academic pathology department and the late writer Nora Ephron.

When conversation touched on the election, there was certainly a sense of pride at the prospect of a president from Wellesley, one attendee, Martha Bewick, said. But talk was more focused on issues than candidates, she said - on the economy, on terrorism, on the scourge of drugs. In fact, when the subject of a female president came up, Bewick said, "the general mood was that the question was



This combination of June 2015 photos shows (top row from left) Emily DiVito in St Petersburg, Florida and Dr Sarah Schlesinger in New York; at bottom row from left are Cheryl Walker in Los Angeles and Cheryl Brieron in San Diego. All four are graduates of Wellesley College, also the alma mater of Hillary Clinton. — AP

n't pressing" - that it was more of an issue back in 2008, when Clinton faced Obama in the primaries. "When we elected a black American president, the issue sort of went away," she said, summing up the mood of the discussion. "There are so many other urgent issues."

Personally, Bewick, who's voted both Democratic and Republican in the past, said she's found herself warming up to Clinton over the months, becoming increasingly impressed with her qualifications. But gender is not foremost on her mind. "Women have done so well in other fields," she said. "The presidency was going to catch up sometime." To classmate Susan Dworkin, a novelist and playwright, that day can't come soon enough. To her, a female president would signify a "huge victory" for women. "Younger women have such a different understanding of the importance of this thing," Dworkin, who lives in Becket, Massachusetts, said. "To people of my age, to me, it's gigantic!"

One reason for the divide, Dworkin suggested, is that women her age "grew up with the real torment of sexism - the things you couldn't do, the places you couldn't be, the marriages you had to have, the work you never got. We came of age in the middle of this struggle, and we had leaders like Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem who pointed out to us what was wrong with our situation." "I know that younger women don't care," Dworkin added with a sigh. "They take it for granted, the things that we work SO hard for ... we were of the generation that really went through all the crap. So Hillary, if she becomes president, that's the winning of a great struggle for me."

Logical Progression

Laurel Prussing sees the milestone as more of a logical progression - one that was always going to happen at some point. "Listen, if it happened 20 years ago it would be different," said Prussing, who is the Democratic mayor of Urbana, Illinois, and a supporter of Sanders. "But people are used to women now. There's a whole new generation of young people who expect that women are equal." Sure, she said, there hasn't yet been a woman president, "but we have senators, we have governors, it's gotten to be part of the landscape now - rather than an asteroid from outer space hitting the earth. It's an achievement, but it's not earthshaking."

Prussing was first elected to her post in 2005 and has been in politics since the 1970s, when she was one of the first women elected to her county board. "I went through all this 30 years ago," she said. "It's a new world now." Prussing recalled introducing Sanders at a rally of thousands in Chicago. "I

said I was supporting Sanders, and I don't think I'm going to hell! There was a huge roar."

She was referring to comments by Madeleine Albright, the former secretary of state who said in February while campaigning with Clinton that "there's a special place in hell for women who don't help each other." Some female Sanders supporters were offended by the suggestion that they shouldn't be able to choose their own candidate (Steinem was also criticized when she said young women supported Sanders because "the boys are with Bernie." She later apologized.) "I mean, come on!" Prussing said. "We fought all this time and we got the right to vote ... I don't vote for somebody just because they're a woman."

Powerful Moment

In a CNN/ORC poll conducted in March, just 35 percent of women voters said it was either "extremely important" or "very important" to them to see a woman elected president in their lifetime. (The number was 25 percent among male voters.) Walsh, of Rutgers, thinks things could change once women see Clinton accept the nomination at the convention in Philadelphia - potentially a visually powerful moment. Still, she said, "If you're 26, I don't think you see your lifetime's end looming in front of you in the same way you do even in your 50s. So you think, 'It's going to happen in my lifetime - of COURSE it's going to happen.'"

Emily DiVito, 23, graduated Wellesley a year ago. Six months later, she went to work for the Sanders campaign, canvassing in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New York. (She's now working on a local race in Florida.) When she went back to visit Wellesley, she said, "I would step on campus and think, 'Oh gosh, do people hate me for whom I support?' It's such a strong community there."

But Wellesley is not entirely Clinton country: In a survey the school conducted in late May of graduating seniors, 65 percent of 125 respondents supported Clinton, 14 percent supported Sanders, and 2 percent supported Donald Trump. The students also said the gender of a political candidate mattered only a little (51 percent) or not at all (31 percent) in this election.

DiVito, 23, said it is "completely important, hugely important" to her to see a female president one day. But she decided to support a candidate whose position on the issues meshed with hers. "At the end of the day I voted for a single person," she said. DiVito was particularly stung by the remarks of Albright and Steinem. "I took them personally," she said. "Especially because I was working for Sanders - it wasn't just like I had a free bumper sticker!" — AP

INMATE LAWSUIT ALLEGES SHE WAS RAPED BY MAUI GUARD

HONOLULU: An inmate's lawsuit against the state of Hawaii says officials didn't protect her against a guard who has been a fugitive since he was indicted in 2014 for allegedly raping her. The woman was in a work furlough program in 2014 that allowed her to leave the Maui Community Correctional Center during the day. Former corrections officer, James Siugpiyemal, threatened to remove her from the program if she didn't comply with his demands for sex, her lawsuit said.

He was indicted Oct. 27, 2014 after her attorney turned over to Maui police footage from a hidden camera that captured the guard raping her in her car. Siugpiyemal resigned from the state Department of Public Safety on Oct. 6, 2014, said department spokeswoman Toni Schwartz, who declined to comment on behalf of the state on pending litigation. Maui prosecutors obtained a warrant for Siugpiyemal's arrest, and U.S. marshals have been trying to find him since.

Federal prosecutors allege in a criminal complaint that Siugpiyemal fled to Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia to avoid prosecution. According to an FBI affidavit filed with the complaint, Maui police began the sex assault investigation on Oct. 2, 2014. Soon after, he resigned and left Hawaii. Department of Homeland Security records show that he flew from Guam to Yap on Oct. 11, 2014, according to the affidavit.

The woman is pursuing civil action by filing the lawsuit in federal court earlier this week because the statute of limitations is running out, said her attorney Myles Breiner. The woman gave into Siugpiyemal's demands because she was afraid of losing her furlough for a theft conviction, Breiner said. She kept DNA evidence after having oral sex with him, the lawsuit said. "In fear and desperation, she finally agreed to meet him again, but unbeknownst to him, she had a hidden camera in her car," the lawsuit said. "That camera caught the entire episode of (her) rape - in graphic detail." — AP

CLINTON CHOICE FOR FIRST EVENT WITH OBAMA: NORTH CAROLINA

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton campaign together next week for the first time this year, and their decision to meet up in Charlotte says a lot about how her campaign views her path to replace him in the White House. Democrats view North Carolina as a prime place to expand into Republican territory against Donald Trump, building upon one of Obama's biggest triumphs in 2008 and his narrow loss four years ago.

The state's electorate has become more diverse since Obama's first presidential campaign. Women play an increasingly influential role in the state's politics, giving Clinton an opportunity to play up her potential to become the first woman to win the White House. And controversial moves by the GOP-controlled state legislature to exclude sexual orientation and gender identity from statewide anti-discrimination protections and to require transgender people to use restrooms corresponding to the sex on their birth certificate in public buildings has touched a nerve in the battleground state.

"I told her that the state is winnable. I think she believes that in her core," said Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx, a former Charlotte mayor, describing a recent conversation with Clinton. "North Carolina is a classic battleground state. It's a state with people who are hungry for progressive change." Foxx added: "There's been a lot of things at the state level that have reminded people that North Carolina's proud progressive tradition is under assault right now." Clinton's campaign is targeting about a dozen battleground states that were fiercely contested by Obama and Republican nominee Mitt Romney in 2012. Like Obama, she enters the summer with a number of pathways to reach 270 electoral votes, with large states such as Florida, Ohio and North Carolina potentially to put her over the top on Election Day.

Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee, had planned to appear with Obama in Green Bay, Wisconsin, in mid-June, but the rally

was postponed after the deadly Orlando nightclub shooting. Campaign officials said Democrats feel they have largely consolidated support for Clinton in Wisconsin in the weeks since, prompting them to shift their splashy kickoff in the city that held Obama's 2012 Democratic convention.

Taylor Griffin, a Republican former aide to President George W. Bush who unsuccessfully sought a seat in Congress this year, said North Carolina's recent presidential elections have turned on the ability to mobilize urban and rural voters and the extent to which the state's conservative roots outpace an influx of newcomers. He said Trump has been effective in building support among tea party activists, and conservatives long for an outsider. "His support is stronger and his base is more unified. You hear a lot more about wailing and gnashing of teeth about Trump in DC than in North Carolina," Griffin said.

Competitive State

Voter registration statistics underscore a competitive state: North Carolina has about 2.6 million registered Democrats, compared with 2 million registered Republicans and 1.9 million unaffiliated registered voters. Women make up about 53 percent of registered voters. Much of Clinton's focus will center on registering new voters in the Triangle - the cities of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill - and mobilizing black voters throughout the state. In 2012, Obama narrowly lost North Carolina, due in part to turnout of black voters of about 69 percent, slightly more than the turnout among white voters.

Democrats reported registering about 340,000 voters in 2012 and black voters accounted for about 23 percent of the electorate that year, slightly more than in 2008. At least for now, Clinton has the airwaves largely to herself. Her campaign plans to spend more than \$4 million on ads in North Carolina before the Democratic National Convention in late July - her third largest investment behind battleground heavyweights Florida and Ohio. — AP



CHICAGO: In this Dec 1, 2008 file photo, then-President-elect Barack Obama stands with then-Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton after announcing that she is his choice as Secretary of State during a news conference. — AP

US SUPREME COURT ENDS EVENTFUL TERM WITH BANG



WASHINGTON: An abortion rights activist holds placards outside the US Supreme Court before the court struck down a Texas law placing restrictions on abortion clinics on June 27, 2016. — AFP

WASHINGTON: US conservatives were expecting some major wins at the Supreme Court this year, but several dramatic twists - including the death of a justice - reconfigured the bench and liberals ended up scoring the most influential victories. The high court's 2015-2016 term ended with a bang this week when it struck down a Texas law restricting access to abortion - the most important ruling in a generation on the hot-button issue, and a big win for "pro-choice" activists.

The 5-3 decision by a short-handed court - down one justice since the death of veteran conservative Antonin Scalia in February - marked a major setback for evangelical Christians and conservatives opposed to abortion. Just a few days before, the top court made a surprise ruling in favor of an affirmative action program at the University of Texas, meaning that race and ethnicity can be taken into account when deciding college admissions. Once again, the country's liberals cried victory.

And in March, a 4-4 deadlock effectively affirmed the right of public sector unions to collect fees from non-members, in a setback for conservatives. Lee Epstein, a Supreme Court expert based at Washington University in St Louis, said Scalia's death played a major role in some of the term's key decisions. On affirmative action, a narrow 4-3 ruling would instead have been a 4-4 deadlock, leaving in place lower court rulings upholding the plan - but setting no legal precedent.

In the unions case, Scalia would likely have turned the tables against them. But she said his death was not the only explanation for the court's shift to the left. "The move to the left started a few years ago, not this term," Epstein told AFP. "Our data show that the 2014 term and now the 2015 term were the most liberal since the 1960s." The Obama administration however did not emerge from the court's term unscathed, including big defeats for the Democratic president's sweeping immi-

gration plan and his efforts to curb carbon emissions.

Problematic Tie Votes

Scalia, who died unexpectedly in February, espoused deeply conservative views during his three decades at the court. A staunch defender of gun rights and the death penalty, the Roman Catholic justice was also openly opposed to abortion, gay marriage and affirmative action. Without him, the court is now evenly split between conservatives (Chief Justice John Roberts, Anthony Kennedy, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito) and progressives (Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan). That distribution dramatically increases the chances of deadlocks on the court. Kennedy, a key swing voter between the bench's conservatives and progressives on social issues, has become even more crucial in a court with just eight of the nine seats filled, sometimes joining the liberal wing. — AFP

NEW TALEBAN LEADER TELLS US TO END AFGHAN OCCUPATION

KABUL: New Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhundzada called on the US yesterday to end its "occupation" of Afghanistan in his first message since being appointed the militant group's chief. The message was released to mark the upcoming Muslim festival of Eid and comes two days after Taliban-claimed suicide blasts, targeting a convoy of buses transporting Afghan police cadets in Kabul, killed over 30 people and wounded more than 70. "Admit the realities instead of useless use of force and muscle... and put an end to the occupation," Akhundzada said in a speech on the eve of Eid-al-Fitr, the Muslim festival marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

"Our message to the American invaders and her allies is this: the Afghan Muslim people neither fear... your force nor your stratagem. They consider martyrdom in confrontation

drone strike in neighbouring Pakistan in May. Mansour was formally appointed head of the Taliban in July last year following the revelation that Mullah Omar - the group's supreme leader - had been dead for two years in Pakistan. Afghan officials have frequently accused Pakistan of harbouring and nurturing Taliban insurgents, who are waging an over-a-decade-long war against local and foreign troops in the country.

Policy 'Still the Same'

The Taliban have stepped up attacks after announcing Akhundzada as their new leader. Observers say the once low-profile religious figure, who is seen as more of a spiritual figurehead than a military commander, will emulate Mansour in shunning peace talks and intensify attacks against the Afghan government. Analyst Ahmad Saeedi told AFP the statement was "softer" than that of his predecessors, but showed no indication the group wanted to join peace talks. "I don't see anything new in the statement of the new Taliban leader Akhundzada. The new message does not have anything on peace talks and fate of war in the country. I think their policy is still the same," he said. "He (the new leader) is once again insisting on fighting, calls it mandatory and challenging the US that they will not be victorious," he said.

Last month US President Barack Obama ordered the American military to tackle the resurgent Taliban more directly - in tandem with Afghan allies, ratcheting up a 15-year conflict he had vowed to end. Under the new rules, US troops can work more closely with local fighters in striking the Taliban. They had previously been in an advisory role in Afghanistan since the start of 2015 and had only been authorised to hit Taliban targets for defensive reasons only, or to protect Afghan soldiers.

Thursday's twin suicide attack on a convoy of buses transporting newly graduated police came little over a week after 14 Nepali security guards heading to work at the Canadian embassy in Kabul were killed in a massive blast that left their minibus splattered with blood. Just hours prior to the release of Akhundzada's message, a suicide bomber on foot attacked a local commander's vehicle in Jalalabad, capital of eastern Nangarhar province, killing two and wounding 17 others, officials said. — AFP



Haibatullah Akhundzada

with you as a cherished goal of their life," Akhundzada added. He also called on neighboring countries to join the fight against the US, saying the presence of Americans would "harm our mutual interest" and "destabilise the whole region". "You are expected to join your voice with that of the Afghans to end the occupation or at least do not take steps which contribute to prolongation of presence of the Americans," he said.

The message is the first by Akhundzada since his predecessor Akhtar Mansour was killed during a US



MELBOURNE: Leader of the Australian Labor Party Bill Shorten waves to party faithful as he arrives to speak about the success of the Labor Party in the Australian Federal Election yesterday. — AFP

AUSTRALIA RULING CONSERVATIVES STRUGGLE IN KNIFE-EDGE ELECTION

POLLS SHOW CLOSE VOTE AND POTENTIAL MINORITY GOVT

SYDNEY: Australia's election was on a knife-edge yesterday with the ruling conservatives struggling to win enough seats to form majority government, raising the prospect of a hung parliament. Seventy-six seats are needed to rule outright in the 150-seat House of Representatives, but there was a swing against Malcolm Turnbull's Liberal/National coalition results showed as vote counting went deep into the night. National broadcaster ABC, which is known for calling elections results, said an outcome was unlikely Saturday.

"I'm prepared to make a prediction. We won't know who has won tonight," the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's respected election analyst Antony Green said, with some four million postal votes still being sifted through. He forecast Bill Shorten's Labor opposition would not hold more than 70 seats and the coalition could fall short of a majority by one seat, with 75, despite being backed by the nation's media.

More than four hours after most polling booths closed, the Australian Electoral Commission had Turnbull's party on 71 seats to 68 for Labor with crossbenchers - politicians who are independent or from minor parties - winning five. It could mean a parliament where no side commands a lower house majority, as voters fed up with traditional politicians look for alternatives, meaning crossbenchers will play

an important role in forming government.

"First term governments always, always, have a swing against them. We know that," Treasurer Scott Morrison said, putting a brave face on the results. Labor deputy leader Tanya Plibersek said Turnbull's leadership was in peril. "I think the real question is for Malcolm Turnbull - can he remain leader with the loss of so many seats?" she told the Nine Network. The government went into the election with a large majority of seats.

The vote culminated a marathon race where economic management became a key issue in the wake of the Brexit verdict. Multi-millionaire former banker Turnbull, 61, was looking to bolster his power after ousting fellow Liberal Tony Abbott in a party coup last September and he was upbeat when casting his vote at a school near his Sydney harborside mansion. "Win the election," a boy yelled out as he stuffed his voting form in the ballot box, to which Turnbull replied: "Thank you, we are working on it."

Unexpected Headwinds

Ex-union chief Shorten, 49, has been gunning to return Labor to office after it was thumped by the conservatives at the last election in 2013. "What will decide this election is what is in the best interests for working and middle class Australia," he said before polling closed in a last-ditch bid to rally

undecided voters to his platform of better health, jobs and education. Turnbull has campaigned on tough asylum-seeker policies, a plan to hold a plebiscite on gay marriage, and his economic credentials as the country transitions from a mining investment boom and focuses on job creation and diversifying the economy.

He has also channelled the instability sparked by Britain's shock vote to leave the European Union, warning Australia must "have the plan that meets the nature of our times, a time of opportunity and a challenge". According to the official #ausvotes Twitter feed, the most tweeted issues during the campaign have been healthcare, the economy, education and housing affordability and voters in Sydney said they expected a tight contest. "There's been a lot of disunity in the last couple of years (in Australia)," voter Sarah Lander told AFP, referring to the country's revolving door of prime ministers. "With what's going on in the world, with the UK (Brexit) and terrorism, why wouldn't you want to stick with what you know?" Turnbull called an election early because crossbenchers hold the balance of power in the upper house Senate. They have failed to pass deadlocked legislation to overhaul unions, which provided the trigger for a double dissolution of parliament, where all seats in the upper and lower houses are contested. — AFP

CALIFORNIA'S TOUGH GUN LAWS ARE GETTING STRICTER

SACRAMENTO: California's gun laws, already some of the strictest in the nation, will get even more stringent next year. Gov Jerry Brown signed onto much of the gun-control agenda advocated by legislative Democrats, who are clamoring to crack down in the wake of high-profile mass shootings including last year's terrorist attack in San Bernardino. The Democratic governor signed six bills Friday requiring gun owners to give up magazines holding more than 10 rounds and to undergo a background check before they can purchase ammunition, among other measures.

While he vetoed five bills - including a one-gun-per-month purchase limit - he endorsed the most ambitious pieces of the Legislature's gun control push over the roar of gun-rights advocates frustrated by the increasing weight of restrictions. "Independence and freedom and liberty in California has been chopped down at the knees and kicked between the legs," said Sam Paredes, executive director of the advocacy group Gun Owners of California.

Brown's actions are consistent with his mixed record on gun control. Some of the enacted bills duplicate provisions of a November ballot measure by Democratic Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. Some of the vetoed measures also appear in Newsom's initiative, giving voters a chance to overturn Brown's veto and protecting the initiative from becoming moot. "My goal in signing these bills is to enhance public safety by tightening our existing laws in a responsible and focused manner, while protecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners," Brown wrote in a one-sentence message to lawmakers.

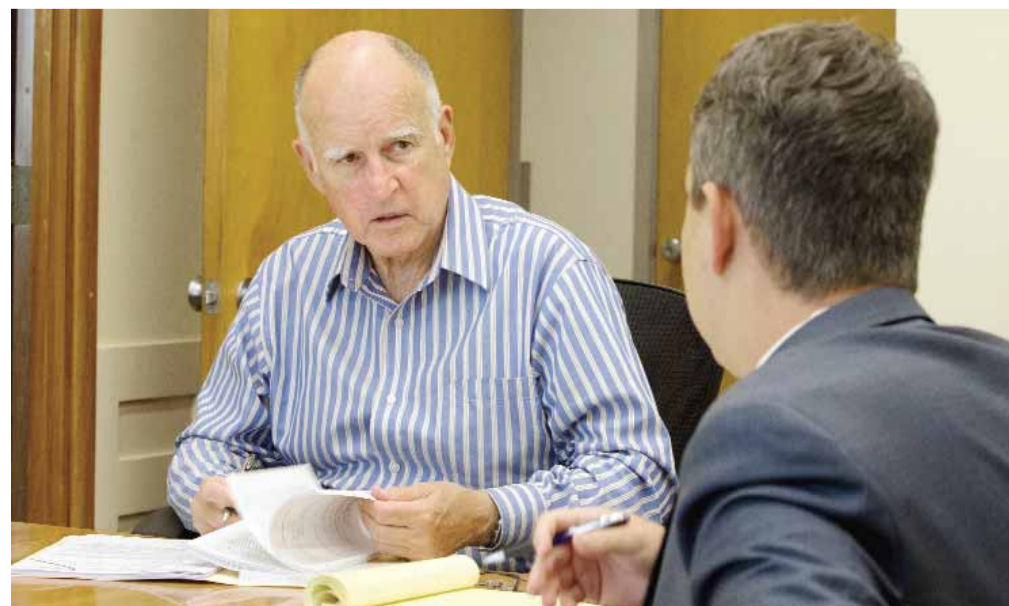
The state's move to tighten laws further comes amid years of gridlock at the federal level, which spawned a tense clash in Washington last week as Democrats camped out on the floor of the U.S. House and shouted down Republicans. "Strong gun laws work... What we're doing in California is a better job

of keeping guns out of dangerous hands," said Amanda Wilcox, a spokeswoman for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, whose daughter was killed by a shooter using a high-capacity magazine. Brown's action will require people who own magazines that hold more than 10 rounds to give them up. It extends a 1999 law that made it illegal to buy a high-capacity magazine or to bring one into the state but allowed people who already owned them to keep them.

Bullet Button

In an attempt to slow gun users from rapidly reloading, the governor signed a bill outlawing

new weapons that have a device known as a bullet button. Gun makers developed bullet buttons to get around California's assault weapons ban, which prohibited new rifles with magazines that can be detached without the aid of tools. A bullet button allows a shooter to quickly dislodge the magazine using the tip of a bullet or other small tool. People will be allowed to keep weapons they already own with bullet buttons, which are often referred to as "California compliant", but they'll be required to register them. Brown also endorsed a bill requiring ammunition sellers to be licensed, buyers to undergo background checks and transactions to be recorded. — AP



SACRAMENTO: Gov Jerry Brown discusses a bill under consideration for his signature with Daniel Seeman, his deputy legislative affairs secretary, on June 30, 2016. — AP

HOUSE REPUBLICAN GUN BILL DRAWS IRE OF DEMS

WASHINGTON: Republicans in the US House of Representatives on Friday introduced a measure intended to prevent gun sales to people on government watch lists, only to draw demands from Democrats for stronger proposals and a warning of possible new protests. A week after Democrats ended a 25-hour sit-in on the House floor to call for gun legislation after the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, a Republican, said lawmakers will vote next week on a measure giving government authorities three days to convince a judge that someone on a terrorism watch list should not be allowed to obtain a firearm.

"It is a responsible measure that confronts this threat while protecting the rights of law-abiding citizens," House Speaker Paul Ryan said in a statement. But in a Friday conference call, House Democrats reached "a clear consensus" to oppose the measure, calling it the handiwork of the National Rifle Association, an aide said. Similar legislation, backed by the NRA, was blocked by Democrats in the Senate last week.

Democrats also called for two amendments: one to allow the U.S. attorney general to decide without court approval whether someone on a watch list could buy a gun and another to expand existing background checks to all commercial gun sales including

those at gun shows. Democratic Representatives John Lewis of Georgia and John Larson of Connecticut, who led last week's sit-in, asked for a meeting with Ryan to request votes on the amendments, which consist of legislation originally sponsored by Republican Peter King of New York. Ryan agreed to meet with the Democrats next Tuesday, Republican and Democratic aides said.

"If these amendments are not allowed, then members will have further discussions about possible actions to take in response to this refusal to allow a vote on commonsense gun legislation," said another House Democratic aide. Ashlee Strong, a Ryan spokeswoman, said the House speaker "looks forward to meeting with Congressmen Lewis and Larson to discuss the important action the House will take to prevent terrorist attacks."

The new Republican proposal, which would apply to anyone who has been suspected of violent extremism within the past five years, would require authorities to show probable cause that a would-be buyer "will commit an act of terrorism" or violates existing prohibitions on undocumented immigrants, fugitives, convicts and people with mental illness. The gun provisions were tucked into a bill aimed at stepping up efforts against terrorism, including what the legislation referred to as "radical Islamist terrorism." — Reuters

BUDDHISTS TORCH MYANMAR MOSQUE AS TENSIONS SPIKE

YANGON: Nearly 100 police guarded a northern Myanmar village yesterday after a Buddhist mob burned down a mosque, a police officer said, in the second attack of its kind in just over a week as anti-Muslim sentiment swells in the Southeast Asian nation. Buddhist-majority Myanmar has struggled to contain bouts of deadly religious bloodshed in recent years, with bristling sectarian tensions posing a core challenge to the new government led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

The latest flare-up in violence saw throngs of Buddhist villagers in Hpakant, a jade-mining town in northern Kachin state, storm a mosque and set it ablaze on Friday. "The problem started because

the mosque was built near a (Buddhist) pagoda. The Muslim people refused to destroy the building when the Buddhists discovered it," Moe Lwin, a local police officer, told AFP. He said around 90 police officers are now stationed in the village, where the situation has calmed. No arrests have been made, he added.

The riot, which took place during the holy month of Ramadan, came eight days after a crowd of Buddhists destroyed another mosque in central Bago, forcing the Muslim community to seek refuge in a neighboring town. Tensions are also simmering in western Rakhine, a state scarred by deadly riots in 2012 that left communities almost

completely divided along religious lines. The region is home to the stateless Rohingya, a Muslim minority largely relegated to destitute displacement camps and subject to host of restrictions on their movements and access to basic services.

Suu Kyi, a veteran democracy activist who championed her country's struggle against repressive military rulers, has drawn criticism from rights groups for not taking swifter moves to carve out a solution for the ethnic minority. Her government recently ordered officials to refer to the group as "people who believe in Islam in Rakhine State" instead of Rohingya - a term whose use has set off protests by hardline Buddhists who insist the

group are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Yet even the government's broad phrase has failed to placate local Rakhine Buddhists, who demand the group be referred to only as "Bengalis" and say they are preparing to rally in protest at the order today. After a 12-day visit to troubled Rakhine and other conflict sites in Myanmar, a UN rights investigator warned Friday that "tensions along religious lines remain pervasive across Myanmar society". Yanghee Lee urged the country's new civilian government to make "ending institutionalized discrimination against the Muslim communities in Rakhine State... an urgent priority". — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladeshi security personnel stand guard after gunmen stormed a restaurant in Dhaka's high-security diplomatic district early yesterday. — AFP

ATTACK ON DHAKA OASIS OF CALM SHAKES EXPATS

GARMENT BUSINESS COULD SUFFER DEEP SLUMP

DHAKA: With the Holey Artisan Bakery downstairs and the O'Kitchen Restaurant upstairs, the Dhaka eatery with large windows looking out at a lush lawn suggested an oasis in an increasingly dangerous city. That illusion ended at about 9 pm on Friday, as gunmen burst through the door of an establishment that sells profiteroles and pizzas to Dhaka's elite. "It is an elegant place: Diplomats, successful businessmen, and politicians would meet here," said Agnese Barolo, wife of the international affairs adviser to Bangladesh's prime minister. "Business deals were decided, political discussions would take place here."

In Bangladesh, where the news has recently been of competing jihadi groups hacking liberals, religious minorities and others to death, it was, she said, a special spot. It is not yet clear what broader impact the rampage - which left 20 civilians, two police and six gunmen dead - will have on life and business in the South Asian nation that depends heavily on foreigner sentiment and a \$26 billion garment export sector. The World Bank has warned previously that militancy could derail Bangladesh's path to becoming a middle-income country.

Most of the 20 people killed by the militants at the restaurant were foreign nationals, according

to an army spokesman. An interior ministry official quoted survivors as saying the militants told locals to stay out of the way. One of the attackers cursed a diner for sitting with non-Muslims during Ramadan and proclaimed that the nation would now be seen as an Islamic state, according to another Bangladeshi official briefed on the police investigation.

"Bangladesh has never seen such a horrific incident. It is a strong slap on our image," said Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association. "It is injurious for our image. It will create pressure on our business. But I cannot say at the moment to what extent - that will need few days more."

'Very Foreign Vibrancy'

A country manager of a France-based garment-buying house in Dhaka said his business could now suffer a deep slump. "We fear they might take a decision to narrow the volume or they may even wind up the business" entirely, he said, asking to speak on the condition of anonymity to avoid harming his business ties. To many, the restaurant and bakery were a symbol of

the possibility of a more cosmopolitan future. "It had a very foreign vibrancy," said Asmaul Housna, a journalist with a local newspaper The Daily Star who visited the eatery often. "You don't have a lot of cafes like this in Dhaka."

Ali Arsalan, a co-owner of O'Kitchen, said he'd left at about 8:10 that night, just before a group of men stormed the stone-and-wood facaded building yelling "Allahu Akbar", the Arabic phrase for God is Great. A chef sent a note to the restaurant's WhatsApp group: There'd been gunshots. The men fired indiscriminately as staff and diners fled for their lives, with a group soon corralled on the roof, Arsalan said, citing accounts he received from witness phone calls and messages.

What came next was a slaughter. "Most of them were killed mercilessly by sharp weapons last night," Army Brig Gen Nayeem Ashfaq Chowdhury told reporters in Dhaka. Photographs posted by the Islamic State's media wing, purporting to be from the scene, show large pools of blood smeared across the floor and bodies akimbo by upturned chairs. Arsalan said it was too early to say whether he and his partners would reopen. "Of course, you don't want these people to win," he said. "But you need to find the strength to continue." — Reuters

FOREIGNERS HERDED TO DEATH IN BANGLADESH CAFE HORROR

DHAKA: As diners relaxed for their evening meal on one of the last days of Ramadan, the gunmen burst into the restaurant before separating foreigners from locals so they could launch their killing spree. By the time Bangladeshi commandos stormed Dhaka's Holey Artisan Bakery 11 hours later, its stone-washed white floors were a sea of blood, strewn with the bodies of foreigners who had been hacked to death. The Western-style cafe was a popular bolt-hole for expats and locals in the upmarket Gulshan neighborhood which has long been home to the country's wealthy elite and many embassies.

On Friday night, Hasnat Karim had brought his family to celebrate his daughter's birthday. Hasnat was too traumatized to say more than a few words about his ordeal, saying only that the hostage-takers "did not misbehave with us". But he detailed to his father Rezaul how the gunmen - who were armed with automatic weapons, bombs and makeshift machetes - had split the diners into two groups. "(The foreigners) were taken to the upper floor and the Bangladeshis were kept around a table," said Rezaul Karim.

In the chaos and confusion that erupted at the start, many diners were able to scramble to safety. One man who escaped told India's ABP News channel how the gunmen chanted slogans as they forced their way past the sole security guard on the door. "I rushed to alert others, some people managed to escape from a back route but the rest were trapped," he said on condition of anonymity. "They made people stand in a line. There must be about 20-25 staff and about 20-25 guests and then they switched off the lights and CCTV."

'Shocking Carnage'

Bangladesh, where around 90 percent of the population is Muslim, has just begun a week-long holiday to enjoy the Eid celebrations which accompany the end of Ramadan. As news of the siege spread, police rushed to the scene and engaged in gunbattles with the hostage-takers but they met heavy resistance. "(The hostage-takers) had automatic weapons and

bombs," said Diego Rossini, an Argentinian chef who escaped into a neighboring building. "The hostages (who had escaped) were hiding and police were shielding them," Rossini told Argentina's television channel CSN. Rossini managed to escape into a next-door building while under fire. "I felt bullets pass so close to me, I felt fear like I've never felt in my life."

Images posted by the Islamic State group as they claimed the attack showed two bodies soaked in pools of crimson. A senior army officer said that all 20 of the slaughtered civilians were foreigners and nearly all were hacked to death with makeshift machetes. Several dozen people have been attacked in similar fashion by Islamist extremists in the last two years, mainly members of religious minorities.

A senior officer who was part of the operation which ended the siege yesterday morning described a gruesome scene inside the cafe. "We saw blood in many places and were shocked to see the carnage," he told AFP on condition of anonymity. "We heard the gang saying Allahu Akbar and there was a slogan written on the wall which said Allah would grant them Jannatul Ferdous (ultimate heaven)." Among the weapons recovered from the scene were pistols, automatic rifles and sharpened machete-style blades.

Apart from the slain hostages, the bodies of six gunmen were also recovered. The officer who took part in the storming said the attackers were all men in their early to mid-20s. "They were wearing sneakers and pants, with multiple pockets where they kept IEDs (improvised explosive devices)," said the source. Popular for its breads and leafy garden the Holey Artisan Bakery describes itself on Facebook as the "only truly Artisan Bakery Shop between Mumbai and Singapore", with mouthwatering images of pastries.

The site was deluged yesterday with messages of prayer and concern from local Bangladeshi diners and others around the world. "Praying for those innocents and may Almighty curse those extremists...they can't be Muslim. These extremists are monsters," wrote a Facebook user named Siragis Salekin. — AFP

News

in brief

China bus falls off highway after tyre bursts, killing 26

BEIJING: An overnight sleeper bus in northern China fell off an expressway into a ditch after a tyre burst, killing 26 people, officials said. The government in the port city of Tianjin said yesterday that the bus with sleeping berths and carrying 30 people plunged off the road Friday night. The official Xinhua News Agency reported that the four others on board were found alive by early yesterday and sent to a hospital. Xinhua said the long-distance bus broke through the guardrail on the Tianjin-Jixian expressway at the Baodi section, which is about 80 km from Beijing.



PITHORAGARH, India: Indian soldiers search for survivors of a landslide following torrential rains in rural Uttarakhand state. — AFP

Landslides, flooding kill 25 in north India

DEHRADUN, India: The death toll from landslides and flooding in northern India has risen to 25 after rescuers found more bodies buried under debris, officials said yesterday. At least dozens more are missing after torrential rains triggered landslides and floods in the Himalayan states of Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh. Some 15 people have lost their lives so far in Uttarakhand and at least 10 were reported dead in the remote Arunachal Pradesh state. "We have recovered 15 bodies so far. The rescue operations are on to find those still missing," senior disaster control officer in Uttarakhand, Piyooosh Rautela, told AFP. Television images showed muddy, swirling floodwaters gushing through the area, while giant boulders and rocks blocked part of a national highway. In Arunachal, a nine-month old baby and a 10-year-old were among those killed after debris barrelled down hilly slopes into populated areas, the Press Trust of India news agency said, quoting police.

INDIA'S RULING PARTY COURTS ISOLATED NORTHEAST

GUWAHATI, India: Ranjiv Kumar Sharma says his home state of Assam in India's isolated northeast is experiencing a "silent invasion" of Muslims from neighboring Bangladesh that only Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party can stop. For years Sharma has been working with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a hardline Hindu group, to pave the way for Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to take power in the tribal-dominated region, where it won its first state election last month.

Analysts say the victory in Assam, an ethnically diverse state with a large Muslim minority where the BJP's brand of religious nationalism had previously held little sway, is a sign that the party is becoming a truly national force. It has done so by adapting its Hindu nationalist message to local concerns in Assam, a perceived influx of Muslim migrants from neighboring Bangladesh that the BJP's campaign promised to tackle.

Impoverished Assam has a history of violent conflict between indigenous tribes and settlers, and although many have been there for generations, fears persist that they could threaten the region's distinctive culture. But long before campaigning began, the RSS had been quietly preparing the ground, setting up hundreds of schools and medical facilities in poor communities - whatever their religion.

"We knew the BJP would win," Sharma told AFP at one such school in the state capital Guwahati as hundreds of smartly-uniformed children lined up to begin the school day with a traditional Sanskrit prayer to the Hindu goddess of knowledge Saraswati. "For the last four years, we have worked hard here."

The BJP's promise of economic development won support across religious lines in Assam, one of India's poorest states, where the centre-left Congress party has traditionally held sway. Mohammad Abdul Matin campaigned for the party in his home district of Nellie, scene of one of contemporary India's bloodiest massacres in 1983 when around 2,000 suspected migrants were butchered in a single day. Nearly all were Muslim, and many were children.

Abdul Matin is a Muslim, but was under-terred by the BJP's aggressive stance on settlers, whom the party has been careful to distinguish from what it calls "Assamese" Muslims.

"The main thing with the BJP is not Hindu or Muslim. Modi-ji sees everyone as equal," the 52-year-old rice seller told AFP. "Look at this road. Still after 15 years (of Congress government) this road is not built," he said, pointing in disgust at the dirt track that leads to his village.

Sealing the Border

The RSS, seen as the BJP's ideological fountainhead, styles itself as an organization devoted to protecting India's Hindu culture. But critics say it has a history of fuelling religious tensions, particularly with the country's large Muslim minority. That has raised concerns in a state that suffered deadly communal violence as recently as 2014 and in 2012, when rioting forced thousands to flee their homes. The new state government has moved quickly to make good on its promises of tackling immigration - even if many experts doubt that Bangladeshis are currently crossing the border in large numbers.

Earlier this month it announced it would seal Assam's porous border with Bangladesh, a

virtual impossibility given that large sections of it are on a river that frequently changes course. Authorities are also working to determine which of its 31 million inhabitants are there illegally, an exhaustive process that began under the previous administration. Himanta Biswa Sarma, a senior minister in the new BJP-led state government, said he expected the final number to be "big - a lot more than a million", and anyone found living in Assam illegally would be deprived of a vote.

But he rejected suggestions the party's focus on migrants could exacerbate tensions in the state. "If someone is detected, we'll release them from the voter list. Then we'll think what else we can do," he told AFP in Guwahati. "But there'll be no social unrest, there'll be no provocation... because our society has evolved."

'Stage Set to Expand'

The BJP now hopes to replicate that success across the northeast starting with Manipur, an insurgency-racked state on the border with Myanmar that will hold elections



GUWAHATI, India: In this photograph taken on June 1, 2016, Indian schoolchildren take part in morning prayers at Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) run Sankardev Sishu Nikatan School in the Betkuchi area. — AFP



DHAKA: Bangladeshi policemen patrol the area around the site of an attack in Dhaka, yesterday. Bangladeshi forces stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka's Gulshan area where heavily armed militants held dozens of people hostage yesterday morning, rescuing some captives including foreigners. — AP

ANONYMOUS SMS THREATENS, WARNS IRANIAN...

Continued from Page 1

overthrow the government. Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was accused of being "involved in the soft overthrow of the Islamic republic through... her membership in foreign com-

panies and institutions," the Mizan news agency, which is close to the judiciary, reported. Freedom House in April ranked Iran among the 10 least free countries in the world. Satellite dishes are illegal and Persian-language broadcasts from outside the country are often jammed, it said. — AFP

31 KILLED IN SYRIA

Continued from Page 1

He said the town is home to some 60,000 people and that the bombardment had not stopped since yesterday. Rebel groups in Jayrud include the Saudi-backed Jaish al-Islam (Army of Islam), the hardline Ahrar al-Sham, and Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front. Jaish al-Islam spokesman Islam Alloush said on Friday that Al-Nusra Front had executed the air force pilot.

Several government aircraft have been shot down by rebels or crashed because of technical faults since the civil war erupted five years ago. According to the Observatory, three Syrian officers were killed on Friday when their helicopter crashed in the south, near territory held by the Islamic State jihadist group. Abdel Rahman

said government forces had managed to recover the bodies of the victims of the crash, the cause of which remained unclear. "We don't know if it was a technical issue or not, but the bodies are with the regime," Abdel Rahman said. Dozens of local truces have been brokered between the myriad of armed groups fighting in Syria's increasingly complex civil war.

But a nationwide ceasefire between government forces and non-jihadist rebels brokered by Moscow and Washington in February has been repeatedly violated by both sides. US officials have accused Russia of not doing enough to rein in its ally President Bashar Al-Assad. Moscow has countered that rebel groups that have failed to break ranks with Al-Qaeda and continue to fight alongside it are legitimate targets. — AFP

QIYAM PRAYERS HELD AMID TIGHT SECURITY

Continued from Page 1

As on other nights, eight rakaats of tahajjud were performed followed by three rakaats of witr. The first four rakaats were led by Sheikh Meshari Al-Afasy, and the remaining by Sheikh Fahd Al-Kandari. In the interval, Sheikh Ahmad Al-Qattan delivered a short but rousing sermon. Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah and Minister of Awqaf and Justice Yaqoub Al-Sane were among the attendees.

The Grand Mosque in Kuwait is the hub of worship in Kuwait in Ramadan, and thousands pack its cavernous interiors throughout Ramadan. Many believe 'Laylatul Qadr' (Night of Power or Decree) falls on night of the 27th of Ramadan, but this is not a confirmed fact as Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) instructed Muslims to hunt for this night on the odd-numbered nights of the last ten days of Ramadan. Qiyam ul-layl or special nightly prayers are therefore held during these nights at the Grand Mosque and many other mosques across Kuwait.

Laylatul Qadr holds great significance for Muslims, and the last ten nights of Ramadan are spent in prayer and meditation. Ubaadah bin Saamit (RA) reports that

he asked the Prophet (PBUH) about Laylatul Qadr. He replied: "It is in Ramadan, during the last ten days, on the unevenly numbered nights, either the 21st 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th or the last night of Ramadan. Whosoever stands in 'ibaadah' (worship) on this night, with sincere faith and with genuine hopes of gaining reward, his previous sins will be forgiven."

"Among the signs of this night is that it is a serene, quiet, shining night, neither hot, nor cold but temperate as if a moon is shining clear, and no meteors are shot at the devils on that night; it lasts until the break of the dawn. Another sign is that at morn, the sun rises without any radiant beams of light, appearing rather like the moon in its fullness. On that day, Allah prohibits the devils from rising up with the sun."

Laylatul Qadr could thus fall on any night, but the night of the 27th is believed by most to be the one, and millions of Muslims around the globe spend this night in prayer. The Holy Quran says that Laylatul Qadr is better than a thousand months, and Allah's blessings and angels descend on earth on this night. Laylatul Qadr is also the night that Allah first sent down the first verses of the Holy Quran via Archangel Gabriel to Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

HOSTAGE CARNAGE LEAVES 20 DEAD...

Continued from Page 1

Army spokesman Colonel Rashidul Hasan said he could not yet confirm the nationalities of those who had died. Most of them had been killed by "sharp weapons". Hasan said initially that it seemed all the victims were foreigners but now the army believed some locals were among the dead as well. Six gunmen were killed during the police operation and one was captured, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in a TV broadcast after the army concluded its operation to clear the cafe. Two police were killed in the initial assault.

Islamic State, which has claimed a series of machete attacks on minority groups in Bangladesh over the past year, posted photos of bodies and blood smeared across floors that it said were dead foreigners killed in the assault. Police did not immediately confirm whether the pictures were from the site of the massacre. Gowher Rizvi, an adviser to Hasina said security forces had tried to negotiate with the gunmen.

Sporadic gunfire

The hostage crisis began when security guards in the Gulshan district of Dhaka, popular with expatriates, noticed several gunmen outside a medical centre, Rizvi said. When the guards approached, the gunmen ran into a building housing the restaurant, packed with people waiting for tables, he said. Ali Arsalan, co-owner of the restaurant, said his staff told him the attackers yelled "Allahu Akbar" (God is Great) as they stormed the building, split between Holey Artisan Bakery and the O'Kitchen Restaurant.

The restaurant was regarded as a tranquil place that was safe to visit in an increasingly dangerous city. Police said the assailants exchanged sporadic gunfire with police outside for several hours after the gunmen attacked the restaurant around 9 pm on Friday. A police officer at the scene said when security forces tried to enter the premises at the beginning of the siege they were met with a hail of bullets and grenades that killed at least two of them.

A cafe employee who escaped told local television about 20 customers were in the restaurant at the time, most of them foreigners. Some 15 to 20 staff were working at the restaurant, the employee said. The rescued Japanese man was eating dinner with seven other Japanese, all of whom were consultants for Japan's foreign aid agency, a Japanese government spokesman said. The fate of the other seven remained

unknown. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the Japanese aid workers "were giving their all for the development of Bangladesh". "We feel strong indignation at this inhumane, despicable act of terrorism, which has claimed many lives," he told reporters.

Kuwaitis 'safe'

Meanwhile, Kuwait Ambassador to Bangladesh Adel Hayat has affirmed that Kuwaitis in Bangladesh were not harmed by the armed attack in the diplomatic district of the capital Dhaka. In a telephone interview with KUNA, Ambassador Hayat said, "We affirm that there are no Kuwaitis among the persons who have been held as hostages during the incident and all the embassy staff members are safe."

Spate of murders

Bangladesh has seen a spate of murders in recent months claimed by Islamic State and Al-Qaeda on liberals, gays, foreigners and religious minorities. A Hindu priest was hacked to death on Friday at a temple in Jhinaidah district, 300 km southwest of Dhaka. Local authorities say no operational links exist between Bangladeshi militants and international jihadi networks.

They say two local militant groups, Ansar-al-Islam and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, have been behind the violence over the past 18 months. Ansar pledges allegiance to Al-Qaeda, while Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen claims it represents Islamic State. "The bottom line is Bangladesh has plenty of local, often unaffiliated, militants and radicals happy to stage attacks in ISIS's name," said Michael Kugelman, South Asia associate at The Wilson Centre in Washington DC, using an acronym commonly used for Islamic State.

Islamic State had claimed more attacks in Bangladesh than in Pakistan or Afghanistan, he said. The restaurant assault also comes after Bangladesh hanged an Islamist party leader, Motiur Rahman Nizami, on May 11 for genocide and other crimes committed during a 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. That has drawn an angry reaction and some scattered violence from supporters. Foreign diplomats and human rights groups have warned that Bangladesh's ongoing war crime tribunals and the government's pressure on the Bangladesh Nationalist Party have created a backlash domestically, according to Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. — Agencies



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Issues

RECOGNIZE REALITY

By Dr James J Zogby

At last week's Democratic Party platform drafting meeting, I introduced Bernie Sanders' amendment to the Israel/Palestine section calling for and end to the occupation and settlements. What follows are my comments, speaking for the amendment. During her opening comments, DNC Chairwoman Wasserman Schultz, spoke about "putting ourselves in others' shoes." That's what we've tried to do with our amendment. We do not often see the Arab Israeli conflict through Palestinian eyes. As Senator Sanders has made clear, there are two peoples in this conflict who need to be understood and whose pain needs to be recognized.

(While the platform calls for a "two state solution") just using language about two states doesn't acknowledge the reality that the Palestinians are living under occupation. Palestinian land is being taken by settlements. Palestinians are enduring check points that daily brings horrific humiliation-denying them freedom of movement, employment, and the opportunity to give their children free space in which to live. That's the situation in West Bank and Jerusalem.

Gaza is another story entirely with 60% unemployment and even higher youth unemployment. You must understand that in Gaza, if you're a young man under 30, you most likely have never had a job, have no prospect of a job, and therefore no opportunity to have a family or build a decent future. And so death becomes a more desirable option for some. Suicide rates are up, mental illness is up, drug addiction is up. The situation is unsustainable and it must change.

If you review our party's past platforms, they have lagged way behind reality. I remember being in this same debate in 1988, when we called for our party's platform to include "mutual recognition, territorial compromise, and self-determination for both peoples." Back then, people reacted as if the sky were going to fall. It didn't, we survived. We did not recognize a Palestinian state in our platform until 2004 after George W Bush said it. Now we have an opportunity to send a message to the world, to the Arabs, the Israelis, the Palestinians, and to all Americans that we hear the cries of both sides. That America wants to move toward a real peace because it understands that there's suffering here. Suffering that is unsustainable.

The term occupation shouldn't be controversial. George W. Bush said that there was an occupation. Ariel Sharon said that there was an occupation. Barack Obama has said there was an occupation. There is an occupation. It denies people freedom. Our President has said that. We have to be able to say in our politics what we say in our policy. We can't think with two brains. If our policy says it's an occupation and settlements are wrong and they inhibit peace, why can't our politics say it? It doesn't make sense.

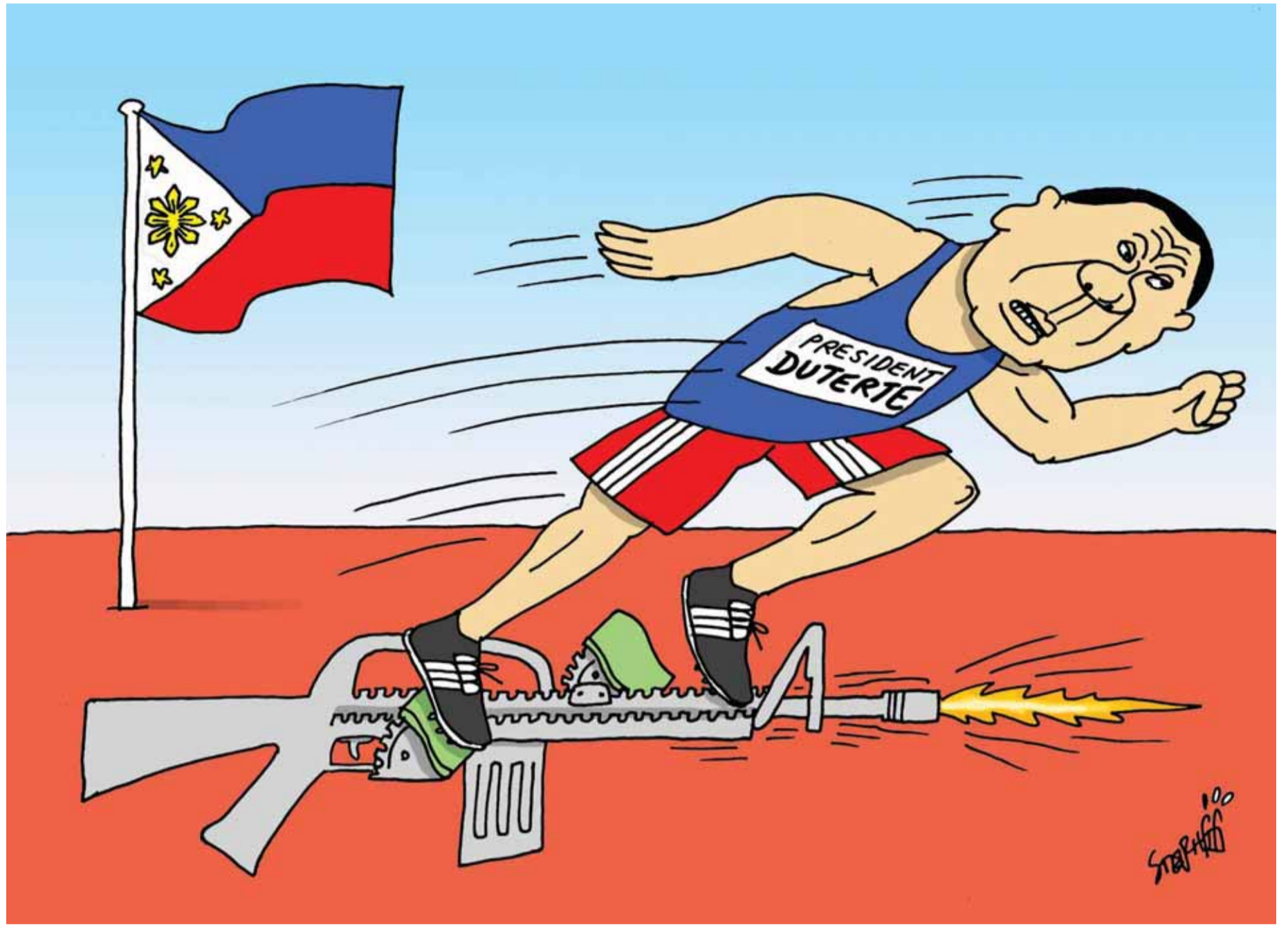
The next administration will behave just as the last one, but our politics won't change. And so I urge you to consider passing this amendment because of the message it will send forcefully and clearly. A message of hope to Palestinians, a message of hope to peace forces in Israel, and a message to the American people—that this time we're going to make a difference. And we are actually going to help the parties move toward peace. [The Clinton campaign spokespersons presented their rebuttal. Attempting to make the point that Israel was a tolerant democracy, one Clintonite said that she was proud as a Jewish, lesbian woman that Israel was the only country in the ME where she could walk down the streets of Tel Aviv holding hands with her wife. In my closing argument, I responded.]

Now you can walk down the street in Tel Aviv holding the hand of your wife, but I can't get into the airport in Israel without hours of harassment because I'm of Arab descent. And I'm not even Palestinian, but because my father was born in Lebanon, I get stopped. When I was working with vice-president Gore, I almost missed a dinner at the Knesset to which he had invited me because I sat in the airport for hours being grilled by people about why I was there and what I was doing.

That was bad enough. But the treatment meted out to the people who live there is so much worse. They suffer horrific discrimination. We have to be able to call it what it is. It is an occupation that humiliates people; that breeds contempt; that breeds anger, and despair and hopelessness that leads to violence. All that we are asking you to do is accept the reality of the situation. There's an Israel; the US accepts it, supports it, wants to do everything for it. But there's also a Palestinian people living under occupation, being drowned by settlements. And recognize what is happening to the people in Gaza.

There is a dynamic going that we must understand. The Israelis may be insecure about the Palestinians but they are very secure about America. Palestinians are not secure vis-à-vis Israel, and they are not secure vis-à-vis America either. We have never treated them fairly. In 1988 when we tried to call for mutual recognition; we could not get that done. We couldn't even get the word Palestinians in the platform. Reality has moved way beyond just recognizing Palestinians are there. We need to hear their voices, understand their pain, and say that our Democratic Party understands that this is conflict that must be resolved by respecting the rights of both peoples. [When the vote was taken, our amendment lost—8 to 5. The debate will continue when the full platform committee meets in July.]

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POLITICAL LANDSLIDE IN MINERAL-RICH MONGOLIA

By Ben Dooley

A landslide election victory by Mongolia's opposition is a stinging rejection of the government's failed economic policies, analysts and voters said Thursday, as the country struggles to turn its vast natural resources into national wealth. The Mongolian People's Party (MPP) won 65 out of 76 seats in the State Great Hural Parliament, leaving the ruling Democratic Party (DP) in single figures with a mere nine spots, the election commission announced early Thursday.

Among the casualties was outgoing prime minister Chimedijn Saikhanbileg, who lost his own Bayanzurkh seat in Ulan Bator to a virtual unknown. "I voted for the MPP because the DP used their power only for their own good," said Magsarjaviin Bold, 46, a construction worker in the capital. "They are mostly businessmen and did things that only profited them." Billions of dollars' worth of natural resources lie buried beneath Mongolia's sprawling steppes, drawing the attention of multinational mining giants such as Anglo-Australian Rio Tinto, which has a multi-billion-dollar copper and gold project at Oyu Tolgoi.

But development has been delayed for years by disputes over the role of foreign investment, while slowing growth in Mongolia's biggest customer China has done nothing to help, and the ruling party paid the price for an anaemic economy. In 2011, the year before the DP came to power, Mongolia's GDP rose a world-leading 17.3 percent. By last year expansion had slumped to 2.3 percent. Marissa Smith, a Mongolia expert at De Anza College in San Francisco, told AFP: "There has been a shift since the last election away from blaming foreigners towards blaming Mongolian politicians and other elites for the failure of Oyu Tolgoi and (coal project) Tavan Tolgoi to have met expectations."

'Wrong direction'

Turnout was 72 percent and 13 women were elected, up from 11 last time, despite a cut to a

quota for female candidates. Pre-election polling by the International Republican Institute (IRI) showed that over 60 percent of Mongolians felt their country was "headed in the wrong direction", a sentiment driven by concern over corruption and the government's inability to transform resources into new jobs. "Voters were very clear with their ballots... they wanted change," said IRI's country director Ashleigh Whelan, adding that the victory will give the MPP an overwhelming majority in the legislature. "Any initiative that they want to pass... they'll pass it." After the scale of the MPP's victory emerged, party chairman Miyegombiin Enkhbold vowed to put the country back on track, saying it would "do our best to fix the economic and social downturns."

But while the MPP was the ruling party during Mongolia's Communist era and the DP guided it to its democratic present, many Mongolians see little difference between the two parties and how much will change remains unclear. Both ran virtually identical campaigns, focused on the importance of job creation through resource development, but short on practicalities. "Our political parties don't really have a political ideology that unites them," said Mogi Badral Bontoi, CEO of market intelligence firm Cover Mongolia. "Politicians join their parties not because of their political ideology... but which party gives them the best chance to gain power, gain influence."

The election result was "tentatively posi-

tive" for foreign miners, which also include Chinese state-owned coal giant Shenhua, said Greg Kwan of the Economist Intelligence Unit in a research note, as the new government was unlikely to reverse "a recent shift to a more friendly stance". Mogi hoped the next government would be "much more focused on the economy than China," he said, "less populist, less nationalist, less protectionist". Not all MPP supporters agree. "I don't want the new government to sell Mongolian natural riches for lower prices to foreigners," said Zagdiin Sesemjav, a 62-year old pensioner who backed the party. "That is giving them away," she said. "Most income must come to Mongolians, not foreign companies." —AFP



ULAN BATOR: Kinds play with a bubble on the main square in front of the Mongolian Parliament House in Ulan Bator. —AFP

BANGLADESH HOSTAGE SIEGE: WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

Twenty foreigners have been killed in an attack on a Western-style cafe in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, with many hacked to death during the country's worst hostage crisis in recent memory. Bangladesh troops stormed the upmarket Holey Artisan Bakery cafe after suspected Islamist militants took tens of diners hostage, gunning down six attackers. Here's what we know so far:

What happened?

Gunmen burst into the cafe in Dhaka's diplomatic quarter shortly before 9:30 pm on Friday night, as people were eating dinner. They set off explosives, shouting iAllahu Akbari (God is Greater). As a massive firefight broke out with police, the gunmen took up to 40 hostages, including many foreigners. Two police officers died in the gunfight. The assailants separated out the Bangladeshis from non-locals and led foreign diners upstairs, according to the father of one diner. They murdered 20 hostages during the course of the siege, hacking many to death with machetes. Following an 11-hour stand-off, heavily armed commandos stormed the restaurant early yesterday morning. The siege ended with six gunmen killed and one arrested. Some 13 hostages were freed.



DHAKA: Armored vehicles pass by after an operation against militants who took hostages at a restaurant popular with foreigners in Dhaka yesterday. —AP

Where did it happen?

The Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant is a Western-style cafe popular for its large, leafy garden, situated in the affluent Gulshan district. The diplomatic zone is home to many of the city's expatriate workers and several foreign missions, as well as restaurants, upmarket malls and members clubs. The incident took place

near the city's Nordic Club and the Qatar embassy.

Who is behind the attack?

About four hours after the attack the Islamic State jihadist group claimed responsibility, via an IS-affiliated news agency, Amaq. It later issued a number of photographs of what it said were scenes

from inside the cafe showing what appeared to be several bodies lying in pools of blood. The attackers were described by one army official as being aged 20-27 years old and well-educated.

Who were the hostages?

The army said most of the slain civilians were either Italian or Japanese. Rome's ambassador to Bangladesh Mario Palma told Italian state television that seven Italians were among the captives. A Tokyo official said that several Japanese nationals were inside. Sri Lanka said two of its nationals were among the hostages, but had been freed.

Is this kind of attack common?

The attack follows a spate of murders of foreigners, religious minorities and secular activists in Muslim-majority Bangladesh, blamed on or claimed by Islamist militants. Cesare Tavella, an Italian aid worker, was shot dead in Gulshan last September in an attack claimed by Islamic State. And in 2012 a Saudi Arabian diplomat was shot dead in the diplomatic zone. However, Friday's attack was on a totally different scale and the first time that people had been held hostage. The government and police deny that Islamic State is active in Bangladesh and blame home-grown militants for the killings. —AFP

ROSBERG CRASHES IN AUSTRIAN PRACTICE

SPIELBERG: Sebastian Vettel led Ferrari teammate Kimi Raikkonen by a narrow margin to top the final practice for the Austrian Grand Prix yesterday, while Formula One leader Nico Rosberg crashed heavily. Rosberg's crash caused the session to be red-flagged for 10 minutes. Rosberg was unhurt but his Mercedes was badly damaged ahead of qualifying later yesterday. Mercedes later said Rosberg will take a five-place penalty on the starting grid for a gearbox change. Rosberg hit a curb, spun around, and hit the barrier, his left rear wheel suspension apparently damaged. His fastest lap before the crash ended up being the slowest in the 22-car field. Four-time champion Vettel was .136 seconds faster than Raikkonen. But Vettel also will be dropped five slots on the starting grid because of an unscheduled gearbox change. Two-time series defending champion Lewis Hamilton was third in his Mercedes, .210 seconds behind Vettel. Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo and Max Verstappen were next. Rosberg has won the Austrian GP the last two years since it returned to the schedule, and leads Hamilton by 24 points after winning five races this season. — AP



KENYA HIKES CASH AWARD FOR OLYMPIC MEDALLISTS

ELDORET: Kenya's deputy president William Ruto announced increased cash incentive for the country's Olympic medallists on Friday while promising tough punishment for dope cheats who tarnish the country's image at the Rio Games next month. The east African nation known for middle and long distance running excellence has been under global scrutiny after more than 40 Kenyan athletes failed dope tests in the past four years, with 18 of them serving various sanctions. At one stage, it threatened Kenya's participation at the Rio Olympics and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) ordered that it sets rules and abides by its code. An anti-doping legislation that is in line with the WADA code has since been signed into law, although International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) insists that Kenyan and Russian athletes who qualify for the Olympics will have to be screened afresh. "Kenya is known worldwide for her athletics prowess and this is why we recalled Parliament from recess to pass the anti-doping legislation because we want to run clean sports," Ruto told athletes and officials at the Olympic trials on Friday. — Reuters

CATE CAMPBELL SMASHES 100M FREE WORLD RECORD

SYDNEY: Australia's Cate Campbell smashed the long-standing women's 100m freestyle world record yesterday at a meet in Brisbane in an ominous warning to her rivals ahead of the Rio Olympics. "We present your new world record holder in the 100 free," tweeted the Australian Swim Team, confirming the 52.06 seconds swim which eclipsed German Britta Steffen's old mark of 52.07 set in Rome in 2009 during the full-body supersuit era. Campbell, 24, had "put the world on notice" at the Brisbane Grand Prix, it added, with Australian swim great Dawn Fraser poolside to witness the new record. She had already notched an impressive win over her sister Bronte, the reigning world 100m freestyle champion, in the 50m freestyle on Friday. "I still can't believe it's happened," Campbell told reporters after her win. "People have been asking me when I was going to break the world record for the last three years and honestly it wasn't really on my mind but every time I got in the pool, it was like will they stop asking me this question now. Now you will." In April, Cate had edged her sister to win an epic 100 metres freestyle final at the Australian Championships and Olympic trials in Adelaide. — AFP



The winners with their trophy

BURGAN BANK CONCLUDES WOMEN SOCCER TOURNAMENT

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank concluded its strategic sponsorship of the first initiative of its kind in Kuwait the "80% soccer for women", which was held during the month of Ramadan, under the Patronage of Information Minister, State

Ministry for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, and organized by "80 per cent group".

The tournament that were held on Khaldiya playing grounds witnessed scoring 126 goals in

front of 780 fans, who enjoyed outstanding technical levels by 120 players who were selected out of 200 who applied to participate. The girls were divided into 12 teams who played 20 matches during qualification stage in addition

to the knockout stages, which resulted in "Vamos" team winning first place, champions won second, and West Wing won the third place. The awards ceremony including a special honoring of outstanding players after Fatima

Al-Hamad was chosen as Best Goal Keeper, Abrar Al-Hamdi tournament scorer while Al-Oyoun Club was chosen as the best sports club, in addition to handing Siham Al-Kheryaf was handed the social media contest prize.



Second winning team celebrating.



Third placed team.



HAMILTON ON POLE AGAIN FOR AUSTRIAN GP

SPIELBERG: Lewis Hamilton sped through the rain and sunshine with perfect timing in his Mercedes yesterday to secure pole position for Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix.



Lewis Hamilton

In a dramatic and incident-packed qualifying session, the defending three-time world champion judged his speed and tyre-selection to perfection in the changing conditions to claim the prime starting spot with a best lap in one minute and 7.922 seconds. It was his second successive pole in Austria, his fifth of 2016 and the 54th of his career. His Mercedes team-mate and championship leader Nico Rosberg was second fastest, but the German will start Sunday's race with a five-place grid penalty after a gearbox change following his crash in practice on Saturday morning. "That was a really fun session," said Hamilton. "The first time I have driven in the wet here. It's incredible how fast it dries up. It's like driving through fog!" "It was very, very slippery, but it was drying up corner by corner - at the end it was just about getting that last lap in so I am very happy." Rosberg, who will start from seventh, said: "It was very exciting and I must say

a really unbelievable job by the team, even Lewis's mechanics came to help on my car. "It was very tight and an awesome effort by them all. Lewis did a good job at the end. Second is ok, but five places will be costly for me but I will make the best of it." Another German, Nico Hulkenberg, was third fastest for Force India, but faced a visit to the stewards' office for an earlier infringement. If he survives that, he will start from second. Yet another German, four-time champion Sebastian Vettel, was fourth for Ferrari, but he also faces a five-place grid penalty for a gearbox change. Briton Jenson Button timed his intervention to perfection also to take fifth place for McLaren Honda ahead of Finn Kimi Raikkonen in the second Ferrari. "I love these conditions," he said. "Can we have them every week?"

CONFIDENCE

Australian Daniel Ricciardo was seventh for Red Bull ahead of Finn Valtteri

Bottas of Williams, Dutch teenager Max Verstappen in the second Red Bull and Brazilian Felipe Massa in the second Williams. After all the penalties are applied, Hamilton is expected to start ahead of Hulkenberg on the front row with Button third in a McLaren. Hamilton is seeking to reduce Rosberg's 24-point lead in the drivers' championship after eight of this year's 21 races. Rosberg is seeking to complete a hat-trick of successive wins in Austria. The session began in warm conditions with a track temperature of 51 degrees Celsius, enough to give Ferrari confidence and cause concerns for some of the other teams. Hamilton was one of the first men out and swiftly clocked a new record lap in 1:07.014, trimming it to 1:06.947 before Rosberg joined the fray. He soon went fastest again in 1:06.690. With two minutes remaining, Kvyat lost control of his car in a desperate bid to progress from Q1, skimming over the controversial 'baguette' kerbs at the penultimate

corner, breaking his rear suspension and then skewing in a spin across the circuit into the barriers. It was the third suspension failure of the day following Rosberg and Mexican Sergio Perez of Force India, who was able to retain control and steer his car back to the pits. The session was red-flagged and stopped for 17 minutes before a frantic final 90 seconds saw Spaniard Carlos Sainz pull up with smoke pouring from his Toro Rosso car. In Q2, with rain forecast, Hamilton was out early again to clock 1:06.228 ahead of Rosberg by two-tenths while Ferrari went out on the marginally harder super-soft tyres, a tactical gamble copied by Red Bull for their second runs. Drivers have to start Sunday's race with the tyres they used for their best times in Q2, a requirement that created tricky decisions for the teams in the changing conditions. Ferrari and Red Bull both gained a potential strategic advantage with their starting tyres for today's race - super-softs instead of the riskier ultra-softs of Mercedes. — AFP

NBA PLAYERS CASH IN AS BIG FREE AGENCY PERIOD OPENS

LOS ANGELES: Mike Conley and All-Stars Andre Drummond and DeMar DeRozan are staying put. So are Hassan Whiteside and Nicolas Batum. Many more players are on the move - and some are getting paid like they never could have imagined.

Chandler Parsons, Evan Turner and Timofey Mozgov were among the players cashing in Friday during the first day of free agency - and really, of a new era - in the NBA.

With revenues rising and the salary cap soaring right along with it, good players were being paid like All-Stars, while All-Stars were getting contracts that used to go only to superstars.

Conley is in a class of his own after agreeing to a \$153 million, five-year deal to remain in Memphis, the biggest deal

handed out yet.

And the players at the top of the class haven't even started agreeing to deals yet. Kevin Durant and Al Horford probably can't wait to see what they get after watching what lesser players on the market have already received.

For example: Parsons - four years, \$94 million from Memphis.

Turner - four years, \$70 million from Portland.

Mozgov - four years, \$64 million from the Lakers.

Their timing was even better than their play, as they became free agents at the ideal moment.

With the NBA's national TV contracts worth more than \$2.6 billion beginning with next season, the salary cap that's tied to revenues will soar well beyond

its previous record to between \$90 million-95 million. Some players didn't have to wait long to claim their share of it. Drummond's five-year maximum contract to stay in Detroit will be worth \$130 million, just a share more than the \$128 million Bradley Beal got to remain in Washington. DeRozan will do a little better in Toronto and Charlotte kept Batum for about \$120 million.

But the Hornets lost a couple of key players from their 48-win team, as Jeremy Lin got a three year, \$36 million contract from Brooklyn, and the Pacers lured Al Jefferson to Indiana with a three-year, \$30 million contract.

None of the contracts can be signed until July 7, after next season's salary cap is set and the moratorium is lifted. Missing out on the money was O.J.

Mayo, the former No. 3 overall pick who finished last season in Milwaukee and was a free agent. But he was dismissed and disqualified from the NBA on Friday for violating the terms of the league's anti-drug program, the first player to receive that punishment in a decade. He will be eligible to apply for reinstatement in two years.

His old team was busy, as the Bucks agreed to terms with free agent shooter Mirza Teletovic on a three-year deal worth \$30 million, and also agreed to terms on a four-year, \$38.4 million offer sheet with restricted free agent Matthew Dellavedova. The Cleveland Cavaliers have the option to match that deal.

Durant had his first discussions with another team, meeting with the Golden

State Warriors. He met with his Oklahoma City Thunder on Thursday, before free agency opened, as the former NBA MVP decides whether to remain with the franchise that selected him with the No. 2 pick in 2007.

The other MVP available is LeBron James, who opted to become a free agent. But he said last week he intends to return to Cleveland to defend the city's first championship in 52 years.

The Cavaliers' biggest decision could be what to do with free agent forward J.R. Smith, whose 3-point shooting - and defense - helped Cleveland rally to beat Golden State in the finals. Smith fits in well with Cleveland because he follows James' lead and he's embraced a stopper's role given to him by coach Tyrone Lue. — AP

MLB Results/Standings

Cleveland 2, Toronto 1 (19 innings); Washington 3, Cincinnati 2 (14 innings); Philadelphia 4, Kansas City 3; NY Mets 10, Chicago Cubs 2; Detroit 10, Tampa Bay 2; Boston 5, LA Angels 4; Miami 7, Atlanta 5 (12 innings); Houston 5, Chicago White Sox 0; Texas 3, Minnesota 2 (10 innings); St. Louis 7, Milwaukee 1; San Francisco 6, Arizona 4; Pittsburgh 7, Oakland 3; Seattle 5, Baltimore 2; LA Dodgers 5, Colorado 0.

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	47	32	.595	-
Boston	43	36	.544	4
Toronto	43	39	.524	5.5
NY Yankees	39	40	.494	8
Tampa Bay	33	46	.418	14

Central Division

Cleveland	49	30	.620	-
Kansas City	42	37	.532	7
Detroit	42	38	.525	7.5
Chicago White Sox	40	40	.500	9.5
Minnesota	25	54	.316	24

Western Division

Texas	52	29	.642	-
Houston	43	37	.538	8.5
Seattle	41	39	.513	10.5
Oakland	35	45	.438	16.5
LA Angels	32	48	.400	19.5

National League

Eastern Division

Washington	49	32	.605	-
NY Mets	42	37	.532	6
Miami	42	38	.525	6.5
Philadelphia	36	45	.444	13
Atlanta	27	53	.338	21.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	51	28	.646	-
St. Louis	41	38	.519	10
Pittsburgh	39	41	.488	12.5
Milwaukee	35	44	.443	16
Cincinnati	29	52	.358	23

Western Division

San Francisco	51	31	.622	-
LA Dodgers	45	37	.549	6
Colorado	37	42	.468	12.5
Arizona	36	46	.439	15
San Diego	34	46	.425	16



TORONTO: Jason Kipnis #22 of the Cleveland Indians gets the force out of Josh Donaldson #20 of the Toronto Blue Jays at second base but cannot turn the double play in the thirteenth inning during MLB game action on July 1 at Rogers Centre in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. — AFP

INDIANS WIN 14TH STRAIGHT, BEAT BLUE JAYS IN 19 INNINGS

TORONTO: Carlos Santana homered in the 19th inning off infielder Darwin Barney as the Cleveland Indians set a franchise record by winning their 14th straight game, 2-1 over the Toronto Blue Jays on Friday. Cleveland won 13 straight in 1942 and again in 1951. It's the longest winning streak since Atlanta won 14 straight in 2013. It's the longest by an AL team since Oakland won 20 in a row in 2002. Santana doubled and scored in the third as the surging Indians survived a marathon game and disappointed a sellout crowd that came for a Canada Day matinee that lasted 6 hours and 13 minutes, featured 19 pitchers and saw 34 left on base. The 19 innings matched the longest game in Blue Jays history. Toronto played 19 against Detroit in August 2014. Having used seven of their eight relievers, the Indians turned to Saturday's scheduled starter, Trevor Bauer, in the 15th. Bauer (7-2) worked five innings for the win.

MARINERS 5, ORIOLES 2

Kyle Seager and South Korea's De-Ho Lee hit two-run homers to give Seattle a comeback victory. Mariners starter Wade LeBlanc (1-0) picked up his first victory since Sept. 23, 2014, when he was with the Los Angeles Angels. LeBlanc, acquired in a trade with Toronto on June 22, played last season in Japan. Steve Cishek worked the ninth for his 20th save in 24 opportunities. Kevin Gausman (1-6) went six innings and allowed three runs and eight hits with no walks and seven strikeouts.

MARLINS 7, BRAVES 5, 12 INNINGS

Pitcher Jose Fernandez, making the first pinch-hit appearance of his career, drove in the go-ahead run with a two-run double in the 12th inning to lift Miami over Atlanta. The dramatic moment overshadowed the meltdown of closer A.J. Ramos, who blew a rare save in the ninth for Miami. Ramos had converted 33 straight saves, one short of the franchise record. Fernandez, one of baseball's most dynamic starters, began the game with a .222 batting average in 27 at-bats. With the pitcher's spot due up in the 12th and no position players available, Fernandez batted for reliever Nick Wittgren (3-1) and delivered the big hit. Fernandez is Miami's starter Saturday. Casey Kelly (0-3), the sixth Atlanta pitcher, took the loss.

METS 10, CUBS 2

Brandon Nimmo's three-run homer in the fourth inning was one of five home runs by New York off Jason Hammel in a game that ended Jacob deGrom's 10-start winless streak. James Loney and Asdrubal Cabrera hit consecutive homers in the second inning, just before a 68-minute rain delay, and Cabrera hit a two-

run drive in the fifth, shortly after Yoenis Cespedes' solo shot. New York hit five homers at home for the first time in 16 years, and Cespedes reached 20 homers in a season for the fifth time. DeGrom (4-4) allowed one run and three hits in five-plus innings, leaving after the third delay - which brought the total to 1 hour, 19 minutes in a game that ended at 12:05 a.m. Hammel (7-5) was tagged for career highs of 10 runs and five homers.

RED SOX 5, ANGELS 4

David Ortiz homered for his 2,000th hit with Boston and his 522nd career home run, moving into sole possession of 19th place on baseball's career list and breaking a tie he held with a trio of Hall of Famers including Red Sox great Ted Williams. C.J. Cron hit a grand slam for the Angels, who lost their fourth straight and 10th in 11. Craig Kimbrel finished up for his 17th save. Knuckleballer Steven Wright (9-5) got the win. Jhoulys Chacin (2-5) allowed five runs on 12 hits in just 4 2/3 innings.

GIANTS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Conor Gillaspie fell a home run shy of the cycle and Johnny Cueto settled down after a rocky start to earn his 12th victory. Trevor Brown doubled in two runs and Grant Green singled in two more for the Giants, who are 5-0 at Chase Field this season. San Francisco's Jarrett Parker added a solo homer off reliever Randall Delgado in the eighth. Cueto (12-1) gave up four runs in the first three innings and blanked Arizona for the next four. The right-hander allowed seven hits in seven innings and struck out nine with no walks while improving to 8-0 on the road. Cueto joined Jake Arrieta of the Chicago Cubs as the only 12-game winners in the National League.

NATIONALS 3, REDS 2, 14 INNINGS

Ben Revere doubled in the winning run with two outs in the 14th inning as Washington got its sixth straight victory. Revere's liner off the wall in right-center off Ross Ohlendorf (5-6) scored Danny Espinosa, who was hit by a pitch to start the inning. Yusmeiro Petit (3-1), the sixth Washington pitcher, worked two innings for the win. The last-place Reds have lost five straight and nine of 10. They battled for 4 hours, 30 minutes before falling in this one.

ASTROS 5, WHITE SOX 0

Carlos Gomez hit a two-run homer and Mike Fiers and three relievers combined for a shutout. It was Houston's fourth straight victory and 11th in the last 12 games. Fiers (6-3) scattered four hits over six innings. The Astros didn't have a baserunner until Miguel Gonzalez

(1-4) plunked George Springer to start the fourth inning.

RANGERS 3, TWINS 2

Ian Desmond homered to lead off the 10th inning and Sam Dyson as Texas held on for a victory. Dyson notched his 17th save in 19 attempts. Matt Bush (3-1) pitched two scoreless innings for the win, which lifted the Rangers to a club-record 52-29 mark at the 81-game midpoint of their season. Trevor Plouffe tied the game for the Twins with a two-run home run in the seventh that spoiled Martin Perez's shutout bid, but Desmond took Fernando Abad (1-3) deep to start the extra session.

DODGERS 5, ROCKIES 0

Bud Norris pitched six strong innings while filling in for Clayton Kershaw in his Los Angeles debut and Adrian Gonzalez drove in two runs. Acquired from Atlanta on Thursday, Norris (4-7) overpowered Colorado from the start, striking out seven of the first 14 hitters. The right-hander held the Rockies to a single and a double, and finished with eight strikeouts. Jorge de la Rosa (5-5) gave up two runs and five hits in seven innings.

CARDINALS 7, BREWERS 1

Matt Holliday drove in three runs and left-hander Jaime Garcia threw eight solid innings for St. Louis. The Cardinals ended a seven-game home losing streak, their longest since Aug. 2-15, 1983. It was their first home win since a 6-3 victory over San Francisco on June 5. Garcia (6-6) allowed four hits. He struck out six and walked four. Matt Garza (1-1) gave up seven runs, four earned, in 5 2/3 innings. He struck out six and walked four.

TIGERS 10, RAYS 2

Rookie right-hander Michael Fulmer gave up two hits in seven shutout innings and Victor Martinez hit three-run homers from both sides of the plate in Detroit's fourth straight win. Fulmer (8-2) became the first Detroit pitcher since 1913 to give up one run or fewer in eight straight starts. He is 6-1 with a 0.53 ERA in those eight starts. Drew Smyly (2-9) gave up six hits and four earned runs.

PIRATES 7, ATHLETICS 3

Jody Mercer homered and had an RBI single and Pittsburgh rallied from three runs down to beat stumbling ace Sonny Gray (3-7). Pirates starter Jeff Locke (8-5) also struggled early but retired the final nine batters he faced to win his third straight.

PHILLIES 4, ROYALS 3

Jeremy Hellickson threw six sharp innings, Odubel Herrera hit a leadoff homer and Philadelphia got its fourth straight win. Hellickson (6-6) allowed one run and five hits in six innings, striking out six. He was 0-9 in his previous 15 starts against AL opponents. Royals starter Ian Kennedy (6-7)

gave up three runs in five innings.

PADRES 7, YANKEES 6

Wil Myers hit a two-run homer and 28-year-old rookie Ryan Schimpf hit his first career shot for San Diego. Colin Rea (5-3) pitched six strong innings for the Padres. Nathan Eovaldi (6-6) allowed six runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings. — AP

ENGLAND TO CANCEL BANGLADESH TOUR AFTER FOREIGNER KILLINGS

CARDIFF: England cricket chiefs indicated yesterday they were prepared to cancel a tour of Bangladesh after an attack saw 20 foreigners killed in the country.

Hostage-takers murdered 20 foreigners, hacking many of their victims to death, before six attackers were gunned down by Bangladesh commandos at the end of an overnight siege Saturday at an upmarket restaurant. The Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for the carnage at the start of the Eid holiday. England are due to arrive in Bangladesh on September 30 for a month-long tour including three one-day internationals and two Test matches. But an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) spokesman made it clear that they were prepared to abandon the tour if they or the British government deemed the security situation in Bangladesh unsafe come the squad's scheduled departure date.

"The safety and security of our players and management is always of paramount importance to ECB and this applies to all teams representing England on overseas tours," said the spokesman.

"We will continue to monitor and assess the situation in Bangladesh over the coming weeks and months and will undertake a thoroughgoing and robust pre-tour inspection of planned security arrangements for the England team.

He added: "We will also continue to work closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and should our director of security, Reg Dickson, or the FCO, advise that the environment is not acceptably safe or the right measures not in place, we would take the appropriate steps."

Survivors of the attack told of how the hostage-takers separated locals from the foreigners who were eating side-by-side before embarking on a killing spree which was brought to an end 11 hours later in a fierce gun battle. Although there was no

exact breakdown of the casualties, the army said most of the slain civilians were either Italian or Japanese. Most had been slaughtered with sharpened weapons.

Meanwhile, Pakistan hopes to host its Twenty20 league final on homesoil next year if cricket authorities are able to allay security fears of international players, an official said yesterday.

Pakistan has not staged major international cricket events on its home grounds - barring a few limited over matches against lowly ranked Zimbabwe last year - since terrorists attacks targeted the Sri Lankan team in Lahore in 2009.

Following the attacks, they have been forced to stage their home series on neutral venues in the United Arab Emirates, where they also hosted the inaugural Pakistan Super League (PSL) in February this year.

PSL chairman Najam Sethi said all efforts will be done to host the PSL final in Lahore. "We will try our best to stage the final of the second edition of PSL in Pakistan," said Sethi after chairing a meeting in Lahore.

Five teams competed in the inaugural league which also featured top names like West Indians Chris Gayle, Dwayne Bravo and Darren Sammy, Australian Shane Watson and England's Kevin Pietersen.

But they all refused to come to Pakistan, a trend which is likely to be followed next year as foreigners have reservations about coming to terror-hit Pakistan.

Sethi said the success of the inaugural PSL was encouraging. "We are buoyed by the success of PSL last year and things are now getting into an exciting phase for season two. I can promise we will leave no stone unturned in bringing unparalleled cricketainment to the fans," said Sethi.

Twenty20 leagues are fast getting popular across the cricketing world since India launched its cash-rich Indian Premier League in 2008. — AFP

DREAM OVER FOR RICHARDS-ROSS, FELIX THROUGH

EUGENE: Sanya Richards-Ross's dream of a fairytale Olympic swansong ended in tears here Friday as the 2012 400 meters champion limped out of the US trials. The 31-year-old star, who has been struggling with injuries in recent years, had been hoping to force her way into the US team for Rio before heading into retirement. However the veteran never looked comfortable almost from the start of her heat at Eugene's Hayward Field and pulled up on the final bend in obvious discomfort.

"It was tough to keep running," Richards-Ross said afterwards, confirming her career was over. "When I tried to move on the curve I really felt my ham-

string grab at me. It just wasn't worth it."

Richards-Ross admitted she had been determined to make the Olympics despite being troubled by toe and hamstring problems.

"No Rio. That's the toughest part for me," she said. "As an athlete you always want to go to the Olympics no matter how banged up you are, you still think there's a chance.

"I just thought at the end of the race 'Man-this is the end of it for me' and that was the toughest part." Asked to reflect on her career, Richards-Ross choked back tears.

"I learned a lot and I'll forever love this sport. Thank you," she said.

FELIX DREAM ALIVE

Elsewhere Friday, 2012 200m champion Allyson Felix kept her dream of a rare 400-200 double in Rio alive to emerge from her heat. Felix, winner of the 400m at the World Championships last year, finished second behind Quanera Hayes in a time of 51.96 seconds. The 30-year-old from Los Angeles is aiming to become only the third woman after Valerie Brisco-Hooks of the U.S. in 1984 and Marie-Jose Percec of France in 1996 to have won the 200m and 400m in the same games. But Felix, who has been hampered by an ankle injury after an accident in training earlier this year, did not appear to be moving with her usual

fluency and later did not speak to reporters. Felix is likely to face stiff competition this weekend, with Courtney Okolo, Francena McCorory and Phyllis Francis all more than second quicker on Friday. In the men's 400m, 2008 Beijing Olympics champion LaShawn Merritt eased into the semi-finals with a comfortable win in his heat. Merritt clocked 45.54sec to reach the semi-finals fourth fastest.

In the men's 800m, world indoor champion Boris Berian drew a line under his recent legal problems to cruise into the semi-finals. Berian, who blasted to victory at the indoor world championships in Portland earlier this year, was

racing for the first time since sports goods giant Nike dropped a threatened lawsuit against him. The 23-year-old California-based middle distance runner was all smiles on Friday after coasting to victory in his heat in a time of 1 minute 46.03 seconds.

"It's nice to get that weight off my shoulders. I didn't realize how much it was bothering me until it was settled," Berian told reporters. "I just relaxed today and it was a good feeling." In the men's 10,000m, London 2012 silver medalist Galen Rupp booked his ticket to Rio with a gutsy victory in 27:55.04, coming home ahead of Shadrack Kipchirchir and Leonard Korir. —AFP

IN ALI'S HOMETOWN LOUISVILLE, HEIRS TO A BOXING LEGACY

LOUISVILLE: In a nondescript concrete building in Louisville, Kentucky, the smell of sweat hangs in the air as two teens in protective helmets and boxing gloves trade blows at lightning speed, propelled by shouts of encouragement.

Sunshine streams in from a skylight overhead to illuminate the action at the center of TKO club, where the heirs to Muhammad Ali's storied legacy are determined to do him proud.

Louisville is the hometown and final resting place of the legendary fighter, who was buried here on June 10 in a send-off befitting the three-time heavyweight champion.

At TKO, teens train in the hopes they might be the next Cassius Clay. On any given day, about 80 youths can be found training here, buoyed by the same quest for greatness that spurred Ali—even if they know that boxing legends like him are rare.

"Nobody is close to Muhammad Ali—he is way above everybody else," said 17-year-old Jeffrey Clancy, a strapping youth naked from the waist up, with a well-defined physique.

"He was so much ahead of his time, it was ridiculous—nobody had really seen fast feet like that in the heavy-weight division," the teenager said. Jeffrey began boxing 60 years after a young Cassius Clay took up the sport.

The young Louisville upstart came to be known for his way with words, but first he learned to let his fists do the talking in the boxing ring.

'IT WAS LIKE HE WAS DANCING'

Clay started his training in 1954 at the age of 12 — about the same age as many of the kids at TKO—training at a nearby gym that is now part of Spalding University, at a time when Louisville was a segregated city at the crossroads of the Midwest and the Deep South.

He changed his name to Muhammad Ali, and rose to become not just Louisville's favorite son, but, at the height of his fame, "The Champ"—an American and global phenomenon.

Even after his death, Ali remains a larger-than-life presence, nowhere more so than in the minds of these up-and-coming boxers following in his prodigious footsteps.

Stephanie Malone, 24, a recent boxing recruit, says she has adopted

Ali's credo as her own. "Be yourself and don't let anybody dictate who you are, your drive, your determination," she says, summing up what she said is the crux of Ali's message. Malone came to boxing relatively late, but has established herself as one of the most gifted fighters at TKO—bobbing, weaving and jabbing with the best of them, fearlessly taking on a more solidly built opponent who she subdues against the ropes. The young woman said Ali remains for her an endless source of inspiration. "I love the way he fought, his head movement, like, 'I am going to hit you, but you're not going to hit me,'" said Malone, a youth counselor by training. She described the boxing legend as not just a master tactician, but a mesmerizing talent in the ring. "His footwork was just incredible, it was like he was dancing, like he had a radio inside his head all the time," she said.

'SEVEN OR EIGHT NATIONAL CHAMPIONS'

Malone's young cousin Keilan also trains at TKO, which takes its name from the boxing term technical knockout. "I didn't want to hang on the streets and stuff and hang with the wrong people," he explains, "so I decided to box to keep me off the street."

Nearby, another youngster, Leslye Harbin, describes the physical catharsis that he gets when he laces up his gloves. "Boxing will help me with my anger," he says. "Like, I will take it out on a bag instead of a person."

TKO founder James Dixon is an African American man with tattooed arms who first played the role of sparring partner for his son and a handful of other kids in his garage.

Louisville, a city with a storied boxing legacy thanks largely to Ali, had become "the laughing stock of the country" at boxing competitions, he said. In part, thanks to TKO, for the past few years, that has no longer been the case. "We've got about seven or eight national champions in here," Dixon says proudly. "I think it's due to the spirit of Muhammad Ali and I think it's due to (his) spirit that we work extremely hard," he said.

"This is the only city in the world to have four heavyweight champions: Marvin Hart, Muhammad Ali, Jimmy Ellis and Greg Page." — AFP



BEIJING: In this Aug. 29, 2015, file photo, Jamaica's Usain Bolt anchors the Jamaican team to the finish line as Jamaica wins the men's 4x100 meter relay final at the World Athletics Championships in Beijing. Jamaican officials say Bolt has withdrawn from his country's National Senior Championships, citing an unspecified injury. — AP

BOLT HAS INJURED HAMSTRING, STATUS FOR RIO IN DOUBT

KINGSTON: Usain Bolt withdrew from the Jamaican Olympic Trials on Friday with what the reigning Olympic champ described as a mildly torn left hamstring, an injury that could keep him from defending triple gold at the Rio Games. Bolt-seeking his third consecutive Olympic titles in the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay—likely must now prove his fitness at a Diamond League meet July 22 in London to have a hope of running in Rio. "After feeling discomfort in my hamstring after the first round last night and then again in the semi-final tonight, I was examined by the Chief Doctor of the National Championships and diagnosed with a Grade 1 tear," Bolt said in a statement.

"I have submitted a medical exemption to be excused from the 100m final and the remainder of the National Championships."

But there is some confusion over whether Bolt can pull out completely from the event.

Garth Gayle, the general secretary for the Jamaican Athletics Administration Association, said Friday night that unless Bolt shows up for his 200 metre heat on Saturday he could lose that place on the Olympic team. That would end his bid to become the first to win the 100m-200m double three Olympics running.

"Bolt has very smart people in his camp and they will know what to do," Gayle said.

The stunning turn of events came after Bolt, the 100m world record-holder in 9.58 seconds, won his 100m semi-final heat after a slow start in 10.04 at Kingston's National Stadium.

Bolt, who turns 30 on the final day of the Rio Games, then departed well before what was to have been a showcase 100m final against former world champion Yohan Blake, who won the sprint final in 9.95. Blake just edged out Nickel Ashmeade (9.96) by a nose at the finish line while Jevaughn Minzie was third in 10.02. Former world record holder Asafa Powell ran fourth in 10.03.

The Jamaican athletics governing body allows for medical exemptions if an athlete can show an injury denied them a chance to compete at the trials. But Bolt must also prove his fitness and that bid comes in his planned run in three weeks in the city he electrified at the 2012 Olympics. "I will seek treatment immediately and hope to show fitness at the London Anniversary Games on July 22 to earn selection for the Olympic Games in Rio," he said.

A grade one tear is classified as the most minor of hamstring injuries. Grade two is typically a partial tear with grade three a complete tear that might require months to heal.

Bolt later posted photographs he said were himself being treated on the back of his left leg by a physiotherapist while stretched out face down. A caption read: "Starting the recovery process right away." Glen Mills, coach for the sprint superstar, said Bolt injured the hamstring in Thursday's 100m first round after his race was delayed for several minutes. A visibly upset Bolt departed the competition area after that run without talking to reporters.

Mills said physiotherapists worked on Bolt so he was in condition to run again in the semi-finals. But Bolt felt the pain again in winning that heat and the decision was made for him to withdraw. "We wanted to see if he could finish the day," Mills said. "But I figured he would be apprehensive." Blake said he spoke to Bolt before he left the venue and Bolt told him to "go out and do it for me." Powell will only run the relays in Rio, said "we needed him here tonight. He can withdraw but I can't. I have to run even though I am carrying two injuries, my groin and my calf." — AFP

TYSON GAY READIES FOR ONE MORE RUN AT THE OLYMPICS

EUGENE: Sprinter Tyson Gay has a new coach and a longer beard to go with a new attitude: He doesn't really care what people think about him.

Behind that tough exterior, though, masks the pain of having to hand back his only Olympic medal. A doping violation cost him and all his relay teammates the silver medal from the 2012 London Games.

A career full of missed chances, close calls, untimely injuries and that stripped-away medal is nearing its end. The man who used to be considered the biggest threat to Usain Bolt is now often viewed as a bit player in the sprint game. Fine with him, the American 100-meter record holder insists. He's making one last run at the Olympics, doing it for himself, his family, his fans and nobody else.

"This could restore things for me in my heart," Gay said on the eve of the preliminaries of 100 meters at the Olympic trials. "I lost something when I gave that medal back. The people closest to me, they know how bad I want that medal. Anyone on the outside? I don't really care."

For the first time in quite a while, the 33-year-old Gay has no aches or pains. Well, maybe a little knee soreness, but that's about it, as he tries to earn an Olympic spot in the 100 and 200. Since becoming the American record holder in 2009, Gay's body has betrayed him. He's gone through groin and hip surgeries over the years to keep him on the track. He fully believes he can keep up with the likes of Justin Gatlin, who is a few months older than him, and Trayvon Bromell, the up-and-comer in the field. "I'm considered the old one," Gay said. "I'm going to go out there and give it my best, let it all hang."

He's accepted that his past doping problem will now be part of the permanent record. Gay received a one-year ban in 2013 for testing positive for a steroid precursor DHEA — a penalty that was reduced because he provided information that led to the US Anti-Doping Agency's case against his former coach, Jon Drummond.

"The key thing to that is putting the past

in the past and showing people you can always persevere, especially when you make mistakes in life," said Gay, who is the second-fastest man in history, thanks to his 9.69-second 100 at a 2009 meet in Shanghai (Bolt's world record is 9.58 and Yohan Blake tied Gay's mark in 2012). "I don't get a lot of hate mail, or any of that type of thing. (Fans) allow me to forget about it for the most part."

Bolt called him out, though, intimating Gay should've been suspended for life. Although Gatlin has a doping past as well, Bolt has been harsher toward Gay, possibly because he was Bolt's biggest rival for so many years. Doesn't bother Gay.

"USADA did their investigation and understood everything wasn't intentional," Gay said. "But (Bolt) is entitled to his own opinion. I'm moving forward, man. Just continue to do what I do, not worry about what no one else says." He's reached out to Drummond, with the two sharing a text over a family matter. Drummond, the former track star and long-time coach, got hit with an eight-year doping ban after arbitrators found a series of discussions concluded with Drummond convincing Gay to take the banned substance, and carrying it to Europe for him.

"People are in situations and do certain things," said Gay, who has a son who is almost 2 and a teenage daughter. "At the end of the day, I can't sit here and hold a grudge and beat myself up. That's all I would do, if I didn't let go." These days, Gay is working with long-time coach John Smith, who partnered with him about a year and a half ago. The two are smoothing out his starts, which have sometimes stood in Gay's way.

They've recently discovered something, Smith said. "On Tuesday, his first start at practice and I'm like, 'Where did that come from?'" Smith recounted. "He got better and better and better. He's a gamer. He knows how to go for it. That's what I love about him."

"He's older. He's injury-free. He's been scarred up for the last four years, coupled with all the other publicity he had that I don't have to expound on. —AP



BEIJING: In this Aug. 23, 2015, file photo, United States' Tyson Gay looks at his time from a men's 100-meter semifinal at the World Athletics Championships at the Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing. The man who used to be considered the biggest threat to Usain Bolt is now often viewed as a bit player in the sprint game. Fine with him, he insists. He's making one last run at the Olympics, doing it for himself and nobody else. —AP



LOUISVILLE: This file photo taken on June 07, 2016 shows students warming up before sparring at the TKO boxing gym in Louisville, Kentucky. This concrete building in Louisville, Kentucky looks like it might once have been a workshop or possibly a warehouse, but it now holds a boxing ring where heirs to Muhammad Ali's storied legacy are determined to do him proud. A glow of neon and sunshine streaming in from a skylight overhead illuminate the action at the center of TKO club, where two teens wearing protective helmets and boxing gloves are facing off. — AFP

FIFITA DOUBLE GETS 'CANES OUT OF TROUBLE

WELLINGTON: A double strike by Vaea Fifita kept the Wellington Hurricanes in touch with the Super Rugby top table when they beat the Auckland Blues 37-27 in Wellington yesterday.

Fifita scored the only tries in the second half as the Hurricanes produced a 20-point burst to come from behind to snatch a crucial win.

Canes captain and All Blacks hooker Dane Coles, returning to Super Rugby after the June internationals against Wales, described the Titanic battle as "like another Test match".

The Blues set the early pace and by early in the second half they were up 27-17 before the Hurricanes bounced back with Fifita's tries and a faultless kicking display by Beauden Barrett who finished with 17 points.

"We were guilty in that first half of just playing attack and no defence and in that second half we turned our defence around and got some intent," Coles said. The Hurricanes remain third in the New Zealand conference but move to within one point of the Canterbury Crusaders and two behind

the Waikato Chiefs.

For the Blues, however, their season is all but over with captain James Parsons blaming a rash of penalties for allowing Barrett to spark the Hurricanes revival. "A little ill-discipline probably cost us in the end and they got up on top of us and then obviously some moments of magic by Vaea Fifita put us on the back foot," Parsons said.

The game opened up during a rollicking 13 minutes in the first half which produced five tries, three to the Blues and two to the Hurricanes.

After an early exchange of penalties by Barrett and Piers Frances, Japanese international Male Sa'u set the game alight when he broke through the Hurricanes defensive wall to put Kara Pryor in for the opening try.

Reggie Goodes levelled for the Hurricanes only for the Blues to immediately regain the lead with the first of Jerome Kaino's two tries.

Coles replied for the 'Canes only for Kaino to again break the deadlock when he burst from a ruck to gallop 40 metres to the line.

As both sides tightened their defences there was no scoring for the remaining 17 minutes of the half but after a Francis penalty extended the Blues lead to 27-17 early in the second spell the Hurricanes began to claw their way back into the contest.

Two Barrett penalties narrowed the gap to 24-23 before TJ Perenara put Fifita over for his first try to put the Hurricanes in front. The big lock sealed the outcome with his second try running on to a long pass from Willis Halaholo with nine minutes remaining. —AFP

SPRINTERS TO SHINE AT START OF 'CLIMBER'S TOUR'

LE MONT-SAINT-MICHEL: Reigning champion Chris Froome says this year's Tour de France is made for the specialist climbers, but it begins on Saturday with a flat stage favouring sprinters.

Saturday's 'Grand Depart' takes place at the picturesque tourist resort of Mont Saint-Michel, before finishing 188km later at Utah Beach, made famous as one of the main sites of the Normandy Landings during World War II.

One of the big favourites for the opening stage is German sprint king Marcel Kittel, back at the Tour after a one-year injury and illness induced hiatus.

Having won the opening stage in 2013 and 2014, Kittel is gunning for a hat-trick, but he knows it will be tough.

"The last kilometres will be nervous and fast: downhill, straight forward and with no corners. You need a good position, but also to be lucky," he said.

The other main favourite is his countryman Andre Greipel, who won four stages last year in Kittel's absence.

Neither Englishman Mark Cavendish, who is third on the all-time list of Tour stage wins with 26, nor world champion Peter Sagan of Slovakia can be discounted.

A breakaway group will likely animate the first stage, but the sprinters' teams will never let them far off the leash and will

take no chances in reeling them before setting up a fast, furious and perhaps manic bunch finish.

Two years ago, Cavendish crashed in just such a mass sprint, breaking his collarbone and being forced out of the Tour.

It will take a week for the first true test of the overall contenders to arrive on the seventh stage from l'Isle-Jourdain to Lac de Payolle.

From there on there will be four summit finishes, seven hors category climbs and 14 first category ones. "The route this year is very much a climber-based route in terms of even the two time-trials we have: one is straight uphill and the other one has two long climbs on it," reflected Froome.

"Even though we have time-trials, they're time-trials where a climber will do well." He added: "It's very much a climber's Tour de France this year."

Many people believe the overall battle will turn out to be a two-way struggle between Froome and Colombian Nairo Quintana, who finished second to the Briton in both 2013 and last year.

But Quintana is wary of other threats.

"I have to keep focused not only on the big favourites like Froome and (Alberto) Contador but also dangerous riders such as (Thibaut) Pinot and (Fabio) Aru, who've already proved to be tough rivals." —AFP

EVERGREEN CONTADOR KEEN TO RACE ON

COUTANCES: Alberto Contador believes the stage is set for him to finally add to his two Tour de France victories. The most successful rider of his generation, Contador has won seven Grand Tours—and been stripped of two more after failing a doping test—but his last official success in the Tour was in 2009.

Since then he's been forced to watch on as British Sky riders have dominated with Bradley Wiggins and Chris Froome winning three of the last four editions.

Contador won the Tour in 2010 but was stripped of it for doping. He missed the 2012 race due to his ban, crashed out on the 10th stage in 2014 and paid for his Giro d'Italia efforts in both 2011 and last year. Yet even in 2013, when not hampered by any such external circumstances, he failed to impress and faded to fourth.

Yet in the meantime, he has won the Vuelta a Espana twice (2012 and 2014), beating Froome in both, and triumphed at the Giro d'Italia last year.

'GOOD TOUR'

Even at 33, he remains one of the best climbers and three-week stage racers in the world. And Contador himself believes this season he can push Froome all the way. "I have the conditions to fight for the victory. It's a good Tour for me," said Contador of the mountainous route this year's Grand Boucle will take. "I've been here many years, I've prepared this race many times." However, there remains a question mark over his ability to win the greatest race of them all.

On the one hand, he is in good form having won the Tour of the Basque Country for the fourth time this year, finished second at both Paris-Nice (to Froome's Sky team-mate Geraint Thomas) and the Volta a Catalunya (to Nairo Quintana).

But he was less impressive in June's Criterium du Dauphine, despite winning

the opening uphill time-trial. He then fell away and finished fifth. "It was a difficult race where I lacked speed, but since then I've had almost three weeks to recover," said 'El Pistolero' (the pistol). But what cannot be questioned is Contador's desire and motivation. He may be more decorated than any of his rivals, but he hasn't finished yet, despite previous talk that he is close to retirement. The Tinkoff rider keeps putting that back. "I've decided, no. I'm going to continue," he said when asked about calling it a day. He may be leaving Tinkoff at the end of the year but he plans on continuing to compete "probably for two more years".

'BETTER, FRESHER'

This year's Tour route suits him while the decision to skip the Giro, which he's won twice, has proved wise. "I feel better, fresher (than last year), more confident." Contador will continue to attack and ride in his all or nothing style. Including those where his results have been annulled, Contador has finished first at the end of nine of his 14 Grand Tours.

But he has never come second or even third. A podium finish holds no interest for Contador, it's about winning and when he can't win, he's prepared to take suicidal risks to try to break his opponents. "I have a way of racing which is difficult to change," he said. "What's different this year is that it's Sky's responsibility to make the race."

As for his two main rivals, Contador sees Froome as having a slight edge "because he's already won (the Tour) and he's got a strong team. "Nairo is almost his equal but due to his team, Froome is a slight favourite."

Whoever comes out on top, Contador expects the race to go down to the wire. "The last week will be the most important. It will be open right up to the Queen stage 20. It's the ability to recover (from tough stages) that will be decisive." — AFP



OMAHA: Ryan Lochte, left, and Michael Phelps, right, hold up their flowers during the men's 200-meter backstroke medal ceremony at the US Olympic swimming trials, Friday, in Omaha, Neb. Phelps won the gold medal ahead of Lochte, who came in second. — AP

PHELPS, LOCHTE ADD CHAPTER TO RIVALRY, CLARY CLOSES BOOK

OMAHA: Michael Phelps outdueled Ryan Lochte to win the 200 metres individual medley at the US Olympic trials on Friday while Katie Ledecky suffered her first setback on the road to the Rio Games.

While Phelps and Lochte's breathtaking showdown added another thrilling chapter to their great rivalry, Tyler Clary closed the book on his career after a third place in 200 backstroke ended his hopes of defending the gold medal he won at the 2012 London Games.

"I don't see any reason to continue," said Clary. "I'm looking forward to turning the page and starting a new chapter." Ledecky, 19, had dominated the women's freestyle events but finished seventh in the 100, which was won by Abbey Weitzeil in 53.28 seconds.

Having already collected wins in the 200 and 400, Ledecky's transformation from distance diva to speed queen hit a bump, denting her hopes of landing a spot on one of the US relay teams. The top six finishers are all placed in the US relay pool.

"Got seventh, that's what happened," shrugged Ledecky. "Kelsi (Worrell) was eighth and we're both already on the team so if they want us in the relay, they can put us in if somebody get sick, we'll be there."

Ledecky was much more impressive in her 800 morning heats, where the world record holder and Olympic champion was the top qualifier after clocking the third best time ever in the event of 8:10.91.

Phelps and Lochte provided the highlight of the night, and perhaps the entire week, with their battle in the 200 IM. The race marked the last time Phelps and Lochte will go head-to-head in an American pool but the two swimming giants, who between them have amassed 33 Olympic medals, could clash one final time at the Rio Olympics.



OMAHA: (L-R) Abbey Weitzeil of the United States celebrates with Simone Manuel of the United States after finishing first in the final heat for the Women's 100 Meter Freestyle during Day Six of the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Swimming Trials at CenturyLink Center on Friday. — AFP

Phelps, who had already qualified for a fifth U.S. Olympic team, held off his hard-charging rival to narrowly get to the wall first in one minute, 55.91 seconds, the second-fastest swim in the event this year.

"Ryan and I always have great races with one another," said Phelps. "Him and I have been racing since 2004 and think when we race each other we bring each other to a different level. We take each other to that next step."

While Lochte was done for the night, Phelps still had work to do, capping off a long, gruelling

and emotional day by finding enough in the tank to qualify sixth fastest for the final of the 100 butterfly.

Competing in her first Olympic trials, 19-year-old Lilly King completed the breaststroke double, touching first in the 200 in 2:24.08 and adding the title to the 100 she won on Tuesday.

Ryan Murphy, another first time Olympian, will also be pulling double duty in Rio, getting to the wall first in the 200 backstroke in 1:53.95 ahead of Jacob Pebley and Clary. He also won the 100 backstroke. — Reuters

WARATAHS CRUSH SUNWOLVES

TOKYO: The NSW Waratahs routed Japan's Sunwolves 57-12 yesterday as its powerful defence held off the Super Rugby newcomers with no try. The Waratahs scored nine tries, including two each by winger Reece Robinson and scrumhalf Matt Lucas, at Prince Chichibu Memorial Stadium in Tokyo, tying with the Brumbies at the top of the Australian Conference table. The 2014 champions got off to a good start as Rob Horne broke the Sunwolves defence and Lucas crossed the opening try.

The Sunwolves at one point turned the match around with stand-off Yu Tamura kicking a penalty after Taquele Naijaravoro of the Waratahs was yellow carded for a cynical foul.

But hopes of the Sunwolves' earning their second victory of the season faded quickly as the Waratahs easily outscored their hosts and widened the winning margin steadily toward the end of the match. Tamura admitted the Waratahs had the upper hand over his novice club. "The game displayed the difference in experience," Tamura said. The Sunwolves' defeat came days after the team announced that coach Mark Hammett will leave the Tokyo-based club at the end of the season. The 43-year-old, who has endured a troubled first season with the Sunwolves in the southern hemisphere's premier club competition, will return to New Zealand to take up a role as

assistant coach of the Otago Highlanders. Hammett's appointment by the Sunwolves was one of several to be made alarmingly late, giving the side very little time to prepare for

the 2016 campaign. As widely predicted, the Sunwolves have struggled badly, compiling a record of one win, one draw and 11 defeats after yesterday's match. — AFP



TOKYO: Waratahs Andrew Kellaway scores a try against the Sunwolves during their Super Rugby match in Tokyo, Japan, yesterday. — AP



NORMANDY: Spain's Alberto Contador is seen injured after a crash during the 188 km first stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Mont-Saint-Michel and Utah Beach Sainte-Marie-du-Mont, Normandy. — AFP

PORTUGAL'S NEW HERO SANCHES STIRS CONTROVERSY AT YOUNG AGE

PARIS: Renato Sanches is being hailed as Portugal's star of the future but the dreadlocked wonder kid is already causing controversy amid the rave reviews.

"Portugal's prodigal son" and "the golden kid" were two of the headlines after the rags-to-riches teenager's stunning equaliser and calm from the penalty spot kept Portugal on course for Euro 2016 glory as they saw off Poland 5-3 in a shootout to reach the semi-finals.

In doing so Sanches broke Cristiano Ronaldo's record as the youngest ever scorer in the knockout stages of the European Championships. Portugal's captain and record goalscorer suddenly has competition for the tag of his nation's golden boy.

But questions have been asked about whether Sanches is really just 18. And in more controversy, his former youth club accuse Benfica of failing to pay a prom-

ised bonus despite the Portuguese giants cashing in on Sanches's talent by selling him to Bayern Munich last month for 35 million euros (\$38 million).

Born in the modest Lisbon suburb of Amadora, his August 18, 1997 date of birth has been questioned by several Portuguese sports pundits and, above all, by the directors of Benfica's age-old rivals Sporting Lisbon. It is a controversy that refuses to go away.

Sanches has even threatened to sue ebullient Sporting president Bruno de Carvalho, who in March called on the Amadora hospital where he was born to clarify once and for all the midfielder's true age.

Carlos Severino, a television commentator and a former candidate for the Sporting presidency, landed in hot water last November when he said Sanches' muscular physique was "very physically

developed for his age" and suggested "he must have taken a lot of vitamins".

That description earned Severino an immediate claim for defamation.

DELAYED REGISTRATION

The Jornal de Noticias newspaper conducted an investigation with supporting documents claiming the youngster was indeed born on August 18, 1997 at the Amadora-Sintra hospital, but the birth was not registered until August 22, 2002. The report said Sanches was not even five months old when his father, from the African island of Sao Tome and Principe, separated from his Cape Verdean mother, and emigrated to France.

It was not until five years later that his father returned to deal with the registration of his son's birth, which is where the doubts surrounding his age arise.

Affectionately called "Bulo" by his nearest and dearest, Sanches grew up in Musgueira, a densely populated area of northern Lisbon, where he started to play football aged eight for a local amateur club before being spotted and recruited by Benfica when he was just nine.

Benfica made the modest promise of 25 balls and a bonus to the Aguias da Musgueira club should Sanches ever turn pro, but their president Antonio da Silva Quadros is still waiting. "We don't have the balls or the money," he said, other than a 750-euro (\$832) grant for the junior team. The club is still seeking its due from Benfica, whilst Sanches is headed for the Bundesliga.

"Renato was audacious, he was a pure product of street football," Renato Paiva, one of his former coaches at the Benfica academy, told the Expresso newspaper.

"At first he wasn't very obedient. He came from a neighbourhood where there weren't many rules and he struggled to understand that he was now in a world where rules were necessary."

His power, passing range and poise on the ball have seen comparisons made with Dutch greats Edgar Davids and Clarence Seedorf. Yet he has drawn inspiration from outside the football world.

"You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have," he posted on Twitter last week, evoking the words of Bob Marley. At such a tender age Sanches has shown his strength and maturity to deal with the ups and downs that pursue a fledgling football career.

Targeted with racist abuse by Rio Ave fans in April, he responded with a smile and a monkey impression to disarm his haters as he left the field. — AFP

GUARDIOLA, MOURINHO, ANCELOTTI PRIMED FOR NEW CHALLENGES

LONDON: The fat lady may be clearing her throat at Euro 2016 but the three tenors of the coaching world Carlo Ancelotti, Pep Guardiola and Jose Mourinho are due for the first rehearsals with their new club sides. All three are renowned not only for their coaching ability—they have all won multiple Champions Leagues—but also their vastly different characters. For Manchester City's Guardiola and Manchester United's Mourinho it sometimes borders on the cult of personality. Ancelotti will not have to put up with Mourinho's penchant for



Jose Mourinho



Pep Guardiola

barbed comments as he has replaced Guardiola in the Bayern Munich hotseat. One remark that Mourinho will be unable to drag back out is labelling Claudio Ranieri a "loser"—the Italian silenced that one by guiding Leicester City to a shock Premier League title last term.

However, the football world can expect sparks to fly between Mourinho and Guardiola, especially now they are both in the same city. A bitter rivalry between the two already exists from their time in Spain when Mourinho's Madrid ended Guardiola's glorious reign at Barcelona by winning La Liga in 2012.

Many will hope the Mourinho who pitches up at United will not be the highly strung out-of-sorts figure who left Chelsea under a cloud last term. Usually Mourinho's early days at a club are more civil and respectful, even if that often turns out to be a false dawn.

The 53-year-old Mourinho shrugs off the criticism of his combative nature designed to get under the skin of his rivals on the touchline. Unsurprisingly, one of the Portuguese's greatest admirers is Alex Ferguson, no stranger himself to the mind games of Premier League management. "I

look at Jose and I see myself reflected in many of the things he does," said Ferguson.

"We're only human. We can't hide our emotions. They're always there, they're part of who we are, of our character."

While Mourinho lets his emotions bubble to the surface, 45-year-old Guardiola seems self-contained and almost cold in his press conferences, only once letting the mask slip when Mourinho had provoked him one too many times. This coldness appears to be borne out by the man who replaced him at Barcelona and his former assistant Tito Vilanova's testament about when he was undergoing treatment for cancer in New York, where Guardiola had gone on sabbatical.

"He visited me once in New York when I'd just arrived, but during my recovery from the operation... I was there for two months and I didn't see him," Vilanova said in July 2013, nine months before he died.

RESPECT AND ESTEEM

Ancelotti engenders respect and popularity wherever he has gone on a European tour of the continent's biggest clubs taking in AC Milan, Chelsea, Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid.

At Madrid the 57-year-old succeeded Mourinho and, much to the chagrin of the latter, coached them to their long-awaited 10th European Cup trophy. A failed Mourinho was hired to achieve, but failed to deliver in his three years in the Spanish capital. Mourinho's spell at Real turned sour with the players—he dropped iconic goalkeeper Iker Casillas—and even when Real's form dipped in Ancelotti's second season in Madrid a star-studded squad made clear their preference for the Italian.

"I think we are a better team now than under Mourinho in all aspects of the game. I think this is clear to see for all—for both fans and journalists," said Real defender Sergio Ramos.

"I don't like this injustice, where one coach gets all the credit, whereas the other doesn't get recognition.

"I go by what I have experienced, not by what I have been told. It is enough to look at what he has won here and how long it took." Ancelotti, like Guardiola a Champions League winner as a player and as a coach, has become phlegmatic about the insecurities of the job.

"My ass is earthquake-proof," he told The Financial Times in 2014, summing up how his fear of the sack has diminished over the years. — AFP

Live Matches on TV
(Local Timings)

UEFA EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP	
France v Iceland	22:00
beIN MAX 2 HD	
beIN MAX 3 HD EN	
beIN MAX 1 HD	
beIN MAX 4 HD FR	



ANNECY: Iceland's forward Kolbeinn Sigthorsson (C) and other players attend a training session of Iceland's national football team in Anney, southeastern France, yesterday, a day ahead of the Euro 2016 quarter-final football match between France and Iceland. — AFP

FRANCE NEED SWIFT START TO ESCAPE ICELAND ERUPTION

PARIS: France must take the game to Iceland right from the start of their European Championship quarter-final today or their dream of glory on home soil might end up buried in volcanic ash.

The hosts, who have often had to rely on late rallies, with all of their six goals so far scored in the second half, must wake up early for a change to avoid becoming the next casualties of a tiny country with a heart the size of a continent.

The smallest nation ever to appear at a major soccer event, Iceland reached the last eight with a shock 2-1 win over England and are now dreaming for a fairytale ending to their run, not unlike that of English club Leicester City, who stunned the soccer world by claiming the Premier League title last season.

"I think I would like it to end like it ended with Leicester City," Iceland joint-coach Heimir Hallgrimsson told reporters. "They played on their strengths and we are trying to play on our strengths. There is the same team spirit in both teams. We are willing to work for each other."

Iceland, a nation of 330,000 people known for its volcanoes, could also take inspiration from Denmark and Greece, who relied on a similar,

defensive approach when they came out of nowhere to become European champions, in 1992 and 2004 respectively.

Courtesy of England, who looked clueless after finding themselves trailing Iceland 2-1 less than 20 minutes into their game, France know exactly what they must not do.

"Our opening minutes are very bad, we must improve in that department because we're not going to get away with it every time," said striker Antoine Griezmann, who scored twice to give France a 2-1 win over Ireland in the last 16.

NOT JUST ROUGH

As physical and tight at the back as they may be, Iceland should not be discarded a just another bunch of rough minnows with limited skills, warned France defender Patrice Evra.

"People go on about long throws and all that but Iceland are not just that," said the veteran left back. "They're a good team who can play good football and they did not get to that stage by accident."

France coach Didier Deschamps, who has kept tinkering with his team since the start of the tournament, will be forced to rejig once

again with centre back Adil Rami and holding midfielder N'Golo Kante suspended.

New Barcelona signing Samuel Umtiti should step in for Rami, who will not be sorely missed after looking shaky a times, with the experienced Yohan Cabaye taking over Kante's crucial role in front of the defence.

Iceland are likely to stick to their resolute 4-4-2 system with now familiar player such as bearded, tattooed midfielder Aron Gunnarsson, who carries off the rugged Viking look to perfection and plays his club football in the second tier of the English league with Cardiff City.

In goal will stand Hannes Halldorsson, a former film director who shot the video for Iceland's 2012 Eurovision song contest entry and became a full-time professional only in 2014.

France, whose much more expensive talent will be tested on the Stade de France pitch, can at least rely on home advantage in their bid to set-up a more traditional battle against Germany or Italy for a place in the final.

"We certainly do not underestimate Iceland but we belong to the best sides in Europe, we're among the favourites and we're at home," said right back Bacary Sagna. — Reuters

BELGIUM'S TALENT FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATION AGAIN

LILLE: A talent-laden Belgian team again fell disappointingly short of expectation after being bundled out of the European Championship in a far from glittering performance from a supposedly golden generation. Twice now the tantalising prospect of a disparate nation of some 11 million people, starkly divided along language lines, uniting to produce a team of world beaters has turned sour and the taste after Friday's 3-1 loss to Wales is decidedly bitter.

With the heavyweight contenders for the title grouped into one side of the knockout draw, the path looked clear for Belgium to march into next week's final with a squad, on paper at least, bristling with talent.

Captain Eden Hazard and fellow midfielder Kevin de Bruyne have proven capable of match-winning performances at club level, but failed to make any mark on the plucky Welsh, reduced to anonymity at times in the quarter-final in Lille.

"They played like goats. It's shameful," said Stephane Pauwels, one of the country's leading sports commentators.

There had been a similarly frozen performance two years ago at the World Cup when Belgium were eliminated at the quarter-final stage by Argentina. They spluttered as opportunity beckoned.

Then, however, they were still regarded as a work in progress, with Euro 2016 and the 2018 World Cup in Russia seen as more realistic targets for the most exciting generation since the Red Devils reached the 1986 World Cup semi-finals.

After Brazil, the Belgians kept on course, rising to top place in the world rankings and qualifying comfortably for the tournament in France.

But there were cracks going into the Euros after a series of mediocre results in warm-up friendlies and public mud-slinging after losing to Italy in their opening group game.—Reuters



KEFLAVIK AIRPORT: Iceland fans react as they prepare to leave for France, one day prior to the quarter final Euro 2016 football match against France, yesterday at the Keflavik Airport in Iceland. — AFP

Sports

Indians win 14th straight, beat Blue Jays in 19 innings



Bolt has injured hamstring, status for Rio in doubt



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VILLENEUVE-D'ASCQ: Wales' defender Ashley Williams (R) vies for the ball with Belgium's players during the Euro 2016 quarter-final football match between Wales and Belgium at the Pierre-Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve-d'Ascq near Lille, on Friday. — AFP

WALES FIGHT BACK TO REACH HISTORIC SEMIS

LILLE: Wales and unsung hero Hal Robson-Kanu completed a stunning fightback to beat Belgium 3-1 in Euro 2016 on Friday and reach their first major tournament semi-final. The victory in Wales' first ever participation in a European Championship finals sets up a mouthwatering duel between their talisman Gareth Bale and his Real Madrid team-mate Cristiano Ronaldo when the tournament's last British representatives face Portugal in Lyon on Wednesday.

Radja Nainggolan gave Belgium the lead in the quarter-final in Lille, but Ashley Williams brought Wales level before a dazzling strike from Robson-Kanu, whose contract with English second-tier club Reading expired on Thursday. A late header by substitute Sam Vokes wrapped up a historic victory for Wales. "Dreams, don't be afraid about dreams, because four years ago I was as far away from this as you can imagine and look what has happened," said Wales manager Chris Coleman, who succeeded his late friend Gary Speed as manager in 2012.

"If you work hard enough and you are not afraid to dream and not afraid to fail, this happens. It's sweet and

I'm enjoying it." Coleman's men surpassed the Wales greats of 1958, whose quarter-final showing at that year's World Cup in Sweden had been the country's greatest previous footballing achievement.

But they will have to do without both Ben Davies and Aaron Ramsey after they received bookings that ruled them out of the semi-final.

Belgium coach Marc Wilmots will tough questions about his failure to achieve more with one of his nation's finest collections of players, who also fell in the last eight at the 2014 World Cup.

WILLIAMS JOY

He was missing three of his four first-choice defenders-Vincent Kompany and Jan Vertonghen through injury, Thomas Vermaelen through suspension-but with no other previous tournament-winners in this half of the draw, defeat represented a massive missed opportunity. "We had a young average age. I think the players have potential. I'm not going to kill them," Wilmots said.

"We could have played better. I can't explain why we

kept dropping back."

Inside the first 10 minutes, Yannick Carrasco, Thomas Meunier and Eden Hazard had all gone close for Belgium, while Romelu Lukaku failed to make telling contact with a deep Kevin De Bruyne corner.

Robson-Kanu headed over for Wales and Bale hit the side-netting, but in the 13th minute Belgium went ahead when Nainggolan met Hazard's lay-off with a blistering 30-yard shot that whistled into the top-left corner. Welsh indiscipline at the back was costing them as Davies, James Chester and Chris Gunter all picked up bookings, the former's yellow card ruling him out of the semi-final.

But their reaction to falling behind was exemplary and after Neil Taylor had been denied by Thibaut Courtois, Williams met Ramsey's right-wing corner with a thumping downward header to equalise in the 31st minute. The Swansea City centre-back, criticised for some shaky group-stage displays, was a picture of joy, racing down the touchline to embrace Coleman and the Wales coaches and substitutes.

The goal seemed to unsettle Belgium and Wales ended the first half on top, with Williams heading another Ramsey corner over the bar and Courtois fielding Bale's low shot and a Robson-Kanu header.

Wilmots stiffened his midfield at half-time, sending on Marouane Fellaini for Carrasco, and his side made a flying start to the second period, with Lukaku, De Bruyne and Hazard all narrowly missing the target.

But it was Wales who scored next with a 55th-minute goal that lit up the tournament.

Ramsey's lofted cross from the right found Robson-Kanu, who took Meunier, Fellaini and Jason Denayer out of the game with a sublime Cruyff turn before planting a shot past Courtois. In a taut finish to the game, Fellaini and Ramsey also received suspension-incurring bookings, the latter tarnishing perhaps his best ever Wales performance with a needless handball.

Fellaini headed wide and Williams was fortunate to avoid conceding a penalty for catching Nainggolan, before Vokes delivered the coup de grace with a stunning header from Gunter's cross. — AFP

DJOKOVIC CRASHES OUT

LONDON: Two-time defending champion Novak Djokovic was sent crashing out of Wimbledon by big-serving Sam Querrey yesterday, shattering his dreams of securing the first calendar Grand Slam in 47 years.

The world number one, bidding for a fourth Wimbledon title and 13th major, suffered his earliest loss at a Slam since the 2009 French Open. The 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5) third round defeat also ended Djokovic's Open era record run of 30 successive wins at the majors and his streak of having reached 28 consecutive Grand Slam quarter-finals. "Sam played a great match. His game was brutal and I was overpowered today," said Djokovic who added that he "wasn't 100% healthy". "But this is not the place or time to talk about it." It was only a second win in 10 meetings for American Querrey, the world number 41, against Djokovic and it was constructed on an epic serving performance over two days after the tie had been suspended with him two sets to the good on Friday.

The 28-year-old sent down 31 aces — 15 in the fourth set alone and saved 14 of 17 break points while unleashing 56 winners. His reward is a last-16 clash with 34-year-old Frenchman Nicolas Mahut. "It's incredible, especially to do it here at Wimbledon. I'm so ecstatic right now and so happy," said Querrey.

"I played the break points really well. Got a couple of loose errors and that was it. Today he came out and got the first four games. "He's so amazing, he's on the way to being possibly the best ever so you know he's mentally tough and going to come back." Rain had saved 29-

year-old Djokovic on Friday when the match was halted with him trailing by two sets after being comprehensively outplayed. He had been here before. Last year, he was two sets to love down to Kevin Anderson in the fourth round before staging a thrilling comeback.

THUNDEROUS

On the resumption yesterday, the US, Australian and French Open champion broke for 2-0 in the third set and backed it up with a service hold. More rain returned after just 17 minutes of play with the top seed 4-0 ahead.

After two hours of shelter, Djokovic returned to grab a 5-0 lead and survive a blip before claiming the set, 6-3.

Querrey had to save three break points in the opening game of the fourth set and three more in the third for a 2-1 lead, his thunderous serve providing a welcome escape route.

Djokovic had two more chances to break in the fifth game before finally breaking through at the 12th time of asking for a 5-4 lead. But he couldn't convert with the American hitting straight back for 5-5 and holding for 6-5 when, yet again, the rain returned to cause another suspension, this time lasting an hour.

Djokovic served to take the set into the tiebreak and was ahead at 2/0 and 4/3 but the resolute Querrey still went to two match points. The top seed saved the first, but ballooned a forehand wide and his fate was sealed to leave Rod Laver in 1969 remaining as the last man to sweep all four majors in the same year. — AFP



WIMBLEDON: US player Sam Querrey celebrates beating Serbia's Novak Djokovic in their men's singles third round match on the sixth day of the 2016 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, yesterday. — AFP

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AMSTERDAM: A TV screen shows global stocks plunging following the British Brexit vote as traders, background, work at the Euronext Amsterdam Stock Exchange, Netherlands on Friday. —AP

BREXIT VOTE SHAKES LONDON PROPERTY MARKET

GULF, RUSSIAN MAGNATES BET LONDON A SAFE PLACE TO PARK THEIR FORTUNES

LONDON: The Brexit vote could cool London's superheated property market, with some professionals already noting signs of a slowdown, though Gulf investors have signalled their interest is so far undimmed. After a slump in 2008 during the global financial crisis, the sector recovered, first tentatively and then at full pelt, with average prices this year reaching 54 percent higher than their pre-crisis peak.

The growth was fuelled by population pressure, a desire by Britain's wealthier classes to put their savings into bricks and mortar, and the decision by magnates from the Gulf and Russia that London property was a safe place to park their fortunes. But cracks were already starting to appear before Britain's shock vote on June 23 to leave the European Union, and these are now being magnified by fears of the economic fall-out and uncertainty that follows.

"Housing market activity and prices now look to be at very serious risk of an extended, marked downturn following the UK's vote to leave the EU," said Howard Archer, chief UK and European economist at IHS Global Insight.

The process of Britain's exit remains unclear, but Archer said the vote was likely to weigh down economic activity and consumer confidence. He also warned unemployment may rise in the coming months. Given these factors, IHS predicts that British property prices will fall by five per-

cent in the second half of the year, and by another five to seven percent in 2017. Other analysts are more cautious, saying that the extent of any economic slowdown has yet to become clear, making it too early to predict the impact on the property market. Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial bank, said that with so much invested it would take more than the Brexit vote to shake Gulf confidence in the London property market.

"In the near term, there will be a sentiment of cautiousness but we do not expect a marked sell-off," she said. "A knee-jerk reaction or panic is unlikely," she said.

"Property in the UK is very attractive and has been a well-performing asset class. The underlying foreign demand is expected to remain strong once the uncertainties subside."

'One less bathroom'

But some property professionals in London have already seen buyers hesitate in the stifling atmosphere that descended following the June 23 referendum. "People are cautious to say the least. They will take more time, the market will be much quieter," said Ibbi Aziz, a partner at Unsworth Rose solicitors in the upmarket area of Primrose Hill, near Regent's Park.

He has seen deals that had been agreed in principle before the referendum, only for the buyers to demand a 20 per-

cent reduction in price afterwards. Many sellers would be unlikely to proceed in those circumstances, he told AFP. Emphasizing the uncertainty, a top Singapore bank, United Overseas Bank (UOB), said Thursday that it has suspended loans to anyone wanting to buy property in London.

"As the aftermath of the UK referendum is still unfolding and given the uncertainties, we need to ensure our customers are cautious with their London property investments," it said. Property development, notably the construction of so-called "iceberg" basements that add several new floors below traditional Victorian homes, is expected to be an early casualty of the market's new fragility.

John Foldes has been planning a large extension on his house in Clapham, in southwest London, but said he was reconsidering his plans after the Brexit vote.

"We may decide to make one less bathroom and make the setting a little bit simpler," he told AFP, adding that he was trying to reduce the budget by 20 percent. Foldes, who rents out the property, had been planning to increase the amount he charges following the works, but is now lowering his expectations. In a sign of wider investors' concerns, leading estate agents Foxton issued a profits warning and shares in major construction firms collapsed by 20 to 30 percent over the past week. —AFP



PORT TALBOT, UK: Builders working on the roof of a residential property near the Tata Steel steel plant at Port Talbot, south Wales. —AFP

US PAYROLLS TO TILT FOCUS BACK TO FED

GLOBAL ECONOMY WEEK AHEAD

LONDON: Investors will start to peek beyond the Brexit-dominated headlines in the coming week to gauge the outlook for the global economy, and what impact an expected rebound in US job creation will have on central banks eyeing looser policy.

Britain's shock vote to leave the European Union has cast a cloud of doubt over the world economic outlook that is unlikely to clear for months to come as economists - and central banks like the US Federal Reserve - see how the referendum result impact on hard data. Much of the media focus in Europe is likely to be on the political bloodletting as Britain's ruling Conservative Party, also known as the Tories, pick a new leader.

"Our suspicion is that we will not hear anything concrete on the UK's path towards Brexit for some time now, with the Tory leadership contest raging away," economists at Investec said in a weekly note to

investors. The main data in the coming week is therefore likely to be US non-farm payrolls numbers due on Friday, which are expected to show employers in the world's largest economy added 180,000 jobs last month, a preliminary Reuters poll found, after May's surprisingly weak reading of just 38,000.

"Not only service-industry corporations but also the construction industry should have maintained the momentum in the US labour market," analysts at DZ Bank wrote in a report to clients.

Overall, recent signs of stability in US manufacturing, low numbers of layoffs and solid consumer spending data have suggested that economic growth regained speed in the second quarter. Still, one concern in the jobs data is that although wages have been on the rise as employers look to attract new hires, the work force as a whole is not becoming much more productive.

"While stronger wage growth seems set to be a silver lining, this is unlikely to be sustained; low productivity growth may damp higher wage growth," Madhur Jha, a senior economist at Standard Chartered, said in a report. The minutes of the Federal Reserve's latest policy-setting meeting, due out on Wednesday, may also reflect growing concern at the central bank over U.S. productivity growth, Jha said.

RETURN TO QE?

The Fed and the European Central Bank, which issues its latest minutes on Thursday, are both likely to indicate cautious stances on monetary policy, having held their meetings prior to the Brexit vote. Another rate rise from the Fed was already looking in doubt, and after the referendum major global central banks may now need to increase their quantitative easing programs to help revive inflation. —Reuters

VENEZUELA TO STOP ELECTRICITY RATIONING

CARACAS: Venezuela will stop rationing electricity next week, ending months of blackouts and other measures meant to alleviate its energy crisis, President Nicolas Maduro said Friday.

Starting tomorrow, the rationing plan "will have no effect and (the power grid) will operate normally 24 hours," he said during a ceremony in Caracas, crediting recovered water levels at Venezuela's main hydroelectric dam. The rationing, imposed in February, was aimed at alleviating a severe electricity crisis brought on by the country's worst drought in 40 years, which the government blames on the El Nino weather phenomenon.

Authorities imposed blackouts in most of the country, drastically reduced public sector working hours and moved the country's clocks ahead by 30 min-

utes to gain daylight.

Maduro did not say on Friday whether public sector workers would resume their normal schedules.

Venezuela had been "six days from a collapse" of its power system, Maduro said, but the onset of the rainy season had brought a halt to the impending emergency. "We recovered the Guri (hydroelectric plant), and are able to provide electricity service that functions normally," he said.

"We will guard against electrical sabotage, of course" he added. The government says it averted an opposition-led plan to sabotage the power system, which left at least three dead. The victims were electrocuted, the electricity minister, Luis Motta, said last week.

Maduro's opponents, who are spear-

heading a drive to hold a recall referendum against the president, deny the accusations. They blame the country's power emergency on inefficient running of the energy network. Venezuela's economy has plunged along with the price of the oil on which it relies for foreign revenues. Shortages of medicine and goods such as toilet paper and cooking oil are widespread.

Maduro blames the collapse on an "economic war" by capitalists. However, critics say it's the result of government corruption and years of economic mismanagement.

Besides ending electricity rationing, Maduro on Friday announced a plan to replace two million air conditioners with new systems that require less energy. —AFP

SALARY SCANDAL FORCES IRAN FUND BOSSES TO RESIGN

PAYSLIPS OF EXECUTIVES LEAKED 2 MONTHS AGO

TEHRAN: The entire management of Iran's development fund was forced to resign yesterday as part of a mounting scandal over lavish executive salaries, the ISNA news agency reported.

Iran has been gripped by the scandal ever since the paylips of executives at several public companies were leaked two months ago, showing salaries more than 100 times that of their average workers.

It has provided ammunition for hard-line opponents of moderate President Hassan Rouhani less than a year before he faces re-election. Seyed Safdar Hosseini, a

former reformist minister who was hand-picked by Rouhani to head the development fund, had been particularly targeted by Iran's conservative media.

His leaked paylip showed he was paid 580 million rials (\$17,000) per month. Hosseini resigned along with the rest of the development fund's management, which oversees investment in infrastructure. Media reports said he had agreed to repay some \$140,000 to the state.

Hosseini was labor and economy minister under reformist president Mohammad Khatami, who was in power from 1997 to

2005, and his daughter was elected to parliament in this year's legislative elections. The news came just two days after Economy Minister Ali Tayebnia sacked the directors of four banks "for receiving unconventional salaries and loans".

The conservative media have also accused Hossein Fereydoun, the president's brother and special advisor, of influencing the appointment of the head of Refah bank, who was among those fired on Thursday after it emerged he earned some \$60,000 a month.

Fereydoun has denied playing any role

in the appointment. Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei renewed calls on Saturday for the government to crack down on exorbitant salaries.

The economy minister has set a salary cap of \$5,500 a month for bank directors, local media reported, with wider regulations for public companies to follow. One reformist official, Abdollah Nasser, claimed hardline opponents of the government have 3,000 paylips of top officials that they intend to use to discredit Rouhani ahead of the election in May. —AFP

Bayt.com weekly report

THE 5 SKILLS YOU NEED TO WORK IN HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

What are the WOW factors that shape qualified candidates in the booming hospitality industry today? Whether you're looking for a job in hotels, travel agencies, airlines or other leisure services directly linked to hospitality, the career experts at Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading job site, suggest the five skills you need to work and thrive in this industry.

1. Business English Communication

The hospitality industry largely relies on communication for making sales, as it involves interacting with potential clients and persuading them to buy a range of products and services. In today's globalized business world, English has emerged as the language of trade and a standard for communication. Advanced business English vocabulary helps practitioners at all levels increase guest satisfaction by reaching consensus and fulfilling orders, which in turn results in higher productivity and long-term profitability. According to the Bayt.com Middle East Job Index Survey (February 2016), good communication skills in Arabic and English is the top skill employers look for in a candidate. To make sure you learn and have the right proficiency in business English, try our Bayt.com Courses and Tests, the perfect solution to empower top candidates like you.

2. Problem solving, creativity and reasoning

With today's global economy becoming more complex, the tourism and hospitality industries are continuously exposed to new challenges. According to the Bayt.com, 'Innovation in the MENA' survey, January 2013, creativity is an important skill for professionals who want to move up the career ladder. It is important for organizations to create a culture that fosters and rewards creativity and innovation, with employees always welcome to suggest new things, embrace challenges, and explore alternative solutions to enhance the customer's experience. In the hospitality context, the employee ability of thinking outside the box can be an unparalleled skill for those who want to gain or maintain a key competitive advantage over the long run.

3. Language skills

Hospitality is a truly global industry. As such, being bilingual, trilingual, or having at the very least basic knowledge of a foreign language, is an exceptionally strong asset. Guests genuinely enjoy engaging in conversations in their native language. Whether in a beach resort or in a luxury hotel, multilingualism is a soft skill employers seek to create positive, long-lasting relationships between international clients and their business.

4. Flexibility and adaptability

Being flexible in an ever-changing and discontinuous work environment is essential in today's fast-paced corporate life. Actually, employers look for people who can easily adapt to the marketplace, adjust whenever required, and be ready to go the extra mile. Not only will this ability make you more responsive to change, but it will also allow you to strike the work-life balance you're looking for, and be able to manage multiple responsibilities simultaneously.

5. Customer service

Customer service is the quintessence of tourism, a major driver to revenues, and pretty much what it takes to master the art of hospitality! Regardless of their job role and level, top hospitality hires are expected to demonstrate exceptional service and commitment to sending customers away satisfied and keen to come back. Such a must-have quality implies being patient, having scholarly eye for details, adapting to guests' demands, and even thinking forward to identify their potential needs and fulfill every possible desire they may come up with.

Bayt.com is the #1 job site in the Middle East with more than 40,000 employers and over 25,250,000 registered job seekers from across the Middle East, North Africa and the globe, representing all industries, nationalities and career levels. Post a job or find jobs on www.bayt.com today and access the leading resource for job seekers and employers in the region.



CBK INTRODUCES ITS NEW CREDIT CARDS WITH BA AT AVENUES MALL

KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait was present in Avenues Mall to introduce mall goers to their new credit cards in collaboration with British Airways, a booth was held for three days in Grand Avenues phase where CBK Sales staff presented the new British Airways MasterCard to several people who approached the booth.

It is worth mentioning that on May 22nd 2016, CBK had launched three new Cards in partnership with British Airways: MasterCard World, MasterCard Platinum and MasterCard Prepaid and this is the only partnership between a bank and British Airways in Kuwait and MENA region. Those cards are part of a loyalty program which allows cardholders to earn AVIOS points on each purchase they make, and redeem them for free flights, and upgrades.

Upon card issuance, cardholders will receive an initial bonus AVIOS points as a welcome gift to get them started, and which can be enough for a one-way flight from Kuwait to London (depending on the card type).

Even better, two exclusive offers are currently taking place to celebrate the launch of the only British Airways card program in the Middle East:

1. Double the welcome AVIOS points: For all cards issued before 31st July customers have the opportunity to double their welcome bonus AVIOS by spending a predefined amount during the first 3 months after card issuance, a total of AVIOS points that might reach a full flight from Kuwait to London (Tax and Fees excluded).
2. 5 percent discount on all British Airways flights departing from Kuwait until 24th October 2016: This exclusive one-time use offer applies to all flight classes when they pay with their CBK British Airways Card during the promotional period. A unique promotion code for this offer is issued with each card (5 discount includes Tax and Fees). Additionally, cardholders will benefit from free lounge access worldwide or regional depending on their card type, as well as concierge services, free travel insurance, free nights when staying at Starwood Hotels (Sheraton, Le Meridien, Four Points etc.), hundreds of deals and discounts at restaurants, special deals with Reebonz, MarkaVIP, Careem Rides, and many more.

AUB HONORS WINNERS OF ITS ANNUAL HOLY QURAN RECITATION COMPETITION

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced recently the winners of its annual Holy Quran recitation competition, which was organized throughout the month of Ramadan at the Bank's headquarters. The competition included four categories: male and female staff members; staffs children and younger participants from outside the Bank whose ages ranged between 7-14 years old.

From the staff member children's category, Khedr Mohammed Bahlo, ranked first, and Habiba Ahmad Rashwan came in second. Moreover, Mariam Adel Abbas came in third place.

Furthermore, the following male staff members also won, and these included, Issa AbdulHamar who ranked first, Mohammed Abdulelah Talab who came in second place and Abdulqader Sultan Ahmad who won the third place.

Female staff members who also participated in the competition included Mariam Ahmad Al-Jassem who came in first place, Doha Adnan Salmein winning second place and Eman Mahmoud Omrani who won third place.

Winning male children participants from outside the Bank included Faisal Anwar Faisal Al-Yaqout who won the first place; Mo'men Ashraf winning second place and Mohammed Ahmad Al-

Refai who came in third. In addition, Hagar Sherif Ali won the first place in the female children category, whereas Jumanah Ibrahim Mohammed and Safaa Mohammed Rasheed won the second and third places respectively.

Winners were honored and rewarded during a special ceremony that was held at the Bank's main office, and was attended by Richard Groves, AUB's Chief Executive Officer, Ahmed Zulficar, the Bank's Senior Deputy CEO - Banking Support Group, as well as Abdullah Al-Shuaib, AUB's Sharia Assistant Manager.

AUB's senior management and organizing committee were impressed with the competitive and positive spirit portrayed by all participants, who congratulated all winners and to all who have made this unique event a success.

Such activities aim to reflect a positive contribution and collaboration across all members of the society to truly understand the values of the Holy Quran and apply its principles throughout their daily lives. The Bank's commitment to similar initiatives is a core element of its comprehensive social responsibility approach that includes a broad range of activities that help to spread more awareness and encourage education around positive values.

ABK AWARDED 'RETAIL BANK OF THE YEAR'

KUWAIT: Al-Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) recently won the 'Retail Bank of the Year' award from The European, a Thomson Reuters Affiliate and leading global Banking and Finance magazine, in recognition of the Bank's outstanding performance in the retail sector during 2016.

The 'Retail Bank of the year' award reinforces the successful execution of the Bank's 'Simpler Banking' strategy and the series of transformations and developments rolled out throughout the year.

Commenting on this achievement, Stewart Lockie - General Manager Retail Banking at ABK said: "It is an honor to receive the 'Retail Bank of the year' award from the European Magazine. It has been a tremendously productive and exciting time for us at ABK, where our plans and objectives materialized to deliver differentiated products and services, a simpler banking model, along with major transformations to our processes and systems that allow ABK to deliver on a whole new level."

The Bank's tremendous efforts in the past year have been recognized through a series of awards. The Bank was recently named 'Bank of the Year' by Arabian Business Magazine, and received the 'Best Commercial Bank in Kuwait' by Banker Middle East, who also named Michel Accad, ABK's Chief Executive Officer as 'Banker of the Year' for his outstanding leadership and work with the Bank. The Bank's strategic expansion into the Egypt market through the acquisition of Piraeus Bank (PBE) was also acknowledged as 'The Deal of the Year for Africa' by The Banker, an FT affiliate and ABK recently received the coveted 2016 'Best Bank Transformation' in the Middle East by Euromoney.



EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.959	
Indian Rupees	4.460	
Pakistani Rupees	2.893	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.057	
Nepali Rupees	2.793	
Singapore Dollar	224.680	
Hongkong Dollar	39.006	
Bangladesh Taka	3.858	
Philippine Peso	6.446	
Thai Baht	8.604	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.750	
Qatari Riyal	83.180	
ani Riyal	786.512	
Bahraini Dinar	804.170	
UAE Dirham	82.443	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	30.850	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.473	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216	
Tunisian Dinar	138.700	
Jordanian Dinar	427.260	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018	
Syrian Lira	2.158	
Morocco Dirham	31.363	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	302.650	
Euro	336.850	

Sterling Pound	407.370
Canadian dollar	233.440
Turkish lira	105.090
Swiss Franc	310.410
Australian Dollar	225.470
US Dollar Buying	301.450

GOLD

20 Gram	266.260
10 Gram	136.260
5 Gram	68.970

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.850
Canadian Dollar	233.852
Sterling Pound	403.161
Euro	336.420
Swiss Frank	296.983
Bahrain Dinar	796.543
UAE Dirhams	82.692
Qatari Riyals	83.905
Saudi Riyals	81.380
Jordanian Dinar	427.042
Egyptian Pound	34.008
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.079
Indian Rupees	4.483
Pakistani Rupees	2.891
Bangladesh Taka	3.857
Philippines Peso	6.450
Cyprus pound	160.263
Japanese Yen	3.942
Syrian Pound	2.397
Nepalese Rupees	3.801

Malaysian Ringgit	75.906
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.856
Thai Bhat	9.600
Turkish Lira	105.143

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.395436	0.405436
Czech Korune	0.004306	0.016036
Danish Krone	0.040939	0.045939
Euro	0.0329233	0.0338233
Norwegian Krone	0.031473	0.036673
Romanian Leu	0.073948	0.073948
Slovakia	0.009016	0.019016
Swedish Krona	0.031483	0.036483
Swiss Franc	0.303039	0.314039
Turkish Lira	0.098303	0.108603
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.215587	0.227587
New Zealand Dollar	0.207685	0.217185
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.237356	0.236355
Georgina Lari	0.136668	0.136668
US Dollars	0.298500	0.303200
US Dollars Mint	0.299000	0.303200
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003387	0.003971
Chinese Yuan	0.044242	0.047742
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036909	0.039659

Indian Rupee	0.004221	0.004631
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000018	0.000024
Japanese Yen	0.002883	0.003063
Kenyan Shilling	0.002982	0.002982
Korean Won	0.000248	0.000263
Malaysian Ringgit	0.070913	0.076913
Nepalese Rupee	0.002853	0.003023
Pakistan Rupee	0.002744	0.003034
Philippine Peso	0.006366	0.006666
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.217755	0.227755
South African Rand	0.013870	0.022370
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001672	0.002252
Taiwan	0.009219	0.009399
Thai Baht	0.008234	0.008784
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796083	0.804583
Egyptian Pound	0.027064	0.032182
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.422792	0.431792
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000150	0.000250
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019285	0.043285
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779554	0.785234
Qatar Riyal	0.082305	0.083755
Saudi Riyal	0.079607	0.080907
Syrian Pound	0.001282	0.001502
Tunisian Dinar	0.135746	0.143746
Turkish Lira	0.098303	0.108603
UAE Dirhams	0.080962	0.082662
Yemeni Riyal	0.001367	0.001447

BREXIT AFTERMATH: QUESTIONS OUTNUMBER ANSWERS

KUWAIT: Confident markets and pundits went to bed last Thursday night thinking Brexit had been defeated, only to wake up to a surprise Brexit victory Friday morning: 52-48 percent. The markets were thus positioned "wrong", which exacerbated the volatility and the downdraft moves.

Not surprisingly, it was risk-off immediately and in a big way: equities down all over, bonds up and interest rates down (including the UK). Currencies were damaged where the Brexit uncertainty is highest and where its economic impact is likely to be more severe. The GBP was hardest hit (down 8 percent on the day), followed by the euro. Flight-to-quality benefited the USD, the JPY and gold.

These market moves are in line with what obvious analysis points to: uncertainty and change will weigh heavier on the European economies, less so on the US and world economies, hence the relatively more muted responses there. On Friday last week, US stocks fell 3.5 percent; Europe over 8 percent, the UK was off 3 percent. Further but milder pressure followed this week. Rating agencies revised down their outlooks and/or ratings, with S&P downgrading the UK's credit rating by two grades from AAA to AA.

In their first post-vote trading session, all GCC equity markets lost ground. The smaller markets of Bahrain and Oman fared better than their peers with losses under 1 percent.

Kuwait and Qatar retreated 1.1 percent and 1.2 percent, respectively. Saudi's Tadawul and Abu Dhabi Stock Exchange (ADX) were off 1.9 percent on the day. Dubai Financial Market (DFM) took the biggest hit with the index down 3.3 percent. DFM with its relatively large foreign investor base

is more susceptible to international markets and tends to be more reactive to big events. In subsequent sessions this week, the markets returned to more "normal" activity.

For the GCC countries, we do not expect anything particularly big or special, barring persistent volatility in international financial markets. Marginally weaker world growth, would be slightly less supportive of oil prices (which should continue to firm). The Fed will be less prone to raise rates more than once this year, similarly for GCC central banks. And, as mentioned in an earlier piece, the GCC and

NBK ECONOMIC REPORT

other international blocs or areas could (after actual exit) negotiate separate trade deals with the UK.

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What is totally unknown at this point is the magnitude and timing of all sorts of effects. According to numbers banded about (that we do not trust) the world economy could lose 25 basis points (bps) of GDP growth in the next year or two, while the UK could lose about 1-1.5 percent of GDP growth this year, with heightened probability of a recession in the near term. These unknowns will be driven by political dynamics, to be set in motion in the coming weeks and months. In the meantime the central banks (BOE, ECB, etc.) all stand ready to provide liquidity and support to calm financial

markets, and said as much.

Where are the politics?

Many of the unknowns lay in the politics of the UK and Europe. David Cameron, the British prime minister who campaigned to "Remain" in the EU, will be gone within three months. His successor will manage the transition and decide when to invoke article 50 of the Lisbon treaty. That article starts the negotiation clock for the actual exit within two years, if not extended. The process should take two years from the time article 50 is invoked. During that time the UK will renegotiate its exit and its new relationship with the EU. This is all uncharted territory but, on the plus side, likely subject to a lot of "bending" or flexibility.

The tug-of-war is currently between a EU that is signaling it wants quick negotiations to remove uncertainties (but also to look tough against other potential leavers), and a UK that wants to move cautiously, the prudent thing to do. It is likely that heads will cool in the months ahead and that negotiations will take place in an orderly fashion and over an agreed time frame. Markets will then also get a chance to cool off and digest those changes slowly and gradually as they unfold (see our earlier brief on Brexit).

Risks

The risks in our mind are also political, with

potential for more serious damage if they materialize: a spillover of independentist and separatist sentiment to other major European countries. Those may ask for their own exit referendum at some point (the Netherlands, Finland, etc.). A risk also of further protectionist momentum, the latter already in motion in the US with the Donald Trump campaign, as well as other anti-establishment and Euroskeptical movements.

What to monitor next

Which way the balance in the negotiations and in Europe? Will the negotiations be "friendly" and look to minimize shocks for the economies of both sides? Or will the EU decide to make an example of the UK to scare off other potential "leavers"? When will article 50 be triggered? (It is a UK decision, and cannot be forced by the EU.)

Elections in Europe and France's presidential election next year. How aggressive will the separatist, anti-establishment movements become in the rest of Europe, and can these translate post-Brexit energy into actual electoral gains and political seats? (Different but related: Scotland's serious threat to leave the UK.) On the positive side, Brexit may present the EU with a wake-up call and an opportunity to address long standing concerns about heavy handed regulation and some problematic immigration issues.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY TURKISH AIRLINES

Dear passengers,

Due to the recent situation occurred on 28th June 2016, at Istanbul Ataturk Airport, for passengers who have bookings on all flights departing from, arriving at, or connecting in Istanbul Ataturk Airport or Sabiha Gokcen Airport between 28 June 2016 - 5 July 2016 (ticketed on/before 28 June 2016), providing that their tickets are revalidated by 31 July 2016 (inclusive) and disregarding related fare rules:

1. Rebooking and rerouting: Rebooking and rerouting will be carried out free of charge. This applies to all reservation booking classes only if at the same compartment.

2. Refund requests:

- Refund of unused tickets will be issued free of charge.
- For tickets which have been partially used (but the entire journey has not been completed), refunds will be issued after deducting the fare for the used portion, with no penalties being applied.

3. Extension of validity:

Validity of a ticket can be extended until 31 July 2016 (inclusive) with no fare difference or deduction.

We kindly request that all passengers check the latest status of their flight on our official website or with our call center before traveling. Respectfully announced to the public.

GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS QUARTERLY TRIO DRAW ALI AL-QATTAN WINS KD 250,000

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced the winners of its successful 3 in 1 Quarterly draw event that took place on Thursday, 30 June 2016, on Marina FM's Diwaniya Show. 3 Draws took place at the same time and location. The Al-Danah draw was held for a cash prize of

KD 250,000, while both Salary & Red Account draws included a brand new 2016 Cadillac SRX and cash prizes up to KD1000. The draw event was held in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Gulf Bank would like to congratulate Zahrah Suliman Ali Al-Qattan who won KD250,000.

In addition, Gulf Bank would like to congratulate the Bank's Salary and Red account draw winners, which included the following: Mariam Adel Fahad Al-Khamees who won Cadillac SRX 2016, Ali Nayef Johar Arnan who won KD1000, Bassam Waleed Abdulwahab Al-Zanki who won KD1000.

To participate in the Al-Danah draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account

containing at least KD 200. Customers can open a new Al-Danah account at any one of the 56 Gulf Bank branches in Kuwait. Those who already have an account can increase their chances of winning by increasing their deposits. This will also increase their chances of winning one of the two KD1,000 prizes, which are drawn each working day.

Furthermore, new Red Account or Salary Account customers who open an account and transfer their student allowance or salary will also be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000. In addition, the quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Cadillac.

For further information about the Al-Danah, Salary and Red accounts and prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, or call Gulf Bank's Customer Contact Center on 1805805. General information about Gulf Bank's products and services, can also be found at the Bank's website at www.gulfbank.com



(Clockwise from upper left): A customer receiving a facial massage at an Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa in New York; Revlon lipstick displayed at a Brooklyn pharmacy in New York; the LinkedIn logo on a screen at the post where it trades on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, and the Microsoft Visitor Center in Redmond, Washington. — AP

AS DESIRE TO ACQUIRE MOUNTS, SO DOES RISK OF LOSSES IN BUSINESSES

NEW YORK: The word suggests compassion, benevolence. It even sounds nice. Goodwill. Mankind needs more of it. But in the financial world, there may be far too much already. Goodwill is the accounting term for the premium that companies pay when they buy each other, over the value of the actual assets being purchased, such as factories, products in a warehouse and office equipment. Goodwill is the value placed on the intangible, special something about the company being bought - its reputation, perhaps, or its skilled workforce or corporate culture.

Yes, it's that vague, that subjective, that iffy - and investors don't really mind, except when it goes bad. If a deal doesn't work out, all that goodwill is worth less, and the earnings of the combined companies can be cut deeply.

Thanks to a wave in corporate deals over the past few years, the amount of goodwill sitting on balance sheets of companies in the Standard and Poor's 500 index has ballooned to \$2.5 trillion. That's 50 percent more than at the end of the last deal boom in 2007, according to FactSet, a data provider. Goodwill now accounts for 8 percent of all assets in those companies, a percentage point more than in 2007.

Should you be worried?

Some experts think a hit to earnings is almost inevitable. "We've got a lot of goodwill because companies are buying at ridiculous prices," says Roger Martin, a professor and former dean of the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

Others aren't so sure, but they're still concerned. The history of mergers and acquisitions is not encouraging. In the 12 months following the end of the 2007 deal boom, write-downs of goodwill reduced S&P 500 pretax earnings by more than 38 percent, according to data provided by R.G. Associates, a research firm that specializes in accounting issues. In 2002, following a similar

surge in acquisitions, write-downs cut pre-tax earnings by 21 percent.

Some recent deals have not left much wiggle room for things to go wrong. In June, Microsoft offered \$26 billion for LinkedIn, the professional networking service. That's about six times higher than LinkedIn's book value, a way of valuing a company's assets by how much they could be sold for fast. By comparison, investors buy and sell technology companies on the stock market for about 4.1 times book value.

The deal looks pricey by other measures, too. The price Microsoft is offering is 50 percent more than what investors had judged LinkedIn shares were worth before the deal. Revlon's \$419 million purchase of Elizabeth Arden announced a few days after the Microsoft news is 50 percent more than the target company shares, too.

By contrast, the \$22.3 billion offer by Oreo maker Mondelez for Hershey announced on Thursday was just 10 percent higher than what Hershey's shares had been trading for. But that offer is an exception to the trend, and Hershey rejected it anyway. The average premium over share prices offered by buyers last year, a record year for deals, was 38 percent, according to Dealogic. That was higher than the long-term average, and came on top of shares already highly valued. In 2007, when shares were as expensive as they are today compared to long-term earnings, buyers offered 27 percent premiums, 11 points lower.

"It's one thing to buy things on the cheap. That gives you a cushion," says Nicholas Colas, chief market strategist at brokerage ConvergEx Group. "But no one considers this equity market cheap."

In some industries, premiums have soared. Health care companies last year were offered 57 percent more for their shares in acquisitions. Goodwill in the industry is now \$242 billion, double its level just five years ago. If these companies had to cut that goodwill by just 10 percent, it

would slice about a quarter off their annual pre-tax earnings.

Offering services

As US companies shift from making things to offering services, it's only natural that goodwill has increased. The value of many companies resides now more in the knowledge, experience and skill of workers than in the machines on their desks or in their factories, assuming there are any factories.

But more goodwill doesn't mean anyone has a better sense if it's been properly valued.

The bad timing of many deals makes goodwill suspect, too. Companies tend to buy other companies when stocks are soaring and are expensive, and goodwill from the deals is high, then pull back after stocks have crashed and there are bargains aplenty. They should do the opposite, of course, but the mistake is understandable. If companies like to use cash or stock to buy, they will be tempted to wait until the economy recovers and both have risen. For those that like to borrow, it's easier and cheaper to do so then, too. Psychology also plays a role. Like ordinary investors, CEOs like to buy when everyone else is buying because they crave the safety of the crowd, says University of Toronto's Martin.

"How can I be blamed for doing the same thing everyone in the industry is doing?" he says. "The downside is we all do badly together. I won't get fired." Investors share the blame.

They tend to ignore the bad deals, dismissing the write-downs as one-time events that don't impact the future, says R.G. Associates' Jack Ciesielski, an accounting expert and longtime editor of the Analyst's Accounting Observer, a newsletter. But they do impact the future, he argues, because it means CEOs can make bad deals again without worry. "These guys should be held accountable, they shouldn't be trusted to do more acquisitions," he says. "But investors say, 'We're looking to the future.'" — AP

SRI LANKA REPLACES CENTRAL BANK CHIEF

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's president yesterday bowed to pressure from activists and replaced the country's controversial central bank chief, appointing a respected economist to the top job.

President Maithripala Sirisena announced that Indrajit Coomaraswamy, 66, had been appointed as the new governor of the central bank, effective immediately. Coomaraswamy was previously a director of economic affairs at the Commonwealth Secretariat, an inter-governmental agency of Commonwealth countries in London.

"After consulting all parties concerned, I appointed top economist Dr Indrajit Coomaraswamy to lead the Central Bank of Sri Lanka," the president posted on Twitter. The announcement ended any prospect of outgoing governor Arjuna Mahendran being reappointed after his tenure ended on Thursday. He had indicated he was prepared to complete another term.

Sirisena had come under intense pressure not to reappoint Mahendran, who had faced allegations of insider trading. A group of Sri Lankan academics and professionals had gone

to court to demand action against Mahendran, a Singapore national of Sri Lankan origin.

Activists had threatened to take to the streets unless the president replaced him. He was accused last year of leaking inside information to his son-in-law's firm, allegedly allowing it to make millions of dollars in profits from a central bank bond auction.

Mahendran has consistently maintained his innocence. Sri Lanka's economy is under stress and last month began receiving the first tranche of a \$1.5 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund. — AFP



GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL-DANAH DAILY DRAWS

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al-Danah daily draws on 26 June 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 19 June - 23 June 2016. The Al-Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner.

The winners are:

(Sunday 19/6): Noreia Suliman Othman Al-Qenaie, Raed Ali Al-Foudari (Monday 20/6): Lamar Yousef Mohammad Al-Khaldi, Maryam Moustafa Khalil Yateem (Tuesday 21/6): Hani Sabry Abdulqader Aboateya, Ali Rahma Rashed Al-Benali (Wednesday 22/6): Ahmed Hamad Abdullah Al-Asousi, Yousef Abdulaziz Saleh Al-Shamemari (Thursday 23/6): Ameena Mohammad Reda Mohammad, Sameera Abdulkareem Khalifa Al-Mansouri

Gulf Bank's Al-Danah 2016 draw line-up includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al-Danah's 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on September 29th. The final Al-Danah draw for KD 1 million will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al-Danah millionaire will be announced. Open an Al-Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the millionaire draw!

Five reasons why the Al-Danah account is the best:

- Kuwait's single biggest yearly cash prize of KD 1 million
- Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000
- Two winners of KD1,000 every working day
- The most chances to win
- Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year

Only Al-Danah makes millionaires. Al-Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al-Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al-Danah winner. Gulf Bank's Al-Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/ or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al-Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al-Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to [www.e-gulfbank.com/aldanahwinners](http://www.e-gulfbank.com/), to find out more about Al-Danah and its winners.

BREXIT VOTE TAKES STEAM OUT OF KSE STOCKS

BAYAN WEEKLY MARKET REPORT

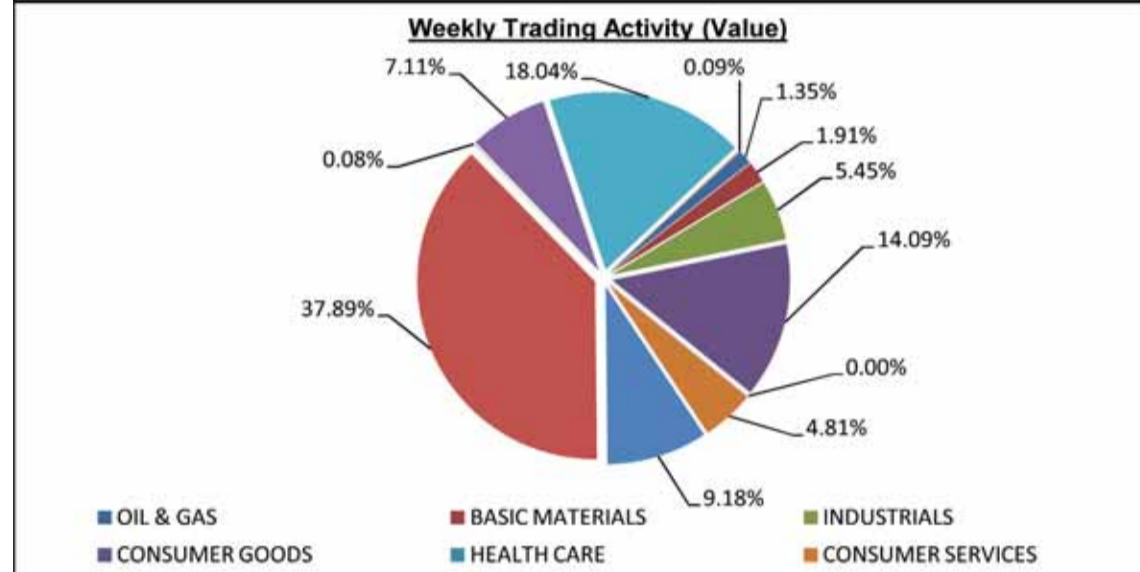
KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,364.57 points, down by 0.80 from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.78 after closing at 351.44 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 805.71 points down by 0.82. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 23.63, compared to the preceding week, reaching KD 10.59 million, whereas trading volume average was 96.62 million shares, recording a decrease of 6.28.

The three stock market indices recorded different losses amid control of the selling operations over many stocks of different sectors, especially the leading ones, in addition to the quick speculative operations that concentrated on the small-cap stocks, which negatively affected the market performance in general. However, the market was able to realize some increases during number of sessions during the week, benefiting from the purchasing operations that concentrated on the stocks of previous declines earlier in the week, but the profit collection operations caused the market to stop its gains, and were able to push its indices to the red zone once again.

As per the daily trading activity, the market witnessed in the first session of the week a negative performance that pushed its three indices to record large losses by the end of the session, whereas the market was subject to the pessimistic traders especially after the news of exiting England from the European Union, which pushed many of them to execute selling operations that included many large-cap and small-cap stocks. On the second session, the market was able to hold and realize increase for the three indices, however at a slower pace of losses from the previous session, in presence of the random purchasing operation that included few stocks, especially the leading ones.

On the mid-week session, the market was able to increase and realize gains for the three indices, amid a strong presence of the purchasing power and its concentration on the leading stocks, which lightened the Price Index losses somehow, and moved the Weighted and KSX-15 indices to the green zone on the weekly level, before the profit collection operations witnessed on Wednesday's session to come and push the three market indices to the red zone once again, amid a noticeable decline in the trading activity during the same session. Also, the market continued on Thursday's session recording grouped losses for the three indices in light of an increased sale for profit operations, amid a noticeable increase in the value, where it recorded a daily growth of around 98.

By the end of the week, the market cap reached KD 22.92 billion, down by 0.84 compared to its level



in a week earlier, where it reached KD 23.11 billion; on an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in the market dropped by 9.30 from its value at end of 2015, where it reached then KD 25.27 billion.

As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 4.46 annual loss compared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 7.93, and the KSX-15 recorded 10.52 loss.

Sectors' Indices

Seven of KSE's sectors ended last week in the red zone, four recorded increases, whereas the Health Care sector's index closed with no change from the week before. The Industrial sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 1.52 to end the week's activity at 1,073.20 points. The Real Estate sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 1.50, closing at 827.94 points, followed by the Consumer Goods sector, as its index closed at 1,162.50 points at a loss of 1.47. The Telecommunications sector was the least declining as its index closed at 609.56 points with a 0.03 decrease.

On the other hand, last week's highest gainer was the Basic Materials sector, achieving 2.76 growth rate as its index closed at 980.80 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Insurance sector's index closed at 1,024.23 points

Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	17,519,002	3.63%	716,254	1.35%
BASIC MATERIALS	2,528,559	0.52%	1,011,600	1.91%
INDUSTRIALS	33,225,358	6.88%	2,883,133	5.45%
CONSUMER GOODS	3,433,291	0.71%	7,455,970	14.09%
HEALTH CARE	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
CONSUMER SERVICES	46,436,455	9.61%	2,548,314	4.81%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	52,316,320	10.83%	4,861,700	9.18%
BANKS	55,504,473	11.49%	20,058,438	37.89%
INSURANCE	132,108	0.03%	40,467	0.08%
REAL ESTATE	67,274,935	13.93%	3,761,482	7.11%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	204,071,985	42.24%	9,547,593	18.04%
TECHNOLOGY	647,280	0.13%	47,453	0.09%

MARKET COMMENTARY

Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the red zone. The Price Index closed at 5,364.57 points, down by 0.80% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index decreased by 0.78% after closing at 351.44 points, whereas the KSX-15 Index closed at 805.71 points down by 0.82%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover decreased by 23.63%, compared to the preceding week, reaching K.D 10.59 million, whereas trading volume average was 96.62 million shares, recording a decrease of 6.28%.

MARKET ACTIVITY

	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	483,089,766	515,475,795	-6.28%
Value (K.D)	52,932,404	69,307,766	-23.63%
Deals	12,068	11,585	4.17%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)

	Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
	22,915,604,164	23,109,880,152	-0.84%	-9.30%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK

Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ZIMAH	46.00	41.00	5.0	12.20%
CABLETV	25.00	22.50	2.5	11.11%
EKTITAB	39.50	36.00	3.5	9.72%
ALKOUT	700.00	650.00	50.0	7.69%
ALOHA	52.00	48.50	3.5	7.22%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK

Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
GFC	31.00	36.50	-5.5	-15.07%
MARAKEZ	18.50	21.00	-2.5	-11.90%
MTCC	61.00	68.00	-7.0	-10.29%
CGC	700.00	770.00	-70.0	-9.09%
ARKAN	83.00	90.00	-7.0	-7.78%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE

Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	793.45	792.24	0.15%	-3.09%
BASIC MATERIALS	980.80	954.45	2.76%	-0.57%
INDUSTRIALS	1,057.20	1,073.56	-1.52%	1.36%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,162.50	1,179.83	-1.47%	6.17%
HEALTH CARE	992.41	992.41	0.00%	7.25%
CONSUMER SERVICES	1,007.39	996.01	1.14%	-0.13%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	609.56	609.77	-0.03%	1.83%
BANKS	788.98	797.35	-1.05%	-13.02%
INSURANCE	1,024.23	1,007.77	1.63%	-9.12%
REAL ESTATE	827.94	840.59	-1.50%	-11.99%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	552.52	559.17	-1.19%	-7.20%
TECHNOLOGY	975.13	976.27	-0.12%	18.90%

KSE INDICES

	Price Index	Weighted Index	KSX 15
Weekly	Last week	5,364.57	351.44
	Previous week	5,407.99	354.21
	Change (Point)	-43.42	-2.77
	Change (%)	-0.80%	-0.78%
Annual	Last year	5,615.12	381.70
	Change (Point)	-250.55	-30.26
	Change (%)	-4.46%	-7.93%

recording 1.63 increase. The Consumer Services sector came in third as its index achieved 1.14 growth, ending the week at 1,007.39 points.

Sectors' Activity

The Financial Services sector

dominated a total trade volume of around 204.07 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 42.24 of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 13.93 of last

week's total trading volume, with a total of around 67.27 million shares.

On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around KD 20.06 million or 37.89 of last week's total

market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. KD 9.55 million representing 18.04 of the total market trading value. — Prepared by the Studies & Research Department, Bayan Investment Co.

STOCK INDEXES END STRONG WEEK WITH MARGINAL GAINS

WALL STREET WEEKLY REPORT

NEW YORK: US stock indexes marked their fourth consecutive gain Friday, an upbeat finish for a week that got off to a turbulent start as investors fretted about Britain's vote to leave the European Union. In the days since the two-day market tumble ended on Tuesday, the US stock market came close to regaining all the ground lost since the vote last week. It ended the week up 3 percent, its biggest weekly gain since November.

The main stock indexes in Europe posted even bigger gains this week, with British stocks recouping all their losses along the way. At the same time, demand for US Treasuries surged this week, driving bond prices sharply higher. That pulled down the yield on the 10-year Treasury note to 1.44 percent Friday, close to its record low.

Investors also bid up the price of gold, another traditional safe-haven. "Clearly there is still an underlying sense of nervousness," said JJ Kinahan, chief strategist at TD Ameritrade. "No reasonable economic theory would be telling you to buy bonds with this kind of yield. It's more 'I don't care if I don't make yield, I want my money back.'"

The Dow Jones industrial aver-

age gained 19.38 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,949.37. The Standard & Poor's 500 index added 4.09 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,102.95. The Nasdaq composite rose 19.89 points, or 0.4 percent, to 4,862.57. The major stock indexes in Europe got a boost Friday as traders anticipated a coordinated central bank response to soothe volatility in the wake of Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

The British government said it would abandon its goals of achieving a budget surplus by the end of the decade, which would free up more money for the economy. The announcement came a day after the Bank of England said it would likely offer more monetary stimulus to the British economy to help it cope with the drop in business activity it is experiencing in the days since last week's vote to leave the EU. All told, Britain's FTSE 100 rose 1.1 percent Friday, while Germany's DAX gained 1 percent. France's CAC 40 added 0.9 percent.

In the US, consumer-focused companies rose more than the rest of the market Friday. Netflix climbed \$5.19, or 5.7 percent, to \$96.67. Harley-Davidson led the gainers in the S&P 500 index, climbing \$8.95, or 19.8 percent, to \$54.25.

Financial and utilities stocks were the biggest laggard. Several automakers reported growth in sales for June, giving a boost to shares in several auto-related companies. Ford Motor, which posted a 6 percent increase in sales for the month, rose 15 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$12.72. General Motors added 59 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$28.89, even though the company posted a 2 percent decline in sales due a large drop in rental sales. Auto supplier BorgWarner also got a lift, rising 77 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$30.29.

Investors flocked to stocks in the face of narrowing choices for investments amid low or negative interest rates on many bonds. Expectations of more financial stimulus from central banks, which lowers returns on fixed-income investments like bonds, have pushed investors into buying stocks. Returns on many government bonds around the world - particularly in Europe and Japan - are negative.

In Asia, stock markets were mixed. Japan's Nikkei 225 climbed 0.7 percent, while South Korea's KOSPI rose 0.9 percent and Taiwan's TAIEX index added 0.8 percent. Australia's S&P ASX 200 index gained 0.3 percent. Southeast Asian



A man walks by the New York Stock Exchange. —AP

markets were mixed. The Hong Kong market was closed for holiday. The dollar fell to 102.58 yen from 103.27 yen late Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1125 from \$1.1077, while the pound fell to \$1.3259 from \$1.3244.

In energy futures trading, US crude rose 66 cents, or 1.4 percent, to close at \$48.99 a barrel in New

York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 53 cents to \$50.35 a barrel in London. Natural gas rose 6 cents, or 2.2 percent, to \$2.9870 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In metals trading, gold gained \$18.40, or 1.4 percent, to \$1,339 an ounce, while silver rose 97 cents, or 5.2 percent, to \$19.59 an ounce. Copper added 2 cents to

\$2.22 a pound.

Among other big movers Friday: Micron Technology slumped 9.2 percent after the memory chip maker reported disappointing sales and gave an outlook that fell short of Wall Street's expectations. The company also said it will eliminate jobs to reduce its spending. The stock shed \$1.26 to \$12.50. —AP

IMPLICATIONS OF 'LEAVE' RESULT ON UK REAL ESTATE

KUWAIT: The Real Estate Asset Management unit at Global Investment House (Global) issued yesterday a report on the implications of the 'Leave' result in the UK referendum on EU membership and its impact on the UK and EU economies, and the real estate sector.

The British public has voted to leave the EU in a historic referendum that has taken place last Thursday 23 June. The general consensus leading up to the vote was an expectation of a narrow 'Remain' victory which has been priced in to stock, bond, and currency markets. Therefore, the media and market response to the official results was immediate and turbulent, especially in terms of the speculation on the GBP (which, as of Friday 1st of July 2016, the closing of the first week after the announcement, is down around 12 against USD) and on the nature of the future economic and trade relationship between the UK and the EU.

Notification

The subsequent stage in the implementation of the leave process involves a vote to be taken by the UK Parliament to formally initiate its exit from the EU. Following this vote and providing it is passed, the British Government will send an EU withdrawal notification or 'EU termination letter' to the European Council. This effectively activates Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty to set in motion the formal process of withdrawing from the EU, giving the UK two years to negotiate its withdrawal. Extending matters further is David Cameron's comments that he will step down as PM in October and that this responsibility will be assumed by the next PM, elected from Cameron's Conservative Party. On the other hand, European leaders have called for Cameron to start the process immediately.

That said, despite the negative political and financial reactions to the historic vote and speculation in global capital markets, policies and legislations associating the UK as a member of the EU will not change immediately. After the agreement and execution of the EU termination letter, the UK will need to repeal, amend, or retain thousands of pieces of EU derived legislation, including trade and labor agreements, where the current estimate for the completion of this process can take up to ten years. Therefore, until further insight and clarifications are provided and the uncertainty ultimately recedes, markets will continue to be

volatile and most likely expressed by investors through their holdings of GBP, London-listed equities, and Gilts (UK government bonds).

In light of the political and financial risks, the Bank of England (BoE) is expected to respond quickly and prudently to provide sufficient liquidity to avoid any funding stresses, especially with the experience of the 2008 Global Financial Crisis still present in their collective memory. The magnitude and volatility of the GBP's fall will likely dictate further responses. An interest rate cut of 25 basis points has become a strong possibility at the Monetary Policy Committee's July meeting, or earlier if required. Moreover, a return of quantitative easing could be on the table, depending on the decrease in the levels of public and private investment. This has been a useful monetary policy tool in the past and is expected to restore confidence in investors across all asset classes, if the need arises.

Currency depreciation

Inevitably, the BoE will have to improve sentiment towards the GBP to avoid a protracted depreciation of the currency leading to an overshoot of the BoE's 2 annual inflation target. That said, the re-emergence of inflation, resulting from the Sterling's devaluation, could influence investors towards growth assets by next year. In addition, the combination of the exchange rate effect as well as the lower asset prices as a result of the Brexit concerns could attract overseas investors to acquire real estate and other physical assets in the UK due to its untarnished position as a G7 economy with a track record of achieving strong economic growth.

Evidently, the primary risk to the UK economy is that of a macroeconomic recession. Given the high level of uncertainty as to the direction of this process and the vast amount of discussions that are required to take place, many questions still remain. From a macro perspective, adverse terms of trade for the UK could impact its economic growth as its access to its major export markets is reduced or made

more costly. In a Goldman Sachs report evaluating the potential economic impacts of the UK referendum, an estimate of the rise in macro uncertainty associated with a Leave decision would reduce UK real GDP by 1-2 over the next 12-18 months, leaving the UK close to experiencing a recession. Expectations of inflation in the long-term could also lead to a reduction in consumer and corporate spending, further adding to the economic challenges that could arise. That said, the structural UK economic strengths remain in place and financial capital regulations imposed after the Global Financial Crisis should prevent a prolonged slow-down in the UK economy.

Volatility

Nasser Alkhaled, the head of Global's Real Estate Asset Management unit commented on the implications of this event on the property market in the UK saying "as the volatility in the capital markets due to the Brexit result ebbs and flows, the commercial property market remains as fundamentally sound as it is before the vote. Existing within reasonable expectation, some deals will be kept on hold, while others will be cancelled altogether as real estate investors come to grips with the uncertainty over future economic conditions in the UK, as well as the reconsideration of occupiers of the amount of space required outside of the EU. Moreover, not all property sectors will be equally affected, as some are more exposed than others." He referred to a study conducted by HM Treasury indicates that the sectors most at risk include financial services, professional services, and technology. That said, however, the impact on these sectors could only be measured once further clarity is achieved relative to the ultimate association between the UK and the EU. He added: "Once the initial correction has occurred, a depreciated GBP and falling property values could be a very attractive buy sign for overseas investors. This would also lead to a widening yield gap as real estate yields rise and bond rates fall from further monetary easing measures employed

Real estate assets focusing on non-financial sector tenants and located outside London will provide further protection and any cuts in interest rates will enhance the cash income



Nasser Al-Khaled

by the Bank of England."

Over the longer term, the impact of Brexit on the EU as a whole could be more profound than that on the UK independently. The UK has been one of the most economically stable (along with Germany) constituents in the EU, and as a G7 economy, its exclusion from the EU could dilute the EU's impact on the global scale. The Brexit result could potentially lead to a second Scottish referendum to decide whether to remain or leave as a member of the UK. This scenario is unlikely at this time due to perceived Scottish government budgetary constraints as a result of the economy's exposure to oil prices and its recent descent.

Remain or leave

Furthermore, the Brexit process has created the concept of an "a la carte" Europe, meaning that member states now believe they have the leverage to remain or leave the EU on their own terms; a sentiment that has been negated by major European leaders. Key issues that require to be addressed by the EU to prevent this argument from gaining momentum include fiscal integration and the free movement of people. Crucial subsequent events in Italy and France include Italy's referendum on constitutional reform in October, and France's National Front has positioned themselves in a strong position before the country's presidential elections in April and May 2017. The leader of the National Front, Ms. Marine Le Pen, has

called for a French referendum on its EU membership, raising the anticipation of a "Frexit", as the Brexit uncertainty dissipates.

On the implications this event has on foreign investors, Alkhaled commented: "for investor domiciled in countries with currencies pegged (or closely linked) to the USD, currency fluctuation and volatility would have the most significant direct and immediate impact. Investments made in the UK property during the past 12 months would have witnessed an unrealized FX loss ranging between 6 and 15." He added that "for investors whose strategy of investing in UK property, with rich yields, sustainable long dated income from financially robust tenants have paid off. Furthermore, real estate assets focusing on non-financial sector tenants and located outside London will provide further protection from the brunt of defection by financial institutions to the EU and any cuts in interest rates will enhance the cash income."

Further GBP weakness and volatility could reasonably be expected as the events unfold and further clarity and certainty becomes observable. Over the medium term and as a result of the measures taken by the BoE, the GBP should be expected to stabilize as investors and observers are currently at peak pessimism. Coupled with the political nature of the campaign, this could lead to further weakening in the GBP that is not fundamentally rational. Moreover, economic and financial uncertainty in global markets could delay the US Federal Reserve's decision to increase interest rates before next year. Such a decision is supportive of GBP strength and of investor holdings exposed to the value of the Sterling. The low interest rate environment which the UK and Europe will sustain should provide further stimulus to the respective property markets.

On the way forward Alkhaled concluded: "We urge investors to remain cautious for the coming 3 months and observe the markets as political matters unfold and as a new support level for the GBP is established. We believe that the low interest rate environment and a weaker GBP, combined, will soon present an attractive buying opportunity. Moreover, the vote will likely result in increased demand for long term income, which will serve to add floor to any yield expansion; particularly in light of the wider arbitrage created by lower swap rates."

EUROPEAN FACTORIES BOUNCE, BUT BREXIT POSES THREATS

LONDON/SYDNEY: Factories across Europe enjoyed a buoyant month in June but that growth could be under threat after Britons voted to leave the European Union last week, surveys conducted almost entirely before the historic referendum showed.

Highlighting another worrying trend for the global economy, China's vast factory sector flattened as exports shrank and jobs were cut, in a slowdown across Asia that could lead to yet more policy stimulus as doubts grow over the potency of measures taken so far.

The hard times signalled by a range of surveys was not what the world needed a week after Britain voted to leave the EU, condemning the bloc to months if not years of political and economic instability.

"The unimaginable has happened and the UK vote will cast a long shadow over the UK, Europe and global markets for some time to come," warned Westpac head currency strategist Robert Rennie.

"A structurally weaker pound, a softer euro and weaker global growth beckons." Markit/CIPS reported a surprisingly strong reading of 52.1 in June for their UK Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), up from May's 50.4. That was the strongest reading since January and better than all forecasts in a Reuters poll of economists, which produced a consensus view of 49.9.

But data company Markit warned "almost all" the data from manufacturers used in its survey were received before the June 23 referendum. "Leaving the EU threatens the loss of 50 free trade agreements with other countries, as well as restricted access to the single market itself," said Samuel Tombs at Pantheon Macroeconomics.

"In short, then, the UK's meagre manufacturing sector - which accounts for just 10 percent of GDP - is not going to prevent the overall economy slipping into recession." Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said on Thursday the central bank would probably need to pump more stimulus into Britain's economy over the summer to cope with the shock of the vote.

June was also stronger across the euro

zone, where factory activity expanded at its fastest rate this year as discounting helped drive up new orders and output, encouraging companies to hire more people to meet the demand. The Markit PMI for the euro zone climbed to 52.8 from May's 51.5, higher than the earlier flash reading of 52.6. Anything above 50 indicates growth. "However, euro zone manufacturers will be worried that demand in both domestic and foreign markets could be significantly weakened by heightened uncertainty following the UK's vote," said Howard Archer at IHS Global Insight.

CHINA BRAKES

Among other surveys out on Friday, China's official PMI slipped a tick to 50.0 in June, dead on the level that it divides growth from contraction. One saving grace was the services sector measure, which nudged up to 53.7 in a positive sign for consumer activity.

More worrying was the Caixin version of the PMI, which covers a greater share of smaller firms, where the index fell to a four-month trough of 48.6 in June. That had to be a disappointment to Beijing, which has resorted to ever-looser fiscal and monetary policy to support growth and jobs in the world's second largest economy.

It was a frustration likely shared by the Bank of Japan, which found major manufacturers in a morose mood despite all its attempts at aggressive easing. The reasons were clear in the Markit/Nikkei measure of Japan's PMI, which edged up slightly to 48.1 in June but stayed in contractionary territory for the fourth straight month.

Government data were no better, with household spending down for the third month in a row and core consumer prices suffering their biggest annual drop since 2013.

News from South Korea was relatively cheery as its PMI reached a six-month high, yet at 50.5 it was just barely into expansionary territory. Indeed, a separate report showed shipments from the world's sixth-largest exporter fell for an 18th straight month in June. — Reuters



SAN JUAN: US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew (right) shakes hands with Puerto Rico's Governor Alejandro Garcia Padilla before touring Eleanor Roosevelt Elementary School in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico faces a historic default of \$2 billion on Friday as the US territory prepares to enter uncharted waters under the guidance of a newly enacted federal control board to oversee the island's finances amid a dire economic crisis. — AP

PUERTO RICO ENTERS NEW FINANCIAL ERA AFTER DEFAULT

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico: Puerto Rico entered a new financial era Friday following a historic default as it prepares for the implementation of a federal oversight board that will have control over the island's dire finances and provide room to ease a crushing debt burden.

The government paid roughly half of \$2 billion in due debt, but said it did not have the money to pay \$779 million worth of general obligation bonds that are given top priority by the island's constitution. Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla signed an executive order Thursday declaring a moratorium on a portion of that debt.

"Even if I had shut down the government, we wouldn't have had enough money to make the payment," Garcia said at a news conference Friday. A bill to help the island restructure its debt, signed Thursday by President Barack Obama, means that "Puerto Rico will now govern itself like an adult country, responsibly, spending only what it can afford," the governor said. "Today, the island starts belonging to us again, and not to Wall Street."

Puerto Rico has only \$200 million in cash in the operating account from which it was supposed to pay the general obligation bond debt, according to the Government Development Bank, which oversees the island's debt transactions and is operating under a state of emergency that permits withdrawals only for essential public services. The bank on Friday warned the government will implement what it called "extraordinary liquidity measures" in the next six months, including delaying payments to vendors and special contributions to the struggling

retirement systems, so that it can continue providing essential services. Despite those measures, revenues in the operating account are expected to drop below some \$95 million later this year, an amount that the bank referred to as "dangerously low."

Grace Santana, the governor's chief of staff, noted that the federal rescue package does not immediately change the island's dire financial situation. "The government's liquidity is still fragile," she said. While the market had anticipated Friday's default, it affects the credibility of a territory grappling with \$70 billion in public debt, economist Jose Villamil warned.

"This has enormous consequences," he said. "The default is very significant, and it likely means that Puerto Rico will not be able to re-enter the market for many, many years."

The federal rescue package will temporarily protect the US territory from lawsuits by creditors seeking to recover millions of dollars invested in Puerto Rico bonds, which had been attractive because of their triple tax-exempt status. Many of those investors were particularly lured by Puerto Rico's general obligation bonds because of their constitutional guarantee of repayment.

Garcia defended the debt moratorium as well as the state of emergency he implemented Thursday at four government agencies, including the island's largest public university and a retirement system that has been shorted by \$40 billion. "We're doing what's right for Puerto Rico," he said. "These measures are necessary for the island's recovery."

Garcia is expected to soon sign a \$9 billion balanced budget based in part on revenue

projections that for the first time in the island's history were validated by an independent agency. Previous projections had long fallen short of reality.

Garcia spoke hours after Obama signed a bipartisan bill that in part creates a federal control board for Puerto Rico that will supervise some debt restructuring and negotiate with creditors. It also allows Puerto Rico to temporarily lower the federal minimum wage for some younger workers.

Obama noted there is tough work ahead to get Puerto Rico out of the hole. "We've got to keep on working to figure out how we promote the long-term growth and sustainability that's so desperately needed down there, but the people of Puerto Rico need to know that they are not forgotten, that they are part of the American family," he said.

The bill will give the island's government some breathing room and allow it to maintain essential services, Villamil said. However, the control board might eventually implement austerity measures that could lead to government layoffs and affect services, he said. Exempt from Thursday's implementation of the debt moratorium is Puerto Rico's heavily indebted power company, which announced that it reached a separate deal with creditors to avoid defaulting on a \$415 million payment.

The Electric Power Authority said creditors agreed to buy \$264 million worth of new bonds as part of the agreement. Those creditors hold 70 percent of the agency's \$9 billion debt. Officials said part of the money will be used for capital projects. — AP



GUWAHATI: Indian tea plantation workers pick leaves in a tea garden in Kaziranga, some 250kms east of Guwahati. — AFP

JESSIE J PERFORMS LIVE SHOW ON BOARD BRITISH AIRWAYS JET CABIN TRANSFORMED WITH SUMMER STREET PARTY THEME FOR GIG



Jessie J is plane amazing as she performs live show on board British Airways jet.



KUWAIT: Australia might be experiencing some of the coldest weather for 20 years but singer Jessie J raised the temperature up today at Sydney Airport with a summer party-themed gig aboard a British Airways aircraft.

The 28-year-old judge of TV's *The Voice* brought a taste of balmy Britain to Australia to celebrate the arrival of summer back home with a special show for celebrity special guests, VIP customers and 10 competition winners. British Airways has been flying to Australia for over 80 years and currently operates a daily service between Sydney and London Heathrow via Singapore - with return fares starting from \$1,477 but for today's gig the aircraft stayed firmly on the ground while Jessie's voice soared.

Lucky fans watched her perform three of her biggest hits including *Bang Bang*, *Pricetag* and *Domino* - plus a cover of the late singer Prince's 1984 hit *Purple Rain* - inside a cabin decorated like a traditional summer street party, complete with bunting and bright balloons. And at the same performance British Airways announced their latest set of summer flight packages to more than 100 European destinations.

Speaking after the gig, London-born singer Jessie said: "It might be freezing

here but summer has arrived back home in Britain, and when the sun's out there's no better time to visit London. Gardens and parks are in full bloom and everybody's in a fantastic mood - there's a real unique buzz about the place."

Discussing her performance on-board, Jessie added: "This is the first time I've ever sung on-board an aeroplane and it was brilliant. The audience really got into it and the cabin actually had terrific acoustics. Maybe next time we'll take off!"

Accompanying the extra special 'in-flight' entertainment, British Airways also brought in two stars of Sydney's food and drink scene: Celebrity chef Nelly Robinson of *nel* restaurant and expert barman Tim Phillips from *Dead Ringer*.

Celebrity chef Nelly Robinson - himself a Brit who has lived in Australia for six years now - cooked up a spread of delicious canapés from his childhood British roots for today's gig. He said: "I wanted to surprise them with each mouthful. Being British I'm very proud of my heritage and like to showcase this in my food with 21st century tweaks and techniques."

Phillips added: "It's been an honour to have my winning cocktail served on-board British Airways flights and hopefully today it tasted just as good on the ground for Jessie and our guests."

VIVA ANNOUNCES WINNER OF KD 500 IN 'WIN BIG IN RAMADAN' CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest growing and most developed telecom operator, announces third week's winners of the campaign "Win Big in Ramadan" that allows postpaid customers to win valuable cash prizes during the holy month of Ramadan. The winner of KD 500 prize is Doha Saad Al-Soraya, and the names of daily draw's winners with prize KD 100 are: Rafeef Reyad Sayed, Omar Fawaz Omar A-Mutairi, Al-Anoud Saad Khalaf Al-Dhafaeri, Saeed Mostapha Mohammad Abu Al-Hasan, Abdulrahman A Al-Dowaisan, Decky Haidar Ulum, Mohammed Khaleel Al-Sayed Khaleel.

VIVA gives the customers a wonderful opportunity to win amazing cash prizes this Ramadan - KD 100 daily, KD 500 fortnightly and KD 1000 at the end of the month, once they pay their VIVA bills through Direct Debit, VIVA website, VIVA App or by calling 102 during the holy month.

To find out more about "Win Big in Ramadan" campaign, visit one of the 70 VIVA branches, or the VIVA website at www.viva.com.kw, or call VIVA's 24-hour call center on 102.

VIVA is the fastest-growing telecom operator in Kuwait. Launched in December 2008, VIVA makes things Possible for its customers by transforming communication, information and entertainment experiences. The company has rapidly established an unrivalled position in the market through its customer centric approach.



VIVA's quest is to be the mobile brand of choice in Kuwait by being transparent, engaging, energetic and fulfilling. VIVA continues to take a considerable share of the market by offering an innovative range of best value products, services and content propositions; a state of the art, nationwide network and world-class service. VIVA offers internet speeds of more than 100 Mbps, due to the implementation of the most advanced fourth generation (4G LTE) network in Kuwait resulting in superior coverage, performance and reliability.

UAE, SAUDI PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS HOLD DISCUSSIONS IN SAO PAULO

SAUDI, UAE IMPORTED \$3M WORTH OF PHARMA PRODUCTS FROM BRAZIL IN 2015

ABU DHABI: The Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce (ABCC) has revealed that major importers of pharmaceutical products from the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia held fruitful discussions with Brazilian pharmaceutical manufacturers during a business matchmaking event in Sao Paulo - a strategic meeting that could help further boost the two Arab countries' trade ties with the vast South American country. In 2015, Saudi Arabia and the UAE imported a combined USD 3 million worth of pharmaceutical products from Brazil.

The meeting took place during the FCE Pharma expo held at the Transamerica Expo Center recently. The Arab prospective buyers - one each from the Emirates and the Kingdom - were invited to the event as guests under the Brazilian Pharma Solutions program designed to boost local exports by collaborating with priority international markets.

Managed by the Brazilian Pharmaceutical and Pharmaceutical Inputs Industry Association (Abiquifi) and the Brazilian Export and Investment Promotion Agency (Apex-Brasil), the Brazilian



Dr. Michel Alaby, Secretary General and CEO, Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce.

Pharma Solutions comprises around 70 pharmaceutical companies, from medication and medication inputs manufacturing to veterinary medication manufacturing to biotech for healthcare.

Dr. Michel Alaby, Secretary General and CEO, Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce, said: "The

recent matchmaking event between Arab and Brazilian pharmaceutical companies could help further their respective pharmaceutical industries. The positive and productive discussions between both sides signal their keenness to strengthen their relations and bring their cooperation to new levels of growth and development. We are confident that similar fruitful interaction will continue to take place in the future as we reiterate our unwavering support to such significant endeavors. This is part of our pursuit of further strengthening and sustaining the already robust relations between key Arab countries and Brazil."

In the Arab World, the Kingdom boasts of huge market size and imports volume in terms of pharmaceutical products, while the UAE serves as an international gateway to the region, according to an analyst. Aside from Emirati and Saudi importers, companies from Nigeria, Iran, and Turkey also attended the expo. The foreign importers visited various Brazilian companies as well on the sidelines of their participation in the event.

SEEKING POST-BREXIT CALM, OBAMA WALKS BACK UK TRADE WARNING

WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama is backtracking on his warning that Britain would go to the "back of the queue" for a US trade deal, as he tries to contain the fallout of the UK's decision to leave the European Union.

The shift in tone illustrates how Britain's vote has abruptly scrambled Obama's reality. Where the president had tried to encourage the UK not to rashly abandon the European bloc, he now must reassure Britain that its decision to do so won't mean its demise. His priority of locking in trade deals before leaving office now becomes a distant second, behind the more urgent task of restoring confidence in the financial markets and in Europe's future.

"The Obama administration - and a number of leaders in Europe as well - is trying to calm the waters. At this point, there are more questions than answers," said Miriam Sapiro, Obama's former acting trade representative and now an adviser at the strategy firm Finsbury.

Obama's attempt to show support for a struggling ally casts him in the role of forceful free-trade



STANFORD: President Barack Obama speaks at the Global Entrepreneur Summit at Stanford University in Stanford, California. —AP

advocate at a time when all of the major presidential candidates running to replace him are vocally opposed. Yet current and former Obama administration officials are operating under the assumption that Democrat Hillary Clinton, if elected, would come around to supporting Obama's trade deals after finding ways to reconcile spe-

cific concerns she's raised about jobs, wages and national security.

Before Britain's exit vote, or Brexit, Obama's administration was deep in negotiations toward a sweeping free trade deal with the 28-nation EU. Supporters of the Brexit had argued the UK wouldn't lose out on US commerce because it could easily broker a one-on-one

deal with the U.S. So during a visit to London in April, Obama sought to correct the record, arguing that wouldn't "happen any time soon."

Obama's warning reflected his broader belief that separate trade deals with individual countries are too laborious, given the countless regulations, laws and standards that must be aligned to create a free trade zone.

Instead, Obama has sought to broker broad deals with universal requirements, so that any country that agrees to the conditions can join. His 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership with Asia, awaiting ratification in Congress, is a prime example of that multi-member approach.

So it took many by surprise when, after Britain's referendum, the White House said the US might still pursue a one-off deal with Britain, but it simply might take longer given the legwork that's already been done on the broader EU deal. Secretary of State John Kerry even said that Obama planned to pursue both deals "at the same time."

"He knows how to multitask," Kerry said this week. —AP

CHEVROLET VEHICLES LEAD IN JD POWER INITIAL QUALITY STUDY 2016: CHEVROLET ALGHANIM

KUWAIT: Yusuf A Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Chevrolet vehicles in the Middle East, is proud to announce that five global Chevrolet vehicles - with four out of the five are sold in the Middle East - have led their segments in the JD Power 2016 Initial Quality Study. No other brand has more JD Power Initial Quality awards than Chevrolet - for the fourth consecutive year.

This follows the brand's strong showing in the 2016 J.D. Power Vehicle Dependability Study, where Chevrolet also had more models ranked highest in its segments than any other brand.

"These results play two critical roles in our strategy to bring new retail buyers to the brand," said Alan Batey, Global Chevrolet president. "First, the study results will help attract new buyers to Chevrolet, as J.D. Power data shows 'expected reliability' is customers' top purchase consideration for a new vehicle. Second, the improved ownership experience of our new vehicles will help convert first-time Chevrolet buyers into repeat customers, as J.D. Power indicates customers who have a positive experience in the first 90 days of ownership are more likely to become repeat buyers for the brand."

Chevrolet segment awards in the 2016 JD Power Initial Quality Study include:

- Silverado swept the full-size truck categories, with the Silverado 1500 receiving the top marks for light-duty trucks and the Silverado HD receiving the top marks for heavy-duty trucks.

- Equinox led the compact SUV segment (in a tie), with study results that were 15 points better than the segment average (not sold in the Middle East).

- Tahoe lead the large SUV segment, with study results that were 19 points above the segment average.
- Finally, the Spark dominated the city car segment, with study results that were 48 points higher than the segment average.

The study, now in its 30th year, examines problems experienced by vehicle owners during the first 90 days of ownership. Initial quality is determined by the number of problems experienced per 100 vehicles (PP100), with a lower score reflecting higher quality.



The 2016 US Initial Quality Study is based on responses from more than 80,000 purchasers and lessees of new 2016 model-year vehicles surveyed after 90 days of ownership. The study is based on a 233-question battery organized into eight problem categories designed to provide manufacturers with information to facilitate the identification of problems and drive product improvement. The study was fielded from February through May 2016.

Chevrolet Care

All customers who purchase a Chevrolet from Alghanim will receive the benefits of the Chevrolet Care, which entails new levels of post-sale support and trust. The Chevrolet Care is an exceptional customer service that is based on four main pillars: competitive and transparent service costs (especially for four-wheel drive vehicles), scheduled service appointment booking with same day delivery, quality service by certified technicians and 3yr/100,000km warranty with 24/7 roadside assistance. Customers who want to purchase a new vehicle or upgrade their existing vehicle can visit our showrooms in Safat Alghanim Al-Rai, Sharq, Fahaheel, Al-Ahmedi, and Shuwaikh and obtain the car of their dreams.

MEDIA USE IN AMERICA UP A FULL HOUR OVER

NEW YORK: The typical American adult is using media for a full hour a day more than just last year, with smartphones accounting for most of the increase. People spent an average of 10 hours, 39 minutes each day with smartphones, tablets, TV, radio, computers and video games during the first three months of 2016, according to a Nielsen company study released this week. It was nine hours, 39 minutes during the same period in 2015. Even these numbers are probably underestimated, since while Nielsen measures the amount of time spent online on smartphones, it doesn't count texting, taking selfies or

talking on the phone. Most Americans can sense the increase anecdotally given the ubiquity of smartphones. People stare at screens while waiting in line for fast food, riding in elevators or walking down the street. Retail outlets post signs pleading that phones be turned off. People check messages in bed before falling asleep, and reach for the devices upon waking up.

'Lost without it'

As she waits for her 5:45 a.m. spin class to begin, Cassandra Girao of Ossining, New York, sits on a bike scrolling through her email, listening to

music or solving a puzzle. "I feel like I would be lost without it," Girao said. "My whole life is on it." Even so, Girao said she feels better when she gives the phone a rest. She sometimes hides tablets from her 4-year-old son to give him device-free days, and said he's better behaved as a result.

An estimated 81 percent of American adults use a smartphone regularly, with the number of users growing by more than 20 million in the past year, said Glenn Enoch, senior vice president of audience insights for Nielsen. Of the additional hour in media time that Nielsen has measured this year, smartphone usage accounts for 37 min-

utes and tablets 12 minutes. Online smartphone use averages an hour and 39 minutes a day - more than double what it was two years ago, Nielsen said.

'Face-to-face contact'

Liana Sayer, director of the Time Use Laboratory at the University of Maryland, notices restaurant patrons who sit at tables staring at their phones and ignoring their companions. They might as well be eating alone. "Young people text a lot, but they're not doing it at the expense of face-to-face contact," she said. "What I

see that is more concerning is family members focusing on their phones and not sitting around the dinner table enjoying conversations."

Smartphone usage has grown so quickly that there hasn't been much research into what kind an impact it is having on people's lives, Sayer said. People spending more time on phones and tablets hasn't caused a corresponding drop in the use of other media, an indication that there's a lot of multi-tasking going on. People are spending 3 minutes less watching live television than they did a year ago, but they still spend 41/2 hours a day in front of the TV, Nielsen said.—AP

DEATH SPARKS 'AUTOPILOT' CAR PROBE, MAN HAD SPEEDING TICKETS

WASHINGTON: The first American death involving a car in self-driving mode presents a dilemma: How aggressively to embrace the potentially life-saving technology after a fatal crash. The driver's history of speeding further complicates the question. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is investigating the design and performance of the Tesla Model S vehicle's "Autopilot" system after announcing the death of a driver on Thursday.

The system was engaged at the time of the crash, but that is only part of the story. The driver, Joshua D Brown, a 40-year-old technology company owner from Canton, Ohio, was so enamored of his sedan that he nicknamed it "Tessy" and praised the Autopilot's safety benefits. Brown published videos on Youtube of himself behind the wheel with the system active.

He was killed on May 7 in Williston, Florida, when his car's cameras failed to distinguish the white side of a turning tractor-trailer from a brightly lit sky and didn't automatically activate the brakes, according to statements by the government and the automaker. Brown didn't take control and brake, either. Brown's family said in a statement that it wanted to help the government and Tesla so that "information learned from this tragedy will trigger further innovation which enhances the safety of everyone on the roadways."

'Defect-free'

His death comes at an awkward time for the US government and car makers. NHTSA Administrator Mark Rosekind was expected later this month to announce guidelines on self-driving cars for states and automakers. The transition to the new technology could radically transform how people travel in the future. Rosekind has stressed the potential life-saving advantages. In theory, automated vehicles will eliminate the human errors that are responsible for an estimated 94 percent of traffic fatalities.

With more than 35,000 people killed on the nation's roads last year, the benefits could be enormous. Still, experts say some crashes and deaths will continue occurring. Expecting "defect-free," self-driving cars is unreasonable, said Timothy Carone, a Notre Dame professor and author of "Future Automation: Changes to Lives and to Businesses." Still, he said the technology will become safer as it matures.

A former NHTSA administrator, Joan Claybrook, said the government should ensure car companies test self-driving software to eliminate defects before vehicles hit the road. She said automakers shouldn't make guinea pigs of their customers. "There is nothing unique about software that it can't be tested," Claybrook said.

Friends described Brown as having a "need for speed," and state records obtained by The Associated Press show he had eight speeding tickets over six years.

'Kind of a daredevil'

Terri Lyn Reed, an insurance agent in northeastern Ohio who insured Brown's business, described her friend as "kind of a daredevil" who loved excitement and speed, and was fearless. A former employee of Brown's, Stan Staneski, said Brown drove fast, but he considered him a safe driver. But the truck driver in the wreck, Frank Baressi, 62, of Palm Harbor, Florida, recalled Brown driving quickly when the accident occurred: "He went so fast through my trailer I didn't see him."

Baressi also told the AP that Brown was "playing Harry Potter on the TV screen" at the time of the crash. Baressi acknowledged he couldn't see the movie, only heard it. The Florida Highway Patrol confirmed Friday that it found a portable DVD player in Brown's car after the accident, but agency spokeswoman Sgt Kim Montes said investigators could not confirm whether it was playing when the vehicles made contact.

'Avoid false braking'

Baressi is the owner of Okemah Express, a trucking company with one truck and one driver, himself. Federal records don't identify drivers by name, but they show Okemah and its driver were cited for seven violations during four traffic stops over the past two years. The most serious violation was in January when a Virginia state inspector ordered the driver off the road for being on duty more than the legal limit of 14 hours in one day. The driver was also cited for ignoring a traffic-control device in March and an improper lane change in December.

An inspection last year found the truck's tires were going bald. An attorney representing Brown's family said no decision had been made about whether to sue anyone. "Once the complete investigation results are published, we'll obviously evaluate all the data and the conclusions and make our decision from there," Paul Grieco said Friday.

In addition to its cameras, the Model S has radar sensors that could have spotted the trailer. But Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk wrote on Twitter that the radar "tunes out what looks like an overhead road sign to avoid false braking events." Seewer reported from Toledo, Ohio. Associated Press writers Dee-Ann Durbin in Detroit, Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus and Tamara Lush in Tampa, Florida, contributed to this report.—AP



BEIJING: In this file photo, a man uses his mobile phone near an Apple store logo in Beijing, China. —AP

APPLE SUED IN CHINA OVER SHOWING WAR FILM

BEIJING: Apple is being sued by a subsidiary of China's broadcasting regulator over a propaganda film more than 20 years old, in the latest legal wrangling for the tech giant in China in recent weeks. A Beijing court says the case has been brought by a production center that alleges that Apple has infringed its exclusive online rights to broadcast a film that depicts Chinese fighting against Japanese soldiers in northern China in the early 1930s.

The plaintiff is also suing the developer and operator of the Youku HD app available on Apple's App Store that it says enabled users to watch the film and caused it "huge economic losses," according to the Beijing Haidian District People's Court. The court says it has accepted the case brought by Movie Satellite Channel Program Production Center that comes under the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.

'Bloody Fight with the Fierce Enemy'

The plaintiff alleges that Apple has infringed its exclusive online rights to broadcast "Xuebo dixiao," which loosely translates as "Bloody Fight with the Fierce Enemy" and was first shown in 1994. The production center is also suing Heyi Information and Technology (Beijing) Company Ltd, which developed and operated the Youku HD app, the court said in an online statement Thursday.

The app is sold by Youku.com, according to information on Apple's iTunes site. The Youku site is one of China's best known movie and TV program streaming sites and is owned by Youku Tudou Inc, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange. The plaintiff wants the two companies to immediately stop broadcasting the film and is seeking compensation of 50,000 yuan (\$7,500) plus its "reasonable expenditure" of 20,158 yuan (\$3,000) in attempting to stop the

infringement of its rights, the court said.

Emailed requests for comment to Apple spokespeople were not immediately answered yesterday, and a spokesman for Youku Tudou was not able to immediately comment. Apple Inc has recently faced legal setbacks and other obstacles in China, its second-biggest global market. In April, it suspended its eBooks and iTunes Movies services, reportedly due to an order by Chinese regulators.

In May, a Beijing intellectual property tribunal in Beijing ordered Apple to stop selling its iPhone 6 and iPhone 6 Plus in the city after finding they look too much like a model made by a small Chinese brand. Sales of the phones are continuing while Apple appeals. Also that month, Apple suffered another setback when a court ruled that a Chinese company is allowed to use the iPhone trademark on bags, wallets and other leather goods. —AP



OHIO: In this 2015 photo provided by his neighbor, Krista Kitchen, Joshua Brown stands by his new Tesla electric car near his home in Canton, Ohio. —AP

NEW APP LETS USERS TRACK, REPORT SHARKS SIGHTINGS

CHATHAM, Massachusetts: A Massachusetts nonprofit is launching a new smart phone application so beachgoers along the East Coast can report their own shark sightings. The Atlantic White Shark Conservancy says users of Sharkivity will become "citizen scientists," providing valuable tracking data for researchers trying to better understand the animals.

The Chatham-based organization says the app is free and currently only

available for Apple products. It's being launched as Cape Cod's waters begin to warm and great white sharks begin to appear in earnest.

Greater numbers of the powerful sharks are being spotted each year near the Cape Cod shoreline because of a booming population of seals, one of their favorite delicacies. Shark researchers counted 141 different great whites off Cape Cod last year, up from 80 the previous year.—AP

CYBER SECURITY: A VIEW FROM THE BOARDROOM

By Scott Manson

Cyber-attacks are increasingly sophisticated and discrete. Nation states and cybercriminal organizations frequently bankroll and mastermind these attacks with the aim of financial or political gain. If attackers have high-powered backing behind them, shouldn't defenders as well? Isn't it time that organizations' top leaders are actively engaged in defense? Granted, the vast majority of enterprises have an executive with direct responsibility for security. But for modern businesses, security leadership needs to ascend even higher in the organization: to the boardroom.

Recent, massive data breaches involving well-known companies, more legislation and regulation related to data security, geopolitical dynamics and shareholder expectations are all factors making cyber-security an agenda item in the boardroom. A report by the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) revealed that 55 percent of corporate directors now have to personally understand and manage cyber-security as a risk area. Discussions on the size of the burden, where it should be placed, and how to encourage the sharing of information to strengthen defenses for all, should command the attention of more corporate directors.

Given that in the modern economy every company runs on IT, an increased focus on cyber risk at the board level is a positive development, but one that is long overdue. Security is the business of every person in the organization, from the chief executive to the newest hire, and not just personnel with "security" in their title or job description. Everyone should be accountable, and learn how to avoid becoming a victim. A core component of the future of cyber-security will be greater engagement by the board. Corporate boards of directors across industries need to know what the cyber-security risks to the business are and their potential impact.

To truly understand the scope of cyber-security

issues that affect the organization, we will likely see a rise in the number of CIOs and even CSOs on corporate boards. The phenomenon of external factors influencing board makeup isn't new. In the previous decade, we saw a dramatic increase in the number of CFOs serving on corporate boards as a direct result of the global financial crisis and an increasingly complex regulatory environment. Research by Ernst & Young found that in 2002, 36 percent of CFOs from the world's largest companies held board level roles. Ten years later, the number had risen to nearly half.



With members that bring technology and cyber-security expertise, boards can start getting answers to tough questions about security controls: What controls do we have in place? How well have they been tested? Do we have a reporting process? How quickly can we detect and remediate the inevitable compromise? And perhaps, the most important question: What else should we know?

Even if they don't currently hold a board seat, CIOs and CSOs need to be prepared to answer

these questions from the board, and in terms that are meaningful to board members and outline business implications. They must be equally comfortable speaking about business strategy as they are about technology and security strategy. New business models such as direct to consumer, expansion into new channels and regions, and shifting supply chains can create significant business opportunities but also potential risk.

Addressing how technology and security must align to support these models with budgetary concerns and risk management top of mind is critical. Technology and security leaders must also possess knowledge of regulatory requirements and standards to help the board navigate and comply with new mandates. Insights into industry and technology trends, as well as strategies and experiences of similar organizations help provide board members with a frame of reference to evaluate current security postures and validate controls.

How to communicate is important as well. Every message should be delivered clearly, briefly, and with minimal technical jargon. For example, it's expected that CIOs and CSOs understand threats and how the most recent attacks were successful. But translating the impact of those attacks into relevant business terms such as lost revenue, productivity, or profitability will help ensure the consequences are understood. Graphical tools like executive dashboards can also help focus discussions on metrics that are most relevant to the business.

Cyber-security as a boardroom topic is not only a good thing, it is necessary. As defenders it gives us an opportunity to better educate the highest levels of leadership on the cyber-security issues facing the business. With that knowledge, boards are equipped to make more informed security and risk management decisions and, together, we can better protect valuable assets while achieving business goals.

—Scott Manson is the Cyber Security Leader for Middle East and Turkey, Cisco

LOUISIANA CLINICS CHALLENGE NEW ABORTION RESTRICTIONS

NEW ORLEANS: Abortion clinics and their doctors in Louisiana are challenging new abortion restrictions that include making women wait longer and barring a common second-trimester procedure. The federal lawsuit filed Friday in Baton Rouge seeks to keep the new rules from taking effect on Aug. 1. Among other restrictions, lawmakers voted to force many women to wait 72 hours and undergo ultrasounds before getting abortions, and they banned a procedure called dilation and evacuation. The lawmakers say they only want to safeguard women's health, but judges may decide otherwise following

Monday's US Supreme Court ruling, which declared that it's unconstitutional to impose medically unnecessary rules that place an undue burden on access to abortion. The decision overturning a Texas law requiring hospital admitting privileges for abortion doctors was the court's strongest defense of abortion rights in a quarter-century.

The justices blocked enforcement of a similar Louisiana law in March. Friday's suit was filed on behalf of two north Louisiana clinics and three doctors by the Center for Reproductive Rights, a New York-based legal non-profit. The group's president and CEO, Nancy

Northrup, said legislatures are "burying women's right to safe and legal abortion under an avalanche of unjustified and burdensome restrictions."

'A web of red tape'

"A web of red tape" over abortions is "driving safe and legal care out of reach for many Louisiana women and putting their health and well-being at risk," her statement added. Democratic Gov John Bel Edwards, who "maintains his pro-life position" on abortion, is reviewing the lawsuit, according to a statement from his press secretary Shauna Sanford. Louisiana would join at least five other

states with the nation's longest wait time, 72 hours.

However, the current 24-hour wait would remain for women living 150 miles or more from the nearest abortion provider. The clinics call the wait "an affront to the dignity and autonomy of women" that "imposes mental hardship and suffering, sorrow, and nervousness."

Other new rules would: Ban "dilation and evacuation," a procedure used to avoid complications in second-trimester abortions - unless it's deemed necessary to prevent "serious health risk" to the woman. Require doctors who perform abortions to be either board-certified or

certifiable in obstetrics and gynecology, or family medicine. Require abortion providers to bury or cremate fetal remains. Prohibit state and local government agencies from funding an abortion clinic or any entity that contracts with abortion clinics.

The suit says the law "imposes a legal stigma on abortion clinics, isolating them by singling them out to Louisiana businesses as uniquely unqualified entities with whom to contract." Deanna Wallace, legislative director of Louisiana Right to Life, called them "commonsense protections for the safety of women."—AP

CHINA DEFENDS USE OF ANIMAL PARTS IN TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

BEIJING: Traditional Chinese medicine risks extinction if there is a push by the government to completely replace the wild animal parts now used with substitutes, a senior Chinese lawmaker said yesterday. China, where an animal-loving middle class has been trying to change old ways, has promoted substitutes for tiger bones, rhino horns and certain other wild animal products, but doubts persist about their usefulness even among some officials.

Beijing in 1993 banned trade in tiger bones and rhino horns, both prized in traditional medicine, as part of global efforts to halt declining animal stocks. But illegal poaching continues, driven by illegal demand in an increasingly affluent country. Speaking after China amended its wildlife protection law, Zhai Yong, head of parliament's environment and resources protection committee legislation department, admitted using wild animals for medicine was highly controversial. But substitutes reduce the effectiveness of traditional medicine, he said.

"If in the future original products from wild animals are all substituted, our Chinese medicine perhaps won't be of any use anymore. This issue needs to be discussed by us Chinese people," he added. Commercial tiger farms in China are legal and tiger parts from these farms

often end up being made into tonics and going into other medicines, animal rights groups say. Substitutes exist for tiger bones and many other products from wild animals such as bear bile, the extraction of which from live animals rights groups condemn as barbaric.

Yan Xun, chief engineer of the wildlife preservation department in the State Forestry Administration, said skin and bones from farmed tigers were "legal assets" but tiger bones could not be used in Chinese medicine since the 1993 ban. State media this week cited another lawmaker, Jin Hua, as saying the law should not ban the use of wildlife due to the importance of traditional Chinese medicine. "Some international forces use this as a pretext to attack the raw material requirements for traditional Chinese medicines, and often require China to forbid their trade," she was quoted as saying.

The amendments to the wildlife protection law brought only small changes. It still permits the continued "utilization" of wild animals for medicine and also allows for them to be used in public performances, something animal rights groups have expressed concern about as well. While the revised law bans mistreatment of wild animals, it contains no specific punishments for any violations.—Reuters



NORTH CAROLINA: In this file photo, water rushes along the course at the National Whitewater Center at dusk on the first day of competition in the canoe slalom Olympic trials, in Charlotte, North Carolina.—AP

AMOEBAS DIDN'T DIE IN CENTER'S MURKY CHURN

'EXPOSURE MAY INCLUDE HEADACHE, FEVER OR VOMITING'

RALEIGH, North Carolina: The chlorination and filtration systems at an artificial water rapids course where Olympic kayakers train were inadequate to kill a rare, brain-attacking organism, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said after an Ohio teenager died from the amoeba. The rushing water channels at the US National Whitewater Center had become so murky with debris that the chlorine and ultraviolet light that might have killed the Naegleria fowleri amoeba didn't work, Dr Michael Beach said Friday.

"It's kind of a murky water," said Beach, the CDC's associate director for healthy water. Speaking by phone, Beach wouldn't comment on whether a more effective system could have saved the life of Lauren Seitz, 18, of Westerville, Ohio. The whitewater center closed its whitewater rafting and kayaking operations on June 24. The fast-water channels will be drained, dried and scrubbed to kill any vestiges of the amoeba, the non-profit said on its web site. The website didn't indicate when the rapids course might reopen.

A spokesman for the center declined to comment Friday on the CDC findings. Seitz died June 19, just three weeks after graduating from high school and more than a week after returning home to suburban Columbus, Ohio, from a church group trip that included a visit to the whitewater center about 15 miles west of Charlotte. Her only known underwater exposure was thought to be when her raft overturned at the whitewater center.

'Odds of amoeba'

The center held Olympic qualifying trials for US canoe and kayak competitors in April and also hosted the qualifying races before the 2012 and 2008 Olympics, said Aaron Mann, a spokesman for USA Canoe/Kayak. American Olympians haven't used the Charlotte course in recent weeks because they've been competing in Europe ahead of a training camp in France leading up to the Rio de Janeiro games, he said.

The amoeba is very common in lakes and other kinds of warm, fresh water, yet it's very rare that it will make anyone sick, said Dr Thomas Kerkering, chief of infectious diseases at Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke, Virginia. The amoeba won't infect a person who drinks or swallows water containing it, and must enter the body through the nose to cause harm. "Where most people get it is when they wipe out waterskiing and the water goes up their nose," Kerkering said. The odds that the organism will cause the dangerous, brain-eating disease are just about chance, Kerkering said, since some people jumping into the water might contract the illness while most others don't. Only 138 people nationwide have been stricken by the disease between 1962 and 2015, according to the CDC. Florida and Texas have had the most cases with 34 each in that time.

'Initial symptoms'

North Carolina had four cases prior to Seitz, none of them involving the whitewater center, while Ohio is one of 32 states without a recorded case over the five-decade span. All five cases last year were fatal. They were in California, Oklahoma, Arizona, and two in Texas. The most recent was in Texas last August. Initial symptoms showing up on average five days after exposure may include headache, fever or vomiting and worsen to include stiff neck, confusion, seizures and hallucinations. The deadly amoeba was found in all 11 water

samples taken from the National Whitewater Center's fast-flowing whitewater channel, said Dr Stephen Keener, Mecklenburg County's medical director. Four samples from the neighboring Catawba River didn't find the organism, but it was found in one sample of the river's sediment, Keener said Thursday.

Water for the center's courses comes from the

Charlotte-Mecklenburg municipal system, two water wells and rain, the operator said. Seitz planned to study music and environmental science at Denison University in Ohio, according to an obituary posted by the funeral home handling arrangements. A celebration of her life is scheduled yesterday. Her family didn't return a telephone call seeking comment.—AP

ANTARCTICA'S OZONE HOLE IS STARTING TO HEAL: STUDY

WASHINGTON: Antarctica's ozone hole finally is starting to heal, a new study finds. In a triumph of international cooperation over a man-made environmental problem, research from the United States and the United Kingdom shows that the September-October ozone hole is getting smaller and forming later in the year. And the study in Thursday's journal Science also shows other indications that the ozone layer is improving after it was being eaten away by chemicals in aerosols and refrigerants.

Ozone is a combination of three oxygen atoms; high in the atmosphere, it shields Earth from ultraviolet rays. The hole has shrunk by about 1.7 million square miles in the key month of September since the year 2000 - a decline of about one-fifth, the study found. That difference is more than six times larger than the state of Texas. It also is taking about 10 days longer to reach its largest size, according to the study. The hole won't be completely closed until mid-century, but the healing is appearing earlier than scientists expected, said study lead author Susan Solomon of MIT.

'Getting better'

"It isn't just that the patient is in remission," Solomon said. "He's actually starting to get better. The patient got very sick in the '80s when we were pumping all that chlorine" into the atmosphere. "I think it's a tremendous cause for hope" for fixing other environment problems, such as man-made climate change, said Solomon, who led two US Antarctic expeditions to measure the ozone layer in the 1980s and has also been a leader in studying global warming.



ANTARCTICA: In this file photo, Chile's Navy ship Aquiles moves alongside the Hurd Peninsula, seen from Livingston Islands, part of the South Shetland Islands archipelago in Antarctica.—AP

DEAD WHALE TOWED OFF LOS ANGELES COUNTY BEACH AHEAD OF HOLIDAY

LOS ANGELES: The reeking carcass of a dead humpback whale was towed back out to sea some 24 hours after washing up at a popular Los Angeles County beach Friday. Authorities used boats pulling ropes attached to the tail to pull it off the sand during the evening high tide, taking the whale far out to sea and avoiding a foul stench and grim scene on the beach as Fourth of July weekend crowds began arriving.

Authorities had earlier attempted the procedure at midday, with a bulldozer pushing, but it was unsuccessful because of the low tide. The huge whale washed onto Dockweiler Beach, a long stretch of sand near the west end of Los Angeles International Airport, just before 8 pm Thursday and holiday beachgoers began arriving in the morning. Lifeguards posted yellow caution tape to keep people away and biologists took samples to determine what caused the death of the humpback, an endangered species.

Beachgoers watching from a distance covered their noses. Tail markings were compared with a photo database and found that the same whale had been spotted three times previously off Southern California between June and August of last year by whale watchers who gave it the nickname Wally, said Alisa Schulman-Janiger, a whale research associate with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

'Entanglement scars'

At the time of the prior sightings the humpback was covered with whale lice, which usually means a whale is in poor physical condition, but it was also actively feeding and breaching, she said. Schulman-Janiger said she noticed healed entanglement scars on its tail indicating that in the past it been snarled in some sort of fishing line. The carcass was in relatively good condition which meant the

whale could have died as recently as Thursday morning, she said.

The whale was about 46 feet long and at least 15 years old, meaning it had reached maturity, said Justin Greenman, stranding coordinator for the National Marine Fisheries Service. Skin and blubber samples were taken for DNA testing along with fecal matter to be tested for bottoxins. The experts had hoped to more extensively open up the whale but due to the holiday weekend authorities decided to get it off the beach as soon as possible, Greenman said.

North Pacific humpbacks feed along the West Coast from California to Alaska during summer, according to the Marine Mammal Center, a Sausalito-based ocean conservation organization. Although the species' numbers are extensively depleted, humpbacks have been seen with increasing frequency off California in recent years, the center's website said.

Humpbacks, familiar to whale watchers for their habits of breaching and slapping the water, are filter feeders that consume up to 3,000 pounds of krill, plankton and tiny fish per day, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The whale that washed up is not the same one spotted earlier in the week off Southern California tangled in crab pot lines. That animal was identified as a blue whale. Efforts by a rescue crew in a small boat to cut away the line failed, and it disappeared.

California has seen a number of whales on beaches this year. A humpback carcass that appeared off Santa Cruz in May had to be towed out to sea, while a massive gray whale that ended up on San Onofre State Beach in April had to be chopped up and hauled to a landfill. The same month, a distressed humpback was freed from crabbing gear in Monterey Bay. In March, a dead gray was removed from Torrey Pines State Beach.—AP



LOS ANGELES: A dead humpback whale lies washed ashore at Dockweiler Beach in Los Angeles on Friday.—AP



MAINE: In this photo provided by Theodore L Hatch, a black bear rests in his backyard in Scarborough, Maine.—AP

DRY WEATHER BRINGING PEOPLE AND BEARS TOGETHER IN NEW ENGLAND

PORTLAND: New England's bears are pawing through the region's birdfeeders, garbage cans and backyard grills because of dry weather that has caused a scarcity of the berries and other plants they like to eat in the woods. Maine has the largest black bear population in the eastern US, and complaints of nuisance bears have shot up. The Maine Warden Service reported in mid-June that it had already received more than 200 complaints, a year after it received about 400 in all of 2015.

Wildlife officials in New Hampshire and Vermont have also advised residents to take precautions, and bear sightings are on the rise in Connecticut. Brian Fauth, of South Portland, one of Maine's most densely populated cities, is in the market for a new backyard shepherd's hook after a bear bent his in half to get a better angle into his birdfeeder a week ago. He said he's happy to share birdseed, but would rather not have a 300-pound animal in his backyard.

"It was definitely cool to see, but not something I want sticking around," said Fauth, who has not refilled his birdfeeder since. "We're used to seeing woodchucks and squirrels in the yard." June is typically the busiest month for nuisance bear complaints, and residents need to be wary until more rainfall arrives and helps grow natural food, Maine's wildlife department said. In New Hampshire, wildlife biologist Mark Ellingwood said the same scenario is playing out.

"This is shaping up to be a high year in terms of bear activity, particularly in comparison to last year," Ellingwood said. "If we have poor food production, then we have bears in communities looking for food." In Vermont, the Department of Fish and Wildlife has received 142 bear complaints

so far, compared with 51 for all of last year. The department is continuing to urge people to take down bird feeders.

Food and bears

Birds don't need feeding during the summer and the feeders can create problem bears that then have to be destroyed, said Vermont bear biologist Forrest Hammond. "It's not a ton of bears that are causing the problems," said Hammond. "What it is, is a number of bears, a small percentage of our bears, that are trying to get human foods and they are continuing to do that." Connecticut bear sightings since July 2015 total nearly 5,500 - about 1,000 more than were reported in the 2015 calendar year.

New England's bears can't get too comfortable. Maine's hunting season starts August 29, and hunters will start laying bait for the animals in about a month. State wildlife biologists have said the use of bait is necessary so hunters can help prevent the bear population from growing out of control. But some animal welfare advocates have said the use of baiting for bears with human food, such as doughnuts, has habituated them to human food and human smells.

Use of bear bait is legal in at least 13 states, including Maine and New Hampshire, according to the Humane Society of the United States. "Stop feeding bears human foods, and bears will be less inclined to come around human places," said Daryl DeJoy, of the Wildlife Alliance of Maine. "Where there's food is where bears go." Associated Press writers Wilson Ring in Montpelier, Vermont, and Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire, contributed to this report.—AP

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES ABOUT THE SOLAR SYSTEM'S BIGGEST PLANET

LOS ANGELES: Swirling storms. Dusty rings. Glowing polar lights. Glimpses of Jupiter have been beamed back by robotic explorers since the 1970s. Most visits were brief and only one spacecraft spent time circling the planet. So there's still lots to learn about the biggest planet in the solar system and its four main moons. NASA is headed to Jupiter again for what's promised to be the best views and most extensive exploration yet.

Named for the king of the Roman gods, Jupiter is one of five planets visible with the naked eye. It's so massive that it could hold everything else in the solar system, minus the sun. The Juno spacecraft, named after the Roman goddess who was Jupiter's wife, arrives Monday after a nearly five-year voyage. It will orbit the planet for over a year. A look at what's still unknown about Jupiter:

WATER

Like the sun, Jupiter is a ball of mostly hydrogen and helium. It was probably the first planet to form. Jupiter is 11 times wider than Earth and 300 times heavier. Juno will hunt for water in Jupiter's atmosphere, which may help explain how Earth got its water. Previous spacecraft found only a trace amount in Jupiter's atmosphere, but scientists think they didn't look deep enough. Juno carries an instrument that can pierce through thick clouds to measure the water content.

GREAT RED SPOT

A world of swirling clouds and colorful stripes, Jupiter's most prominent feature is the Great Red Spot, a fierce storm in the atmosphere larger than Earth that has lasted for centuries. In recent years, the spot has been mysteriously shrinking. Once an oval about 25,500 miles wide in the late 1880s, the spot shrank to its smallest observed size in 2014 - the shape of a circle about 10,250 miles across. Juno will study how deep into the atmosphere the Great Red Spot extends in an effort to understand what may happen next to Jupiter's trademark.

AURORAS

Earth's dazzling southern and northern lights are dim compared to Jupiter's auroras, the brightest in the solar system. Earth's polar lights are triggered by solar storms, which occur when a cloud of gas from the sun slams into the planet's magnetic field. Jupiter's powerful auroras are sparked by the planet's own rotation. Jupiter is the fastest-spinning planet in the solar system, taking just 10 hours to complete a rotation. As Jupiter spins, it drags its magnetic field around with it. Juno will observe the light show and learn about the driving forces behind it.

POLAR REGIONS

The first peek of Jupiter's poles came in 1974 when Pioneer 11 flew by en route to Saturn. Juno will get a more detailed look by passing over Jupiter's polar regions. During the next year, the spacecraft will circle Jupiter 37 times from pole to pole - a path that will cover the whole planet. At its closest approach, Juno will skim within 3,100 miles of Jupiter's cloud tops.—AP



File Photo: This composite image of photographs made by NASA's Cassini spacecraft on Dec. 29, 2000 shows the planet Jupiter.—AP

NO SIGN OF ENTANGLED BLUE WHALE OFF SOUTH CALIFORNIA

DANA POINT, California: A blue whale entangled in crab pot line has remained out of sight since rescuers off the Southern California coast unsuccessfully tried to free the giant mammal earlier this week. Dave Anderson of Capt Dave's Dolphin & Whale Watching Safari said Thursday that boaters and even volunteers in airplanes have looked for the whale since it dove and disap-

peared near nightfall Monday after the rescue effort off Dana Point. Anderson says he has seen other blue whales feeding on krill in the area but not the one with about 200 feet of thin line tangled either around a flipper or the mouth. He says it would be normal for a blue whale to be feeding off California at this time of year and wouldn't be surprised if it's spotted again.—AP

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TRAVELLING TAREK'S AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURES

Master Chef Tarek Ibrahim knows his way around a kitchen and most importantly how to cook his Australian beef and lamb to perfection - but does he really know the whole story of how it is raised and the farming families behind its creation. With this in mind, the Middle East's most lovable chef sets out on a culinary adventure for a new three-part television series in search of Australia's finest produce.

His mission is to learn what makes Australian beef and lamb so special and create taste sensations using some of the nation's quality ingredients to bring his discoveries to life. "I set out to learn more about Australia and the wonderful qualities of this nation's beef and lamb, but what I never expected was to be taken on a genuine Australian food odyssey of the culinary senses," Chef Tarek said.

On his adventures, Tarek visits cattle and sheep farms, gets a taste of station life in the saddle, up in the air and in the yards working up close with livestock to gain an understanding of how Australian beef and lamb makes its way from the

paddock to the plate. What he finds is an unspoiled natural environment and larger-than-life characters acting as caretakers of the land.

"Actually setting foot on the farm, seeing the cattle and sheep fit and healthy in the paddock, learning about the pastures they graze and the natural conditions they are raised in was eye-opening and reassuring," Chef Tarek said.

"Australian beef and lamb is grazed in a land blessed with golden sunshine and lush green pastures - it's a product of its pure environment. This is enhanced by a sophisticated traceability program, one of the strictest food safety standards in the world and a world-leading Halal Assurance program which adds up to one of the most trusted sources of red meat."

"I take viewers into the homes of many passionate Australians who show me the diversity of food and flavors that make this country a unique place to visit.

With a trolley full of fresh ingredients, a barrel of laughs and plenty of passion, Chef Tarek cooks up mouth-watering meals inspired by his experiences across the series including tender

lamb chops, grass-fed barbecue roast beef and fresh seafood and seasonal fruits - each with a Middle Eastern twist.

"I was inspired to create dishes that bring to life the Australian spirit for land, nature and food of the finest quality. Along the way I discovered so many breathtakingly beautiful locations and I couldn't help but immerse myself in the diverse multicultural society that Australia provides."

The three-part 30 minute series was commissioned by Fatafeat TV, the first and most loved Arabic food channel in the Middle East and North Africa, and offers a gastronomic tour of Australia's famous landscape; the ultimate celebration of the most revered food cultures in the world.

Travelling Tarek's Australian Adventures aired Sunday 19th June 2016 at 13:50 KSA on Fatafeat HD, distributed through the exclusive partnership on be IN platforms as part of its entertainment package, channel number 113. Viewers can access all the recipes online on www.Fatafeat.com following each episode.



KFH CELEBRATES GIRGIAN FESTIVITIES WITH CHILDREN OF AL-RAZI HOSPITAL

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) celebrated girgian festivities with the children of Al-Razi Hospital as part of its ongoing commitment towards assuming the social responsibility and keenness to strengthen social ties with the society, yet to put smile on children's faces.

KFH's girgian confectionery and gifts comes as a continuation of its eventful Ramadan program that has a plethora of social, voluntary and humanitarian activities. The event was very successful, and the children enjoyed the girgian event that is

considered to be a folklore annual event aiming at bringing joy to children, yet promoting cultural heritage.

Such charitable activities and events bolster the relationship between KFH and the society, not to mention leave happy memories in the minds of children. Meanwhile, Al-Razi medical staff and children's guardians praised this initiative that KFH is keen on taking every year. They lauded its key role in optimally assuming the social responsibility which reflects its prestigious status as a leading Islamic financial institution.

HILTON RESORT ANNOUNCES NEW WATER PARK

AN ARRAY OF MEMORABLE ACTIVITIES TO CELEBRATE EID AL-FITR



Hilton Kuwait Resort has announced an array of memorable activities to celebrate Eid Al-Fitr, the "festival of breaking the fast." After a month of reflection and fasting, guests are invited to rejoice with family and friends and enjoy the following offers carefully prepared to impress all guests, regardless of age.

The brand new inflatable water park - Play, hop, run, jump, swim, glide and slide at Hilton Kuwait's new inflatable water park, which floats on the Gulf waters, just off the private beach at Hilton Kuwait Resort. Experience an unforgettable water-based adventure and splash away to your heart's content - a great day out for the whole family.

Attention, brunch lovers: Three-day Eid al-Fitr brunch - Created to perfection, the hotel is offering a three-day Eid Brunch at the beginning of Eid. Commencing in Teatro restaurant, the brunch buffet with live cook-

ing stations and a vibrant family atmosphere opens from 12:00 until 5:00pm across the three days. A live music performance will set the tone for a liberated festive atmosphere, while little guests can spoil themselves by watching movies, enjoying the magic show and having fun face painting in the Kid's Corner. Eid Brunch is priced at KWD 16,500 per person and is half price for kids aged between 6- 12 years. Kids below 6 years old eat free. 25% discounts for the group above 6 persons.

Chalets, villas and rooms Eid package: Hilton Kuwait Resort is the perfect destination for guests who would like to enjoy their Eid holiday in a setting of relaxed elegance, enhanced by the discreet, personalized service one always associates with Hilton. Leisure time is pleasure time as guests can rejuvenate in The Spa and Hilton Fitness, take a dip in the pool or enjoy a game of tennis. Guests can take advantage of the hotel's special



room package starting at just KD 93.

Let Hilton take care of little ones: The hotel's younger guests are invited to participate in the exciting kids' activities program during 2nd & 3rd day of Eid, which features DJ, face painting, PlayStation competition, a

bouncy castle, trampoline, balloon twisting, Instagram photo station and much more.

Sumptuous dinner at Teatro: Three-day Eid al-Fitr - dives into a generous family dinner buffet at Teatro restaurant and indulge in a live music performance while enjoying a

traditional Arabic buffet and delicious Kuwaiti cuisine. Eid Dinner is priced at KD 16,500 per person. To secure your booking, speak to one of Hilton Kuwait's friendly reservations team on +965-222-56222 or email reservations.kuwait@hilton.com.



St. Joseph Choir Group Tasking for the Feast of our Mother of Perpetual Succour



IAA KUWAIT ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Kuwait chapter of the IAA announced its new Board members, after an election, which was held at the Banquet Hall of Holiday Inn Salmiya on Monday, 20th June, 2016. Iqbal Al Haddad, the Vice President of IAA - Kuwait chapter and all board members welcomed the members who attended the election. Al Haddad welcomed all members, reviewed the works of the past two years, its various activities and important achievements. He emphasized that all work done, was the efforts of the entire team and he was very proud to say, that the Kuwait chapter has a very good position among the other chapters in the world. During the past 2 years, Kuwait chapter managed to participate in many workshops, informative seminars on leadership and grooming professionals, and was actively involved in attending the International Congress meetings and promoted Kuwait by sending representative from Kuwait to be a part of the conference and share in its various activities.

The names of the team for the working tenure from 2016 to 2018 are as:

- Walid Kanafani - President
- Iqbal Al Haddad - Vice President
- Adnan Saad - Treasurer
- Bassam Ghorayeb - General Secretary
- Marwan Farah - Board Member
- Sami Hanna - Board Member
- Elie Farah - Board Member

After the elections, Marwan Farah board member, reiterated, that the IAA is a huge responsibility which in turn demands total dedication to serve the association to the best. He noted, that the results of the elections have shown that, there is a big irony among the membership, pointing out that the seven board members elected, are exactly the same as the previous term, 'so with that equation, it is easy to interact and find solution, as there is good coordination and mutual understanding among the board and this will assist in smoothly com-



pleting the works undertaken in the previous years and also plan a lot of more interesting and fruitful assignment for the coming years, which will uplift the superiority and professionalism of this industry.

As known, that the role of the IAA is to monitor and assist the Advertising industry to ensure that there is harmony and coordination between the media and other economic sectors. We have a lot of new projects, which will be very soon activated on the appointment of the new team. Adnan Saad Treasurer emphasized that, the main objective of the association is to increase the membership in the

chapter, through visits to all agencies and clients, as well as media houses to inform them more about the association, its role in the industry and invite them to be a part of this association. Media practitioners will also be kept updated on all activities and future plans within the organization.

Stressing on the open-door policy of the new board, Bassam Ghorayeb General Secretary disclosed, that the membership hopes to fully support every member, and at the same time, assuring all members that there are always available, for any information or queries, needed from and about the association. Suggestions, are also wel-

comed. We are always ready to listen and work hard to make everything more professionally right within the advertising industry.

Referring to the priority projects on the agenda of the new board within the two year period, Ghorayeb, stated, that on the top of the board list, is to get in touch with the most important sectors, writers, readers and others members of the media fraternity who have accomplished themselves in the media arena, to get them to visit Kuwait and share their experiences. This can only happen, with the support and coordination with the other Middle East and GCC chapters of the association, who will

be more than cooperative to share their experiences for the benefit of the Kuwait chapter.

With regards, to the importance of the IAA, in the field of advertising and media relations, the Kuwait Chapter President elect, stated, that though the association is worldwide, one available in every country, each one is unique and differs from the other, due to its socio-economic and geo-political circumstances prevailing in every country. While, some chapters may have all the essential tools to function with the right parameters to achieve their objectives, others fall short of tools to function and meet their set objectives.



AL-SAYER CELEBRATES GIRGIAN AT NBK HOSPITAL

Spreading Happiness through Caring for Children on the auspicious occasion of Ramadan Al-Sayer Group Holding Company's Corporate Excellence Department in cooperation with Al-Sayer Medical Company celebrated girgian for children at NBK hospital.

According to Mubarak Naser Al-Sayer, CEO Al-Sayer Group Holding "We are delighted to initiate such social ceremonies in accordance with the Kuwait tradition, joy of giving, and to let the children experience the fun of socializing among each other. It gives us immense pleasure to spread the message of girgian which is to spread happiness and care for each other."

Representatives from Al Sayer met children at the hospital and their parents and engaged with them through conducting games, quiz sessions and rewarded them with girgian gift bags, bringing big smiles on their face. Al-

Sayer Medical Company joined this occasion to share the knowledge and expertise to let the patients and their family adjust with the situations and extend great empathy.

Our commitment to the community is deeply instilled in the company philosophy and practices. The group approach is to maintain a good citizenship as a company operating in Kuwait, capitalize on its resources, assets and expertise in social initiatives that increase individuals' awareness of health and environmental issues" said Hossam Afify, General Manager Al-Sayer Medical Company.

Nehad Mohammad Al-Haj Ali, Deputy Group Manager Corporate Excellence said "We shall always encourage the spirit of social giving; it's about sharing quality time and attention to the well-deserved. This sets a good example to promote social welfare through educational, cultural, social and health initiatives, and we always wish to do more."



AHLI UNITED BANK SPONSORS NATIONAL BLOOD DONATION DRIVE

Ahli United Bank (AUB) announced that it has sponsored the National Blood Donation awareness campaign, which was launched by the Central Blood Bank under the theme of "Be the First to Donate Blood." The campaign was held under the patronage of H E Dr Ali Al-Obaidi, Minister of Health, and is in line with the World International Blood Donors Day, which is held on the 14th of June of every year.

On this occasion, Ahli United Bank announced in a press release its pleasure in sponsoring this campaign which aims to reinforcing humanitarian efforts

and encouraging cooperation amongst members of society. The importance of raising awareness around blood donation is key and worthy of everyone's support. While the process of donating blood is simple, the results could change people's lives, and blood donation may save many patients' lives.

Ahli United Bank stated that its sponsorship of the blood donation campaign is an extension of its efforts across the social front, and its cooperation with the Central Blood Bank, where a joint campaign was launched to donate blood at AUB's headquarters

March 10th. The campaign included the participation of a large number of the Bank's employees, who showed an underlying commitment to donate blood and overall understanding in realizing the importance of such initiatives that aim at saving people's lives.

Ahli United Bank continues to set an example by leading the way with its extensive range of social programs that aim at promoting more social contribution, an approach that is a core element of the Bank's social responsibility strategy which includes activities for all segments within the local society.



03:50 Suspect Zero
05:30 Beat Street
07:15 Big Screen
07:30 Apache
09:00 The Apartment
11:05 The Aviator
12:40 Big Screen
12:55 The Beautiful Country
14:55 Beauty Shop
16:40 Big Screen
16:55 Bound For Glory
19:20 Billy Two Hats
21:00 Breaking Bad
22:00 Winners Take All
23:40 The Young Savages
01:20 Life Of Sin



03:25 Africa's Outsiders
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Restoration Wild
06:36 Treepop Cat Rescue
07:00 Treepop Cat Rescue
07:25 Animal Maternity Ward
08:15 Restoration Wild
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Animal Maternity Ward
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 Restoration Wild
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Africa's Outsiders
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 Bondi Vet
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Africa's Super Seven
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 Bondi Vet
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters
00:45 After The Attack
01:40 Bondi Vet
02:35 Tanked



03:40 Dirty Money
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Storage Hunters UK
05:30 How Do They Do It?
05:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
06:50 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
07:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition
Theater
08:30 Dirty Money
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Storage Hunters UK
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 How It's Made: Dream Cars
10:35 Diamond River Hunters
11:25 Deadliest Job Interview
12:15 Dive Wars Australia
13:05 Dirty Money
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Storage Hunters UK
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
16:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition
Theater
16:50 How It's Made: Dream Cars
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 You Have Been Warned
18:30 The Carbonaro Effect
18:55 The Carbonaro Effect
19:20 So You Think You'd Survive?
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Storage Hunters UK
21:00 Mythbusters
21:50 The Carbonaro Effect
22:15 The Carbonaro Effect
22:40 What Happened Next?
23:05 What Happened Next?
23:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition
Theater
00:20 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
01:10 Mythbusters
02:00 The Carbonaro Effect
02:25 The Carbonaro Effect
02:50 What Happened Next?



03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Dick n' Dom Go Wild
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Too Cute!
08:40 You Have Been Warned
09:30 How It's Made
09:55 How It's Made
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Too Cute!
12:50 How It's Made
13:15 How It's Made
13:40 Ultimate Survival
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Dick n' Dom Go Wild
16:35 Kids vs Film
17:00 Wildest Africa
17:50 Biggest And Baddest
18:40 You Have Been Warned
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Wildest Africa
22:00 Biggest And Baddest
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Through The Wormhole With Morgan Freeman
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Wildest Africa
02:10 Biggest And Baddest



03:00 Disappeared
03:48 Redrum
04:36 Deadly Affairs
05:24 The Perfect Murder
06:12 Nightmare Next Door
07:00 Deadly Affairs
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 The Perfect Murder
09:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
10:20 Nightmare Next Door
11:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
12:00 Deadly Affairs
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 The Perfect Murder
14:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
15:20 Nightmare Next Door
16:10 California Investigator
16:35 California Investigator
17:00 Deadly Affairs
17:50 On The Case With Paula Zahn
18:40 The Perfect Murder
19:30 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 Nightmare Next Door
21:10 The Wives Did It
22:00 Deadly Sins
22:50 Obsession: Dark Desires

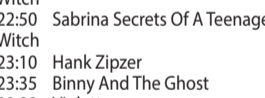
23:40 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
00:30 Redrum
01:20 Deadly Sins
02:10 Obsession: Dark Desires



03:00 Building The Biggest
03:48 Direct From Pluto: First Encounter
04:36 How The Earth Works
05:24 Food Factory USA
05:48 Food Factory USA
06:12 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
07:00 Mythbusters
07:50 Direct From Pluto: First Encounter
08:40 How The Earth Works
09:30 Through The Wormhole
10:20 Food Factory USA
10:45 Food Factory USA
11:10 Building The Biggest
12:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
12:50 Mythbusters
13:40 Direct From Pluto: First Encounter
14:30 How The Earth Works
15:20 Food Factory USA
15:45 Food Factory USA
16:10 Building The Biggest
17:00 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
17:50 Bad Universe
18:40 Mythbusters
19:30 Strangest Weather On Earth
20:20 Through The Wormhole
21:10 Telescope
22:00 51 Degrees North
22:50 Strangest Weather On Earth
23:40 Food Factory USA
00:05 Telescope
00:55 51 Degrees North
01:45 How Do They Do It?
02:10 Strangest Weather On Earth



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 Biny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:15 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Gravity Falls
07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:45 Backstage
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Jessie
09:00 Jessie
09:25 Liv And Maddie
09:50 Liv And Maddie
10:15 Austin & Ally
10:40 Wizards Of Waverly Place
11:30 Girl Meets World
11:55 Girl Meets World
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Shake It Up
13:10 Shake It Up
13:35 Jessie
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Austin & Ally
14:50 Austin & Ally
15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:20 Gravity Falls
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 Austin & Ally
17:50 Jessie
18:15 Girl Meets World
18:40 Best Friends Whenever
19:05 Evermoor Chronicles
19:30 Bunk'd
19:55 Jessie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Biny 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 Biny 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 Biny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:05 Places We Go
03:30 Carnival Eats
04:20 Bangkok Airport
06:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
06:50 Street Food Around The World
07:40 Miguel's Feasts
08:05 One Man & His Campervan
08:55 Carnival Eats
09:45 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
10:35 World's Best Chefs
11:00 Maximum Foodie
11:25 This Is Brazil
06:00 Booster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Annedroids
08:40 Mighty Med
09:10 Lab Rats
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 K.C. Undercover
10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 Supa Strikas
11:20 Supa Strikas
11:45 Kirby Buckets
12:10 Kirby Buckets
12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:30 Lab Rats: Sink Or Swim
14:20 Phineas And Ferb
14:45 Phineas And Ferb
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Mighty Med
15:40 The 7D
15:50 The 7D
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
18:15 Lab Rats
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover



03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food

04:30 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa: Back To Basics
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 The Pioneer Woman
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Grandma's Secret Cookbook
15:00 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 The Pioneer Woman
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Iron Chef America
21:00 Kids Baking Championships
22:00 Luke Nguyen's United Kingdom
22:30 Luke Nguyen's United Kingdom
23:00 Kitchen Casino
00:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives



03:40 Shipping Wars
04:05 Shipping Wars
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Lost Worlds
06:00 Ax Men
06:50 Swamp People
07:40 Search For The Lost Giants
08:30 Shipping Wars
08:55 American Restoration
09:20 American Restoration
09:45 Counting Cars: Best Of
10:10 Counting Cars
10:35 Counting Cars
11:00 Counting Cars
11:25 Grave Trade
12:15 American Pickers
13:05 Storage Wars
13:30 Storage Wars
13:55 Shark Wranglers
14:45 The Curse Of Oak Island
15:35 Counting Cars
16:00 Ax Men
16:50 Search For The Lost Giants
17:40 Swamp People
18:30 Grave Trade
19:20 American Pickers
20:10 Pawn Stars
20:35 Pawn Stars
21:00 Pawn Stars
21:50 Pawn Stars
22:15 Pawn Stars
22:40 Officers And Gentlemen
23:30 Pawn Stars
00:20 Pawn Stars
00:45 Pawn Stars
01:10 American Restoration
02:00 Swamp People
02:50 Search For The Lost Giants



03:00 Coronation Street
03:25 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
03:50 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
04:40 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
05:30 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
06:20 Midsomer Murders
08:00 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
08:35 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
13:15 Don't Tell The Bride
15:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium
15:55 Doctor Thorne
16:50 Lewis
17:40 Doc Martin
18:30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs
19:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium
19:50 Don't Tell The Bride
20:40 Don't Tell The Bride
21:30 Midsomer Murders
23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Emmerdale
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries



03:05 Places We Go
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06:00 John Torode's Malaysian Adventure
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09:45 Jose Andres: Dinner In Haiti
10:35 World's Best Chefs
11:00 Maximum Foodie
11:25 This Is Brazil



04:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
06:00 50 First Dates
08:00 Chef

12:15 My Sri Lanka With Peter Kuruvita
12:40 A Marriage Of Flavours
13:05 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
13:35 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
14:00 Meat v Veg
14:30 American Food Battle
14:55 Places We Go
15:25 Carnival Eats
15:50 Carnival Eats
16:20 Bangkok Airport
17:15 Bangkok Airport
18:10 City Chase Marrakech
19:05 Places We Go
19:30 Carnival Eats
20:00 Carnival Eats
20:25 Bangkok Airport
21:15 Bangkok Airport
22:05 City Chase Marrakech
22:55 A Marriage Of Flavours
23:20 Lyndey Milan - Taste Of Australia
23:45 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt
00:10 Meat v Veg
00:35 American Food Battle
01:00 One Man & His Campervan
01:25 One Man & His Campervan
01:50 Poh & Co
02:15 World's Best Chefs
02:40 Testing The Menu With Nic Watt



03:45 Animal Fight Club
04:40 Fish Tank Kings
05:35 Unlikely Animal Friends
06:30 Monster Fish
07:25 Salmon Wars
08:20 1000 Days For The Planet
09:15 Mission Critical
10:10 My Dog Ate What?
11:05 Bandit Patrol
12:00 That Shouldn't Fly
12:55 Ultimate Animal Countdown
13:50 Mission Critical
14:45 Animal Fight Club
15:40 Incredible Diggers
16:35 Hunting The Hammerhead
17:30 World's Deadliest Snakes
18:25 Swamp Men
19:20 Animal Fight Club
20:10 Pawn Stars
21:00 Hunting The Hammerhead
22:15 World's Deadliest Snakes
22:40 Swamp Men
23:30 That Shouldn't Fly
00:20 Ultimate Animal Countdown
01:10 Mission Critical
02:00 Raptor Force
02:50 Lion Ranger



03:20 Brain Games
03:50 Locked Up Abroad
04:45 Megacities
05:40 X: The Generation That Changed The World
06:35 Genius By Stephen Hawking
07:30 Brain Games
07:55 Brain Games
08:25 Wicked Tuna
09:20 Alaska Fish Wars
10:15 Megacities
11:10 Building Wild
12:05 Cesar To The Rescue
13:00 Cesar To The Rescue
14:00 Outsiders: Living Off The Edge
15:00 The Great Human Race
16:00 Wicked Tuna
17:00 Genius By Stephen Hawking
18:00 Nazi Megastructures
19:00 Nazi Underworld
20:00 Wicked Tuna
20:50 Genius By Stephen Hawking
21:40 Nazi Megastructures
22:30 Alaska Fish Wars
23:20 Wicked Tuna
01:00 Genius By Stephen Hawking
01:20 Nazi Megastructures
02:55 Nazi Underworld



03:00 Fury
05:15 I'll Follow You Down
07:00 Barefoot
09:00 The Signal
11:00 I'll Follow You Down
13:00 Rosewood
15:00 Fast Girls
17:00 The Signal
19:00 The Kings Of Summer
21:00 You're Not You
23:00 Blood Ties
01:15 The Signal



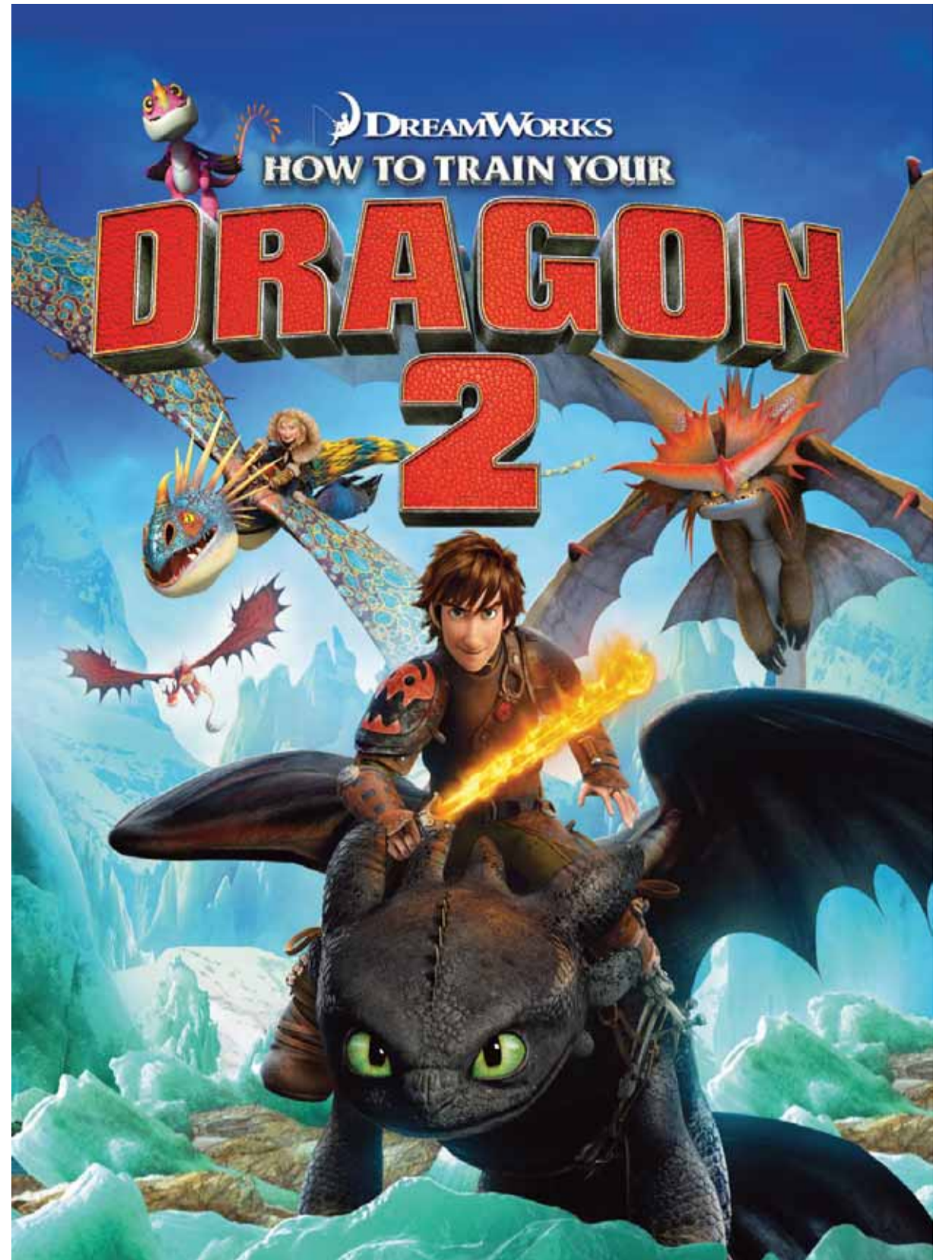
04:30 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
06:00 12 Rounds
08:00 Hercules Reborn
09:45 Biker Boyz
11:45 The Bourne Legacy
14:15 12 Rounds
16:15 I, Robot
18:15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
20:00 Armageddon
22:45 Twixt
00:30 13 Eerie
02:15 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



04:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
06:00 50 First Dates
08:00 Chef



04:00 Romeo & Juliet
06:00 Beaches



HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON 2 ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD

10:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
12:00 50 First Dates
14:00 Green Card
16:00 Chef
18:00 The Trip To Italy
20:00 500 Days Of Summer
22:00 The World's End
00:00 Chef
02:00 500 Days Of Summer



03:00 Fury
05:15 I'll Follow You Down
07:00 Barefoot
09:00 The Signal
11:00 I'll Follow You Down
13:00 Rosewood
15:00 Fast Girls
17:00 The Signal
19:00 The Kings Of Summer
21:00 You're Not You
23:00 Blood Ties
01:15 The Signal



03:00 Eight Below
05:00 Postman Pat: The Movie
07:00 Aladdin
09:00 Brave
11:00 Pocahontas
13:00 Enchanted
15:00 Tooth Fairy
17:00 Dinosaur Island
19:00 Ice Princess
21:00 College Road Trip
23:00 Tooth Fairy
01:00 Ice Princess



04:00 Romeo & Juliet
06:00 Beaches

08:00 Testament Of Youth
10:15 A Passage To India
13:00 Romeo & Juliet
15:00 Paradise
17:00 Testament Of Youth
19:15 The Truth About Emanuel
21:00 The Guardian
23:30 Out Of The Furnace
02:00 Testament Of Youth



05:00 Transcendence
07:00 Pompeii
09:00 Into The Woods
11:15 Jupiter Ascending
13:30 The Maze Runner
15:30 Big Eyes
17:15 Life Of A King
19:00 Pixels
21:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
23:00 Kingsman: The Secret Service
01:15 The Babadook



04:30 Bolts And Blip
06:00 The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie
08:00 Goat Story 2
09:45 Evolution Man
11:30 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
13:00 Echo Planet
14:30 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants
16:00 Snow Queen
18:00 Evolution Man
20:00 K-9 Adventures: Legend Of The Lost Gold
22:00 Minuscule: Valley Of The Lost Ants
23:45 Snow Queen
01:15 Goat Story 2



04:30 Dragonheart 3: The Sorcerer's Curse
06:30 Bears
08:00 My Old Lady
10:00 A Promise
12:00 How To Train Your Dragon 2
13:45 The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
16:00 4 Minute Mile
17:45 Selma
20:00 Accidental Love
22:00 A Birder's Guide To Everything
23:45 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
02:15 4 Minute Mile



03:00 Olive Kitteridge
04:00 Rome
05:00 Shot In The Heart
07:00 Joe's Palace
09:00 Capturing Mary
11:00 Dead Silence
13:00 All The Way
15:30 Life Support
17:00 Dead Silence
19:00 Bored To Death
19:30 Any Given Wednesday With Bill Simmons
20:00 The Sopranos
21:00 True Blood
22:00 The Leftovers
23:00 Carnival
00:00 Bored To Death
00:30 Any Given Wednesday With Bill Simmons
01:00 The Sopranos
02:00 True Blood



03:15 Shanghai
05:15 One Day
07:30 The King's Speech
09:30 Cold Creek Manor
11:30 Maskada
13:00 My Week With Marilyn
14:45 Hurricane Season
16:30 The Stone Council
18:15 Manic
20:00 Shall We Dance
22:00 Scary Movie 4



04:15 Discovering: Huston
05:05 The Phone Call
06:30 All On The Line
07:00 Theatreland
07:00 Memphis
08:20 Back To Your Arms
09:55 Three Sisters
12:40 My Effortless Brilliance
14:05 Bourek
15:35 The Jam: About The Young Idea
17:10 Five Star
18:30 Discovering: Herge
19:15 Full Grown Men
20:40 Memphis
22:00 The Lebanese Rocket Society
23:25 Bourek
01:05 The Jam: About The Young Idea
02:40 My Effortless Brilliance
03:00 Zee Cinema
04:00 Vaastu Shastra
07:00 No Entry
10:00 Luck By Chance
13:00 Miles From Tomorrow
16:00 Gupt
19:00 Bose-The Forgotten Hero
22:00 Tapori Wanted (Pokin)



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Callimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Callimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Callimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First

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Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Arrival Flights on Sunday 3/7/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
JZR	239	Amman	00:50
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05
MSC	403	Asyut	02:10
CEB	018	Manila	02:20
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05
MSC	415	Sohag	03:10
RJA	644	Amman	03:10
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:15
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
LMU	510	Cairo	04:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:30
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00
DXH	170	Bahrain	05:10
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:05
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35
FEG	961	Sohag	12:55
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10
KKK	6502	Istanbul	14:10
JZR	1773	Jeddah	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
KAC	742	Dammam	14:55
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
JZR	787	Riyadh	16:35
NIA	251	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
SYR	341	Damascus	17:00
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
CCE	345	Sohag	17:35
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50

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KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30
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ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
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CEB	018	Manila	02:20
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MSC	415	Sohag	03:10
RJA	644	Amman	03:10
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MSR	612	Cairo	03:15
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QTR	1076	Doha	03:25
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LMU	510	Cairo	04:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:30
FEG	931	Alexandria	05:00
DXH	170	Bahrain	05:10
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

SITUATION VACANT

Accommodation available One big room available in a two bedroom flat in Mahbulah for a decent lady or bachelor. Please contact 66901533 or 55891657 3-7-2016

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EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:18
Shorook	04:53
Duhr:	11:52
Asr:	15:26
Maghrib:	18:51
Isha:	20:23



INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Guatemala	00502
Albania	00355	Guinea	00224
Algeria	00213	Guyana	00592
Andorra	00376	Haiti	00509
Angola	00244	Holland (Netherlands)	0031
Anguilla	001264	Honduras	00504
Antiga	001268	Hong Kong	00852
Argentina	0054	Hungary	0036
Armenia	00374	Ibiza (Spain)	0034
Australia	0061	Iceland	00354
Austria	0043	India	0091
Azerbaijan	00994	Indian Ocean	00873
Bahamas	001242	Indonesia	0062
Bahrain	00973	Iran	0098
Bangladesh	00880	Iraq	00964
Barbados	001246	Ireland	00353
Belarus	00375	Italy	0039
Belgium	0032	Ivory Coast	00225
Belize	00501	Jamaica	001876
Benin	00229	Japan	0081
Bermuda	001441	Jordan	00962
Bhutan	00975	Kazakhstan	007
Bolivia	00591	Kenya	00254
Bosnia	00387	Kiribati	00686
Botswana	00267	Kuwait	00965
Brazil	0055	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Brunei	00673	Laos	00856
Bulgaria	00359	Latvia	00371
Burkina	00226	Lebanon	00961
Burundi	00257	Liberia	00231
Cambodia	00855	Libya	00218
Cameroon	00237	Lesotho	00266
Canada	001	Lithuania	00370
Cape Verde	00238	Luxembourg	00352
Cayman Islands	001345	Macau	00853
Central African	00236	Macedonia	00389
Chad	00235	Madagascar	00261
Chile	0056	Majorca	0034
China	0086	Malawi	00265
Colombia	0057	Malaysia	0060
Comoros	00269	Maldives	00960
Congo	00242	Mali	00223
Cook Islands	00682	Malta	00356
Costa Rica	00506	Marshall Islands	00692
Croatia	00385	Martinique	00596
Cuba	0053	Mauritania	00222
Cyprus	00357	Mauritius	00230
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Mayotte	00269
Czech Republic	00420	Mexico	0052
Denmark	0045	Micronesia	00691
Diego Garcia	00246	Moldova	00373
Djibouti	00253	Monaco	00377
Dominica	001767	Mongolia	00976
Dominican Republic	001809	Montserrat	001664
Ecuador	00593	Morocco	00212
Egypt	0020	Mozambique	00258
El Salvador	00503	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
England (UK)	0044	Namibia	00264
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Nepal	00977
Eritrea	00291	Netherlands	0031
Estonia	00372	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Ethiopia	00251	New Caledonia	00687
Falkland Islands	00500	New Zealand	0064
Faroe Islands	00298	Nicaragua	00505
Fiji	00679	Nigar	00227
Finland	00358	Nigeria	00234
France	0033	Niue	00683
French Guiana	00594	Norfolk Island	00672
French Polynesia	00689	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Gabon	00241	North Korea	00850
Gambia	00220	Norway	0047
Georgia	00995	Oman	00968
Germany	0049	Pakistan	0092
Ghana	00233	Palau	00680
Gibraltar	00350	Panama	00507
Greece	0030	Papua New Guinea	00675
Greenland	00299	Paraguay	00595
Grenada	001473	Peru	0051
Guadeloupe	00590	Philippines	0063
Guam	001671	Poland	0048

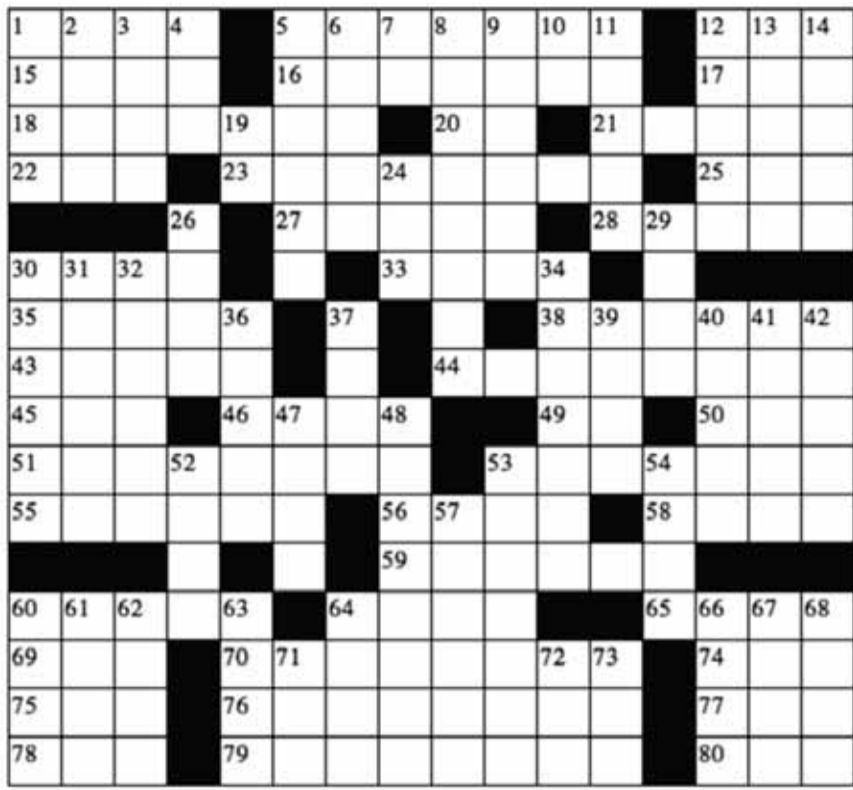


PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists 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) 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	Plastic Surgeons Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60 Family Doctor Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581 Psychiatrists Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0 Gynaecologists & Obstetricians DrAdrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787 General Surgeons Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148 Internists, Chest & Heart Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mubarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3	Paediatricians Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarooof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gupare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282 Dermatology Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955 Dentists Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111 Neurologists Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875 Gastrologists Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foad Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135	Endocrinologist Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330 Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888 Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924 Physiotherapists & VD Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291 Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288 Rheumatologists: Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060 Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290 Internist, Chest & Heart DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210 Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667 Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-2622555 MD, PH.D, FACC Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123
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Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
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CROSSWORD 1303



ACROSS

1. A small cake leavened with yeast.
5. A state in the southeastern United States on the Gulf of Mexico.
12. A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
15. Advanced in years.
16. (historically) A member of the nomadic people of the Syrian and Arabian deserts at the time of the Roman Empire.
17. A master's degree in education.
18. European bison having a smaller and higher head than the North American bison.
20. A complete metric system of units of measurement for scientists.
21. Jordan's port.
22. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
23. Violent or severe weather (viewed as caused by the action of the four elements).
25. Imperial dynasty that ruled China (most of the time) from 206 BC to 221 and expanded its boundaries and developed its bureaucracy.
27. A popular island resort in the Netherlands Antilles.
28. Jordan's port.
30. Something causes misery or death.
33. A city in northwest Indiana on Lake Michigan.
35. (Welsh) Lord of Annwn (the other world).
38. Transfer a file or program to a central computer from a smaller computer or a computer at a remote location.
43. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
44. Someone to who a license is granted.
45. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
46. (classical architecture) A molding for a cornice.
49. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
50. The sign language used in the United States.
51. The capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the Congo river opposite Brazzaville.
55. Something done (usually as opposed to something said).
56. Any competition.
58. Characterized by lightness and insubstantiality.
59. Expletives used informally as intensifiers.
60. Any of various small chiefly tropical and usually nocturnal insectivorous terrestrial lizards typically with immovable eyelids.
65. Tropical starchy tuberous root.
69. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
70. Destroy completely.
74. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
75. Infectious disease caused by a species of chlamydia bacterium.
76. Regarded with deep or rapturous love (especially as if for a god).
77. An agency of the United Nations affiliated with the World Bank.
78. The compass point midway between east and southeast.
79. Not bringing death.
80. A workplace for the conduct of scientific research.

DOWN

1. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
2. Largest known toad species.
3. A large mass of ice floating at sea.
4. A rapid bustling commotion.
5. A rectangular block of hevn stone used for building purposes.
6. (Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation) Optical device that produces an intense monochromatic beam of coherent light.
7. A colorless and odorless inert gas.
8. A ball game played with a bat and ball between two teams of 9 players.
9. Pertaining to one of the small sacs (as in a compound gland).
10. A state in New England.
11. Squash bugs.
12. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in the Missouri river valley in NE Nebraska.
13. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
14. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
19. A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
24. The quantity that can be held in a mug.
26. Small usually brightly-colored semiaquatic salamanders of North America and Europe and North Asia.
29. A commercial center and river port in western Germany on the Rhine River.
31. Relating to or characteristic of Arabs.
32. (heraldry) Applied to a fish depicted horizontally.
34. A member of the Mayan people of the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico.
36. A tortilla chip topped with cheese and chili-pepper and broiled.
37. A software system that facilitates the creation and maintenance and use of an electronic database.
39. Having nine hinged bands of bony plates.
40. A member of the Siouan people formerly living in Missouri in the valleys of the Missouri and Osage rivers.
41. (Norse mythology) The chief race of gods living at Asgard.
42. Time during which some action is awaited.
47. An American who lives in the North (especially during the American Civil War).
48. Striped hyena of southeast Africa that feeds chiefly on insects.
52. Not in good physical or mental health.
53. A person skilled in testing for defects of vision in order to prescribe corrective glasses.
54. Remove with or as if with a ladle.
57. Ancient name for the coastal region of northwestern Asia Minor (including Lesbos).
61. Oval reproductive body of a fowl (especially a hen) used as food.
62. An underground enclosure with access from the surface of the ground or from the sea v. 1.
63. (Norse mythology) Ruler of the Aesir.
64. A primeval personification of air and breath.
66. The lower house of the parliament of the Republic of Ireland.
67. An informal term for a father.
68. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
71. The capital and largest city of Japan.
72. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
73. A lipoprotein that transports cholesterol in the blood.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Having and appreciating things of beauty and value play a big role in your life and you may find yourself at a "flea market" or some other fun gathering where people sell their creative work. Provided you do not spend it all on the fancy things that catch your eye, this can be a financially favorable time-you have a good eye for value. Personal issues later this evening may take some time to consider. It is possible that there is a lack of support for your ideas or for what you think. The home and family scene is likely to be in something of a state of change soon-this may mean moving, an addition to the family, or the life. High-tech equipment impinges on the domestic environment somehow. An eccentric relative attracts some notice.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You might like to ignore responsibilities and do some socializing, but realities may demand that you tend to some personal business and forget your friends. There is time later to run and play in the summer breeze. When you have breakthroughs, they often come as insights into your immediate surroundings, home and environment-your support system in general. This could manifest itself by your finding new and different ways to make a living. Perhaps an extra income that could eventually turn into a real moneymaker is on the horizon. Writing a short story for a well-known magazine would be a good start. This afternoon you may find yourself enjoying long conversations with friends and loved ones, writing letters and making special phone calls.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may be able to enjoy and value your own life situation today or feel especially kind toward a friend or loved one. This is a good day to spend with a loved one. Emotions are up and you may even find yourself pondering a bit on the meaning of life. You feel at one with your life situation. Outer circumstances and the flow of events make it easy for you to make clear decisions, see the road ahead and move forward. Situations fall into place and progress is easy. Be careful not to overextend or bite off more than you can chew, so to speak. This is a productive and potentially satisfying day. There is a basic drive to appreciate and taste life. Your desires are strong and you will want to enjoy yourself. Enjoy the company of your loved ones.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are up early and outside riding your bicycle or running through the neighborhood. Being active and embracing the day are motivational beginnings. On the move, you have many different friends to see and places to visit. There are plans in the making for a trip, a cruise or an exploration expedition of sorts. Performing a little research for just the right type of trip you want can consume quite a bit of your time during the day. There is quite an education in traveling and by doing research on different people and places you will also gain some insight. Your travels will open up ideas on how you would like to establish your own home environment. Tonight you delightfully find that a new relationship has the potential to deepen.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are full of wit and sharp insights. You may find you enjoy helping to guide others. Breakthrough flashes of insight with tremendous originality and independence are typical. There is a natural sense of invention and a love of all things electrical and of communication in general. Since you are great at bringing out the best qualities of others, you may discover a hidden talent in a friend today. You feel spontaneous and want to be on the move. You are independent and will be making travel plans soon to embrace a new experience. Adventurous, you could be taking a class in skydiving, scuba diving or learning to fly a glider. This is not an ordinary day or a dull day. An animal around your home gains your attention tonight.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are very gifted, having great magnetism and warmth and also a keen and powerful mind. You can do anything you want to do in this life, if you can manage to get moving in one direction and keep at it. Perhaps you are finally enjoying an unusually easygoing morning. It is likely that you will lose yourself in a great book or movie today. This is a time of rest and relaxation. Later you could be encouraged to be out with your friends or loved ones. Garage sales, country fruit stands, a walk or skate in the park could provide a healthy diversion away from stress. You could be invited to a social function this evening. You can relate to all types of people with equal ease and opportunities to network will be obvious during this social.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This is a great time for imagination and creativity when it comes to ideas and thinking. This, coupled with the ability to put your thoughts into words, allows you to grab your audience and charm them. This may mean that you have volunteered to read at story time for some charity or part-time job you have this summer. You may appear very expressive and communicative. Young people enjoy your guidance. You will find yourself listening to all sorts of interesting opinions of the young-or perhaps, the elderly. You are great at bringing out the best qualities of others-discovering hidden talents. Innovative ideas can be gained from young people today. You will probably enjoy some quiet time with your own hobby this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Ambitious schemes and the pursuit of success take on a high priority. This brings a focus on the practical, the successful, the pragmatic-whatever it takes to get you ahead in the end. You could feel much more intuitive and psychic than previously. Very workable and successful plans can be put into effect now. You may sense and feel things that others do not which could put you in the limelight, especially with superiors or business associates in relation to your work or work plans. Working today may mean you have increased responsibilities, which is a temporary situation but welcome in order to meet some financial requirements. You enjoy this job or the responsibility it entails more than usual. You concentrate on areas of home this evening; smile.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Nurturing is where your energies are focused. You enjoy making things grow and taking care of them, planting seeds that will develop and survive far into the future-that's what it is all about today. This is a great time to reflect and understand your own situation-just how you feel about yourself. You may be moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and may spend a great deal of time photographing a special rose in your backyard. You may want to do a bit of paperwork this afternoon-paying bills and such. There could be talk of adjusting the budget. Neighbors and friends may find you especially witty and unconventional just now. You can find the humor in everything today. You enjoy a get-together with friends tonight.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Others may find you full of fascinating ideas and plans. You will encourage anything from being on an adventure to writing a story, song or jingle. You may have insights or breakthroughs with regard to your living situation or life circumstances. You drive to innovate, invent and find new ways to use things is both well coordinated and intense. You have a strong urge to be different or to do something differently today. Others value you for your sense of freedom and your distinctive qualities. Exchanging pleasantries is relaxing this afternoon. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings this evening satisfies a deep emotional need. Communicating feelings becomes more important. Perhaps sharing a bit of homemade ice cream would be fun.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You could find yourself in charge of some group activity today-perhaps a neighborhood's, religious organization's or school's garage sale or some such. Your need to be respected can be emotionally charged. Your knack for organizing things and people gives you the recognition you need. Some volunteer work or helping with group achievement means a lot to you. You may find that you are appreciated and valued for your ideas, feelings and the ability to act and get things done. You may enjoy working with a group of others where you can exercise your discrimination. You love a social life-friends and relationships play a major role in your makeup. You love to communicate and enjoy discussing ideas with others.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Having an open weekend ahead of you for travel, visiting, relaxation or walking through a park, checking out a museum, the library or zoo, etc., is a most pleasant time. All indications point to entertaining out-of-town friends for a little while this afternoon. Memories of past activity and pictures to show the progression through the years are fun and captivating for everyone. Feeling appreciated, needed and part of a group is comfortable. This should be a fun day, filled with all sorts of communications and sharing times. Be sure to take plenty of pictures. Later this afternoon is a great time to reflect and perhaps, revise your goals. Emotions in particular are very clear today. A friend invites you to enjoy some quiet time this evening at his or her house.

WORD SEARCH

Old TV Shows 5 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

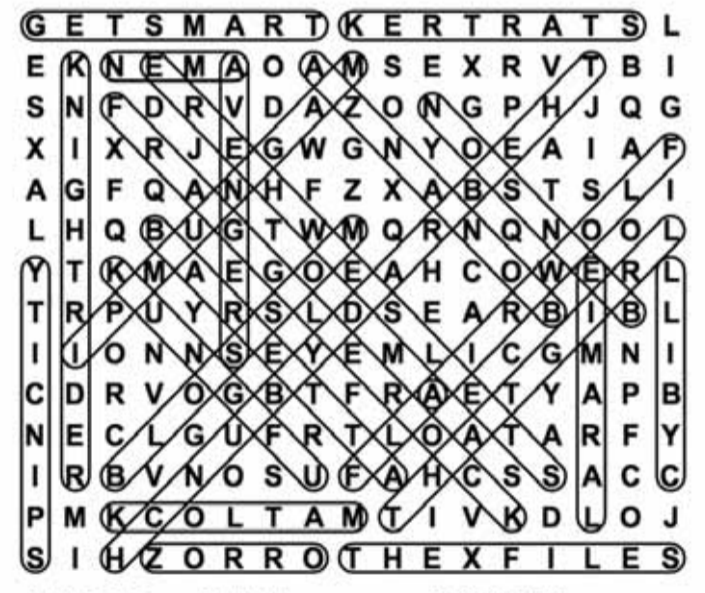


- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| COSBY | FISH | NEWHART |
| DALLAS | GROWING PAINS | QUANTUM LEAP |
| DUE SOUTH | HART TO HART | ROC |
| EMPTY NEST | I LOVE LUCY | SOAP |
| F TROOP | KOJAK | TAXI |
| FALCON CREST | MAGGYVER | WINGS |
| FAMILY TIES | MAUDE | WONDER WOMAN |
| FELICITY | MR BELVEDERE | |

Yesterday Solution

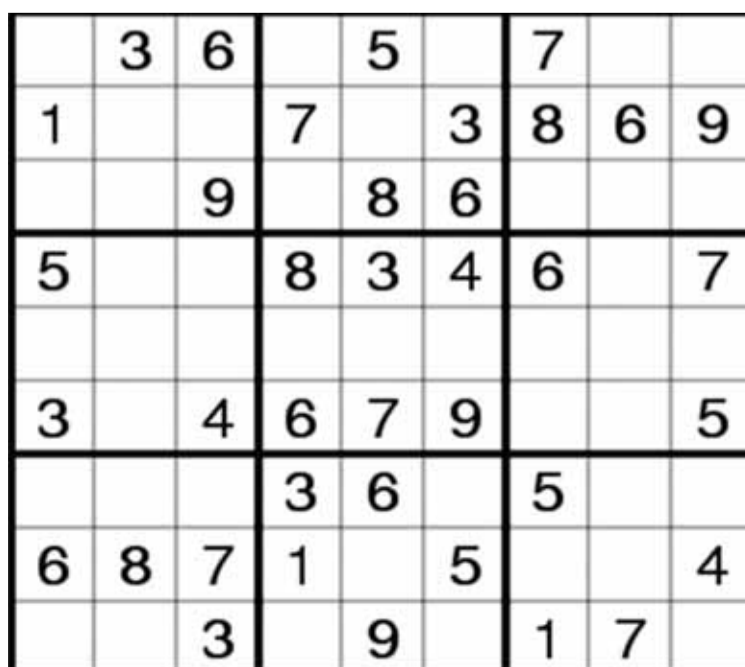
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Old TV Shows 4 - Solution



- | | | |
|----------|--------------|-----------------|
| AIRWOLF | CYBILL | SPIN CITY |
| ALF | FRAGGLE ROCK | ST ELSEWHERE |
| AMEN | GET SMART | STAR TREK |
| AVENGERS | KNIGHT RIDER | THAT GIRL |
| BARETTA | KUNG FU | THE BRADY BUNCH |
| BENSON | LARAMIE | THE X FILES |
| BLOSSOM | MAGNUM P I | ZORRO |
| BONANZA | MATLOCK | |

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Did you know?

- Thunder is the sound caused by lightning.
- The intense heat from lightning causes the surrounding air to rapidly expand and create a sonic wave that you hear as thunder.
- The average temperature of lightning is around 20000 °C (36000 °F).
- The sound of thunder can be anything from a loud crack to a low rumble.
- Light travels faster than sound so we see lightning before we hear thunder.
- The closer you are, the shorter the gap between the lightning and thunder.
- The speed of sound is around 767 miles per hour (1,230 kilometers per hour).
- The speed of light is around 669600000 miles per hour (1080000000 kilometres per hour).
- Thunder is difficult to hear at distances over 12 miles (20 kilometers).
- Thousands of years ago philosophers such as Aristotle believed that thunder was caused by the collision of clouds.
- Astraphobia is the fear of thunder and lightning.

SUDOKU

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

Solution

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

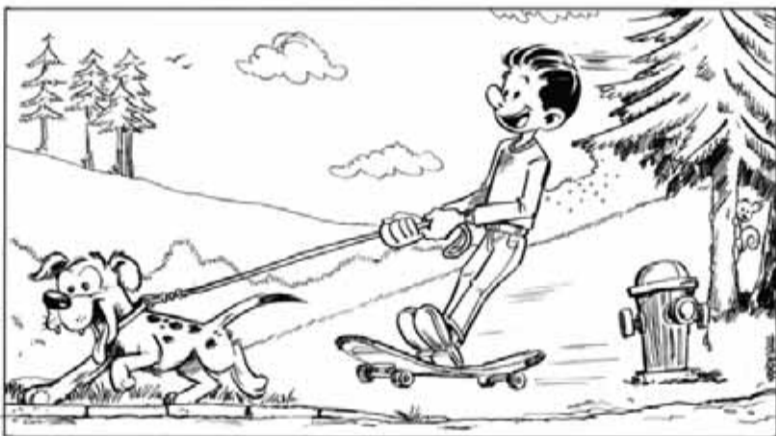


Color me!



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

Find 10 differences between the 2 pictures!



Sea Animals

Unscramble the words and write them in the blanks.

1. ESAHRESO _____
2. ETOSLBR _____
3. HSFTSAIR _____
4. SRTYOE _____
5. HSKRA _____
6. MCLA _____
7. HPLIDON _____
8. IUDSQ _____
9. RCAB _____
10. HAWLE _____

ACTIVITY



Paper mache bowl

- What you need**
- plenty of recycled paper, for example: lolly wrappers, colored paper, colored foil, envelopes, comics, newspaper, magazines, wrapping paper
 - paint and paintbrushes
 - newspaper ripped into small pieces/ strips.
 - a balloon
 - a wide cup/ small bowl
 - Vaseline
 - scissors
 - homemade glue
 - paintbrush
 - strip of card, approx. 2cm x 25 cm
 - stapler
 - masking tape

To make bowl

1. Lie newspaper out on the table and create a work area.
2. Blow up the balloon and fasten with a knot.
3. Spread plenty of Vaseline all over it.
4. Sit the balloon in the cup with the knot facing into the cup.
5. Brush over some paste with the paintbrush on the top half of the balloon.
6. Cover the top half of the balloon (that is covered in paste) with strips of newspaper.
7. Make sure the newspaper is wet entirely with glue - add more if required.
8. Paste the strips horizontally and vertically as this will strengthen the bowl.
9. If you end up with an air bubble or glue lump, tear a smaller bit of newspaper and press it firmly over it, to smooth it out.
10. Cover the ends that haven't been glued down properly with glue.
11. Add at least six layers of newspaper and glue to the top half of the balloon.
12. Leave it to dry in a warm, sunny place for the day.
13. When dry remove the newspaper mould from the balloon.
14. Trim off the rough edges, using scissors.

To make a base for the bowl

1. Turn the bowl upside down.
2. Make a loop / circle with the strip of card, and staple in place.
3. Attach the loop to the base of the bowl with masking tape.
4. Paste on some glue and cover it with newspaper pieces / strips.
5. Once the bowl and base are completely dry it is ready to be decorated.
6. Essentially you are decoupage (paper collaging) the bowl.
7. Cover it entirely with your selected paper and glue.
8. Paint if you desire.
9. Decorate until all of the newspaper is covered with color and patterns.

Weather Word Search

Find all the weather related words listed at the bottom of the page.

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

CLOUDS
 HURRICANE
 LIGHTNING
 OVERCAST
 PRECIPITATION
 RAIN

SNOW
 SUNNY
 THUNDER
 TORNADO
 WEATHER
 WIND

Chic' Penne

RECIPES FOR KIDS

- What you need**
- 1 box whole-wheat penne pasta
 - 3 cups of raw broccoli florets
 - 3/4 cup of precooked chicken strips
 - 1/2 cup reduced-fat cheddar cheese, shredded
 - 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
 - 3 tablespoons skim milk
 - 2 tablespoons low-sodium chicken broth
 - 3/4 teaspoon salt
 - 3/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

- What to do**
1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
 2. Cook pasta according to directions until crisp-tender. Drain pasta.
 3. Place drained pasta in a 13x9 baking dish.
 4. Place broccoli in a stockpot of boiling water or a steamer for about 5 minutes.
 5. Rinse with cool water.
 6. Add the drained broccoli and the pre-

7. cooked chicken strips to the pasta.
8. Sprinkle shredded cheeses over pasta mixture.
9. In a mixing bowl, combine milk, chicken broth, salt, and pepper.
10. Pour milk mixture evenly over the pasta mixture and mix in with a spoon.
11. Bake 30 minutes, until mixture is bubbly and cheese is melted.



GOSSIP

Diana Ross set to play at Glastonbury Festival

The 'Endless Love' hitmaker - who was expected to perform at the event this year but had to pull out - has already been signed up for a performance next year at the music extravaganza in Somerset, according to The Bee Gees' Barry Gibb. When asked whether he would be filling the Legend slot at next year's event, he said: "Next year it's Diana Ross. I don't know where I'm going to fit." However, the 69-year-old musician need not worry as he has been asked to appear at the festival for a solo set. Speaking at the Nordoff Robbins O2 Silver Clef Awards, he added: "The people there were very kind to me and suggested a show perhaps next year. I would love to return to Glastonbury. But if it's not next year, it will be the year after, as I'll be on the road anyway." Meanwhile, Nile

Rodgers previously revealed Diana would be a "wonderful" addition for a performance at Glastonbury. He told BANG Showbiz: "I have no advice for her, just go there and have a good time. She's amazing, we were chatting just a few days ago. If she does do it then it will be wonderful, it will be one of those great moments - like Dolly Parton or Chic when we played there - and it will be really unique and special." "If I happened to be in town at the same time then I'd possibly join her on stage. If it did happen then it would be mega!"



Lionel going to 'attack' Adele's home until she gets in the studio

The two 'Hello' hitmakers began discussions about recording a duet together at the end of last year but nothing definite has been put in place yet. Lionel, 67, accepts that Adele, 28, is busy this year on her first proper tour and has to take her '25' album around the world, but he's hatched a plan to pester the British songstress when she's back at her American home until she gets in the studio with him. Speaking to BANG Showbiz at the Nordoff Robbins O2 Silver Clef Awards in London on Friday, he jokingly said: "She's on tour now and she's got to get used to it. She has to push through. I'm going to give her a year and at the end of this year I'm going to go and attack her in her home. She has a nice house somewhere outside Los Angeles so I'm going to stand outside the gate and say

'Adele, it's me. Hello, it's me!' "Lionel - who released his song 'Hello' in February 1984, while Adele's 'Hello' came out in October 2015 - also recalled his first meeting with the soul star and he knew straight away they were going to get along. He added: "Our first encounter was at the Grammys, she is very personable. Four minutes into talking we were like old school friends." Lionel was at the ceremony to collect Nordoff Robbins Silver Clef Award and is currently on his latest arena tour of the UK. The 'Dancing on the Ceiling' singer admits Britain is becoming like a second home for him and the thing he loves the most is the wet weather because California is too sunny for him.



Mel B works hard to maintain her physique

The former Spice Girls singer hits the gym every day in order to maintain her age-defying figure. She said: "Generally I try to do at least 30 minutes of cardio a day mixed with weights. I'm also a big fan of sit-ups, so I try to do as many of those as I can". And the 41-year-old singer feels fortunate to be living in Los Angeles with her husband Stephen Belafonte, 41, and her three daughters - Phoenix, 17, and Angel, nine, from previous relationships and Madison, four, with Stephen - because it means she can keep fit whilst exploring the hills of Hollywood. She told Closer magazine "Living in Los Angeles, I'm lucky that I can get out and go on long hikes and run around the Hollywood Hills, which definitely keeps me in shape. I like to mix up my workouts between the gym and the outdoors" "I've done fad diets in the past and realized they never work in the long run, so now I just keep my diet simple. I know what's healthy and what's not. I eat lots of protein, fill up on vegetables and try to avoid carbs at night. I also love gummy bears so they will always be my treat. I have one day a week where I just have to indulge!"



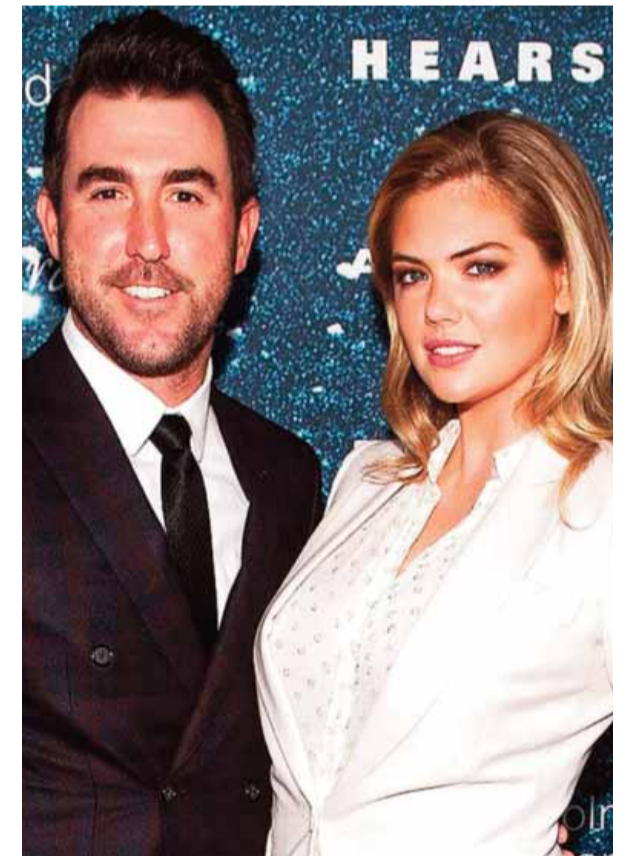
Kim has laughed off enhancement rumors

The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star insists she has never needed to wear the derriere-enhancing item but admits to always wearing "shapewear". Writing on her website, she explained: "A couple years ago, I wore a skirt in Miami that was totally sheer. I had no idea it was SO see-through on my butt. I definitely never want that to happen again, so now I always wear shapewear. "Sometimes, they have a sheer cutout like these capris from Body Wrap, so that's actually what you're seeing in the picture at the top. "So, the fact is: I don't wear butt pads! At this point, I think everyone has seen my butt naked and knows I don't need them, LOL! (sic)" And the 35-

year-old television personality previously revealed she spends two hours on her beauty routine every day. Speaking about the daily process, she said: "I thought you guys might like a little peek into my daily glam routine. I do make-up and hair for about two hours every day! It's actually a great time for me to catch up on work emails, take some calls and see what you guys are up to on social media." And Kim - who has North, three, and six-month-old Saint with her husband Kanye West - donned a full face of make up when she gave birth to her eldest child.

Khalifa wants to be 'completely covered' in tattoos

The 'Black and Yellow' rapper may have tallied up hours and hours in the parlour getting inked from head-to-toe but he has admitted he'll keep splashing the cash on body art until he can no longer see his skin. Speaking to BANG Showbiz at the Isle of MTV in Malta on Tuesday he said: "I'm pretty much covered [in tattoos]. I'm still working on my legs and feet. It's a work in progress. I've lost count how many tattoos I've had but once I'm completely covered I'll just go back and get them touched up." The 28-year-old singer has even started coating his face in black ink and has got his three-year-old son Sebastian's nickname 'Bash' etched across his forehead. And, although he won't stop getting tattoos, Wiz has admitted he'd be devastated if little Sebastian, who he has with his ex-wife Amber Rose, followed in his footsteps and developed an addiction to ink. He said previously: "I look at him and how handsome he is, and I would just die if he got tattoos like me. Please do not - just listen to me - do not touch your skin!"



Kate Upton's fiance Justin Verlander is her 'best friend'

The 24-year-old model is completely smitten with the professional baseball player and can't wait to spend the rest of her life with him. She said: "I'm marrying my best friend. He's smart, funny, honest, optimistic, thoughtful, kind - just the best." However, she admits Justin has to share her affections with the other two loves of her life - her dog and her horses. She revealed: "My horses are my biggest extravagance, but they are worth it. They bring so much light into my life." And when asked what her type is, Kate added to Grazia magazine: "Playful, loyal, funny, cuddly, smart, covered in fur and can give sloppy kisses. My dog, Harley! I miss Harley when I travel. He is my ride or die." Meanwhile, Justin was keen to create a "one-of-a-kind" engagement ring that resembled their "exceptional" love. Jeweller Anita Ko said: "Justin and I collaborated on creating the most perfect one-of-a-kind ring that is rare and of exceptional quality ... just like their love." Kate and Justin announced their engagement in May when Kate showed up to the Met Gala with a beautiful piece of bling on her finger but the couple had been keeping the news "on the down low" for some time. She said: "He asked me right before the [baseball] season started, so we've been keeping it on the down low for quite a while, so I'm excited to finally be able to share it with the world."

Efron didn't need to dye hair for 'Baywatch'



The 28-year-old American actor has revealed he colored his hair golden for his role as Matt Brody in the film adaptation of the popular American drama series, although the Hollywood hunk has admitted the movie producers never wanted him to undertake the beauty overhaul. Speaking on the American talk show 'Jimmy Kimmel Live!' about his do, the heartthrob said: "It's having a moment. "Yes, it is for a role, called 'Baywatch'. We were going to have reshoots, not reshoots but additional photography, so I decided to keep my hair blonde for it. It's grown since. It's got a little longer." "But I talked to the producers like two days ago and they said, 'We're not going to reshoot or do the additional photography for probably like a year. So what are you doing with blonde hair?' And I'm like 'So I didn't need to have this for the past two months, and they were like 'No, not at all.' Meanwhile, Zac's co-star Kelly Rohrbach has recently praised his "insane" body after he bulked up for the movie. Speaking previously, she said: "He obviously got in insane shape for the movie - insane! He was really disciplined and dedicated about it. We obviously had trainers help us and all that but by the time most of us got there, we were like, 'Eh, we'll work out next week.' He was on it." And Zac, who dropped to just five per cent body fat in 12 weeks thanks to a strict low-carb diet and working out five or six days a week, often twice a day - is proud of his physique. He said: "I'm probably the physically strongest I've ever felt. "Not in terms of bench press or how much I can squat, but in how quickly I could get out of this room and destroy everything in my path."



GOSSIP



Drake has 'never stopped' loving Rihanna

The 29-year-old 'One Dance' hitmaker has allegedly rekindled his romance with the 28-year-old - whom he had allegedly been dating in 2009 - and has revealed he has always loved the Barbados-born beauty, although it's the 'Sledgehammer' singer who has allegedly been putting off starting a relationship with the rapper. A source close to the Canadian artist told E! News: "He still loves her and never stopped. Rihanna is the one that's been not wanting to settle down in the past. They are having fun spending time with each other." It is alleged the

pairs budding romance is all down to their collaboration on their recent hits 'Too Good' from Drake's latest album 'Views' and 'Work', which is from Rihanna's 'Anti' album. The source explained: "Their music together got them close again." And Drake has admitted the reason behind their successful tracks is the "genuine energy" they share. Speaking previously, he said: "It wouldn't be a record without Rihanna, would it? We do well as a team." Meanwhile, Drake has recently declared during Rihanna's concert, which was held at the Emirates Old Trafford Stadium in

Manchester on Wednesday, he is getting his "heartbroken" by the creative director of the sportswear brand Puma. Speaking to the audience during Rihanna's gig, which saw the brunette beauty gyrate on Drake's crotch, he said: "Shout out to the most beautiful, talented woman I've ever seen. She goes by the name of Rihanna ... I'm getting my heart broken."

Olivia Holt wants Reese Witherspoon to be her mother

The 18-year-old American singer and actress - who made her breakthrough on Disney's 'I Didn't Do It' Original series - has admitted she has long admired the 'Legally Blonde' star and is desperate to play the 40-year-old's on-screen daughter or relative on a film in the future. Speaking openly to PEOPLE about her ultimate icon, the blonde beauty said: "I've been a fan of her [Reese] forever. I just want her to be my mom in a movie, or like my cool aunt. One of the two, I'm okay with either/or. I don't even care if she's my mom or my cool aunt. I'll be an extra." And the Tennessee-born star has also revealed she admires Chrissy Teigen and regularly finds herself scrolling through America's 'Lip Sync Battle' co-host's social media for culinary inspira-

tion. Speaking about the mother of one - who gave birth to her two-month old daughter Luna, who she had with her singer songwriter husband John Legend, in April this year - Olivia explained: "She's funny. She definitely helps when it comes to the food category. I look at her Instagram and I'm like, I'm going to have that." Meanwhile the 'Had Me @ Hello' hitmaker can't wait to grace the big stage later this month for her tour, which will start in Salt Lake City on July 15 and draw to a close in California on August 31. Speaking about her feelings towards her forthcoming gig, she said: "This is something I've dreamed of since I was a little kid. So I'm just super excited."



Duff 'loves' to throw house parties

The 'Younger' actress has admitted she enjoys entertaining people at her home and will often throw open her doors to guests and host a casual gathering, although she prefers it when the bash turns into a "random dance party" with pals kicking off their shoes to jump in her pool. Speaking about her night life preferences, the blonde beauty said: "I do love to entertain at my house and I like it when it's a little casual. I live in LA so I like to throw all my doors open and do indoor/outdoor. I like something casual, where it could turn into a random dance party or everyone can end up in the pool. I do appreciate getting dressed and people making an effort, but I like feeling comfortable enough to kick your shoes off. Like organized chaos." And the 'Lizzie Maguire' star - who starred in the hit children's television series for three years - has revealed she whips up a few healthy canapés for guests, and stores the alcoholic refreshments in her "vintage bathtub". Speaking about how she caters for such events, she explained: "A few favorites are my honey garlic chicken, trays of colorful roasted vegetables, grilled fruit - like pineapple and peaches- or my famous bacon-wrapped dates. I have these cute vintage bathtubs that I fill with Stella Artois or whatever I'm serving that night. Meanwhile, the mother of one- who has four-year-old Luca with her ex-husband Mike Comrie - has admitted she "always worries" about her son and can't stop feeling nervous about how her son's life will go as she wants it all to be "perfect".



Kris Jenner has to 'let go' of Rob Kardashian

The 60-year-old momager has realized how in love her 29-year-old son and his fiancée Blac Chyna - who are expecting their first child together - are, and has admitted she needs to give her child space to make his own decisions now. In a preview of the 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' episode, which is set to air today and has subsequently been reported on E! News, the mother of seven - who also has daughters Kourtney, 37, Kim Kardashian West, 35, Khloe, 32, Kendall, 20, and Kylie, 18, - told Khloe: "It feels so good to have had the conversation with Rob and Chyna. Just being with them and hearing what they had to say and seeing how in love they are is amazing. I said 'Look, I just want Rob to be joyful, happy and productive'. And he goes, 'Mom, I'm really happy. This is what I want.'" He's a grown man and he needs to make his own decisions, and I need to let go a little bit." And Kris is impressed by her youngest child Kylie's maturity by accepting her half-brother's romance with Blac - who has three-year-old son King Cairo with her current rapper boyfriend Tyga. Kris explained: "It makes me so happy that Kylie was able to be so mature and sit down with her brother and Chyna and really get some of the past issues talked about. The next step, I think is really for my other kids to follow in Kylie's footsteps."

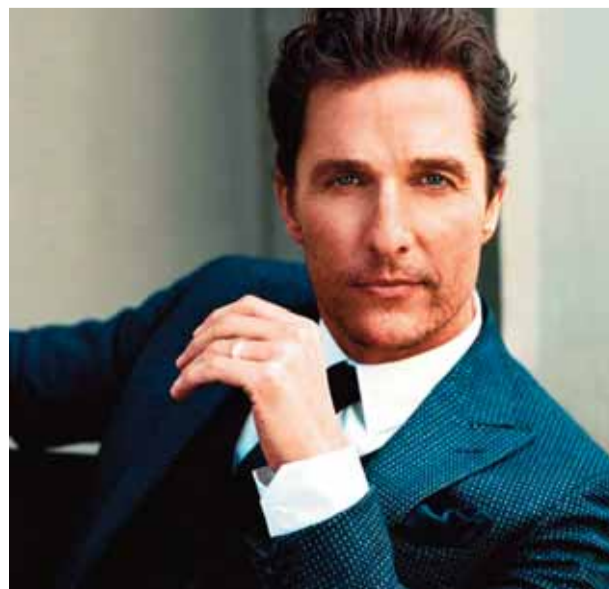


Tomlinson wants son to have a 'private childhood'

The 24-year-old singer - who has filed for 50/50 physical and legal custody over his five-month-old child Freddie Reign who he had with his ex-girlfriend Briana Jungwirth - has revealed he wants strict action to be taken to protect his baby, and himself, from "intolerable" paparazzi since the court case has begun. According to a statement obtained by PEOPLE, a spokesperson for the One Direction band member said: "[Louis wants] to have a normal, private and protected childhood. The levels of paparazzi attention on Freddie ... are intolerable and completely unjustifiable." The musician - who reached a temporary custody agreement in February with Briana, which allowed him to see Freddie for several hours at a time with no overnight visits - has been dissatisfied by the lack of time he spends with his brood, which he believes has been impinged on by the attention he has received since the case opened, according to the representative. However, Louis hopes the media will understand his request at this difficult time. The representative explained: "Louis appreciates, respects and values his relationship with the media and we hope he and his son are afforded the same respect on this matter."

McConaughey set to return to teaching

The 46-year-old actor and 'Hunger Games' director Gary Ross are set to co-teach a film class at the University of Texas in Austin alongside the college's lecturer Scott Rice, which will see 30 junior and senior students go behind the scenes on their recent film 'Free State of Jones', according to San Antonio Express News. In a post on the school's Facebook account, which introduced the school's new lecturer, which has since been reported on US Weekly, the institution wrote: "He's in the movies. He's on the field. Now, Matthew McConaughey is in the classroom." And this is not the first time the 'Fools Gold' star - who studied radio, television and film at the campus where he graduated from in 1993 - has stood at the front of the lecture theatre as he has taught a similar class at the faculty before, and gives regular pep talks to the Longhorns football team ahead of their competitive games. Meanwhile, pupils have been forced to sign nondisclosure agreements and were forbidden to take photos and videos of the film set to prevent details being leaked prior to the action film's release in September this year. However, the Hollywood hunk has no plans to quit acting, and has revealed he has spoken to series creator Nic Pizzolatto about reprising his role as Rustin Cohle in the television drama 'True Detective'. Speaking previously, he said: "I would return. It'd have to be in the right context and the right way. It'd need that spark like when I first read the scripts."



Gigi and Zayn are 'closer than ever'

The 21-year-old supermodel and her former One Direction band member beau - who split up last month after embarking on their on and off romance for seven months - are now "back to normal" after Gigi reached out a hand to support her boyfriend through their "dark" patch. Speaking to E! News about the 'PillowTalk' hitmaker's relationship, a source said: "Things are back to normal with them. They got through a rough patch that Zayn was facing personally and it started to put a dark cloud on their relationship. Gigi was there for him when he needed her the most and that brought them closer than ever." And, the couple are rumored to be putting all their energy into mending their romance by spending time together and away from prying eyes. The source explained: "They have been spending some alone time together lately without the media seeing them. Zayn is feeling better with the help of Gigi and many other close people in his life. It's a work in progress for him." This news comes after the dark haired heartthrob cancelled his gig at this year's London's Capital FM Summertime Ball, on the grounds he had "suffered the worst anxiety of my career." However, the blonde beauty - who has fronted campaigns for luxury fashion houses Victoria's Secrets, Chanel and Balmain - stood by the musician and was a pair of ears for Zayn to confide in during his tough time. Speaking previously, an insider said: "[Zayn] opened up to Gigi about his anxiety the past few weeks. [They] have been through a lot these past few months, but they are really trying to communicate better going forward. Zayn really appreciates Gigi even more after this because he sees how much Gigi is there for him." — Bangshowbiz

Soap opera recap

'Saq Al Bamboo' and 'Been Galbin': Episodes 25 & 26

By Nawara Fattahova

The Kuwait Times is publishing daily reviews of two Kuwaiti soap operas showing on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama. Here is the recap of the 25th and 26th episodes:

'Saq Al Bamboo' (Bamboo stalk)

Hind visits Ghasan and they start talking about their past and keenly remembers Rashid. Elsewhere, Eisa tells Noor that he wants to return to the Philippines after he finds out that his father is dead. He complains that he is not leaving his room and is not happy in Kuwait. Noor tells him that she loves him but he doesn't reply.

Afterwards, Khawla blames Noor for telling Eisa she loves him and is convinced this will lead to even bigger problems because her grandmother and her mother will never accept this relation. Ghanima then tells Eisa to get out of the house as his father is not coming back. She says that he brought bad luck since he came to live at the house, but he doesn't want to leave.

Meanwhile, Khawla tells Hind that Noor loves Eisa, and Hind speaks to Noor saying that she may be sympathizing with him. But Noor sees a common ground with Hind's story with Ghasan. Ghanima's neighbor Um Jaber comes to propose her son Jaber to Noor. While they are talking the maid calls Ghanima who goes immediately to Eisa's room to find him and Noor talking and sitting close to each other. Ghanima then immediately kicks him out of the house. Ghanima also calls Nooriya to come and take her daughter Noor. When Noor's brother Eisa asks her why she left Ghanima's house she just said she doesn't want to go to Ghanima's ever house again.



'Been Galbin' (between two hearts)

Bashar drops Rashid to his house and Marzouq comes out and is begins talking to him rudely. The employees are abusing Bashar with comments about how much Aryam is spending on him. When he comes home upset, Aryam again suggests that she lends him money to start his own business, but he is not excited. Dana's father is thinking of Farida again so he visits her at her office with Dana and Masoud. Later he meets her in a café and tells her that he didn't forget her and she

admits she never forgot him as well.

Masoud is sending flowers to Dana in her office, but she still loves Bashar. But she starts to think of forgetting the past, and wants her father to forget as well. So she removes her mom's photos from her father's bedroom, and tells him if he wants her to marry Masoud he has to marry Farida and he agrees.

Bashar resigns from his work in the ministry and Aryam promises his colleague Nawal to pay her for allowing Bashar

to leave his job. Nawal then sends Aryam a SMS with her bank account but Bashar reads it and starts a fight with her. Bashar then goes to his house and remembers Dana looking at the photos and Noora is also in the house looking at the photos of Yasmin. She tells Bashar she misses both Yasmin and Dana, and she blames him for divorcing Dana. Feeling upset, he confesses to her the truth to what happened with Aryam.



French music duo "Air" with Jean-Benoit Dunckel (L) and Nicolas Godin perform during the 50th edition of the Montreux Jazz Festival on July 1, 2016 in Montreux. — AFP photos



People walk past a logo of the Montreux Jazz Festival during its 50th edition.

Delight as jazz giants return to Montreux

As saxophone supremo Charles Lloyd pushes out a cascade of soaring notes, jazz aficionados in Montreux sway in rapture. The legendary American musician was back on stage at the opening of this year's Montreux Jazz Festival, half a century after he headlined the first festival in the idyllic Swiss town in 1967. He was followed by fabled jazz pianist Monty Alexander, who first played Montreux in 1976, and who returned to revisit the celebrated recording he made on that occasion called "Montreux Alexander".

Forty years on, his fingers fly over the keys, prompting some in the 300-seat venue to jump out of their seats and start dancing in the aisles. "It was just a mythical concert," enthused Jacques Emery, a 69-year-old pensioner. "I was floating. I think actually I levitated in my seat." That was the kind of almost spiritual experience Lloyd, 78, was aiming for, he told AFP ahead of Thursday's concert, saying he himself receives the music from a higher authority and just allows it flow through him.

"I like to go as an empty vessel as possible and let the creator fill me up and fill all of us," he said, smiling behind his dark glasses. The septuagenarian sways and grooves on stage like a man half his age, arching his back and lifting his knee up to meet his saxophone. "I'm drunk with the music and it informs me and it elevates me and puts me in the zone," he said.

'When giants roamed'

Lloyd, who was one of the first jazz artists to sell more than a million copies of a record, first began playing with stars as a

boy growing up in Memphis. "I've been blessed to play with some of the greatest musicians on the planet. I've been around when giants roamed the earth," he said, listing blues legends like Howlin' Wolf and BB King among those he has accompanied.

Jazz greats like Duke Ellington, Johnny Hodges and Harry Carney, who used to stay at his childhood home when they came to town, also played a formative role in his musical education. "They told my mother to have me be a doctor, lawyer or Indian chief, not this (jazz musician), because it's too hard," he said. "But I was bit by the cobra, so it was too late." Jamaica-born Monty Alexander, 72, has also played with a number of luminaries over the course of his career. "I recorded with Tony Bennett, (and) I knew Miles Davis very well," he told AFP this week.

Like Lloyd, he also found a mentor in the Duke. "Duke Ellington was one of the people that wrote a letter to the US immigration to allow me to stay in America," he said. "The other one was Frank Sinatra." Alexander, who taught himself to play the piano as a boy but never learned to read music, says he considered himself "so fortunate to do something that didn't feel like I was working." "I still feel like it's a dream. How can you make music and get paid for it?" he said. — AFP

Famous French poet Yves Bonnefoy dies aged 93

Yves Bonnefoy, France's most famous contemporary poet and celebrated translator of Shakespeare whose poems were translated into 30 languages, has died at the age of 93, officials confirmed yesterday. The prolific writer, essayist and poet, who composed more than 100 books over his long career, was often tipped as favorite to win the Nobel prize for literature. Famous in Italy, Germany and Switzerland but also throughout the English-speaking world, Bonnefoy also produced translations of the works of Yeats, Petrarch and his friend George Seferis, a celebrated Greek poet.

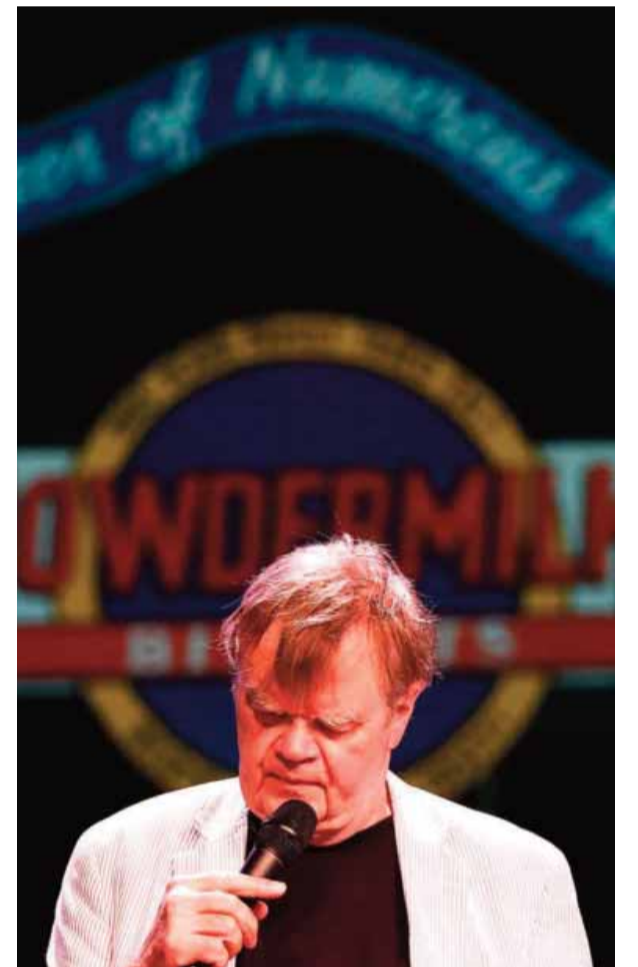
He died on Friday, according to the College de France research and education institute where he was an honorary professor. Admirers from around the world took to Twitter to mourn Bonnefoy, known for his piercing gaze and mop of white hair, many of them quoting lines from his most famous works. President Francois Hollande paid tribute to "one of the greatest poets of the 20th century" and a "total artist, curious about the world and all its arts, generous with his time and his talent".

Bonnefoy was born in 1923 in Tours, in central France, to a railway-worker father and a schoolteacher mother. In his early career, his work tended towards the surreal but he quickly turned away from this movement and his first classic—the 1953 "Du mouvement et de l'immobilite de Douve" ("On the motion and immobility of Douve") — went against the prevailing contemporary literary trends. His writing career extended well into his 80s and he picked up several literary awards along the way, including the 1987 Goncourt prize for poetry.

He acquired legions of fans who admired his lack of attachment to a "concept." "What saddens me is to see that our education system does not give poetry the place it deserves," he told French radio in a recent interview. "Everything around us can serve as an inspiration for poetry," he said, which he saw as "a way of discovering the fundamental meaning of life." — AFP



This file photo taken on October 09, 2001 at the College de France in Paris shows France's most famous contemporary poet Yves Bonnefoy posing. — AFP



In this June 24, 2016, file photo, "A Prairie Home Companion" host Garrison Keillor rehearses with the band at Tanglewood in Lenox. — AP

US man charged in 'Celebgate' nude photo hack

A US man was charged on Friday in relation to one of the biggest celebrity hacks in which a phishing scheme led to nude photos of Hollywood stars being posted online. Edward Majerczyk, 28, of Illinois, agreed as part of a deal with federal authorities in Los Angeles to plead guilty to one felony count of unauthorized access to a protected computer to obtain information in what became known as "Celebgate" in 2014.

The scandal saw nude photos of models and actresses such as Jennifer Lawrence and Kate Upton published online, although none of the celebrities hacked by Majerczyk were named in the plea deal. He faces up to five years in federal prison once he enters his guilty plea in Illinois, where his case is being transferred, prosecutors said.

According to the plea agreement, Majerczyk, between November 2013 and August 2014, illegally accessed the Apple iCloud and Gmail accounts of more than 300 people, including at least 30 celebrities, stealing their videos, photos and naked selfies. Prosecutors said he snared his victims by sending them emails that appeared to be from internet service providers, directing them to a website that collected their usernames and passwords.

Once Majerczyk had hacked into his victims' iCloud and Gmail accounts he had access to a trove of sensitive photographs and videos, authorities said. However they added that there was no evidence linking Majerczyk to the actual leak of nude pictures of celebrities that were posted online in September 2014.

"This defendant not only hacked into email accounts—he hacked into his victims' private lives, causing embarrassment and lasting harm," said Deirdre Fike, the deputy head of the FBI's Los Angeles office. "As most of us use devices containing private information, cases like this remind us to protect our data." Another Pennsylvania man — 36-year-old Ryan Collins—also pleaded guilty in the case in May. — AFP

Berlin Fashion Week





Palestinian young women use a phone to take a selfie in front of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque compound during the last Friday prayers of the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan on July 1, 2016. — AFP

Iceland at Euros standstill but tourism thrives

With a large part of its population in France for the Euro 2016, Iceland has pretty much come to a standstill except for its tourism sector, which is booming. Ahead of Iceland's historic quarter-final match on Sunday against host France, estimates vary on how many Icelanders have travelled to France, ranging from 10,000 to 50,000. Whatever the number, it's a large part of the 330,000-strong population, depriving the North Atlantic island of a good share of its labor force.

With flights from Iceland to France fully-booked, every Icelander seems to have a story about friends' odysseys to reach Paris: one is taking a plane to London via Berlin and catching the Eurostar, another is flying to Amsterdam and renting a car... Fans are spending lots of time and money to join their national heroes-leaving jobs at home unattended. But football fever has not affected the tourism sector, in peak season now.

Foreign visitors continue to flood to the island, drawn by the awe-inspiring nature that resembles a lunar landscape with its black lava fields, impressive ready-to-blow volcanoes and mythical geysers. "We're a small company with 15 employees, and six have left for France. So we're managing, we're dealing with it. It's the same for a lot of people," a French travel agent in Reykjavik, Sebastien Tranchand, told AFP.

Foreigners who booked trips here long before the Euro 2016 are thrilled to arrive at this serendipitous moment, enjoying the upbeat mood and party atmosphere. "There's an interest from tourists in football. Particularly men, who ask questions. But it's small talk, they (really) came for the Icelandic nature," said Anna Karolina Gestsdottir of tourism company Around Iceland. "I'm not sure that we've had more tourists thanks to the Euro. June-July is a busy time anyway. Everything is fully booked," she said.

Whale watching as consolation

The tourism industry is omnipresent in Iceland. In central Reykjavik, you get the impression its the only industry in



A Polish fan passes by a picture of the Icelandic football team. — AP photos

town, with little Icelandic heard on the streets in this early summer period. Over the years, apartments have increasingly been converted into more-profitable apartment hotels, to the dismay of young Icelanders who don't own their own homes. In the future, Iceland's new football fame may draw even more tourists.

International media outlets have rarely written as much about the country as now, and photos of its enthusiastic players and fans are turning into great publicity. "People don't know Iceland. For them it's a distant place in the middle of the Arctic-and that's what they're looking for," said Sebastien

Tranchand. "This will not bring us fewer tourists, that's for sure," said tour guide Ivar Hauksson who watched Iceland eliminate Austria from the Euros with Austrian tourists. Iceland beat Austria 2-1 in extra time and "it was a little tense."

A company that organizes whale watching tours in the Atlantic even took advantage of the football frenzy to do a little free advertising: it offered English players free tickets as a consolation prize if they were to lose to Iceland. And lose they did, defeated 2-1 in the last 16. But none of the England players have taken up the whale watching offer yet. "They are welcome anytime!" said Gudbjartur Jonsson.

The country had a record 1.3 million foreign tourists in 2015, the lion's share from the US and Britain, compared to 1.0 million the previous year. This year is expected to be another record year, with an increase of 30 percent forecast. Some wonder whether the rising numbers of tourists is sustainable for the island's pristine ecosystem. But that's an issue Icelandic footballers only see from afar-they all play abroad. — AFP



People leave the tourist information in Reykjavik.



A souvenir shop is pictured in Reykjavik.



An employee poses inside a souvenir shop.



Swedish tourists hold Icelandic football jerseys in a shop.