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IOM analyses 'effects of social network on labor market'



Cuba's tiny Muslim community marks Ramadan, gets ready for Eid



Germany's worst penalty shootout ends Italian hoodoo



Bangladesh hunts hostage crisis clues, denies IS role

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: 16924
40 PAGES

KUWAIT PLANS TO TAP DEBT MARKETS TO COVER DEFICIT

MPs CALL FOR DIVERSIFICATION AS STATE POSTS KD 5.5BN DEFICIT



Min 32°
Max 47°
High Tide 00:08 & 10:48
Low Tide 05:20 & 18:31



KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah held a breakfast banquet in honor of members of the legislative and executive branches at Dasman Palace yesterday. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim, Deputy President of the National Guard Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah attended the breakfast banquet. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The National Assembly yesterday overwhelmingly approved the 2016/2017 budget which is projecting a huge deficit as the finance minister said Kuwait plans to tap international debt markets to plug the shortfall. The assembly also approved a draft law restoring the four-day preventive detention at police stations at the request of Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah. The detention was cut to 48 hours by the 2012 assembly which was dominated by the opposition. Before winding down for the summer recess, the assembly also decided to delay debating judicial independence laws until the next term and MP Awdah Al-Awdah relinquished his membership in protest at the assembly failure to debate two reports on alleged corruption.



Kuwaiti Oil and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh.

Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh said that the ministry has devised a public debt strategy to borrow from the domestic and international markets in a bid to finance the budget deficit resulting from declining oil prices. He said that the ministry plans to borrow up to KD 2 billion from the domestic market through conventional bonds and Islamic sukuk. The ministry also plans to borrow up to KD 3 billion from international markets

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LOVE: LESSONS OF RAMADAN

Ramadan Kareem

By Teresa Leshner

Ramadan is a month of intensified charity, community relations, forgiveness and compassion. The holy Quran encourages the reader to spend in charity, saying, "You will never attain virtue until you spend something of what you love..." (3:92) This means that you should give to others what you love for yourself, and in Ramadan we realize how much all people love and need food and water. By experiencing hunger and thirst, the faster is reminded of the importance of providing for the poor's basic needs.

The holy Quran never explicitly commands us to "Love one another," but it does have many commands to behave as though we love one another, regardless of our feelings. "Say kind words to people..." (2:83) "Pardon and overlook their misdeeds" (5:13) "Do not spy on one another, nor let any of you backbite others..." (49:12) and to "...judge with justice..." (5:42). It says that "A good deed and an evil deed are not alike; repay [evil] with something that is finer, and see how someone who is separated from you by enmity will become a bosom friend" (41:33).

Other verses are even more specific in telling us in detail how to treat others:

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IS BOMBINGS KILL 125 IN BAGHDAD

BOMBERS HIT SHOPPING AREA AS RESIDENTS CELEBRATE RAMADAN

BAGHDAD: Nearly 125 people were killed and 200 wounded in two bombings overnight in Baghdad, most of them in a busy shopping area as residents celebrated Ramadan, police and medical sources said yesterday.

The attack on the shopping area of Karrada is the deadliest since US-backed Iraqi forces last month scored a major victory when it dislodged Islamic State from their stronghold of Fallujah, which was declared "fully liberated" from IS just over a week ago. Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi had ordered the offensive after a series of deadly bombings in Baghdad, saying Falluja served as a launchpad for such attacks on the capital. However, bombings have continued.

The bombings demonstrated the extremists' ability to mount significant attacks despite major battlefield losses, including the city of Fallujah, which was declared "fully liberated" from IS just over a week ago. A convoy carrying Abadi who had come to tour the site of the bombings was pelted with stones and bottles by residents, angry at what they felt were false promises of better security.

A refrigerator truck packed with explosives blew up in the central district of Karrada, killing 125 people and injuring at least 200. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement circulated online by supporters of the ultra-hard line Sunni group. It said the blast was a suicide bombing. The suicide bomber struck shortly after midnight, when families and young people were out on the streets after breaking their daylight fast for the holy month of Ramadan. Most of the victims were inside a multi-story shopping and amusement mall, where dozens burned to death or suffocated, officials said.

Continued on Page 13



BAGHDAD: Iraqi security forces and civilians gather at the site after a car bomb hit Karrada, a busy shopping district in the center of Baghdad yesterday. (Inset) A man mourns in Najaf during a funeral procession for the victims of the bomb attack. — AP/AFP

KUWAIT TO STEP UP SECURITY AT OIL FACILITIES

KUWAIT: Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) will reinforce security measures at oil installations in coordination with the country's interior ministry, a KNPC official spokesman said yesterday. "Intensive security plans to protect oil installations and facilities will be supported by the military and taken up after coordinating with the Ministry of Interior and its subsidiary bodies," Khaled Al-Asousi was quoted as saying by state news agency KUNA yesterday.

He said that the company is exerting tremendous efforts to protect all vital oil establishments and facilities. He did not provide further details. A year ago an Islamic State group suicide bomber killed 27 people when he blew himself up inside a mosque in Kuwait city, the first attack of its kind in the major oil-exporting state. OPEC-member Kuwait pumps three million barrels of crude per day and has three refineries with a combined capacity of 930,000 bpd.

Meanwhile, officials of the medical emergencies department yesterday searched a bag that was found abandoned in Sadiq area on suspicion that it might contain explosives. An ambulance was dispatched to the site and an inspection was carried out though no explosives were found in the bag, officials said. — Agencies

UAE CALLS TO AVOID NATIONAL DRESS ABROAD

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates summoned yesterday a senior US diplomat to protest the "abusive treatment" of a UAE citizen as it advised citizens to avoid wearing national attire abroad. The foreign ministry expressed "discontent" to US embassy deputy chief of mission Ethan Goldrich and demanded clarifications over the detention of an Emirati businessman suspected of being a jihadist.

The 41-year-old, visiting the United States for medical treatment, was wearing a white robe and Arab headdress Wednesday when he was arrested at a hotel in Cleveland, Ohio after an employee suspected he had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group, apparently in a phone call. The foreign ministry said it expressed "discontent over the abusive treatment by the Ohio police of a UAE citizen" as well as the posting of a video showing his arrest, which contained "defamation of the UAE national."

"The UAE cares for the safety of its citizens and, therefore, demands clarifications about this incident," it said in a statement carried by WAM state news agency.

Goldrich "apologized" for the incident, pledging to get clarifications from authorities in the state of Ohio, WAM said. A video of the incident, posted on Youtube, shows several policemen armed with rifles take down Ahmed Al-Menhali, and then handcuff and search him.

"They were brutal with me. They pressed forcefully on my back. I had several injuries and bled from the forceful nature of their arrest," Menhali said, quoted in The National daily. The Emirati foreign ministry, in a statement posted on Twitter, urged citizens "not to wear the national dress during their travel, especially in public areas, to ensure their own safety."

Continued on Page 13

2 KILLERS OF EXPAT ARRESTED IN CAIRO

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: The two suspected killers of an Egyptian in Jaber Al-Ahmad City were arrested in Cairo by Interpol in coordination with its Egyptian counterparts. According to the security relations and information department at the Interior Ministry, the arrests were made less than 12 hours after the brutal murder of the Egyptian, who was stabbed multiple times and was subjected to severe blows to his head and other parts of the body. According to the officials, the suspects, identified as Yasser Arafat Mohammad and Mohammad Arafat Mohammad, were arrested on arrival at Cairo international airport yesterday.

Police started investigations into the case following a complaint regarding the disappearance of the Egyptian, Dhiya Jamal, and eventually found his body in an open area in Jaber Al-Ahmad.



KUWAIT: The weapon that was used for the crime.

Investigations showed that old enmity existed between the victim and the duo, who lived in the same locality of the victim in Kuwait. The police infer that they killed him in revenge, before leaving the country at dawn yesterday.



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

AMIR EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES OVER DHAKA TERROR ATTACK

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable yesterday to President of Bangladesh Mohammad Abdul Hamid, expressing sorrow over the terror attack which hit the capital of Dhaka. His Highness the Amir condemned such heinous act, affirming that Kuwait and the international community stand in solidarity with Bangladesh against terrorism. His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA

BLOOD BANK ENCOURAGES PUBLIC TO DONATE DURING EID

KUWAIT: The Central Kuwait Blood Bank encourages members of the public to continue donating blood during these last few days of Ramadan and during the Eid period. The summer period, which lasts from June till September is a time, when the blood bank has the lowest supply of blood as many members of the public are traveling or preoccupied with social commitments.



Dr Hanan Alawadi

According to Dr Hanan Alawadi, Medical and Donor Affairs Manager of the Kuwait Blood Bank, the Ramadan and Eid period every year witnesses a drop in the number of donors compared to the other months of the year. "Each blood donation which lasts about 15 minutes has the power to potentially save three lives. We have had social influencers like radio DJ, Ali Najem who have also stepped up during this time and donated blood and we urge others in Kuwait to do the same and save a life in need."

The public is encouraged to donate blood at the Kuwait Blood Bank in Jabriya from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm and 9:00 pm to 1:00 am during Ramadan and 8am to 8pm from Saturday to Thursday and 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Fridays after Ramadan to donate blood and help a life in need. The Blood Bank will be closed on the first day of Eid and will resume operations on the second day of Eid.

EXECUTIVE, LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES SHOULD JOIN HANDS FOR OPTIMAL SUCCESS: MINISTER

KUWAIT: Despite the State's strong current financial position and the improvement of the state's deficit for 2016/2017, which registered at KD 5.5 billion, solid coordination and cooperation between the executive and legislative bodies is required to create the optimal environment for success, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Al-Saleh said.

In his speech at yesterday's National Assembly session, the Minister added that the government has designed and launched a medium term program of fiscal and economic reforms to improve the State's fiscal balance. This reform program focuses on fiscal reform; revamping the State's role in the national economy; increasing the private sector's contribution to the economy; fostering citizens' ownership in public projects; and reforming the national labor market and civil service system, and enhance public administration and financial management.

Relevant ministries, public authorities and institutions have already begun implementation of this program, and we are hoping to achieve the expected targets in the short and medium term, the Minister explained.

"Part of this deficit improvement is due to the impact of a set of measures which have been gradually launched by the government during 2015/16 and are, as of today, part of the fiscal and economic reform program. Notwithstanding its efforts to reduce current spending, the government has maintained its commitment to continue funding capital projects of the national development plan and mega infrastructure projects equally, which contribute to higher growth, competitiveness and absorptive capacity of our national economy," he added.

Lower prices

Most of the available scenarios suggest that oil prices will remain, for the foreseeable future, lower than the levels required attaining a balanced budget, he said. "The result of the recent UK referendum has further exacerbated markets' volatility and uncertainty around the growth of the global economy. This may result in the accumulation of fiscal deficits, requiring us to carefully select safe and balanced methods of deficit finance, as we should not solely rely on using our general reserves."

When assessing financing options, it is crucial to safeguard the central bank's foreign currency reserves, he added. Equally, borrowing should neither impact the liquidity of the banking sector and thus its ability to provide the necessary funding for the private sector, nor raise the public debt to critical levels, the Minister noted.

The Ministry of Finance has been working on the preparation of a public debt strategy for the State over the coming five years to cover our expected financing needs. This year, local debt issuance to finance the deficit amounts to \$750 million till 29/6/2016, while total outstanding monetary and debt policy instruments to date have reached around KD 2.3 Billion. The state's budget for fiscal year 2016/2017 has been developed under the guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Minister stated.

"In light of our current fiscal and economic challenges, key directives during the budget preparation were to take precautionary measures and develop programs designed to rationalize public expenditure, as well as address the shortage in State resources; this while maintaining a decent life for citizens, and not compromising their basic



KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Oil and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh (right) and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane talk with Kuwaiti Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah during a parliament session at the Kuwait's National Assembly in Kuwait City yesterday. Kuwait said it plans to tap the international debt market through bond issues to finance its budget deficit after recording a first shortfall in 16 years. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

needs." Pursuant to these directives, and as part of the implementation of the fiscal and economic reform program, the Ministry of Finance set a spend ceiling in the draft budget for fiscal year 2016/2017 lower than that of 2015/2016. Still, this budget meets the needs of government agencies to provide all public services, with a focus on the development of education, healthcare and social security services.

Revenues

In the budget for fiscal year 2016/2017, revenues are estimated at around KD 10.4 billion, of which KD 8.8 billion in oil revenues projected at \$35 per barrel; non-oil revenues are estimated at around KD 1.6 billion, while expenditures are estimated at KD 18.9 billion.

Finally, the deducted amount for the Future Generation Fund is estimated at around KD 1.05 billion. Consequently, the fiscal balance deficit for 2016/17 is expected to reach around KD 9.5 billion.

In line with the aforementioned public debt strategy, for the fiscal year 2016/17 this deficit will be financed as follows:

- Borrow up to 2 billion Dinars in debt from the domestic market in conventional and Islamic instruments.
- Borrow up to 3 billion Dinars in US-denominated bonds from international markets, in both conventional and Sukuk issuances.
- Cover the difference between the actual deficit realized and the size of the borrowing from the General Reserve of the State.

Defining the financing strategy required the establishment of a special unit to manage public debt within the Ministry of Finance, in order to draw up appropriate borrowing strategies and assess the risks associated with the various borrowing options. The unit is also responsible for overseeing the borrowing operations in cooperation with Kuwait Investment Authority and the Central Bank of Kuwait. — KUNA

STOLTENBERG SAYS MIDEAST ISSUES TO FEATURE AT WARSAW SUMMIT

BRUSSELS: The upcoming NATO summit in the Polish capital Warsaw will discuss how the Alliance can boost cooperation with partner nations in the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) and also debate developments in the Middle East, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday. "I expect that discussions on the Middle East and North Africa will feature high at the Warsaw Summit," he told the Kuwait news agency (KUNA) in an interview.

"We will discuss the efforts underway with our partners in the Mediterranean Dialogue and in the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) to enhance the capacity of their defence forces and institutions, including through tailored Individual Partnership Cooperation Program," stated the NATO chief. The ICI includes Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE.

"In Warsaw, we will also discuss how we can further enhance our ability to project stability to the South. We want to build on our regional partnerships and capacity building efforts. In coordination with the wider international community, so that we are ready to respond rapidly and effectively to further requests for assistance," he said.

Crucial summit

Leaders of the 28-member Alliance will meet in a crucial summit in Warsaw next Friday and Saturday. Stoltenberg said the summit will review NATO's training and defense capacity building activities with Tunisia, Jordan and Iraq.

There will also be at the sidelines of the summit a Defense Ministers meet-



NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg

ing with partner countries taking part in NATO's Interoperability Platform initiative, which will include Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, he said.

Stoltenberg stressed that "Jordan is one of NATO's most active and effective partners and a valuable partner for NATO in projecting international security and stability," noting that Jordan has also made important contributions to NATO operations, including in Afghanistan and Libya.

He noted that King of Jordan Abdullah II has been invited to the summit together with the Presidents of the EU Council and the EU Commission among others to participate in a meeting on NATO efforts to project stability to NATO's Southern neighborhood. He said Jordan's contribution has been essential to NATO's Defense Capacity building assistance efforts for Iraq. "We will continue to support Jordan in the fight against terrorism," stressed the NATO chief.

Following a request from Iraqi

Prime Minister Al-Abadi, NATO agreed last year in July on a Defense Capacity Building Package for Iraq. "The most immediate priority areas are countering improvised explosive devices, military medicine and civil military planning. The Defense Capacity Building Package for Iraq also includes assistance measures in the areas of explosive ordnance disposal and demining, advice on security sector reform, on civil emergency preparedness, cyber defense and military training," Stoltenberg said.

Training for Iraqi officers is currently being provided at the King Abdullah II Special Operations Training Centre in Jordan. The first phase of training was launched in April 2016, with 350 Iraqi officers being trained with a train-the-trainer approach, he noted.

NATO Allies are currently considering a new request by Prime Minister Al-Abadi for training and capacity building effort inside Iraq. A NATO team visited Iraq early June, and agreement on a specific recommendation is expected at the Warsaw Summit next week. This will complement the training that is already taking place in Jordan, said the NATO Secretary General.

On Libya, he said NATO IS in direct contact with the new Libyan government and that he recently spoke to Libyan Prime Minister Al-Sarraj. "We are continuing our preparatory work with a view to helping build Libya's defense and security institutions. We are looking into how NATO can provide support, if so requested by the new government. And as part of the UN-led efforts," he added. — KUNA

KRCS PROVIDED 1,000 IFTAR MEALS DAILY IN BOSNIA: OFFICIAL

KRCS PAYS FOR REFUGEE CHILD'S EYE OPERATION



KUWAIT/BEIRUT: The Bosnia and Herzegovina iftar meals project, executed by Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) aims to alleviate the suffering of the poor during the holy month of Ramadan, said KRCS' Deputy Chairman Anwar Al-Hasawi. The project, organized in cooperation with the Kuwaiti Joint Relief Committee (KJRC), involved providing about 1,000 meals daily for those in need, Hasawi said in a statement yesterday.

KRCS has executed several humani-

tarian projects in the country, including repairing houses damaged by floods and providing medical equipment, he said. KJRC was established in 1987, gathering 16 charitable organizations and NGOs under its umbrella. The committee aims to provide aid to countries struck by famine and natural disasters.

In other news, KRCS announced Saturday that they paid for an eye operation for a little Syrian refugee girl in Al Minieh District, North of

Lebanon. The child's father, Faisal Al-Ahmad, said that he thanks KRCS for their humanitarian initiative that's always been going on where his other child was treated by kidney dialysis from more than two years with the care and funding of KRCS.

At the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, the Society has launched a campaign aimed at distributing about 30,000 iftar meals and clothes for Eid to Syrian refugees in different areas across Lebanon. — KUNA

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IOM LAUNCHES FINDINGS OF RESEARCH STUDY 'EFFECT OF SOCIAL NETWORKS ON LABOR MARKET'

KUWAIT: The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Kuwait conducted a research launch and consultation for fifteen government officials from the Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) on the effect of social networks on Kuwait's labor market.

Main findings of the study showed that the misuse of social networks, known as informal ties between workers and their respective family and friends in the country of origin, can facilitate the recruitment of unskilled foreign workers as well as be a platform used for conducting visa trading transactions. In addition, social networks can contribute to an increased mismatch in skills of foreign labor and the Kuwait labor market, where workers can get a job that does not match their skill set simply because the intermediary, i.e. person in their social network, is able to persuade the employer to hire the unqualified worker.

The key recommendation from the research study included the establishment of a new foreign workers permit system



that is built around increasing employment of Kuwaiti nationals, gradually decreasing the number of unskilled foreign workers, and transforming Kuwait's economy from labor intensive to capital intensive.

To establish the new permit system, the Government of Kuwait (GoK) should conduct a national labor market assessment as well as profile its national labor. Using the results of these assessments, the GoK will have the data to update its national train-

ing and education strategies, in an effort to match skills of national labor with labor market needs. Participants voiced their support for the recommendations as they address critical challenges to the Kuwait labor market.

Iman Eriqat, IOM Kuwait Chief of Mission stated that "This study by IOM has provided an innovative alternative system to estimate the demand for foreign workers. This will help relevant stakeholders to develop mechanisms to efficiently manage Kuwait's labor market and its composition."

This research was conducted through in-depth interviews with employers, employees, members of the employees' social networks, community representatives and government officials, in Kuwait and two Asian labor sending countries.

This research study was carried out under the Joint Program for the Support of PAM that is implemented by IOM, UNDP and ILO. The Joint Program is implemented under the guidance and funding of the General Secretariat for the Supreme Council for Planning and Development.

STATE BODIES WORKING HARD TO PROMOTE YOUTH ABILITIES, SKILLS

KUWAIT: Official bodies lavish noticeable efforts to offer Kuwaiti youth a chance to develop their abilities and skills, especially in sports. Part of this is the cooperation between the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) and the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) which has led to the emergence of 37 football pitches in public parks nationwide. The Kuwait Municipality has contributed to the effort by providing the areas for the fields.

The pitches are covered with artificial turf, and surrounded by high walls of wire nets, said a report issued Sunday by the media services and the new media department at the Ministry of Information. They are also provided by benches for spectators.



Assistant Undersecretary at the ministry Munira Al-Hwueidi said the fields encourage Kuwaiti youth to make the best use of their capabilities and energy, especially during vacations. She added that there are 11 of such pitches in the capital, eight in Hawalli, six in Al-Ahmadi and five in Farwaniya, and seven others in Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Al-Jahraa. More areas will be provided for new fields.

In addition, 48 children's playgrounds have been constructed in parks nationwide. Hwueidi pointed to a future plan by the PAAAFR for adding 40 other areas to be turned into basketball, volleyball, and handball courts. The plan includes 39 children's playgrounds and 18 closed halls for indoor games. — KUNA



RESEARCHER RELEASES A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING IN KUWAIT'S FOREIGN POLICY

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti researcher Adnan Abdullah Al-Enezi published a book recently titled 'The Role of Strategic Planning in Kuwait's Foreign Policy'. It provides an analytical study in light of other global and regional studies.

The book is the first to be published by the researcher, and it deals with a subject that Gulf countries need urgently, particularly at the present time, which is strategic planning in foreign policy. Arab countries are suffering from deep crises at the current time that is presented in the regional and international threats following the Arab spring revolutions.

We find that Arab countries began facing the danger of political fragmentation and terrorism which is hitting various areas of the Arab body, as we find that terrorism shredded the cohesiveness of the Syrian and Iraq states. In addition, there is the civil war in Libya, and the threat of the Houthis Ansar Allah Group, which is largely supported by Tehran, against the authority in Yemen.

Therefore, the researcher performed a study on strategic planning of the foreign policy of one of the Gulf countries, which is the state of Kuwait. Strategic planning is one of the elements that will move the Gulf policy from its present state, which relies on reaction, to the policy of action. In turn, the study is an attempt to find a mechanism to deal with deep crises in the Arab and regional surroundings.

Reviewing strategic principles

The state of Kuwait must review the strategic principles that govern its foreign policy, which is characterized by existence and maintaining its national security. It must get out of this crucible to a wider field, which is looking forward to be present at the regional and international arena. Furthermore, it should strive to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable development and to melt into the Gulf Cooperation Council, and this will only happen through new strategic plans that are suitable with the nature of the current and next stages in order to face the challenges that face the future of the Arab and regional security.

The researcher opted to study the relation of strategic planning with foreign policy and the role of strategic planning in the process of making Kuwait's foreign policy. Strategic planning is one of the important basis that foreign policy depends on in order to study the regional and international environment, and to formulate an effective foreign policy that is able to deal with strategic challenges that face Arab countries and Kuwait in particular. The researcher presented examples of strategic planning in foreign policy for some superpowers such as the United States of America and China, as well as regional powers such as Turkey and Iran, because those countries foresaw, prepared and implemented good strategic visions and plans in their foreign policy.



Kuwaiti researcher Adnan Al-Enezi

Strategic priorities

The researcher presented the goals and strategic priorities for Kuwait's foreign policy, then studied the concerned departments in making Kuwait's policy. He also presented a proposal on strengthening and activating the role of intellectual and opinion institutes as one of Kuwait's foreign policy making institutes, especially that those centers were able to be present in some superpower countries and presented many proposals towards an active foreign policy. It is noticed in the book that the researcher believes that Kuwait's foreign policy needs to open up to the world through establishing those centers that will present guidance to Kuwaiti foreign policy makers after studying issues and crises, present recommendations to decision makers, and provide an elite group that is able to deal with political issues and is able to serve Kuwait and Arab Gulf's policies.

In addition to this, the researcher stressed the importance of the economic tool in Kuwait's policy, as Kuwait's economic aid has a role in the rise of some countries. Kuwait stood beside many countries in their crises, especially the Syrian crises, as Kuwait supported four donor conferences hosted to support the Syrian people.

Importance of planning

This study confirms the importance of strategic foreign planning, especially in Kuwait's policy in order to build an active policy for the state of Kuwait at the Arab, regional and international levels, in order to enable the state of Kuwait to develop its foreign policies with various means.

The researcher presents an intellectual approach to activate foreign policy planning through reliance of strategic planning as one of the mechanisms used by superpower countries, which were able to activate their foreign policies and achieve leadership and activity at the international level.

The book attempts to benefit from superpowers to build small countries, because small countries also need to plan their foreign policies more than major countries. Not only is that necessary to allow those countries to exist, but also to elevate their people's living conditions and attempt to merge with other countries in order to be able to preserve their existence and achieve its goals and future aspirations.

The researcher presented at the end of his book several recommendations and solutions that he concluded to in order to develop Kuwait foreign policy, which other Arab Gulf countries can benefit from due to extreme similarity in public policy. The researcher works as supervisor of planning data at the Secretariat General of the Higher Council for Planning and Development. He is currently carrying out a study scholarship to prepare a PhD in political science.

ZOUR COMPANY RENAMED TO KIPI

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) plans to change the name of the new company responsible for the Zour refinery, the petrochemicals complex and the liquefied gas facilities from Kuwait Petrochemicals and Refining Company (KPRC) to Kuwait Integrated Petrochemical Industries (KIPI). The new name is more expressive of the company's activities and its capital, estimated at KD 1.8 billion. Work is ongoing on projects in coordination between KPC and concerned companies. Also, preparations are ongoing according to the needs of the new company.

The Supreme Petroleum Council gave its initial approval to establish the mega company that will manage the huge Zour oil complex, pending checking the final structure, statutes and company capital, after results of the preliminary studies for the petrochemicals project are presented.

Crime

Report

POLICE ARREST FUGITIVE WANTED TO SERVE 117.5 YEARS IN JAIL

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Police arrested a fugitive wanted to serve jail sentences totaling 117.5 years. The arrest was made under the supervision of Hawalli governorate security director Brigadier Abdeen Al-Abdeen. Patrol officers stopped a taxi in Salwa, then when police asked for the ID of the person inside, he attempted to escape on foot, but was caught quickly. He was found wanted for four cases:

- * A felony case for which he was sentenced to 99 years in jail.
- * A felony case for which he was sentenced for 10 years.
- * A felony case for which he was sentenced to five years.
- * A felony case for which he was sentenced for 3.5 years.

The man was sent to concerned authorities for further action.

Food inspection campaigns

Kuwait Municipality's Jahra governorate branch carried out several inspection campaigns on restaurants and food stores to make sure about the compliance with municipality rules and regulations. A total of 14 citations were issued during the crackdown. Director of inspection and municipality services follow up in Jahra Mohammad Al-Shimmari said tests on 100 samples collected from markets were OK.

In my view

EID MUBARAK

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

A beautiful month of fasting, devotion, charity, prayers, kindness and forgiveness has passed and Muslims all over the world are looking forward to celebrating the Eid Al-Fitr holidays. The majority of GCC countries, including Kuwait, have a large number of non-Muslim workers who are greatly affected by Ramadan. Because of the way the schedule is for those fasting in Ramadan, a lot of businesses usually change their working hours, putting more strain on expats in Kuwait that are here working hard with us. Therefore, I am sure they are looking forward to the Eid holidays as well.

I wish you all happy holidays - please be kind and considerate to those around you. A huge THANK YOU goes out for those working hard to keep us protected, like security and law enforcement personnel. A big THANK YOU also goes out for all of those working in retail and food and beverage, serving us and our families throughout the holidays. I hope the following helps answer your concerns.

Days off

Question: I work in the private sector and I am wondering how many days off do I get?

Fajer: For Eid Al-Fitr, you are officially entitled to three paid days. I have included below the article with all paid holidays in accordance with the Kuwait labor law.

Article (68)

The fully-paid official holidays are as follows:

- a- Hegira New Year: 1 day
- b- Isra' and Mi'raj day: 1 day
- c- Eid Al-Fitr: 3 days
- d- Waqfat Arafat: 1 day
- e- Eid Al-Adha: 3 days
- f- Prophet's (PBUH) Birthday (Al-Mawlid Al-Nabawi): 1 day
- g- National Day: 1 day
- h- Gregorian New Year: 1 day

Full hours

Question: My boss says I cannot have any paid days off on Eid, instead I need to work my full hours. He said I can get an extra day off next week. Is this fair?

Fajer: Article 68 says the following about all paid holidays: "In the event where the worker is required to work during any of the above mentioned holidays, he shall be entitled to a double remuneration and an additional day off." This means that you should not only get an extra day off, but be paid twice your daily pay for working on Eid. For example, if your monthly salary is KD 500, that means you get paid KD 19.3 a day (that is KD 500 / 26 working days a month), and if you work on Eid, then you should get an extra KD 19.3 this month for every Eid day you have worked.

Extra days off

Question: I know the Kuwait labor law says that we have three days off for Eid, but the government sometimes circulates a notice with more days off. Does this mean I get those extra days off or are they only for Kuwaitis or Muslims?

Fajer: The government usually puts out a circular for its employees - in other words, those working in the governmental sector, regardless of their nationality or religion. If you are working in the private sector, you will not necessarily get the days specified by the government for the public sector, although a lot of companies offer the same to their employees by choice.

12-hour shifts

Question: I just got a memo from my boss saying that I will not be entitled to the Eid holiday and I have to work 12-hour shifts on Eid instead of the usual eight hours a day. My boss says it is because we are very busy on Eid, receiving families at our location. This does not make any sense to me - can you please explain what my rights are?

Fajer: As I explained above, if you are working on Eid, you deserve double your pay and an additional day off in the near future. If you are working more than eight hours, then you deserve twice the basic hourly rate, as mention in the Kuwait labor law. With that said, you should only be working two extra hours overtime per day!

Twelve-hour shifts are not acceptable. The maximum can be 11 hours including an hour-long break after five hours of working. Please note that my answers are very general and do not apply to all sectors, as certain sectors have specific regulations by the ministry.

Eid Mubarak to all! I wish you and your families a lovely holiday.

For any legal questions or queries, email ask@fajerthelawyer.com.

COP KILLER'S CASE ADJOURNED TO AUG 14

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The criminal court adjourned the case of the suspect in the murder of police officer Torky Al-Enezi until August 14, awaiting a psychiatrist's report. The public prosecution charged the suspect with premeditated homicide, and that he intended to kill the largest number of policemen at a security point by running them over during the national holiday's celebration earlier this year. He killed a police captain with a knife he had prepared for his purpose. The prosecution said the stabbing was in a public place and all those there heard him insulting HH the Amir and his authority. He also called for joining a group that calls for destroying the constitution by illegal means, and to take over the social and economic system in the country.

More authorities

State Minister for Municipal Affairs and Communications Minister Essa Al-Kandari issued a ministerial decision giving more authorities to Director General of the Municipality Ahmad Al-Manfouhi to make work easier at the municipality. The authorization included decisions related to supervisory jobs, financial rewards for outstanding work, sending employees on official missions or scholarships or training courses and promoting employees according to seniority, in addition to other related issues.

Infrastructure contract

An informed source at Kuwait Municipality said an infrastructure contract will be partially signed for Saad Al-Abdullah City despite obstacles in executing part of the project. It said the signing will cover the surroundings of nearly 25,000 residences, and another contract will be signed after the obstacles are removed.



KUWAIT: Etihad Airways hosted a Ramadan gabqa recently for members of the media and press in Kuwait. Several activities took place during the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Ramadan Quiz 2016

الإتجاه 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.

2016/76

Kuwait Times Ramadan Quiz Answer & Win

29) The Prophet (PBUH) and Abu Bakr (Radi Allahu Anhu) stayed inside the cave of Thoor for...

Three days

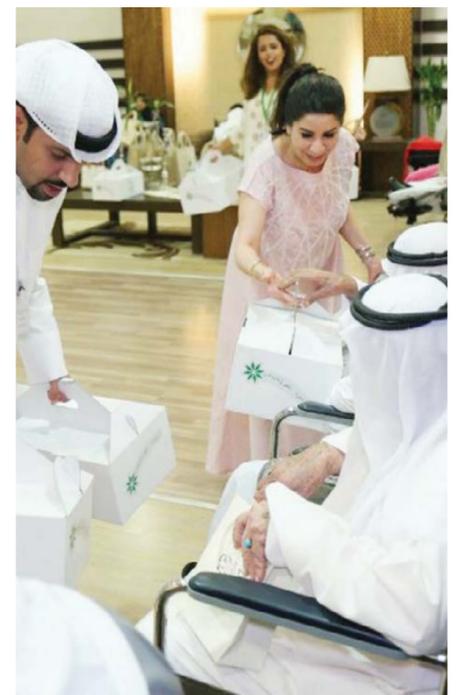
YES NO

Date: _____
 Name: _____
 Civil ID.: _____
 Tel: _____
 Email: _____

Espresso Ramadan Kareem sebamed



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) visited the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor's nursing home to present Eid Al-Fitr gifts to senior citizens there. Meanwhile, CBK employees distributed Eid gifts to cleaning and construction workers as part of its annual campaign to present gifts to outdoor laborers.





KUWAIT: Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Mohammad Bahr Al-Ulum hosted an iftar recently for members of the Iraqi community in Kuwait. Several dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



Young Voices

'I LOVE SINGING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM'

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.



Salman Mohammed Albakheet is a 6-year-old boy studying in the Ahmed Al-Khamees Public School.

Kuwait Times: What do you know about Ramadan?

Salman: Ramadan is about fasting. I do not eat from morning until the maghreb (sunset) prayers.

KT: What do you think about Kuwait?

Salman: I love Kuwait and I love to sing Kuwait's National Anthem.

KT: What do you love most in Kuwait?

Salman: I love the chalets, seaside and swimming pools with the slides. I also love Kuwaiti food and enjoy the company of my family and friends, and like visiting the mosque.

KT: What toys you like the most?

Salman: I like to play Lego.

KT: Do you have a pet?

Salman: We have 3 kittens on our rooftop. They are cute, I always give them food and water.

KT: What do you want to become when you grow up?

Salman: I want to be a doctor

KT: Which part of the world are you be willing to visit?

Salman: I would love to visit the Philippines. I love hot springs, fishing and the floating restaurant are the best.

KT: What do you do during the school vacation?

Salman: I play with my iPad, join a summer camp and Quran classes.

KT: Do you help in house chores?

Salman: I help to check the water in our humidifier. After playing, I arrange my toys and I always obey my parents.

Al Mulla Exchange Company opens 66th branch in Kuwait



ing at the opening event, Mr Rajesh Gairola, Divisional General Manager-Exchanges said Al Mulla Exchange has been growing from strength to strength driven by its commitment to bring the best services and products to its customers. "We are on the track of continuous improvement while aiming to expand at a steady pace so that the greatest number of our customers can benefit from our services."

Al Mulla Exchange, the leading money exchange company in Kuwait, takes its expansion drive a step further with the opening of the 66th branch in Kuwait at the Mubarak Al Kabeer & Qurain Co-operative Society. This is the company's first branch in the area seeking to reach its unique services and products even to the far-flung parts of the country to serve its customers.

The new branch, located in block 4 of Mubarak Al Kabeer area, provides all of Al Mulla Exchange services to fulfill the various needs of its customers. Speak-

Further, Mr Rajesh Gairola, Divisional General Manager- Exchanges thanked all the employees of Al Mulla Exchange for their dedication and commitment which has reflected in the company's overall success. "However, our deepest gratitude goes out to our valuable customers without whose patronage and support we would where we have reached."

Al-Anbaa

WHO TAUGHT THOSE KIDS TO USE KNIVES?!

By Saleh Al-Shayeji

Writing can sometimes feel like walking into a minefield. What I am writing today belongs to that category and can even be harder. Writing about the young Kuwaiti who slaughtered his brother last month is exactly like walking into a minefield. I feel very cautious, worried and sad on writing about this incident. "I killed him because he does not fast nor pray. He is an apostate," said the killer. What terrible excuses he used to justify his crime - the killer is a believer and the victim is an atheist!

Killing is nowadays being done in Allah's name, providing a reason to a killer who takes his own loved ones' lives. Family bonds seem to no longer exist and it seems that they have been replaced by manslaughter instead of getting away from those with weaker faith even within the same family members.

How can such a young man take God's place to judge and punish people, sentencing them to be slaughtered after deeming them atheists? Who on earth put such twisted ideas in that kid's and others' minds? Who told them that they were Allah's swords on earth and that they are authorized to kill whomever they see as non-believing or those who do not perform rituals?

How can such a young man take God's place to judge and punish people?

In each similar incident, we have been repeating that the killer is the real victim in such cases who had been created through endless verbal mobilization by tongues that have become addicted to inciting people against each other, always opting to murder and promoting bloody fatwas from various mosque pulpits and satellite TV channels that easily find their way to the ears of young misled youth to beautify killing and encourage them do so in order to reach the so-called paradise as a reward for them if they kill, regardless of the victim, even if he is a father or a brother!

Those instigators are the real killers while those young men are nothing but tools in their hands who only carry out orders. So, unless the government moves to stop the sheikhs of killing and slaughter and those making fatwas promoting tumult and instigation, this Kuwaiti young man who killed his own brother will not be the last one.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



Al-Anbaa

NOT FLEXING MUSCLES

By Nermin Al-Houti

It is nice for a person to practice some sports before iftar, but it is ugly for him to show that he is not fasting in front of everyone. It is my habit after I finish Asr prayers to go to the health club for exercise for many beneficial health reasons. But this is not my issue, because my focus today is on abnormal behaviors at health clubs by people thinking that what they are doing is "muscle flexing".

I was practicing my sport when a Muslim personality started drinking water while exercising, though it was before iftar. Everyone was looking at this personality, who we know does not suffer from any disease or excuse not to fast. He was drinking in a provocative manner as if he wanted anyone of us to object, so he could say: "It is up to me!"

This makes one do nothing other than ask for Allah's forgiveness, because club administrations do not implement the rules and the law in full. One may say, no problem, and that punishment is in the hands of Allah Almighty, but excuse me, I am not

going to be a dumb devil. Rather, I must send through my words a message to the officials at sports clubs and hotels to have a permanent supervisor over these places and take legal action against all those who violate the law during the holy month of Ramadan.

Kuwait is a Muslim country first and foremost, and official authorities must apply the law of Allah Almighty and not be under the protocol laws of other countries, or those who belong to the alphabet "W", because all are equal in front of Allah Almighty.

I direct these simple words to officials to impose strict punishments on health clubs and hotels against all those who violate the law, and I point to the holy month of Ramadan in particular. Inspectors should be available to supervise these places to stop anyone who wants to engage in abnormal behavior, and should know that he will be punished if he violates the principles of Islam.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

Crime

Report

Old foes settle score in parking lot brawl

KUWAIT: Old differences between two citizens resurfaced when both of them met accidentally in the parking lot of Mubarak Al-Kabeer Cooperative and exchanged blows in front of passersby. Both of them produced medical reports about the injuries they sustained, then lodged complaints at the police station. Both are being questioned in order to take the necessary legal action.

Ingrate son detained

A citizen in Qurain beat his father and did not stop until Mubarak Al-Kabeer policemen intervened and took him to the police station, where he was charged. Interior Ministry operations received a call from a man seeking help as his son was beating him to impose his opinion, so policemen went to the residence. Policemen controlled the ungrateful son and took him to the police station.

Neighbors' row

A citizen stabbed his neighbor with a piece of glass after he collided with his new car. The victim lodged a complaint at Rehab police station. A security source said that the citizen attacked his neighbor with a glass shard in the arm during a fight. Neighbors broke up the fight and the injured man went to Farwaniya Hospital. He then went to the police station and lodged a complaint. The suspect will be sent to the public prosecution for further action. Separately, a citizen claimed that her neighbor and his wife beat her in front of her building in Farwaniya. The citizen went to the police station with a medical report and lodged a complaint against the couple. Police are investigating.

Maid delivers baby in sponsor's home

A Nepalese woman was taken to Jahra Hospital after delivering a baby in the toilet of her sponsor's bathroom in Qaser. A security source said the citizen called them informing about his maid's delivery, so paramedics went there and transferred her.

Drug-related arrests

A drugs user was arrested by Jahra police while going around the streets with shabu, Captagon and hashish. He was sent with the illicit material to the Drugs Control General Department. Meanwhile, a citizen was arrested by Hawally police for using drugs when he was found in Salwa having drugs on him. He was sent to concerned authorities. An Indian man was also arrested with 77 bottles. A citizen in Salwa was arrested with eight heroin capsules, and another was arrested in Nugra with 'chemical'.

Liquor possession

Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police arrested an expat with 44 bags of homebrewed liquor. He said he sold a bag for KD 2.5. The man was sent to the proper authorities for further action.

Maid charged with theft

A citizen took his Indian domestic helper to Fahd Al-Ahmad police after catching her red-handed stealing money from his room while cleaning. He told police that he caught her stealing KD 140 from the bedroom closet, adding that this is not the first time money went missing, but he did not accuse anyone before. Police are investigating.

Home robbery

An Egyptian man found that his apartment was broken into and discovered that KD 3,200 and a case that contained documents belonging to him and his family were stolen. The haris (building's janitor) said he did not notice anything strange happening in the building, so the tenant went to Maidan Hawally police station and lodged a complaint. Criminal detectives lifted fingerprints from the crime scene.

Brothel raided

Farwaniya police raided a brothel in Farwaniya and arrested three expat women. An Egyptian man who worked as a guard and allowed expats to go inside was also arrested.

'Fast breakers' arrested

Ahmedi security director Brigadier Abdullah Saffah sent three citizens and a Yemeni for smoking hashish in public during the Ramadan daytime. A police patrol saw a car with four persons smoking cigarettes during the day, so the car was stopped. Meanwhile, an expat was arrested for drinking laban during the day in Fintas.

Property damage

A citizen called 112 and told them about a person stoning vehicles on the road leading to Fahheel industrial area. The person escaped as soon as he saw the police, who took down the license plate number of the car.

Designer, client fight

A citizen and a Lebanese employee exchanged verbal insults in front of Salmiya policemen, so both were charged accordingly, and it was found the fight was due to the stitching of the Eid dress. The citizen said that she agreed with the Lebanese on a certain design for her dress, but later discovered it was different. Investigations are underway. — Al-Rai

EID CELEBRATIONS IN ALBANIA

By Saimir Bala, Ambassador of Albania to Kuwait

Albania is a small country located on South-eastern Europe's Balkan Peninsula, with coastlines on the Adriatic and Ionian seas and an interior crossed by the Albanian Alps. Along its southern coast, the Albanian Riviera is known for its traditional Mediterranean villages, beach resorts and vibrant nightlife. With history stretching back to antiquity, Albania is also rich in castles and archaeological sites.

Albania is constitutionally a secular country, and as such, "neutral in questions of belief and conscience" and is highly distinguished for the religious harmony and coexistence. The most common religion practiced in Albania is Islam and the second-most is Christianity. Islam came first time in the 9th century to Albania. It is the largest religion in the country, representing more than 60 percent of the population. One of the major legacies of nearly five centuries of Ottoman rule was that the majority of Albanians, according to Ottoman data, had converted to Islam.

Eid Al-Fiter and Eid Al-Adha are the two most important holidays Muslims celebrate. Young families have inherited the tradition of celebrating these special days from their parents and grandparents. These special occasions have a particular significance in giving the Muslim community the opportunity to get closer to Allah and to each other as well. These are days of common peace, gratitude, harmony, altruism and most of all they contribute to the making of better people.

Eid is a looked forward occasion in Albania and the preparations for this day usually start a few days before. Eid is the time Muslims in Albania give away monetary help, clothes and food to the most in need, so that all would be able to celebrate. Each family plans to do some shopping like: new clothes for all the family members, foodstuff, symbolic gifts for children and the elderly, etc. and of course every expense is done according to their budget. All family is engaged in making the house a sparkling place for Eid.

The day of Eid starts very early in the morning by performing rituals such as thoroughly cleaning the whole body, making sure to wear new clothes and when that is not possible they wear the best clothes they already have. Everybody goes to the mosque early in the morning to perform the Morning Prayer and wait there until the Eid Prayer is performed. It has



become a tradition nowadays for the Eid prayer to take place in open public areas, especially in the big cities. After prayer finishes all Muslims give hugs to each other and special congratulations for the occasion.

Eid dinner is a hardly awaited event that takes place at the house of grandparents or the house of the eldest person in the family. The special menus for the day are Albanian traditional dishes. Meat is a very important element, be it lamb, kid, veal or even fish. About the deserts the queen is Baklava which is prepared and cooked at home, but even other readymade deserts from bakeries make an excellent substitute nowadays.

It has been a tradition since the first years Islam was intro-

duced to Albania to perform visits to each other houses to convey their best wishes to neighbors, relatives, friends etc. It is a 10 - 15 minute visit just enough to taste baklava or any other homemade sweet. The elderly would swear this is the best tradition Albanians have, congratulating each other regardless of their religious belief.

I take this opportunity to invite you all to visit Albania and enjoy the celebrations in person as Kuwaitis do not need a visa. I am very happy to convey my very Best Wishes to the People of the State of Kuwait on this joyful occasion of Eid Al-Fitr. This is a time for families and everyone to get closer and maintain good relations with each other. The spirit of Eid is the one of peace and unity. I wish to you all Eid Mubarak!





Holocaust survivor, Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel dies at 87

CUBAN MUSLIMS HOLD ON TO FAITH

SMALL COMMUNITY MARKS RAMADAN, GETS READY FOR EID

HAVANA: They speak little Arabic and don't have a real mosque, but Cuba's small Muslim community practices the faith and will quietly mark the end of Ramadan as best they can. In Havana's old quarter, one can see a green and white minaret atop an old colonial-style building. It is here where Cuban Muslims have gathered for the past year to pray. Inside, the walls of the prayer hall are decorated with Arabic calligraphy and a Palestinian flag. The copies of the Holy Quran have been translated into Spanish.

"Salam aleikum," says a smiling man named Javier as he welcomes visitors in Arabic on a hot summer afternoon. He was born into a Catholic family but converted to Islam two years ago. "The text of the Bible seemed incomplete to me, so I changed religion," Javier said about his decision, an unusual one in a country where 70 percent of the population observes a blend of Christianity and Afro-Cuban beliefs.

There are as many as 10,000 Muslims in Cuba, making up less than 0.1 percent of the island nation's population. According to experts, Islam was introduced to Cuba by Muslim students who came from countries such as Pakistan in the 1970s and 80s. "Tourists often come through this street and they are so surprised when they realize they are looking at a mosque," said Ahmed Aguelo, who converted to Islam 17 years ago and runs the prayer hall where some 200 worshippers gather for Friday prayers. "I am not officially an imam, as there is no training course here," he said. "But I know the basics."

Mosque

A few hundred meters away, a sign advertises the construction of a purpose-built mosque on a two-hectare piece of land. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan promised it to Cuba in February 2015. But building has yet to begin. In June 2015, the Cuban government gave the go-ahead for the inauguration of the prayer hall in the heart of Old Havana as "Cuba's first mosque." "We write 'mosque' at the entrance because it works like one," said Rigoberto Menendez, director of Arab House, which is behind the mosque project. "A real mosque would have more space" but "the main thing is for Muslims to be able to come together in one place."

Cuba's Muslims have been clamoring for their own house of worship for 25 years. "We would meet in apartments around the city," said Pedro Lazo Torres, who converted in 1988 and is considered Cuba's first Muslim. "I can practice my religion totally freely in Cuba." It can be difficult being an observant Muslim in Cuba during the holy month of Ramadan. Tradition holds that Muslims break their obligatory fast by eating dates, but in Cuba there aren't any.

"Everything is imported. The Saudi embassy supplies us with dates, traditional garments, 'halal' meat. With the help of God, we get by," said Lazo Torres, who goes by the name Yahya. Alen Garcia, a 33-year-old of African descent, said he gave up a lot when he converted to Islam. "I lost friends when I told them I wanted to become a Muslim. To convert was to renounce drinking rum, eating ham, going to parties



HAVANA: Cuban Muslim men eat after fasting at the Abdullah Mosque during Ramadan on July 1, 2016. — AFP

and dancing salsa," he said. "In other words, it meant renouncing much of Cuban culture."

Learning Arabic a Challenge

There are no Arabic courses at Cuban universities. Garcia explained that Arabic-speaking students from Chad, Afghanistan and Libya who attend the Latin American School of Medicine here give Cuban Muslims free classes in the language of the Quran. The Cuban Muslims also study Arabic with apps they can use offline. As the time approaches to break the day's fast, the prayer hall fills. Children play and squirm on the side of the room reserved for their mothers, who wear veils. The man who distributes food is named Leonel Diaz, but he goes by Mohamed. He converted at age 73. "It is never too late to welcome a good thing," he said.

He agrees to discuss Guantanamo, the US prison for terror suspects that opened at a US-held base in eastern Cuba after the September 11, 2001 attacks. "States must find a solution to close this prison," he said. He noted that Colombia is

close to reaching a peace accord with FARC leftist rebels after a half century of war. "I would like the same agreement for the Muslims who are held in Guantanamo," said Diaz.

Yaquelin Diaz, who goes by the Islamic name Aisha, lived in Spain for eight years and it was there that she converted, thanks to a Pakistani brother-in-law. "Because of our habits lots of people think we are foreigners. They cannot imagine that there are Muslims in their country. But Islam is expanding in Cuba," Aisha said the only thing missing in Cuba is a shop that sells religious garments. "Our brothers from Saudi Arabia

give them to us, but we cannot keep living off their charity. We need our own stores, in our own style. We must be able to promote Islam in Cuba." After the Cuban Revolution of 1959, Cuba became an officially atheist state and limited practice of all religions. But over time the restrictions eased. Cuba became a secular state with a constitutional reform carried out in 1992, Menendez said. Ahmed, the imam, adds: "Everything can evolve over the course of a country's history. Look, the United States killed thousands of blacks in the last century. And now it has a black president." — AFP

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AUCTION No.: WH-002/2016
For Sale of ARD Spent Catalyst
at MAB Refinery

Kuwait National Petroleum Company invites bids in sealed envelopes for the Sale of Spent Catalyst & Support Materials at MAB Refinery.

Documents can be obtained from the Internal Tendering Committee at KNPC Head Office, 1st Floor, Room # 1A-046 effective from Sunday 03/ 07 / 2016 during the official working hours i.e. 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM in Ramadan and from 07:00 AM to 03:00 PM after Ramadan against an official fee of KD50/-.

Please note that the person who will collect the Auction Documents must bring an authorization letter issued by the authorized person of the Company.

- This Auction is public.
- Bidders are invited to inspect materials (Site Visit) offered for this Auction on the following dates & Venues: -

A- MAB Refinery on Monday 11 / 07 /2016 at 07:00 AM, after making arrangements with Team Leader Mechanical Maintenance Zone – II – MAB, (Fax# 23884223 – Tel # 23883600).

Pre-Tender-Meeting (PTM) will be held on Tuesday 12 / 07 /2016, at 10 AM at KNPC Head Office 2nd Floor Room # 2A-068.

The last date of accepting the bids is 12:00 Noon on Tuesday 09 / 08 /2016. An Initial Bank Guarantee equivalent to 10% of the total offered value valid for sixty (60) days (as per Clause "6A" & "6B" of Auction Document/Instructions to Bidders) shall be enclosed in the bids envelop and inserted in the ITC Bids box.

Offers shall be valid for sixty (60) days from the bids closing date.

ITC Secretary

SYRIAN REFUGEES COULD BECOME TURKISH CITIZENS: ERDOGAN

ANKARA: Syrian refugees living in Turkey could eventually be granted Turkish citizenship, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has signalled, a plan that has sparked controversy at home. "I want to announce some good news," media quoted Erdogan as saying late Saturday at a dinner to break the Ramadan fast in Kilis province, on the Syrian border. "We are going to help our Syrian friends in offering them the chance, if they want it, to acquire Turkish nationality."

The interior ministry will shortly announce how the citizenship procedure would work, Erdogan said. He did not specify whether all of the 2.7 million Syrians that Turkey is hosting would be able to apply, and gave no details on eligibility criteria or how long the process would take. "We regard you as our brothers and sisters - you are not far from your homeland, but only from your homes and your land," Erdogan told a group of Syrian refugees in Kilis. "Turkey is also your homeland."

Ankara has refused to grant refugee status to Syrians who have fled the devastating war across the border since 2011, referring to them as "guests." Only a select group have been granted work permits and residency. The country's open-door policy to Syrian refugees was initially a source of pride for many Turks. But more and more have come to resent the new arrivals, seeing them as a drain on state resources and rivals for scarce jobs.

In Kilis, where Erdogan spoke, refugees now outnumber

the native Turkish population. Life is a struggle for most Syrians in Turkey, who mainly live off odd jobs that are often insufficient to feed and house a family. The country is also hosting some 300,000 Iraqis who have fled the Islamic State group. Erdogan's announcement sparked fierce debate on social media, with many Turkish web users questioning whether it was a good idea. "Granting citizenship shouldn't depend on what one person wants. We need a referendum!" wrote Mahomet Mahomet on Twitter.

The hashtag #ulkemdeSuriyeliistemiyorum ("I don't want Syrians in my country") trended on Twitter, though some users denounced the reaction as racist. "The reaction is racist pure and simple - before everything else we need a measured response," tweeted Omer Sloukas. Some critics suggested the move might be a bid by Erdogan to register an army of thankful Syrian voters who might back his plans to boost his presidential powers.

The Turkish strongman is accused of increasing authoritarianism since he came into power as 2002 as prime minister becoming the country's first directly-elected president two years ago. He is seeking to change the constitution to give Turkey a presidential system, a proposal that has prompted staunch criticism from the parliamentary opposition. To achieve his goal, he would need a three-fifths majority in parliament to call a referendum on the issue, or a two-thirds majority for direct approval. — AFP



ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (center) prays near flowers and portraits of the victims of the Istanbul Atatürk Airport attack at the international departure terminal on Saturday. — AFP



This photo released on June 28, 2016 shows US-backed Syrian rebels of the New Syrian Army running in an unknown place in Syria. — AP

NEW SYRIAN US-BACKED FORCE STUMBLES IN TEST SWIFT, HUMILIATING DEFEAT FOR ARMY

BEIRUT: The call came around noon, about four hours after US-backed Syrian fighters announced they had taken over an air base outside a town held by the Islamic State group near the Iraqi border. "We are trapped. Pray for us," a commander called into the operation room. Then communication was cut. Six hours later, the exhausted fighters from the group, known as the New Syrian Army, returned to their base in Tanf, nearly 240 km across the desert to the west, having lost four fighters, four vehicles and ammunition.

The swift, humiliating defeat last Wednesday marked the end of a widely advertised offensive launched less than 24 hours earlier with intense US-led air cover. The fighters had hoped to capture Boukamal, a prize possession of IS and the extremist group's last border crossing between Iraq and Syria. The Boukamal offensive was the first serious attempt to take on IS in the northeastern province of Deir el-Zour, and the first major test for the nascent force of some 1,000 fighters, formed in November from a coalition of Syrian army defectors, local militias and Islamist fighting groups, many of them from the area.

The quick collapse of the offensive reflects the difficulties the US faces in creating an effective Syrian force against IS, given the complex terrain, competing personal and tribal loyalties - and the extremists' continued ability to fight on multiple fronts. The US has struggled to find local partners in Syria. The exception has been the Kurds, who heavily dominate

the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces, which have had success wresting territory from IS in the north.

All other known attempts to train rebel groups have largely failed, in part because of Washington's focus on the fight against IS rather than toppling the Syrian government, and its failure to protect its partners from better-equipped rivals. The offensive on Boukamal, a city of nearly 160,000 people along the Euphrates River - mostly Sunni Arab tribes that move freely between Iraq and Syria - aimed to take advantage of IS' focus on defending its northern stronghold of Manbij, which is under attack by the SDF.

Some 200 New Syrian Army fighters took part in the Boukamal operation, according to activists and media reports. They had extensive air support from the US-led coalition, a vote of confidence in the new force, said Jennifer Cafarella, of the Institute for the Study of War. But the group "is definitely not off to a good start," she told AP. Commanders of the US-backed militia say they have received extensive training since June last year by US and British special forces, with the Jordanian military playing an advisory role. Analysts and observers say the group appears to have equipment and weapons not often seen with other rebels, such as special vehicles for difficult terrain and exclusively US-made small arms.

US officials have not specified the extent of their support for the group, which has been channeled through the Pentagon. The US military refers to the New Syrian Army as a "partner". The group's first

major operation - though much smaller than the Boukamal push - was in March, when it took over Tanf, a smaller IS-held crossing on the border with Jordan. Ahead of the Boukamal offensive, the American-backed fighters posted a number of messages online indicating that an attack was imminent and taunting IS as "rats". Days before the New Syrian Army offensive, IS announced it had killed five Boukamal residents, describing them as spies.

The fighters made gains early on, taking the small Hamdan air base - but then the offensive quickly unraveled. A member of the New Syrian Army debriefed on the battle said the American-backed force closed two or three routes to the base but left another one unguarded. IS then used that approach to attack and surround the facility. The member of the force spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters.

After hours of fighting and heavy airstrikes, the US-backed fighters found a way to escape, but were chased for six hours. Reinforcement from a separate US-backed brigade arrived, the group member said, adding that some tribal members in the area offered logistical support but didn't take part in the fighting. The spokesman for the US-led coalition, Col Christopher Garver, described the Boukamal operation as a "very tough fight", and acknowledged it had been a setback. He said the implications will need to be analyzed to determine the way forward. — AP

MUSLIM WOMEN CAMPAIGN TO END INSTANT DIVORCE IN INDIA

MUMBAI: Just hours after Shagufta Sayyed was married, her new husband told her he was having a relationship with another woman. He was clear the two would have no future, the 21-year-old Sayyed said. He was only marrying her to please his mother. "He said, 'no, I don't want to keep you,'" she said. "So he said, 'divorce, divorce, divorce, three times, and that was it.'" Sayyed still insists on using her husband's surname, until she can end the marriage officially in an Indian court. But like many other women from India's large Sunni Muslim minority, her fate and status are governed by Muslim Personal Law that follows the tenets of the Islamic faith, as interpreted by local imams and religious schools across India.

The so-called triple talaq, or instant divorce, has been banned in more than 20 Muslim countries, including neighboring Pakistan and Bangladesh. But in India, the practice is allowed thanks to the country's rules protecting Muslim, Christian and Hindu communities following religious law. Most of the 170 million Muslims in India are Sunnis governed by Muslim Personal Law for family matters and disputes. Those laws include allowing men to divorce their wives by simply uttering the word "talaq", or divorce in Urdu, three times - and not necessarily consecutively, but at any time, and by any medium including telephone, text message or social media post.

Some women are fed up with what they say is an archaic and patriarchal rule that too often leaves them destitute. Muslim women do not have the same right, and those left by their husbands have no claim to alimony though they can collect a small payment for three months after divorce. Then, they're on their own. "They have been divorced by speed post, by sending out letters. Some have just simply said 'talaq' three times and the divorce has happened," Noorjehan Safia Niaz, co-founder of Bhartiya Muslim Mahila Andolan, or the Indian Muslim Women's Movement.

The movement has been fighting for

equal laws for Muslim women for six years. "There are cases where women don't even know that they've been divorced," Niaz said. "The children are without any support. So, it has become very convenient for Muslim men to just say talaq three and... it is just so easy for him to get the woman out of his life." Legal experts say the practice is unconstitutional, and the Supreme Court has been pushing for uniformity in laws. In 1985, the top court ruled ordered a man to pay alimony to his elderly wife, after verbally divorcing and abandoning her.

Pressure

The Indian government in office at the time, however, managed to overturn the verdict retroactively by passing a law to protect Muslim divorce law. Many suspect the government was under pressure from Muslim leaders to stay out of their business or lose their electoral support. The move frustrated women's rights activists. India had long since banned dowry payments from a girl's parents to the family of a groom before marriage, though many still practice the ancient Hindu tradition openly, they note. And more recently, India threw out Hindu laws that barred women from inheriting property from their fathers.

What makes the instant divorce laws so difficult, some say, is the fact that they are not codified and so are open to interpretation and adjustment. One Supreme Court lawyer called the practice "barbaric." "This is a kind of an ISIS-like rule prevailing in India," the advocate, Monika Arora, said, referring to the militant Islamic State that controls much of Syria and Iraq. "No progressive country can tolerate this." Earlier this month, the women's movement collected more than 50,000 signatures, calling for a nationwide ban on instant divorces. That petition was being added as evidence in an appeal filed to the Supreme Court to ban instant divorces. The court has asked the central government for its opinion before scheduling a hearing. — AP



MUMBAI: In this June 29, 2016 photo, Indian Muslim woman Shagufta Sayyed (right) sits along with her mother Shama as they listen to Khawtoon Shiekh, an activist of Bhartiya Muslim Mahila Andolan, or the Indian Muslim Women's Movement, at their office. — AP

EL SALVADOR, DEADLIEST NATION IN 2015, SEES LULL IN VIOLENCE

SAN SALVADOR: After becoming the world's murder capital last year and posting an equally bloody start to 2016, this violence-torn Central American nation has seen its monthly homicide rate fall by about half. The government attributes the drop to a tough military counteroffensive against the country's powerful gangs, deploying a special security force and transferring imprisoned organized crime leaders to a maximum-security lockup to isolate them.

But the gangs also claim credit. The three main groups - the Mara Salvatrucha, Barrio 18 Revolucionarios and Barrio 18 Sureños - forged a nonaggression pact in March to try to reduce the killings. In a joint video message, they said their aim was to convince the government that the crackdown was unnecessary. Either way, killings in El Salvador dropped from 611 in March to 353 in April and 351 in May. There were 331 homicides in June, compared with 677 in the same month in 2015.

Last year the country recorded over 100 killings per 100,000 residents. That rate was so high that even if it's halved for all of 2016, El Salvador would still be firmly in the top 10 for killings for any country not at open war, though it's a fraction of the deaths seen in a war zone such as Syria, where casualty estimates run into the hundreds of thousands since 2011. Authorities say most of El

Salvador's dead are gang members slain by rivals on the streets and inside prisons, or in encounters with security forces.

"The reduction in homicides is due to the effectiveness of the plans by police and the extraordinary measures by the government, especially inside prisons" national police chief Howard Cotto said last week. Authorities say isolating jailed gang leaders makes it harder for them to issue orders to their underlings out on the streets. "We have gradually been bringing the penitentiary system under control and we are going to finish the job," Vice President Oscar Ortiz said recently.

The gangs see things differently. A senior member of one, the Barrio 18 Sureños, told AP that the killings have fallen because gang leaders ordered their street soldiers to stand down. "When we have wanted war, we have waged war on them, and right now we are not thinking that way," the gang member said, speaking on condition of anonymity to avoid being targeted by authorities. "We want things to be solved in a different way."

He said he is part of a team that coordinates among the three big criminal bands, and all are open to dialogue and have agreed to maintain a ceasefire. Experts say the government crackdown and the gang truce have both likely played a part in reducing homicides. — AP

FRANCE SEEKS TO PRESSURE UK OVER MIGRANTS

PARIS: Concern about immigration and a wish for stricter border controls were important factors in Britain's vote to leave the European Union last week. But the mayor of Calais in northern France hopes the neighbor's decision to quit the bloc can have a reverse effect and eventually help unravel a deal that has kept migrants attempting to reach Britain trapped on the French side of the English Channel. The French-British bilateral Touquet Treaty was signed in 2003 with the aim to stop migrants from crossing the channel. It effectively moved Britain's

southern border to northern France, allowing British police, customs officials and their sniffer dogs to operate around Calais.

Bilateral deals aren't legally affected by a British exit from the EU and French leaders haven't shown any appetite to undo the Touquet Treaty for now, but Calais Mayor Natacha Bouchart hopes they can use the June 23 referendum result to gradually start chipping away at the deal and squeeze more concessions out of Britain in its hour of vulnerability. Because of the agreement, Calais' economy and

image have suffered, Bouchart says.

A fortress-like defense system has been mounted against the thousands of migrants, from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Eritrea and elsewhere, living in dire conditions in a Calais slum camp and nearby towns as they try to hop into freight trucks headed to Britain, via the Channel Tunnel or the huge ferry port. High barbed wire fences stretch along the urban landscape, trees and bushes have been razed to eliminate hiding spots and flashing police lights illuminate the night sky.

"We can't take it anymore. We don't want it anymore. We're sick of it," Bouchart said Wednesday after she and other regional officials met with Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve to discuss the next steps after Britain's EU vote. Cazeneuve noted that chucking the treaty would require a two-year notice and would further worsen the humanitarian situation in Calais. He said it would encourage smugglers attracted by easier passage across the channel, risk an increase in deaths of migrants trying to cross and add an extra burden on the hundreds of French police posted around Calais.

However, he suggested the referendum result could help France put more pressure on Britain to help out. "We've already increased cooperation in a tough dialogue, and the choice of the British on June 23 must make us become still tougher," Cazeneuve said without elaborating. He said he was seeking a meeting this fall to discuss the issue with regional officials and his British counterpart Theresa May - a contender to become new prime minister after David Cameron's resignation. — AP



CALAIS, France: In this Feb 22, 2016 file photo, a migrant makes a phone call from the outskirts of the migrant camp. — AP

FBI INTERVIEWS CLINTON OVER PRIVATE EMAIL USE

INVESTIGATION COULD BE ENTERING FINAL PHASE

WASHINGTON: The FBI interviewed Hillary Clinton on Saturday about her use of personal email while serving as secretary of state, an issue that has dogged her campaign to become America's first female president. Questions over Clinton's use of a private account and homebrew server during her time as America's top diplomat have fueled voter concerns that she is not trustworthy. An aide said the interview at FBI headquarters in Washington lasted about 3.5 hours, following previous such interviews with Clinton aides, including close confidante Huma Abedin.

It comes about three weeks before the Democratic National Convention is set to crown Clinton as the party's official White House nominee. The interview signals that the FBI's protracted criminal investigation could be entering its final phase, with a long-awaited decision nearing. "Secretary Clinton gave a voluntary interview this morning about her email arrangements while she was secretary," spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement.

His use of the word "voluntary" indicates that Clinton was not subpoenaed for the interview. "She is pleased to have had the opportunity to assist the Department of Justice in bringing this review to a conclusion," Merrill said. "Out of respect for the investigative process, she will not comment further on her interview." Clinton, aiming to become the nation's first female commander-in-chief, has apologized for exclusively using a private email account and her own server during her time as secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

Opponents argue that this breached rules about protecting classified documents from cyber attack and may have amounted to a crime. Her use of pri-

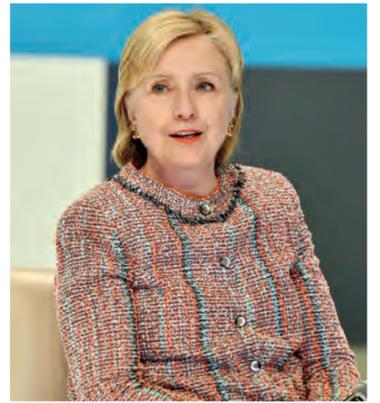
ate email for official correspondence first came to light in 2015 during Republican-led congressional investigations into her handling of a militant attack on the US mission in Benghazi, Libya. The assault in 2012 left the US ambassador and three other Americans dead.

Clinton turned over some 30,000 emails to State Department officials after she stepped down from the job three years ago. But she also said she deleted more than 30,000 other emails that were of a personal nature and not related to her work as secretary of state. A starkly critical report by the State Department's inspector general found she had not sought permission to conduct official business on her personal account.

Lynch-Clinton Meeting

The FBI interview came amid revelations that US Attorney General Loretta Lynch held an impromptu meeting with Clinton's husband, former president Bill Clinton, at the airport in Phoenix, Arizona this week. The exchange touched off a political firestorm. On Friday, Lynch vowed to respect the decisions of the FBI and prosecutors on whether to charge Hillary Clinton. The top US law enforcement official admitted that the private encounter with Bill Clinton had "cast a shadow" over the investigation into the emails in the run-up to the November general election.

But Lynch insisted that she, as a political appointee, will not overrule investigators or otherwise interfere in the legal process regarding the probe, and that the integrity of the Justice Department will be upheld. Hillary Clinton's Republican rival in the White House race, Donald Trump, tweeted on Saturday that it was "impossible



HOLLYWOOD, California: Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton attends a town hall with about 100 millennials who are digital content creators and social media influencers on June 28, 2016 at Neuhouse. — AFP

for the FBI not to recommend criminal charges against Hillary Clinton. What she did was wrong! What Bill did was stupid!" He accused her on Friday of having "initiated and demanded" her husband's meeting with Lynch. Bill Clinton has known Lynch for years. He nominated her in 1999 to serve as US attorney for the eastern district of New York. — AFP



MEMPHIS: Shelby County Sheriff's deputies work the scene where four young children were fatally stabbed at a Greens of Irene apartment on Friday. — AP

KNIFE WITH BLOOD FOUND IN HOME WHERE 4 KIDS KILLED

MEMPHIS: Sheriff's deputies found a large butcher knife with what appeared to be blood on it in an apartment where a Tennessee mother killed her four children by cutting their throats, court documents say. Shanynthia Gardner, 29, of Memphis, has been charged with four counts of first degree murder while committing aggravated child neglect in the deaths of her three daughters and one son - all under the age of 5. Their bodies were found after deputies entered her apartment in a gated community in unincorporated Shelby County on Friday. Neighbors and friends of the family attended a vigil to honor the victims on Saturday.

Gardner also faces four counts of first degree murder while committing aggravated child abuse; four counts of aggravated child neglect or endangerment; and four counts of aggravated child abuse. She is being held without bond, with an arraignment scheduled Tuesday. An affidavit filed in Shelby County court by a sheriff's detective identified the victims as 4-year-old Tallen Gardner; 3-year-old Sya Gardner; 2 year-old Sahvi Gardner; and 6-month old Yahzi Gardner. A fifth child, 7-year-old Dallen Clayton, fled the apartment and escaped the attack, the affidavit said. Dallen is Gardner's son from a previous marriage.

Gardner spoke by phone with her current husband, Martin Gardner, and acknowledged that she killed her children, the affidavit said. Attempts to reach him or relatives of the Gardners have been unsuccessful. "This is a terrible act, an egregious act that has shocked, I believe, the community, and has shocked our staff to the core," Shelby County Sheriff Bill Oldham said Saturday.

Deputies were called to an apartment complex in unincorporated Shelby County on Friday afternoon. When they

arrived at Shanynthia Gardner's apartment, they found her with superficial cuts to her neck and wrists, the affidavit said. Deputies also found four children with "severe lacerations to the throat," the document said. Two children were found in the living room - Yahzi was in her baby carrier and Sya was lying next to the carrier. The other two victims were in a bedroom.

The affidavit said Dallen was able to escape the apartment and run up to a man, yelling that his mother had stabbed his sister. The man told officers that he saw Shanynthia Gardner come outside with a large knife in her hand, then re-enter the residence. Deputies found the knife in the apartment, the affidavit said. Authorities have not divulged what circumstances they believe led to the killings. Oldham said investigators were trying to determine if Gardner has mental health problems.

The state Department of Children's Service has offered its assistance to local law enforcement, but has no record of interaction with the slain children, said spokesman Rob Johnson. About 30 people attended an outdoor candlelight vigil at the apartment complex on Saturday evening. They prayed for the four children, the surviving boy, and Shanynthia Gardner. A pastor poured water from a decanter onto the ground, in remembrance of the victims.

Sonya Clayton, Dallen Clayton's grandmother, said she had not seen the boy's mother for a few years. She said she was shocked by the attack. "She was a sweet young lady," Clayton said of Shanynthia Gardner. "What happened, I don't understand." Later, Sonya Clayton said she forgives her former daughter-in-law. "I know this is the work of the devil," Sonya Clayton said. "I know this is not Shanynthia. And I pray and I love Shanynthia." — AP

TRUMP STATEMENTS, SLOW START PUT PIVOTAL SOUTHWEST AT RISK

DENVER: Once a swing state in presidential elections, Colorado has teetered on the brink of becoming solidly Democratic. Donald Trump may have pushed it over the edge. Trump's disparaging words about Mexicans, negative comments about women and weak campaign organization have punctuated the state's shift from a nip-and-tuck battleground to one that's Democrat-friendly. For the first time in more than 20 years, there are now more registered Democrats in the state than Republicans. "Trump is turning off as many key voter groups as we have in this state," said former state Republican Party Chairman Dick Wadhams. "I would have to believe Trump's having trouble."

And it's not just Colorado. Trump's inflammatory rhetoric and weak campaign structure could ensure that perennially competitive Nevada and New Mexico are out of reach as well. That matters for Trump. He can't win the 270 electoral votes needed to capture the presidency without capturing some states that favored Barack Obama in the last two elections. The three Southwestern states - which have a combined 21 electoral votes - might have offered some hope. All backed Republican George W Bush 12 years ago.



DENVER: In this July 1, 2016, photo, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during the opening session of the Western Conservative Summit. — AP

But Trump isn't making as much of a push for those states as is his likely Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton. He made his first campaign appearance in Colorado just Friday, speaking at the Western Conservative Summit in Denver. Clinton made her

fifth trip on Wednesday, proposing college-loan deferment for graduates who start businesses. It was a tactical move aimed at swaying young voters, many of whom flocked to Sen. Bernie Sanders, who beat Clinton soundly in March's Colorado caucuses.

"Hillary has some ground to make up," said Craig Hughes, who ran Democratic President Barack Obama's winning 2012 Colorado campaign. "But compared to Trump, Hillary is in a far, far better place." In Colorado, Clinton's campaign is spending \$2.4 million on television advertising this month through Election Day, while a group that supports Clinton, Priorities USA, is spending \$13.6 million, according to Kantar Media's campaign advertising tracker. In Nevada, Clinton is spending \$2 million and Priorities USA is spending \$10.4 million.

Neither Trump nor any super PACs supporting him have reserved advertising time in the two states. Super PACs are organizations that can spend unlimited funds on a candidate, but can't coordinate with the campaign. The National Rifle Association's political arm is making small ad buys - \$155,000 in Colorado and \$98,000 in Nevada - to attack Clinton's handling of the attacks on diplomatic compounds in Libya while she was secretary of state. — AP

OBAMA CAMPAIGN MACHINE REVING UP TO ELECT CLINTON

WASHINGTON: The vaunted data-driven machine that twice got President Barack Obama elected is revving up to help elect Hillary Clinton, as Democrats look to recreate the tactical advantage they used against Republicans in 2008 and 2012. With Obama's popularity rebounding, Democrats have been eagerly awaiting the president's return to campaigning, and he'll hold his debut event for her Tuesday in North Carolina. Yet campaign officials say just as critical to her success could be an Obama political operation that remains potent four years after his re-election, including deep troves of voter and donor information, and a corps of trained field staffers and volunteers that Clinton's campaign is now co-opting.

The crown jewel of Obama's machine, an email list of supporters that included 20 million addresses in 2012, is now fully available to Clinton. That list had been closely held within an Obama campaign committee that still exists to pay off old debt. Democratic groups and even Obama's Organizing for Action nonprofit had to rent the list for a hefty sum. Now a copy of that list, which helped propel Obama to record-breaking fundraising, is controlled by the Democratic National Committee, which can send emails at will without going through Obama's campaign. That's according to individuals familiar with the list, who weren't authorized to discuss the arrangement and requested anonymity.

Just recently, the DNC started sending



WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia: In this Oct 14, 2012 file photo, US President Barack Obama makes phone calls to volunteers at a Obama campaign office. — AP

emails signed by Clinton to the entire list, including one last week inviting donors to enter a raffle to be Clinton's guest to the Broadway musical "Hamilton". For Clinton supporters, the handover of the email list is the clearest indication that concerns that sprang up after Obama's re-election have turned out unfounded. In 2013, when Obama declined to transfer the list to the national party, some Democrats griped that he was holding out on his party by sequestering his most coveted campaign resources.

Mitch Stewart, Obama's battleground

states director in 2012, said there was some disagreement that year about whether Obama's tech-infused strategy would work for other Democrats, or whether the phenomenon was Obama-specific. He said the continuity between Obama's campaign and Clinton's was proving it can be sustained. "The people involved in the Clinton campaign aren't having to relearn the lessons in 2016 that we already learned in 2008 or 2012," said Stewart, who since started a consulting firm that's helping Clinton's campaign. "A lot of them are the same people." — AP

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Recall

Product	L200 Pick-up	Product Model Year	L200 Pick-up 2007 - 2015
Defect	MMC announces a recall to prevention and investigation purpose for certain DRIVER side airbag inflator.	No. of Vehicles Covered	2869 Vehicles
Repair	Replace inflator kit Driver air bag	Chassis Number Involved	From MMBJNK8407D043671 To MMBJNK850FD059212
Dealer	Maseelah Trading Company Al Mullia Motors	Contact	For enquiry, please call Tel: 24730733 ext: 555 Fax: 24730340

BREXIT VOTE MAKES UNITED IRELAND SUDDENLY THINKABLE

BELFAST: Protestant unionists are queuing for Irish passports in Belfast and once quiet Catholic nationalists are openly campaigning for a united Ireland, signs of deep shifts in the United Kingdom's most troubled province since Britain voted to leave the EU. Eighteen years after a peace deal ended decades of fighting between mainly Catholic nationalists who favour a united Ireland and mainly Protestant unionists who favor remaining part of the United Kingdom, Britain's Brexit vote is making people on both sides of the divide in Northern Ireland think the unthinkable.

Northern Ireland, like neighboring Scotland, voted to stay in the European Union, with 56 percent in favor, even though Britain as a whole voted to leave the bloc. "I was always a small U' unionist. But I could not in all good conscience say I could vote for Northern Ireland to remain a member of the United Kingdom," said Christopher Woodhouse, a 25-year-old from Belfast. "I am softening to the idea of Irish unity, purely on economic issues," he said. "I am a European."

For years, a firm majority of people in Northern Ireland - many Catholics as well as nearly all Protestants - have favored continuing as part of the United Kingdom, drawn to the status quo as a guarantee of stability and prosperity. But that has been jeopardized at a stroke by the prospect that Britain could quit the European Union and Scotland break away from the United Kingdom. The Brexit referen-

dum suggests a new center ground could form of people from both faith communities who fear the economic uncertainty of leaving the EU. "People are saying for the first time in their life they would vote for united Ireland, having never contemplated it before," said Steven Agnew, the leader of the Green Party in Northern Ireland.

Cornerstone of Peace

The membership of both Ireland and Britain in the European Union was a cornerstone of the 1998 agreement that ended the fighting over whether the predominantly Protestant six counties of northeast Ireland should be British or Irish. EU rules ensure free trade and travel, and allow British or Irish citizens to work, claim benefits and be treated in hospitals in either country. People living on either side of the border may hold either passport or both, with little practical effect on how they are treated by either state.

Although Northern Irish citizens are entitled to passports from Ireland, many unionists would not apply for them. But there were several unionists in a queue seeking Irish passport application forms at the main post office in Belfast this week. One said she was shocked and disappointed by the Brexit vote, and saw an Irish passport as the only way to retain her EU citizenship. None would give their names, as applying for an Irish passport can be controversial among unionists.

Costs of Leaving

Quitting the EU would have direct costs on a poor province that relies on it more than other parts of the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland's largest bank, Ulster Bank, said uncertainty around the terms for Britain's exit from the EU could make Northern Ireland a "no-go zone" for some foreign direct investment. Brexit could cause lower growth, higher unemployment and cutbacks in government spending. "My stomach is churning at all that's happening," said Robert McClenaghan, an Irish Republican Army member turned community worker, describing the potential loss of hundreds of millions of euros of EU funds for former militants, victims groups, and cross-community youth work. "We are in danger of a return to conflict - at a low intensity level - if those funds are taken away," he said.

Many believe the biggest threat to the peace would be the appearance of some kind of border checks. The huge military checkpoints that dotted the border were dismantled in the wake of the peace deal. Pro-Brexit politicians have said the Irish frontier would remain open once Britain leaves the EU, but Remain supporters say this would be impossible if Britain wants to limit migration from EU countries whose nationals are free to enter Ireland.

"If they put a border up, the dissidents will blow it up," said Sid Johnson, a 68-year-old unionist Leave voter shopping on Belfast's Shankill Road. If the police are

forced to send in armed men to defend the posts, he said, escalation could be swift. Under the peace deal, the largest nationalist party, Sinn Fein, co-rules the province with the unionist DUP, which campaigned for Britain to leave the EU. Sinn Fein's party chairman pounced on the Brexit vote, saying it meant Britain had "forfeited any mandate to represent the interests of people here".

The party later cooled its rhetoric, with Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness saying a united Ireland referendum should be held "at some stage in the future". The party this week held the first of a series of rallies for a united Ireland. A united Ireland has been the cherished dream of Irish nationalists since Northern Ireland was formed by Britain to protect the large Protestant community in the island's northeast from the Catholic dominated state formed to the south in 1921.

More than 3,600 people died in fighting between the late 1960s and late 1990s, between Catholics who said they were denied basic human rights and wanted to join Ireland and Protestants defending the union with Britain. Under the 1998 peace deal, the British government was given the power to call a referendum if it appears likely a majority of those voting would seek to form part of a united Ireland. While higher birth rates among Catholics suggest they will become the majority in Northern Ireland within a generation, opinion polls have consistently shown as many as half of Catholics still favored the stability of the United Kingdom. — Reuters

IMMIGRATION CONTROL VITAL FOR EU DEAL: UK LEADERSHIP FRONTRUNNER TOP CANDIDATES DIFFER ON HOW QUICKLY TO START BREXIT TALKS

LONDON: The runaway favorite to become Britain's next prime minister yesterday vowed to push for an EU trade deal that limited immigration, as her most high-profile challenger struggled to brush off claims of treachery. "The Brexit vote gave us a very clear message that we couldn't allow free movement (of people) to continue as it had," interior minister Theresa May said of last week's stunning decision to leave the European Union. "It's important we get the right deal about controlling free movement, but it's also about ensuring that we get the best deal possible on the trade of goods and services," May, who campaigned to stay in the bloc, told ITV political show "Peston on Sunday".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel has insisted

ed that a British trade deal would have to include freedom of movement, but French finance minister Michel Sapin later said that all issues were "on the table". May said she would seek to "guarantee" that EU nationals already in Britain would be protected by any change in the immigration law, and said there was "no timescale" for leaving the union. "This is not about the UK retreating, this is about the UK going centre stage in the world," she added.

May is polling around 30 points higher than closest challenger Michael Gove among Conservative Party members, who will decide Cameron's successor, according to an ICM survey published in the Sun on Sunday. She has the strong backing of the party's MPs, who will whittle

the five candidates down to two, but insisted it was in the best interest of the party that "there should be a contest" rather than a coronation. However, she once again ruled out holding another general election before 2020.

'Political Psychopath'

Former education minister Michael Gove was expected to be her stiffest opponent, but appears to have alienated MPs over his last-minute withdrawal of support for close referendum ally Boris Johnson in order to launch his own bid. "I love my country, I could not recommend that Boris be prime minister," he told BBC's Andrew Marr show on Sunday, when faced with accusations that he had knifed his friend in the back. "He was not the man and this was not the time," he said of Johnson, who decided to pull his bid following Gove's defection.

Johnson's sister Rachel wrote in the Mail on Sunday that Gove had "knifed Boris Johnson in the back and in the front, pushed him under a bus, ran over him several times and then declared he was running for the leadership himself," calling him a "political psychopath". Gove's waning popularity has opened the way for Brexit campaigner Angela Leadsom to become the main challenger, but she also woke up to difficult headlines after it was revealed she had said in 2013 that leaving the EU would be a "disaster".

Energy minister Leadsom, who has now overtaken Gove with the bookmakers, told the BBC she changed her mind when it became "very clear that the EU is just not reformable". She called May "a superb candidate" but argued that the country needed to be led by "someone who fervently believes and understands the opportunities of leaving the EU", and who would "get on with" the process of leaving the bloc.

Both main parties are gripped by turmoil, and embattled opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn yesterday warned rebelling Labour MPs that his grassroots supporters would oppose any attempts to unseat him. Corbyn has the crucial backing of the unions and was elected last year in a landslide by ordinary Labour party members, but last week lost a no-confidence vote of party MPs by 172 to 40. "I am ready to reach out to Labour MPs who didn't accept my election and oppose my leadership," he wrote in the Sunday Mirror. "But they also need to respect the democracy of our party and the views of Labour's membership, which has increased by more than 60,000 in the past week alone." — AFP



PARIS: This file photo taken on Nov 22, 2012 shows former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard posing during an interview. — AFP.

FORMER FRENCH PM ROCARD DIES AGED 85

PARIS: Former French Socialist prime minister Michel Rocard, hailed a "visionary statesman", died Saturday aged 85 his son Francis told AFP. Rocard served as prime minister for three years from mid-1988 under Francois Mitterrand, the two-term Socialist president who led the country from 1981 to 1995. Mitterrand appointed Rocard to succeed future centre right president Jacques Chirac after a period of unprecedented left-right "cohabitation". Rocard, noted for his pro-European stance, died in a Paris hospital, said his son Francis Rocard, an astrophysicist. President Francois Hollande paid tribute to a man he called "a great figure of the Republic and of the Left."

'Visionary Statesman'

Current Prime Minister Manuel Valls spoke of his "great sadness" at the loss of a "visionary statesman." Party grandees queued up to praise Rocard's role in re-shaping the French Left over the past five decades. Party first secretary, Jean-Christophe Cambadélis, indicated that "it is a part of ourselves which dies with Michel," but added: "We shall continue your battles." In describing Rocard as a "man of conviction," former party leader Martine Aubry said the PS and the French Left "has lost one of its great figures and many of us feel profound sadness." Minister of Finance Michel Sapin also paid tribute, saying that "Michel Rocard was able to reconcile the Left with the economy and establish a fruitful dialogue between the Left and business." Sapin described Rocard's passing as "an immense loss."

'Agile Mind'

On the political right, former president

Nicolas Sarkozy, hailed Rocard's rejection of sectarianism and his "statesmanship" while former rightwing prime minister Alain Juppe recalled his "agile mind, historical perspective, his appetite for debate without concession but without sectarianism". Born on August 23, 1930 in the Parisian suburb of Courbevoie, Rocard attended the elite National School of Administration ENA, eventually carving out a high-flying political career in a revamped and modernized Socialist Party under Mitterrand.

Rocard became leader of the then United Socialist Party in 1967 as the French Left battled for unity between traditionalists and modernizers and two years later stood for the presidency. But he obtained just 3.5 percent to exit in the first round beaten by two hard Left fellow candidates who also fell by the wayside as conservative Georges Pompidou triumphed two months after the resignation of Charles De Gaulle. Rocard served several terms as a lawmaker for the Yvelines region on the outskirts of Paris and 17 years as mayor of the town of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine.

In 1974, he joined Mitterrand's newly-founded Socialist Party (PS) and soon became a vocal critic of the traditional left. He decided not to stand in Mitterrand's way as the latter successfully won a second term in 1988, after which he was appointed premier. Rocard served in the post for three years before being "fired" as he saw it. While in the top government job, Rocard signed a landmark auto-determination agreement ending unrest in the French Pacific Ocean archipelago of New Caledonia. — AFP



LONDON: British Conservative party leadership candidate Andrea Leadsom speaks to members of the media as she arrives at the BBC television center to appear on "The Andrew Marr Show" yesterday. — AFP

BRITAIN DEALT A DOSE OF THE BREXIT BLUES

LONDON: Sadness, insomnia, frustration and confusion: The Brexit blues have gripped many European Union supporters since Britain's shock decision to leave the bloc last week. "I would say I am currently suffering from anxiety and/or depression," EU backer Mick Watson, 41, told AFP. "I hadn't felt anything like this before Friday's referendum result. I am worried, very worried. I am constantly online, my work and home life has suffered. I feel like my way of life is threatened and that's scary," added the University of Edinburgh researcher.

The seismic vote has forced Britain to recognize the deep divisions within its society, a profound realization that heralds a turbulent and uncertain future. Around 17.4 million people voted to leave the EU, while 16.1 million voted to stay, leaving huge numbers fearful of life outside the bloc. "Our reactions are multiple. The first is shock and a sense of betrayal felt by Remain voters, many of whom feel that they no longer recognize the UK they live in," explained Jay Watts, of Queen Mary University of London. "It has shattered people's sense of what British values are."

'Worse than Divorce'

Brexit proponents argue it is similar feelings of alienation and powerlessness - ignored for decades - that saw so many working class communities voting to leave the EU, and resent the blame cast upon them. "Many Leave voters feel at times angry that they are being rubbished as ill-informed and racist," she said. "The main emotion for everyone is uncertainty." Remain supporters have compared the trauma to a

relationship breakdown, or a death in the family. "The main feeling is of irreversibility, so in that sense it's worse than a divorce, and more like an avoidable death," explained Will Davies, from Goldsmiths, University of London. "It feels like a terrible accident, that should have been foreseen and should have been prevented."

British-US actor David Schaal, star of "The Inbetweeners" and "The Office," said the result had triggered a bout of introspection. "I am waking up in the night, worried about the future of the country and how I personally fit in," he told AFP. "This isn't just a vote about coming out of Europe, it's a vote about our national identity. It's a sense of grief. A sense of loss of our tolerance and fairness for which I believe Britain used to stand for," he added.

Some have turned to gallows humor to express their anxieties on social media. "For the first time EVER I am working in my pyjamas. I think I have #brexitblues," wrote Twitter user Lucy Mann. "Resisted temptation to hug my Polish delivery driver and tell him I still love him. #BrexitBlues," added Charlotte Day.

Physical Symptoms

The fog of depression has also consumed immigrants, crippled by doubts about their adopted country, whose arms suddenly do not appear to be as open. "I swing between depression, anger, sadness, worry and hope," Aurore Valantin, a 37-year-old French blogger based in Worthing on England's south coast, wrote on her blog "Croqlife". "I have very close friends that actually have physical and psychological symptoms." — AFP

NOBEL LAUREATE, HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR ELIE WIESEL DIES

JERUSALEM: Elie Wiesel, the Holocaust survivor, writer and Nobel peace laureate who worked to keep alive the memory of Jews slaughtered during World War II, has died aged 87. Wiesel, a Romanian-born US citizen, was perhaps best known for his memoir "Night" detailing his experiences in the Auschwitz concentration camp. He won the Nobel peace prize in 1986, when he was described as having "made it his life's work to bear witness to the genocide committed by the Nazis during World War II".

Once known as "the world's leading spokesman on the Holocaust," Wiesel died at his home in Manhattan on Saturday, the New York Times reported. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who reportedly tried to convince Wiesel to run for president in 2014, called him "an exemplar of humanity". "Elie, a master of words, expressed in his unique personality and fascinating books the victory of human spirit over cruelty and evil," the premier said in a statement. "In the darkness of the Holocaust, in which six million of our brothers and sisters perished, Elie Wiesel was a beacon of light and an exemplar of humanity that believes in man's good."

Born Eliezer Wiesel on Sept 30, 1928, the Nobel prize winner grew up in a small town in Romania. His parents raised him and his three sisters in a Jewish community, until they were all

detained during the Holocaust when he was a teenager. His mother and younger sister were killed in the gas chamber at Auschwitz, according to his biography. His father died of dysentery and starvation at Buchenwald, where Wiesel was freed by US soldiers at the age of 17. He was reunited with his two older sisters in France, and eventually studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. French President Francois Hollande said his country "salutes the memory of a great humanist" and a "tireless advocate of peace".

'Giant of All Humanity'

Wiesel travelled back to Auschwitz in 2006 with US talk show host Oprah Winfrey. He also accompanied US President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on a tour of the Buchenwald camp. "After we walked together among the barbed wire and guard towers of Buchenwald... Elie spoke words I've never forgotten - 'Memory has become a sacred duty of all people of goodwill,'" Obama said Saturday. "Elie was not just the

world's most prominent Holocaust survivor, he was a living memorial. "His life, and the power of his example, urges us to be better."

Wiesel's internationally acclaimed "Night" was published in 1956 and has been translated into more than 30 languages. It was later expanded into a trilogy with "Dawn" and "Day". Accepting the Nobel peace prize, he said the award "both frightens and pleases me. It frightens me because I wonder: Do I have the right to represent the multitudes who have perished? Do I have the right to accept this great honor on their behalf? I do not. That would be presumptuous. No one may speak for the dead, no one may interpret their mutilated dreams and visions."

While Wiesel's focus was the Holocaust and the plight of the Jewish people, he was also a rights activist and a professor of Judaic studies and the humanities. Michael Zank, director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies at Boston University, where Wiesel taught for nearly 40 years, said staff were heartbroken at his passing. Soon after he won the Nobel prize, Wiesel and his wife Marion founded The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity with a mission to "combat indifference, intolerance and injustice through international dialogue and youth-focused programs." — AFP



NEW YORK: This Jan 24, 2005 file photo shows US author and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Elie Wiesel addressing the United Nations General Assembly. — AFP

BANGLADESH GARMENT INDUSTRY FEARS FOR FUTURE

NEW DELHI: The horrific slaughter of diners at a Dhaka cafe has fanned fears that surging Islamist violence may imperil the giant garment industry in Bangladesh, which built its economy on cheaply supplying fashion to the world's big-name brands. Gunmen stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery in the capital's diplomatic quarter on Friday evening, rounding up foreign hostages before murdering 20 people with explosives and machetes, in a brutal targeting of the small expat community.

Islamic State jihadists released gruesome images of corpses lying in crimson pools on the cafe floor as they claimed responsibility for the deadly 11-hour siege. Most of the victims were Italian or Japanese. "This attack will turn away foreigners," said Faruque Hassan, senior vice-president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, which represents 4,500 factories.

"The impact of this attack will be very damaging for the industry. We are now extremely worried," added Hassan, whose Giant Group supplies clothes to retailers including Britain's Marks & Spencer and Next. Even before the cafe siege, Bangladesh, the world's second-biggest exporter of apparel after China, was reeling from a wave of Islamist-linked killings of religious minorities, liberal activists and foreigners, including an Italian aid worker last September. Concern is mounting that the South Asian nation, wracked by political instability since independence in 1971, is sliding into deeper chaos, with under-pressure police arresting 11,000 people last month in a desperate crackdown. "The hostage crisis in Dhaka is a terrible tragedy reflecting how security has deteriorated in the country," said Sarah Labowitz, co-director at the NYU Stern Center for Business and Human Rights in New York. The violence presents "a serious



SAVAR, Bangladesh: In this photograph taken on April 24, 2016, Bangladeshi activists and relatives of victims of the Rana Plaza building collapse take part in a protest march on the third anniversary of the disaster at the site where the building once stood on the outskirts of Dhaka. — AFP

threat to the economy," Labowitz said. "This kind of attack will surely keep (fashion) buyers away in the months leading up to the holiday shopping season."

Although a quarter of its 160 million people still live below the poverty line, Bangladesh has clocked growth of around six percent nearly every year since the turn of

the millennium. That's largely thanks to garment exports, the lifeblood of its economy, accounting for more than 80 percent of total outbound goods last year. Between them the nation's clothing factories employ more than four million people, most of them impoverished rural women. Ulrica Bogh Lind, a spokeswoman

for H&M, which sources many of its clothes from Bangladesh, told AFP the Swedish chain was "deeply sad about the tragic incident". "We are of course monitoring the situation in Dhaka closely."

Echoes of Pakistan

Trade-dependent Bangladesh may suffer the same fate as its restive rival Pakistan, fears Ahsan Mansur, a former representative for the International Monetary Fund in Islamabad. "I saw the decline of a promising economy into a terrorist hotspot. This attack reminds me of those days, although I hope things won't turn out that way," said Mansur, now executive director of the Policy Research Institute in Dhaka. When extremist violence began to spread in Pakistan, he said, the first sign of financial malaise was expat families packing their bags, then trade and investment crumbled. "The perception that Bangladesh is a potential terrorist hotspot can seriously hit our export potential and growth prospects."

Yet plucky Bangladesh has ridden out numerous storms, seeing off threats from labor unrest, mass transport blockades and large-scale political paralysis - as well as workplace disasters. Clothing exports swelled nearly 10 percent in the year to June, to \$27.3 billion, industry figures show. The deadly Rana Plaza factory collapse that killed at least 1,138 workers in 2013 shocked the world, heaping opprobrium on Western retailers seen as exploiting impoverished workers. But the tragedy prompted retailers to act on appalling safety conditions in their factories, where fires and other accidents are frequent. Brands set up two global alliances to make workshops safer and cleaner - although it remains a work in progress. — AFP

FLASH FLOODS KILL 43 IN PAK

40 DEAD IN INDIA

URSOON, Pakistan: Overnight flash floods killed at least 43 people in northern Pakistan, the majority in a remote village that did not receive an evacuation warning before the waters hit washing away most of the settlement, officials said yesterday. The heavy monsoon rains began late Saturday and were concentrated mainly in the northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which has been badly affected by flooding in recent years that some scientists have linked to climate change.

The worst hit district was Chitral, on the country's northwest border with Afghanistan, where the flood waters killed 41 people in the village of Ursoon near the Afghan border, which is home to some 100 families, district mayor Maghfrat Shah told AFP. Eighty-two homes in the village were affected by the waters, a rescue services statement said, with some of them swept away, along with a mosque and an army post.

"Sixteen of the dead were offering prayers in the mosque when it was swept away by the flood," said Latifur Rehman, a spokesman for the provincial disaster management authority. At least eight of the victims were soldiers, and another eight bodies were swept over the border into Afghanistan, senior local official Osama Waraich said. Rehman said a military-led rescue and relief operation was now underway, with helicopters being used to reach the affected people and provide them with tents, food and medical aid.

Falah-i-Insaniat Foundation, the charitable wing of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group, were among the first at the scene providing relief. An AFP reporter in Ursoon said survivors who had lost their homes were waiting for aid under open skies surrounded by mud and debris where their village once stood. Nearby villages had received flood warnings from the local authorities, but Ursoon was not alerted in time, the reporter said.

Separately, two Chinese engineers were killed and five Pakistani workers injured when the heavy rains caused the roof of a construction site to collapse at Tarbela Dam, also in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Rehman said.

Deadly Rains

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's office issued a statement expressing his grief and sorrow. Heavy rains and flash flood claim many victims each year, with poorly built homes across the country, particularly in rural areas, susceptible to collapse during the annual spring and monsoon

rains in July-August. In April rains and landslides killed 127 people in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Gilgit-Baltistan region and Pakistani Kashmir.

During the rainy season last summer, torrential downpours and flooding killed 81 people and affected almost 300,000 across the country. The worst flooding in recent times occurred in 2010 and covered almost a fifth of the country's total land mass. Nearly 2,000 people were killed, 20 million affected and huge tracts of prime farmland destroyed. Rapid deforestation brought about by decades of illegal logging in the country's north and the growth of farming along the river Indus in the south is believed by experts to have exacerbated the effects of the annual floods.

Energy-starved Pakistan relies on a multitude of dams and barrages to prevent Himalayan rivers from flooding and help meet its power needs, but some academics believe the slowing of rivers due to the structures mean that silt accumulates, decreasing their capacity. A research paper commissioned by conservation group WWF and published in 2000 looked at various countries, and warned of similar consequences. It noted the drainage of wetlands as well as deforestation associated with dams led to a loss of natural "sponges" to absorb flood waters during rainy season.

Meanwhile, at least 40 people were feared dead following a downpour that triggered flash floods and landslides in northern Indian Uttarakhand state over the weekend, a state official said. Several more people were still missing, a spokesman at the state chief minister's office, Om Prakash Sati, said yesterday, with remote Chamoli and Pithoragarh being the worst affected districts in the state. The state has so far confirmed 18 deaths, of whom 15 were from Pithoragarh. The official toll was expected to rise.

Thousands were feared stranded as landslides blocked hundreds of roads. The state authorities have asked people in low lying areas to evacuate as a precautionary measure, he said. Relief operations are under way, but incessant rains have hampered efforts and raised fears of flooding as rivers were close to their danger levels, Sati said. "There is no need to panic," Uttarakhand's chief minister Harish Rawat told reporters, adding, more teams from the state, central authorities, and other relief forces have all been kept on high alert as a precautionary measure. Several damaged roads have also been repaired, Rawat said. — Agencies



DHAKA: A woman speaks before leaving a floral arrangement yesterday at a roadblock leading to an upscale cafe that was the scene of a bloody attack in the Bangladesh capital. — AFP

BANGLADESH DENIES IS LINK AFTER HOSTAGE BLOODBATH

INTERNATIONAL LINK PROBED

DHAKA: Bangladesh said yesterday the attackers who slaughtered 20 hostages at a restaurant in Dhaka were well-educated followers of a home-grown militant outfit who found extremism "fashionable", denying links to the Islamic State group. As the country began two days of mourning for victims, details have emerged of how the assailants spared the lives of Muslims while herding foreigners to their deaths.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vowed to drag Bangladesh back from the brink, warning of a concerted bid to turn one of the world's most populous nations into a failed state, while her government has continued to deny links between the assault and international jihadist networks. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had targeted a gathering of "citizens of crusader states" at the Western-style cafe on Friday night.

But Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told AFP the killers - six of whom were shot dead in the siege - were members of the homegrown militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), a group banned over a decade ago. "They have no connections with the Islamic State," Khan said. National police chief Shahidul Hoque told reporters that investigators would explore the possibility of "an international link" but added that "primarily, we suspect they are JMB members".

Police released photographs of the bodies of five attackers, along with their first names: Akash, Badhon, Bikash, Don and Ripon. The Amaq news agency, affiliated with IS, also published photos of five smiling young men, each holding what appear to be assault rifles and posing in front of a black IS flag, and identified them as the restaurant attackers, according to the SITE Intelligence Service, which monitors jihadi online activity. The men in those photographs appeared to match the bodies shown in police images of the dead assailants in the restaurant after the hostage crisis ended. Amaq identified the five by noms de guerre indicating they were all Bangladeshis. It said the fighters used "knives, cleavers, assault rifles and hand grenades", and had "verified" the identities of the hostages in order to spare the Muslims and kill the foreigners.

The bodies of twenty hostages were found in pools of blood after commandos stormed the Holey Artisan Bakery cafe to end the standoff, in which two policemen were also shot dead in a fierce gun battle at its outset. Six of the gunmen were killed by the commandos in the final stages of the siege, but one was taken alive and was being interrogated by Bangladeshi intelligence. Security officials said most of the victims - 18 of whom were foreigners - were slaughtered with sharpened machete-style weapons.

Spread of IS

Hasina's government has previously blamed a

string of deadly attacks against religious minorities and foreigners on domestic opponents but the latest will heighten fears that IS's reach is spreading. Analysts say that the government is wary of acknowledging that groups such as IS or Al-Qaeda have gained a foothold over fears that it will frighten off foreign investors. But Shahedul Anam Khan, an analyst for the Dhaka-based Daily Star newspaper, said the attack meant the government could no longer plausibly deny their presence.

"While one is not sure that these people are organically linked to the international extremist groups, the government must own up to the reality that the footprints of the IS in this country is very real and no amount of denying can alter the fact," he wrote. There was mass condemnation of the killing in Dhaka, where flags were being flown at half-mast at government offices, while prayer services were being held across the country.

Italy was mourning the death of nine citizens in the attack while seven Japanese were also killed. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe spoke of his "pro-

found anger that so many innocent people have lost their lives in the cruel and nefarious terrorism". Pope Francis also joining the welter of condemnation. The other victims were an American citizen and a 19-year-old Indian who was studying in California.

Muslims Spared

A Bangladeshi worker at the cafe who survived the massacre told how the attackers split the diners into groups of foreigners and locals, making clear that their targets were non-Muslims. "They took me and two of my colleagues and forced us to sit on chairs, with our heads down on the table," the survivor told AFP on condition of anonymity. "They asked me whether I was a Muslim. As I said yes, they said they won't harm or kill any Muslims. They will only kill the non-Muslims. All the time I prayed to Allah, keeping my head down. Several times I vomited. They warned us not to raise our heads but at one point I raised my head slightly and saw a bloodied body on the floor." — AFP

THREE US STUDENTS SLAIN IN BANGLADESH ATTACK

WASHINGTON: Three students at universities in the United States, including a US citizen and an Indian citizen, were among those killed in a militant attack in Bangladesh, university officials, the Indian government and a source said on Saturday. The State Department confirmed one US citizen was killed, but gave no details. The White House condemned the attack in the country's capital Dhaka, which it said resulted in as many as 20 deaths, including that of the American. "We remain in contact with Bangladesh authorities and have offered any assistance necessary," it said.

The Islamic State militant group has claimed responsibility for what was one of the most brazen attacks in the South Asian nation's history, killing more than a dozen foreigners at a restaurant before security forces stormed the building and ended a 12-hour standoff on Saturday. A State Department official said the department was not aware that any more US citizens had been among the hostages.

Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, said two of its students were killed and an Indian government official said an Indian citizen who was a student at the University of California at Berkeley was among the dead. "The Emory community mourns this tragic and senseless loss," the university said in a statement. Undergraduate Abinta Kabir and

Goizueta Business School undergraduate Faraaz Hossain were the two victims from Emory, the statement said. Emory said Kabir was from Miami and Hossain was from Dhaka. A source with knowledge of the situation said that the US citizen confirmed by the State Department was one of the Emory students.

'More Lives Lost'

Florida Governor Rick Scott said the "pure evil" of Islamic State had claimed another Floridian, after a gunman who pledged allegiance to the group took hostages and killed 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando last month. "We cannot afford to see more lives lost at the hands of terrorists," Scott said in a statement. Tarishi Jain, 19, was the Berkeley student victim, India's minister of external affairs, Sushma Swaraj, wrote on Twitter.

"I have spoken to her father Shri Sanjeev Jain and conveyed our deepest condolences. The country is with them in this hour of grief," the minister wrote. "I monitored this personally the whole night. ... It is a case of brutal killing - an unnatural death." Jain had graduated from the American International School in Dhaka, and began studying at the University of California Berkeley last year. Berkeley officials said she intended to major in economics. — Reuters



NAGAR, Pakistan: Residents affected by flooding gather on higher ground alongside floodwaters in this village in Chitral yesterday. — AFP

CHINA SOCCER BOOM SPARKS ONLINE GAMBLING CRAZE

HONG KONG: In China's eastern city of Hangzhou, Li could barely watch as Portuguese striker Cristiano Ronaldo lined up a penalty kick in a finely-balanced Euro 2016 group match against Austria. Li had reason to be nervous: He had bet tens of thousands of yuan on Portugal to win. With 10 minutes to go in the game in Paris, Real Madrid star Ronaldo hit the post, the game ended in a draw, and Li lost the money he had bet using Tencent Holdings Ltd's popular messaging app WeChat.

Amid a surge of Chinese interest in global soccer, a side-effect has been a record spike in illegal gambling online, prompting multi-million dollar busts by police on betting rings, and tech giants like Tencent and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd cracking down on gambling activity on their apps. "There are so many gamblers, groups and platforms during the European Cup, though, that I think it's really hard to find all of them," said Li, who asked only to use his surname as

most gambling online in China is illegal.

Li said he used a private chat group on WeChat, where most of the bettors were friends. Winnings were distributed via bank transfer, Alibaba-linked Alipay, WeChat or 'red packets', digital versions of traditional envelopes stuffed with cash. In the run-up to the UEFA European Football Championship final in Paris next Sunday, Chinese police say they have seen a surge in illegal gambling online. In a single bust last week, police in southern Guangdong arrested 147 people and froze funds worth nearly 100 million yuan (\$15 million).

Yesterday, the Public Security Ministry said it had detained 236 people across four provinces involved in illegal online betting on the championship. Alibaba and Tencent acknowledge the issue and have anti-gambling systems in place to spot illegal behavior. Ant Financial, the Alibaba affiliate which operates Alipay, has a three-tiered system to spot gambling, with com-

puter systems analyzing user behavior and a line of human checks. "If we find suspicious accounts, then we are going to freeze the account directly. It only takes a few hours from the first to the last step," said spokeswoman Miranda Shek, adding the firm was looking to add more anti-gambling staff.

Reiterating a previous statement, Tencent said it is doing more to stamp out gambling on its platforms like WeChat, including restricting groups suspected of gambling behaviour and punishing individual account holders. It said it has put limits on more than 8,000 WeChat groups, and has limited the payment and 'red packet' capabilities on more than 6,000 accounts.

Soccer Boom

A soccer investment boom in China has helped propel interest in the game. Chinese firms have invested in overseas clubs, player agencies and media rights firms, and global soccer stars have moved to China in multi-

million dollar deals. "With the European Cup everyone's betting on soccer, but also over the last couple of years China's soccer market has developed rapidly. Big investments and star names create a real lure," said Hu Najun, an assistant professor at the University of Science and Technology Beijing.

The organizer of an online gambling group, who only gave his name as Bao, said he and four other organizers had a pot of 5 million yuan (\$750,706) and that dozens of people would join for each game. "In one night there will be millions placed in bets," he said, adding it had become a lucrative business. "For the final, we'll probably go to Macau or Hong Kong and spend the whole week in the presidential suite," Li says he's still backing Portugal - who are through to the semi-finals - for Euro 2016 glory. "I often can't watch, my heart just can't take it, I feel nervous at every chance. Especially when Ronaldo missed the penalty - I almost passed out," he said. — Reuters

AUSSIE POLL CLIFFHANGER LEAVES NATION IN LIMBO

MAJOR PARTY LEADERS NEGOTIATING WITH INDEPENDENTS

SYDNEY: Australia's political parties began horse-trading yesterday to break an anticipated parliamentary deadlock after a dramatic election failed to produce a clear winner, raising the prospect of prolonged political and economic instability. The exceptionally close vote leaves Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's centre-right Liberal Party-led government in a precarious position, potentially needing the support of independent and minor parties.

It has also opened the door to the possibility, albeit less likely, that the main opposition Labor Party could win enough backing from the smaller parties to form government itself, although Turnbull said yesterday he remained "quietly confident" of returning his coalition to power for another three-year term. "I can promise all Australians that we will dedicate our efforts to ensuring that the state of new parliament is resolved without division or rancor," Turnbull, who accused Labor of waging a dirty tricks campaign, told reporters in Sydney.

Police said they were considering whether to investigate thousands of text messages sent to voters on Saturday by the Labor Party purporting to be from the state healthcare service Medicare, warning the service would be privatized by a coalition government. Labor leader Bill Shorten said Australians had rejected Turnbull's mandate for reform like cuts to healthcare and a \$50 billion (\$37 billion) corporate tax break over 10 years.

"What I'm very sure of is that while we don't know who the winner was, there is clearly one loser: Malcolm Turnbull's agenda for Australia and his efforts to cut Medicare," Shorten told reporters in Melbourne. The election was meant to end a period of political turmoil in which Australia which has had four prime ministers in three years. Instead it has left a power vacuum in Canberra and fuelled talk of a challenge to Turnbull's leadership of the Liberal Party, less than a year after he ousted then prime minister Tony Abbott in a party-room coup.

If the coalition fails to form a government, it would be the first time in 85 years an Australian ruling party has lost power after its first term in office. The uncertainty is likely to spook markets when they reopen today, with analysts warning Australia's triple A credit rating could be at risk and predicting a fall in the Australian dollar and the share market. Vote counting could take a week or more, and the coalition will rule under caretaker provisions in the interim.

Official electoral data for the House of Representatives showed a 3.4 percent swing away from the government, with about two-thirds of votes counted. Electoral Commission projections give the coalition 67 seats in the 150-seat lower house, against Labor's 71 and five to independents and the Greens Party. A further seven seats were in the balance. That leaves independents, whose election campaigns ranged



SYDNEY: Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull leaves a press conference yesterday, a day after the country's general election was held. — AFP

from economic protectionism to anti-gambling and policies to improve the treatment of asylum seekers, as kingmakers.

Small parties are likely to hold the balance of power in the Senate, with Pauline Hanson's One Nation on track to win between two and four seats, marking the return of the anti-immigration activist to parliament after an almost 20-year absence. She looks likely to be joined by a host of other unconventional candidates, including long-time journalist and broadcaster Derryn Hinch, known as the "human headline", who campaigned on justice for the victims of criminals.

Leadership Doubts

Confirming that talks were already underway, independent member of parliament Andrew Wilkie said Turnbull had called him just to "open lines of communication". Stirling Griff, a Nick

Xenophon Team candidate who is on track to win a senate seat, said the party was scrambling to pull together its wishlist for negotiations after being caught off-guard by the coalition's poor performance.

Speculation has also begun about the ability of Shorten and Turnbull to hold onto the leadership of their parties. Turnbull was under the most pressure, having ousted Abbott on a promise of stability and then called the election in a risky bid to sweep out independents in the upper house who were blocking his economic agenda. Turnbull had some of the highest poll ratings of an Australian leader on record shortly after he snatched the top job from Abbott in September. But that popularity soured as he appeared to bend his centre-right values on issues like climate change and same sex marriage under pressure from the right of his party. — Agencies

POLICE INJURED AS RESIDENTS PROTEST INCINERATOR IN CHINA

BEIJING: A protest yesterday against an incinerator in a southern Chinese town turned violent as some people attempted to break into government offices and police were injured, residents and authorities said. The protesters in Lubu town in Guangdong province oppose a project to build an incinerator that would also generate power. Residents reached by phone said they had spontaneously taken to the streets by the thousands because they fear the incinerator might contaminate the air and drinking water.

The protest was sparked by an announcement Saturday afternoon by Lubu town government that land requisition work for the project and the project itself were being stopped, without giving any reason. Residents said people were concerned the halt was just temporary. "The notice was released by Lubu town government, but the project is led by Zhaoqing city government so the notice issued by the town government is not enough," said a resident and restaurant worker who would only give his surname, Yu. Protests against incinerators and chemical plants are becoming more frequent in China as citizens' concerns grow over threats to public health. Local governments are faced with the mounting challenge of disposing the waste generated in ever-larger cities, and public distrust over their ability to properly plan, build and manage such projects. Local authorities tend to announce they will halt plans for incinerators after angry protests by residents, wanting to restore order.

Yesterday, Yu estimated that about 10,000 people had earlier gathered at the town's

main street and near a national highway, and that 3,000 or more police officers were present. A propaganda department of Zhaoqing city's Gaoyao district, which oversees Lubu town with a population of more than 70,000, said police were injured. In a post on its official Sina Weibo account, Gaoyao's Communist Party committee propaganda department said that around noon "some ordinary people who are unaware of the truth led by some troublemakers attempted to storm the Lubu town government" and attacked and injured some police officers who were trying to maintain order. It said those people should surrender themselves to police and people at the government offices should leave the site immediately.

A man who answered the phone at the propaganda department said he could give no more details. A man who picked up the phone at Lubu police station said he wasn't authorized to talk to the media. A woman from Lubu government said there had been no protest at all and hung up. The post by the Gaoyao propaganda department was removed later yesterday afternoon. Photos of the protest also posted on Sina Weibo had earlier apparently been taken down by censors.

A resident who only gave her surname, Lin, said the planned incinerator was only about 2 km from the town and close to the Xijiang River, and residents had first protested in fewer numbers last weekend. "We worry about air and water pollution," she said. "The river is a major source of our drinking water." — AP

CHINA TO HOLD DRILLS IN DISPUTED WATERS

BEIJING: China will hold military drills in the disputed South China Sea, the government said yesterday, ahead of an international tribunal ruling over Beijing's maritime claims in the resource-rich area. The drills will be held in waters around the Paracel Islands from July 5 to 11, with other ships prohibited from entering the waters during that time, a short statement by the maritime safety administration said. The military exercises come as an international tribunal in The Hague prepares to rule on a case brought by the Philippines challenging China's claims in the strategic waterway.

Manila lodged the suit against Beijing in early 2013, saying that after 17 years of negotiations it had exhausted all political and diplomatic avenues to settle the dispute. Beijing, which asserts sovereignty over almost all of the South China Sea despite rival claims from Southeast Asian neighbors, insists that the Permanent Court of Arbitration has no jurisdiction over the issue and has boycotted the proceedings.

Basing its claims on a vaguely defined "nine-dash" Chinese map dating back to the 1940s, it has rapidly turned reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes. Manila contends that the "nine-dash" line has no basis under international law and Beijing has no "historic" claim to the ocean. Tensions in the South China Sea have alarmed other nations, and most notably the United States which has key defence treaties with many allies in the region, and in a show of strength has sent warships close to some of the Chinese claimed reefs.

But President Xi Jinping said in a speech last week that China will never compromise on sovereignty, and that the country was "not afraid of trouble". In an apparent stab at the US, Xi said: "We will not show up at other people's front doors to flex our muscles. That does not show strength or scare anyone." Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have overlapping claims to the waterway. — AFP

News

in brief

Chinese man sentenced to death for bus blaze

BEIJING: A court in northern China yesterday sentenced a man to death for starting a bus fire in January that killed 18 people, the government said. Flames engulfed the bus in front of a furniture store in the northern region of Ningxia, state media has previously reported. Thirty-three people were injured. The court in regional capital Yinchuan sentenced Ma Yongping to death after finding him guilty of using an "extremely cruel form of crime", the Yinchuan government said on its official microblog. Ma set alight two plastic bags filled with gasoline on the bus after getting involved in a personal work dispute, the government said, without explaining the connection between the bus he chose to set alight and the dispute. Ma will appeal, the statement added.

China eyes hunt for alien life with giant telescope

BEIJING: China yesterday hoisted the final piece into position on what will be the world's largest radio telescope, which it will use to explore space and help in the hunt for extraterrestrial life, state media said. The five-hundred-metre Aperture Spherical Telescope, or FAST, is the size of 30 football fields and has been hewed out of a mountain in the poor southwestern province of Guizhou. Scientists will now start debugging and trials of the telescope, Zheng Xiaonian, deputy head of the National Astronomical Observation under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, which built the telescope, told the official Xinhua news agency. "The project has the potential to search for more strange objects to better understand the origin of the universe and boost the global hunt for extraterrestrial life," the report paraphrased Zheng as saying. The 1.2-billion yuan (\$180 million) radio telescope would be a global leader for the next one to two decades, Zheng added.

3 DAYS OF RAIN IN CHINA LEAVES 50 DEAD

BEIJING: Three days of heavy rain in southern China have left 50 people dead and another 12 missing and destroyed thousands of homes, authorities said yesterday, as areas along the Yangtze River braced for

more floods. Torrential rains caused the deaths of 27 people and left a further 12 missing since Thursday in central Hubei, the provincial civil affairs department said. Nearly 400,000 people have been evacuated

or are in need of aid in the province. Almost 15,000 houses have collapsed or are seriously damaged and more than 500,000 hectares of crops have been affected, causing direct economic losses of 5.669 billion

yuan (\$850 million), the department said.

In mountainous Guizhou province in the southwest, the bodies of 23 people were found after a landslide buried a village Friday, Dafang county government said. Seven people were injured. Rainstorms soak the southern part of China every year during the summer monsoons, but this rainy season has been particularly wet. State television on Saturday showed people using boats to navigate flooded streets in eastern Anhui province. Anhui's civil affairs department said 18 people have died and four are missing due to heavy rain since June 18.

Vice Premier Wang Yang warned last month that there was a high possibility of floods in the Yangtze River and Huai River basins this year, which equate to a large swath of China's southern, central and eastern areas. He said the situation was made worse by "super El Nino." El Nino is the natural warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather worldwide and the latest occurrence of the phenomenon has been blamed for triggering droughts in parts of Africa and India and playing a role in a record hurricane season in the Pacific.

A similar El Nino effect was linked to China's worst floods in recent history, when 4,150 people died in 1998, most along the Yangtze. Flood control measures along China's longest river, including dikes, have since been reinforced, but experts say this time severe floods are likely to hit the Yangtze's tributaries, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. The Yangtze River flood control headquarters has ordered local authorities to remain on high alert. — AP



WUHAN, China: People cross a flooded street in China's central Hubei province on Saturday. — AFP



BAGHDAD: Iraqi men mourn over bodies after they lost five members of their family in a suicide bombing that ripped through Baghdad's busy shopping district of Karrada, during their funeral in the holy Iraqi city of Najaf yesterday. — AFP

IS BOMBINGS KILL 125 IN BAGHDAD

Continued from Page 1

"It was like an earthquake," said Karim Sami, a 35-year-old street vendor. "I wrapped up my goods and was heading home when I saw a fire ball with a thunderous bombing. I was so scared to go back and started to make phone calls to my friends, but none answered," the father of three added. He said that one of his friends had been killed, another was wounded and one was still missing.

Karrada was busy at the time as Iraqis eat out and shop late during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which ends next week with the Eid Al-Fitr festival. Videos posted on social media showed people running after the SUV con-

voy of Abadi as he departed Karrada after touring the scene, throwing pavement stones, bottles of water, empty buckets and slippers, venting their anger at the inability of the security forces to protect the area.

Another video posted on social media showed a large blaze in the main street of Karrada, a largely Shiite district with a small Christian community and a few Sunni mosques. Reuters TV footage taken in the morning showed at least four buildings severely damaged or partly collapsed, including a shopping mall believed to be the target, and gutted cars scattered all around. The toll climbed during the day as rescuers pulled out more bodies from under the rubble and people succumbed from their

injuries. Comments posted on social media accused security forces of continuing to use fake bomb detectors at checkpoints filtering traffic in Baghdad, five years after the scandal broke out about a device commonly known as the 'magic wand'.

A police officer in Baghdad confirmed these hand-held ADE 651 detectors were still in use. They were sold to Iraq and other nations by a British businessman who was jailed for 10 years in 2013 in the United Kingdom for endangering lives for profit.

In a second attack, a roadside explosive device also blew up around midnight in a market in Al-Shaab, a Shiite district in the north of the capital, killing at least two peo-

ple, police and medical sources said. Iraqi forces on June 26 declared the defeat of IS militants in Falluja, a historic bastion of Sunni insurgency, following a month of fighting.

Now the militants were "trying to compensate for their humiliating defeat in Falluja," said Jasim Al-Bahadli, a former army officer and security analyst in Baghdad. "It was a mistake for the government to think that the source of the bombings was restricted to just one area," he said. "There are sleeper cells that operate independently from each other." Falluja was the first Iraqi city to fall to Islamic State in January 2014. Abadi said the next target of the Iraqi forces is Mosul, the de facto capital of the militants and the largest city under their control in both Iraq and Syria. —Agencies

LOVE: LESSONS OF RAMADAN

Continued from Page 1

"Your Lord has decreed that you should worship nothing except Him and show kindness to your parents; whether either or both of them attain old age, never say to them 'Uff!' nor scold either of them. Speak to them in a generous fashion. Serve them with tenderness and humility..." (17:23).

Aside from these Quranic verses, Muhammad (PBUH) advised his followers in innumerable traditions to be good to others. For example, he said, "Do you know what the rights of a neighbor are? If a neighbor seeks your help, extend it to him. If a neighbor asks you for a loan, lend him. If your neighbor becomes poor, then help him financially and attend to his poverty if you can. If your neighbor becomes ill, then visit him. If your neighbor is happy on certain gain, then congratulate him. If your neighbor is suffering a calamity, then offer him condolences. If your neighbor dies, then attend his funeral. Do not raise your building over his building, so that he would have no sun exposure or wind passage. Do not bother your neighbor with the smell of your cooking, unless you intend to offer him some" (Tabrani, 101). Detailing the behavior of a loving neighbor is more meaningful than a sim-

ple order to love them.

The holy Quran and Muhammad (PBUH) did not directly command us to "love one another" because love (the feeling) is a byproduct of positive actions and attitudes. Instead, we are commanded to treat one another with justice, respect, forgiveness, patience and kindness. By acting in this way, we can arouse the feeling of love for others in ourselves, and vice versa.

Islam insists on principle-driven love, a love that is proactive and action-based, not reactive and emotion-based. How important is love? Muhammad (PBUH) said to his companions, "You will not enter Paradise until you have faith; and you will not complete your faith until you love one another" (Muslim). Through compassion, charity and generosity, Ramadan is the perfect opportunity to develop what we all need in our lives - love for one other.

Courtesy of the TIES Center, whose mission is to empower Kuwait's expats through social and educational services that promote a positive and productive role in society, and to facilitate opportunities for intra- and interfaith interactions that promote social solidarity. For more information, please call 25231015/6 or e-mail: info@tiescenter.net.

KUWAIT PLANS TO TAP DEBT MARKETS TO COVER...

Continued from Page 1

through bonds and sukuk, Saleh said. The remaining part of the deficit will be financed from the state reserve fund, he said.

Saleh said that the actual budget deficit in the 2015/2016 fiscal year which ended on March 31 is KD 5.5 billion, the first actual deficit to be posted by Kuwait after 16 years of surpluses.

Saleh warned that although the financial position is currently strong, the country is facing serious challenges that endanger the stability and sustainability of the state finances. Revenues in the budget are projected at KD 10.24 billion while spending was estimated at KD 18.9 billion, thus leaving a shortfall of KD 8.66 billion. Oil income was estimated at KD 8.8 billion which was calculated at an oil price of \$35 a barrel instead of \$25 a barrel initially. Oil income, which traditionally made up around 95 percent of the revenues when prices were high, is projected to contribute just 86 percent this year. Head of the Assembly budgets committee MP Adnan Abdulsamad said that the

wages bill accounts for more than half of the budget and subsidies account for 15 percent.

He said that current expenditures make up 85 percent of spending. A number of MPs called on the government to diversify and restructure the domestic economy to cope with a prolonged period of low oil prices. Meanwhile, MP Awdah, head of the educational affairs committee, quit his parliamentary seat after the National Assembly refused to debate two investigations on corruption cases yesterday. The assembly only delayed the debate until next term.

During the debate on restoring the preventive detention, the interior minister stressed that the ministry agencies were ready to prevent any terrorist attacks on Kuwait. The amendment increases preventive detention at police stations from two to four days and to 21 days from 10 days at the public prosecution. Detention periods were reduced in 2012 by the opposition-dominated assembly. Before closing the assembly term, Speaker Marzouk Al-Ghanem emphasized on the "historic" achievements of the National Assembly. He declared the term closed and said the next term will start in October.

ADVISORY TO KUWAITIS TRAVELLING TO BRITAIN

LONDON: Kuwait Embassy in the UK issued a number of instructions to follow by Kuwaitis visiting Britain this season, whether it is for tourism or medical treatment. In a statement issued yesterday, the embassy underlined the importance of committing to the type of entry permit visa issued by the British Embassy in Kuwait.

Recently, Kuwaiti citizens have been entering the UK for medical care using tourism visa, which is a violation of the country's law, it explained. Meanwhile, the embassy said citizens must show a two-way ticket to British immigration officials adding that the UK authorities have deported Kuwaitis who had only one-way tickets. — KUNA

UAE CALLS TO AVOID NATIONAL DRESS ABROAD

Continued from Page 1

After confirming that Menhali posed no danger, the policemen let go of the Emirati man, who said he collapsed and needed treatment in hospital. Menhali had been in the United States since April for treatment after a

brain stroke suffered last year, said Emarat Al-Youm, another UAE daily. Anti-Muslim incidents have spiked in the United States on the back of deadly IS attacks in the West that prompted presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump to call for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country. — AFP

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Issues

UK UNIVERSITIES FEAR BREXIT FUNDING FALLOUT

By Remi Banet

Britain's shock Brexit vote has left the country's universities worried about its impact, whether on exchange programs or research funding. In Cambridge, southeast England, students at the world-famous university's 31 colleges have left for the summer, but among the teaching staff still here the word Brexit is on everyone's lips.

"It's the only topic of conversation, even a week later," Athene Donald, master of Churchill College, told AFP, adding that it was still "far too early to know what the consequences are going to be".

The stakes, for Cambridge and the country, are high: over 125,000 European students were enrolled this year in British universities, or five percent of the total, while 15 percent of academic staff come from other EU countries, according to Universities UK (UUK).

British universities received 836 million British pounds (995 million euros, \$1.1 million) in subsidies and research contracts in the 2014-15 academic year alone. In the wake of the June 23 referendum, numerous universities have sought to reassure their students from other EU countries, notably on the question of tuition fees. EU students have until now not paid the same as their counterparts from elsewhere in the world, who have to stump up for International Status fees, which can be much higher.

"In 2016/17, the fees will be the same, and you will still have access to the government loan" as do British students on Home Fee status, said Michael Arthur, president of University College London in a video posted on YouTube aimed at European students.

"If you're thinking of coming to study with us after that time... we believe that nothing will have changed then either," he said, while adding:

"We're seeking clarifications on that from the government at the moment." British universities minister Jo Johnson is also seeking to reassure them. "UK welcomes EU students. Current students and this autumn's applicants will continue to receive student finance for duration of their course," he tweeted after the shock Brexit vote.

'It won't kill us'

On Friday, the Scottish government issued a statement saying it hoped Scotland would remain a "destination of choice" for EU students. Outside the EU, Britain would also have to renegotiate its participation in the Erasmus program, to which over 200,000 British students have signed up.

"We got emails from British students panicked after the referendum," said Dolores Sobrino of France's prestigious Universite Paris-Sorbonne, where 27 percent of Erasmus students come from Britain. "We told them they don't need to worry because their registration (at the Sorbonne) is not in question at the moment," she told AFP.

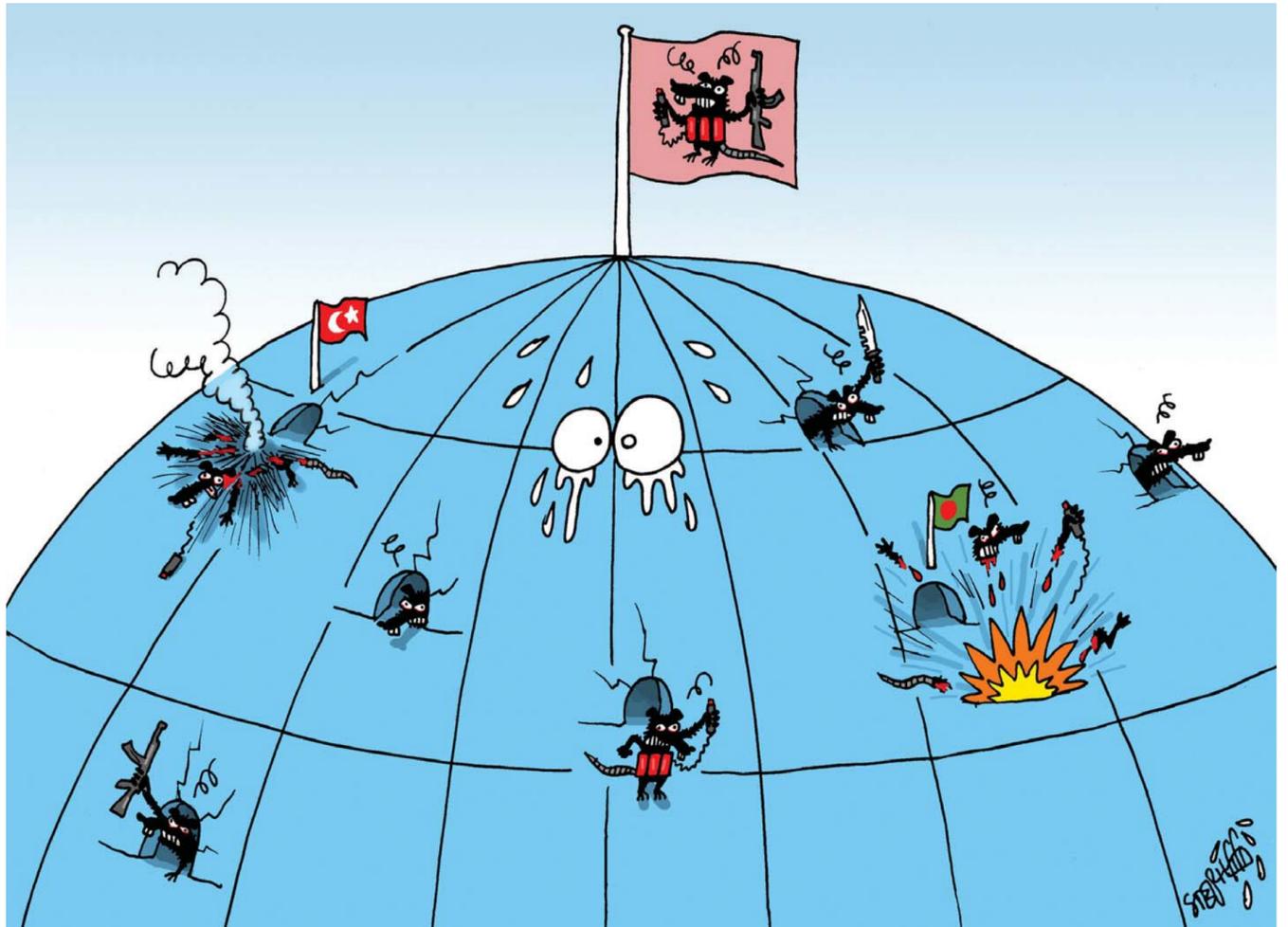
"Nevertheless, the problem could emerge in coming years, if Britain were to leave the Erasmus+ program." Back at Churchill College, its head said: "One can imagine a situation where it is not (as) easy for European students to come here. "But, having said that, we'll still have huge numbers of Chinese, American and Indian students. I do not expect this university to cease to be a global university," added Donald. She said a bigger worry is funding for research. In her college, scientific research projects get a quarter of their funding from the EU.

"There is no certainty that we will be cut off from that funding. And that's why we need to be arguing very strongly," said Donald, a professor of experimental physics.

"Our vice chancellor saw commissioner (Carlos) Moedas this week... This is a huge concern" she added, referring to the EU commissioner for research, science and innovation in Brussels. Nevertheless, whatever impact Brexit ultimately has, she is confident Cambridge university-one of the oldest in Britain along with Oxford-can cope.

"It won't kill the university," she said. "We shouldn't be too dramatic about the consequences of Brexit. We have been here for 800 years, we will survive." —AFP

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DHAKA 'IN DENIAL' OVER JIHADIST ATTACKS

By Abhaya Srivastava

A slaughter of foreign hostages has put Bangladesh firmly on the front-line of the global war on terror despite government efforts to portray a campaign of attacks as the work of domestic opponents, according to analysts. Several dozen people have been killed by jihadists in Bangladesh in the last two years, the victims including mainly local atheist bloggers, Hindus, gay activists and liberal academics.

But while those attacks generated few column inches beyond Bangladesh, this weekend's hostage siege in a Dhaka cafe led news bulletins around the world, attracting the kind of attention its perpetrators had long been craving.

Analysts said the choice of venue, target, timing and method of killing were all designed to maximize publicity for jihadists who were well aware of the outrage that greeted recent massacres in Orlando and Paris. Eighteen of the 20 civilians who were killed in the Holy Artisan Bakery were foreigners. Nearly all were hacked to death with machetes, even though the hostage-takers had plenty of firearms.

The attack was even more shocking as it came on the final weekend of Ramadan,

with survivors describing how the hostage-takers made clear their targets were non-Muslims, separating locals from the foreigners. Around 90 percent of Bangladesh's 160 million people are Muslims but the state is officially secular.

"By hacking people to death... they wanted to show the world that they can go to any extent for jihad," said K G Suresh, a senior fellow at New Delhi's Vivekananda International Foundation think-tank.

"Once they attack a restaurant popular with foreigners on a Friday night their message is clear who they want to go after. By sparing Muslims, they wanted to send out the message that they are only against Westerners." According to the monitoring group SITE, the Islamic State organization claimed responsibility for the attack which it said had targeted "citizens of crusader states".

But Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's secular government has long insisted neither IS nor Al-Qaeda have gained a foothold in Bangladesh despite both groups claiming many previous attacks. That line was reiterated by Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan who told AFP that six gunmen killed at the end of the siege were members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, a domestic group which has

been banned for a decade.

He denied any link with IS but analysts said that stretched credibility. Taj Hashmi, a Bangladeshi who teaches security studies at the Austin Peay State University in the US, said there could be "no ambiguity" that the attack was the work of IS. "Bangladesh must admit that international Islamist networks are actively engaged in killing people in the country and they are not through yet," said Hashmi.

Mubashar Hasan, an expert on political Islam at Dhaka's Liberal Arts University, said the attack was not merely a local difficulty but was the latest in a line that stretched back to the bombings in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001. "This is Bangladesh's 9/11. Bangladesh has now entered into the global war on terror," Hasan said.

Critics have said the violence stems from the government's refusal to allow its opponents to operate freely in the political mainstream.

'Lack of democracy'

Bangladesh's main Islamist party has been banned and most of its leaders have been arrested or else executed after recent trials over their role in the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. Opposition

leader Khaleda Zia is facing a string of court cases for her role in violent anti-government protests.

Zia's party boycotted the 2014 general election after Hasina refused to allow it to be overseen by a neutral caretaker government as in the past, and Hasan said growing extremism was an inevitable consequence. "A dysfunctional state and lack of democracy made it fertile ground for terrorism," said Hasan. The columnist Zafar Sobhan urged the government to end "its state of denial".

"It cannot continue to bury its head in the sand about the clear and convincing evidence of transnational links to domestic terror groups and operations," he wrote in the Dhaka Tribune.

Subhash Agrawal of the Delhi-based India Focus political risk consultancy, said the recent arrests of thousands of Bangladeshis that the government says was organized to eradicate extremism had been counter-productive. "She has been focusing on her political opponents and going after Begum Khaleda Zia's people while turning a blind eye to the alarming political and social polarization in her country," Agrawal told AFP.

"Arresting so many people is simply stupid." —AFP

A DIVIDED POLAND MULLS TOTAL ABORTION BAN

By Anna Maria Jakubek

A 35-year-old woman rests on her hospital bed in Germany after an abortion. Her staunchly Catholic country, Poland, has one of Europe's most restrictive termination laws, so she and her partner drove just over the border. "We told no one. Because I know it's forbidden, because I was afraid, even of people's reactions," said the mother-of-one who wished to remain anonymous.

Now Poland is mulling a near-total ban, even as tens of thousands of women opt for sometimes risky illegal abortions or, if they can afford it, travel to foreign hospitals like this one in the town of Prenzlau.

When the woman and her partner learnt they were having twins, they were overjoyed. Then there were complications. One died. Doctors could not say for sure if the other would be healthy.

"It's a hard decision for everyone, traumatic. I simply had really bad test results," the woman, a lapsed Catholic, told AFP. Passed in 1993, the current legislation bans all terminations unless there was rape or incest, the pregnancy poses a health risk to the mother or the foetus is severely deformed.

This week, anti-abortion activists plan to submit a petition to parliament, controlled by conservatives since November, that would allow abortion only if the mother's life is at risk.

Such citizen's initiatives are admissible with at least 100,000 signatures this one has garnered more than 375,000 — and usually end up in a parliamentary vote. The initiative calls for increasing the maximum jail penalty for practitioners from two years to five. It also makes mothers liable, though judges could waive punishment in their case.

Abortion "is just as wrong as allowing the murder of any other group of people," said Mariusz Dzierzawski, 60, head of the pro-life group behind the project.

"It's like how the Germans said it was

okay to murder Jews. And children before birth are an even broader category," the father of three adult daughters said.

Hot button issue

The proposal has also won the backing of top bishops, though its provisions to penalize women have since divided the Church. The leader of the governing conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, said, "On these kinds of issues, as a Catholic I follow the teaching of the bishops."



WARSAW: Pro-choice campaigners march in Warsaw against proposed changes to Poland's restrictive abortion law that would effectively ban terminations in the EU country of 38 million people. —AFP

But as a lifelong bachelor, he was quickly challenged by former first lady and mother-of-eight Danuta Walesa: "What do you know about the life of bees since you don't live in a beehive?"

The proposal, which the Council of Europe called "serious backsliding on women's rights", also inspired several pro-choice marches and a rival drive to liberalize the law. There are signs the conser-

vatives are aware the hot button issue divides Poles. Dzierzawski said PiS politicians initially tried to talk him out of presenting the initiative.

One 53-year-old Warsaw woman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP she got pregnant at 21 and panicked. "I was trying to get into college. I thought everything was falling apart.

All my plans..." she said. She chose to abort, against her boyfriend's wishes. They wound up marrying and having two children before he left. She blames the abortion.

"When I think about grandkids, then I remember what happened. That there could have been more kids," she said. "It's starting to eat away at me, oppress me. And it will be like that for the rest of my life." Arguing that restricted access gives women a chance to think twice, she backs the status quo.

As do most Poles, according to an April survey from independent pollsters

CBOS, which saw support for the exceptions range from 58 percent (incest) to 84 percent (risk to mother's life).

Only a little over 10 percent said a woman should be allowed to abort if she is in financial straits or does not want children.

Doctors afraid

Yet another CBOS survey from 2013 found that every third or fourth Polish woman has had an abortion. "It's do as I say, not as I do," said Krystyna Kacpura, director of the pro-choice Federation for Women and Family Planning. The country of 38 million people sees under 2,000 legal abortions a year, but Kacpura estimates that another 100,000-150,000 procedures are performed illegally or abroad.

One Slovak clinic even has a Polish-language website and phone line, plus drivers who will pick women up at designated spots in several Polish cities. The public hospital in Prenzlau does "quite a few" Polish surgical abortions, according to Janusz Rudzinski, a Polish doctor there who has lived in Germany for decades. "They're mostly middle-class, but actresses also come, famous too. Politicians' wives, bank directors," he told AFP, saying he has even had the occasional nun or priest plus girlfriend.

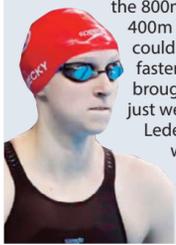
For those who stay home, there are Internet offers of pills that "induce menstruation" or doctors like an anaesthesiologist arrested last month for performing a medical abortion on the sly.

Other doctors have signed a conscience clause, opting out of performing abortions, even the legal ones. The southern Podkarpackie region made headlines when every doctor signed.

Rudzinski said he gets around 50 calls a day from Poland, not always for appointments. Many women just need an ear. "In Poland, they simply don't have anyone they can honestly talk to right now," he said. —AFP

LEDECKY WINS 800M FREE TO BOOK RIO REPEAT BID

OMAHA: World record-holder Katie Ledecky won the 800m freestyle at the US Olympic swimming trials on Saturday to earn a chance to defend the title she won four years ago in London. Ledecky pushed early and was on pace to break her own world record of 8min, 06.68secs through the first 400m. With less than 200m remaining she had slipped off world record pace, but claimed a decisive victory in 8:10.32. That's the third-fastest in history-and a slight improvement on the 8:10.91 she posted in Friday's preliminaries.



"I got the job done, I punched my ticket," said Ledecky, who added the 800m free to a Rio program that already includes the 200m and 400m freestyles. "I would have liked to have been faster, but I could kind of tell during the race that it wasn't going to be much faster than yesterday," Ledecky said. "I would have liked to have brought in my legs a little bit more throughout the race, but they just weren't there tonight and made my arms a little tired."

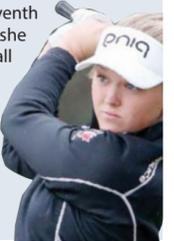
Ledecky was just 15 when she shot to prominence in London with an upset win in the 800m free. Since then she has become a dominant force, grabbing world records in the 400m free and in the 1,500m free, which isn't contested by women at the Olympics.—AP

LEICESTER SIGN FRANCE'S NAMPALYS FROM NICE

LEICESTER: Premier League champions Leicester have signed former France Under-21 midfielder Nampalys Mendy from Nice on a four-year deal, both clubs confirmed yesterday. The 24-year-old, who helped Nice to fourth place in Ligue 1 last season, has signed for an undisclosed fee which is reported to be around 16 million euro (\$17.8m). "I am very happy to come to Leicester City. The team has just enjoyed a great season and it's excellent to be here," Mendy told the club's official website. "For me I want to play at this level. I like the Premier League and I follow every match. It's fast and physical and I want to impose myself on the league." Mendy, who played 110 Ligue 1 games for Nice, worked under Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri during a spell with Monaco, and becomes the club's third signing of the summer after Germany goalkeeper Ron-Robert Zieler and Spanish defender Luis Hernandez. "I know the coach, I know his mentality and I know his philosophy. When he speaks it's direct and clear and for me I like this," he added. If the transfer fee is confirmed it would be the biggest in the history of Nice after striker Loïc Rémy in 2010 to Marseille for 15 million euro.—AFP

CHAMP HENDERSON LEADS LPGA PORTLAND CLASSIC

WASHINGTON: Defending champion Brooke Henderson fired a two-under par 70 Saturday to seize a two-stroke lead after the third round of the LPGA Portland Classic. The 18-year-old Canadian, ranked second in the world, stood on 13-under par 203 after 54 holes at 6,476-yard Columbia Edgewater Country Club in Portland, Oregon. "I definitely want to play better," Henderson said. Colombia's Mariajo Uribe was second on 205 after a third-round 71, with Norway's Suzann Pettersen shooting a 74 with six bogeys and four birdies to fall to a share of third with American Austin Ernst on 207. Henderson birdied the third and par-five seventh holes and began the back nine with another birdie. But she stumbled with a double bogey at the par-three 13th to fall back, before a birdie at the par-three 16th boosted her lead. "I didn't take my time on the tee shot," Henderson said of the double bogey. "I set my target and didn't really commit to it. I just mis-hit it. After that, I just tried to regroup and was able to make one more birdie (at No 16) coming in." Uribe opened with a bogey, then birdied a trio of par-five holes—the fifth, seventh and 12th.



TORONTO: Cleveland Indians' Tyler Naquin slides safely into home on a triple hit by Rajai Davis during the third inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays, Saturday, July 2, 2016. — AP

BLUE JAYS SNAP CLEVELAND'S 14-GAME STREAK

TORONTO: Cleveland's franchise-record 14-game winning streak was snapped by a 9-6 loss to Toronto on Saturday, with the Blue Jays scoring three runs in the eighth to overcome a cycle by Rajai Davis. Toronto star Josh Donaldson hit a tying solo shot off Dan Otero (2-1) in the seventh and then made it 7-6 with an RBI single in the eighth. Michael Saunders added a two-run double, and Roberto Osuna pitched the ninth for his 16th save. Edwin Encarnacion and Troy Tulowitzki also homered for Toronto, which lost 2-1 in 19 innings on Friday, matching the longest game in Blue Jays history. Jason Grilli (2-2) pitched one inning for the win. Davis became the eighth player in Cleveland history to hit for the cycle. He led off the game with a homer, tripled home a run in the third, doubled and scored in the seventh and singled in the ninth.

league-leading 28th save. Anthony Rizzo and Ben Zobrist homered for the Cubs.

DODGERS 6, ROCKIES 1

Scott Kazmir pitched six scoreless innings, Trayce Thompson and Adrian Gonzalez drove in two runs each and Los Angeles got its eighth straight home victory. Kazmir (7-3) extended his unbeaten streak to 10 starts by holding the Rockies to

game of the season, Nelson Cruz and Seth Smith both hit three-run home runs and Seattle slugged past Baltimore. Cruz staked Seattle to a 3-0 lead with his 21st homer of the season in the first inning off Baltimore starter Tyler Wilson (4-6) and Zunino extended it to 5-0 in the second on a two-run shot in his first at-bat of the season after being called up from Triple-A Tacoma earlier this week. James Paxton (2-3) was dominant for four innings

Twins rookie record by driving in seven runs. Eduardo Nunez had four hits for the Twins, who scored at least three runs in four of the first five innings. Kepler's second home run of the day capped a six-run fifth inning and gave Minnesota a 17-4 lead. Texas right-hander Chi Chi Gonzalez (0-1) recorded just two outs in his second start of the season. Ryan Rua and Robinson Chirinos homered for the AL-leading Rangers, who had won five of seven. Tyler Duffey (4-6) was the beneficiary of the outburst from one of the majors' weakest lineups, pitching six innings for his second straight win.

allowed seven hits, struck out five and walked two. Jimmy Nelson (5-7) gave up three runs, two earned, and seven hits in six innings.

WHITE SOX 7, ASTROS 6

Chris Sale pitched seven-plus innings to become the majors' first 14-game winner, helping the White Sox to the victory on the road. Sale (14-2) settled down after a slow start, allowing five runs, four earned, and six hits. David Robertson yielded AJ Reed's first career homer in the ninth before finishing for his 22nd save. Dioner Navarro drove in a season-high four runs for Chicago, which has won three of four. JB Shuck hit a solo homer in the fourth and an RBI triple in Chicago's two-run eighth inning. Houston starter Doug Fister (8-4) allowed nine hits and five runs in 4 2/3 innings for his second straight loss. He walked five and struck out three.

ROYALS 6, PHILLIES 2

Kendrys Morales homered twice and drove in four runs, powering Kansas City to the win. Morales extended his hitting streak to eight consecutive games with a second-inning homer. He is batting .565 with seven homers and 21 RBIs in his last 13 games. Kansas City's Danny Duffy (4-1) allowed two runs and seven hits in a career-high 8 2/3 innings. The left-hander's previous best was eight innings, which he tied in Monday's win over St. Louis. Cesar Hernandez and Maikel Franco each had two hits for Philadelphia, which had won four in a row. Aaron Nola (5-8) allowed five runs and six hits in five innings.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, GIANTS 5

Wellington Castillo's three-run homer off Hunter Strickland (3-1) in the eighth inning rallied Arizona to end a six-game losing streak. Jake Barrett (1-0) earned his first major league win in relief and Brad Ziegler got his 17th save of the season. The Diamondbacks avoided their longest losing streak of the season.

REDS 9, NATIONALS 4

Tucker Barnhart singled home the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning and Cincinnati piled on to end a five-game skid. Josh Smith (1-1) pitched 1 1/3 innings for his first career win. Eugenio Suarez and Brandon Phillips opened the 10th with singles off Sammy Solis (1-3) and first baseman Ryan Zimmerman was unable to field Billy Hamilton's sacrifice attempt, loading the bases.—AP

MLB Results/Standings

Toronto 9, Cleveland 6; Minnesota 17, Texas 5; St. Louis 3, Milwaukee 0; Chicago White Sox 7, Houston 6; Detroit 3, Tampa Bay 2; Atlanta 9, Miami 1; Kansas City 6, Philadelphia 2; NY Mets 4, Chicago Cubs 3; Cincinnati 9, Washington 4 (10 innings); LA Angels 21, Boston 2; Pittsburgh 4, Oakland 2 (10 innings); Seattle 12, Baltimore 6; LA Dodgers 6, Colorado 1; San Diego 2, NY Yankees 1; Arizona 6, San Francisco 5.

American League Eastern Division					National League Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB					
Baltimore	47	33	.588	-	Washington	49	33	.598	-
Boston	43	37	.538	4	NY Mets	43	37	.538	5
Toronto	44	39	.530	4.5	Miami	42	39	.519	6.5
NY Yankees	39	41	.488	8	Philadelphia	36	46	.439	13
Tampa Bay	33	47	.413	14	Atlanta	28	53	.346	20.5
Central Division					Central Division				
Cleveland	49	31	.613	-	Chicago Cubs	51	29	.638	-
Kansas City	43	37	.538	6	St. Louis	42	38	.525	9
Detroit	43	38	.531	6.5	Pittsburgh	40	41	.494	11.5
Chicago White Sox	41	40	.506	8.5	Milwaukee	35	45	.438	16
Minnesota	26	54	.325	23	Cincinnati	30	52	.366	22
Western Division					Western Division				
Texas	52	30	.634	-	San Francisco	51	32	.614	-
Houston	43	38	.531	8.5	LA Dodgers	46	37	.554	5
Seattle	42	39	.519	9.5	Colorado	37	43	.463	12.5
Oakland	35	46	.432	16.5	Arizona	37	46	.446	14
LA Angels	33	48	.407	18.5	San Diego	35	46	.432	15

ANGELS 21, RED SOX 2

CJ Cron went 6 for 6 with two homers and five RBIs, Carlos Perez had five hits and drove in six and Los Angeles ended a four-game losing streak. Albert Pujols hit his 575th career homer - a two-run shot - and had five RBIs for the Angels, who had lost 10 of their last 11 games. Cron and Perez each homered during an 11-run seventh inning. They are the first set of teammates with at least five hits and five RBIs in the same game since Gene Moore and Buck Jordan for the Boston Braves in 1936, according to ESPN. It's the sixth time the Angels reached 20 runs, the last coming against Kansas City on Aug. 25, 2004. The club record for runs is 24, set at Toronto on Aug. 25, 1979. Hector Santiago (5-4) got the win, holding the majors' highest scoring team to one unearned run and four hits over six innings. Clay Buchholz (3-9) gave up six runs - three earned - in 4 1/3 innings.

METS 4, CUBS 3

Jake Arrieta lost a regular-season road start for the first time in 14 months when Neil Walker hit a two-run homer and Travis d'Arnaud blooped a two-run single that pushed the Mets to their third straight win over the Cubs. Bartolo Colon (7-4) outpitched the NL Cy Young Award winner, who struggled with his control in a 35-pitch first inning, when he went to 3-2 counts on his first four batters. After winning his first 12 decisions, Arrieta (12-3) lost for the third time in six starts, giving up four runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. Colon allowed two runs and four hits in six innings. Jeury Familia worked the ninth for his major

a single and two doubles. He struck out 10 without walking a batter. Rockies starter Chad Bettis (6-6) lost for the first time in five starts, giving up four runs on six hits in six innings. He struck out four and walked one.

PADRES 2, YANKEES 1

Melvin Upton Jr homered on the first pitch of the ninth to give San Diego a walk-off win. It was the third game-ending homer of the year for Upton, who homered into the second balcony on the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner. Andrew Miller (5-1) was starting his second inning for the Yankees. Brad Hand (2-2) pitched the ninth for the win.

MARINERS 12, ORIOLES 6

Mike Zunino homered twice in his first

game of the season, Nelson Cruz and Seth Smith both hit three-run home runs and Seattle slugged past Baltimore. Cruz staked Seattle to a 3-0 lead with his 21st homer of the season in the first inning off Baltimore starter Tyler Wilson (4-6) and Zunino extended it to 5-0 in the second on a two-run shot in his first at-bat of the season after being called up from Triple-A Tacoma earlier this week. James Paxton (2-3) was dominant for four innings

PIRATES 4, ATHLETICS 2

David Freese hit a go-ahead single in the top of the 10th inning, and Pittsburgh got its third straight win. Erik Kratz led off the inning with a single against Daniel Coulombe (1-1). Jordy Mercer sacrificed him over and Freese singled to left. A's left fielder Coco Crisp threw out Freese at home on Adam Frazier's single moments later, and the play was upheld on an umpire review. Juan Nicasio (6-6) struck out two in the ninth for the victory, then Mark Melancon allowed a pair of singles before finishing for his 23rd save.

TWINS 17, RANGERS 5

Max Kepler homered twice and set a



OMAHA: Michael Phelps swims in the men's 100-meter butterfly final at the US Olympic swimming trials. (INSET) Michael Phelps waves to fans after winning the race. — AP

PHELPS GOES OUT ON TOP IN FINAL US RACE

OMAHA: Michael Phelps wasn't about to lose his last race in the United States. With his gangly arms cutting through the water, Phelps dazzled the home fans one last time. Phelps made it three-for-three at the US Olympic swimming trials, rallying on the return lap to win the 100-meter butterfly Saturday night. In what was billed as the farewell race in his home country, Phelps competed in lane seven after a sluggish swim in the semifinals. As usual, it took him a lap to really get going, making the turn in fourth place.

But Phelps powered to the front, as he's done so many times. Even with a long glide to the wall, he finished in 51.00 seconds. When Phelps saw the "1" beside his name, he pounded the water and pointed toward his family - including 7-week-old son Boomer - up in the stands. He'll now get a chance to win his fourth straight gold in the 100 fly at Rio. When his longtime coach, Bob Bowman, asked for a game plan before the race, Phelps kept it simple. "I don't want to lose my last race on American soil," he said. Katie Ledecky

and Maya DiRado also won their third individual events on the next-to-last night of the trials, while Nathan Adrian made up for the disappointment of four years ago by winning the 50 freestyle.

For Ledecky, it's been the dominating performance everyone expected, this one a nearly 10 second victory in the 800 freestyle. For DiRado, it's been a huge surprise, the first-time Olympian setting herself up to make quite a splash before she retires at age 23. A late bloomer who already lined up a job as a business analyst in Atlanta, she followed her victories in the 200 and 400 individual medley by knocking off defending Olympic champion Missy Franklin in the 200 backstroke. Franklin finished second to at least ensure she'll get a chance to go for another gold in Rio. Phelps, of course, is also planning to retire - for the second time - as soon as his fifth Olympics are over.

Last Olympics

At age 31, he cruised through Omaha with victories in both butterfly races as well as the

200 individual medley. Assuming he is on all three men's relays in Rio, a virtual lock, he'll get a chance to add six more medals to his already massive collection of 18 golds and 22 medals overall. The second Olympic spot in the 100 fly went to Tom Shields, who touched in 51.20 to barely beat out Seth Stubblefield (51.24). "We did everything that we wanted to do," Phelps said. Well, not quite. He'll need to go even faster in Rio.

"A 51.0 is OK," he said, "but it's going to take more than that to win a gold medal." One night after competing in the 100 free, the 19-year-old Ledecky didn't have quite enough in the tank to challenge her own world record. She finished in 8 minutes, 10.32 seconds, far off the mark of 8:06.68 she set in January at a meet in Austin, Texas.

The swimmer who surprisingly captured gold in the 800 free four years ago will go into Rio as one of the biggest favorites in any sport. Leah Smith took the second Olympics spot in 8:20.18 - nearly half a lap behind Ledecky. Ledecky also posted Omaha wins in the 200 and 400 free, which means she'll

have three individual events and a relay at the Olympics. The only thing that didn't go her way: a seventh-place finish in the 100 free, an event she only recently started focusing on in hopes of landing a second relay race. Ledecky will be busy enough as it is. "She's going to tear it up," Phelps predicted. "She always does." DiRado was nearly a body length ahead of Franklin in the 200 back with a winning time of 2:06.90. "This is a dream," DiRado said. Franklin, a big disappointment at the trials but still set to swim three events in Rio, finished in 2:07.89 to hold off Lisa Bratton for the second berth. "I got a spot and that's all that I needed to do," Franklin said. "There's so much room for improvement." Franklin claimed her second individual event in Rio, having also taken the runner-up spot in the 200 freestyle. She'll also swim the 4x200 free relay, a far cry from her grueling seven-event program at London four years ago.

"One of the things I've been trying to do this whole year is not compare myself to where I was in 2012," she said. "I'm here to be the best of who I am right now." Adrian sur-

prisingly failed to qualify in the 50 free at the 2012 trials, though he did go on to capture Olympic gold in the 100 free at London. This time, Adrian swept the sprint events. In a furious dash from one end of the pool to the other, he touched ahead of Anthony Ervin in 21.51 seconds. Ervin claimed the second spot for Rio - one-hundredth of a second behind the winner. "It's an honor to come out of that field on top," Adrian said. Looking ahead to his Rio double, he added, "It's not going to be easy." Two-time Olympian Cullen Jones won't be heading to Rio. The silver medalist from London finished third at 21.75, missing a spot on the US team.

At age 32, it might've been Jones' last realistic shot at the Olympics. He was the final man to climb out of the pool, soaking up the moment for as long as possible. Then again, age hasn't been a hindrance to Ervin. The 35-year-old is the oldest swimmer at the trials, but he's heading to the Olympics for the third time. "I'm enjoying it more than 2000," Ervin said, remembering his first Olympics as a 19-year-old. "That seems so long ago." — AP



GBK CONCLUDES SPONSORSHIP OF JASSIM AL-SHARHAN FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank has announced the conclusion of the sponsorship of the 33rd late Jassim Al-Sharhan Ramadan annual football tournament, which comes in line with the bank's strategy to develop youth skills and as part of its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives during the month of Ramadan. The late Jassim Al-Sharhan Ramadan Football tournament, which is traditionally run throughout the month of Ramadan, is one of the most prominent sports activities that take place in Kuwait

during the Holy Month. The tournament is played each year in the memory of the late Jassim Al-Sharhan, and it has become very popular among football fans and players in Kuwait, providing a vibrant and competitive atmosphere enjoyed by the teams and the fans. Gulf Bank is firmly committed to supporting all segments of Kuwait society and it is particularly focused on youth programs, giving young people the best possible start and as many opportunities as possible to help them achieve their full potential.

PRO BOXERS N'DAM, RUENROENG ENTER RIO QUALIFYING TOURNEY

VARGAS: A former IBF flyweight champion from Thailand and a French-Cameroonian middleweight contender are the most prominent professional boxers attempting to win berths in the Rio de Janeiro Olympics during the final qualifying tournament. The International Boxing Association (IBA) announced the entrants Saturday for the tournament beginning Sunday night in Vargas, Venezuela. IBA decided earlier this year to allow professional boxers to compete for an Olympic berth, but Amnat Ruenroeng and Hassan N'Dam are the most prominent fighters to seize the opportunity.

IBA's decision sparked renewed interest in the often-overlooked Olympic sport and drew tentative interest from some pros. The gambit also received widespread condemnation from boxers and coaches concerned about the safety and sanctity of the amateur sport. After so much drama, it's increasingly likely that no prominent professional fighters will be in the Rio tournament. Ruenroeng and N'Dam are both former Olympians who fell one victory shy of a medal in their first trips to the Games.

The 36-year-old Ruenroeng is competing at the 60-kilogram lightweight limit in Venezuela. He is most famous for taking up

boxing while serving a 15-year jail sentence for robbery. Ruenroeng fought for Thailand at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, losing to Mongolia's Purevdorjiin Serdamba in the quarterfinals. He didn't turn pro until 2012, but he won the IBF flyweight title in January 2014 and defended it five times, including a unanimous decision over Chinese star Zou Shiming, a two-time Olympic gold medalist.

Scathing condemnation

Ruenroeng lost his title on May 25, getting stopped by John Riel Casimero. Less than six weeks later, he will attempt to win a spot in the Rio Olympics. The 32-year-old N'Dam is competing for Cameroon at the 81-kilogram light heavyweight limit in Venezuela. He also fought for Cameroon at the Athens Games in 2004, losing in the quarterfinals to Russia's eventual gold medalist Gaydarbek Gaydarbekov. N'Dam won his first 27 pro fights, mostly in France. He briefly held interim middleweight titles with the WBO and WBA, but Peter Quillin beat N'Dam by unanimous decision in October 2012 for the first loss of his career. N'Dam then was battered by Canada's David Lemieux in June 2015 in a bout for the IBF middleweight title. — AP

NO CELEBRATION TODAY, HUDDLE RUNS HARD ACROSS FINISH LINE

EUGENE: Molly Huddle ran hard through the finish line this time. Didn't matter. Nobody was going to catch her anyway. The long-distance runner who gave up the bronze medal at the world championships last year by celebrating too soon left no room for doubt at the US Track and Field Trials on Saturday. She outdistanced second-place finisher Emily Infeld by nearly five seconds in the 10,000 meters, never coming close to the finish-line stumble in Beijing, when Huddle slowed and raised her hands a step before the tape. That day, the hard-charging Infeld shouldered her way past for the bronze medal.

"I don't think I'll ever get over it," said Huddle, who finished in 31 minutes, 41.62 seconds on a hot afternoon at Hayward Field. "But I'm trying to move past it and not dwell on it, not let it steal anymore from me by fixating on it." Huddle insisted she learned from the mistake, even if the lesson was a tough one. On Saturday, Huddle took the race out at a brisk pace so that not many runners would follow the lead. There were four for a while, then three and finally just Infeld and Huddle with a lap remaining. Just to be safe, Huddle cranked it up another gear to pull away from Infeld.

Still, Huddle couldn't help but cast a quick glance at the scoreboard near the finish, just to make sure Infeld wasn't gaining ground. She wasn't. No celebration, though. "I was just relieved," Huddle said. "I didn't want any disasters to happen." There were certainly a few chances for one, like when a discus rolled across the track during the middle of the race. No one was bothered by it. Or when Kim Conley - a pre-race favorite - was stepped on and lost a spike. She had to stop to put it back on, costing her valuable time. So much that she elected to call it a day early and save her strength for the 5,000 on Thursday. "I tried to catch up, but the leaders were too far ahead," said Conley, a 2012 Olympian.

For Huddle, this was business as usual. "What happened last year, I'm mad at myself," Huddle said. "But I was glad that another American placed. I would've felt worse if it weren't one of my teammates." There's no animosity between Huddle and Infeld. They're friends, and remained so even after the episode last year. "That would be a better story (if we weren't friends), but that's not true," Huddle said. What's true is this: Infeld is heading to her first Olympics. For that, the 26-year-old from Ohio thanks LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. "After watching the Cavs, I better step up my game," Infeld said. "It's such a special moment." — AP



EUGENE: Molly Huddle, winner, right, Emily Infeld, second place, center, and Marielle Hall, third place, celebrate their finish in the women's 10,000-meter final at the US Olympic Track and Field Trial. — AP

USA SPRINTERS STILL EXPECT BOLT AT RIO

EUGENE: It's a sport built on speed, and at US Olympic Track and Field Trials on Saturday, sprinters wasted no time drawing conclusions about Usain Bolt's summertime itinerary. The consensus: He'll be in Rio. For the second straight day, the Jamaican sprinter's hamstring was Topic No 1 in the track world. If Bolt is seriously hurt, the entire Olympics will take on a new perspective, whether it's Bolt at less-than-full strength or - still unthinkable at this point - absent altogether. Not that anyone going through preliminary rounds in Eugene was worried

about that. "Crazy stuff always happens in an Olympic year," said Bolt's main challenger, Justin Gatlin, who cruised through his 100-meter preliminary in a time of 10.03 seconds. "Like anyone else, you have to see what's going to happen. But c'mon. We're going to see his face in Rio one way or another." Gatlin, Tyson Gay, Mike Rodgers and Trayvon Bromell all advanced easily through the first round of the 100 on a sunny, 83-degree day that produced little in the way of top-line surprises.

Meanwhile, a continent away in Kingston, few clues emerged the day after Bolt, the 29-year-old world-record holder, pulled out of his national championships, posting a picture of himself on Twitter with electrical-stimulation pads stuck to his hamstring and the message: "Starting the recovery process right away." What is known is that Jamaica's rules are much less restrictive than those in the United States, which allow the top three finishers in each event to qualify, with no exceptions for injuries or past performances. Per Jamaica's rules, Bolt can earn his spot in the 100 and 200 if he can show he's fit enough; that judgment call has to be made by July 18, when Olympic rosters are due. "I feel like it's a cop-out. He should run like anybody else," said Rodgers, the 2009 US champion at 100 meters. "But at the end of the day, he's Bolt. He's the Olympic champ, he's the world champ. Until someone beats him, puts him in his place, he's going to do what he wants to do."

Eye-rolling concern

Indeed, there was more eye-rolling than genuine concern among the US sprinters, who feel like they've seen this before. In 2012, Bolt ran at Jamaica's nationals, but finished second to Yohan Blake in both the 100 and 200, not far removed from a minor car crash and dealing with some leg issues. Bolt was injured in the lead-up to world championships last year, but nonetheless edged Gatlin in the 100 and blew by him in the 200. Now, this. — AP



EUGENE: Justin Gatlin competes during qualifying for men's 100-meter run at the US Olympic Track and Field Trials. — AP



AL-DAWLI SCORES BIG IN AL-ROUDAN'S RAMADAN FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank's football team is accomplishing one win after another in the late Abdullah Mishari Al-Roudan's Ramadan indoor football tournament. In addition to its participation in this tournament that enjoys an outstanding response for many years, Al-Dawli is also the silver sponsor of this event driven by its social commitment towards the society and aim to support all types of initiatives that target all segments, be it humanitarian, sports, cultural and many more.

Commenting on the successive vic-

tory, the Head of Corporate Communications at KIB, Nawaf Najia, expressed his delight in the triumph achieved by Al-Dawli's team that has the best Kuwaiti and international professional players. He added that the bank's team is taking steady steps towards the finals after their big win against professional teams like Atom Sporting scoring 4/1, Martyr Fahad Al-Ahmad (6/1) and Ministry of Defense (3/0).

Najia stated, "We are confident that our team will reach the final match and with the blessings of Allah, our

skilled and well-prepared team will win the cup, as they have shown great capabilities and athletic skills so far." He also thanked the organizers' great efforts and key role in encouraging all society segments to exercise more for a healthier lifestyle. He concluded by saying that Al-Dawli's participation in this significant sports event is driven from its constant strive to interact with the youth and support their various initiatives, especially sports that boost their intellectual and physical activity enabling them to enhance their skills at all levels.



DAYTONA BEACH: Brad Keselowski, driver of the #2 Detroit Genuine Parts Ford, poses in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Coke Zero 400 Powered By Coca-Cola at Daytona International Speedway.—AFP

BRAD KESELOWSKI FINALLY EARNS DAYTONA VICTORY

DAYTONA BEACH: Brad Keselowski had his confidence shaken at Daytona International Speedway more than once. He was a good plate racer, but never could find his way to victory lane at NASCAR's most famous track. That changed Saturday night with a dominating performance that gave Team Penske its 100th career Sprint Cup Series victory.

More important, it gave Keselowski his long-awaited first win at Daytona. Keselowski led a race-high 115 laps then held off Kyle Busch on a two-lap shootout that sent the race into overtime for one additional lap. It gave him his fifth career Cup win in a restrictor-plate race, but all the others had come at Talladega. He won on the Alabama track most recently in May. "I don't care if it's not the 500. It's Daytona. This is huge," he said. "I love this place."

He loved it even when he came up frustratingly short, or not even close at all. Keselowski said his futility at Daytona was "a kick in the you-know-what," but he and his No 2 Ford crew kept chipping away at it even after he had a disappointing run in the season-opening Daytona 500. "I got down on myself here," he said. "We came down here for the 500 and quite honestly we ran like dog crap, but my team worked on it. I didn't give up on them. I believe in my team and my team believes in me and we went to work and we put together a better car, and it really showed with a great effort from the whole team. I'm really proud of everybody."

Marred race

The race was marred by a 22-car accident that collected more than half the field and thinned the competition for

Keselowski. It really only left Kyle Busch as a legitimate contender, but a restart for a two-lap shootout that sent it into overtime forced Keselowski to earn the win. He easily held off Busch, and challenger Kurt Busch was eliminated when he was knocked out of line by Joey Logano as they headed to the checkered flag.

Trevor Bayne finished third and was followed by Keselowski teammate Logano and Ricky Stenhouse Jr. as Ford drivers took four of the top five spots. Keselowski credited a push from his teammate for helping him shake the Busch brothers on the final restart. "I was able to get Brad a good push to clear and get a Penske car to victory lane, which is really cool," Logano said. "The 2 was the fastest car and he deserved to win the race."

It was a plan to work together and disrupt the Toyota contingent that used teamwork to dominate the Daytona 500. Instead, Kyle Busch was the only Toyota driver to finish inside the top 10. Kyle Larson was sixth and the highest finishing Chevrolet. He was followed by Austin Dillon, who ended last year's race in an airborne accident, then pole-sitter Greg Biffle and Clint Bowyer. Michael McDowell was 10th. Tony Stewart, seeking his fifth victory in his final race at Daytona, was in contention until a late accident. He finished 26th. Dale Earnhardt Jr. was the defending race winner, but never contended Saturday night and finished 21st. He was involved in the 22-car accident - his third consecutive crash in a plate race - but was able to continue to the finish this time. "Miserable night," Earnhardt tweeted. "Had some gremlins in the steering." — AP

AFRICAN CYCLING TEAM HOPING FOR TOUR DE FRANCE DOUBLE

UTAH BEACH: Mark Cavendish's African team will be aiming for a Tour de France double yesterday after the Briton's victory on the opening stage. Cavendish will start the 183km ride from Saint-Lo to Cherbourg-en-Cotentin in Normandy in the race leader's yellow jersey but it is his Norwegian teammate Edvald Boasson Hagen who holds a better chance of winning due to the short, uphill finish. But Boasson Hagen crashed in the sprint finish in Utah Beach on Saturday. "After a brilliant leadout job, Edvald Boasson Hagen crashed in the final."

Don't worry though, EBH is okay & celebrating with us!" said Team Dimension Data on Twitter. Boasson Hagen's crash meant Cavendish didn't see him at the finish and wasn't even aware of the accident until told by a journalist. "I'm so happy, we really wanted to win here today-the lads were incredible," said Cavendish. "Edvald did the most incredible turn there at the end. We didn't want him to lose any time because he could win (and take the yellow jersey on Sunday). "He rode out of his skin today. I didn't even know he'd gone down. "I was looking forward to seeing him and was waiting for him at the finish."

Cavendish also paid tribute to his other lead-out team-mates, Australian Mark Renshaw, Austrian Bernhard Eisel and Reinardt Janse Van Rensburg of South Africa. Cavendish leads the overall standings by four seconds from Marcel Kittel and six to Peter Sagan due to time bonuses on the line. Most of the rest of the peloton are 10 seconds back. But Cavendish himself has admitted it will be hard to keep the yellow jersey. "We'll see how the day goes, as you saw today it's quite windy around this region," he said.

Kittel to 'strike soon'

Kittel, who finished second ahead of Sagan in third, was gracious in defeat and vowed to come back stronger on another day. In both 2013 and 2014 he had won the opening stage of the Tour and wore the yellow jersey the next day. "No hard feelings with this 2nd place. Was early in the wind & Cav came fast from the back. Congrats @MarkCavendish!" he wrote on Twitter.



NORMANDY: Great Britain's Mark Cavendish, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, takes the start of the 183 km second stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Saint-Lo and Cherbourg-en-Cotentin. — AFP

"And a big shout out to my @Etixx_QuickStep boys. Great work with controlling the race and setting me up for the final. We'll strike soon!"

Kittel, who will wear the sprinters' green jersey as Cavendish will be in yellow, rejoiced at his countryman Paul Voss taking the polkadot jersey for top climber. "Happy for @paulvoss86! He will wear the polka dot jersey tomorrow. So, Germany still gets a jersey after the 1st Tour stage." Yesterday's stage will see a battle for king of the mountains points-Voss picked up the only two on offer on Saturday after getting in the breakaway. There are four categorized climbs offering a

maximum five points.

If a breakaway doesn't manage to stay away, the finish will offer a chance for the peloton's renowned 'punchers' to claim a stage win. Ardennes Classics specialists such as Australian pair Simon Gerrans and Michael Matthews, Spaniard Joaquim Rodriguez, Ireland's Dan Martin or Frenchman Julien Alaphilippe should be vying for the stage win. But the finish is sufficiently tough that overall contenders including reigning champion Chris Froome and Colombian climber Nairo Quintana will likely also be jostling to try to snare some valuable seconds early in the race. — AFP

KYRGIOS IN NEW WIMBLEDON ROW FOR 'RETARDED' BLAST

LONDON: Fiery Australian Nick Kyrgios was at the centre of a new Wimbledon row yesterday when he was heard labelling one of his own support team as "retarded". The incident, picked up by court-side microphones, occurred during the second set of his third round match against Feliciano Lopez on Court One late on Saturday. The Sydney Morning Herald claimed that Kyrgios also accused his entourage of failing to get behind him.

Kyrgios was heard to complain that he was "so p**** off" and adding: "Any of you? Any of you? Oh, it's a game point, maybe I'll actually give him some support now. It's a game point, pretty big point!" Earlier this week, Kyrgios's compatriot Bernard Tomic was forced to apologise for using the word

"retard" during a Wimbledon press conference. Kyrgios will resume his match with Lopez later yesterday with the third round tie level at 6-3, 6-7 (2/7). The winner will face second seed Andy Murray for a place in the quarter-finals.

Murray defended Kyrgios on Saturday, accusing the media of trying to provoke him into a reaction. "Obviously I'm sure over time he'll start to do better and understand better how to deal with all of the attention and the questions and stuff," said the 2013 champion. "But sometimes he hasn't done loads wrong, and he's got a rough ride." The 21-year-old Kyrgios, who beat Rafael Nadal on his way to the quarter-finals in 2014, has already been fined \$6,500 at Wimbledon this year. — AFP

TOP-RANKED DAY CLINGS TO SHARE OF WGC AKRON LEAD

WASHINGTON: World number one Jason Day found only three fairways off the tee but battled to a one-under par 69 to share the lead after Saturday's third round of the World Golf Championships Bridgestone Invitational. The 28-year-old Australian star, who defends his first major title later this month at the PGA Championship, stood on five-under par 205 after 54 holes at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. "I hit some pretty errant shots out there but my short game saved me," Day said. "I had to do something to save myself out there. I got into some trouble."

Level with Day atop the leaderboard was US Open runner-up Scott Piercy of the United States, who shot 67 Saturday. "The putter hasn't quite shown up yet," Piercy said. "If I'm putting solid and keep driving well, I've got a good chance." Day, seeking his fourth title of the year and 11th US PGA trophy of his career, found plenty of negatives to his round but one very big positive to focus upon. "I'm still tied for the lead and I haven't hit the golf ball that well this

week," Day said. "If I hit the ball decently and give myself a chance on the greens, I feel like I've got a good shot at winning tomorrow."

Day's wins this year came at the WGC Match Play, the Arnold Palmer Invitational and the Players Championship. The Aussie opened with a 14-foot birdie and sank another from the same distance at the sixth hole, but gave back the shots with bogeys at the par-3 seventh, missing a six-foot par putt, and eight, leaving his approach shy of the green. Day hung on down the stretch and took advantage of not missing a fairway on the par-3 15th, dropping a 35-foot birdie putt.

Not 'quite as hard'

Piercy, seeking his fourth career PGA victory and the first since last July's Barbasol Championship, found the Firestone fairways easier to find than those at the US Open two weeks ago at Oakmont. "Definitely after the Open, hitting these fairways doesn't seem quite as hard," said Piercy. "Making those fairways

here is part of the confidence you gain. I played clean, solid and didn't have a lot of stress." Piercy eagled the par-5 second hole, blasting out of a greenside bunker and into the cup from almost 50 feet away.

He put his approach inches from the cup at 11 to set up a birdie then made a 35-foot par-saving putt at 14 after finding a fairway bunker off the tee. Piercy dropped in a four-foot birdie putt at 17 before closing with his lone bogey of the day, finding the rough twice and a bunker to fall from sole possession of the lead. Sweden's David Lingmerth was third on 206 after shooting 69 Saturday. "It played tough," he said. "You've got to just hang on out there and give yourself some chances. Tomorrow will hopefully be better."

American Brian Stuard was fourth on 207 with last month's US Open winner Dustin Johnson and William McGirt of the United States and South African Charl Schwartzel, the 2011 Masters champion, sharing fifth on 208. —AFP

SEVILLA'S KRYCHOWIAK PENS 5-YEAR PSG DEAL

PARIS: Poland international midfielder Grzegorz Krychowiak has signed for French champions Paris Saint-Germain from Sevilla on a five-year deal, both clubs confirmed yesterday. The 26-year-old, who started his career at Ligue 1 side Bordeaux, links up again with former Sevilla coach Unai Emery, now at the helm of PSG. He becomes PSG's second recruit of the summer after French international midfielder Hatem Ben Arfa from Nice.

Emery's focus in Paris is to win the Champions League and Krychowiak, who has spent the past two years in Spain, was a key part of Sevilla winning a third consecutive Europa League title, beating Liverpool in the final in May. The Spanish press has reported the deal for Krychowiak-part of Poland's Euro 2016 squad eliminated in the quarter-finals by Portugal to be worth around 26 million Euro (\$28.9m).

"It's a feeling of great pride that drives me to return to France to wear the jersey of

a club as ambitious as Paris SG," said Krychowiak in comments reported by his new club. "To continue working with Unai Emery obviously played a part in my choice. I'm coming to Paris to experience strong emotions and to win as many trophies as possible." PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi said he was "very satisfied" with the signing. "These past two seasons, he was very efficient with Sevilla, in particular on the European scene, and he was one of the most prominent players in the Euro (2016)."

"Grzegorz embodies the values of discipline and combativeness that are dear to our club, our fans and our new coach with whom he wanted to continue working," the Qatari added. Emery took over last month from Laurent Blanc who won the domestic treble in each of his last two seasons with the club but it was his failure to make substantial progress in the Champions League that proved his undoing. —AFP



LILLE: Wales' players celebrate with fans their 3-1 win at the end of the Euro 2016 quarterfinal soccer match between Wales and Belgium, at the Pierre Mauroy stadium in Villeneuve d'Ascq. — AP

FORMER CHAIRMAN SLAMS 'AMATEUR' ENGLISH FA

LONDON: A former chairman of England's governing Football Association has said the organization has "failed" over the last 10 years because of its "amateur structure". England's humiliating exit from Euro 2016 at the hands of rank outsiders Iceland sparked the resignation of manager Roy Hodgson and led to a fresh bout of soul-searching regarding the state of the English game.

David Bernstein, the FA chairman from 2011-2013, said changing the England manager was unlikely to produce better results unless there were also major changes at boardroom level. "I have thought all along that the government needs to get very serious about this and think about appointing a regulator to get this sorted out. I cannot see any other way," Bernstein told the Sunday Telegraph.

England have not won a major tournament since lifting the World Cup on home soil in 1966 and Bernstein said: "Over 50 years, different managers, all of whom are credible when they arrive, come into this position, and their time ends in something approaching disaster. Looking at the trend of performance, probably over the last 10 or 12 years, this is getting worse, not better. The last couple of World Cups and European Championships, we have done particularly badly. It was said of the FA by a government parliamentary select committee and others that it is not fit for purpose. In my view, you have got pretty professional management there who are operating in an amateur structure. It is a structure that is not modern and is not independent.

"We have got a succession now of chairmen from different backgrounds and who, again, all come in with credibility and chief executives as well-whose time finishes unsatisfactorily," Bernstein said in recent

years three consecutive chairmen "have all tried to introduce some modernization and, by and large, have failed". The FA was "failing", especially in terms of trying to balance the power of the Premier League, he said. "And, as long as it continues to fail, and as long as it continues not to modernize, this situation will just continue. You can take any manager you like but a fish rots from the head and if you do not get the head right then the rest will not be right."

Hoddle waiting for England call

Former England manager Glenn Hoddle said yesterday he would be interested in talking to the Football Association (FA) about taking over from Roy Hodgson after the team's Euro 2016 exit to Iceland. Hoddle, 58, previously held the position from 1996 to 1999 when he was sacked following comments he made about disabled people.

"When people ask me if I would like the job I simply respond that I'm sure the FA will go through a process in order to select whoever they believe to be the best person for the job," Hoddle told the Mail yesterday. "If I'm asked to speak to the FA, my answer would be of course, any proud Englishman would want to discuss this opportunity."

"However, it's simply not something I have to consider currently. If the situation changed, that would be the point at which I would consider what to do and listen to what the FA said." When he was England manager, Hoddle secured automatic qualification for the 1998 World Cup but the tournament ended with a second round defeat to Argentina on penalties. Hoddle has since managed Southampton, Tottenham and Wolverhampton Wanderers. —Agencies

EX-GUNNERS CAPTAIN ARTETA JOINS MAN CITY COACHING STAFF

LONDON: Former Arsenal midfielder Mikel Arteta confirmed yesterday he has accepted a coaching role under new Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola. The 34-year-old Spaniard is retiring after a five-year stint with the Gunners, during which time he won two FA Cups. "Following recent media speculation surrounding my future I can confirm that I will be leaving Arsenal and retiring from playing to take up a coaching position at Manchester City," Arteta wrote on Twitter. "I've enjoyed an amazing five years at Arsenal and it's been an honor and a privilege to captain such a great club," said Arteta. "I am now looking forward to the challenge ahead at Manchester City. The opportunity to join Pep Guardiola and his team was an amazing opportunity for me and I am incredibly excited for the future."

Arteta began his career at Spanish

giants Barcelona and had spells at Paris Saint-Germain, Rangers and Real Sociedad before moving to Everton in 2005, and Arsenal in 2011. "Throughout my career I have always been interested in more than just the playing side and have had a passion for helping progress and develop the team outside of just my own role as a player," added Arteta, who has been troubled by injuries in recent seasons.

"Coaching has always been something I've been keen to go in to hand over the past few years I've worked hard off the pitch as well as on it to develop my skills in order to put me in a position to be able to pursue a coaching role once I finished playing." Guardiola's first match since taking over from Manuel Pellegrini as City manager will be against Manchester United in a pre-season tournament in China on July 25. —AFP



LONDON: US player Sam Querrey celebrates beating Serbia's Novak Djokovic during 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. — AFP

AFTER DJOKOVIC VICTORY, QUERREY WINS HEARTS

LONDON: Sam Querrey was once such a loser in love that he jokingly turned to American TV reality show Millionaire Matchmaker to help him find the girl of his dreams. It wasn't a success. However, on Saturday, the big-serving American proved to be more than a match for the world's greatest tennis player when he sent Novak Djokovic spinning to a shock defeat at Wimbledon.

Querrey's stunning 7-6 (8/6), 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (7/5) third round win ended two-time defending Wimbledon champion Djokovic's Open era record run of 30 successive wins at the majors as well as his streak of 28 consecutive Grand Slam quarter-finals. It was also the world number one's earliest loss at a Slam since 2009, ending his hopes of becoming the first man to claim a calendar Grand Slam since Rod Laver in 1969. For Querrey, who had beaten Djokovic at the Paris Masters in 2012, this was easily his best career win. "I think with, like, the stage that it was at, here at Wimbledon, to beat Novak, who is playing at such a high level for the past five years, I would say so," said 28-year-old Querrey after see-

ing off the US, Australian and French Open champion. His closest friend and doubles partner Steve Johnson said he wasn't surprised by his pal's win which was spread over two days. Querrey was two sets to love ahead on Friday when the match was halted for rain.

He also saved 11 break points in the fourth set on Saturday, where he fired 15 of the 31 aces he unleashed in the match. "Sam is Sam. He's in the locker room joking, golfing around, putting. Man, you have Djokovic two sets on the ropes," said Johnson, who has his own date with destiny at Wimbledon Monday when he faces Roger Federer. Querrey agreed that his easy-going nature, which his friends exploited to get him on to Millionaire Matchmaker, came to his aid Saturday especially when he went to two match points in the fourth set tiebreaker.

'Levelheaded and steady'

"I actually felt pretty levelheaded and steady the whole time. In the fourth set tiebreaker when I missed my serve at 6/5, I kind of went like, Oh, crap. Fortunately played a good serve and he

missed the forehand wide. That was it." Querrey, now ranked 41 in the world, is one of a generation of US men seen as the heirs to Andre Agassi, Pete Sampras, Jim Courier and Andy Roddick. But despite eight career titles, he had seen his ranking slip from the top 20 in 2010.

He has still to get to the last eight at a Slam but has a great opportunity on Monday when he faces 34-year-old Frenchman Nicolas Mahut for a place in the quarter-finals. "Even through the past few years when I haven't been in the top 20, I beat Djokovic in 2012, I've had a couple wins over Kei Nishikori," he said. "I've sprinkled a couple top 20 wins in there, which kept giving me the belief that, hey, if I keep at it, there will be some wins like this today." His heroics on the tennis courts of the All England Club have at least extinguished memories of his ill-fated 2015 experience of trying to find love on prime-time television. "The date was fun, the girl I chose was really cool," he recalled. "At the end of the episode it said we're still together, but actually she never talked to me once after the show was shot." —AFP



LONDON: This file photo taken on August 2, 2015 shows Arsenal's Spanish midfielder Mikel Arteta celebrating on the pitch after the FA Community Shield football match between Arsenal and Chelsea at Wembley Stadium. — AFP

IT'S BYE-BYE AZZURI, HELLO CHELSEA FOR COACH CONTE

BORDEAUX: Italy coach Antonio Conte insisted his battling players left their mark on Euro 2016 but after a quarter-final penalty shootout defeat to Germany he is already looking towards his "new adventure" with Chelsea. "I think the lads really left their mark on this tournament," an emotional Conte said on Saturday after seeing his side suffer their first loss to the World Cup holders in nine outings at major finals. "We battled all the way, but football can bring you joy and pain."

Instead of spending the next seven days battling to reach the July 10 final, Conte will now, reluctantly, have a seven-day holiday before making London, and Stamford Bridge, his home for the foreseeable future. The 46-year-old former Juventus coach caused some confusion when he appeared to suggest he had reconsidered whether to continue with Italy instead of taking up his post with Chelsea. He was then at pains to insist that was not the case: "The decision to leave the national team after two years in charge was made before the tournament."

"I won't deny that there did come a time when I would have liked to continue... but because of certain develop-

ments I wasn't able to go back on that," Conte later clarified, adding: "In November I thought I was continuing with the national side. Then I told the president of the Italian football federation of the great opportunity to join Chelsea football club. "I wanted to return to the cut and thrust of club football. Now, I have the opportunity to start this exciting adventure." If fans thought Conte might one day return to coach the Azzurri, they were quickly disappointed.

"I think it's impossible," he said. "My future lies in working at club level. My future's with Chelsea. "Now I'll take seven days off to charge my batteries and shift a bit of this disappointment before taking over at Chelsea. "I know it will be a difficult challenge but it's one I will cherish." Chelsea finished the last Premier League season in 10th place so Blues fans should welcome their new coach with open arms.

Transformation

Through a combination of grit, personality, and a lot of dramatic gesticulating on the touchlines — all of which rubbed off on Italy's squad over his two years in charge—Conte transformed a team that suffered their second succes-

sive first-round exit from the World Cup in Brazil into bone fide title contenders at Euro 2016. Italy's dream of securing a place in the last four match-up with France or Iceland, who face off on Sunday, was kept on track by Leonardo Bonucci's late penalty that levelled a 65th minute opener by Mesut Ozil.

Although Germany had the lion's share of opportunities, Italy took the game to penalties, where the Azzurri spurned a great chance to cause another upset a week after sending holders Spain home with a 2-0 last-16 victory. It took several misses in the 18-kick epic before Germany clinched a 6-5 shootout victory when Manuel Neuer saved a tame shot from Manchester United defender Matteo Darmian. Italy 'keeper Gianluigi Buffon admitted: "It's difficult to look ahead after seeing that our opponents missed three of (their first) five penalties. "I don't know how often that has happened before."

Conte, however, refused to lay the blame on anyone. "Ultimately, the disappointment was huge in the dressing room," said Conte. "We were leading before the fourth penalty... but football can bring you joy and disappointment. "However, a top side go through in



PEROLS: Italy's coach Antonio Conte (C) leaves a press conference following the defeat against Germany at the base camp in Perols near Montpellier on July 3, 2016 during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP

Germany. They're the world's best side and we were able to match them. "They even changed their formation to play us and I think that shows the respect that we've commanded from opponents at this tournament. "The players really give it everything, and I don't think there's anyone who can say a harsh word against them. "Now, I'll leave this little

war machine behind. It's been a memorable stay for me and I will forever thank them for the atmosphere we created in this time. "I think the biggest victory for me was to have worked with this squad of players, with the staff—from the kit men to the chefs. "It's been a wonderful experience. That's given me the biggest satisfaction." —AFP

GERMAN YOUTH SHOW IMMENSE EXPERIENCE

EVIAN: Germany's younger generation can rightfully feel they are the ones to be trusted when the world champions line up for a Euro 2016 semi-final next week after they stood up to be counted in the country's first tournament victory over Italy on Saturday. Coach Joachim Loew has remained loyal to the core of his World Cup-winning squad for much of the tournament but it was his emerging players who showed nerves of steel to secure a famous quarter-final victory in Bordeaux.

In a nerve-wrecking 6-5 win on penalties, Germany missed more spot kicks in a matter of minutes than they had in their entire shootout history as some of Loew's most trusted servants surprisingly failed to find the target. Mesut Ozil, Bastian Schweinsteiger and Thomas Mueller, who have played a combined 274 matches for Germany, all fluffed their lines but still lived to fight another day thanks to their team mates.

For Ozil, who opened the scoring in the match that ended 1-1, it was his second missed penalty of the tournament, while Mueller has yet to find the net in two European Championships despite boasting a proud record of 10 World Cup finals goals. Schweinsteiger, hailed as a hero of the 2014 World Cup win, was last to miss, firing over the bar with a woeful attempt that could be considered a symbolic changing of the guard. The 31-year-old injury-plagued skipper has struggled for form at Manchester United and looked well past his prime for most of the match, as if ready

to pass on the baton to a younger leader.

Youngsters score

The experienced threesome's failures had little impact on the outcome, however, as young guns Jonas Hector, Joshua Kimmich and Julian Draxler were able to keep their cool to send Germany on to a sixth consecutive semi-final at a major tournament. Fullback Hector, who scored the decisive penalty in his first tournament, will no doubt keep his starting spot, as will 21-year-old Kimmich, whose selfless work down the wing kept the Italians on their toes. The 22-year-old Draxler, who scored once and set up another in the 3-0 victory over Slovakia in the Round of 16, was initially sacrificed for an additional defender at the start of the game. But his introduction in the 72nd minute instantly invigorated Germany and he could have netted a late winner with an audacious bicycle kick. With France and Iceland, who face each other in the last quarter-final on Sunday, both possessing arguably weaker backlines than the Italians, Loew is widely expected to turn to his youngsters once more in Marseille on Thursday. Central defender Mats Hummels is suspended for the game while Sami Khedira could be ruled out with an adductor muscle injury he picked up early on Saturday. With several exciting prospects waiting in the wings of the tournament's youngest remaining squad, such as explosive winger Leroy Sane and midfielder Julian Weigl, both 20, Loew has a selection headache any coach would be delighted to suffer.



BORDEAUX: Germany's coach Joachim Loew talks to his players before a penalty shootout during the Euro 2016 quarter-final football match between Germany and Italy at the Matmut Atlantique stadium. — AFP

LOEW BREAKS ITALY HOODOO

BORDEAUX: Joachim Loew hailed his team of "fighters" as Germany finally broke their Italy hoodoo by seeing off the Azzurri in a penalty shootout in Saturday's Euro 2016 quarter-final. Jonas Hector hit the crucial German penalty to seal the world champions' 6-5 victory in Bordeaux to claim an historic win over Italy. It was the first time Germany have beaten the Azzurri in nine attempts at a World Cup or European Championships finals. "From a fighter's point of view, it was amazing what the side did," said Loew as Germany reached the semis at Euro finals for the third time in a row. The match finished 1-1 after extra-time as Mesut Ozil's superbly-worked second-half goal was cancelled out by Leonardo Bonucci's 78th-minute penalty. Man-of-the-match Manuel Neuer was Germany's hero in the shootout, saving shots by Bonucci and Matteo Darmian in the marathon 18-penalty battle. But the world champion's efficiency deserted them at crucial times at the Stade de Bordeaux.

Stars faltered

Thomas Mueller, Mesut Ozil and Bastian Schweinsteiger failed to convert their shoot-out spot-kicks as nerves got to die Mannschaft's stars. But Loew was full of praise for Hector and 21-year-old Joshua Kimmich who nailed their penalties under intense pressure. "The experienced players missed and the younger guys came through, so that's quite positive," Loew said. "If you want to criticize anything, sometimes we lost the ball too easily. "We had a chance for a second goal, but Buffon produced a save and then an Italian player stopped Mueller." Germany will face either France or Iceland in the Marseille semi-final next Wednesday as they chase a fourth European crown. They will be without centre-back Mats Hummels, who is suspended after picking up his second yellow card of the tournament. There is also a question mark over midfielder Sami Khedira, who was forced off early, while striker Mario Gomez picked up a leg injury. "It wasn't great to see Sami come off after just 15 minutes," admitted Loew. "He had problems with his hamstring, I don't know if it is serious. "Gomez had muscle problems, but I can't say too much about it. "We have to recover and look after some players because a game like this affects the body." Loew pulled a surprise before kick-off by naming a three-man defense in a deviation from the 4-2-3-1 formation, which beat Slovakia 3-0 in the last 16. Loew said he decided to switch after watching Italy beat Spain in the previous round and after Germany beat Italy 4-1 in a friendly in March with the formation he used on Saturday.

Selection surprise

"It was necessary. You have to change the

side after a game like Slovakia which was very different," explained Loew. "We tried to close down the centre for Italy. "After I saw the Spain game, that was my first thought. "After the World Cup, I realized we had to change a little bit. We played a 3-5-2 against Italy in March and it worked." Loew said he expected France to squeeze past Iceland in yesterday's quarter-final. "We'll have to see, France is going to be the favorite, they're a great side with individual qual-

ity," said Loew. "Iceland are a battling team, who are organized in defense. It's not going to be easy for France. "I think if France manage to put quality on the pitch, then they will do enough to get to the semi-final." Loew dismissed any suggestion his players would be drained by the marathon against Italy. "When you're in the semi, of course, the goal is to reach the final. The players have to recover, but of course we want more," he said. —AFP



BORDEAUX: Germany's midfielder Joshua Kimmich vies for the ball against Italy's defender Mattia De Sciglio during the Euro 2016 quarter-final football match between Germany and Italy at the Matmut Atlantique stadium. — AFP

A TALE OF 2 PENALTIES FOR ITALY'S BONUCCI

BORDEAUX: In the end, it was a tale of two penalties for Leonardo Bonucci. The Italy defender coolly converted the first one to level against Germany in their European Championship quarterfinal on Saturday. But he saw his second spot-kick saved by Manuel Neuer in the shootout after the match had finished 1-1 following extra time. Germany went on to win 6-5 on penalties and defeat Italy for the first time in a competitive match, sealing a spot in the semifinals against either France or Iceland.

"We showed that we are at the top level," Bonucci said. "I am proud of what we have done. There is just the regret that we missed a penalty more than them. "For the rest, I applaud my teammates and the coach because even though we have only

been together about a month and a half, it feels like they have been my teammates for years and years in the dressing room." Bonucci had never taken a penalty before, apart from during shootouts. But he showed determination to step up and fire into the bottom right corner with 12 minutes remaining.

In the subsequent shootout, Bonucci attempted to put his penalty in the opposite corner and his shot was saved by Neuer. "When I struck my first penalty, during the match, Neuer stood still right until the end, even though I stopped during the run up," Bonucci said. "I could have done better with the second penalty, but he was good in reading me." Bonucci has been a rock in the Italy defense throughout the tournament. —AP

NO REGRETS FOR TEARY BUFFON

BORDEAUX: Tears rolled down the cheeks of Gianluigi Buffon but the legendary Italy 'keeper said there were "no regrets" despite the Azzurri missing a golden chance to beat Germany to a Euro 2016 semi-final spot on Saturday. "The tears are for my disappointment. It was a magical experience that revived something in all of us and our fans, but it's come to an end," an emotional Buffon told media after Germany's 6-5 penalty shoot-out win in Bordeaux.

After their quarter-final finished 1-1 in regulation time and neither team scored in extra-time, Italy's bid to put two forgettable World Cup campaigns behind only unraveled at a dramatic penalty shootout. Italy spurned the chance to clinch their last four spot when Graziano Pelle hit a pitiful effort wide of the post as the Germans misfired. That, and other misses, proved costly for Italy later on, as the

penalty shootout went to a total of 18 kicks.

After Manchester United defender Matteo Darmian saw his shot saved by Manuel Neuer, Jonas Hector stepped up to beat Buffon and send World Cup holders Germany into a semi-final against France or Iceland, who play on Sunday. "It's a shame. When a team (Germany) misses three penalties out of five and you still don't manage to win it becomes complicated," said Buffon. "Sometimes it goes your way, other times it doesn't. But that's all a big part of sport, and you have to accept it. "We wanted to leave this tournament without any regrets and that's what we will do. We made our people proud and for this we can't be sorry." It was Antonio Conte's last game as coach ahead of his move to Premier League giants Chelsea. But Juventus goalkeeper Buffon, 38, indicated the defeat would not hasten his international retirement. — AFP



BORDEAUX: Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon (R) congratulates Germany's midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger after Germany won the match in nine penalty shoot-outs in the Euro 2016 quarter-final football match between Germany and Italy at the Matmut Atlantique stadium. — AFP

Success born
out of tragedy
for Wales

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It's hello
Chelsea for
coach Conte

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PHELPS GOES OUT ON TOP IN FINAL US RACE Page 16



BORDEAUX: The German team celebrates after winning the Euro 2016 quarterfinal soccer match between Germany and Italy, at the Nouveau Stade. — AP

GERMANY FINALLY EXPELS ITALY CURSE

DRAMATIC PENALTY SHOOT-OUT ENDS TITANIC CLASH

BORDEAUX: Germany moved into the semi-finals of Euro 2016 on Saturday but their un-German-like inefficiency in a penalty shootout with Italy almost cost them dear before Jonas Hector kept his head. Germany missed three penalties before triumphing 6-5 in a rollercoaster 18-penalty shootout as Hector slotted home his kick under the diving Gianluigi Buffon and raced into his teammates' arms.

They will face the winners of the match between host nation France and surprise package Iceland in a semi-final on Thursday. "It's hard to put it into words, but I am overjoyed that it went in," Hector said. "There weren't many people left. I knew I had to take one at some point and I had my heart in my mouth." Germany also shook off the hoodoo against old foes Italy, winning for the first time in nine attempts. "Si, si, si, the

curse against Italy is broken," Bild newspaper said. The Germans maintained a remarkable record of shootout successes-you have to go back to 1976 for the last time they lost on penalties in a major tournament.

Joachim Loew's side had appeared to be heading for victory after Mesut Ozil lashed into the net to give them a 65th-minute lead, but in a moment of madness Jerome Boateng handled in the area. Leonardo Bonucci calmly converted the penalty 12 minutes from the end of normal time and it ended 1-1 on 90 minutes. With no goals in a turgid extra-time, Ozil, Thomas Mueller and Bastian Schweinsteiger all failed from the spot for Germany, who are usually so reliable from 12 yards. But after Simone Zaza and Graziano Pelle missed for Italy and Bonucci was denied by Germany 'keeper Manuel Neuer, Matteo Darmian's failure to

convert the Azzurri's ninth kick paved the way for Hector to become Germany's hero.

Youngsters showed nerve

Baby-faced Joshua Kimmich, 21, also converted when bigger names missed. "The experienced players missed and the younger guys came through, so that's quite positive," Loew said. Italy's campaign had shown promise with wins against Belgium and over reigning champions Spain in the last 16, but like so many sides before them they were undone on penalties by Germany.

Coach Antonio Conte said: "I'm very proud of what the team achieved here. "The only regret is the penalty kicks. But for commitment to the shirt, I can't fault them." The game had been billed as the pick of the quarter-finals, but large spells of the game in Bordeaux were uneventful. Germany talis-

man Schweinsteiger again started on the bench but was introduced after quarter of an hour to replace the injured Sami Khedira. Schweinsteiger found the net just before the half-hour mark but his effort was disallowed.

Loew had sprung a surprise by bulking up his defence, dropping the previously excellent Julian Draxler. Germany dominated possession but Buffon was untroubled by a Mario Gomez toe-poke while the veteran goalkeeper also easily saved from a Mueller shot late in the first half. Italy responded in kind, Emanuele Giaccherini seeing his cutback go all the way to Stefano Sturaro, whose low drive was deflected behind for a corner. The opener arrived on 65 minutes as Gomez pounced on some slack defending by Alessandro Florenzi before finding Hector in space. The full-back's attempted cutback came off Bonucci

but fell to Ozil, who fired past Buffon from close range.

Germany could have gone further ahead when Ozil found Gomez in space with a great chip, but the striker's outrageous backheel was superbly saved by Buffon and the offside flag came up anyway. Italy looked down, but they were not out. An unmarked Pelle got his left foot to Florenzi's low cross but fired off target, and minutes later the Azzurri pulled level after the ball came off the arm of Boateng in the area. Hungarian referee Victor Kassai immediately pointed to the spot and Bonucci stepped up to beat Neuer low to the goalkeeper's. It was the first goal Neuer had conceded at the tournament after four successive clean sheets. But he would play his part in the shootout, saving from Bonucci and Darmian.— AFP

SERENA REACHES 300TH SLAM WIN IN WIMBLEDON ROMP

LONDON: Serena Williams clinched her 300th Grand Slam victory as the defending champion raced into the Wimbledon fourth round with a 6-3, 6-0 demolition of Germany's Annika Beck yesterday. Williams's triple century moved the world number one above Chris Evert into sole ownership of second place in the all-time list, with only Martina Navratilova's Open era record of 306 ahead of her.

The 34-year-old has now won 82 matches at Wimbledon as she remains on course to equal Steffi Graf's Open era record of 22 Grand Slam titles with her seventh Wimbledon crown. She was in peak form on Centre Court, hitting 25 winners and seven aces as she took just 51 minutes to set up a last 16 clash with Russian 13th seed Svetlana Kuznetsova.

"Oh, was it? Cool. Oh, nice. I had no idea. That's awesome, right? I think that's a lot of matches. It's a lot of wins," Williams said when told of her landmark. "I thought it was good. I still want to get out to a little bit of a faster start but I was really focused and calm. "Obviously I love having that Sunday off but I'm a little behind in my matches so I guess I had to play an extra day." For only the fourth time, Wimbledon

had thrown open its gates on a middle Sunday and Serena's longevity meant she was one of the few current players who had played on the last extra day 12 years ago, defeating Spain's Magui Serna. Beck was just 10 then and she had reached the last 32 at Wimbledon for the first time this year thanks in large part to a first round escape act when she saved three match points before defeating Heather Watson.

Having avoided her earliest ever Wimbledon exit when she came back to win after dropping the first set against Christina McHale in the second round, Williams had made a point of proclaiming she had a "warrior mentality" that couldn't be broken. If that was meant to serve as a warning to future opponents, the world number 43 clearly didn't heed it as she grabbed the first break in the third game. But Serena had only lost to a player outside the top 40 once in 16 Wimbledon appearances and she was quickly into her stride, taking five of the next six matches to win the first set. The American raced through the second set, giving the crowd little value for money but providing her with some valuable energy preservation ahead of Monday's clash with Kuznetsova. — AFP



LONDON: Serena Williams of the US celebrates after beating Annika Beck of Germany in their women's singles match on day seven of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships. — AP

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markets take stock

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London bankers face Brexit
choice: Lobby or leave

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Russia's food embargo
fires up counterfeit
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GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS SHAKEN AS BRITAIN VOTED TO LEAVE EU

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NAIROBI: This file photo taken on January 11, 2016 shows workers stacking and storing sacks of green, unroasted coffee beans from a conveyor belt at Dormans coffee factory in Nairobi. Africa's best barista doesn't drink coffee, nor even really like it, yet two-time Kenyan champ Martin Shabaya won the Africa round and next month competes at the World Barista Championships. —AFP

ABU DHABI BANKS JUMP ON FGB/NBAD MERGER DETAILS

DUBAI: Abu Dhabi banking shares climbed yesterday after the boards of directors of First Gulf Bank and National Bank of Abu Dhabi approved a proposed merger of the banks, aiming to complete it in the first quarter of 2017.

Egypt's index edged up following comments by central bank governor about possible further currency devaluation. Shares in NBAD jumped 4.0 percent to 10.05 dirhams while FGB gained 2 percent to 12.85 dirhams. They were the market's two most heavily traded stocks.

The merger would be completed via a share swap which would result in shareholders of FGB receiving 1.254 new NBAD shares for every one FGB share. That ratio appears to favour NBAD holders, but several analysts said investors' general optimism towards the merged entity meant selling of FGB shares

might remain minor.

"The initial reaction was a cheer because markets like the fact the merger is happening and it's a monumental size," said one regional banking equity analyst.

In the long run the efficiencies that will be achieved through cost-cutting and reduced competition will be positive not only for the lenders involved but for the sector as a whole, the analyst added.

Jaap Meijer, head of research at Dubai's Arqaam Capital said synergies should be very "substantial" from a cost reduction, product suite expansions and revenue sharing perspective, making the deal attractive for shareholders of both lenders.

Analysts at Arqaam Capital expect the deal to contribute positively to the earning per share of both banks, with FGB potentially seeing a 15.9 percent rise and NBAD an 11.1 per-

cent increase.

Arqaam also said the swap ratio of 1.254 for 1 still slightly undervalued NBAD and overvalued FGB in the deal and it had reduced its target price for NBAD to 12.50 dirhams from 13.00 but increased it for FGB to 15.64 dirhams from 15.00 dirhams.

But combining the two behemoth banks will be met with challenges both in terms of merging finances and operations and in combining cultures and different people.

"There are practical challenges which can only be addressed with a combination of flexible planning and relentless execution. Even then, the benefits can appear later than hoped for," said David Tusa, managing director at consultant firm Alvarez & Marsal, adding that often the human capital side gets much less attention than it deserves, and in these cases, "disappointment quickly sets in".

The deal could spur mergers of other banks including Union National Bank and Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank. Shares in UNB surged 5.9 percent and ADCB's jumped 3.8 percent.

The main index advanced 1.2 percent. In Dubai, the benchmark was up 0.2 percent with most activity concentrated in second- and third-tier stocks. Islamic insurer Dar Al Takaful jumped 15 percent, its daily limit.

EGYPT, QATAR

In an interview with three local papers over the weekend Egypt's central bank governor, Tarek Amer, said there was "no defined target for the Egyptian pound/USD exchange rate" and strongly alluded to the prospect of further devaluation in the coming future - without setting absolute deadlines - adding that maintaining a fixed exchange rate against the dollar over the last five years was a "mistake

that cost the state billions of dollars" and said he is willing to take the necessary measures to correct the currency shortfalls.

Investors reacted positively, with tourist and export related stocks outperforming Cairo's main index which was up 0.6 percent. Arabia Cotton Ginning, a textile exporter, rose 2.9 percent and Egyptian Resort jumped 4.4 percent.

In Doha, the index gained 0.4 percent, lifted by blue chips. Qatar National Bank, currently the largest listed lender in the Gulf region, added 1.4 percent.

Saudi Arabia's market is closed throughout this week for Eid Al Fitr holidays.

YESTERDAY'S HIGHLIGHTS

DUBAI

The index lost 0.8 percent to 3,337 points

ABU DHABI

The index added 1.2 percent to 4,549 points.

EGYPT

The index gained 0.6 percent to 6,982 points.

QATAR

The index edged up 0.4 percent to 9,924 points.

KUWAIT

The index added 0.1 percent to 5,369 points.

OMAN

The index edged up 0.6 percent to 5,812 points.

BAHRAIN

The index advanced 1.1 percent to 1,131 points. —Reuters

SAUDI Q1 ECONOMIC GROWTH SLOWEST IN 3 YEARS, MAY NEAR ZERO THIS YEAR

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's economy expanded at its slowest rate in three years during the first quarter of 2016 as low oil prices forced the government to cut spending and raise costs for industry, official data showed yesterday.

Some analysts said the data pointed to a risk of growth in the world's top oil exporter slowing to near zero this year, which would be its worst performance since the global financial crisis of 2009.

Gross domestic product, adjusted for inflation, grew 1.5 percent from a year earlier between January and March, down from a revised growth rate of 1.8 percent in the fourth quarter of 2015, the state statistics office said. It was the slowest growth since 0.3 percent in the first quarter of 2013.

The oil sector expanded 5.1 percent in the first quarter of this year as the world's biggest oil exporter increased its production of crude and exported more refined products.

But the non-oil sector shrank 0.7 percent, its worst performance in at least five years. This may be a source of concern to Saudi policy makers because an ambitious reform

plan to help the economy cope with an era of cheap oil, announced last month, assumes rapid growth in non-oil businesses.

Last December, to curb an annual budget deficit of nearly \$100 billion caused by slumping oil revenues, the government announced cuts in spending and energy subsidies. Officials have said there will be more austerity steps in coming years.

"The important thing to remember is that austerity will be a multi-year process. There will be more measures in the next few years and these will continue to keep growth subdued," said Monica Malik, chief economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.

Within the non-oil part of the economy, the private sector grew just 0.2 percent in the first quarter while the government sector shrank 2.6 percent, the official data showed.

The weakness of the non-oil sector was partly due to the fact that the first quarter of 2015 was unusually strong; in January that year, King Salman awarded public employees two months' extra salary to mark his accession to the throne.

But the fourth-quarter 2015 growth rate

of 1.8 percent was revised down sharply from an original estimate of 3.6 percent. That points to the possibility of a similar revision for the first-quarter figures.

Malik said ADCB was cutting its Saudi GDP growth forecast for the whole of this year to a drop of 0.1 percent, from a previous prediction of 0.5 percent growth.

She noted that while private sector and non-oil activity could pick up slightly from the second quarter of this year, partly because there were signs that the government was paying some of its outstanding bills to private firms, oil output was not continuing to rise significantly year-on-year.

If the economy slows excessively, the government still has the option of spending more to stimulate growth; the central bank holds \$573 billion of net foreign assets, and Riyadh has begun borrowing abroad this year to finance some expenditure.

But if it eases up on its austerity programme too much it may increase pressure on the Saudi riyal's peg against the US dollar, fuelling concern among some foreign investors about the long-term sustainability of its economy. —Reuters



ROME: A man and his child in a pushchair wait outside a shop window indicating sales, in the shopping street of Via del Corso, in central Rome yesterday. —AFP

ISRAEL-US CONSORTIUM SINKS \$265 MILLION IN NEW GAS WELL

JERUSALEM: A consortium led by US firm Noble Energy has approved a \$265-million project to sink a new well in a major natural gas field off Israel, officials said yesterday.

Delek Drilling and Avner Oil Exploration, Israeli firms that are part of the partnership led by Noble, announced the financing for the Tamar field in the Mediterranean. "The Tamar partners decided to approve a budget of

about \$265 million for drilling 'Tamar 8' and connecting to existing infrastructure in the Tamar field," Delek and Avner said in a joint statement.

It said the latest well would allow "maximum supply from Tamar field during times of peak demand, in light of the volume of production from Tamar and the existing and expected demand for natural gas from the field."

Tamar 8, the field's sixth production

well, is located about 100 kilometres (60 miles) offshore and would reach a depth of around 3.5 kilometres below the sea bed, it said. Drilling is projected to start in the last quarter of this year. Completion of the well and its connection to the existing pipe network is expected to take four months, the statement added.

The Tamar field was discovered in 2009 and began pumping in 2013. It is

located some 130 kilometres off the Mediterranean port city of Haifa and has estimated reserves of up to 238 billion cubic metres (8.4 trillion cubic feet).

Its gas is so far being used for domestic supply within Israel. The US-led consortium is also developing Israel's mammoth Leviathan gas field and aims to bring it online in 2019.

Israel hopes the development of Leviathan will allow it to export gas,

which could help grease the wheels of regional diplomacy.

Leviathan, discovered in 2010, is estimated to hold 18.9 trillion cubic feet (\$35 billion cubic metres) of natural gas, along with 34.1 million barrels of condensate.

Development of its own energy resources is seen as a major strategic asset for Israel, which has no oil and little water. —AFP

A WEEK AFTER BRITISH VOTE MARKETS TAKE STOCK

NEW YORK: A week after Britain's shocking vote to leave the European Union, markets seem to have pushed the pause button.

After a two-day spree of near panic selling that wiped out an unprecedented \$3 trillion from global markets, investors, analysts and pundits in the US and abroad spent the week following the vote collectively revising their knee-jerk reactions to what has become known as the "Brexit" vote.

Markets closed out the week just a hair below their pre-vote level, with the S&P 500 index rebounding from a 5.3 percent drop to finish just 10 points below where it started.

A week after Britain's historic "leave" vote, what's the outlook for markets and the economy? Is the sky really falling, or are there opportunities, if not silver linings, for investors?

Here are five ways markets are rethinking the impact of the unprecedented move by an EU member to begin unravelling the nearly 60-year-old project to bring peace and prosperity to Europe.

EUROPEAN FALLOUT

The impact will vary widely depending on your distance from the Brexit bomb's crater.

Worst off, predictably, will be Britain. Its finance minister, George Osborne, warned Friday that the referendum is "likely to lead to a significant negative shock for the British economy." The Institute of International Finance, a think tank for the banking industry, predicts Britain will slide into recession in the second half of this year.

Fallout in the eurozone will be less, but still significant. Brad Setser at the Council on Foreign Relations reckons that just the uncertainty over Britain's departure from the trade block "will knock a cumulative half a percentage point off euro area growth over the next two years." The IIF, meanwhile also predicts a hit to the 19 eurozone countries: It forecasts growth there will fall to 1.4 percent next year from 1.7 percent in 2016.

GLOBAL FALLOUT

Outside Britain and the euro zone, a consensus is emerging that the damage will be contained.

While the direct impact on the US of weaker economic growth in UK isn't large - American exports to Britain account for only around 0.5 percent of US GDP - the primary economic challenge is expected to be uncertainty.

"Only if we see some sort of 'exit fever' spreading through other countries will the damage be severe" in the US, S&P Global Ratings says.

Ksenia Bushmeneva, an economist with TD Economics, predicted Britain's departure from

the EU would slow global growth by 0.2 percentage points next year to 3.2 percent. "The U.S. economy should be relatively well-insulated but it will not be completely immune," Ksenia said.

S&P Global now expects U.S. real GDP to grow by 2.0 percent in 2016, versus its 2.3 percent forecast in March, and by 2.4 percent next year.

INTEREST RATES

The amped-up dollar and the uncertainty that followed the British vote mean the Federal Reserve probably won't raise American interest rates anytime soon, perhaps not until next year.

S&P Global forecasts the Federal Reserve will "likely stay on the sidelines" until its December meeting. The Fed will then "gradually" raise rates next year, S&P Global says.

Oppenheimer Funds Chief Investment Officer Krishna Memani likens the current situation to how Europe's central bank handled its 2011 crisis. Memani says the Fed and other

central banks "will do whatever is necessary to limit the fallout from the (British) referendum and provide support to the global economy."

US HOUSING MARKET

Last week's tumult in Britain and Europe sent investors fleeing to the refuge of US government bonds, pushing down American interest rates. Long-term US mortgage rates fell to new lows for the year, which is good news for the housing market.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, says Britain's isolationist move "may cause wealthy foreigners to consider selling their properties in UK, especially in London as it becomes a less attractive place to set up offices to conduct global business."

Yun forecast demand for US real estate to rise "if global investors view America as open to global business."

S&P Global takes a similar view, saying "Perhaps, as London became less attractive as a location for global business, demand for US

real estate could surge, driving up foreign investment."

US ECONOMY

Economists, impressed by the vitality of American consumers, expect the economy to grow at least twice as fast from April through June as the 1.1 percent rate in the first quarter. Consumer spending, after all, accounts for 70 percent of US economic activity.

Meanwhile the Federal Reserve reported Wednesday that 31 of 33 big banks passed an annual checkup meant to show whether their finances are strong enough to withstand a major economic downturn. The stress test results suggest that the financial fallout from the British exit from the EU won't be anything like the Wall Street panic that followed the September 2008 collapse Lehman Bros.

"The United States appears to be an oasis in the storm," said Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wells Fargo. "Growth is solid, albeit unspectacular, which is far better than much of the rest of the world." —AP



STRASBOURG: This picture taken on July 3, 2016 shows a German ICE high-speed train leaving the city of Strasbourg, eastern France, on the first day of the new East-European LGV line. 106 kms of new track have been laid between Baudrecourt (Moselle) and Vendenheim (Bas-Rhin) for high-speed transit that will save another 30 minutes off of the 2 hours and 20 minutes trip between Paris and Strasbourg. —AFP

News

in brief

UK to face inflation

AIX-EN-PROVENCE: Britain will face two key challenges, inflation and recession, after Britons voted to leave the European Union, or Brexit, European Central Bank Governing Council member Francois Villeroy de Galhau said yesterday. "In the short term there is a difficult challenge for the British economic and monetary policy between two contradictory challenges: there is the challenge of inflation, with the effects on inflation of the fall of the pound, which is down 11 percent since Brexit," Villeroy told a business conference in Aix-en-Provence in southern France. "And then there is recession challenge with the tendency to see less growth due to the uncertainty impact on investments. And it is always very complicated for monetary and economic policy to be caught in this dilemma."

Brexit questions EU project

AIX-EN-PROVENCE: Britain's vote to leave the European Union, or Brexit, questions the EU project's irreversibility and will have a negative impact on growth although its extent is still unclear, European Central Bank Executive Council member Benoit Coeure said yesterday. "Brexit created a climate of uncertainty, financial uncertainty in the short-term, and the Central Bank can answer that, it already did," Coeure told a business conference in the southern French city of Aix-en-Provence. "We have instruments that we are ready to use, thank God we didn't have to use them so far, but we are ready to do so," Coeure said last week it was urgent to clarify the calendar for Britain's exit from the EU because prolonged uncertainty would have an economic cost, first of all for Britain but also for the EU.

Qatar central bank to offer 1.55 bln riyals T-bills in auction

DUBAI: Qatar's central bank will offer 1.55 billion riyals (\$426 million) of Treasury bills in an auction on July 11, according to an invitation sent to banks and seen by Reuters. The offer comprises 550 million riyals of three-month bills, 500 million riyals of six-month bills and 500 million riyals of nine-month bills. Results of the auction will be announced July 12. Between January and March, the central bank cancelled its monthly sales of T-bills because of tightening liquidity in the banking system due to low oil prices. But since then, liquidity appears to have improved somewhat. On June 2, the central bank sold 1.25 billion riyals of three-, six- and nine-month T-bills. Results of the central bank's treasury bill auctions are usually announced at the start of each month but have been delayed due to the Eid public holiday which runs until July 11.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNER OF THE KD 125,000 CASH PRIZE

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced Mohammad Jaafar Karam Ahmed as the new KD 125,000 cash prize winner in the Yawmi Quarterly Draw. The winner expressed his excitement for being the winner of the rewarding cash prize with Yawmi Account from Burgan Bank.

The Yawmi Account offers customers more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 cash prize every three months.

To enter Burgan Bank's Yawmi Quarterly Draws, customers should maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in

their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account will entitle customers to one chance of winning.

For more information about the Yawmi Quarterly Draw, customers are advised to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch, or

call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

Congratulations
 Mohammad Jaafar Karam Ahmed
 the lucky winner of

125,000
 KD

with "Yawmi" quarterly draw

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 BURGAN BANK

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.952	
Indian Rupees	4.495	
Pakistani Rupees	2.889	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.079	
Nepali Rupees	2.792	
Singapore Dollar	226.630	
Hongkong Dollar	39.001	
Bangladesh Taka	3.857	
Philippine Peso	6.458	
Thai Baht	8.638	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.723	
Qatari Riyal	83.152	
ani Riyal	786.253	
Bahraini Dinar	803.910	
UAE Dirham	82.416	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.200	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.462	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.215	
Tunisian Dinar	139.100	
Jordanian Dinar	427.120	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.017	
Syrian Lira	2.157	
Morocco Dirham	31.516	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	302.550	
Euro	340.220	

Sterling Pound	407.840
Canadian dollar	236.370
Turkish lira	104.870
Swiss Franc	314.170
Australian Dollar	229.640
US Dollar Buying	301.350
GOLD	
20 Gram	265.680
10 Gram	135.680
5 Gram	68.680
DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD	
Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.750
Canadian Dollar	234.832
Sterling Pound	402.409
Euro	338.122
Swiss Frank	295.856
Bahrain Dinar	800.880
UAE Dirhams	82.660
Qatari Riyals	83.870
Saudi Riyals	81.454
Jordanian Dinar	426.816
Egyptian Pound	33.996
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.078
Indian Rupees	4.497
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Bangladesh Taka	3.856
Philippines Peso	6.448
Cyprus pound	159.551
Japanese Yen	3.948
Syrian Pound	2.394
Nepalese Rupees	3.801

Malaysian Ringgit	76.600	
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.873	
Thai Bhat	9.600	
Turkish Lira	104.496	
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

STERLING POUND CONTINUOUS FREE-FALL DUE TO 'BREXIT' VOTE

NBK'S WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT

KUWAIT: One week after the historical "Brexit" vote, the resignation of the UK prime minister, the political coup in the opposition camp, the Sterling Pound seems to be in freefall against all the major currencies. However, in contrast to currencies, after a rocky start of the week, global equity markets are set for their best week since April as investors found confidence in central banks to do whatever necessary to provide stability.

Indeed, Bank of England governor Mark Carney signaled that the Bank of England could cut interest rates within months to shield the British economy, and markets are now expecting additional stimulus from the ECB to provide the necessary support.

Looking at the interest rate futures in the US, the probability of the Fed raising rates as planned this year have dropped to less than 10%, which insinuates that the US has to turn into a recession in order for the market to turn even more pessimistic on the USD even if Fed members lower further their dot plot projections.

All this would mean that monetary policy will proceed very cautiously with respect to the pace of policy normalization and low interest rates globally are set to stay for a very long time.

Away from the UK; after an impressive rally in commodity prices since February and many disappointments coming from the US, whether on the employment, the manufacturing industry or ultimately a never ending dovish Fed, investors have still not given up on the US dollar and expect the currency to remain well supported into the next half of the year.

Having experienced the ramification of a strong Dollar in the beginning of 2016, the Fed's caution will probably prevent the dollar from rising much further this year even though forces that drove the USD down in the first half of the year are unlikely to continue going into the remaining of 2016.

In summary, despite the positive tone in equity markets, the lack of leadership has inflicted great damage to the UK stature. The country seems to have fallen into a political turmoil that is likely to last at least for the next couple of months. So, unless the rest of the world starts to show signs of stability and we start to see growth again, investors are likely to remain in a no man's land and the US Dollar will be supported in either cases.

On the currencies front, markets begin the new month and new quarter just as they ended the last, with risk appetite grinding back after the shock of Brexit, and the USD enjoying the benefit of safe-haven flows from the GBP and EUR.

After opening the week below the 1.1100 level, the Euro reached a low of 1.0971. Volatility remains elevated and the currency ended the week at 1.1136.

The Sterling Pound remains volatile in no man's land. After several attempts to move above the 1.35 level, Mark Carney Speech on Thursday gave new arguments to investors to

dump the Pound now that the Central bank stands ready to act in the summer. Indeed, markets moved to re-price the odds of a cut this summer. Based on futures markets, the implied probability of a cut in July is 62%, the highest it's been and up from 11% pre-referendum while the probability of a cut by August is 76% and up from 15%. The currency closed the week at 1.3267.

In Japan, while this week's global events were supportive for the Yen, the picture is more complicated for the upcoming weeks. The Tankan showed stronger than expected manufacturing data, however the survey was conducted prior to the Brexit vote. In addition, as global central banks remain in an easing mode, there could be potential further easing from the BoJ in July. The Yen ended the week at the 102.52 level.

On the commodity front, Gold and Silver were the main beneficiaries from the Brexit

from that low May release and actually the highest reading since January last year.

EUROPE & UK
EUROPE UNDER PRESSURE

Over the past couple of months, the ECB was unable to lower the Euro despite all the additional monetary easing and the expansion of its QE program. As the Fed stood on hold, investors were not given the green light to buy the US Dollar as in 2014 and 2015.

During the last meeting held in the beginning of June, the focus of the ECB was mainly on the implementation of the package of measures that have been agreed in recent meetings, i.e. the inclusion of corporate bonds in the ECB portfolio.

Despite all the monetary injections, the ECB's revised forecasts for growth and inflation remained largely unchanged while core inflation forecasts were lowered again. Draghi also

Currencies	Previous Week Levels				This Week's Expected Range		3-Month Forward
	Open	Low	High	Close	Minimum	Maximum	
EUR	1.1039	1.0968	1.1168	1.1136	1.0736	1.1339	1.1178
GBP	1.3406	1.3118	1.3533	1.3267	1.3106	1.3706	1.3290
JPY	102.03	101.37	103.39	102.52	99.03	105.03	102.21
CHF	0.9724	0.9707	0.9837	0.9726	0.9426	1.0026	0.9685

vote and the risk-off moves. Now that all major central bank are likely to embark on a new easing spree, the safe haven status of gold could be in place for a while.

RESILIENT US CONSUMERS
DESPITE VOLATILE HOME SALES

The US personal income rose by 0.2% after advancing 0.5% in April. Wages and salaries gained 0.2%. Savings on the other hand dropped to \$730.6 billion last month from \$753.7 billion in April.

Consumer spending also rose in May on increased demand for automobiles and other goods. The data showed an increase by 0.4% last month and was revised up to 1.1% in April instead of the previously reported 1%.

When adjusted for inflation, spending only rose 0.3% after gaining 0.8% in April. Year on year, consumer spending rose at a 1.5% during the first quarter.

In parallel, personal consumption expenditures, excluding food and energy rose 0.2%, which shows a relatively subdued inflation. Year on year, the core PCE increased 1.6% still below the 2% Fed target.

Elsewhere, pending home sales in May were down a sharp -3.7% on a monthly basis against expectations of -1.1%, marking the first annual drop in two years.

Last but not least, initial jobless claims were up 10k last week to 268k. Meanwhile the Chicago PMI came at 56.8 for June against expectations for 51.0, which is a 7.5 points rise

tried to push down the currency by suggesting that monetary policy divergence with the US could have a negative impact on the Euro. However, it seems that markets weren't impressed as the ECB has lost some of its ability to have meaningful impact on markets.

The "Brexit" vote dragged the Euro alongside the Sterling Pound in the beginning of last week. Since the referendum, the Euro has been underperforming in solidarity to the Pound. While we do not believe the Euro will be sold aggressively for now, we feel this move will be more of a slow burn than a rapid fall. Now that the global uncertainty is a direct result of European and British politics, as well as most of negative US news have already been discounted in the market, the European current account and investment portfolio flows continue to deteriorate over the last few months driven by a continuation of fixed income outflows.

ECB CONSIDERING
LOOSENING RULES

According to news reports, the ECB have started to become concerned that the eligible pool of securities for its quantitative easing program has shrunk so much posts Brexit that some of the governing council members are starting to favor switching the allocation of purchases towards one in line with a country's outstanding debt pile.

Naturally, this has to be vetted by the German Bundesbank which could potentially derail the project at least for some time, howev-

er, if true, the news would be very supportive for risky assets of the peripheral countries. Consequently, Italy would be the main beneficiary with the potential for a lot more buying of Italian government bonds.

Italy gets the Go ahead to Supply Euro 150 Billion to its Struggling Banks

Italy was given the go-ahead by the European Commission to supply as much as 150 billion euros in government liquidity guarantees for its struggling banks until the end of the year, according to an EU official.

Liquidity support for solvent banks is a "precautionary measure" requested by Italy. The guarantees of senior debt allow lenders to maintain access to financing at a better than market prices.

EU ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE TAKES A HIT

The headline economic confidence indicator held in relatively well at 104.4 for June against expectations of 104.7, down from 104.6 in May. It is important to note that the survey period was done prior to the Brexit outcome so next month's reading is the key one.

Elsewhere, German CPI for June rose a little less than expected at 0.1% on a monthly basis against expectations of 0.2% although that has lifted the yearly rate to +0.3%.

BANK OF ENGLAND TO THE RESCUE

The Bank of England governor Mark Carney gave a speech on Thursday in order to calm market nervousness. He repeated comments made in the build up to the vote about the impact of uncertainty as negative for growth, but double edged for inflation. He talked about uncertainty now remaining "elevated for some time, with a more persistent drag on activity" than they had previously expected.

On the monetary policy front, he repeated the MPC will make an initial assessment in their July meeting on the 14 of July and a full assessment with a new set of forecasts in August and said that in August they will also discuss "further the range of instruments at their disposal".

During the Q&A, he said that the judgement that they will have to make between the July and August meeting is over what type of monetary policy response will be needed for the economy. He went on to say that the impact of stimulus takes time, but there is a value to making those judgements as quickly as possible.

The Swiss Franc Remain the Safe Haven of Choice in this turmoil.

Similarly to the ECB and the BoJ, the Swiss National Bank adopted negative policy rates amid persistent disinflationary pressures in an attempt to lower its currency and failed.

With tremendous pressure in global markets especially after the "Brexit" vote, the Swiss franc remains the safe haven influenced by all global pressures and uncertainties. Swiss total sight deposits have surged to their highest level on June 10.

With economic data recovering in Q2 and jumping to their highest level in four years, the SNB held its deposit rate at minus 0.75% during

their latest meeting. It also reiterated its threat to wage currency-market interventions if needed, saying the franc remained significantly overvalued.

According to the governor, "Fundamentally, we have room to maneuver on these two instruments, i.e. currency and interest rates. In a first phase, should the situation arise, it will be about stepping in to markets in a stabilizing manner to prevent exaggerations".

Asia
CHINA STRUGGLING
TO GAIN MOMENTUM

China's official manufacturing purchasing managers' index dropped in June, ending three straight months of expansion. The index fell to 50.0 from 50.1 a month ago suggesting that the Chinese economy is still struggling to gain momentum. June PMI was in line with expectations. The sub index measuring new orders dropped to 50.5 from 50.7 in May, but the production sub index improved to 52.5 from 52.3.

The nonmanufacturing purchasing managers' index rose to 53.7 in June from 53.1 in May. The sub index for services climbed to 52.2 from 52.0 in May and the sub index for construction increased to 62.0 from 59.4. New orders sub index for the entire sector also rose to 50.8 from 49.2.

BANK OF JAPAN REACTION
COULD BE DELAYED

After losing markets credibility in setting negative rates and facing sharp yen appreciation, the Bank of Japan now has to wait before considering introducing any new stimulus.

With the Fed relatively dovish along with other global risks looming such as the Chinese economy, the USD/JPY is likely to remain supported on the back of the weak global risk appetite and a continued risk aversion. BoJ's dilemma for the moment remains to drive up Japanese inflation expectations ahead of any boost to the growth outlook. Delaying the VAT implementation is likely not going to be enough for the economy losing steam, while intervention could be tricky at the moment.

Now that a "Brexit" scenario has materialized, reports are showing that lawmakers could push for a 20T Yen stimulus package in the coming weeks. Moreover, the fact that the BoJ meeting is scheduled only for the 29th of July, the chances of an extraordinary meeting earlier remains a big possibility especially with the Yen hovering around the 100 level against the US Dollar.

This is why, we believe USD/JPY upside is likely to be delayed until the Fed gives more clarity for the market over its interest rates intention. For now, neither a hawkish Fed nor imminent BoJ action seem very likely. This is why we remain neutral on the Yen

Kuwait

Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.30165

The USD-KWD opened at 0.30165 yesterday morning.

EMERGENCY MEASURE
THAT FEEDS GREEK CRISIS

ATHENS: Call it the law of unintended consequences—a measure to save Greece from the abyss of a default and crashing out of the eurozone now holds its economy in a stranglehold preventing its recovery.

Cast back a year: the standoff between the Greek government of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and the EU and IMF over the terms of a new rescue plan for the country was reaching breaking point.

The talks on a third bailout had been going nowhere since Tsipras took power in January after sweeping elections on an anti-austerity platform and the EU and IMF warned the country's place in the eurozone was at risk if it didn't accept more spending cuts and tax hikes.

Meanwhile Greeks had been taking out more and more of their savings out of banks, with 20 percent gone when during the night of June 26 to 27 Tsipras shocked the world by announcing he would put the bailout conditions to a referendum vote. In order to prevent a run on banks, Greece imposed capital controls, limiting cash withdrawals to 420 euros (\$465) per week.

The restriction is still in place, and it's having a long-term impact on the economy. Consumption was down 1.3 percent in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period in 2015, even though prices have been falling in Greece. Overall, the Greek economy, which had begun growing again at the end of 2014, shrank by 1.4 percent in the first quarter of 2016.

'WHO HAS 420 EUROS?'

For many Greeks the 420-euro weekly limit was not too much of a brake on spending as they had already been progressively tightening their belts since Greece's first 110-billion-euro international bailout in 2010.

"Families have cut their expenses so much these past years of the crisis that it didn't really create a problem ... as who now has more than 420 euros per week to spend?" said Dimitris Sotiropoulos, a draftsman and father of three children.

However the impact has been greater on businesses, as trade figures show: imports plunged by 12.8 percent and exports by 11.7 percent.

The controls, which hampered the ability to import goods and conduct business abroad, added to the "tax pressure and collapse of the social security system" of recent years, said Thanassis Kalabalikis, president of the Athens Manufacturers Federation.

"Small entrepreneurs, who before the crisis were the backbone of the Greek economy, had already taken a blow from seven years of recession, and capital controls just

added to the sluggishness," he told AFP.

Some 26,000 Greek businesses of all sizes have shut their doors since capital controls were introduced.

For Panayiotis Petrakis, an economics professor at the University of Athens, "limitations on the free flow of capital and the lack of liquidity are preventing the recovery of the economy and don't encourage confidence among investors."

Greece finally clinched the 86-billion-euro bailout at the end of July, helping bring back a certain amount of economic stability, including by a recapitalisation of its battered banks at the end of the year.

LOW PRICES, BLACK MARKET

The Greek government has relaxed the capital controls in recent months, in particular allowing higher withdrawals on funds returned from abroad.

A commission is also in place to examine requests from businesses and individuals for transactions above transfer limits.

However experts worry that capital controls could remain in place to the end of the year, or even to mid-2017, given the experience of fellow eurozone member Cyprus which took two years to lift capital controls it imposed during the height of its crisis in 2013.

Louka Katseli, a former economy minister who now the board chairwoman at the private lender National Bank of Greece, is among those who believes the capital controls will be lifted later rather than sooner.

For that, she believes that three conditions need to be met: there are effective incentives for funds to return to the country, the problem of dodgy loans on bank balance sheets has been resolved, and most importantly Greece that receives a positive evaluation from its international creditors in a review later this year.

The only advantage of the capital controls has been to encourage Greeks to use other means of payments when they can: bank transfers and card payments inside the country were not restricted.

That would help reduce problematic tax evasion, if more Greek businesses install card terminals. "People have adapted but not businesses as the installation of card terminals has been a headache, because in addition to many bank commissions many indebted companies are in such a terrible state they don't have the right to install them," said Kalabalikis.

The result has been, according to Sotiropoulos, that "prices have fallen even more and fostered the black market" as businesses are inclined "to offer considerable discounts to get sales by not issuing a receipt and dodging the tax payments." — AFP

LONDON BANKERS FACE BREXIT
CHOICE: LOBBY OR LEAVE

LONDON: A week after Britons voted themselves out of the European Union, many London-based bankers and their employers face two options if they are to secure their futures: Lobby or leave.

Some investment banks, anxious not to stir speculation of an exodus from the historic City of London and its modern counterpart at Canary Wharf, have given out "business as usual" messages since last week's shock referendum result.

But beyond the soothing words the wider industry is hastily organising a lobbying effort in the hope London can keep selling financial services across Europe, a right to which it has become accustomed but may lapse when Britain finally exits the 28-nation bloc.

The alternative for banks and bankers, growing increasingly insecure in an information vacuum that has developed since the June 23 vote, is to get out. Headhunters report a level of anxious calls they haven't seen since the 2008 global crisis, with bankers asking about prospects in rival financial centres that remain in the EU, or those in Asia and the United States.

Banks and other financial firms have rallied together, forming a group to devise a strategy for protecting the turf of an industry that is Britain's biggest exporter and accounts for more than 10 percent of its tax revenues.

Even Britain's biggest lenders are relying on the group - led by Shriti Vadera, chairwoman of the UK arm of Spain's Banco Santander who is also a former business minister - for guidance in such uncertain times.

"We are looking to them to have an intelligent response," Barclays chairman John McFarlane told an industry event on Thursday. "We neither know the shape or direction of things to come. It's far from certain what we might be able to secure from discussions with the EU."

With the British government in disarray, European politicians are threatening to clip the wings of the London financial centre that is home to more than 250 foreign banks and more than three-quarters of the EU's capital markets activity.

French President Francois Hollande has backed calls for London, the world's biggest currency trading centre, to lose its right to clear deals denominated in euros. Likewise, the right of banks based in Britain to operate across the EU under the bloc's financial "passporting" arrangement could also go if it loses access to the single European market.

DISTANT SEPTEMBER

Britain has yet even to say when it will formally inform the EU of its intention to leave, a move that will start two years of divorce negoti-

ations. Prime Minister David Cameron has said he will resign, but left the formal exit notification to his successor who is unlikely to be installed until September.

Leading "Leave" campaigners have also yet to say precisely what they want, beyond stating their desire to control the right of EU citizens to work in Britain - something Brussels says is impossible if the country wants to stay in the single market. So while the financial sector is poised to lobby, it has little idea of whom it must present its case to on the British side.

"We are ready to talk, but we don't know who we should be talking to," said a senior banking industry source involved in the discussions. "No-one has defined 'leave', so we don't know what it is that we're dealing with ... September feels a very long way off."

Bankers said their message to European officials is that keeping Britain in the single market would be better for economic growth and jobs across the bloc. Fights over where banks do their business and forcing them into major overhauls of their operations would damage the broader financial system, they argue.

Some dislike being told what to do, such as HSBC Chairman Douglas Flint, whose bank decided only earlier this year against moving its headquarters from London. "Politicians can't dictate where things are done," he told Thursday's TheCityUK annual conference.

Sometimes the relationships needed for lobbying are only now being established. The benefits of passporting have meant that U.S. investment banks in particular have rarely discussed broad market access issues with European officials, meaning they are starting their charm offensive from scratch.

WHERE TO GO NEXT

Rumours are swirling that banks and other financial firms, which together employ more than 2 million people across Britain, will move staff to the likes of Frankfurt, Paris or Dublin.

Investment banks Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley have moved quickly to quell speculation they are about to do so.

But some bankers, especially those involved in mergers and acquisitions, fear a repeat of the heavy job cuts, tumbling salaries and sky-high stress levels during the 2008-09 crisis.

"People in UK M&A know they aren't getting paid bonuses this year ... But that's just one of their troubles," said TBS Partners Portfolio Manager Xavier Van Hove. "They know banks are going to have to fire people so they are very conscious of that. And the Europeans among them are wondering where they go next."

Stephane Rambosson, managing partner for the UK and head of financial services at headhunter DHR International, said he had taken

more than a dozen calls from senior London-based investment, M&A and equity capital markets bankers in the past week.

The questions they asked were all the same: how safe is my job? Where will I need to move my family? "The last time it happened was during the crisis, when people were equally concerned about job prospects and the direction of their careers," Rambosson said. "People know this is something they have to plan for but there's little for them to go on right now."

ESCAPE ROUTES

Some in the industry are contemplating leaving Europe altogether.

"We are getting more resumes every day from London," said Matthew Hoyle, who runs a financial services headhunting firm in Hong Kong. "I don't think many people in London are very keen to move to Paris, Frankfurt ... English is a problem there and it's really very different from London."

Uday Singh, a New York-based partner with consulting firm A.T. Kearney, said he believes London-based financial executives will give serious thought to moving to the United States.

"The US actually has a pretty permissive immigration regime where qualified company executives are concerned. It's a matter of a couple of months of visa processing and the job can certainly be done from here," he said.

Leaders of British banking remain hopeful that the next government will negotiate continued access to the single market. For that reason, they say they are not yet ready to spend billions beefing up or launching subsidiaries in the EU.

"We are all working on multiple scenarios. For many firms, it would be premature to activate all that pre-referendum planning," said Clare Woodman, global chief operating officer for institutional securities at Morgan Stanley.

But others worry whether the industry - still tainted by the bank failures of 2008-09, "fat cat" bonuses and a magnet for public scorn - can secure the backing it needs.

"We won't gain much from trying to remind the electorate how important we are to them, we need to get other advocates for our industry," David Sproul, Chief Executive of Deloitte told TheCityUK conference.

Meanwhile, London's rivals are moving aggressively to capitalise on its limbo by wooing bankers. "Finance ministries are getting in touch. I won't say who were talking to but, well, French-speaking, German-speaking, Spanish-speaking, Dutch-speaking, English-speaking countries are all interested," the senior banking source said.

"It's very much on the lines of 'we are sorry you got divorced, would you like to go on a date?'" — Reuters

LIBYA'S RIVAL NOC OIL COMPANIES AGREE TO MERGE

TRIPOLI: Libya's state energy company National Oil Corporation has agreed to merge with a rival company established in the east by one of the country's two former competing governments, the NOC said in a statement. The merging of the two NOCs is a positive step to recovering the OPEC member's oil sector which has been battered by militant attacks, rival export attempts and closures of pipelines and oil ports by armed factions.

It is also a boost for the UN-backed unity government and its presidential council in

Tripoli that has struggled to extend its influence over hardline factions and their armed supporters who set up rival administrations in the capital and in the east. The NOC said current chairman, Mustafa Sanalla, who was named executive before any rival administrations were in place, will remain in the top post while former eastern NOC head Nagi el-Maghrabi will join the unified NOC board. "There is only one NOC, and it serves all Libyans," Sanalla said in the statement. "This agreement will send a very strong signal to

the Libyan people and to the international community that the Presidency Council is able to deliver consensus and reconciliation." Prime Minister Fayaz Seraj's presidential council has been in Tripoli for three months since a U.N.-brokered agreement, but it has struggled to make progress and still faces resistance from hardliners who reject its authority. With no national army, Libya's brigades of former rebels who once battled to oust Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 have turned against each other backing rival political lead-

ers in a scramble for control of Libya and its oil resources. Libya's oil exports are less than half of the 1.6 million barrels per day it produced before the 2011 uprising. Its two main oil ports are closed and under control of one armed faction that expressed support for the presidential council. Other fields have been closed by attacks by Islamic State, which took advantage of the chaos to expand its territory. Forces allied to the government are currently fighting to take back the city of Sirte from the group.

The NOC said it recognised the presidential council as the executive and also the parliament in the east, the House of Representatives. It would report to both bodies. The NOC will unify its budget for the remainder of the financial year, it said, and will make infrastructure rehabilitation a priority. It plans to make its new headquarters in the eastern city of Benghazi. —Reuters

GERMAN ARMS EXPORTS ALMOST DOUBLED IN 2015

BERLIN: German arms exports almost doubled last year to their highest level since the beginning of this century, a German newspaper said yesterday, citing a report from the Economy Ministry that is due to be presented to the cabinet on Wednesday. Newspaper Welt am Sonntag said the value of individual approvals granted for exporting arms was 7.86 billion euros (\$8.75 billion) last year compared with 3.97 billion euros worth of arms exports in 2014. It said the Economy Ministry had pointed to special factors that boosted arms exports such as the approval of four tanker aircraft for Britain worth 1.1 billion euros.

It also pointed to the approval of battle tanks and tank howitzers along with munitions and accompanying vehicles worth 1.6 billion euros for Qatar - a controversial deal that the report said was approved in 2013 by the previous government.

The Economy Ministry declined to comment on the report. In February German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel said preliminary figures showed that Germany had given approval for around 7.5 billion euros worth of arms shipments in 2015. The Federal Office for Economics and Export Control (Bafa), a subsidiary of the economy ministry, is responsible for licensing arms export deals and Gabriel had promised to take a much more cautious approach to licensing arms exports, especially with regard to the Middle East.

Germany is one of the world's main arms exporters to EU and NATO countries and has been cutting its sales of light weapons outside those states. Last year the government rejected 100 applications for arms export approvals - the same number as in the previous year, Welt am Sonntag reported. It said Berlin had given 12,687 applications the green light in 2015 - 597 more than in the previous year. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						
Sunday 03 July 2016						
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low	
Price index	▲ 4.46	5,369.03	5,364.57	5,389.03	5,357.53	
Weighted Index	▼ -0.73	350.71	351.44	352.49	349.82	
KSX 15	▼ -3.53	802.18	805.71	809.72	800.73	

Volume	46,038,112
Value (KWD)	5,554,277
Number of Trades	1,442

Security	Trades		Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
	High	Low					
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0
IKARUS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	▲ 0.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	335	▲ 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	▲ 0.0
ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	48.5	▲ 0.0
GPI	41.0	39.5	2,800,098	112,120	50	40.0	▲ 0.0
ARAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	▲ 0.0
Oil & Gas			2,800,098	112,120	50	793.45	▲ 0.00
KFOUC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	▲ 0.0
BPCC	510	495	18,084	9,112	7	495	▼ -25.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▲ 0.0
ALQURAIN	194	192	59,037	11,436	9	192	▼ -2.0
Basic Materials			77,121	20,548	16	966.11	▼ -14.69
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	▲ 0.0
CABLE	390	380	12,719	4,834	7	390	▲ 10.0
SHIP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	152	▲ 0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	950	▲ 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	▲ 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	▲ 0.0
ACICO	300	300	40	12	1	300	▲ 5.0
GGMC	300	300	22,500	6,750	2	300	▲ 10.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	▲ 0.0
KBMM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	240	▲ 0.0
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	▲ 0.0
EQUIPMENT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	▲ 0.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	▲ 0.0
GYPGUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	▲ 0.0
SALBOOKH	65	63	55,779	3,595	7	65	▼ -1.0
AGLTY	475	470	634,959	298,591	14	470	▲ 0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	38.5	▲ 0.0
KGL	47.0	43.5	353,873	15,481	14	46.5	▲ 1.5
KPCP	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	178	▲ 0.0
HUMANSOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	▲ 0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	▲ 0.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	▲ 0.0
GFC	33.0	31.5	560	18	3	33.0	▲ 2.0
MAYADEEN	26.5	26.0	562,300	14,621	5	26.0	▲ 0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▲ 0.0
MTCC	63	61	1,209,600	74,123	54	62	▲ 1.0
UPAC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	▲ 0.0
ALFAICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61	▲ 0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	▲ 0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	▲ 0.0
GCEM	75	75	5,000	375	1	75	▲ 2.0
OIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	▲ 0.0
GCEM	76	74	260,000	19,255	5	75	▼ -1.0
RKVC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	▲ 0.0
SPEC	74	69	40,050	2,764	2	74	▲ 0.0
Industrials			3,157,380	440,419	115	1060.02	▲ 2.82
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	▲ 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	▲ 0.0
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	98	▲ 0.0
CATTL	198	188	161,600	31,912	9	198	▲ 10.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	▲ 0.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	178	▲ 0.0
FOOD	2,480	2,460	317,779	784,774	50	2,460	▼ -20.0
Consumer Goods			479,379	816,686	59	1170.69	▲ 8.19
MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	▲ 0.0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	▲ 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
Health Care			0	0	0	992.41	▲ 0.00
KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,700	▲ 0.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	▲ 0.0
SULTAN	56	56	10,000	560	1	56	▲ 1
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	▲ 0.0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	▲ 0.0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	▲ 0.0
OLUFAHEL	110	110	8,763	964	6	110	▲ 0.0
MUNTAZAHAT	90	85	10,100	859	2	85	▼ -5
JAZERA	900	880	25,141	22,624	2	900	▲ 0.0
SOOR	114	108	80,839	9,031	12	114	▲ 2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	▲ 0.0
ALRAI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	160	▲ 0.0
ZIMAH	47.5	44.0	7,873,297	353,120	154	47.5	▲ 2
UFIG	130	130	2,194	285	1	130	▼ -10
Mezzan	1,100	1,080	51,515	55,635	6	1,100	▲ 20
Consumer Services			8,061,849	443,079	184	998.89	▼ -8.50
ZAIN	340	335	49,696	16,722	4	335	▲ 0
OOREDOO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,200	▲ 0
HITSTELEC	40.5	39.0	1,660,330	65,850	29	40.0	▲ 1
VIVA	940	930	72,805	67,931	31	930	▲ 0
Telecommunications			1,782,832	150,603	64	610.75	▲ 1.19
NBK	590	580	1,227,863	712,547	49	580	▼ -10
GBK	232	232	67,088	15,564	8	232	▲ 0
CBK	415	415	135,000	56,025	1	415	▲ 0
ABK	330	325	22,000	7,160	2	330	▲ 0
ALMUTAHED	400	385	168,621	65,888	15	395	▲ 0
KID	184	182	220,746	40,176	9	182	▲ 0
BURG	325	320	636,640	203,860	35	325	▲ 0
KFIN	460	455	2,496,905	1,136,107	33	455	▲ 0
BOUBAYAN	385	380	240,800	92,005	10	380	▲ 0
AUB	190	188	86,100	16,189	7	190	▲ 0
ITHMR	35.0	34.6	1,870	65	5	35.0	▼ -1
WARBARANK	170	168	278,320	47,302	48	170	▲ 2
Banks			5,581,863	2,392,689	222	787.69	▼ -1.29
KINS	290	290	3,439	997	1	290	▲ 5
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	▲ 0.0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	▲ 0.0
WINS	104	102	1,320	136	4	104	▼ -2.0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	▲ 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	▲ 0.0
WETHAQ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	▲ 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	▲ 0.0
Insurance			4,768	1,133	5	1024.75	▲ 0.52

Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	34.0	33.5	234,299	7,876	6	34.0	▲ 0.5
KRE	53	52	748,000	39,494	15	53	▲ 0.0
URC	95	93	14,050	1,335	2	93	▼ -2.0
NRE	86	84	523,911	44,186	10	86	▲ 2.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	▲ 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	590	▲ 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	▲ 0.0
MASGALJI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	▲ 0.0
ARABREC	30.5	30.0	85,033	2,568	4	30.0	▲ 0.0
ERESCO	50	49.5	35,000	1,733	3	50	▲ 0.5
MADANEC	760	760	125	95	2	760	▲ 10.0
INJAZZAI	69	68	90	6	1	68	▼ -1.0
INVESTORS	21.5	21.0	793,240	17,050	18	21.0	▼ -0.5
IRC	28.5	28.0	240,150	6,724	12	28.5	▼ -0.5
ALTUJARIA	75	75	243,949	10,296	7	75	▼ -1.0
SANAM	30.0	30.0	3,000	90	2	30.0	▲ 0.0
AAYANRE	61	60	224,000	13,490	5	61	▲ 1.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	▲ 0.0
ALADARIA	23.0	22.5	20,000	455	2	23.0	▲ 1.0
MAZAYA	118	116	194,426	22,742	3	116	▼ -2.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1	

GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS SHAKEN AS BRITAIN VOTED TO LEAVE EU

KAMCO'S GCC MARKETS MONTHLY REPORT

KUWAIT: Global financial markets were shaken during the month, as Britain surprisingly voted to leave the European Union, resulting in sharp moves across asset classes. Total loss for the financial markets globally was pegged at approximately \$2 Trillion following the vote, with the USD strengthening against key currencies. A strengthening greenback could also mean that Fed rate hike may not happen this year as it would make it all the more difficult for the US manufacturing and export sector that was gradually moving towards more sustainable growth.

In addition, the European Central Bank will have to extend its quantitative easing program to further support an even fragile recovery post Brexit, whereas the Bank of England may lower rates among other measures aimed at stimulating growth. Nevertheless, as the anxiety over the impact of Brexit eased, markets bounced back after two days of selling with the S&P 500 Index posting its strongest two day climb in four months.

GCC equity markets were also affected resulting in a single-day market cap loss of \$11.5 Bn or 1.3% and an equivalent decline in the MSCI GCC index. Markets continued to remain weak the following day, but, majority of the markets recovered on Tuesday after ascertaining that the likely impact of Brexit on the GCC may in fact be mixed (see our report Brexit & Impact on the GCC: Asymmetric Risks).

Monthly market performance was mixed in the GCC with Kuwait leading the decline with a fall of 1.7% in its Weighted Index, followed by marginal declines in Muscat and Dubai. On the other hand, Abu Dhabi clocked the best monthly gain of 5.8% after surging 1.8% on the last day of the month buoyed by the banking index that surged 3.2%. In terms of trading activity, the impact of the month of Ramadan was apparent as seen from the 26.4% decline in value traded during the month as compared to May-16.

KSE INDICES DECLINE

KSE indices declined for the second consecutive month during June-16 amid a broad sell-off with all the three indices in the red as investors cashed out before the vacation after the month of Ramadan. Large cap stocks led the decline as seen in the 2.5% fall in the KSE 15 index, whereas the KSE Weighted Index and the Price Index declined by 1.7% and 0.7%, respectively.

In terms of sector performance, the large-cap Banking index led the monthly decline with a fall of 3.2% as all the listed banks, with the only exception of Gulf Bank that was up 2.7%, declined during the month. Kuwait International Bank led the monthly decline in the banking sector with a fall of 9.9% despite the bank's 'A+' rating being reaffirmed by Fitch reflecting KIB's modest but improving franchise, its evolving strategy and relatively high concentration of financing to domestic real estate. On the other hand, NBK recorded the second highest monthly decline of 7.1% in a broader blue-chip sell-off despite the bank's rights issue being oversubscribed during the month. The Basic Materials index and the Real Estate index recorded monthly declines of 2.2% each followed by the Financial Services index that recorded a decline of 1.9%.

Trading activity declined during the month due to the month of Ramadan. Total volume traded declined by 26.1% to 2.2 Bn shares as compared to 2.9 Bn shares during the previous month, whereas monthly value traded declined at a much slower pace of 7.9% to KD 227m as compared to KD 246m during May-16, highlighting higher trades in large-cap stocks. The monthly gainers chart was topped by Kuwait National Cinema with a return of 21.4% closely followed by Al Kout For Industrial Projects Co. with a return of 21.3% although trades in these stocks was minimal. Other gainers included Ektitab Holding Co. (+14.5%) and Al Rai Media (+14.3%). On the decliners side, the list was topped by Al Dar National Real Estate Co. (-24.1%) followed by Real Estate Trade Centers Co. (-19.6%) and Enmaa Real Estate Co. (-18.9%). The market breadth remained skewed towards decliners that included 92 companies as against 47 gainers, whereas prices of 42 stocks remained unchanged. In terms of most active stocks, NBK topped the monthly value chart with KD 33.9m worth of shares traded during the month followed by KFJ and Americana with KD 14.6mm and KD 13.4m worth of shares traded, respectively. The monthly volume chart was topped by Hits Telecom with 211.9m shares traded during the month.

In a positive development on the economic front, the Kuwait National Assembly passed a long awaited law that will allow foreign investors to bid for public projects in Kuwait without the need for a local agent. The law also gives additional powers to the Central Tenders Committee (CTC) to pick the second lowest bid for a project if it feels that the bidder is technically superior. This law is expected to provide further boost to the investment environment in Kuwait, boost FDI in Kuwait by the foreign investors and at the same time provide additional impetus to the economic activity and employment.

Monthly Value Traded (SAR Mn)

After witnessing one of the steepest declines in the GCC during May-16, the Tadawul All Share Index (TASI) saw marginal gains during June-16 as positive returns for the Real Estate, Energy & Utilities and Building & Construction sectors were partially offset by a decline in primarily Banks and Petrochemicals stocks. The TASI went up by 0.8% to slightly below the 6,500 mark resulting in a YTD-16 decline of 6.0%. On the positive side, Saudi Arabia continues to be the only active market in the GCC in terms of IPOs with one new listing of LAZURde Company for Jewelry with a market cap of SAR 1.7 Bn during June-16.

In terms of sector performance, the Energy & Utilities index witnessed the best monthly performance with a surge of 18.6% on the back of 21.3% gain in shares of GASCO and 18.4% gain in shares of Saudi Electricity (SEC) which saw its shares surge on the back of getting \$1.5bn financing from Industrial and Commercial Bank of China

which would be used to finance part of SEC's capital projects. The Real Estate Index was the second best performer during the month with a gain of 10.1% primarily on the back of a new law related to taxing vacant land banks with real estate companies. According to the law, a new entity may be formed by the Housing Ministry to manage the vacant land fees program that will be operational by the end of 2016. According to JLL, a specialized real estate services company, the new law would result in a fundamental change in Saudi Arabia's real estate market that would be instrumental to stimulate development in order to address the severe shortage of middle income housing.

The monthly gainers chart was topped by Arabian Pipes Co. with a monthly gain of 33.4% as the company stands to benefit from the decline in oil prices. Shares of Dar Al Arkan surged 29.9% during the month after the property developer said it is negotiating a cooperation agreement with the Ministry of Housing to provide housing units under the kingdom's economic reform plan. On the decliners side, Amana Insurance topped the chart with a decline of 25.9% followed by recently listed Al Yamamah Steel (-14%).

On the economic front, during the first week of June-16, the Kingdom announced the much anticipated National Transformation Plan that enlists short term targets as part of the longer term Vision 2030 announced in April-16. The plan, which runs until 2020, envisages cut in state spending on salaries from 45% of GDP to 40% of GDP by 2020 (from SAR 480 Bn to SAR 456 Bn) encouraging locals to opt for private sector jobs. In terms of employment, the plan aims at creating 0.45 Mn jobs outside the government sector by 2020 and thereby reduce the unemployment rate from 11.6% to 9%. Furthermore, it aims to raise non-oil revenues from SAR 163.5 Bn in 2015 to SAR 530 Bn by 2020 through an increase in government fees and taxes. Overall, the plans aims to balance the budget by 2020 with debt at 30% of

and Mubadala Development Company would reportedly pool assets of about USD 135 Bn and a debt of approximately USD 42 Bn, according to Bloomberg estimates. Mubadala investments include being the largest single investor in US semiconductor company Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. with an 18% stake and a 30% ownership in Aldar Properties, Abu Dhabi's biggest developer, as per Bloomberg. It also has a 7.1% holding in First Gulf Bank. IPIC's investments are reportedly focused on energy and petrochemical companies including Spain's Cepsa SA and Vienna-based Borealis AG.

Trading trends were mixed, as traded volumes declined by closed to a third m-o-m, while value traded increased during the same period. Total volumes decreased by 31.2% to 1.3 Bn shares as compared to 1.9 Bn shares during the previous month. Value traded during June-16 improved by 16.7% m-o-m to AED 3.83 Bn. Etisalat was the largest traded stock in the ADX index as AED 1.22 Bn worth of the stock was traded during the month, while FGB finished with AED 541 Mn worth of trades. FOODCO Holding led the gainers list and achieved a monthly return of 29.3%, followed by NBAD and Union National Bank (UNB), which went up by 23.9% and 19.5% respectively during the month. UNB went up as there were possible merger related anticipations by the street for the bank, following other mergers news from the same sector. Prominent decliners included Abu Dhabi National Insurance Company with a monthly share price decline of 24.2%, followed by Abu Dhabi National Energy and Ooredoo, as they saw their stock prices erode by 15.3% and 9.8% respectively.

MONTHLY VALUE TRADED (AED MN)

DFM index was however not able to keep up with its UAE counterpart ADX, as it witnessed the highest decline in the GCC during the first trading session following the Brexit vote, and fell by 3.3% in a single day. As a result, DFM closed the month

Dubai Parks and Resorts with a value traded of AED 0.96 Bn. Market breadth on the exchange was negative, as 15 stocks gained ground while 26 stocks declined during the month of February. The overall activity on the exchange was negative as well, on a monthly basis, as volumes traded decreased 20.8% m-o-m from 6.7 Bn shares to 5.4 Bn shares in June -16. Value traded went down by 9.8% m-o-m to AED 7.0 Bn. General investor participation also was negative, as the number of trades moved down by 16.2% m-o-m.

MONTHLY VALUE TRADED (QAR MN)

The QE 20 index was back in the green in June-16 after closing two consecutive months prior in the red, as it closed at 9,885.22 points. The Qatar All Share index also gained by 2.9% for the month, as most sectoral indices witnessed gains during June-16. Market breadth was broadly positive as 25 names gained ground, while 15 companies saw an erosion in their share prices. The move up was mostly supported by the Real Estate index, which went up by 6.5% for the month, followed by Telecoms, which went up by 5.6%. Banks and Financial services index also gained by 2.8% as compared to May-16. Indices, which closed in the red, were Consumer Goods & Services and Transportation which closed down by 0.34% and 0.15% respectively. The Real Estate index was buoyed by three out of its four large cap names gaining ground, led by Barwa, which went up by 8.9% followed by United Development & Ezdan as they moved up by 6.4% and 6.0% respectively. In Telecoms, Ooredoo moved up by 7.8% and was able to offset the declines in Vodafone. The Banking index was pushed into the green by heavyweights QNB & QIB, as they improved by 4.9% and 3.8% respectively. Medicare Group and Qatar Fuel – the largest stock in the index, were mainly responsible for the declines in the Consumer Goods & Services index as they declined by 8.8% and 0.26% respectively.

In corporate developments, Ooredoo success-

GCC Equity Markets	Index Closing	MTD Chg%	YTD Chg%	M-Cap (USD Bn)	Monthly Value Traded (USD Mn)	P/E (x) TTM	P/B (x) TTM	Div. Yield
Kuwait - Weighted Index	351.4	(1.7%)	(7.9%)	80.4	750.0	15.3	1.1	4.3%
Kuwait - 15 Index	805.7	(2.5%)	(10.5%)					
Kuwait - Price Index	5,364.6	(0.7%)	(4.5%)					
Saudi Arabia	6,499.9	0.8%	(6.0%)	401.4	22,474.4	11.9	1.5	4.6%
Abu Dhabi	4,497.6	5.8%	4.4%	124.4	1,043.3	10.7	1.3	5.6%
Dubai	3,311.1	(0.1%)	5.1%	88.0	1,904.8	8.2	1.1	4.8%
Qatar	9,885.2	3.6%	(5.2%)	146.2	901.3	12.8	1.5	4.1%
Bahrain	1,118.4	0.6%	(8.0%)	17.5	47.9	9.2	0.8	4.4%
Oman	5,777.3	(0.6%)	6.9%	18.8	153.1	10.0	1.1	6.4%
Total GCC				876.8	27,274.8	11.2	1.4	4.7%



the GDP by 2020 from 7.7% currently. In a related development and a largely anticipated outcome, MSCI did not set a date to review Saudi Arabia's inclusion in its Emerging Markets Index in its annual classification review. The index provider said that the Kingdom needs to implement reforms that would make it easier for foreign investors to invest in Saudi Arabian stock market which would boost its chances of being included in the index. The Kingdom is already in the process of reforming stock market rules that are expected to be implemented by mid-next year. This would mean that 2018 should be the earliest the Kingdom could make it to the coveted index.

MONTHLY VALUE TRADED (AED MN)

After a month of decline, the ADX General Index showed a strong reversal in trend and was the best performing market in the GCC in June-16. The index was able to reverse significant amount of declines which it accrued in May-16, and grew to 4,497.6 points. Telecoms gained the most during the month, as the sector rose by 7.1%, followed by Banks and Services indices which went up by 6.9% and 6.7% respectively. Telecoms went up predominantly due to Etisalat gaining by over 7% m-o-m, which was able to more than offset the 9.8% and 2% m-o-m declines posted by Ooredoo & Sudatel Telecom. Banks went up primarily due to the merger discussions regarding National Bank of Abu Dhabi & First Gulf Bank, and other merger anticipations and rumors on the street in the sector. All but one stock – Abu Dhabi Aviation in the Services index was able to gain ground during the month of June -16. The Insurance index was the sector which lost the most ground during the month, with m-o-m losses of 3.5%. The decline was largely as a result of a 24% decline in its major index constituent – Abu Dhabi National Insurance Co.

In M&A related developments, National Bank of Abu Dhabi (NBAD) & First Gulf Bank (FGB) are in talks for a possible merger to create the largest lender by assets in the MENA region. Synergies in product offering, costs savings and existing competitive pressures are reportedly the motivations behind the merger talks. Both FGB & NBAD have strong existing ties with the government of Abu Dhabi, as NBAD is majority owned by the government of Abu Dhabi and FGB's largest shareholder group is the ruling family of Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi is also reportedly planning a merger between two of its largest sovereign investment funds – Petroleum Investment Co. & Mubadala Development Company. The combination of International Petroleum Investment Co.

down marginally by 0.1% and closed at 3,311.1 points. The Transportation index receded the most during the month of June-16, as it went down by almost 2.1%. Banks, Services indices followed with declines of 1.5% and 1.0% respectively. Indices which gained were led by Consumer Staples and Discretionary index which jumped by 9.6%, followed by Invest. & Financial Services names which went up by 3.6%, as compared to the previous month.

The Banking index could not recover post the Brexit day, as heavy weight names such as Mashreq Bank (-10.0%), Commercial Bank of Dubai (-4.3%), and Emirates NBD (-1.8%) declined during the month. Real Estate index recovered considerably post the Brexit day, and closed the month of June -16 just marginally down by 0.2%. Emaar Malls proved a relatively safer stock due to its stable cash flows as investor buying pushed the stock up by 3.3%, while Emaar Properties ended the month marginally down. After losing almost 3.2% on the first day following Brexit, Dubai Parks surged in the final days of trade for the month and ended June-16 up by 9.9% and led to the jump in the Consumer Staples and Discretionary index. DIC and DFM were mainly responsible for the Investment and Financial Services index moving up as the stocks moved up by 4.6% and 2.4%.

In listings related developments on the exchange, Afkar Capital listed their Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). The fund is designed to replicate the S&P UAE BMI Liquid 20/35 Capped Index, which includes the largest stocks by capitalization in the country. On the first trading day following the Brexit vote, all sectors in the index barring Industrials went down. Real Estate was the main laggard as the index went down by 4.8% for the single day, as large cap stocks such as Emaar went down by 4.7% while Mazaya and Arabtec lost the most ground, dropping by 7% and 5.7% respectively. The concerns around the sector was broadly around the pound's weakening, which could effectively mean that UK-based investors are likely to buy less assets in dollar-pegged currencies such as the UAE.

Takaful House topped the gainers list with a gain of 68.7% m-o-m for the month of June -16, followed by Al Salam Group Holding and Ektitab Holding, which moved up by 19.4% & 19% m-o-m respectively. On the other hand, shares of Dubai Refreshments Co. led the monthly losers chart as it declined by 18.6%. Al Salam Bank - Sudan and United Foods Co. followed with declines of 17.8% and 13.4% for the month. Dubai Islamic Bank was the most actively traded stock on the exchange as AED 1.3 Bn worth of stock was traded, followed by

fully priced a USD 500 million issuance of senior unsecured notes. The Notes will mature on 22 June 2026 and will have a coupon of 3.75 % per year as per QSE. The transaction was reportedly priced at a margin of 2.27 % over the 10-year U.S. Treasury bond. The proceeds from issuance will reportedly be used for Ooredoo's general corporate purposes, including refinancing of its existing indebtedness. The Commercial Bank announced the successful issuance and pricing of a USD 750 Mn five-year senior unsecured bond under the Bank and its subsidiary, CBQ Finance Limited's USD 5 Bn European Medium Term Note (OEMTNO) program, as per the QSE. The bond was issued at a spread of 215 basis points over mid-swaps, and carries a coupon of 3.250% and has a final reoffer yield of 3.385% per annum.

Trading value during June-16 decreased by 40% to reach QAR 3.2 Bn, compared to QAR 5.4 Bn May-16. Trading volume decreased by 45.3% to reach 89 Mn shares in June-16, as against 163 Mn shares during the previous month. Monthly gainers for the month of June-16 was topped by Dala Brokerage, which ended the month up by 16.2%. Barwa Real Estate and Ooredoo followed with gains of 8.9% and 7.8% m-o-m respectively. The laggards during the month was led by Al Ahli Bank of Qatar which saw its price plunge by 10.5% m-o-m, while Medicare Group and Qatar German Co for Medical Devices followed closely, witnessing m-o-m declines of 8.8% and 6.5%.

In economic releases during the month, the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics (MDPS) released Qatar Economic Outlook 2016-18. MDPS forecasts Qatar's real GDP growth at CAGR of 3.6% over 2016-2018, on the back of continued expansion in the non-hydrocarbon economy, which they mentioned will remain strong although moderating. Despite lower oil prices, they expect real GDP growth to rise to 3.9%, driven by growth in non-hydrocarbon sector, and from the boost to upstream hydrocarbon production from the Barzan gas project.

BSE MONTHLY SECTOR PERFORMANCE

After posting its first m-o-m gains for 2016 in May-16, the Bahrain All Share Index was able to post a m-o-m gain in June-16 as well, albeit marginally, growing by 0.6% for the month. The index closed at 1118.37 points for the month of June -16. Market breadth was also broadly even between stocks as 12 stocks advanced while 11 stocks saw lower share prices during the month as compared to May-16.

Services and Commercial Banks indices were key gainers during the month moving up by over

2% & 0.9% respectively. In the Services index, Bahrain Cinema, Bahrain Duty Free and BMMI were more than able to offset the decline in value of Batelco. Ahli United Bank and National Bank of Bahrain were the key stocks which drove the Commercial Banks index higher with gains of 2.4% and 6% respectively. Industrial and Hotel indices were the key laggards in terms of sectoral performance. To enhance the liquidity and activity in the bourse, a number of initiatives were introduced during the month. Bahrain has reportedly launched a USD 100 Mn liquidity fund to enhance the depth in its illiquid stock markets. The Bahrain Liquidity Fund is reportedly supported by a number of market participants and has been vested with assets in cash and shares. The fund will reportedly act as a market maker, as it will provide two way quotes on most of the listed stocks with a spread to allow the investors to trade more actively on their stocks. The Bahrain Bourse also introduced the Bahrain Islamic Index – which is the GCC's first Sharia-compliant index, the introduction of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) rules and the offering of Bahraini government bonds and treasury bills.

The exchange's figures of value and volumes traded moved up significantly as well in June-16 on an m-o-m basis, clocking another month of positive trading activity on the exchange. Volume traded in the exchange reached 83.1 Mn shares and improved by over three times m-o-m. Value traded jumped even more by over four times in the exchange to reach BHD 18 Mn in June -16, as compared to BHD 4.8 Mn shares in May-16. In addition, the number of trades made in the exchange increased to 873 trades, a 15.6% m-o-m jump from June-2016. Batelco was the most actively traded stock in June-16 with BHD 4.74 Mn worth of its shares traded on the exchange. BBK and Gulf Hotels Group followed with BHD 2.44 Mn and BHD 1.91 Mn worth of shares traded on the exchange. Bahrain Cinema topped the gainers list for the month of June-16, which reported a m-o-m increase of 30%, followed by Nass Corporation with a 12.5% monthly gain and BMMI, which went up by 9.2% as against May-16. Meanwhile, among the monthly decliners, Ithmaar Bank lost the most ground with its stock price plunging by 17.9% m-o-m.

In ratings related action, S&P Global Ratings affirmed Bahrain's 'BB/B' long- and short-term foreign and the local currency sovereign credit ratings of the country. The agency mentioned that their rating was mainly supported by the country's strong net external asset position and the assumption that Bahrain could receive additional support from Saudi Arabia, or from other GCC nations, in the event of further significant deterioration in its fiscal position or domestic political instability.

MUSCAT SECURITIES MARKET

Muscat Securities Market recorded decline for the second consecutive month, although marginal, during June-16 with the MSM 30 index falling by 0.6% during the month. The decline comes despite a 2% gain in industrial index that was more than offset by 0.6% fall in the services index and more importantly due to the 2% decline in the Financial Index. The latter declined for the second consecutive month as foreign investors sold some of their banking sector holdings. This was also apparent in monthly price change for listed banks with prices of five of the six listed bank ending the month with a decline with Bank Dhofar recording the sharpest monthly fall of 4.5%.

In a related development, the three-year pending merger of Bank Dhofar and Bank Sohar saw some progress after the boards of the two banks agreed on a share swap ratio for the proposed merger. Under the plan, each share of Bank Dhofar would be exchanged for 1.29 shares of Bank Sohar to create the second largest bank in Oman, behind Bank Muscat, with a combined asset base of OMR 58.8 Bn (approximately USD 16 Bn). According to Central Bank of Oman data, the banking sector in Sultanate continued to grow this year with key sector indicators pointing to a positive trend. Total assets for commercial banks increased by 7.7% year-on-year by the end of April-16 to OMR 28.6 Bn from OMR 26.5 Bn a year ago. During the same time, credit facilities increased by 9.4% to OMR 19.2 billion. Credit to the private sector registered an increase of 15.1% to OMR 18.8 Bn. Nevertheless, household sector, by way of personal loans, continues to account for a large chunk of private sector credits at 46%, whereas the share of the non-financial corporate sector stood at 45.8% of total private sector credits.

The monthly gainers chart was topped by Al Maha Ceramics with a gain of 11.5% followed by National Gas and Raysut Cement with returns of 10.5% and 6.9%, respectively. On the other hand, the decliners side was topped by Al Anwar Holding with a decline of -24.3% followed by Global Financial Investment (-7.1%) and Al Batineh Dev. Inv. Holding (-6.9%). The monthly market breadth remained skewed towards decliners with 24 stocks as against 16 gainers, whereas prices of 16 stocks remained unchanged by the end of the month.

Trading activity on the exchange also declined, in line with the rest of the GCC markets, with volumes down by 27% to 254 Mn shares as compared to 347 Mn shares during the previous month whereas value traded declined by an even steeper 38.7% to OMR 58.9 Mn during June-16 as compared to OMR 96 Mn during the previous month. The monthly volume chart was topped by Bank Sohar (-2.2%) with 51.8 Mn shares traded during the month followed by Galfar Engineering (+2.8%) and HSBC Bank Oman (-3.9%) with 39.3 Mn shares and 27.9 Mn shares traded, respectively. Bank Sohar also topped the monthly value traded chart with OMR 9.2 Mn worth of shares traded during the month followed by Bank Muscat and Galfar Engineering with OMR 6.8 Mn and OMR 4.3 Mn in trades, respectively.

On the economic front, although there are no direct impact of Brexit on Oman, the country could suffer due to the expected temporary slowdown in economic growth in the UK as well as the European Union. Moreover, currency impact could have unforeseen impact on global trade that would affect Oman indirectly.

OOREDOO SUPPORTS 'JARIBHA' CROWD FUNDING APP

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, announced its support to Jaribha crowd funding platform as a media sponsor. Jaribha is a Kuwaiti crowd funding platform that allows project owners to pitch their ideas on the platform. When users give donations, they receive gifts that range from trinkets to hiking trips.

Jaribha is the first such platform in Kuwait, and Ooredoo's support comes in alignment with its values of caring,



Mijbil Alayoub

connecting and challenging, in addition to being part of the company's corporate social responsibility strategy which aims to enrich the lives of youth as they compose a big segment of society. Commenting on this, Ooredoo Kuwait's Corporate Communications Director Mijbil Alayoub said: "We're happy to be supporting such a unique initiative that aims to support youth projects around the country. Our aim is to shed light on this unique initiative,

which truly propels these project owners and helps them achieve their highest potential - and that is our ultimate goal."

Projects registered on the Jaribha platform include Spread the Passion, a non-profit organization that aims to print manuals and starter kit for new members to orient them, and ATAHUB, an application that aims to connect volunteers with volunteering opportunities around the country, and GoApp, an entertainment initiative

that aims to employ virtual reality in order to provide patients in care centers with a fun experience. It also includes a Beit al Sadu which aims to preserve the art and heritage of Kuwait through teaching the skills of sadu weaving, and Q8LifeSave which aims to educate people on the importance of CPR skills, and Polio Points which is a student initiative that aims to raise awareness on polio disease. Users can view initiatives and ways to support by visiting www.jaribha.com



SAINT PETERSBURG: This file photo taken on August 7, 2014 shows a Russian woman buying cheese at a supermarket in Saint Petersburg. The cottage cheese crackles like popcorn, emits a grayish smoke and finally goes up in flames, burning for an impressive ten minutes, like a well-oiled torch. The noxious experiment, filmed and posted last month by Russian news website Fontanka, concluded that some dairy sold around Saint Petersburg does not actually contain any milk and is "good only for filling kerosene lamps." Though authorities closed one factory making the combustible cheese, the problem of milkless dairy, meatless sausages and other questionable products worry both government agencies and Russian shoppers amid a recession and a food embargo that left shelves empty of Western food imports. —AFP

RUSSIA'S FOOD EMBARGO FIRES UP COUNTERFEIT DAIRY INDUSTRY

MOSCOW: The cottage cheese crackles like popcorn, emits a greyish smoke and finally goes up in flames, burning for an impressive ten minutes, like a well-oiled torch.

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Though authorities closed one factory making the combustible cheese, the problem of milkless dairy, meatless sausages and other questionable products worry both government agencies and Russian shoppers amid a recession and a food embargo that left shelves empty of Western food imports.

"We decided to show that it's a systematic problem," said Fontanka reporter Venera Galeeva, on the quest to expose other fake foods since her cheese-burning video went viral.

"The problem is not one specific producer. Globally the problem is that Russia does not have enough milk." Moscow has enforced an embargo on imports of most foods from the West since August 2014 in retaliation for Western sanctions imposed on Moscow over its involvement in the Ukraine conflict.

On Friday Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev

officially signed off on extending the embargo until the end of 2017. Closing the market off from European parmesan and brie has created a booming domestic industry, but as milk production has not grown, many producers are forced to get creative, misleading consumers. "There is a milk deficit," said Vadim Semikin of the Institute for Agriculture Market Studies, giving a rough estimate of eight million tonnes last year.

At the same time, palm oil imports grew by 25 percent in 2015, he said, and companies use it to substitute for milk.

'FALLING QUALITY'

Russia has claimed that the embargo is a good opportunity to support the country's agriculture.

On Thursday Medvedev argued that extending it for another 18 months was dictated by the "need to create comfortable and predictable conditions for our farmers".

But the government's own analytical department concluded in April that Russian consumers have been the losers, observing a trend of "falling quality" of products and "appearance of fake cheese products on the market."

In a sign of the scope of the problem, Russia's agriculture watchdog this year began to publish

a "List of Honest Ones" of companies which actually use milk and cream to make their dairy foods.

Others use anything from water to "starch, chalk, soap, baking soda, lime" and even plaster to dilute and conserve milk, the watchdog said last week, scandalising the milk industry.

"Most domestic producers take advantage of the non-competitive market and don't rush to make good products," said Irina Tikhmyanova, spokeswoman for Roscontrol, a consumer protection NGO.

Sixty percent of 46 Russian dairy products tested by the group were recently shown to contain surrogates, she said. For meat products, the figure was even higher.

Though recent polls showed that people are noticing food quality go down, many Russians still embrace the embargo.

In a June poll by Levada centre independent pollster, 40 percent of respondents said they were against allowing European products into Russia-up from 31 percent in March 2015.

Galeeva of Fontanka said Russians with shrinking disposable incomes would just have to keep buying fake cheese as prices grow. "When you have just 300 rubles (\$4.7, 4.2 euros) to feed your family for the week, you won't be so picky." —AFP

BUSINESS LEADERS URGE SWIFT RESPONSE TO BREXIT WORRIES

AIX-EN-PROVENCE: Financial movers and shakers gathered in France on Saturday urged a clear and timely political response to lift the uncertainty caused by Britain's shock vote to leave the European Union.

A raft of top business leaders and intellectuals have gathered in the southern French city of Aix-en-Provence for a three-day meeting to discuss how to react to the fallout from last week's "Brexit" vote.

Participants swiftly agreed on at least one thing-nobody is quite sure what is going to happen next, the underlying source of their worries.

Britain has not yet begun the process of disengaging itself from the European Union, with arguments raging after the country was split 52 percent to 48 percent in the referendum.

Renault-Nissan automaker giant head Carlos Ghosn said the loss of Britain in itself from the EU bloc was not so much the problem as that the uncertainties such a move would provoke.

"Worried? Yes," said Ghosn. "Not because of Brexit but worried by the uncertainty that has engendered."

For Ghosn, "companies, good or bad, are capable of adapting to everything. All kinds of situations."

But with Britain's new status regarding the European Union not clear he said firms would have to live with uncertainty. "We are going to navigate as we go along," said Ghosn, not least regarding the post-Brexit future of Nissan's factory employing 8,000 in the north east of England.

'COULD CAUSE DAMAGE'

Oil giant Total's CEO Patrick Pouyanne said for his part that Brexit would "not have a direct impact" as likely sterling weakness could bring down production costs for the group's North Sea operations.

"On the other hand, Brexit will have European growth impacts on the macro-economic front and that could cause damage," Pouyanne said.

"There is an element of more uncertainty, instability, in a world which is already facing up to a range of geopolitical difficulties, with Daesh (Islamic State), Ukraine, a swathe of financial crises and now Brexit."

US ratings agency SP Global Ratings cut its rating for the EU by one notch last Thursday citing the uncertainty created by the Brexit vote.

"The only message I would like to transmit is we have to act fast," said Pouyanne or risk allowing uncertainty to "destroy confidence" in the whole bloc.

TIME TO MAKE DECISIONS

Politicians indicated they understand that message and its urgency. "The first thing to do is lift the uncertainty as soon as possible so that economic actors are able to take decisions quickly, including decisions pertaining to investment and development," French Minister of Finance Michel Sapin said Friday.

"Today," Sapin added, I feel economic actors are demanding politi-

cal decisions-perhaps a revamping of politics?"

Paris is looking to use Brexit as a chance to bolster the attractiveness of France and Prime Minister Manuel Valls gave an interview to Saturday's Le Parisien in which he set out France's stall to that end.

"We are working on means of reinforcing our attractiveness. I am thinking notably of tax policy or the status of expatriates. So I say to large international companies-Welcome to Paris! Come and invest in France," said Valls.

"We are the number one financial market place in the eurozone in terms of direct and indirect employment with 1.2 million jobs," Muriel Penicaud, director general of Business France, a public body tasked with showing off France's plus points to the business world, told AFP.

The group has just published a paper highlighting reasons to do business in Paris, insisting the capital offers "a robust stock market regulatory and financial system." —AFP

ETIHAD CARGO LAUNCHES LUXURY CAR SERVICE FOR SUMMER 2016

ABU DHABI: Etihad Cargo, the freight division of Etihad Airways, has launched a unique, new travel offer for guests who want to travel with their luxury car over the Summer period.

Drivers can enjoy up to 20% off air cargo rates and their seat, when they book in First or Business Class. The cargo section for the national carrier of the United Arab Emirates is also offering additional services this year, arranging hotel accommodation and having the car delivered straight to the driver's doorstep.

The offer is now available from Abu Dhabi to European destinations including Amsterdam, Berlin, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Geneva, London, Manchester, Milan, Munich, Paris and Zurich.

David Kerr, Senior Vice President of Etihad Cargo, said: "Through our use of a mixed fleet of aircraft, we have a range of options that enable us to transport cars in the hold including some of the new additions to our fleet such as the Airbus 380s.

"We have several years of experience in transporting vehicles for manufacturers to luxury car markets around the world and will aim to provide a first class service for those clients who are looking to take their vehicles with them to Europe during the Summer."

With upgrades and expansions having been made to the passenger fleet, it is possible to move vehicles in the belly-hold of Etihad's aircraft such as the Airbus 380. This also provides guests with access

to The Residence, the world's first three-room private suite on a commercial aircraft, which is served by a personal Butler.

For cities such as Dusseldorf and Zurich, guests are able to experience the Etihad Airways Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner aircraft, which also features the airline's highly acclaimed next-generation interiors with Business Studios and Economy Smart Seats.

The number of cars transported has been steadily rising over the last few years and Etihad Cargo carried hundreds of automobiles during 2015. With additional aircraft and supporting services being added to the fleet this year, the cargo team is aiming to increase those numbers during 2016.

The category of cars being transported has included F1 cars, Super Sport cars as well as luxury car brands such as Ferrari, Porsche and Lamborghini. The airline's links to Formula 1 are extensive and are underscored by the company's sponsorship of the Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

To book a flight, drivers can call Etihad on 800 2324 to book their car and flight package together. A customer agent will collect the car and flight details as well as offer an array of services; from door to door delivery to export, custom clearance and hotel accommodation. The special offer is running from now until the 30 September 2016.



AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA MEGA DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Mega Draw for the 2nd quarter and the Daily Draw on 3rd July, 2016.

The draws were held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr. Abdulaziz Ashkanani.

The winner of the Mega Draw of KD 150,000 is Nazek Ziad Jawdat AlShammas

Reyadh Sedqi Reyadh Shnoudah KD 7000/-

Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever.

With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000.

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Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000.

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Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!



EGYPT TO FINISH RE-COUNT OF LOCAL WHEAT IN PRIVATE SILOS

CAIRO: Egypt's Supply Minister said yesterday are-count of wheat in privately held silos would be finished in less than a month after an unusually high local procurement figure prompted fraud allegations from industry officials, traders and lawmakers.

Egypt, the world's largest wheat buyer, said in June that in the latest procurement season it bought nearly 5 million tonnes of local wheat from its farmers, the second highest figure on record and well above the 3 to 3.5 million tonnes per year farmers had delivered in the past decade.

Wheat millers and traders have told Reuters that the high figure was a result of private suppliers misreporting their stocks to collect gov-

ernment payments for highly subsidised local wheat not actually in their silos.

"We will finish the re-count of private sector silos in less than a month...it is impossible to re-count five million tonnes but we will take random samples in various places," Khaled Hanafi told Reuters.

Egypt's parliament on Wednesday set up a fact-finding commission to look into allegations of corruption in local wheat procurement. If the local purchase numbers were misrepresented, Egypt may have to buy more foreign wheat to meet domestic demand while contending with a dollar shortage that has already sapped the country's import capability. —Reuters

CUSTOMER SERVICE DEFINES CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

By Juan Bezon

Nobody can deny that we are now in the age of the customer. Through online and mobile channels they are



well informed and this information allows them to compare and choose the most convenient provider/vendor. If they are not happy, they can easily change. Today, customers have control and companies are changing

their strategy to customer-centric. For this reason, now more than ever, the experience that a customer has with a brand is more differentiating than the product or service itself. Transforming and changing the customer experience takes time.

It means that the top management of the company has to be really committed and have customer experience as one of its top priorities in its strategy as it touches all areas within the organization, but there is one that has a greater impact on customer experience, and that is the customer service.

The biggest change today in customer service is the sheer number of channels through which people can contact your business. Instead of just phone calls and snail mail, consumers can now reach you by email, social media, text message, video call and live chat.

'Customer Care'

Mobile technology has also enabled constant connectivity, giving customers 24/7 access to public forums in which they can talk - or complain - about your company. Only organizations that are willing to adapt and respond to this shift in business-consumer dynamics will survive.

The emergence of all these new chan-

nels - also known as digital channels - add some complexity to the brand, as it is obliged to incorporate them to the customer journey and hence more touch points. These can be classified in two types: assisted (needs human interaction) and non-assisted or self-service.

One of the first questions that companies need to ask is: What are the channels/touch points that I need to have to engage with my customers? The answer is very simple: attend to your customers in their preferred channel. A survey conducted by IDC on Customer Care BPO found that the majority of consumers were unable to get a response from customer support using their channel of preference. Businesses need to know their customers, segment them properly and understand what their preferred channels are, how they want to access them, what time, how often and for what kind of transactions.

Most likely you will chance upon a clear trend of customer service, which you are probably not addressing properly: most customers prefer self-service - effortless interactions - especially by the youth. But it is also true that every day more people do not want to make any kind of transaction in person. Customers want to control their time,

they do not want to queue and wait for something that they can do easily online. And, interaction with advanced brands has taught customers what is possible online and hence they compare brand's service levels regularly.

Self-service is about automation, where customers are allowed to make all the normal transactions through online channels, either via a website or a mobile app, without human intervention. This requires technological effort and investment, but that can be amortized very quickly as per call costs reduction and improvement of customer experience. Having the multi-channel and self-service capabilities is a big step, but it is not enough to ensure a great customer experience.

'Channel siloed'

Today, most consumers use more than one channel in each individual transaction. This means that you cannot afford to have a "channel siloed" vision of the customer transaction. You need to have a single view of customers and their transactions and provide a seamless experience through all the touch points. This is known as Omni-channel experience, and it is the next step to ensure your customer service is excellent.

Finally, the next step is about personalization and proactive engagement. How can a business anticipate a customer's needs, even before he can contact the business or tell the business what it wants? This is where big data or analytics come into play. Having all the information about the customer, preferences, real and historic use and purchases, customer service and historic interactions through all the channels is needed to offer the right product at the right time in the right context.

For example, a mobile operator automatically analyses the internet usage of a user with 1 GB data bundle, and detects that he has been consuming the bundle for the last 3 months, and paying additional cost for the extra-bundle usage. The mobile operator offers the user the opportunity to subscribe to the 3 GB data bundle allowing him to use more bandwidth while saving money.

In the age of fierce competitiveness, companies that deliver a great end-to-end experience that makes them stand out from the clutter will attract and retain customers. This is a universal truth no matter which industry a business is in and businesses who choose to make superior customer experience its core business strategy will continue to thrive.

'YOUTUBERS' OUTSHINING OLD-SCHOOL TELEVISION

SAN FRANCISCO: A media revolution is taking place, and most people over 35 years of age aren't tuned in. Millennial and their successors are shunning old-school television in favor of watching what they want whenever they wish on Google-owned YouTube or other video platforms like Dailymotion or Facebook.

"Young people don't really watch TV anymore, they watch online videos that are shorter and more talent-driven," says Fabienne Fourquet, a former executive at A&E Television and France's Canal+ who now heads the multichannel network 2tube. "They don't want to be Hollywood stars when they grow up, they want to be YouTubers. There is this whole other world."

The new multichannel networks, or MCNs, are talent agents of sorts for creators of videos shared at online venues. They help creators, often

referred to as YouTubers, with video production and promotion along with finding partners or sponsors in return for a percentage of revenue. Fourquet said popular subjects include music, comedy, sports, video games, fashion and beauty. She noted that three-quarters of her viewers are younger than 34 years of age, and half were under 25. "There are very few of us old people," Fourquet quipped.

World tunes in

Self-described YouTuber Caroline Artiss has been a chef for 20 years, but opted out of restaurants and went to work for herself in catering in 2008. Then, a friend showed her how simple it was to make videos for YouTube. "It was just me and a tripod in my kitchen," Artiss told AFP. "Then people starting tuning in from all over the world."

She recounted cooking her way across the United States for a multi-episode show after catching eyes at BBC America and a television network in Malaysia. Artiss said she approaches her cooking videos from the perspective of a single mom - short on money and time but needing to feed a family. She was signed on by a video network that describes itself as being tailored for a mobile generation and focused on "tastemakers" sharing passion for food and travel.

"It still blows my mind," Artiss said. "I am coming from a single mom, living in London, struggling to pay my bills to having an opportunity to start my own TV channel in a way." Artiss teamed with other chefs to open Gorgeous Kitchen restaurant at London Heathrow airport. She has a cookbook due out later this year and works with Youth Policy Institute to raise money to get fresh produce to low-income families. Naturally, she did a video. It can be seen online at app.mobilecause.com/vf/YPIFRESH.

YouTubers

An annual Vidcon gathering in Southern California has become a hot venue for YouTubers to connect with business opportunities and ecstatic fans. Some 25,000 people were reported to have attended this year's Vidcon, which took place in June. "With the onset of digital video platforms and the fact that everyone has a smartphone in their pockets, we have democratized being a creator," said Paladin co-founder James Creech, whose California company specializes in technology for finding budding stars in a vast universe where anyone can post content online.

"A 17-year-old in his or her own bedroom can compete with the likes of CBS and build an audience that would rival a major media company," Keys to hit online videos include being creative and regularly posting content, according to Creech. Amateurs can outshine polished professional content with authentic connections that make viewers think of them as friends, he said. "Regular TV is about cartoons and YouTube is about real people and the games I like," 11-year-old California boy and online video fan Henry Crawford told AFP.

Television is tomfoolery

Paladin indexes millions of channels, providing analytics that can narrow down videos by popularity, topic, language and more. The YouTube channel with the most subscribers is that of Swedish video maker and comedian PewDiePie, who provides captivating commentary while playing video games. Hot online video trends include "unboxing," in which people film themselves or others opening packages with unknown contents.

A popular YouTube channel called Hydraulic Press features videos of things being crushed by just that piece of equipment. Amazon-owned Twitch on Friday announced that it is experimenting with a new "Social Eating" category in which people streaming broadcasts on the service socialize with viewers over meals. Traditional media companies would be wise to be worried by the trend, according to Creech. "It's a huge disruption," Creech said. "We are in the midst of a revolution in media and it is very exciting." —AFP



SYDNEY: A surfer taking advantage of the giant swells on Sydney's northern beaches. —AFP

DIGITAL NOMADS LAND DREAM JOBS THANKS TO ESTONIAN STARTUPS

TALLINN: Upwardly-mobile, tech-savvy young professionals across the globe are swapping their briefcases and brogues for backpacks and sneakers, setting themselves up as digital nomads who can operate from wherever their laptops can go. Jobbatical and Teleport, two recent tech startups, promise to take the guesswork out of digital job hunting on a global scale.

Both hail from tiny tech titan Estonia and are part of a crop of cutting-edge online sites catering to digital nomads, typically young males who work remotely and move around regions like Southeast Asia every few months. Their creators insist the startups have the potential to shake things up on the global job market, similar to how Estonians previously transformed global communications with Skype and digital international money transfers via Transfer wise.

Tallinn-based entrepreneur Karoli Hindriks said she launched Jobbatical two years ago to fill the growing gaps she noticed in global recruiting. With employment offers from Greece, to Thailand and Costa Rica among others, it takes just a few clicks of the mouse for product or account managers, programmers and other tech professionals to land a dream job, whether programming in Malaysia's tropical paradise of Penang or managing an adventure travel operation in Bali.

Jobbatical targets "adventurous tech, business, and creative professionals with over five years of working experience," Hindriks told AFP at the Latitude59 technology conference in Estonia's capital Tallinn. She points to "a generational mindset shift" as key to her client base of 70,000 unique users each month across 150 countries. "The Millennial's view of success isn't necessarily a house, a well-paying job and a picket fence.

"There's a huge shift towards defining success as working in terms of things that one truly believes in, and appreciating experiences over material possessions." New technologies, less expensive international travel and communications mean that moving around to work is "becoming smoother and cheaper than ever," she added.

Most Jobbatical offers involve positions that, like sabbaticals, last around 12 months, creating a revolving client base. The company takes a "success" fee of five percent of the annual salary upon hiring.

Surf more than Internet

Vicente Gracia, a much-travelled 28-year-old business strategist from Chile, has been surfing more than just the Internet since he began using Jobbatical. Dissatisfied with the terms he was being offered by South American companies, Gracia used it to find a job based in Bali. "New generations are looking for more than just a paycheck," Gracia told AFP via Skype.

A keen surfer, he now enjoys riding the waves on a Bali beach every morning during a break in his commute to work. "For me, being able to prioritise my career and a healthy lifestyle is crucial!" Insisting that Jobbatical is unique, Hindriks shuns comparisons to online job sites like Monster, insisting that "it's like comparing Craigslist to Airbnb."

Describing Jobbatical as a "matchmaker for companies", Hindriks insists that short-term "jobbaticals" encourage professionals to choose countries off the beaten path-like her own Estonia-that they may not have considered were the positions permanent. "If you look at the reality, there are no permanent jobs anymore, so in that sense we're bringing honesty to the conversation," she said. —AFP

FACEBOOK DEFENDS POSITION ON CONTENT STANDARDS AFTER ISRAELI CENSURE

JERUSALEM: Facebook is doing its share to remove abusive content from the social network, it said on yesterday in an apparent rejection of Israeli allegations that it was uncooperative in stemming messages that might spur Palestinian violence. Beset by a 10-month-old surge in Palestinian street attacks, Israel says that Facebook has been used to perpetuate such bloodshed and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rightist government is drafting legislation to enable it to order social media sites to remove postings deemed threatening.

Ramping up the pressure, Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan on Saturday accused Facebook of "sabotaging" Israeli police efforts by not cooperating with inquiries about potential suspects in the occupied West Bank and by "set(ting) a very high bar for removing inciteful content and posts". Facebook did not respond directly to Erdan's criticism, but said in a statement that it conferred closely with Israel.

"We work regularly with safety organizations and policymakers around the world, including Israel, to ensure that peo-

ple know how to make safe use of Facebook. There is no room for content that promotes violence, direct threats, terrorist or hate speeches on our platform," the statement said. It appeared to place an onus on Israeli authorities, as with any other users, to flag offensive content to Facebook monitors.

'Quick action'

"We have a set of community standards designed to help people understand what's allowed on Facebook, and we call on people to use our report if they find content they believe violates these rules, so that we can examine each case and take quick action," the statement said. Erdan, who urged Israelis to "flood" Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg with demands for a policy change, expanded on the Netanyahu government's complaint in remarks published on yesterday. Of 74 "especially inciting and extremist posts" Israel had brought to Facebook's attention, 24 were removed, Erdan told the Yedioth Ahronoth daily, adding that jurisdiction was an issue. —Reuters



LOS ANGELES, California: In this photo illustration, a woman and a dog watch a video by chef and YouTuber Caroline Artiss on her YouTube page in Los Angeles, California. —AFP

MOST HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES OF DDoS ATTACKS

The consequences of a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack extend far beyond financial considerations. These attacks damage a company's relationship with its customers, according to the research from Kaspersky Lab and B2B International.

The survey of over 5,000 businesses, including ones in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, found that for 37% a DDoS attack had damaged their reputation, causing profound harm to customer trust. Losing clients and suffering reputational damage was seen by 39% of the respondents as one of the most feared consequences of a DDoS attack; more than the costs incurred in fighting and recovering from an attack (as suggested by 28% of the respondents), or the loss of revenue and business caused by the associated downtime (according to 26%).

The survey also found that 57% of those surveyed had lost business data or access to business critical information as a result of a DDoS attack, and 42% said that it had affected their ability to trade. The research also revealed the widespread consequences of this form of cyber threat at different levels of a business. For example, a third of businesses (33%) stated that a DDoS attack had damaged their credit rating and 35% reported an increase in their insurance premiums as a result.

"DDoS attacks are one of the most common forms of cybercrime in the world today. Attackers often plan the timing of their attack in order to maximize financial damage. Our research shows that because this is such a visible form of attack, it is the impact on a company's reputation and its credibility with customers that concerns businesses the most," comments Evgeny

Vigovsky, Head of Kaspersky DDoS Protection, Kaspersky Lab.

"One DDoS attack on a company's online resources might cause from \$53,000 to \$417,000 in damage, depending on the size of the company. But it is the effect on corporate trust that is the biggest danger. Businesses need to put plans in place to mitigate DDoS attacks before it's too late."

To help businesses stay one step ahead, Kaspersky DDoS Protection delivers total, integrated DDoS attack protection and mitigation, defending businesses at every stage of an attempted DDoS attack. From analysis of online traffic through to sending alerts about possible threats and cleaning traffic, Kaspersky DDoS Protection provides everything a business needs to defend against and mitigate the effects of all types of DDoS attacks.

SMELLY SEAWEED INVASION HITS SIERRA LEONE BEACHES

FREETOWN: Sierra Leone has launched a clean-up operation after the beaches around the capital Freetown became clogged with foul-smelling seaweed, hitting tourism and fishing. At Lumley Beach in the west end of the city, the white sands have become covered with a brownish-yellow carpet, forcing motorists and fishermen to use masks to ward off the stench since the invasion began a week ago.

A local environmentalist estimated that there are now more than four tons of seaweed deposited over the sparkling sands, with the capital's 14 other beaches also badly affected. Veteran beachcomber Salifu Deen told AFP Saturday while strolling on the outskirts of the beach, "the seaweed is back in volumes and the stench is unbearable." "Most locals and particularly tourists will be put off by the smell," he said.

Tourism Minister Sidi Yahya Tunis told AFP on Saturday work was beginning to clean the beaches. "We have undertaken a massive mechanism for a daily clearing exercise using dredgers. The weeds are taking over the beaches and this is unfortunate," he said. Professor Percival Showers of the Institute of Marine Biology and Oceanography, Fourah Bay College, said the seaweed had come from the Sargasso Sea,

in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, carried by unusual weather patterns.

Hardest hit by the deposits are fishermen and fishmongers who depend on the daily catch to supply local markets and nearby hotel chains. "It is difficult for me to face my family as I can see the disappointment on the faces of my wife and four children when I return home in the evening without a catch. We cannot even cast our

nets as all we fish out are seaweeds with tormenting smells," said fisherman Mustapha Koroma.

Fishmonger Mariatu Bundu was equally despondent. "For many days now, we have gone to the various beaches and returned empty handed. I am worried that I would soon lose my customers as some have said they would rather eat meat instead," she said. —AFP



SINGAPORE: In this photo, a man on a boat cleans the river as haze covered the buildings (background) in Singapore. —AFP

SINGAPORE TO PURSUE FIRMS OVER FIRES, DESPITE INDONESIAN IRE

FOREST FIRES ARE A DRY-SEASON PROBLEM IN INDONESIA

JAKARTA: Singapore is refusing to back down in its pursuit of those responsible for haze-belching forest fires in Southeast Asia last year, despite struggling to bring the perpetrators before the courts and drawing a sharp rebuke from neighboring Indonesia. Forest fires are part of an annual dry-

has served notice to six Indonesian companies it believes may have cleared land by burning but could target others as investigations continue, according to Singapore's ambassador to Indonesia Anil Kumar Nayar. "We are going after, to put it starkly, the bad guys that are causing this problem," he told AFP in an

interview last week.

especially in the absence of a ratified extradition treaty between the neighbors. The latest sabre-rattling came after Singapore issued a court warrant in May to detain a director of an Indonesian company linked to the haze while he was in the city-state. Afterwards, Indonesia's Environment Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar said that

anybody's sovereignty," he said. The law threatens local and foreign firms with fines of up to \$100,000 Singaporean dollars (US\$74,000) for every day Singapore endures unhealthy haze pollution. So far just two of the companies have responded to the court order, Nayar said, without naming specific firms.

Slow progress

Singapore has repeatedly asked Indonesia for details about companies such as maps showing who owns what concessions but says Jakarta has not provided any information. Singapore would "continue to press," Nayar said, but added the evidence needed to prosecute these companies could be found by other means. "We could go that way as well, but at the end of the day this is part of a legal process. We want to be working with the Indonesian government," he said. One of Indonesia's main arguments is that a regional approach to solving the haze crisis would be more effective than individual action. "They (Singapore) know our view on this, on how we can best address this issue of haze through the ASEAN mechanism," ministry spokesman Armanatha Nasir told AFP. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations has an agreement to create a haze-free region by 2020, though it took 14 years to be fully ratified. Nayar says regional progress on curbing haze has been slow. Fellow ASEAN member Malaysia, which also suffers during the haze outbreaks, has expressed interest in adopting its own law similar to Singapore's to pursue errant companies.

Jakarta has promised tougher action in the wake of last year's haze disaster, which turned skies yellow in Indonesia's part of Borneo island and dealt the economy a \$16 billion blow. The government announced in May it would no longer grant new land for palm oil plantations, and established a new agency to restore millions of hectares of carbon-rich peatlands susceptible to fires. —AFP



SINGAPORE: In this photo taken on October 26, 2015 the iconic Merlion water fountain is covered by haze in Singapore. —AFP

season problem in Indonesia, started illegally to quickly and cheaply clear land for cultivation—particularly for palm oil and pulpwood.

But last year's haze outbreak was among the worst in memory, shrouding Malaysia, Singapore, and parts of Thailand in acrid smoke and forcing school closures as pollution reached hazardous levels and thousands fell sick across the region. Singapore

interview last week. However, the city-state's efforts to punish Indonesian companies under its own anti-haze law have become a flashpoint with Jakarta. Singapore argues that international rules allow states to take action—even if harm is being caused by activities outside its jurisdiction—but Jakarta has questioned how Singapore could pursue Indonesian citizens for prosecution,

she would be reviewing her ministry's cooperation with Singapore on environmental issues. "Singapore cannot step further into Indonesia's legal domain," Bakar told reporters in June. Her spokesman declined to comment further on the matter when contacted.

Nayar reiterated that Singapore wasn't crossing any line pursuing these companies and was within its rights to enforce its law. "We are not doing something that is extraordinary. It is not targeting any country, or

GUINEA-BISSAU RECORDS THREE CASES OF ZIKA

BISSAU: Guinea-Bissau has recorded three cases of Zika, becoming the second country in West Africa where the dangerous viral disease has been detected, the government said on Saturday. "Three cases of contamination by Zika virus have been confirmed," a statement quoted Health Minister Domingos Malu as saying. The cases occurred in the Bijagos archipelago, a group of 88 islands of which 23 are inhabited, Malu told a cabinet meeting on Friday.

The communique gave no further detail about the three cases, their location or how the disease may have arrived on the

Bijagos. A hospital source told AFP that investigations were underway but the first case may have occurred early last month on Bubaque, one of the Bijagos islands. A former Portuguese colony of 1.6 million people, Guinea-Bissau suffers from chronic poverty and instability.

Previously, the only other country in West Africa where Zika had been detected was Cape Verde, an archipelago in the Atlantic, where 7,500 cases have been recorded since October 2015. Saturday's statement said the authorities were taking steps to prevent further spread of the mos-

quito-borne virus. It announced that an anti-Zika commission had been set up, comprising several ministers under the authority of Prime Minister Baciro Dja.

Zika is benign in most people but has been linked to microcephaly—a shrinking of the brain and skull-in babies, and to rare adult-onset neurological problems such as Guillain-Barre Syndrome, which can result in paralysis and death. In an outbreak that started last year, about 1.5 million people have been infected with Zika in Brazil, and more than 1,600 babies born with abnormally small heads and brains. —AFP

ROSETTA, PHILAE TO REUNITE ON COMET FOR SEPT 30 MISSION END

PARIS: After nearly two years apart, Europe's Rosetta spacecraft will join stranded robot probe Philae on September 30 on the icy surface of a comet hurtling through space, their eternal resting place, mission control said Thursday. In orbit around comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko, which is speeding further and further away from the Sun and its battery-charging rays, the trail-blazing space laboratory is starting to run low on energy.

"Rosetta is reaching the end of its natural life," said the European Space Agency (ESA), announcing the swansong on a captivating 12-year quest. "The time has come for the orbiter to join its companion Philae on Churyumov-Gerasimenko," added France's CNES space agency. After its crash-landing, communications with Rosetta will be severed once and for all, closing the historic mission to unravel the secrets of comets—believed to be time capsules from the birth of the Solar System.

"This announcement may at first sight appear a little sad, given how people all over the world identified with this remarkable mission," said CNES president Jean-Yves Le Gall. "But for Rosetta and Philae it will be a fitting end and the chance to obtain new measurements and close-up pictures of the comet that will yield new data for the world's scientific community."

The data obtained from Rosetta and Philae will continue to be analyzed for months and years to come, with many more discoveries thought possible. The 1.3-billion-euro (\$1.4-billion) mission, approved in 1993, saw Rosetta launched into space in March 2004, with a comet lander dubbed Philae riding piggyback.

Space age triumph

The pair travelled some 6.5 billion kilometers aided by gravity boosts from Earth and Mars before entering the comet's orbit in August 2014. Three months later, Rosetta sent the 100-kilogram Philae probe down to the comet surface, starting a deep-space saga closely watched around the world via cartoon recreations of the pioneering pair.

Philae's nail-biting exploits earned it a loyal Twitter following. The washing machine-sized robot, with 10 instruments for sniffing and prodding, bounced several times after its harpoons failed to fire into the comet surface.

It ended up in a ditch shadowed from the Sun's battery-replenishing rays, but still managed to run about 60 hours of experiments and send home reams of valuable data before entering standby mode. As 67P neared the Sun on its elongated orbit, Philae emerged from hibernation in June 2015 and sent a two-minute message via Rosetta, eliciting great excitement on Earth.

But after eight intermittent communications, the lander went permanently silent on July 2015. Rosetta has continued to probe the comet from a distance, without catching sight of its long-lost charge. But now, as 67P heads towards the orbit of Jupiter in the outer reaches of our Solar System, the craft has "significantly reduced" solar power for operating its instruments, and reduced bandwidth for sending science data back to Earth.

Ground controllers will start changing Rosetta's orbit in August, bringing it progressively nearer the surface. "The last six weeks will be particularly challenging as we fly eccentric orbits around the comet—in many ways this will be even riskier than the final descent itself," said ESA spacecraft operations manager Sylvain Lodot.

Rosetta had been in hibernation for 31 months of its decade-long journey towards 67P. But this time, the craft will reach a point so far from the Sun at 850 million km that it would likely not survive another 6.5-year comet orbit for a battery recharge later. It was thus decided to land the craft, allowing closer-than-ever science observations on its final approach.

"And what better way for Rosetta to bow out than with a final, parting kiss!" said Le Gall. Rosetta had taken unprecedented images of the comet surface, analyzed gases coming off its surface and scanned its insides. From the mission we have learnt that comets contain organic molecules, the building blocks of life. —AFP



PARIS: This handout file artist impression released by the ESA/ATG media lab shows the European probe Philae separating from its mother ship Rosetta and descending to the surface of comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. —AFP

GRIZZLY THAT HAS CHARGED AT PEOPLE ATTACKS AGAIN

DENALI NATIONAL PARK, Alaska: Park officials say a grizzly bear that has previously charged at people has bitten and scratched a hiker, and they will kill the animal when they find it. Officials say the juvenile grizzly bear attacked a 28-year-old woman about 7 pm Friday while she was hiking on the Savage Alpine Trail in Denali National Park.

They say the woman was hiking with two other friends when the bear scratched and bit her and then walked away. When the bear came back, one of the three hikers threw rocks at it, causing the bear to run away. Officials say the woman was treated for her injuries by park staff, and she took herself to an Anchorage hospital.

Officials say the same bear charged at visitors on Savage area trails, and it took food from a day pack on June 22 after charging at a hiker on the Salvage Alpine Trail. Although they have tried to teach the bear not to approach humans, officials say they will now have to kill the animal.

In a statement, they say: "The erratic behavior of the bear over the past two weeks: approaching and charging several groups of hikers; biting and scratching a hiker; obtaining food from a hiker; and its general interest in people represents an unacceptable risk to safety in the highly visited front country of the park. Park staff will locate and kill the bear as soon as safely possible." —AP



MONTANA: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks game warden Perry Brown prepares to hunt for a grizzly bear that killed Forest Service law enforcement officer Brad Treat near West Glacier, Montana. —AP

COLORADO CITY TO STOP SELLING ICE CREAM AT POOLS, PARKS

BOULDER, Colorado: Boulder residents will no longer be able to cool off with an ice cream cone by the pool because the city has discontinued the sweet treat as a vending option at all Parks and Recreation facilities. The city dropped ice cream cones, bars and sandwiches in an effort to cut down on sugary, unhealthy snacks, The Daily Camera reported. City-run facilities can only sell treats that satisfy a series of nutritional standards, meaning chips and other junk food also left snack stands this year.

The change hasn't been welcomed by everyone. Andrew Gafford, 8, said he has always spent his summers enjoying a Neapolitan ice cream sandwich at the pool. "I'll get over it, but then it brings back a lot of memories of me getting ice

cream sandwiches," Andrew said. "Like this one time, when I was eating one very slowly, so it melted all over me. It makes me feel sad to say."

In a letter to the editor, which he wrote with the editorial guidance of an adult and his 6-year-old brother Thomas, Andrew said new restrictions take away teachable moments. "Boulder can't tell the parents what to do," he said, "because the parents are doing a good job of helping us grow up and telling us the rules. I say leave it up to the moms, the grandparents, the great-grandparents." Boulder District Services Manager Alison Rhodes said the aim is to give kids healthy choices, but that all facilities allow outside food to be brought in - including ice cream.—AP

PEOPLE EAT LESS WHEN WEARING 'BITE COUNTERS'

SOUTH CAROLINA: People who wear "bite counters" on their wrists while eating tend to cut down on how much they consume during a meal, a study suggests. Several years ago, Eric Muth and colleagues at Clemson University in South Carolina developed a way to track how much people eat based on their wrist motion. Muth told Reuters Health by email that self-monitoring is vital when trying to meet health goals. "We have to keep in mind that weight loss and weight maintenance are hard," Muth said.

While the bite counter will not help people choose healthier food, it does give feedback in real time as they are eating, Muth said. "You can then make an informed decision of whether or not to keep putting food in your mouth or to push the plate away and stop eating before you have overeaten," he said.

Muth and his team conducted two studies, the first with 94 participants and the second with 99. In both studies, the participants were mostly women, around 19 years old, and had a body mass index of 23, which indicates that they were at the upper limit of normal weight. The subjects ate meals together in a lab set up to mimic a restaurant setting. Some participants wore bite counters, which also gave calorie estimates as people ate, while other participants did not wear counters and acted as a comparison group.

The first study looked at whether people changed how much they ate when getting bite-count feedback from the wrist-worn device. In this study, participants were further split into groups depending on the size of the plates they were eating from. People eating only from large plates ate around 4.5 bites more than those with small plates. This was true even when participants received bite count feedback.

Self-monitoring

However, people eating from both the large and small plates and getting bite count information significantly reduced how much they ate, taking five fewer bites than people unaware of how many bites they were taking. The second study also used large and small plates and bite counting devices, but this time participants were told to take either 12 or 22 bites. People instructed to take 12 bites did take significantly fewer bites than the higher goal group. But people who had the 12-bite goal took larger bites, so the calorie intake of both groups was roughly the same, the researchers reported June 23 in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*.

Clare Collins, a researcher and professor of Nutrition & Dietetics at The University of Newcastle in Australia pointed out that the study participants were mostly normal weight. The results could be different if the study was done in an overweight group, she said. Collins recommended another health tracking method: "Self-monitoring of the food you eat using a diary on your phone, computer/iPad or even paper is another way to help you become more aware of what you eat and drink," she said by email.

She said that when people don't want to keep a food diary, becoming more aware of "how" they eat by using smaller plates and monitoring bites may be helpful. "Weight loss and weight gain do not happen in a single bite or even a single meal," Muth advised. "The key is to change your behavior slowly over time in a way that your body and mind can adjust to these changes." While most dieters want fast change, the necessary steps can be difficult to sustain. "Make small changes every day, continuously self-monitoring your behavior, and long-term success will be more achievable," Muth said.—Reuters

TIGER KILLS KEEPER AT SPAIN ZOO

MADRID: A tiger attacked and killed a zookeeper in its cage at a Spanish animal park Saturday, the local Red Cross service said. The grim discovery of the keeper's body was made at around 5 pm at the Terra Natura park in the southeastern coastal resort town of Benidorm.

"The tiger was still in the cage with the 37-year-old keeper," a Red Cross spokesman told AFP. Zoo staff put the ani-

mal to sleep with sedative darts after which the emergency workers were able to get in and pronounce the woman dead. There was no word on the incident from the local police.

The Terra Natura in Benidorm, which is in Spain's Alicante province, presents itself on its website as "a new generation" animal park, with a habitat area created for each of 200 species of animals.—AFP



PASADENA, California: A 1/4 scale model of the Juno spacecraft is displayed in Pasadena, California. —AFP

NASA SPACESHIP BARRELS TOWARD JUPITER, 'PLANET ON STEROIDS'

MIAMI: Juno, an unmanned NASA spacecraft, is barreling toward Jupiter on a \$1.1 billion mission to circle the biggest planet in the solar system and shed new light on the origin of our planetary neighborhood. On July 4 and 5, the solar-powered vehicle-about the size of a professional basketball court-should plunge into Jupiter's poisonous atmosphere to begin orbiting for a period of almost two years.

Jupiter is the fifth planet from the sun. Its atmosphere is made up of hydrogen and helium and packed with so much radiation that it would be more than 1,000 times the lethal level for a human. The gas giant is also enshrouded in the strongest magnetic field in the solar system. "Jupiter is a planet on steroids," said Juno principal investigator Scott Bolton, of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas. "Everything about it is extreme."

Water is key

Jupiter is perhaps best known for its Great Red Spot, which is actually a massive storm, bigger than the Earth, that has been roiling for hundreds of years. The planet is marked by cold, windy clouds of ammonia and water that appear as reddish, brown and beige stripes and swirls. Getting close, and surviving, is no easy feat. Even though the spacecraft is entirely robotic and controllers on Earth can do nothing at this stage, Bolton admitted this week to being nervous about its entry into orbit of the spacecraft, five years after its launch from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Steve Levin, Juno project sci-

entist from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said water figures are the most important ones that Juno is going to bring back. "If Jupiter formed far from the sun, where it is cold, out of blocks of ice... you would get a different amount of water inside Jupiter than if it formed closer to the sun than it is now." The spacecraft will use a microwave radiometer instrument

added Levin. The spacecraft will also study Jupiter's gravitational field, magnetic field and interior.

Oddly enough, Jupiter's interior is quite a mystery to us and that is ironic because it is made up of two of the simplest and abundant elements in the universe—that's hydrogen and helium," said Jack Connerney, deputy principal investigator at NASA's Goddard

bombard the atmosphere on Jupiter and make it glow.

Suspenseful orbit burn

Juno is not the first spacecraft to orbit Jupiter but NASA says its orbit will bring it closer than its predecessor, Galileo, which launched in 1989. That spacecraft—after a fruitful 14-year mission during which it found evidence of subsurface salt-water on Jupiter's moons Europa, Ganymede and Callisto—made a death plunge into Jupiter in 2003. NASA says Juno will get closer than Galileo—this time within 3,100 miles above the cloud tops—while dodging the highest radiation regions on Jupiter "by approaching over the north, dropping to an altitude below the planet's radiation belts...and then exiting over the south."

The spacecraft is equipped with a radiation shielded electronics vault to protect the machinery on board in the heavy radiation environment. But first the spacecraft must survive what NASA described as a "suspenseful orbit insertion maneuver," during which the main engine fires for 35 minutes in order to slow Juno down by about 1,212 miles per hour (542 meters per second) so it can enter orbit.

If it does manage to orbit, Juno will circle the gas giant for 20 months. The US space agency plans to brief reporters about the approach July 4 at 12 noon (1700 GMT). NASA television coverage of Juno's approach begins later the same day at 10:30 pm (0330 GMT). The orbit insertion should be complete at around 12 am Eastern time July 5.—AFP



PASADENA, California: A tour group views a one-quarter-scale model of the Juno spacecraft in Pasadena, California. —AFP

to measure water, essentially a radio receiver that can help Earth-bound scientists "see" inside Jupiter's atmosphere.

"The amount of water inside Jupiter is crucial to understanding how the solar system formed because it is crucial to understanding how Jupiter formed," said Levin. The spacecraft will rotate as it circles Jupiter, providing something like a three-dimensional CAT scan,

Spaceflight Center. "But the problem is it under such pressure in that environment that it behaves in very mysterious ways."

A dense core of heavy elements may be at the heart of Jupiter's thick, hot up to 50,000 degrees- and soupy center, but scientists are not sure. The mission also aims to learn more about how solar wind influences auroras by studying the energetic particles that

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—Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

PUBLIC AUTHORITY FOR APPLIED EDUCATION AND TRAINING (PAAET) HOSTS GHABQA



ALGHANIM INDUSTRIES HOLDS GRADUATION CEREMONY

Alghanim Industries, one of the largest private companies in the region, held a graduation ceremony last week at the JW Marriott for 15 summer interns who completed an exciting four week program this June. The company hosted graduating students and their families at the ceremony as a show of support for successful completion of the program. The 15 interns were shortlisted through a selection process based on GPA, extracurricular activities and rigorous interviews.

First and second year university students from both local and international universities participated in the program. Local universities were the American University of Kuwait (AUK), the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK), and the American University of the Middle East (AUM). Students were divided into groups of five and were taken on extensive tours of Alghanim Industries' different businesses and functions.

During the first week, the students completed their orientation by visiting KIMMCO, Kirby and an X-cite showroom in The Avenues. After that, the interns were imbedded into a number of the company's businesses and departments to learn and experience work in the private sector. Participating Alghanim Industries businesses included Safat Home, X-cite, HR, Corporate Treasury, Market Research and Insight, and Alghanim Automotive Group.

Following their time with the businesses, and after officially concluding their internships, the students were evaluated on overall performance, communication and comprehension, attitude and work habits, and presentation skills. The interns were given certificates for placing first, second, and third in recognition of their achievement and performance.

The participating universities, AUK, ACK and AUM were also presented with appreciation awards for outstanding support and commitment to the program.

Commenting on the graduation ceremony, Chief Human Resource Officer at Alghanim Industries, George Lambros said: "We are very happy to see another group of young students graduate from our summer internship program. I'd like to congratulate them on their hard work - they should be proud of what they accomplished during the course of the program." He added: "This is one of the many ways that we strive to contribute to the educational development of Kuwaitis. Alghanim Industries is committed to empowering and equipping youth to own their economic success."

The event concluded with all of the participating interns receiving gifts and vouchers from X-cite, Safat Home, and Alghanim Automotive Group, as a token of appreciation for their hard work during the summer internship program. Sultan Al-Marzuqi, a participating intern studying at the University of Northern Arizona, said: "The internship was a great learning experience that was extremely beneficial, and one of the most important lessons was how to be a team player. I'd like to thank Alghanim Industries for selecting me to be part of this great program."

Alghanim Industries avidly supports education and empowering youth through different initiatives that it sponsors, such as the National Union of Kuwaiti Students in the USA and in Australia, Tmkeen nonprofit organization which aims at spreading awareness, knowledge and inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs, as well as the company's continuous support of INJAZ-Kuwait.



ACK ORGANIZES ITS FIRST EDUCATIONAL TOUR TO AUSTRALIA

Students from the Australian College of Kuwait (ACK) had a special opportunity to be part of an Educational Tour to the 'Land Down Under' - Australia. After months of planning and keen anticipation, the participants went to Australia on 19 May 2016 for their two week experience. The students were accompanied by two staff members: Ms. Johanne Flynn, Manager of Central Queensland University (CQU) Office; and Ms. Sara Al Jaber, Senior Officer- Learning Disabilities Support.

During their time in Australia, the students visited five extremely popular destinations: Brisbane, Gold Coast, Rockhampton, Sydney and Hobart. The program included campus tours of ACK's auspice partner, CQU in both Rockhampton and Brisbane as well as scenic tours, visits to museums and attractions.

Upon their return to Kuwait, students spoke highly of their experiences in Australia. They had many stories, pictures and videos to share. Their most popular activities and sightseeing included: Kayaking in Brisbane River, Dream-world theme park in Gold Coast, CQU University Brisbane Tour, Sydney Opera House and

Taronga Zoo in Sydney. In Brisbane, the tour group was most fortunate to be treated with complimentary accommodation at the brand new Ibis Styles Brisbane Hotel, in the city centre area. This enabled the visitors to save travel time as they moved between the many tourist destinations around the city. The visit to Brisbane was sponsored by H E Sheikh Mubarak A M Al-Sabah, Founder and Chairman of Action Hotels PLC which owns the Ibis Styles Brisbane. We were fortunate to receive his full support towards the educational tour.

The educational tour program aims to provide students with an international learning experience and an increased understanding of Australia. ACK recognizes the importance of acquiring first-hand knowledge of international cultures, traditions and lifestyles. In addition, the program helps students benefit from expanding social networks; developing professional skills; exploring global work environments and improving their English through having to communicate predominantly using the language within Australia.

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.

'ABTAL BARCELONA' ARE OFF TO BRAZIL TO REPRESENT KUWAIT IN NEYMAR JR'S FIVE FINAL

"Abtal Barcelona" five-a-side team prepares to fly to Brazil this week to represent Kuwait in the World Final of Neymar Jr's Five tournament by Red Bull, which takes place on 8-9 July at Instituto Projeto Neymar Jr in Brazil. The winning team, "Abtal Barcelona", will compete against 49 other teams from around the world in a highly thrilling football tournament coveting the grand prize; the chance to meet Neymar Jr in Barcelona, Spain at the renowned Camp Nou Stadium and watch Barcelona's match between the VIP spectators.

"We are overwhelmingly delighted to have won Kuwait's final with our team's strong defense and midfield skills," said the team's captain, Ghanem Sayer (21 years). He added: "We are aware of the roughness of the competition, however, we are willing to give it our best hoping to win". From Kuwait, 128 teams have participated in 8 local qualifiers through which "Abtal Barcelona" made it to the world final. The tournament is the first and only Neymar Jr signature football tournament where 5 players compete against 5 in a unique last man standing modus.



MALABAR GOLD AND DIAMONDS ANNOUNCES 14 LUCKY WINNERS

Malabar Gold and Diamonds always make sure to provide customers with exciting offers and promotions. The 14 lucky customers who got a chance to win in the ongoing campaign 'Win up to 10 kg's of gold' were finally revealed. Each of these customers won 1/4 kg of gold via raffle draws in the aforesaid campaign. This campaign is running in all the outlets in the GCC until 6th August, 2016.

The campaign that has launched this season gives customers a once in a life time opportunity to change their future. Through the campaign, customers can win up to 10 kilos of gold with purchase of gold and diamond jewellery. With every purchase of gold jewellery worth KD 40, customers get a chance to enter raffle draws to win 1/4 kg of gold in each draw. Those who buy diamond jewellery worth KD 40 will get 2 raffle coupons, doubling their chances to win.

Adding to the above, the customers can update any of their old gold ornaments purchased from GCC with the brand new enticing collection of Malabar Gold and Diamonds without any loss. Any 22K old gold ornaments purchased from GCC can be exchanged with the latest Malabar Gold and Diamonds designs by paying only making charges ensuring they don't lose any value on the rate of gold.

The customers also get a fabulous chance to buy 22K 8 gm gold coins with absolutely no making charges from any of Malabar Gold and Diamonds outlets in GCC during this period. All these offers will be valid at their outlets in GCC until 6 Aug 2016. Customer satisfaction and convenience is the top priority at Malabar Gold and



Diamonds. Keeping this in mind, they also provide additional services like unique exchange offers, buyback policies, lifetime free repair and maintenance service for all their products.

Adding more sparkle to the glitter of gold, Malabar Gold and Diamonds' have also incorporated the latest designs in their collections to suit the tastes of their multicultural customer segments. Customers can buy their favorite jewellery by using their credit/debit cards without paying any additional charge. Also Malabar Gold and Diamonds gives their customers the advan-

tage of converting their jewellery purchase into 'Easy Payment Plans' in association with various banks through which they can enjoy flexible payment options for up to 12 installments without paying any interest.

This holiday season, Malabar Gold and Diamonds' provides customers with the most attractive offers, definitely not worth a miss. Their mesmerizing collection and exclusive offers can be availed in all outlets of Malabar Gold and Diamonds' in the GCC.



INDIAN AMBASSADOR HOSTS IFTAR

The Ambassador of India to Kuwait organized an iftar party at India House on 23 June 2016. This was attended by the Ambassador of Kuwait to India, Kuwaiti

Dignitaries and sixty prominent Indians. The function started at 6 pm and finished at 10 pm. The event started with the traditional evening prayer at 6:45 pm. The guests enjoyed the hospi-

tality at India House and the variety of Indian snacks laid out for iftar.





03:25 Yankee Jungle
04:15 Biggest And Baddest
05:02 Cuban Shark
05:49 Wildest Latin America
06:36 Meet The Sloths
07:00 Meet The Sloths
07:25 Animal Maternity Ward
08:15 River Monsters
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 River Monsters
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Into The Pride
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
18:45 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Into The Pride
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
22:25 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters
00:45 Jaws Strikes Back
01:40 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
02:05 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
02:35 Tanked

17:50 I Almost Got Away With It
20:20 Heartbreakers
22:00 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
22:50 Vanity Fair Confidential
23:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
00:30 Redrum
01:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
02:10 Vanity Fair Confidential

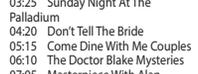


03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mook
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Gravity Falls
07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug 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 Austin & Ally
11:05 Jessie
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
13:25 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 Alex & Co.
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Liv And Maddie
18:40 Best Friends Whenever
19:05 Austin & Ally
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 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
23:45 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta

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: Bionic Rebellion
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 Phineas And Ferb
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Pickle And Peanut
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6.00am KSA



03:00 Mystery Diners
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Chopped
06:00 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 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Man v Food
20:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
21:00 Restaurant Takeover
22:00 Mystery Diners
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Restaurant Takeover
02:00 Mystery Diners



03:25 Sunday Night At The Palladium
04:20 Don't Tell The Bride
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
08:00 Sunday Night At The Palladium
08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40 Pick Me!
11:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
13:25 Emmerdale
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples
15:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:30 Lewis
17:25 Don't Tell The Bride
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Eggheads
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
20:30 Lewis
21:25 Don't Tell The Bride
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
23:10 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries

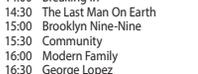


03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

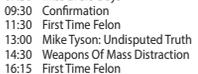
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 The Loud House
08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants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



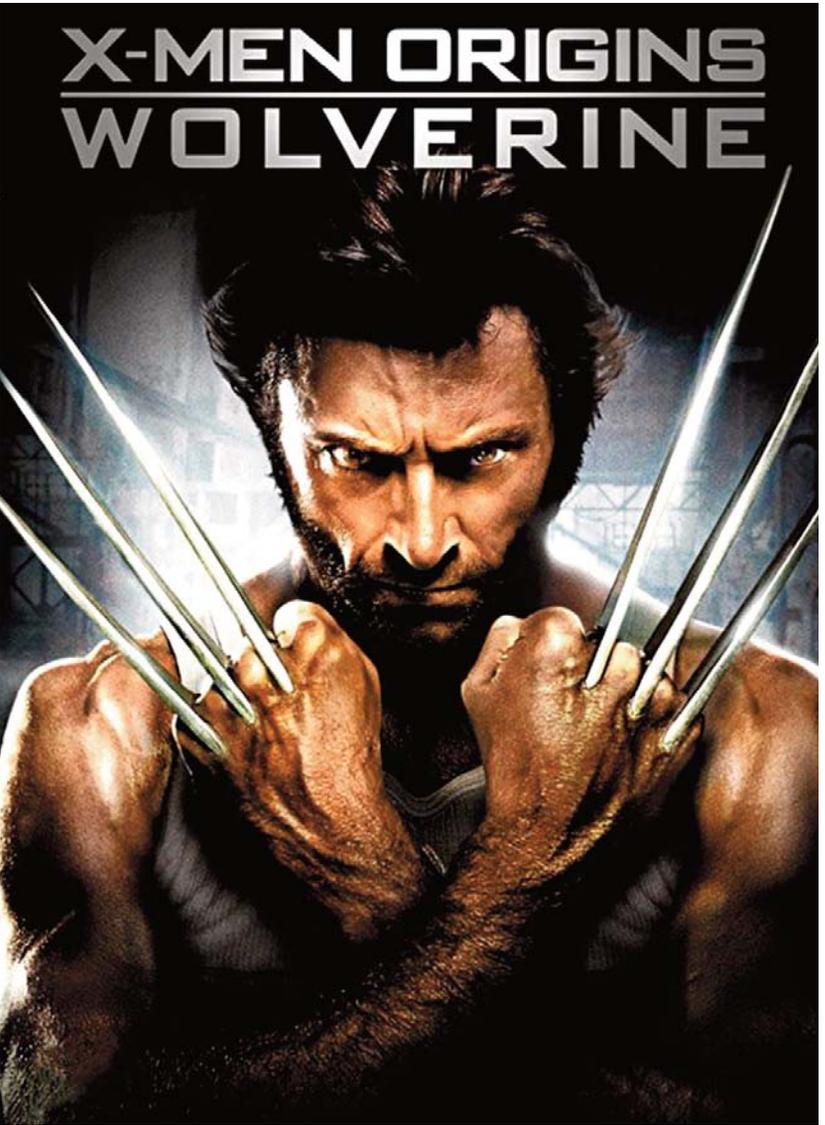
03:00 Living With Fran
03:30 Breaking In
04:00 Better With You
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 S#! My Dad Says
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Better With You
08:30 S#! My Dad Says
09:00 Living With Fran
09:30 The Last Man On Earth
10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
10:30 The Bernie Mac Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 George Lopez
12:30 Better With You
13:00 S#! My Dad Says
14:00 Breaking In
14:30 The Last Man On Earth
15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
15:30 Community
16:00 Modern Family
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Living With Fran
18:30 Breaking In
19:00 The Last Man On Earth
19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
20:00 Grandfathered
20:30 Grandfathered
21:00 Community
21:30 Modern Family
22:00 The Goldbergs
22:30 The Goldbergs
23:00 Life In Pieces
23:30 Grandfathered
00:00 Grandfathered
00:30 Community
01:00 Modern Family
01:30 The Goldbergs
02:00 The Goldbergs
02:30 Life In Pieces



03:10 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
04:00 Orphans Of Ebola
05:00 In Tahir Square
06:00 His Way
07:00 Miss Evers' Boys
09:30 Confirmation
11:30 First Time Felon
13:00 Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth
14:30 Weapons Of Mass Distraction
16:15 First Time Felon
18:00 Orphans Of Ebola
19:00 The Wire
20:00 John Adams
21:30 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
22:00 Will Ferrell: You're Welcome America
23:30 How To Make It In America
00:00 The Wire



04:00 Big Ass Spider!
06:00 Fast & Furious 6
08:15 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
10:15 Hours
12:00 388 Arletta Avenue
13:45 Fast & Furious 6
16:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
18:00 Hercules
19:45 The Expendables 3
22:00 Area 407



01:15 John Adams
02:45 Will Ferrell: You're Welcome America

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

00:00 Sharknado 2: The Second One
02:00 Hercules



03:00 Damien
04:00 Bones
05:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
07:00 Rosewood
08:00 The Whispers
09:00 Code Black
10:00 Bones
11:00 Rosewood
12:00 The Whispers
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Good Morning America
16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 The Whispers
19:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
21:00 Stitches
22:00 Code Black
23:00 Better Call Saul
00:00 Rosewood
01:00 Stitches
02:00 Code Black



04:00 Big Ass Spider!
06:00 Fast & Furious 6
08:15 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
10:15 Hours
12:00 388 Arletta Avenue
13:45 Fast & Furious 6
16:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
18:00 Hercules
19:45 The Expendables 3
22:00 Area 407



04:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
06:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
08:00 Bolts And Blip
10:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
11:30 Miffy The Movie
13:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
14:30 Hatching
16:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock
18:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
20:00 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
22:00 Hatching
23:30 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
01:15 Bolts And Blip
02:45 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels



04:15 True Colors
06:30 God Help The Girl
08:30 Ed Wood
11:00 God Help The Girl
13:00 Monkey Kingdom
14:30 Second Coming
16:30 Ed Wood
19:00 Wall Street
21:15 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
23:30 Nixon



03:00 Very Good Girls
05:00 The Fold
07:00 A Stranger In Paradise
09:00 The Silent Mountain
11:00 The Fold
13:00 Filly Brown
15:00 Streetdance: All Stars
17:00 The Silent Mountain
19:00 71
21:00 Lords Of London
23:00 The Returned
01:00 The Silent Mountain



03:00 The Last 5 Years
05:00 Sophia Grace And Rosie's Royal Adventure
07:00 The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out Of Water
09:00 The Last 5 Years
11:00 Batman: Assault On Arkham
12:45 Sophia Grace And Rosie's Royal Adventure
14:30 The Grand Seduction
16:30 Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This
18:30 The Two Faces Of January
20:30 The Judge
23:00 Insideous: Chapter 3
01:00 Hello Carter



04:30 Mamma Moo And Crow
06:00 Pim And Pom: The Big Adventure
08:00 Bolts And Blip
10:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
11:30 Miffy The Movie
13:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
14:30 Hatching
16:00 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock
18:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
20:00 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
22:00 Hatching
23:30 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock Heart
01:15 Bolts And Blip
02:45 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels



04:00 Shadow Witness
06:00 Metaclic: Through The Never
08:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
10:00 Next Goal Wins
12:00 Hotel Transylvania 2
14:00 Parkland
16:00 Born To Race: Fast Track
17:45 The Theory Of Everything
20:00 Frontera
22:00 3 Days To Kill
00:00 The Trials Of Cate McCall
02:00 The Theory Of Everything



03:30 Under The Tuscan Sun
05:30 All's Faire In Love
07:30 Ballistica
09:00 The Brothers Grimm
11:00 Ladder 49
13:00 The Proposal
14:35 Six Days, Seven Nights
16:30 Coyote Ugly
18:15 Dark Water
20:00 Jack
22:00 Shanghai
23:45 The Hurricane
02:15 The Horse Whisperer



03:20 In Conversation With Elliott Smith: Heaven Adores You
05:35 Ben Lee: Catch My Disease
07:00 Made In China
08:30 Bob And The Trees
10:00 Welcome To Pine Hill
11:25 Miss Firecracker
13:05 Springsteen & I
14:25 Charge!
16:00 Writers' Room
16:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
17:00 Good Rockin' Tonight: Legacy Sun Records
19:00 Bob And The Trees
20:30 Welcome To Pine Hill
22:00 The Wolfpack
23:30 Miss Firecracker
01:10 Welcome To Pine Hill
02:40 Springsteen & I
03:15 Ballroom Blitz
04:00 Ugly House To Lovely House
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Little People, Big World
05:35 Cake Boss
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Food Hospital
07:15 Toddler's Tiaras
08:05 Fat Chance



03:20 Whitechapel
04:15 Doctors
04:45 Doctors
05:15 Doctor Who
06:00 Eastenders
06:30 Eastenders
07:00 Doctors
07:30 Doctors
08:00 Doctors
08:30 Father Brown
09:15 The Paradise
10:10 Doctor Who
11:00 Doctors
11:30 Doctors
12:00 Father Brown
12:50 The Paradise
13:45 Doctor Who
14:35 Doctors
15:05 Doctors
15:40 Father Brown
16:30 The Paradise
17:25 Doctor Who
18:15 Casualty
19:10 Father Brown
20:00 Happy Valley
21:00 The Living And The Dead
21:55 Ripper Street
22:50 Whitechapel
23:45 Casualty
00:35 Happy Valley
01:30 The Living And The Dead
02:25 Ripper Street



03:40 Dirty Money
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Storage Hunters UK
05:00 How Things Work
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 Things Work
10:35 Fast N' Loud
11:25 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
12:15 Street Outlaws
13:05 Dirty Money
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Storage Hunters UK
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 Wheeler Dealers: Top 5
16:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
16:50 How Things Work
17:40 Gold Divers
18:30 Pacific Warriors
19:20 So You Think You'd Survive?
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Storage Hunters UK
21:00 Gold Divers
21:50 Pacific Warriors
22:40 Outback Truckers
23:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
00:20 Wheeler Dealers: Trading Up
01:10 Gold Divers
02:00 Pacific Warriors
02:50 Outback Truckers



03:00 Mythbusters
03:50 Invent It Rich
06:20 How It's Made
07:00 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 Invent It Rich
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:50 Ultimate Survival
13:40 How It's Made
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
16:35 Kids vs Film
17:00 Welcome To Rio
17:50 Kings Of The Wild
18:40 Nextworld
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
21:10 Welcome To Rio
22:00 Kings Of The Wild
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Ultimate Survival
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Welcome To Rio
02:10 Kings Of The Wild



03:00 The First Kill
03:48 The Perfect Murderer
07:50 Deadly Affairs
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
08:40 The Perfect Murderer
09:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
10:20 Nightmare Next Door
11:10 Murder Comes To Town
12:00 Deadly Affairs
12:50 I Almost Got Away With It
13:40 The Perfect Murderer
14:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
15:20 Nightmare Next Door
16:10 Hall
16:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
17:00 I Almost Got Away With It



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 Supa Strikas
08:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Rebellion
09:25 Mighty Med
10:00 K.C. Undercover



FAST & FURIOUS 6 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

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 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Airlines	Arrival Flights on Monday 4/7/2016	Time	Route	Airlines	Departure Flights on Monday 4/7/2016	Time	Route
MEA	400	00:05	Beirut	AIC	982	00:05	Ahmedabad/Chennai
THY	772	00:10	Istanbul	BBC	044	00:10	Dhaka
JZR	239	00:20	Amman	JZR	1540	00:20	Cairo
JZR	267	00:30	Beirut	JAI	573	00:25	Mumbai
FDK	803	00:35	Damascus	MSR	615	00:30	Cairo
FDB	069	00:55	Dubai	FDB	072	00:30	Dubai
DLH	635	01:00	Doha	JZR	562	00:30	Sohag
QTR	1086	01:15	Doha	PIA	206	00:40	Lahore
JZR	539	01:20	Cairo	MEA	401	01:05	Beirut
KAC	1802	01:30	Cairo	FDK	804	01:35	Damascus
PGT	858	01:40	Istanbul	THY	773	01:40	Istanbul
ETH	620	01:45	Addis Ababa	DLH	635	02:00	Frankfurt
RJA	642	01:45	Amman	ETH	621	02:45	Addis Ababa
THY	1464	01:50	Istanbul	THY	765	02:45	Istanbul
MSC	501	02:05	Alexandria	PGT	859	02:55	Istanbul
KKK	6506	02:05	Istanbul	MSC	502	03:05	Alexandria
GFA	211	02:15	Bahrain	UAE	854	03:45	Dubai
CEB	018	02:20	Manila	THY	769	03:45	Istanbul
UAE	853	02:25	Dubai	BBC	044	03:50	Dhaka
THY	1404	02:30	AYT	JAI	571	03:55	Mumbai
BBC	044	02:30	Dhaka/Dammam	RJA	645	03:55	Amman
THY	768	02:50	Istanbul	OMA	644	04:05	Muscat
ETD	305	03:05	Abu Dhabi	FDB	068	04:05	Dubai
OMA	643	03:05	Muscat	ETD	306	04:10	Abu Dhabi
RJA	644	03:10	Amman	MSR	613	04:15	Cairo
FDB	067	03:15	Dubai	KKK	6505	04:20	Istanbul
MSR	612	03:15	Cairo	PGT	861	04:30	Istanbul
QTR	1076	03:25	Doha	QTR	1077	04:35	Doha
PGT	860	03:30	Istanbul	CEB	019	04:50	Manila
KAC	544	03:40	Cairo	JZR	560	05:00	Sohag
JZR	555	04:15	Alexandria	THY	1465	06:00	Istanbul
FEF	933	05:00	Sohag	FEF	954	06:00	Asyut
DLH	170	05:10	Bahrain	RJA	643	06:25	Amman
THY	770	05:15	Istanbul	QTR	1087	06:30	Abu Dhabi
JZR	529	06:00	Asyut	THY	771	06:45	Istanbul
PAL	668	06:25	Manila/Dubai	GFA	212	06:50	Bahrain
KAC	412	06:30	Manila/Bangkok	JZR	240	06:55	Amman
BAW	157	06:40	London	FDB	070	07:05	Dubai
JZR	563	06:55	Cairo	JZR	164	07:15	Dubai
JZR	1541	07:10	Cairo	FDB	5062	07:55	Dubai
FDB	5061	07:15	Dubai	BAW	156	08:25	London
KAC	382	07:30	Delhi	FDB	054	08:30	Dubai
KAC	206	07:40	Islamabad	KAC	173	08:35	Munich
FD	8053	07:50	Dubai	KAC	539	08:50	Sharm el-Sheikh
KAC	302	07:50	Mumbai	JZR	256	09:05	Beirut
KAC	156	08:00	Istanbul	KAC	671	09:15	Dubai
KAC	354	08:00	BLR				
ETD	919	08:20	Abu Dhabi				
KAC	362	08:20	Colombo				
KAC	352	08:20	Kochi				
UAE	855	08:25	Dubai				
ETD	301	09:00	Abu Dhabi				
KAC	284	09:00	Dhaka				
ABY	125	09:05	Sharjah				
IRA	667	09:15	Esfahan				
QTR	1070	09:20	Doha				
JAV	621	09:25	Amman				
FDB	055	09:40	Dubai				
CCE	341	10:00	Alexandria				
UAE	873	10:40	Dubai				
GFA	213	10:40	Bahrain				
AXB	890	10:55	Mangalore/Bahrain				
MEA	404	11:00	Beirut				
JZR	561	11:25	Sohag				
JZR	165	11:50	Dubai				
FDK	801	12:15	Damascus				
FDB	075	12:25	Dubai				
MSC	401	12:30	Alexandria				
JZR	241	12:30	Amman				
UAE	871	12:45	Dubai				
FEF	953	12:55	Asyut				
MSR	610	13:00	Cairo				
THY	766	13:10	Istanbul				
KNE	231	14:00	Riyadh				
KAC	672	14:00	Dubai				
QTR	1078	14:05	Doha				
FDB	057	14:20	Dubai				
GFA	221	14:20	Bahrain				
SVA	500	14:30	Jeddah				
KAC	540	14:50	Sharm el-Sheikh				
KAC	742	14:55	Dammam				
KAC	788	15:00	Jeddah				
OMA	645	15:10	Muscat				
ETD	303	15:10	Abu Dhabi				
ABY	127	15:35	Sharjah				
UAE	857	15:45	Dubai				
NIA	251	15:50	Alexandria				
RJA	640	16:00	Amman				
FDB	051	16:10	Dubai				
QTR	1072	16:15	Doha				
JZR	535	16:20	Cairo				
JZR	257	16:25	Beirut				
KAC	562	16:55	Amman				
KAC	118	17:00	New York				
SAW	705	17:05	Damascus				
SVA	510	17:15	Riyadh				

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

Automated enquiry about the Civil ID card is 1889988

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:18
Shorook 04:53
Duhr: 11:52
Asr: 15:26
Maghrib: 18:51
Isha: 20:23



INTERNATIONAL CALLS



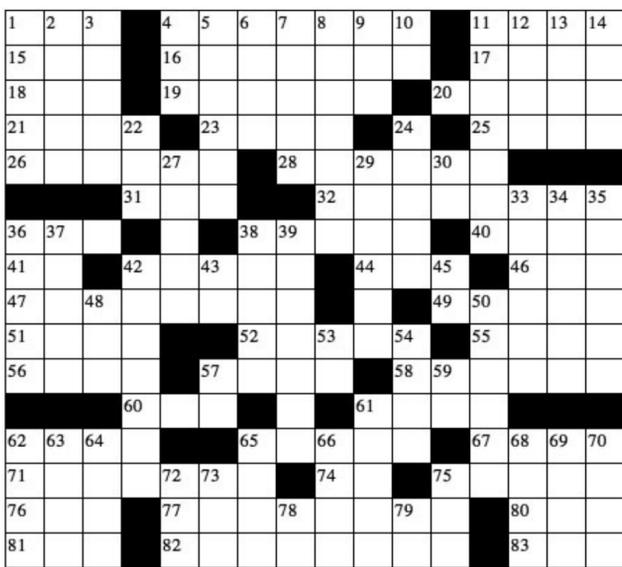
Afghanistan	0093	Guyana	00592
Albania	00355	Haiti	00509
Algeria	00213	Holland (Netherlands)	0031
Andorra	00376	Honduras	00504
Angola	00244	Hong Kong	00852
Anguilla	001264	Hungary	0036
Antigua	001268	Ibiza (Spain)	0034
Argentina	0054	Iceland	00354
Armenia	00374	India	0091
Australia	0061	Indian Ocean	00873
Austria	0043	Indonesia	0062
Azerbaijan	00994	Iran	0098
Bahamas	001242	Iraq	00964
Bahrain	00973	Ireland	00353
Bangladesh	00880	Italy	0039
Barbados	001246	Ivory Coast	00225
Belarus	00375	Jamaica	001876
Belgium	0032	Japan	0081
Belize	00501	Jordan	00962
Benin	00229	Kazakhstan	007
Bermuda	001441	Kenya	00254
Bhutan	00975	Kiribati	00686
Bolivia	00591	Kuwait	00965
Bosnia	00387	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Botswana	00267	Laos	00856
Brazil	0055	Latvia	00371
Brunei	00673	Lebanon	00961
Bulgaria	00359	Liberia	00231
Burkina	00226	Libya	00218
Burundi	00257	Lesotho	00266
Cambodia	00855	Lithuania	00370
Cameroon	00237	Luxembourg	00352
Canada	001	Macau	00853
Cape Verde	00238	Macedonia	00389
Cayman Islands	001345	Madagascar	00261
Central African	00236	Majorca	0034
Chad	00235	Malawi	00265
Chile	0056	Malaysia	0060
China	0086	Maldives	00960
Colombia	0057	Mali	00223
Comoros	00269	Malta	00356
Congo	00242	Marshall Islands	00692
Cook Islands	00682	Martinique	00596
Costa Rica	00506	Mauritania	00222
Croatia	00385	Mauritius	00230
Cuba	0053	Mayotte	00269
Cyprus	00357	Mexico	0052
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Micronesia	00691
Czech Republic	00420	Moldova	00373
Denmark	0045	Monaco	00377
Diego Garcia	00246	Mongolia	00976
Djibouti	00253	Montserrat	001664
Dominica	001767	Morocco	00212
Dominican Republic	001809	Mozambique	00258
Ecuador	00593	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Egypt	0020	Namibia	00264
El Salvador	00503	Nepal	00977
England (UK)	0044	Netherlands	0031
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Eritrea	00291	New Caledonia	00687
Estonia	00372	New Zealand	0064
Ethiopia	00251	Nicaragua	00505
Falkland Islands	00500	Niger	00227
Faroe Islands	00298	Nigeria	00234
Fiji	00679	Niue	00683
Finland	00358	Norfolk Island	00672
France	0033	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
French Guiana	00594	North Korea	00850
French Polynesia	00689	Norway	0047
Gabon	00241	Oman	00968
Gambia	00220	Pakistan	0092
Georgia	00995	Palau	00680
Germany	0049	Panama	00507
Ghana	00233	Papua New Guinea	00675
Gibraltar	00350	Paraguay	00595
Greece	0030	Peru	0051
Greenland	00299	Philippines	0063
Grenada	001473	Poland	0048
Guadeloupe	00590	Portugal	00351
Guam	001671	Puerto Rico	001787
Guatemala	00502	Qatar	00974
Guinea	00224	Romania	0040



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	Plastic Surgeons	Paediatricians	Endocrinologist
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444	Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272	Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898	Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea 25752222	Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700	Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300	Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888
Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171	Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60	Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444	Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999	Family Doctor	Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099	Physiotherapists & VD
Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700	Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581	Dr. Snaa Maarof 25713514	Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223	Psychiatrists	Dr. Pradip Gupare 23713100	Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223	Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047	Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282	Rheumatologists:
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)			

CROSSWORD 1304



ACROSS

- Support resembling the rib of an animal.
- Made smaller or less by melting or erosion or vaporization.
- Small deer of Japan with slightly forked antlers.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
- Having no parts resembling rays.
- A set of two similar things considered as a unit.
- A sharp hand gesture (resembling a blow).
- Carnivorous fresh and salt water fishes.
- A Hindu disciple of a swami.
- A woman hired to suckle a child of someone else.
- An unofficial association of people or groups.
- An American who lives in the North (especially during the American Civil War).
- United States writer of poems and plays about racial conflict (born in 1934).
- An implement used to erase something.
- Light informal conversation for social occasions.
- Someone who ascends.
- The ratio of the distance traveled (in miles) to the time spent traveling (in hours).
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A ductile gray metallic element of the lanthanide series.
- Used of a single unit or thing.
- Long and light rowing boat.
- Sorghums of China and Manchuria having small white or brown grains (used for food) and dry pithy stalks (used for fodder, fuel and thatching).
- Have a craving, appetite, or great desire for.
- (informal) Very bad.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
- The food served and eaten at one time.
- Potentially existing but not presently evident or realized.
- A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
- Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
- Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
- A short introductory essay preceding the text of a book.
- A state in midwestern United States.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- The 7th letter of the Greek alphabet.
- A nucleic acid that transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm.
- The character flaw or error of a tragic hero that leads to his downfall.
- (British) Informal term for information.

DOWN

- The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
- Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
- An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
- A human limb.
- African tree having an exceedingly thick trunk and fruit that resembles a gourd and

- has an edible pulp called monkey bread.
- A small constellation in the northern hemisphere near Cygnus and Draco.
- Isolated from others.
- Small often spiny insectivorous mammal of Madagascar.
- The compass point midway between east and southeast.
- An honorary degree in science.
- Type genus of the Sphyrnidae.
- The United Nations agency concerned with atomic energy.
- A large oven for firing or burning or drying such things as porcelain or bricks.
- Any of various strong liquors distilled from the fermented sap of toddy palms or from fermented molasses.
- An ugly evil-looking old woman.
- An Oscan-speaking member of an ancient people of Campania.
- A family of Sino-Tibetan languages spoken in southeastern Asia.
- An ascocarp having the spore-bearing layer of cells (the hymenium) on a broad disklike receptacle.
- The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
- Source of a tough elastic wood.
- Capital of Armenia.
- (combining form) Acting or functioning as a regent or ruler.
- The state prevailing during the absence of war.
- A form of Japanese poetry.
- A republic in northwestern Africa on the Mediterranean Sea.
- A blank leaf in the front of back of a book.
- A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- A Turkish unit of weight equal to about 2.75 pounds.
- Any alcoholic beverage of inferior quality.
- A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
- (Scottish) Bluish-black or gray-blue.
- A unit of information equal to one million (1,048,576) bytes.
- The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
- A visual display of information.
- The mother of your father or mother.
- Queen of the Olympian gods in ancient Greek mythology.
- A signal transmitted along a narrow path.
- A relative position or degree of value in a graded group.
- The dialect of Albanian spoken in northern Albania and Yugoslavia.
- Being or occurring at an advanced period of time or after a usual or expected time.
- A theocratic republic in the Middle East in western Asia.
- The residue that remains when something is burned.
- An accountant certified by the state.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.
- Being one more than one.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You can find new ways to relate with others and you look for opportunities to use your newly achieved knowledge. Very tolerant and accepting of differences, you have good insight into all social values. You are independent. You like to facilitate, compromise and otherwise show your people skills. You are the life of the party, able to loosen up even the most sober. You are great at bringing out the best qualities of others, discovering hidden talents. This afternoon may develop into a talent show, or at the least, the planning of one. Some of your friends like karaoke and some of your friends are good at playacting. Your options are wide and varied and you may decide to help these friends put an act together for the rest of the neighborhood.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

An important relationship, perhaps with an older person or someone in authority, may come into focus today. There could be some tension or sense of opposition requiring compromise or negotiation on your part. An opportunity for understanding and even growth is available. Independence, as well as anything unusual or different, is valued. You may enjoy getting away from routine and doing something completely different for a change. You are at home where there is a lot of communication, investigation and exploration. Fascinated by social interchange and gossip, you have learned to remove the emotions and listen for new ideas. You may enjoy variety and change today. New reading, writing, research and the sciences are enjoyed today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A library or museum has intriguing possibilities for today and if you had no previous plans, your family will follow you anywhere, particularly if you have the food. Perhaps a planetarium show or a stroll through the zoo would be fun. This is a time to have the camera ready and take notes; a young person is full of funny stories. This evening there are relaxing activities and hugs and soft voices to enjoy. Since you can easily gain the attention of family members, this would be a good time to ask each member of the family or each member of the house, what choices could be considered for the next outing. There could be talk of education, vacation, philosophy, meal planning or even religious studies. When people talk about pleasant gatherings, magic happens.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find it more convenient to neglect your mental, conceptual and organizational abilities in favor of your social agility and animal warmth today. This is a time of relaxation-catch up on your reading, do odd chores around your place and perhaps, prepare for the workweek ahead. Social opportunities will come late this afternoon. People value you for your warmth and dynamic qualities as much as for your ideas. Friends or family members keep you busy for a while this afternoon by taking you around to look at new houses or the most recent changes in your city. You can relate to almost all types of people with equal ease and there are plenty of opportunities to do just that as you celebrate your special day.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is a nice day that should just flow right along. In particular, you will do well in activities that include children, young people and your home surroundings. There is support available for whatever you want to accomplish or however you want to proceed. You are freedom loving, independent and at times, even a trifle remote. You seem not to be bound by relationships, although you have many friends. You may have to be reminded of domestic chores. However, today you may find yourself decorating or repairing in order to spruce up the area in which you do your best thinking. Today, you will find it easy to work with music, color, fabric and the arts-whatever is beautiful and genial. You would make a superb decorator.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Your cravings get you in trouble now and again-even if it is just as simple as gaining a bit of weight. You may often appreciate things that are not always in your own best interest. Your ambition and drive to grow and progress may not be fully met. Consider busying yourself with some creative work today. You can display a vocabulary of lovely words and a flair for description-the artistic in all its many forms. You might think of a jingle for an advertising company. There is an inner sense of warmth and goodness along with the ability to express this. You have perfect taste in literary and artistic matters. This is a harmonious day. Expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. Music and laughter can be heard-enjoy.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are able to make a positive difference today. When you love, you love with energy and passion. You value personal contact, cutting through all the externals and getting to the heart of things. You may be called on today to help a family member get to the truth of some disturbed child or confused elderly member of the family. Changes and transforming experiences are where you like to be most. Your words and ideas can transport others beyond the world as they know it and into the world as they wish it could be. Family, investments, home and health issues can all be corrected or tended to this day. It may seem there is not enough time left in your day but help is as close as your lips and someone is waiting for your lead.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Making spirit matter and making the ideal real by bringing it down to earth-is the mood today. Perhaps there is a fear of losing oneself in the beginning; perhaps a push to accomplish and achieve seems more important just now. Give yourself a break this Sunday and enjoy your creative side: swim, paint, sketch, create music, sew, build, etc. You could invent or create a design or artwork, or just enjoy this time. Your ideal dream is a private one and heaven is as close as work and family. Luck is in your corner this evening and this could mean you might want to invest in a lottery ticket or a scratch-off ticket. There is time this evening for a family dinner and an opportunity to get to know the people you live with better.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

In some sense, just being you is the goal itself and the means of traveling to that goal. Others sense that your life is important. You are your own reason for being. Today you think about goals and visions and ideals. This is a good time to update your resume and write out a plan for future accomplishments. You are good to mark events on your calendar so consider giving yourself reminders to the steps you need to take in order to accomplish these goals. This is a good time to eliminate the unnecessary stress in your life. You radiate a contagious fondness for people. This evening you have the pleasure of sharing a little time with old friends. Your most essential quality has to do with the very real love you radiate to others.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You can demonstrate great understanding and sensitivity about the needs of others just now and are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society in general. Perhaps some volunteer service is in order. Your most essential quality has to do with the very real love and compassion you radiate. Your sense of values and sheer appreciation for life are communicated to all who come to know you. You may be sought after for your advice and counsel regarding very personal and emotional issues. Perhaps this is a good time to think and study-you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts. You may find yourself enjoying a long conversation, writing a letter, or making a special phone call. This evening is a good time for a walk.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You are able to enjoy and value your own life situation. Catching up on personal projects, preparing for the workweek, working in a garden or flowerbed seems to be the routine of the day. Friends may try to entice you to gossip, but you show the courage to move into different directions. You are unusually energetic just now and people respond positively to your charisma. You may find yourself in demand later today when someone needs your technical expertise. If you are not careful you may find several other people with technical questions of their own. You could gain insight from a young person this afternoon. Since you are near home most of this day, use home as a base of action and pop in from time to time to get whatever you need.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You prefer the forest to the desert, the common to the uncommon. You are at home in ideas of man's essential unity. Religious and psychological ideas are talked about with your peers and you may discover the need for a book someone is reading. Group gatherings are small today and everyone benefits. The matter of beginning a book club comes to your attention and you may give this plenty of thought. A little research into other book clubs may help you decide on how you want to develop one of your own. A new neighbor or some change to the neighborhood has several families curious with excuses to get out and about this afternoon. You could dust off the old bicycle and ride it around for exercise and of course, to satisfy a little curiosity of your own.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Old TV Shows 6

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| BARNEY MILLER | GOOD TIMES | NASH BRIDGES |
| BAYWATCH | HUNTER | QUINCY |
| BEN CASEY | IRONSIDE | SEA HUNT |
| CANNON | KNOTS LANDING | SEINFELD |
| CHEERS | LASSIE | SWAT |
| FAME | MCCLOUD | T J HOOKER |
| FAMILY GIDGET | MEDICAL CENTER | THE SAINT |
| | MOONLIGHTING | |

Yesterday's Solution

Old TV Shows 5 - Solution

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

- | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 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 | MACGYVER | WINGS |
| FAMILY TIES | MAUDE | WONDER WOMAN |
| FELICITY | MR BELVEDERE | |

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



Color me!



The Shoebill

The Shoebill also known as whale head or shoe-billed stork, is a very large stork-like bird. It derives its name from its massive shoe-shaped bill. Although it has a somewhat stork-like overall form and has previously been classified in the order Ciconiiformes, its true affiliations with other living birds is ambiguous. Some authorities now reclassify it with the Pelecaniformes. The adult is mainly grey while the juveniles are browner. It lives in tropical east Africa in large swamps from Sudan to Zambia.

Description

The shoebill is a tall bird, with a typical height range of 110 to 140 cm and some specimens reaching as much as 152 cm. Length from tail to beak can range from 100 to 140 cm and wingspan is 230 to 260 cm. Weight has reportedly ranged from 4 to 7 kg. The signature feature of the species is its huge, bulbous bill, which is straw-colored with erratic grayish markings. The sharp edges in the mandibles help the shoebill to decapitate their prey and also to discard any vegetation after prey has been caught. As in the pelicans, the upper mandible is strongly keeled, ending in a sharp nail. The dark colored legs are fairly long, with a tarsus length of 21.7 to 25.5 cm. The shoebill's feet are exceptionally large, with the middle toe reaching 16.8 to 18.5 cm in length, likely assisting the species in its ability to stand on aquatic vegetation while hunting. The neck is relatively shorter and thicker than other long-legged wading birds such as herons and cranes. The wings are broad and well-adapted to soaring.

Voice

The shoebill is normally silent, but they perform bill-clattering displays at the nest. When engaging in these displays, adult birds have also been noted to utter a cow-like moo as well as high-pitched whines. Both nestlings and adults engage in bill-clattering during the nesting season as a means of communication.

When young are begging for food, they call out with a sound uncannily like human hiccups. In one case, a flying adult bird was heard uttering hoarse croaks, apparently as a sign of aggression at a nearby marabou stork.

Status and conservation

The population is estimated at between 5,000 and 8,000 individuals, the majority of which live in swamps in Sudan, Uganda, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Zambia.

There is also a viable population in the Malagarasi wetlands in Tanzania. Bird Life International has classified it as vulnerable with the main threats being habitat destruction, disturbance and hunting.

Relationship to humans

This species is considered to be one of the five most desirable birds in Africa by ornithologists. There are Egyptian images depicting the shoebill, while the Arabs referred to the bird as abu markub, which means one with a shoe, a reference to the bird's distinctive bill.

DID YOU KNOW?



- A flood is the submerging of normally dry land by an overflow of water.
- Depending on their type, floods can develop very slowly over time after extensive rains or in just a few minutes, very quickly, without any sign of rain.
- Floods can be a localized event affecting a small area of land or a very large disaster that can have an impact on entire islands or river basins.
- There are many types and ways floods can occur, including, due to overflowing rivers, due to extreme coastal events, by natural or artificial ground saturation from excess rainfall, or by catastrophic failure in infrastructure.
- River flooding is the most common type of flood event. If the flow rate exceeds the capacity of the river channel then flooding of the surrounding area can occur.
- Flash floods are extreme versions of a river flooding event. They can occur very quickly, often without warning and with little or no excessive rainfall. Flash floods are the result of a river blockage either natural or artificial (such as a landslide, glacier or dam) giving way and releasing a massive amount of built up water.
- Areal or urban flooding occurs when low-lying impenetrable ground becomes saturated as rainfall cannot

- run off as quickly as the accumulation of water. For example, on natural drought hardened or frozen farmland, or on concrete paving.
- Coastal and estuary flooding is caused by high sea tidal surges and waves that damage and infiltrate coastal defenses. Severe cases can be caused by tsunami, hurricanes or tropical cyclones.
- With most cities and towns located at the coast or next to rivers, flood events can be major natural disasters, causing loss of life and damage to land and property.
- Floods can damage bridges, roads and other transport links. Infrastructure such as buildings, cars and houses can be left saturated or completely taken by the waters. While sewage systems and power grids can be destroyed.
- After floodwaters recede, land can be contaminated with hazardous material, such as building debris, fuel and untreated sewage. Residents are often left without power or clean drinking water which can lead to outbreaks of diseases.
- Natural flooding of river plains and deltas each year are essential for farming in many areas of the world as the waters bring nutrient rich silt deposits that create very fertile alluvial soils.

Toilet roll space shuttle

ACTIVITY

You will need:

- * 1 x toilet roll
- * 1 x 20cm x 15cm piece of box card
- * lead pencil
- * craft knife
- * black, white and orange paint
- * glue

Activity:

1. Trace out a set of space shuttle wings onto the piece of box card. Cut them out.
2. Now paint both the wings and the fuselage (toilet roll) white. Leave them to dry.
3. Once they are dry, cut a hole in the toilet roll for the cockpit.
4. Glue the fuselage (toilet roll) to the wings.



5. Paint stripes onto your space shuttle.
6. Put your pilot into the cockpit and your space shuttle is ready to launch.

Can you spot the differences between these two pictures



SUDOKU

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

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

LEAN GREEN PITA DIPPERS

KIDS RECIPE

What you need:

- * 4 whole-wheat pitas
- * 1 cup fat-free plain Greek yogurt
- * 1/2 cup fresh or frozen spinach
- * 1/4 of cucumber, sliced
- * pinch of salt
- * 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

What to do:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. Have an adult help you with this step: Place yogurt, spinach, cucumber, salt, and pepper into food processor or blender. Process until smooth, about 1 minute.
3. Place dip into a bowl and refrigerate until chips are done.
4. Cut pitas into 8 wedges.
5. Arrange pita wedges on a baking sheet in a single layer.
6. Spray with cooking spray and sprinkle lightly



7. Bake for 5 minutes or until light golden brown and crispy.
8. Use the pita wedges to scoop up the yogurt dip!





Paris Fashion Week: Yuima Nakazato



Models present creations by Yuima Nakazato during the 2016-2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection fashion show yesterday in Paris. — AFP photos



Billie Faiers launches a health and fitness website

The 'Only Way is Essex' star - who has two-year-old daughter Nelly with her fiance Greg Shepherd - has set up her own business venture called Make Your Switch as she attempts to help other new mothers across the nation stay fit and healthy. Billie said: "I'm really excited to be part of Make Your Switch - it allows busy mums like me or people with a hectic lifestyle to work out at home and avoid expensive gym class fees!" The website, which is free to sign up and offers a free seven day trial, offers subscribers tips to help them lose, maintain and build weight

Subscribers can also use the mobile app to track their progress. It boasts more than 2,700 healthy recipes and over 150 diet plans and has access to 1,200 workout videos and fitness plans. Dr Jones, who is the website's ambassador for health, said: "We are currently, as a nation, struggling with our weight, well-being and general health more than ever before. I aim to help you realize that, by making some small changes to your busy lives, your health can soar." Billie went from a size 8 to a size 10 during her pregnancy and instead of opting for a crazy diet following Nelly's birth, she focused on exercising - doing five sets of 20 squats and crunches throughout the day. — Bang Showbiz



Coco Rocha has become a model manager

The 27-year-old Canadian model has taken an ownership and management stake in Nomad Modeling agency. Coco announced the news via her Twitter account saying, "Major news in today's @WWD!! Proud to announce I've taken a management and ownership stake in @NomadMgmt. #nomadmgt. (sic)" Coco's new role will see her act as brand director and be on hand for mentorship and career guidance for models. The role is one that will fit nicely with issues that have become close to her heart over her 15-year career. The model said: "Having

worked with many of the world's top modeling agencies for the last decade, I've seen what works and doesn't work in managing a model's career.

"In the past I've openly appealed to industry leaders for more ethical treatment of underage models, transparent accounting practices and I've spoken out regarding pressures and unhealthy expectations too often projected on models working today." Coco also intends to advise models on looking after themselves; including healthy eating and managing the business side of their careers. She explained: "I told my personal

accountant that I'd love for him to sit down and explain to the models the books and how they keep them, and taxes, and what questions you should ask. "As boring as the subject could be, it's so important to learn early on in your career. In the first few years, I knew nothing about my books.

I wish someone had taken me aside and taught me. "The same goes to styling and how to present yourself to a new client, working on your attitude, if a girl has issues with eating, you have to take care of them. You have to help them and guide them." — Bang Showbiz

Kanye West has signed a new deal with Adidas

The 39-year-old rapper, who has his own clothing brand Yeezy, has collaborated with the German sportswear giant since 2013 when he launched his first range but he's now releasing even more fashion pieces in an extension of his existing brand called Adidas + Kanye West collection. Speaking about the new collection, Kanye said: "These past two years Adidas and Yeezy have given a glimpse into our

future. This partnership illustrates that anyone with a dream can dream without limitations." The collection will see sportswear added to the 'Bound 2' hitmaker's existing fashion lines and it will even have several exclusive stores worldwide to showcase his designs - which are expected to drop in early 2017.

Eric Liedtke, Adidas CMO said: "Kanye is a true creator who has the ability to see

things others don't. We are exploring new territories by opening up the sports world to Kanye's creativity. This is what Adidas has always been about, empowering creators to create the new." Adidas' decision to support stores selling his products has been attributed to the success of his own 'Life of Pablo' pop up shops that appeared in New York and Los Angeles. Despite claiming earlier in the year that he was \$53 million in

debt, Kanye has continued to pour money into personal projects. In March this year, the hip-hop superstar, who shares six-month-old son Saint and three-year-old daughter North, with his wife Kim Kardashian West, announced he was creating a "million" new pairs of trainers this year and has hinted they'll be on sale at a cheaper retail price. — Bang Showbiz

'Deer Hunter' director Michael Cimino dead at 77

Michael Cimino, who directed the Oscar-winning Vietnam War film "The Deer Hunter" but then saw his career fade with a big-money box office flop, died Saturday at the age of 77. Besides his grim, moving tale of the Vietnam War, Cimino will be remembered for the budget-busting failure "Heaven's Gate" released not long thereafter in the 1980s. Cimino's death, first reported by Cannes film festival director Thierry Fremaux and the New York Times, was confirmed by Lt. B. Kim of the Los Angeles County coroner's office.

Kim told AFP that Cimino was found dead in his Beverly Hills home and that the cause of death is pending. The Times quoted the director's friend and former lawyer Eric Weissmann as saying Cimino's body was found at his home after friends were unable to reach him by telephone. "The Deer Hunter", released in 1978, was a gut-wrenching tale of a group of American friends in Pennsylvania whose lives were scarred by the Vietnam War.

One of its most gripping scenes depicts

characters played by Robert De Niro and Christopher Walken, held prisoner by the North Vietnamese army, playing Russian roulette against each other. "The Deer Hunter" received nine Oscar nominations and won five, including best picture and best director. At the time, the Times review called it "a big, awkward, crazily ambitious, sometimes breathtaking motion picture that comes as close to being a popular epic as any movie about this country since 'The Godfather.'" In a statement Saturday De Niro said, "Our work together is something I will always remember. He will be



This file photo taken on August 30, 2012 shows US film director Michael Cimino celebrates receiving the Persol Award 2012 during a ceremony at the 69th Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido. — AP/AFP photos

missed." But as much as "The Deer Hunter" was a success, Cimino's next film was widely panned as a disaster.

'Showbiz disaster'

"Heaven's Gate", based on a screenplay that Cimino himself wrote, was about migrant



In this Sept 11, 1977 file photo, director Michael Cimino, left, talks with actor Robert De Niro, center wearing beret, during a break in filming of "The Deer Hunter" on location in Bangkok.

homesteaders, rich cattle ranchers, mercenaries and US marshals in the state of Wyoming in the 1890s. United Artists, which had a history of giving film makers a lot of creative leeway, did so with Cimino on the basis of his big success with "The Deer Hunter." Cimino had a budget of about \$12 million and about three months to shoot the film. But he spent more than \$40 million and took more than a year to film the movie, the Times reported.



In this Feb 22, 1979 file photo, American movie director Michael Cimino listens during a press conference in Berlin.

The movie was more than three and a half hours long and it was a box office failure. Variety magazine said the film was "synonymous with showbiz disaster." The Times said that in a 2010 interview with Vanity Fair, Cimino expressed hope that "Heaven's Gate" would be viewed as a masterpiece some day. "Nobody lives without making mistakes," Cimino said. "I never second-guess myself." Gilles Jacob, a former president of the Cannes festival, praised Cimino on Twitter: "He was my friend. He was a great man."

Cimino went on to direct four other films: "Year of the Dragon" (1985), "The Sicilian" (1987), "Desperate Hours" (1990) and "The Sunchaser" (1996). Variety said that after "Heaven's Gate" the rest of Cimino's films were "mostly footnotes." Before his "Deer Hunter" success, he had directed "Thunderbolt and Lightfoot" (1974) starring Clint Eastwood and Jeff Bridges, who was nominated for a best supporting actor Oscar for his performance. — AFP



In this Oct 28, 2008 file photo, director Michael Cimino arrives at the third edition of the Rome Film Festival, in Rome.

Retrofitted bus provides studio for Native American artists

In this sprawling expanse of South Dakota badlands, dozens of families make ends meet by creating and selling earrings, paintings, decorated feathers, moccasins and other crafts. This community's artists take pride in their work, but challenges abound for their arts-based economy. The artists live on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which is dozens of miles and many tax brackets away from the nearest urban area, meaning arts supplies are not easily accessible and training on business, marketing and e-commerce is even harder to find.

But help is now literally on its way to some of those artists - some of whom sell their wares just to afford dinner - in the form of a small passenger bus. The retrofitted vehicle crisscrossing the reservation, which is one of the most impoverished in the US, has an art studio and a business training center. The Rolling Rez Arts bus provides anyone interested in the arts - established and emerging artists, children and adults - a space to explore



A bus that has been retrofitted with an art studio and space for a bank teller is seen in the parking lot of a college in Pine Ridge, SD, to allow people to take a free featherwork classes. — AP photos



LaQuita Cortier, of Allen, SD, works on a feather after attending a featherwork class.

their creativity. It also brings arts supplies, gives business lessons and even offers banking services; the bus has space for a bank teller and safe and is equipped with video cameras.

Transportation challenges

The bus, managed by the First Peoples Fund nonprofit, came in response to a market study



Artist Jay Garnett decorates a feather after teaching a featherwork class.

showing that nearly 80 percent of the reservation's home-based businesses are arts-related. "A lot of the artists have amazing art skills, but may lack some of the basic business skills, marketing, pricing, financial management, things like that," said Jeremy Staab, program manager with First Peoples Fund.

"We have a two-day comprehensive business training ... but what we were seeing is that some of our artists were having to hitchhike to get here because they have transportation challenges. ... Many of them are in survival mode."

On a sweltering June afternoon, the Wi-Fi-equipped, air-conditioned bus was parked in the lot of Oglala Lakota College in Pine Ridge to offer free featherwork lessons taught by Jay Garnett. Four young adults showed up for a class on how to decorate feathers typically used during cere-

monies. The 19-year-old Garnett makes a living out of creating earrings, rawhide bags, featherwork and other artwork, charging about \$175 for decorating a single eagle feather and between \$45 and \$65 for a pair of earrings. Like other artists in the community, he allows people to pay on installments or trades his work for other craft supplies such as glue and feathers.

Technical support

"This is an art form that puts bread and butter on the table," said Garnett, who has been creating art since eighth grade. "But it's really important for people to really understand the time, the quality and the effort that is put in to some of the art pieces." Garnett's workshop, which focused on how to decorate feathers that are typically used during ceremonies and other

events, was LaQuita Cortier's second class in the mobile studio. She learned how to make earrings out of hide during the first.

"It helps you learn more about your culture," Cortier, a 21-year-old Allen resident, said. "It's learning the arts of Natives." Artists who participated in the market study expressed the need for physical and online marketplaces. Guss Yellow Hair, the coordinator and driver of the bus, said the trainings emphasize the need for artists to appropriately price their items and expand their market. He said many of the artists sell their work within the reservation, but they could reach more customers by taking a well-lit photo to sell it online. "They need that technical support," Yellow Hair said. "We provide them what we can so that they can increase their sales and give them the edge that they need." — AP



LaQuita Cortier, of Allen, SD, works on a feather after attending a featherwork class taught by artist Jay Garnett, right, inside a bus that has been retrofitted with an art studio and space for a bank teller.



Artist Jay Garnett decorates a feather.



A hand-made feather fan that can be used during some Native American ceremonies.

It wouldn't be the 4th of July without Willie's moveable 'picnic'

It is an on again, occasionally off again American tradition from the 1970s that has filled football stadiums and sun-baked Texas ranches, with one constant - country music legend Willie Nelson celebrating Independence Day with a music-packed picnic. Nelson's first blowout picnic in 1973 was a combination of Woodstock hippy love and cowboy hoedown of more than 40,000 people in Dripping Springs outside of Austin that raised the ire of police, who received complaints about noise, nudity and dazed people wandering around.

As Nelson has aged, the event has mellowed. About 10,000 people are expected at this year's version, which will feature 20 acts, including some Texas troubadours who appeared at the first picnic, and will be held at a race track in Austin, which is the only US stop for global Formula One racing. Nelson said he got the idea for the picnics from the 1969 Woodstock music festival and wanted to bring that feeling to the Hill Country west of Austin.

"I was looking at (Woodstock) and was realizing the same thing might happen in Texas if it were promoted right and had the right talent," Nelson said in an interview with Reuters. "It is a national holiday for national independence and I felt like a lot of people would like to get together and celebrate. It was a no-brainer," said Nelson, 83. The early affairs were raucous events, drawing crowds of over 80,000. They often lasted for days, often at places not prepared for the onslaught.



Willie Nelson

"If we had arrested all the naked and drunk people I saw, we'd have filled our jail and yours and all of the jails from here to Dallas," a deputy in Williamson County, north of Austin, told the Austin American-Statesman after the 1975 event, which attracted about 70,000. The 1976 picnic in Gonzales, Texas, was marred by reports of rapes, stabbings, rampant drug use and snake bites. After a raft of troubles, Nelson moved the picnic in 1979 to his country club in the Texas Hill Country, much to the annoyance of his neighbors, who complained of the noise and clogged roads.

He has since taken the show on the road with stops in New York and Atlanta, as well as a truck stop town between Dallas and Austin. The picnic moved to the Circuit of the Americas race track in Austin last year. The facility, with ice-cooled "water monster" hydrating stations, covered mist rooms, about two dozen restaurant and bar choices, and a bevy of functioning toilets is a far cry from the early days where the nearest shrub was often the closest thing to a rest room.

The acts this year include some who have been picnic staples, including long-time country music notables Ray Wylie Hubbard, Johnny Bush and Billy Joe Shaver. Some of the newer stars to take the stage include Margo Price and Shakey Graves. Nelson, with a six-decade career capped by numerous awards, including the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song in 2015, remembers the Fourth of July as a much simpler affair when he was growing up in rural Texas. "It meant a day off when I didn't have to pick cotton. Like all the other holidays, it was a day I didn't have to do anything," he said. "I would just hang out and do nothing. That is still my favorite thing to do." — Reuters



Travelling with mosquitoes

Mosquitoes-bite allergies dilemma? Here's how to stay happy while traveling to a mosquito territory destination. I've decided to write about this particularly since I personally suffer from mosquito-bite allergies (or any bite, for this matter!). I suddenly started developing an after-bite allergy, and an annoying one. At first, it was just fine just like any other normal person. Lately however, it became annoying to the point that I've

experienced being hospitalized twice during trips due to those little insects' bites. Trip after trip, an essential that never leaves my handbag is my mosquito repellent. One day, I forgot my holy repellent - and then it was panic mode, paranoia, thinking mosquitoes are after me all day, every day. That trip had taught me some tricks that would help anyone who suffers from the same 'fear' or 'allergy' of being bitten during their trip.

1- Don't wear anything scented. Perfumes, hair mist, hair serum, lip palm. Nothing with a nice smell.

2- They say wear light colors - mosquitos and insects are attracted to dark colors, especially at night.

3- Eat and smell like garlic. (Really? Yes.)

4- There are some oils that have a scent that drives insects away, such as tea tree oil.

5- Vinegar is also a good option.

Having said that, and if you are going to destinations such as the Amazon or Madagascar where you could be exposed to dangerous bites/diseases, I would strongly advise you to take the vaccinations needed for prevention of danger.

There are multiple health websites, mostly governmental, with announcements of the latest health news and updates, as well as the needed vaccinations.

'Saq Al Bamboo' and 'Been Galbin': Episode 27

By Nawara Fattahova

The Kuwait Times is publishing daily recaps of two of the Kuwaiti soap operas airing on Al Rai TV and MBC Drama. Here are the recaps of the 27th episode:

'Saq Al Bamboo' (Bamboo Stalk)

Hind finds a flat for Eisa in Jabriya area to live, instead of staying with his friend from the mosque. He is happy that it's in the same area with his friends including Ghasan. He buys a bicycle as he doesn't have enough money for taxi.

Hind is running the elections and Ghasan tells her that she is happy that Eisa is away as the elections are more important for her than him, and his existence may cause her scandals. Eisa replies to the email that Noor sent

him long time ago, apologizing he was late with replying as he was busy with the house.

Merla comes to Kuwait and visits Eisa. He is surprised and happy to see her in Kuwait. She told him she came to work here, in a Spanish restaurant as she also speaks the language. Noor's brother Eisa invites her to go out with Khaulia but she refuses.

Her mother tells her she has to go to Ghanima's house to apologize. She is nice to Noor as she wants her to marry Jaber. Noor meets Eisa and asks him for help her not to marry Jaber. But she says that her personality has changed, later agrees to meet Jaber and his family.

Been Galbin (Between Two Hearts)

Dana's father marries Fareeda. At the wedding, Dana calls Masoud as Bashar by mistake



and then apologizes. Aryam asked an agency to send customers to her agency. Her uncle calls her, worried about her, spending KD 20 thousand within a month paying for those customers. Marzouq hears the conversation and goes to Bashar's office to tell him he is a swindler as he lets Aryam spend so much money on him by paying for clients. Bashar is shocked and goes to his house. Noor goes to her house and finds Bashar

there, after Aryam called her asking for him. Bashar complained that Aryam wants to control him. When Marzouq calls Aryam, she knows about what happened in Bashar's office and that he is angry with him.

When she arrives she meets Noora at the door who tells her that Bashar doesn't want to see her because she thinks she owns him. Aryam replies that she loves Bashar and she won't let anybody take him from her.

Alyasra fashion unveils the grand reveal of newly-rebranded and refurbished comfort zone

Alyasra fashion, the regional fashion retail leader has announced the complete rebranding of its leading footwear multi-concept brand, Comfort Zone and the refurbishment of its flagship store at Phase II, The Avenues Mall. The opulent reveal of the multi-concept store was held in the presence of local media members, fashion and lifestyle influencers, socialites and customers.

The refurbished 253 sqm bespoke store was designed with a Scandinavian interior design theme that is both minimalist and modern yet easy-to-navigate and elegant, reflecting the aesthetic desires of its regular clientele. The multi-concept store also now features eclectic new brands such as iconic Chicago-based brand, Cole Haan which is known for their artistic collision of craft, style and engineering and new balance, a brand that has revolutionized the sports shoes industry for over 100 years and challenged the conventions of the industry.

In addition, the store also features a lot of other brands such as Pikolinos that caters to



women looking for unique and exquisite leather footwear and French-based Mephisto which offers stylish and comfortable footwear for both men and women. Speaking at the launch event, Shabbir Fakhruddin, Regional Business Director at Alyasra Fashion commented on the evolving journey of footwear stores and brands and the new offerings at Comfort Zone that are unmatched in the country. "The reintroduction of Comfort Zone stems from our vision to evolve and be in the forefront of acquiring iconic new brands that we believe will strike a chord with the fashion-forward market here in Kuwait. Today, Comfort Zone has an enticing selection of the world's best footwear brands which include Cole Haan, New Balance, Pikolinos, Mephisto, Bulaggi, Ara and Aerobics amongst many others." Comfort Zone's new trendier-than-ever interiors, in-demand brands and extensive shoe selection are now available at The Avenues, Phase II, Awtaf Jahra, Muthana Mall, Al-Bairaq and all main co-ops in Kuwait.





Munwar Ali Syed (center), an art teacher briefs the students of a project at the Visual Arts Department of Karachi University in Karachi. — AFP photos



Hadiqa Asif (left), a third-year student at the Visual Arts department of Karachi University, works on a thatched art piece at a workshop in Karachi.

Taboo or not taboo? Artists expose naked truths in Pakistan



Pakistani Mohammad Ismail, a physically challenged artist works on a metallic structure at the Visual Art department.



Mashkooq Raza, a prominent Pakistani artist works at his studio in Karachi.



Mohammad Ali, a young Pakistani artist paints an image at his studio in Karachi.

Mohammad Ali sits before a painting of a semi-naked man and declares his work has never been censored in conservative Muslim Pakistan, where an artistic vanguard are challenging taboos in the chaotic city of Karachi. "I have done some pretty bold and risky works but luckily I did not face any," says the 27-year-old, a rising star who paints figurative, contemporary images exploring gender, politics and sex.

Ali has a theory about why, in a developing country where women are traditionally veiled and even unproven allegations of blasphemy can stir mob violence, he has been so free. "People, a lot of them don't have access to even a decent meal and if they are starving you cannot make them interested in art instead of food," he says. Pakistan remains deeply bound to strict religious norms, though art bursts from unexpected places, such as the acid-trip trucks wild with bells and bright, elaborate images that traverse the country. But in recent years Karachi's concrete sprawl has become home to a rush of galleries and dealerships bullish on the country's art market as a new generation challenges constraints that date back to the Islamisation of the 1980s.

In the port city's trendy Canvas Gallery, own-

er Sameera Raja takes AFP on a tour of the nude and homosexual art on display. "These are not the things which are taboos in our society, at least not in the art-related population," she says. "Having said that, it doesn't that mean I am going to socially risk the artist by putting it up on a public platform. Absolutely not," she swiftly adds.

Public exposure

Raja is all too aware that, despite the confidence of artists such as Ali whose paintings have so far been confined to galleries and private spaces—such art only finds safe haven in showrooms like hers and in the bedrooms of the Pakistani elite. Her caution is echoed by other artists, such as third-year visual arts student Hadiqa Asif at Karachi University. "If we want to make a sculpture so we must be aware that it should not cause any harm to the society," she says, chiselling at a piece of wood. Some artists point to the Islamisation of Pakistan by military dictator Zia ul-Haq in the 1980s as a ground zero of sorts for conservative taboos, and other forms of art that flourished because of them, such as calligraphy.

"During the regime of Zia ul-Haq there was much noise of imposition of Islamic government

in the country," prominent Pakistani artist Mashkooq Raza, famous for his abstract images of women and horses, recalls. "Our seniors would draw nudes, but fearing their arrest they started calligraphy of the religious verses and Sufi poetry." He said he found himself unable to earn a living, and worked in a textile mill as a designer for nearly a decade, using his savings to buy brushes, paints and canvas. But Zia was assassinated in 1988, and the 1990s saw galleries and art shops mushroom in urban centers like Karachi.

"After the 90s, I became the owner of my own home, car and whatnot," says Raza, who now lives in a posh neighborhood fanned by the city's sea breezes. Estimates by gallery owners and art critics put the number of galleries, framers and dealers in Karachi alone in the hundreds. "They are growing exponentially, it's a huge market, I think," comments Raja the gallery owner.

No nudes are good nudes?

This fresh dynamism is having a potent effect, argues Munwar Ali Syed, an art professor at the state-run Karachi University. "Of course, we are very cautious here to censor human body parts," he says. "There are some limitations." But the squeezing of liberal thought does not stifle creativity, he claims rather it spurs his students in



Durriya Kazi, head of the Visual Arts Department of Karachi University, speaks during an interview with AFP.

new directions. "When you realize that there are some limits and boundaries which you cannot cross, you work more creatively," he says, citing a sculptor named Mohammad Ismail.

Eight years ago, Ismail fell from the second storey of a building where he was supervising construction and broke his back, leaving him confined to a wheelchair for life. Now the 35-year-old crafts twisted, skeletal sculptures from metal. "My own skeleton got distorted so I focus on it," he tells AFP, seated next to a worktable as he puts the finishing touches on a new piece. "I searched the intricacies of the skeleton, I drew my strength from it and I tried to support myself

through this." Despite the shift and the brimming confidence of artists like Mohammad Ali, change, already decades in the making, remains slow.

For many sex-contrary to the received wisdom—still doesn't sell. "I don't think that there is a



Hadiqa Asif, a third-year student at the Visual Arts department of Karachi University, works on a sculpture at her workshop in Karachi.

room for the nude in Pakistan other than what an artist makes privately for themselves," Durriya Kazi, head of the visual arts department at Karachi University, told AFP. "I don't think it is relevant to our society." — AFP



Mohammad Ali, a young Pakistani artist gestures towards his paintings at his studio in Karachi.



Pakistani Mohammad Ismail, a physically challenged artist arrives by wheelchair at the Visual Art department of Karachi University.

Iranian sculptor Tanavoli blocked from leaving the country

Famed Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli said yesterday he has been barred from leaving the country without explanation while trying to travel to Britain. Authorities confiscated the artist's passport early Saturday morning while he tried to board a flight out of Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport. He had been scheduled to give lectures at the British Museum and Asia House in London.

Tanavoli told The Associated Press that he does not know why he was prevented from leaving. Immigration authorities directed him to the country's main passport office, but he came back empty-handed after spending several hours there. "They said absolutely there is nothing we can do," the 79-year-old artist said. "They tell me it's not political but they don't tell me what it is." Iranian officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

One of Iran's best-known living artists, Tanavoli is

associated with the Saqqakhaneh artistic movement, which began in the 1960s and draws on traditional Persian and Shiite folk themes. His bronze work "The Wall" ("Oh, Persepolis") fetched \$2.84 million at a 2008 Dubai auction, then a record price for a Middle East artist. He travels twice a year between Canada and Iran, and frequently pays visits to Europe and elsewhere without problems, he said. In February last year, he was in the Boston area for his first solo retrospective in the US.

Despite his international acclaim, Tanavoli has faced difficulties with Iranian authorities before. Authorities confiscated 57 pieces of his artwork more than a decade ago.

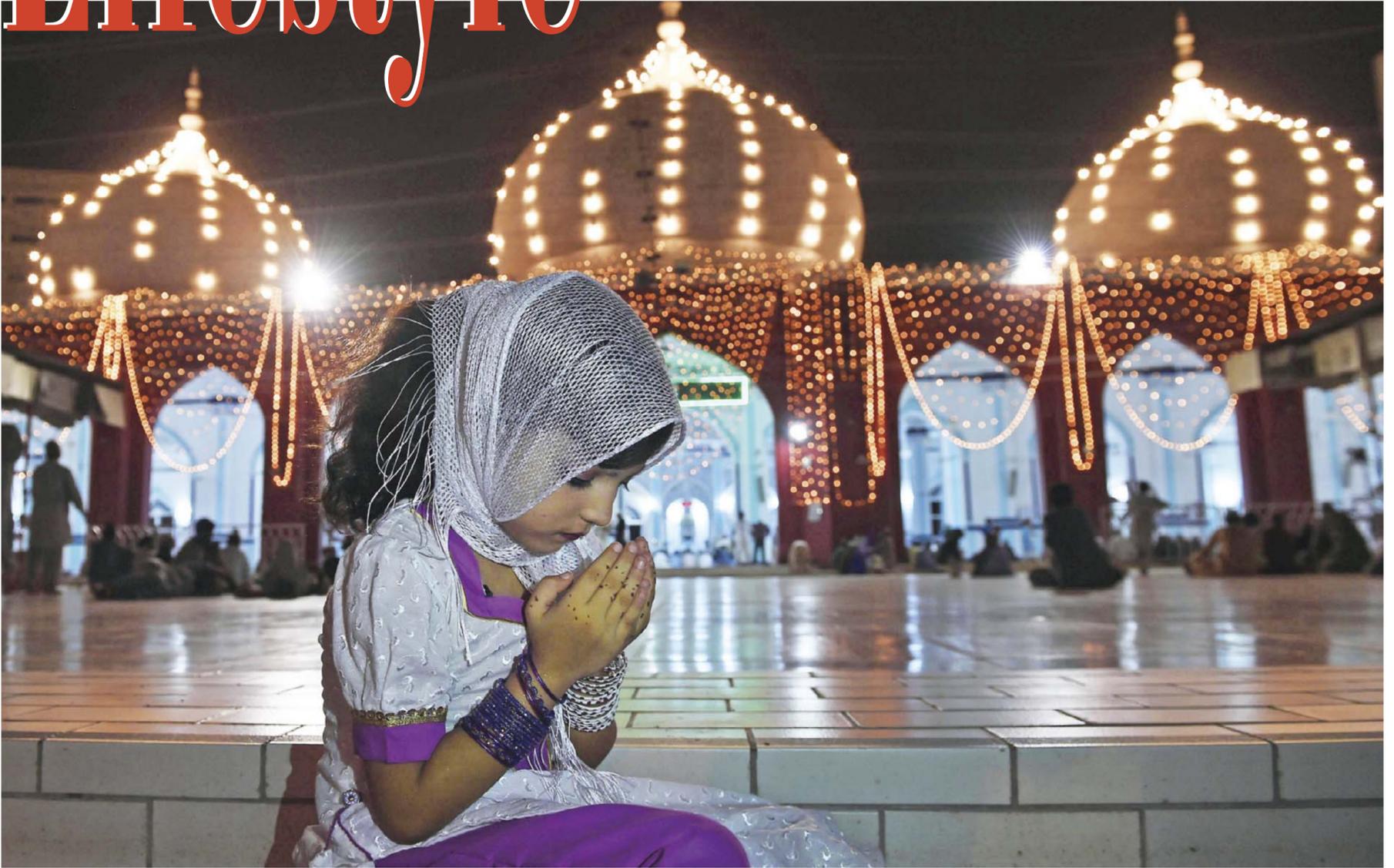
He eventually got 11 back following a court ruling two years ago, only to have them taken away again weeks later. He is still fighting in the courts to get the artwork back, but said he does not believe that is why he was stopped from leaving Saturday.



In this Feb 9, 2015 file photo, Iranian artist Parviz Tanavoli stands near one of his sculptures called "Heech on Chair" at the Davis Museum on the campus of Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass. — AP

"I have followed the rules, I haven't done anything illegal," he said. "I didn't have any hints I did anything wrong."

He plans to continue pursuing his work while he tries to get his passport back, including preparing for a major exhibition at Tehran's Museum of Contemporary Art next year. Several artists, poets, journalists and activists have been detained in Iran since the government of relative moderate President Hassan Rouhani reached a nuclear deal with world powers last year. The crackdown is widely seen as the work of hard-line elements within the judiciary and security services who oppose loosening limits on social freedoms and Rouhani's strategy of pursuing greater openness to the wider world. In one of the most recent incidents, police in May arrested eight people for "un-Islamic acts," including female models posting images of themselves without their hair covered online. — AP



A Pakistani girl prays on the night of Laylat Al-Qadr (in Islamic belief the night when the first verses of the Quran were revealed) in a mosque in Karachi on July 2, 2016. The Islamic month of Ramadan is coming to a close with Muslims expected to mark the Eid A Fitr holiday between July 6 and 8, depending on the sighting of the new moon. — AFP

Napoleon's last horse to strut his stuff after makeover

Visitors to the Army Museum in Paris are being treated to the rare sight of two taxidermists at work restoring a stuffed horse—the last one ridden by Napoleon Bonaparte. “Le Vizir” is a little worse for wear more than 200 years after carrying the emperor to victory against the Prussians and the Russians—not to mention being stuffed not just once, but twice. “It’s a specimen that has suffered,” was the expert, if understated, assessment of taxidermist Yveline Huguet as she worked putty into a crack in Le Vizir’s chest.

The white Arabian stallion, a gift to Napoleon from an Ottoman sultan in 1802, sports a brand on his rump made up of an N topped with a crown. One of the emperor’s favorites—recalling great victories at Jena and Eylau—he accompanied his master to exile in Elba after Napoleon’s first forced abdication in 1814. By the time Napoleon swept back to power for 100 days in France the following year after escaping from Elba, Le Vizir was old enough to retire. So, while Le Vizir also returned to France he was spared the ignominy that awaited Napoleon at Waterloo. Instead he spent his twilight years in the care of Leon de Chanlaire, an officer of the imperial stables, while Napoleon was banished to the British crown colony of Saint Helena in the southern Atlantic.

Unstuffed, restuffed

Chanlaire had Le Vizir stuffed shortly after the horse died at the



Two people restore Vizir, the last horse of Napoleon Bonaparte the 1st, at the Museum of the Army - Musee de l' Armee at the Hotel des Invalides in Paris. — AFP photos

ripe old age of 33 in 1826. But fearing that reprisals against those suspected of ties to Napoleon would extend to the emperor’s horse, Chanlaire sold Le Vizir on to William Clark, an Englishman living in northern France. Chanlaire “had a few relationship problems with the regime of Charles X, because he was very supportive of the empire,” said Gregory Spourdos, the 36-year-old deputy curator of the Army Museum’s modern section. But Clark too feared association with the defunct empire, and he arranged for Le Vizir to be smuggled to England in 1839.

Clark’s compatriot John Greaves had the stuffing taken out of Le Vizir so that the precious pelt could be

packed into a trunk and escape the notice of customs officials. “By the way, it was on the advice of the English consul,” Spourdos said. Once safely across the Channel, Le Vizir could be restuffed, and he went on display at the Manchester Natural History Society in 1843. Today, his mane neatly kept out of the way with hairdressers’ clips and his modesty covered by duct tape, Le Vizir stands stoically on a raised platform as the two taxidermists go about restoring him to his former glory.

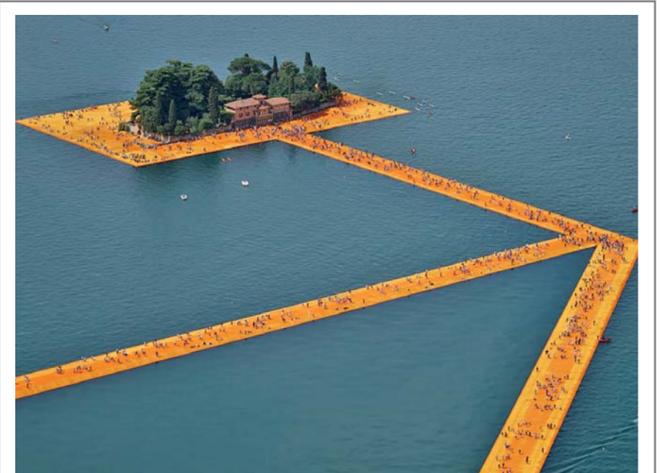
The project, lasting around four weeks, involves repairing tears and cracks, notably a gaping fissure running down one shoulder. The taxidermists will also rehydrate the mounted beast and give it a good

dusting. “Whether it’s Napoleon’s horse or another, the work is the same. It’s the historical aspect that’s unique,” Huguet said. “It’s nice to be part of a project like this.” The Army Museum made a crowd-funding appeal to finance Le Vizir’s restoration, easily surpassing its target of 15,000 euros, taking in 20,534 euros (\$23,130). The extra money will be put towards the purchase of a climate-controlled glass display case.

‘Napoleon’s oldest companion’

Le Vizir was finally repatriated in 1868, after the Manchester society had “a few financial difficulties and had to give up the horse,” Spourdos said. By then, “Le Vizir could return to France because it was Napoleon III who reigned... so of course everything linked to Napoleon I was welcome,” he said. But Napoleon’s nephew ruled for only two more years until France’s defeat at the hands of the Prussians. With the empire consigned to history, Le Vizir was assigned to a storeroom of the Louvre Museum for more than 30 years “a bit forgotten”, the curator said.

Le Vizir finally took up his place at the Army Museum—just a short trot away from his master’s imposing tomb under the dome of Les Invalides, in 1905. “Both had gone to England—one to Saint Helena and the other to Manchester, and then... the master and his horse meet again here, not far from each other,” Spourdos said. “He’s Napoleon’s oldest companion (with) 200 years of shared history.” — AFP



People walk on the installation ‘The Floating Piers’ by Bulgarian-born artist Christo Vladimirov Yavachev known as Christo, on the Lake Iseo, northern Italy. — AP

Christo’s hugely popular floating orange walkway closes

Artist Christo’s orange floating walkway on a northern Italian lake closed yesterday after attracting over a million visitors, twice as many as expected. The three-kilometer (1.9-mile) undulating path made of 200,000 floating cubes has proved a major hit with the public since it opened on Lake Iseo in June. Covered in bright orange fabric, the pier stands in stark contrast with the dark water as it links the small islands of Monte Isola and San Paolo to the shore.

“People come from everywhere to walk to nowhere. Not to shop, not to meet friends, they just walk, to nowhere,” said the Bulgarian-born American artist, who once wrapped Berlin’s parliament in fabric. Visitors from around the world have flocked to try “The Floating Piers,” many of them going barefoot to get an idea of what it feels like to walk on water.

Local officials said Cristo’s creation attracted an average of 100,000 people a day, and up to 120,000 at weekends. Shuttle buses from nearby carparks and trains from the closest big town, Brescia, were often suspended in order to keep the crowds manageable. The installation, made of completely recyclable plastic, cost 15 million euros (\$16.7 million) to create but has been free to the public. Last month an Italian con-

sumer group said the huge cost of cleaning up after the visitors and ensuring their safety raised questions about whether it should have been allowed.

While Christo had promised a 24-hour sensory experience, the local authorities at one stage closed the exhibit at night in order to allow for cleaning. There were dozens of medical interventions each day, including some that required hospital treatment. A medical post had to be set up to handle those overcome by the crowds or merely from waiting their turn in the heat. But it could be the weather that spoils its final day, when rain is forecast. Wet weather has already caused the temporary closure of the orange bridge on several occasions.

“Given the anticipated numbers this weekend, visitors should be prepared for wait times and the possibility of not making it on the piers due to capacity,” the organizers warned on Facebook. Christo first rose to fame along with his late wife Jeanne-Claude for their eye-catching wrapping-up of famous landmarks like the Pont Neuf across the Seine in Paris in 1985. A similar project at Berlin’s Reichstag 10 years later took almost a quarter of a century of bureaucratic wrangling to get off the ground. — AFP



Afghan vendors prepare sweets at a traditional bakery for the upcoming Eid Al-Fitr holiday to mark the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan, in the old part of Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday. —AP