



Accidents caused by cattle on the rise in Kuwait



Director explains Community Police responsibilities



Fantastic France end Iceland Euro 2016 dream run



Rich kids who grew up to be Islamic militants

Ramadan Timings	
Emsak:	03:09
Fajer:	03:19
Shrooq:	04:53
Dohr:	11:52
Asr:	15:26
Maghreb:	18:51
Eshaa:	20:22

150 FILS
NO: 16925
40 PAGES

KUWAIT BUSTS THREE IS CELLS PLOTTING ATTACKS

5 KUWAITIS ARRESTED, INCLUDING A POLICEMAN, WOMAN ARRESTED

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



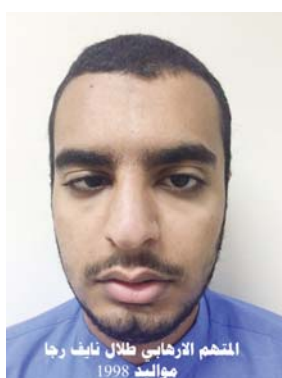
Seized weapons and Islamic State flag



Hessa Abdullah



Ali Mohammad Omar



Talal Naif Raja



Asian suspect



Abdullah Mubarak



Mubarak Fahad Mubarak

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti security authorities have broken up three Islamic State cells plotting 'terror' attacks in the oil-rich Gulf state, the Interior Ministry said yesterday. Five Kuwaiti nationals were arrested, including a policeman and a woman, who all confessed to plotting attacks against a Shiite mosque and an Interior Ministry target, the Ministry said in a statement. All members of the three cells also confessed to being members of the Islamic State jihadist group.

Kuwaiti police are still looking for a Gulf man and an Asian who assisted one of the cells, the Ministry said. The action against the Islamist cells comes a year after an IS-linked Saudi suicide bomber blew himself up in a Shiite mosque, killing 26 worshippers in the worst attack in Kuwait. A court sentenced one man to death and jailed eight others for assisting the Saudi bomber.

Among those arrested in the latest police action was 18-year-old Talal Raja who confessed to have been plotting a suicide attack against a Shiite mosque and an Interior Ministry installation by the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan today, the ministry said. The second cell consisted of a mother and son who were arrested in Syria in the IS-controlled Riga and brought back to Kuwait, the Ministry said. It provided no details of how they were arrested.

The 28-year-old son had cut short his petroleum engineering study in Britain to join the IS after his younger brother was killed while fighting for the group in Iraq, the Ministry said.

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RAMADAN & PATIENCE

Ramadan Kareem

By Teresa Leshner

One of the most prominent outcomes of fasting the month of Ramadan, especially in the summer heat, is the development and perfection of patience. Nobody can fast without having a degree of patience, which is mentioned in the Quran as one of the qualities of someone who will go to Paradise. For example, "I (God) have rewarded them this Day [with Paradise] for what they have endured patiently; they are indeed the ones that are truly triumphant" (23:111)

As successfully completing fasting in Ramadan requires patience, so does entrance into Paradise. In fact, Paradise requires two kinds of patience: one is proactive and the other reactive. The proactive type is striving to adopt a way of life sanctioned by God. It means making the effort to learn what God wants from us and then applying it in our lives.

The Quran, which is God's final message to mankind, tells us exactly what God expects from us, and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) demonstrated practically its teachings, making it easier to understand. As it is a lifelong process of study coupled with conformance to God's teachings and to the example of Muhammad (PBUH), it will take determination and patience.

But the reward is worth the effort, according to the Quran: "The ones who fulfill the covenant with God and do not break its solemn pledge to Him, who joined all the relations and obligations that God has commanded to be joined and stand in awe of their Lord, and fear an evil reckoning, who endure with patience seeking the countenance of their Lord, who establish the prayer and spend charitably from what We have provided them, secretly and openly, and who avert what is evil with what is good... the angels will say, 'Peace unto you for that you persevered in patience!'" (23:111)

Now how excellent is the final Home!" (13:20-24) Those who repent, believe, do not bear false witness, pass by vile talk with honor, and heed the verses of God... "those are the ones who will be rewarded with the highest place in heaven, because of their patient constancy." (25:75) "Those who believe in the unseen, establish prayer and spend out of what We have provided for them, and who believe in what has been revealed to you [Muhammad- PBUH] and what was revealed before you, and of the Hereafter they are certain - those are upon guidance from their Lord and it is those who are the successful" (2:2-5)

The patience required for Paradise needs a level of commitment and effort beyond the everyday patience of the common man. The second kind of patience required for Paradise is reactive, and it is demonstrated by our reaction to things outside of our control, such as illness, injury, loss, calamity and all circumstances related to our physical vulnerability and mortality.

The Quran guarantees us that "And We will surely test you with something of fear and hunger and a loss of wealth and lives and crops, but give good tidings to the patient who, when disaster strikes them, say, 'Indeed, we belong to God, and indeed to Him we are returning'" (2:155-156). Our reaction in adverse circumstances beyond our control should be to turn our thoughts to God, who describes Himself as wise, merciful and caring. We should not disagree or be dissatisfied with what He does. As the Quran reminds us, "He cannot be questioned as to what He does, while they will be questioned" (21:23). Instead, we should believe that God allowed such circumstances for our ultimate benefit.

The Quran reminds us that "perhaps you dislike something and it is good for you and perhaps you like something and it is bad for you. And God knows, while you know not" (2:216). We must trust in God and His knowledge of the "big picture." Both kinds of patience - making the effort to follow to the way of life God envisions for us, and then truly submitting to God and His management of our lives - should have the characteristic of beauty.

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SUICIDE BOMBER STRIKES NEAR US CONSULATE IN SAUDI ARABIA

AMIR SENDS CABLE OF CONDOLENCE TO SAUDI KING



BAGHDAD: An Iraqi man reacts as he enters a building that was destroyed in a suicide-bombing attack which took place a day earlier in Baghdad's Karrada neighborhood. — AFP

ANGER MOUNTS AS IRAQI DEATH TOLL EXCEEDS 200

BAGHDAD: Iraqis yesterday mourned more than 200 people killed in a Baghdad suicide bombing claimed by the Islamic State group and accused the government of not doing enough to protect them. The search continued for bodies at the site of the attack, which ripped through the Karrada district early on Sunday as it teemed with shoppers ahead of this week's holiday marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi announced efforts to address longstanding security flaws in Baghdad following the blast, which came a week after Iraqi forces recaptured the city of Fallujah from IS. But on the streets, Iraqis were angry at the government's inability to keep residents safe, even as its forces push IS back outside the capital. "I swear to God, the government is a failure," said a woman who gave her name as Umm Alaa, who lost her apartment in the attack.

IS "tactics are changing. Why does the Iraqi government have fixed tactics?" a man asked at the site of the bombing, criticizing the government's "stupid checkpoints" and use of fake bomb detectors. And Inam Al-Zubaidi said she came to the site to offer condolences to

"the families of the martyrs, who fell in this place because of the failed government". As Iraq marked three days of national mourning, security and medical officials said the number of dead from the attack had risen to at least 213. More than 200 were wounded, they said.

Digging through ashes

In Karrada, a young man lit a candle on a staircase leading to the basement of one charred building, adding to dozens of others left by mourners at the site of the bombing, which sparked infernos in nearby buildings. Down the stairs, young men dug through the ashes using shovels and their hands, searching for those still missing after the blast. Black banners bearing the names of victims-including multiple members of some families-hung from burned buildings, announcing the dates and locations of their funerals.

Abadi was met with an angry response when he visited the site of the attack on Sunday, with one video showing men throwing rocks at what was said to be the premier's convoy, while a man could be heard cursing at him in another clip. But the premier struck a conciliatory tone.

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RIYADH: A suicide bomber blew himself up near the American consulate in Saudi Arabia's western city of Jeddah in the early hours of US Independence Day yesterday, wounding two security officers. The Saudi Interior Ministry said the two officers suffered minor injuries, while the American embassy in Riyadh said there were no casualties or injuries among US consulate staff.

The ministry did not specify if the bomber intended to target the consulate, saying an investigation was underway. The incident came amid a wave of attacks claimed by the Islamic State group or blamed on the jihadists, including a suicide bombing in Baghdad on Sunday that killed more than 200 people and the recent attacks in Bangladesh and at Istanbul airport. It happened before the end this week of

the holy month of Ramadan, when Muslims fast from dawn until dusk.

The interior ministry said security personnel became suspicious of the man near the parking lot of a hospital which is across from the US diplomatic mission. When they moved in to investigate at around 2:15 am (2315 GMT Sunday) the man "blew himself up with a suicide belt inside the hospital parking lot", the ministry said. A picture carried by the Sabq online newspaper, which is close to authorities, showed what appeared to be the remains of a man lying on the ground between a taxi and the open door of another car that was peppered with holes.

In a security notice posted on its website, the US embassy noted media reports of "a suspected suicide attack

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JEDDAH: Saudi policemen stand guard at the site where a suicide bomber blew himself up in the early hours of yesterday near the American consulate in the Red Sea city of Jeddah. — AFP

'HONOR' KILLINGS GROW MORE BRUTAL

LAHORE: Parveen Rafiq screamed from her rooftop, "I have killed my daughter. I have saved my honor. She will never shame me again." In the room below lay the charred body of 18-year-old Zeenat. Neighbors in the narrow alley who saw the smoke and heard screams rushed to Rafiq's home, but the door was bolted from within. Zeenat was dead. Her mother had choked her, and while the girl was still alive she doused with kerosene and set her on fire.

Zeenat's crime was to marry a child-

hood friend she loved, defying her widowed mother's pressure for an arranged marriage and, in the mind of her mother and many of her neighbors, tarnishing her family's honor. Her death on June 8 was the latest in a series of increasingly gruesome "honor" killings in Pakistan, which has one of the highest rates of such killings in the world.

In one case, a mother slit the throat of her pregnant daughter who had married a man she loved.

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Mohammad Abdulaziz Al-Bahr and Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Bahr. — Amiri Diwan and KUNA photos



His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with head of the board for the council of the ruling family Sheikh Dr Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah.

GOVT DEPARTMENTS' RESPONSE TO AUDIT'S REMARKS INCREASING

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait has made tangible results in trimming fund squandering after government departments, in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, heeded plenty of the State Audit Bureau directions. Adel Al-Saraawi, the bureau's acting chairman affirmed that the public authorities resolved issues, responding to 50 percent of the guidelines given by the supervisory office.

According to the bureau's report, these departments have taken measures by a proportion of 59 percent of the 915 remarks registered in the 2014-2015 fiscal year, with the percentage rising from 36 percent in the previous final account. The Diwan in the 2013-2014 fiscal year recorded 689 remarks, 110 of which had been tackled. In the 2014-2019 fiscal year, there were 915 remarks; 274 of which were resolved.

The office officials have addressed the parliament, affirming growing cooperation on part of the government departments with the Bureau; tasked with ensuring proper spending of the State funds. The executive and legislative authorities have been coordinating to tackle irregularities, pin pointed by the Bureau in the budget spending. It is guided by His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's instructions to rationalize expenditure and diversify income resources.

Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh has told the parliament that the government agrees with the Diwan on some issues and expressed pleasure that the authorities' cooperation with the Bureau has noticeably increased.

Ahmad Al-Fares, Chairman of Kuwait Association of Accountants and Auditors, expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation between the Bureau and the Government, saying that "the rationalization and combating squandering and corruption are proceeding on the right track." The State Audit Bureau was established in 1964 to scrutinize public funds spending. — KUNA

AMIR RECEIVES ACADEMICS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday Mohammad Abdulaziz Al-Bahr and Abdulaziz Mohammad Al-Bahr. They presented to His Highness the Amir with an MBA from Harvard Business School and

the Harvard Dean's Award for 2016. The Dean's Award is an annual prize was established in 1997 to celebrate students who have made a positive impact at the university through remarkable acts of leadership.

Earlier, His Highness the Amir received First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of

Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, and His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received His Highness Sheikh

Nasser, as well as head of the board for the council of the ruling family Sheikh Dr Ibrahim Al-Duaij Al-Sabah, Sheikh Ali Al-Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and President of the National Security Bureau (NSB) Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA

FM TOUTS ARABY'S EFFORTS



First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah

KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday appreciated the significant and constructive role played by outgoing Secretary-General of the Arab League Nabil Al-Araby during his term of office. This came in a letter sent by Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled to Al-Araby on the occasion of the end of his term. In his letter, he highly commended Al-Araby's distinguished contributions to the promotion of Arab issues, and the development of the Arab League's charter and mechanisms of work. He voiced pleasure at the effective work and joint coordination with Al-Araby over the Arab bloc's goals and aspirations during Kuwait's rotating chairmanship of the Arab Summit during its 25th session in 2014.

Furthermore, the Kuwaiti minister sent a letter to the league's new secretary-general Ahmed Abul-Gheit, vowing that Kuwait would provide him with all types of help and support so that he could do his job successfully and fulfill the aspired Arab goals. In this context, he underlined the significance of promoting the crucial role by the Arab League in the consolidation of Arab coordination and cooperation. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Prime Minister His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah (right) talks with Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah during a parliament session at the National Assembly last Sunday. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

CURRENT PARLIAMENT SAW NUMEROUS ACHIEVEMENTS: SPEAKER GHANEM

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem said on Sunday that the current parliament has seen legislative and supervisory achievement during which "we have strengthened our legislative system with more laws and amendments to barricade our internal front". Ghanem said at the closing of the fourth session of the National Assembly's fourteenth legislative term that "in order to preserve state institutions equilibrium point, we kept on an open line of cooperation with the government in recognition from us that collaboration is the first formulas capable of ensuring the achievement." He added that such resulted in the decline of Audit Bureau's remarks on financial lavishing by more than half while work is underway to complete the rest.

He said the National Assembly in the third legislative session has made successful a penal code for juveniles, noting that this is a quantum leap reflecting awareness of the MPs in this regard. He said the parliament has also endorsed social care law for the elderly, which grants preferential advantages among the elderly and indigent elderly while encouraging the private sector to assume a role in supporting the country's efforts in caring for the elderly.

He also said that the parliament has endorsed three laws pertinent to people with special needs (slow learners, teacher with a disability and salary pension for people with special needs or those in charge of their care). He stated that the Council has enabled the municipality with legislative tools to face challenges facing the expansion of its functions under housing projects fortified by legislation that paved the way for government accomplishment, the last of which was the signing of the infrastructure of the Mutla city which is the largest residential city in the history of Kuwait.

Democracy march

Meanwhile, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah praised the achievements made by the National Assembly in its current session to consecrate the democratic process of the country. This came in a speech of His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak, delivered on his behalf by First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister



National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem attends last Sunday's parliament session.

Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in the conclusion of the fourth ordinary session of the 14th Legislative term.

The Premier added that the current session saw numerous legislative and regulatory achievements which enshrine the democracy march. He thanked members of the parliament for the tremendous efforts they have exerted despite delaying taking parliamentary recess, appreciating the spirit of cooperation and mutual understanding between the two branches. He noted the constructive cooperation and commendable response of the National Assembly for the directives of His Highness the Amir on the importance of cooperation and collaboration and teamwork and a commitment to the provisions of the Constitution to achieve more accomplishments and hopes of all the people of Kuwait. His Highness also praised the role of the media and the press in following up on the work of the parliament and the government with professional responsibility to confirm the integrity and impartiality. He wished all the best and more success. — KUNA

COLLEGE GRANTS KRCS' CHIEF HONORARY PHD

KUWAIT: The Scottish College of Dundee and Angus granted Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer an honorary doctorate degree in International Law, as an appreciation to Kuwait's substantial role in the humanitarian front. Sayer said yesterday that the degree was given to him to honor the State of Kuwait for aiding people in countries that have been struck by armed conflicts or natural catastrophes. Kuwait has shined for its humanitarian work

under the guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, he added. Sayer stressed Kuwait's humanitarian efforts were carried out by the nation's charity organizations, especially by KRCS. He pointed out that KRCS has been engaging in numerous projects worldwide. He expressed his pride for being honored by a prestigious degree, in recognition of his efforts in the humanitarian field, medical education and health care. — KUNA



Kuwait Red Crescent Society Chairman Dr Hilal Al-Sayer (second from right) is pictured during the ceremony.

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PARLIAMENT SPEAKER HAILS SECURITY FORCES FOR FOILING TERROR PLOT

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem yesterday lauded the security forces, namely Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, for aborting the terrorist scheme that aimed at undermining the country's security.

Speaker Al-Ghanem said in a statement that the Interior Ministry's announcement about foiling the scheme "affirms that the terrorist hand still threatens Kuwait thus there must be cooperation with the Ministry of Interior personnel and abidance by their instructions for sake of safeguarding its security and stability."

"Terrorism targets all Kuwaitis and not a certain segment of some sectarian or ideological affiliation," he said, affirming that the plot aims at driving a wedge among the Kuwaitis. However, it is hard to be defeated by terrorism and the people have manifested on plenty of occasions their solidarity with the leadership for safeguarding the country under all circumstances, he said. The



**Parliament Speaker
Marzouq Ali-Ghanem**

security forces have proven that they earn confidence of His Highness the Amir who has always backed their efforts to preserve Kuwait, its security and stability. MPs Dr Abdullah Al-Turajji, Talal Al-Jalal, Abdullah Al-Tamimi, Madhi Al-Hajri, Mansour Al-Thufairi and Askar Al-Enezi released similar statements, expressed appreciation to the 'vigilance' of Interior Ministry officials and security personnel. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad chairs a meeting of senior ministry officials yesterday.

SECURITY PERSONNEL PLAY VITAL ROLE IN FACING THREATS: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti security personnel must be fully prepared to deal with any security-threatening situations, in the light of the current local and regional developments, said Undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Ministry of Interior Lieutenant General Sulaiman Al-Fahad.

This came in a press release by the Department of Security Media and Public Relations during Fahad's chairmanship of a meeting of senior ministry officials yesterday. "We are heading towards a time of hardships that requires unity of all sectors", said Fahad, adding that "security personnel have a huge responsibility to safeguard the country's security and stability."

Meanwhile, he thanked security members for their efforts to control traffic movement and ensure the safety of mosques during the holy month of Ramadan. The meeting was called for by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, after Kuwait has announced on Sunday arresting terrorist groups belonging to the so-called Islamic State (IS), during military operations execut-

ed inside and outside of Kuwait.

Operational plan

On Sunday, Fahad stressed the need for full compliance with the operational field plan for the upcoming Eid Al-Fitr by all security sectors. This came according to a press release by the Department of Security Media and Public Relations during Al-Fahad's chairmanship of a meeting of senior ministry officials ahead of the Eid holiday. The Undersecretary said that the current regional circumstances require vigilance and readiness in order to achieve security and safety factor, especially when dealing with emergency events. He stressed the need for coordination and cooperation among the various security field bodies, pointing to their important role in the protection, prevention and control. He also stressed the importance of commitment to teamwork, initiative and anticipate events so as to contribute to the consolidation of the foundations of security and execution of orders in accordance with the set plans. — KUNA

TWO DEAD IN MINIVAN ACCIDENT

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two people were killed when a minivan flipped over on Wafra Road, and six ambulances were dispatched to the scene. Five injured people were taken to Adan Hospital, two were taken by medevac to Sabah Hospital and the bodies of the dead were recovered by the coroner. The casualties are Indian and Egyptian.

Offensive 'tweets'

The Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department commented on tweets made by political activist Obeid Al-Wasmi, which it said included insults, discrimination, downgrading achievements made and insulting brotherly countries. It said this is not acceptable by the ministry and its departments, be it from him or any other person, as the country's security and citizen's safety does not allow such utterances that every citizen who cares for the country should refrain from. The statement said the Interior Ministry will take legal measures towards him.

Illegal transactions

Residency detectives arrested a citi-

zen who processed illegal transactions in exchange of money. The arrest was made under the supervision of Acting Director Brig Abdullah Al-Rujaib. Tips were received by the detectives about the citizen taking advantage of his job and lifting the suspension against violating companies in exchange of amounts reaching KD 2,000.

Traffic campaign

The traffic department sent 12 violators to the holding cell during a campaign during the weekend, under the supervision of operations director Col Yousuf Al-Khaddah. The campaign resulted in issuing 396 violations including to 300 Gulf vehicles, 62 vehicles were impounded and 12 men were detained.

Expired goods

Kuwait Municipality's Public Relations Department said Hawally emergency shift carried out a field campaign at restaurants, cafes, markets and co-ops from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, resulting in confiscating 100 kg of expired goods, closing a restaurant and removing 35 congratulatory banners from the streets.

KUWAIT: The cabinet yesterday called on everybody in the country to intensively work with security agencies in order to prevent Kuwait's enemies from carrying out their disgraceful purposes. The call was made by the cabinet during its weekly meeting held at Seif Palace under chairmanship of His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

The cabinet emphasized that it is the shared responsibility of everybody in the nation to work to preserve national security and stability, and to stick to national unity as the most ideal weapon to stand against the nation's enemies, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah said in a press statement following the meeting. It further warned against rumors aiming at triggering tensions and disrupting stability, while advising everyone to shrug off "suspicious news" and to get information from credible sources instead, he said. Appreciating the efforts of Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and the security personnel in maintaining national security and stability, the cabinet emphasized that law should apply to everyone equally and that any malpractice whatsoever could not be allowed due to relevant hazards, the minister added.

Amir's address

Then, the cabinet reviewed the contents of the recent address delivered by His Highness the Amir on the occasion of the last 10 days of the holy month of Ramadan, in which he stressed national unity as the best weapon to thwart looming risks and dangers.

His Highness the Amir also cautioned against social media as being very detrimental to deep-rooted values and ethics, and urged young people to be armed with science in face of erroneous thoughts and misbehaviors. On the other hand, the cabinet congratulated His Highness the Amir, His Highness the Crown Prince, the Kuwaiti people and the Muslim world on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr, wishing Kuwait everlasting security, stability and prosperity.

Letters to Amir

The cabinet further looked into a letter sent by President of Eritrea Isaias Afwerki to His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, regarding bilateral ties. It was apprised of a letter sent to His Highness the Amir by President of Vietnam Tran Dai Quang, accepting an invitation to vis-



KUWAIT: His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah chairs the cabinet's weekly meeting yesterday. —KUNA

it Kuwait, while also inviting His Highness the Amir to visit Vietnam.

It reviewed a letter from King of the Netherlands Willem-Alexander, where he praised the international humanitarian efforts of His Highness the Amir. The Cabinet addressed a letter by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, inviting His Highness the Amir to attend the UN's first sustainable transport conference due on 26 and 27 November in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.

Free Trade Zone

Also yesterday, the cabinet decided to assign Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA) to run the three free zones in the country: Shuwaikh Port, Al-Abdali and Al-Nuwaiseeb, in order to develop and encourage investment, Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr. Youssef Al-Ali said yesterday.

A committee will be formed, consisting of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Public Authority for Industry, KDIPA and Department of Fatwa and Legislation to present a report by September 30 on how to transfer the free zone management in Shuwaikh Port to KDIPA, Ali said in statement after the cabinet's weekly meeting. KDIPA will immediately begin managing Al-Abdali and Al-Nuwaiseeb free zones, as they are newly-established ones, he added.

Meanwhile, the cabinet approved a recommendation turning ceremony halls from private state properties into public state proper-

ties, under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. The Cabinet also approved giving the Authority for Food and Nutrition food control power.

Cabinet condemns attacks

Separately, the cabinet condemned the recent attacks that targeted: Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon and Bangladesh. The cabinet said that Kuwait strongly denounced these "terror acts" that are contradictory to all human and religious values. It reiterated Kuwait's refusing stance to all manifestations of terrorism and called for more international efforts to stop these terrorizing acts in order to secure world peace. The cabinet extended its deepest condolences to the families of those victims and speedy recovery for the wounded.

In the past few days some attacks hit various countries. In Saudi Arabia, an attacker detonated his suicide vest when security guards approached him near the parking lot of a hospital. In Bahrain, a woman was killed and three children sustained injuries when their car was hit by a bomb blast. In Iraq, a suicide bomb attack in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, killed 165. In Turkey, a gun and a bomb spree went down at Istanbul Ataturk airport which left 45 people dead including 19 foreigners. In Lebanon, Qaa region near Syria border was struck by another attack. In Bangladesh, an attack was carried out at an upscale restaurant in Dhaka. — KUNA



ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY CATTLE ON THE RISE IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Road accidents caused by camels or cattle are no longer scarce in Kuwait. They have become recurrent in large numbers, thus solutions must be found for this growing and often deadly problem. Most of the accidents caused by straying camels happen on the roads in Kabad, Al-Metlaa, Al-Sabbayah, Al-Abdaly and Al-Salmay as well as on King Fahad highway.

Tackling the problem warrants a set of measures such as guiding shepherds to refrain from

leaving the animals go astray or roam freely, notifying authorities about time and route of the animals' movement, taking appropriate precautions along the roads, intersections and exits.

The Public Authority of Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, in coordination with Kuwait Municipality and the committee tackling property encroachment, had drawn up a shepherding map, pin pointing the locations where grazing is allowed. Cattle found feeding in unhallowed

pastures are seized and the violating shepherd is fined. Police patrols usually block roads at times of crossing cattle and camels. And some motorists suggest that the camel should be strapped with warning light while moving. The Kuwaiti lawyer Dokhi Al-Hesban said that citizens harmed by camels can file libel suits against the animals' owners. He also called for tagging the animals and making records of them in the local governing administrations. — KUNA

MANPOWER AUTHORITY TO COLLECT FEES THROUGH K-NET

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Official spokeswoman of Manpower Public Authority, Director of Public Relations and Information Aseel Al-Mizyad, said the national labor development department approved the use of K-Net to collect fees at the department, adding that all transactions with stamps have been stopped. She said fees for registering national labor for the first time and transfers is KD 50 and KD 10 annually respectively, and renewal is KD 10 for each year.

Hot holiday

Kuwait Metrological Center said the weather will see 'extreme temperatures' during the first day of Eid Al-Fitr. Meteorologist Yasser Al-Beloushi said the extreme heat will continue Tuesday and Wednesday, as temperatures may reach 48-49 degrees Celsius. He said nights will be relatively hot with variable winds.

WOMAN INJURED WHILE ESCAPING KIDNAPPERS

KUWAIT: A citizen in her thirties threw herself from a car driven by a citizen and his son, who kidnapped her from a public parking lot in Ardhiyya. The woman sustained fractures and bruises and was admitted to Farwaniya hospital. The kidnappers are being sought by police.

Assault

A citizen and her daughter told Hawally police that two women beat and insulted them verbally due to a dispute over the right of way. The two victims submitted two medical reports stating injuries they sustained. A complaint was lodged against the two unknown women who are being sought by police.

Fight

Two citizens attacked a third and

stabbed him with a knife. The injured man was taken to hospital for treatment, while the attackers were arrested and charged.

Accident

An Egyptian woman was run over at a street in Nugra, and was taken to Mubarak Hospital. The driver, Kuwaiti, was taken to the police station.

Prostitution

Nine expats were arrested for prostitution, after Farwaniya security Director Brig Saleh Al-Enezi received tips on a brothel being run by an Indian man in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. A warrant was obtained and an undercover agent was sent, then the place was raided and the nine arrested. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa





KUWAIT: The St Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in Kuwait hosted its annual 'ghabqa' this year to commemorate the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. Several dignitaries, including the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Yasser Atef attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

Young Voices

'RAMADAN IS THE MONTH OF GIVING AND SACRIFICE'

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.

Kuwait Times: What do you know about Ramadan?
Khaireya: For me Ramadan is the month of giving and sacrifice.

KT: What are your favorite toys?
Khaireya: I love Barbie dolls and ponies.

KT: What you think about Kuwait?
Khaireya: Kuwait is beautiful and I love my country.

KT: What place would you like to visit next?
Khaireya: I want to visit Paris.

KT: What about the places you visited? What are the best thing you enjoyed in those countries?
Khaireya: I like the Philippines very much. I enjoyed most of my

stay there because of the beaches we visited. I also love the hospitality given by Filipinos.

KT: Do you help in house chores?
Khaireya: I clean my room and I help my mother in the kitchen.

الإتحاد
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS
ABU DHABI

Lulu
HYPERMARKET

Ruby
Tuesday

Ramadan Quiz

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.

30)

How many weekly flights does Etihad Airways operate from Kuwait to Abu Dhabi?

35 flights

☐ YES

☐ NO

Date: _____

Name: _____

Civil ID.: _____

Tel: _____

Email: _____

Espresso

Ramadan Kareem

Baby sebaMed

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Ruby
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Ramadan Quiz

Ramadan Quiz

All thirty coupons with the correct answers must be sent to the newspaper to be eligible for the raffle draw.

All coupons must be submitted by Friday 8 July, 2016 to Kuwait Times offices.

The winners will be announced on 18 July, 2016.

All winners are advised to visit Kuwait Times offices from Monday 19 July to receive their prizes.

Espresso

Eid Mubarak

Baby sebaMed



OOREDOO SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDES RAMADAN ACTIVITIES



KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, member of international Ooredoo group has recently announced the conclusion of its Ramadan activities, which included internal initiatives targeting staff members as well as external initiatives targeting different society segments. These initiatives came in line with the company's social responsibility strategy during the holy month.

Welcoming the Holy Month of Ramadan, Ooredoo has organized a special 'Graish' meal for its staff at Ooredoo's headquarters in Al-Soor Street. The 'Graish' meal was a way to welcome the Holy Month with its employees and to revive the old Kuwaiti customs and heritage. All employees gather on this occasion to have one last meal before Ramadan together, greet each other and exchange best wishes.

Ooredoo Volunteer Program

During Ramadan, Ooredoo has re-launched its Volunteer Program, resulting from the great success it achieved upon the official launch of the program last year. This program was launched in cooperation with Spread the Passion, a local non-profit organization which aims at encouraging youth to be more engaged in voluntarily programs. The accompanying training program continued for a whole month and included workshops, training camp, and was concluded with official certification. Training program follows international standards, supervised by Spread the Passion.

Connecting it's staff, Ooredoo has held its annual staff Ramadan ghabga at Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel. The fun filled event was attended by the Chairman and CEO of Ooredoo Group Sheikh Saud bin Nasser Al Thani, the CEO and General Manager of Ooredoo Kuwait Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al- Thani along with executive managers and department heads.

In addition, Ooredoo had organized its annual Iftar meal distribution, where 17,000 iftar meals were distributed during the Holy Month of Ramadan through a distribution centre outside its head office and in its iftar tent. The meal distribution drive is fully operated by Ooredoo's volunteer program members, after the great success of the program last year. The higher management at Ooredoo had visited the tent and participated in the meal distribution, in addition to Huawei and Ghalliah.

To share the joy of the different social, national and religious occasions that concern the local community, Ooredoo partnered with Jumeirah hotel and resorts second consecutive year, in order to provide an ideal destination for family and friends to enjoy their time during the Holy Month.

Closer connection

At the very beginning of Ramadan, Ooredoo has released its Ramadan television commercial that reached over 1 million views on YouTube within 48 hours of its release on the first day of Ramadan. The commercial this year focused on the true spiritual essence of Ramadan, and was entitled "Closer Connection" in reference to the connection between man and God. The star-studded production's lyrics are written by Emirati lyricist Ali Al-Khawar and the music is composed by Kuwaiti composer Fahad Al-Nasser. The song is a duet performed by Saudi singer Rashed Al-Majed and Egyptian star Angham, and features Tunisian singer Lutfi Boushnaq. The lyrics focus on the simplicity of making a strong connection with God by asking for His help sincerely and honestly, and it touches on the themes of God's support and unconditional love to all people, regardless of their background. The video features a number of well-known character, including Turkish actor Burak Ozcvit, Kuwaiti retired actress Raja Mohammed and the actor couple Fouad Ali and Haya Abdulsalam, in addition to a number of social media influences known for their philanthropist work, such as Safa Al-Falakawi, an advocate of adoption, in addition to Kuwaiti university students in the USA, Group 228, Dr Majeda Al-Yatama, Sundus Al-Qattan, and Oman footballer Ali Al-Habsi.

Ooredoo's Ramadan 2016 TVC was ranked first place in Tasaweeq's "Viral" Forum, an annual event that aims to evaluate television commercials produced by different public and private entities in Kuwait in Ramadan. The judging panel this year consists of Dr. Saleh Shibl Marketing Professor at King Fahd's University, Professor Lama Borelsy Media and Corporate Communications expert, Dr. Fatima Al-Salem Professor at the Media department at Kuwait University, Kuwaiti Director Faisal Ibrahim and The Brand Expert Khalid al-Ajil. The TVC was shown between 48 advertisements and the voting lasted for week on Tsawiq social media channels.



Sharing festivities

The company had also conducted series of Girgi'an celebrations to bring the joy to kids' hearts several locations, including the Guardians of the Disabled Association, Mubarakia Souq in addition to care centres. The company's representatives distributed Girgi'an boxes and gifts to children during the fun filled events.

Also, Ooredoo had organized series of visits to pediatric hospital wards in Kuwait along with members of its volunteer program including Fawzia Al- Sultan Rehabilitation Institution, Al Razi and Ibn Sina hospitals.

Ooredoo has also collaborated with Abdullah Al Nouri institution to aid Syrian refugees in different part of the world,

in addition its collaboration with the 'Kiswat Al Khair' campaign to distribute clothes for needy families during the holy month. Also Ooredoo representatives has conducted a visit to 'Yadawi' centre to give the volunteers a comprehensive idea about how to recycle waste, sort, and reuse it in manufacturing children toys to be donated to children in need. The company has also sponsored ATAHUB initiative that aims to raise the community awareness, collaboration and engagement in initiatives that have a positive return on the society and its needs. Another initiative was Jaribha, an online platform is based on the concept of 'reward crowd-funding', where business creators can achieve their project goals through the support of people in return for rewards.



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DIRECTOR EXPLAINS COMMUNITY POLICE RESPONSIBILITIES, SERVICES

ACHIEVING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN POLICE, COMMUNITY TO PREVENT CRIMES

- Community police focuses on preventive measures to shield the community from crimes.
- Spreading awareness about the community police among police officers and the community in general.
- Hotline available for problems such as domestic violence, school violence and drug addiction.
- The community police hold many activities such as marking 'International Tolerance Day.'

By Nawara Fattahova

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Interior set up a community police unit in 2008 based on ministry decree 2411/2008 to be in charge of various social problems. It consists of a number of departments including social support and research, social visits and activities, study, analysis, a census department, and the supportive services department.

Currently, the community police are based at their headquarters in Abdullah Al-Mubarak in Farwaniya governorate. "As part of the expansion plan, there should be a building for them in each of the six governorates, starting with a building in Mubarak Al-Abdullah in Hawally governorate that will be ready this year," Brigadier General Abdulrahman Al-Abdullah, Director of the Community Police Department, told Kuwait Times.

The main goal of founding the community police was to achieve partnership and cooperation between the police and the community to prevent crimes and strengthen security. The community police also focus on preventive measures to shield the community from crimes, and it cooperates with other institutions in this matter.

Responsibilities

"The unit's responsibilities include spreading awareness about the community police among police officers and the community in general; to support social work responsibilities of police officers and encourage individuals to join in order to eliminate criminality; social rehabilitation in dealing with criminal cases; providing help with solving family and neighbor problems; strengthening the relationship between police and individuals to boost the role of social institutions; promote positive values; preserve customs and traditions and improve tools for forming police-friendly groups and volunteering with the police department," noted Abdullah.

Services

The community police provide many services including a hotline for various problems such as domestic violence, school violence and drug addiction.



KUWAIT: Brigadier General Abdulrahman Al-Abdullah, Director of the Community Police Department speaks with Kuwait Times. —Photos by Joseph Shagra

"This service is available from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm on two mobile numbers - 94000435 and 94000463. Well-trained and highly-educated social workers and psychologists man this line, and even take the mobile home with them after official working hours," he pointed out.

The hotline was launched in 2014. "Unfortunately, this service is only available for citizens presently due to a shortage of staff, but according to the expansion plan, this service will be extended to all nationals soon," Abdullah added.

If callers have problems that are not related to their responsibility, the staff will divert them to the institution in charge. "For instance, we deal with the addiction center for narcotics, where we transfer these cases. We also deal with some cases of cybercrimes if the victim doesn't want to file a case and wants to solve it peacefully, especially cases related to misusing images of women. Otherwise, we direct them to the cybercrimes department that is in charge of these crimes," stressed Abdullah.

"Some cases need the help of a psychiatric, so we help these people by opening a file for them to prevent them being embarrassed in the community, which considers them as crazed. People

can also come personally to meet the social workers here at the department if they prefer it more than calling," he said.

The community police are in charge of solving social, family and neighbor problems covertly, without the official procedures followed at police stations. "This should prevent splitting families and strengthening relations between neighbors. Reducing these cases and problems will reduce criminality, develop services of the police and strengthen their relations with the community," Abdullah explained.

Activities

The community police hold many activities such as marking 'International Tolerance Day,' which has been celebrated by the UN since 1995. "This day falls on November 16 every year. Tolerance is very important as it prevents criminality and also plays a great

role in solving various problems. This is why we are focused on celebrating this day and have invited other institutions and the community to share this celebration. Since 2013, the Ministry of Interior is marking this day," highlighted Abdullah.

As violence is rising in the community, the community police are holding special awareness programs, training programs and lectures for school students that aim to enhance their skills. "We aim to strengthen the role of family, which is the first step for prevention. We have a 'Wathiq' project that aims to prevent crimes through the participation of students, teachers, parents and the school to encourage students to make decisions and use their energies positively. Six institutions are working on this project, which is now applied in about 100 public schools for all grades and genders," he concluded.



The Community Police Department's main building in Abdullah Al-Mubarak.



KUWAIT: Deputy Commander of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah recently received KNG Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Refa'ie, who presented to him Brigadier Hamad Ahmed, the protection brigade's commander, on the occasion of his promotion to Brigadier General. Sheikh Meshaal also received graduate students from the jurisdiction officer and lieutenant rank classes.



UK Independence Party chief Nigel Farage quits

FALLUJAH VICTORY TAKES ON SECTARIAN TONES



GURGAON, India: Relatives and friends console the mother of Tarishi Jain, one of the victims of the attack on Dhaka’s Holey Artisan Bakery, as they take her for cremation on the outskirts of New Delhi yesterday. — AP

SOME B'DESH HOSTAGES QUESTIONED

FAMILIES OF CAFE VICTIMS TAKE BODIES HOME

NEW DELHI: Some of the hostages rescued from the weekend attack on an upscale restaurant in Bangladesh's capital were being questioned yesterday by investigators searching for clues about the possible masterminds behind the gruesome attack that left 28 dead, including many foreigners. Authorities were still holding five of the 13 hostages rescued when commandos stormed the restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone Saturday morning, killing six of the attackers and capturing one, according to officials.

Bangladesh's police chief A K M Shahidul Haque said authorities would be interrogating two men, including a suspected militant, who were detained during Saturday's operation. He would not say whether either had been among those counted as hostages, only that they were being treated in a hospital for unspecified injuries. A second official said the five former hostages still being held included a Canadian citizen of Bangladeshi origin and a Bangladesh-born British citizen. The official spoke on condition of anonymity, as he was not authorized to speak to media about the ongoing investigation. The official said authorities were looking into the

backgrounds of the five people and questioning their family and friends.

It was not clear if all five were suspects, or if they were being held and questioned simply because authorities thought they might offer useful information in tracing the origins of the attack. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed investigators were also speaking with a third man described by local media as a Bangladeshi who was trapped inside the restaurant along with his wife and two children. The man, a teacher at a private university in Dhaka, had returned to Bangladesh recently after living nearly 20 years in Britain.

Some photographs and several crude videos taken from an apartment near the Holey Artisan Bakery show the man talking to someone while attackers allowed him to leave before paramilitary forces launched the rescue operation on Saturday. The man's friends and police also said the one of the attackers was a student in the same department at the university where the man teaches.

The brutality of the attack - the worst convulsion of violence yet in the recent series of deadly

attacks to hit Bangladesh - has stunned the traditionally moderate Muslim nation and raised global concerns about whether it can cope with the increasingly strident Islamist militants. That the attackers targeted a popular restaurant in the heart of the diplomatic quarter of Bangladesh's capital signaled a shift in militant tactics. Previously, most attacks were carried out by gangs of young men wielding cleavers and machetes and hacking into their victims before fleeing.

Denial

The English-language Daily Star newspaper yesterday said the bloody hostage crisis had left "the nation shattered and with a sense of extreme unease." The editorial also criticizes authorities' consistent denial of the presence of any international terrorist groups, even as the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack and released gruesome photographs that apparently depicted the torture of hostages.

"The methods employed and the savagery with which the killings were carried out are hallmarks of international terrorist outfits like ISIS and Al-Qaeda. This is clear," the paper says in its

editorial. "What is not clear is whether, after such overwhelming evidence of their presence, the official line will be one of denial?"

Bangladesh police have said they are investigating whether the attackers had links with the extremist Sunni Muslim group based in Syria and Iraq. But the home minister insisted IS could not have guided the attack from abroad, as he said it has no presence in Bangladesh.

Instead, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government says the attacks are being carried out by domestic militants bent on imposing Islamic rule, and blames the political opposition of backing the attacks in order to create chaos in the country.

Alert

Meanwhile, five Indian states that border Bangladesh were on high alert yesterday, with Indian police checking vehicles crossing the shared 4,000-km border in case any militants were trying to flee, according to the head of India's paramilitary Border Security Force. Yesterday, surrounded by tearful family members and a heavy security detail, Hasina and diplo-

ats from Italy, Japan and other countries lay flower wreaths beside the coffins holding the three Bangladeshi victims.

The coffins were draped in the Bangladeshi flag - a red disc on a green background. That of Emory University student Abinta Kabir, a Miami resident whose family confirmed she was a US citizen, was also partially covered with a US flag. Another 17 hostages, nine Italians, seven Japanese and one Indian, were killed in the attack - many of them tortured with sharp instruments, according to police.

Those bodies were to be flown back to their home countries yesterday. Family and friends of 19-year-old Tarishi Jain, meanwhile, gathered in the New Delhi suburb of Gurgaon as her body arrived for a ceremonial cremation. Two others who died were police officers who were killed Friday night when police engaged the attackers in a gun battle at the start of the crisis. The stadium vigil was visited by hundreds of Dhaka residents, paying their respects to the victims. A Catholic Mass, Islamic prayer sessions and a candlelight vigil were being held throughout yesterday. — AP

JORDAN EAGER TO REACH NUCLEAR DEAL WITH US

AMMAN: Jordan is eager to reach a nuclear cooperation deal with the United States after a long impasse over uranium enrichment and both sides appear ready to compromise, the kingdom's nuclear chief said. An agreement would give Jordan access to US technology, including small modular reactors that could fit well into the country's fledgling nuclear energy program, said Khaled Toukan, chairman of the Jordan Atomic Energy Commission. For now, the centerpiece of Jordan's program is a \$10 billion deal with Russia for two larger nuclear power reactors, to be built by 2025.

Toukan acknowledged in an interview that financing isn't locked in yet and that Jordan is still looking for a third partner. The probability of the two reactors being built is "70 to 75 (percent) ... it is not 90 percent," he told AP on Sunday in his office on the edge of the capital of Amman. He said some large firms approached by Jordan expressed interest and that he believes the problem can be solved. Even if the Russia deal fell through, "we will still pursue nuclear, but maybe not the big reactor, maybe we will have these small modular reactors," he said. In any scenario, an agreement with the United States could be key. "It is important for us to have the U.S. on board," Toukan said. "Even if we build the Russian reactors, you might have small modular reactors for water desalination in the future." Jordan launched its nuclear program almost a decade ago to address the country's worsening energy woes. Jordan has to import fossil fuels for 98 percent of its electricity, demand keeps rising and the country buckles under growing debt from energy imports. Jordan



Khaled Toukan

needs a mix of alternatives, including nuclear energy, said Toukan.

Domestic critics say Jordan rushed into a risky program it cannot afford at the expense of developing solar and wind energy and that Toukan's commission lacks transparency and oversight. Toukan ignored warnings by experts voicing safety concerns, said Saed Dababneh, a former vice chairman of Jordan's nuclear regulatory commission. "There is now, in my view, only one way ... to prove that our concerns are justified, that is for a disaster to happen," Dababneh wrote in response to a request for comment.

US-based expert Chen Kane said nuclear energy may not be the right fit. "I think nuclear energy is a way too expensive, risky and unpredictable option" for Jordan, said Kane, director of the Middle East program at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Toukan said Jordan

has submitted to stringent international oversight, including a review by a high-level International Advisory Group.

In its report, to be published later this month, the panel said Jordan is on a "well-planned path" to acquiring nuclear energy, including training local scientists at a domestic research reactor. The panel said Jordan could do more to bring the public on board and should get more international experts involved. Financing of the two power reactors appears "somewhat nebulous" and the 2025 deadline for completing two reactors is "overly optimistic," the report said.

Meanwhile, revived nuclear talks with the US could open the door to alternatives, such as the smaller reactors. Talks stalled after Jordan refused to drop the right to pursue future uranium enrichment capabilities which can have peaceful and military uses. As part of non-proliferation efforts, the US insisted that Jordan forego that right, as the United Arab Emirates previously did in a deal with Washington. Jordan which has some uranium deposits said it should not be asked to close the door to future enrichment for peaceful purposes.

Toukan suggested that there is room for compromise. "We are trying to find an intelligent way in the middle to more or less give the US assurance about non-proliferation, safeguards and so on, but at the same time not relinquishing rights under international treaties," he said. The US Embassy in Jordan said it hopes a deal can be reached that reflects the US-Jordan partnership and a "shared commitment to nuclear nonproliferation, safety, and security." — AP

AIDE TO FORMER CHINESE PRESIDENT JAILED FOR LIFE

BEIJING: An ex-aide of former Chinese president Hu Jintao has been jailed for life for corruption, illegally obtaining state secrets and abuse of power, official media reported yesterday. Ling Jihua pleaded guilty and said he would not appeal, Xinhua news agency said, citing the verdict of the First Intermediate People's Court in Tianjin, which held his trial in secret last month. "The trial today is engraved on my bones and in my heart," it quoted Ling as saying in his final statement to the court.

His case was the lead item on state broadcasters CCTV's nightly news program which showed the former official, wearing a white shirt and glasses, humbly accepting his sentence. "I take this opportunity to express thanks to the court for a trial in accordance with the law and its humane treatment," he said. Chinese courts are controlled by the ruling Communist party, which expelled Ling - once Hu's chief of staff - from its ranks last year.

The verdict and sentence come as part of a high-profile corruption crackdown by current President Xi Jinping that has deposed of several senior officials, notably former security chief Zhou Yongkang, who was himself jailed for life last year. Graft is endemic in China's authoritarian system, and Xi has acknowledged it as a threat to

the ruling party's survival. But critics say that a lack of transparency around the purge means it has been an opportunity for Xi to eliminate political enemies.

'Lenient Sentence'

Ling's son died in a notorious Ferrari crash in Beijing that disrupted the once-in-a-decade party leadership change when Xi took over from Hu in 2012. Ling had power-bases in the northern province of Shanxi and the Communist Youth League - seen as a proving ground for politicians who, unlike Xi, do not benefit from family links to high-ranking revolutionaries. One of his brothers, Ling Zhengce, a senior official in Shanxi, was put under investigation in 2014 for serious violations of "discipline and the law" - a euphemism for corruption - and expelled from the party last year.

Another brother, Ling Wancheng, has fled to the United States, as a Chinese anti-graft official confirmed in January, adding Beijing was "in touch" with Washington about his case.

His exile has led to speculation in overseas Chinese media that Ling Jihua had given him top state secrets, including the launch codes for China's nuclear weapons, to secure some leverage in negotiations with Beijing over his case. — AFP

FALLUJAH VICTORY TAKES ON SECTARIAN TONES

FALLUJAH: A highway overpass in Fallujah is plastered with Shiite banners, graffiti and posters of militia leaders, a virtual shrine to victory over the Islamic State group in this majority Sunni Muslim city. The fight to wrest Fallujah from IS control appears to have inflicted considerably less damage to the city's infrastructure than past battles. But scenes like this have the potential to undermine the military's success and hamper the broader fight against IS by reigniting the sectarian tensions that helped fuel the militant group's rise in Iraq.

After the US-led invasion of Iraq, Fallujah, once a town made wealthy by trade and industry, became the epicenter of an insurgency against US forces and the militant opposition to the Shiite-dominated central government. When it fell under IS control, Iraqi officials repeatedly pointed to Fallujah as a source of the car bombs and other explosives used to attack Baghdad and other areas from the front-line fight. On Sunday, a week after Fallujah was declared "fully liberated" from the Islamic State, a massive suicide truck bombing claimed by IS struck a bustling commercial street in downtown Baghdad, killing at least 142 people, the single deadliest bombing in Baghdad in years.

The operation to retake Fallujah, which had been held by IS since 2014, was announced in late May. In a bid to reduce sectarian conflict and prevent abuses, Iraq's military said the government-sanctioned Shiite militias participating in the fight would not

enter the center of Fallujah. But days later, Shiite militias known as the Popular Mobilization Forces, or Hashed, were seen walking openly in the streets. The special forces commander overseeing the Fallujah operation, Lt Gen Abdul Wahab Al-Saadi, declined to comment on these sightings. But he said the symbolic value of the city for both Iraqis and IS militants made the liberation of Fallujah an especially sensitive operation.

The highway overpass, in particular, has become emblematic of Fallujah's turbulent recent history. A year ago, it was the scene of the brutal killing of an Iraqi soldier by IS. Images released by the militants show Mustafa Al-Athari, a Shiite from Sadr City, being paraded through town before he was hanged from the overpass as crowds of residents cheered. Athari was quickly upheld as a martyr, and Iraqi militia leaders pledged to avenge his death, calling on the government to allow them to launch an operation to retake Fallujah. The powerful Iraqi Shiite militia, Asaib Ahl al-Haq, pledged to "crush the skulls" of those responsible.

The event echoed an incident more than 10 years earlier, when an angry mob hanged four American security contractors from a bridge about one kilometer from the site of Athari's murder. The 2004 public killing of the Americans became an iconic image that changed the US public's perception of the Iraq war and preceded a brutal US military response. Thousands of Iraqis and 153 American troops were killed and large parts

of Fallujah were virtually leveled. "This is the city in which some of the worst crimes against humanity have occurred," said Saadi, the special forces commander. "It began with the killing of the Americans and continued with the murder of Athari."

Small groups of Shiite militiamen fought under the banner of the federal police, but once the operation was declared complete, the militia fighters began raising their own flags. Some Iraqi commanders - speaking anonymously, because they are not authorized to discuss the operation - said the militiamen set fire to houses in the city. The special forces commander said that IS militants set homes alight before their retreat.

Misconduct

The alleged misconduct in Fallujah was small in scale compared to the destruction carried out by Shiite militia participating in the battle for the Sunni-majority city of Tikrit, north of Baghdad. A spokesman for Asaib Ahl al-Haq, the powerful militia, denied that Shiite militiamen had entered the center of Fallujah and rejected claims that they could destabilize the city. "We are here for the sake of stability" said Jawad Al-Talabawi, who repeated that Shiite groups remained on the city's outskirts. "We gave the blood of our martyrs for the liberation of Fallujah, but do not have any further ambitions."

Yet at the highway overpass - located to the west of the center - fighters were snapping selfies and shouting Shiite slogans. From

a nearby pick-up truck blasting music and bearing a Hashed flag, cold water and yoghurt drinks were distributed to a group of soldiers. "The country of Imam Ali forever! The country of Imam Ali forever!" they shouted, a popular chant in support of the revered Shiite holy man.

One Fallujah resident, Sheikh Hadi Muhammad Abdullah, who had returned home for the first time in two years, said he was shocked to see militiamen and Shiite graffiti

in the city center, describing them as a personal insult. "It's not a good sign," he said, arguing that the Shiite presence demonstrates that the government isn't serious about reconciliation with Iraq's Sunnis. The government in Baghdad "believes that Fallujah is the center of terrorism in Iraq," Abdullah said. "But for us it's the center of resistance. The resistance started as pure, but others like Daesh corrupted it," he said, using the Arabic acronym for IS. —AP



FALLUJAH: In this June 28, 2016 photo, Iraqi security forces celebrate their victory. —AP

ISRAEL'S NETANYAHU STARTS LANDMARK TRIP TO AFRICA

BIBI ATTENDS COMMEMORATION AT UGANDA AIRPORT

KAMPALA: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Uganda yesterday for what is likely to be an emotional visit to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1976 Israeli military raid in which his brother was killed. The one-day visit to Uganda is the start of Netanyahu's tour of Africa during which he will also visit Kenya, Rwanda and Ethiopia. Netanyahu was welcomed at Entebbe International Airport by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

Netanyahu participated in a ceremony to commemorate the anniversary of an Israeli mission to rescue the Israeli passengers of a hijacked airliner at Entebbe. Netanyahu's brother,

Yonatan, was killed in the July 1976 raid. "I learned from my brother that you need two things to defeat the terrorists: clarity and courage," Netanyahu said. Speaking during the commemoration event close to the old terminal building, Netanyahu said the fight against terrorism continued. "When terrorism succeeds in one place it spreads to other places, and when terrorism is defeated anywhere it is weakened everywhere. This is why Entebbe... was a victory for all humanity," he said. Netanyahu said the Entebbe raid was "a watershed moment" for Israel when the country learned to stand up for itself. "It was the most daring rescue mission of all

time. We were powerless no more, we would do whatever it takes," he said.

Later yesterday, Netanyahu was to attend a summit of regional leaders focusing on security. In exchange for its expertise in security and other fields, Israel wants African states to side with it at the UN, where the General Assembly overwhelmingly recognized Palestine as a nonmember observer state in 2012. Israel also has a shared interest with the four African countries of confronting Islamic extremists. Uganda's Entebbe Airport, on the shore of Lake Victoria, is where Netanyahu's brother, Yonatan, was struck by a bullet as he led Israeli commandos in a daring

rescue mission to rescue hijacked Israeli passengers. Israel's success in the raid humiliated then-Ugandan President Idi Amin.

Four decades later, Uganda has good relations with Israel, which is courting allies to counter Palestine's rising influence at the United Nations. While in Uganda Netanyahu will also attend a security-themed summit of regional leaders, including those from Kenya and Tanzania, said Don Wanyama, a spokesman for Uganda's president.

At Entebbe, Netanyahu was to be given a tour of the airport's control tower, according to a draft schedule released by Uganda's government. In the evening there was to be a state dinner honoring Netanyahu, before he leaves for Kenya. Although the July 1976 rescue mission breached Uganda's territorial integrity, Amin, who had taken power by force and ruled as a dictator, had become an increasingly isolated figure and would soon be forced out of power with the help of Tanzanian forces. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni himself led one of several exile groups that waged a guerrilla war against Amin.

A lingering loathing of Amin, who was accused of many human rights atrocities and who died in Saudi Arabia in 2003, is one reason why many Ugandans today do not see the success of the Israeli raid - in which many Ugandan soldiers were killed and military equipment destroyed - as a disaster for Uganda. Yonatan was shot dead as he was helping the Israeli hostages who had been held inside the airport's old terminal back onto the plane. His death made Yonatan an Israeli hero, and thrust Netanyahu toward public life. —AP



ENTEBBE: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) is greeted by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, on his arrival in at Entebbe airport yesterday. —AP

UGANDA'S JEWS DREAM OF RECOGNITION

MBALE, Uganda: In a candlelit room in a small eastern Ugandan village Rabbi Gershom celebrates the 'kiddush' meal over wine as his wife, Tzieorah, removes a cloth covering the 'challah' bread. "Shabbat shalom!" cry the arriving guests. The scene is recognizable to every Jewish family - except the main dish is stewed goat and mashed green banana, with sweet pineapple, fresh from the garden, for pudding.

Gershom is the spiritual leader of the Abayudaya, a small community of African Jews living close to the town of Mbale, where the craggy edges of Mount Elgon mark the nearby border with Kenya. They hope that yesterday's visit to Uganda by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will mark the beginning of greater ties with the wider Jewish community.

Charismatic Founder

The group's founder was a military officer, Semei Kakungulu, who was converted by Christian missionaries but then switched to Judaism in the early 20th century. "He discovered the true religion and the true Sabbath day, that circumcision is mandatory, and began to follow the dietary laws of kashrut. He became a Jew," says Joab Jonadab, the local mayor and Gershom's brother. Kakungulu's influence meant the community quickly grew. "My father was one of the initial followers," says Gershom. "By the end of the first year there were over 8,000 new Jews."

But when their charismatic leader died in 1928 the Abayudaya lost ground to zealous Christian missionaries and their mania for conversion. The community dwindled to fewer than a thousand. For decades afterwards, Uganda's Jews lived in relative isolation. Cut off from the Jewish world they developed a syncretic form of worship combining, for example, traditional Hebrew songs with African melodies, yet they yearned for a stronger connection to Israel.

Israel Siridi, the community member responsible for circumcising infant boys, hopes Netanyahu's visit will mean recognition. "Last year, Israel's Jewish Agency recognised us as Jews for the first time. We hope that our prime minister Netanyahu will lift the visa restrictions on us so we can go and study and pray in Israel," he said.

Hope of Recognition

Days before Netanyahu's arrival, it seemed Siridi's prayers had been answered. Gershom gathered the community beneath the spreading branches of a large acacia tree to deliver some welcome news: he had received a letter from an Israeli rabbi saying the country's interior ministry "is to formally recognise the Abayudaya as Jews". The community hopes recognition might also offer protection from persecution of the kind that threatened to wipe them out

when the notorious Ugandan leader Idi Amin turned on the Abayudaya in the 1970s.

"When Idi Amin was president, he forbade Judaism and outlawed Jewish practice. His soldiers destroyed our synagogue, our elders were thrown in jail, tortured and killed," said Jonadab. "Amin said 'Africa is for the Africans' and he didn't see us as African enough." Today the Abayudaya are thriving once again - a revival Jonadab credits to President Yoweri Museveni, calling him "a good Pharaoh for us".

But the insecurities of a small community remain. "The Abayudaya are a tiny minority," says Gershom, who nevertheless was recently elected to parliament. "It is not safe for us to live as a small group of isolated Jews in the heart of Africa. That's why recognition by Israel means so much to us. If anything bad happens to the Jews of Uganda the whole world will know," he said. —AFP



MBALE, Uganda: Abayudaya Jewish community members read the Torah during Shabbat service on July 2, 2016 in a village. —AFP

BULLET SCARS AS UGANDA REMEMBERS ISRAEL RAID

ENTEBBE, Uganda: Skimming above the choppy waves through the dark the four planes swooped in low over Lake Victoria, packed with over 200 elite Israeli commandos on a daring raid to free hijacked hostages. Landing soon after midnight at Uganda's Entebbe airport on July 4, 1976, it took the paratroopers less than an hour to storm the base and free over 100 passengers held aboard an Air France plane, an operation that has gone down in special forces legend. The plane had been hijacked a week earlier on June 27.

Four decades later, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Uganda yesterday for the anniversary, not only to mark the operation and boost the now friendly ties between Uganda and Israel, but also to pay a deeply personal tribute. The commando leader, the only Israeli soldier killed in the raid, was his older brother, 30-year-old Lieutenant-Colonel Yonatan Netanyahu.

Bullet Scars Preserved

Netanyahu will visit the old terminal at Entebbe - still the airport for the capital Kampala - where the walls are still scarred by bullet holes. Last month, some of the retired commandos who took part in the raid visited the scene of the extraordinary rescue, standing alongside Ugandan officials, including the son of their then enemy, dictator Idi Amin. As an operation, it was "a difficult one", remembered Amir Ofer, then a sergeant major and now a businessman. "We had short time to prepare for it," he said, noting the more than 3,500 km separating Uganda from Israel, with a 48-hour ultimatum before the gunmen would start killing hostages. "The clock was ticking away after the terrorists gave their ultimatum."

An Air France plane en route from Tel Aviv to Paris had been hijacked by two Palestinians and two Germans in Athens, and ordered to fly to Entebbe with 250 passengers aboard. Uganda's Amin, who had cut ties with Israel in favor of cash handouts from Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi, allowed the hijacked plane to land. On arrival, Jewish and Israeli hostages were separated and others freed, leaving about 100 hostages and crew members guarded by the hijackers.

Neither the captors nor Ugandan troops ever expected special forces could stage a raid from so far away, taking the airport by complete surprise. "We fanned out without anyone realising that we were an enemy force," Ofer said, describing how they rushed out of the plane after touching down in the dark. The first team roared out of the plane in a black

Mercedes that looked like Amin's personal car, but their cover was blown when they had to shoot a Ugandan guard. "Within minutes of our arrival, we were able to arrive at the terminal, killed the terrorists and within an hour we were on our way back to Israel," Ofer added.

All But 3 Freed

All but three of the hostages were freed in the raid while 20 Ugandan soldiers and seven hijackers were killed, along with several Ugandan citizens. One other hostage, a 75-year-old Israeli woman who had been transferred to a hospital, was subsequently killed on Amin's orders. Enemies in 1976, Uganda and Israel plan to use the commemoration of the raid to boost their friendship. The raid "will forever remain at the heart of all those that got involved," said former Israeli sergeant-major Alex Davidi who took part in the operation.

Boniface Byamukama, from the Uganda Tourism Board, said they were "working on a monument in order to preserve the history" of the raid, including the bullet scars in the walls. Netanyahu's trip, the first by an Israeli premier to Africa since Yitzhak Rabin visited Casablanca in 1994, is the culmination of years of rapprochement and is hoped will boost links with African nations, particularly on security issues.

'Sign of Reconciliation'

Galvanized by a growing demand for Israeli security assistance and his government's search for new allies, Netanyahu has put a fresh focus on improving ties on the continent. Amin's son Jaffar, a 10-year-old boy when the Entebbe raid took place, welcomed the commandos to Uganda this month as a "sign of reconciliation", remembering the stories his father told after he was deposed and forced into exile. Amin, whose eccentric eight-year regime helped his name become a shorthand for African dictatorship and violent misrule, said he had been "close" to the soldier who shot dead Yonatan Netanyahu.

The officer, named as Captain Rafael Osacha, reportedly died quietly in retirement in the 1990s. Jaffar recalled what his father had said when he asked why he had not sent fighter jets to shoot down the departing Israelis. "My father said of the Israelis, 'Son, those are the children of God, when they start to fight, they never stop,'" Jaffar said. "To him, he felt they had come to rescue their people, they had accomplished their mission, so he let them go." —AFP

ISRAEL APPROVES SCORES OF NEW SETTLER HOMES

JERUSALEM: Israel has approved hundreds of new settler homes in the occupied West Bank, an official said yesterday, in a move likely to further raise tensions following a series of Palestinian attacks. The approval comes days after a key international report warned that Israel's settlement expansion and land confiscation were eroding the possibility of a two-state solution to the conflict. The report from the diplomatic Quartet - the United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia - also called on Palestinians to halt attacks and incitement to violence.

Under the new approval granted by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman, planning for 560 new homes in the large Maale Adumim settlement east of Jerusalem will be allowed to move forward. The Maale Adumim mayor was informed of the decision on Sunday night, a spokesman for him told AFP. The settlement established in 1975 already includes a population of more than 37,000.

Netanyahu also gave approval for the planning of 240 new homes in east Jerusalem settlement neighborhoods, as well as for 600 units for Palestinians in the city's Beit Safafa district, media reported. The offices of Netanyahu and Lieberman refused to comment on the reports of the approvals for homes in east Jerusalem or Maale Adumim. The decision follows calls among Israelis for a harsh response to a spate of Palestinian attacks in recent days.

On Thursday, 13-year-old Israeli-American Hallel Yaffa Ariel was fatally stabbed in the settlement of Kiryat Arba on the outskirts of the flashpoint West Bank city of Hebron. Her 19-year-old Palestinian assailant was then shot dead by a security guard. A day later, Sarah Yaraya, 27, was shot dead after drawing a knife on Israeli forces in Hebron. She was a relative of the Kiryat Arba attacker, and both were from Bani Naim, a village just outside Hebron. Also on Friday, 48-year-old Israeli Michael Mark was killed after his car was fired on by suspected Palestinian gunmen south of Hebron. —AFP

RUSSIA'S UNLIKELY ADVOCATE: CALIFORNIA REPUBLICAN

WASHINGTON: When several members of Congress accused Vladimir Putin's Russia of human rights abuses and aggression toward its neighbors, a veteran California congressman stood virtually alone in urging a more cautionary stance. For 69-year-old Rep Dana Rohrabacher, a self-described "surfer Republican," this wasn't a totally unexpected position: He's long been virtually the lone pro-Russian voice on Capitol Hill.

"Right from the beginning we've had this incredible hostility," Rohrabacher, who has defended President Vladimir Putin and urged a dialogue with the Kremlin, lamented at a recent congressional hearing. He urged both Russia and the United States at the time to "take a deep breath and a step back." This past spring, Rohrabacher's position drew support from Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, who advocates giving relations with Moscow another chance. "Common sense says this cycle of hostility must end," Trump said in a speech in April.

A former speechwriter for President Ronald Reagan, the 14-term Rohrabacher takes pride in having worked to weaken "our major global enemy at that time, the Soviet Union." A large photo in his office shows him in the hills of Afghanistan in the 1980s, where, he told AP in an interview, he launched rockets at Soviet positions as a volunteer fighter. Rohrabacher's view changed when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, and Russia emerged as a different country. Although he acknowledges that opposition leaders face repression in Russia, he also says the country allows religious freedom and is generally more open than its predecessor.

In the mid-1990s, Rohrabacher got a taste of Russian politics, he says, when he welcomed a delegation of young Russian political leaders, which included Putin, who then worked for the mayor of St. Petersburg. After a friendly football match, the group went to a nearby pub and started arguing over whether the Soviet Union lost the Cold War. The debate turned into an arm-wrestling match between Putin and Rohrabacher, which Putin won. "I ended up with Putin, and he beat me just like that," Rohrabacher said, snapping his fingers.

Now Rohrabacher says he believes policymakers in Washington misunderstand Russia and treat it unfairly. Instead of fighting another Cold War, Russia and the United States should focus on defeating Islamic extremism. "We should not be in a hostile relationship; it's not to the benefit of their people or our people to do this," Rohrabacher told The AP.

John E Herbst, a former US ambassador to Ukraine disagrees, citing Russia's war with Georgia, its annexation of Crimea and its involvement in the separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine. "He has been a consistent voice in Congress for weak policies towards an aggressive Kremlin," Herbst said of Rohrabacher. "I have no reason to question his integrity; I have lots of reason to question his judgment."

The lawmaker's critics, however, are unconvinced of his intentions, saying that Rohrabacher isn't just advocating for world peace but is instead pushing an agenda that benefits the Russian government. A major sore point in US-Russian relations is a 2012 law imposing travel bans and asset freezes on 39 Russian officials deemed implicated in the jailhouse

death of Russian whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky. Magnitsky was arrested soon after he accused Russian officials of stealing some \$230 million of government money in a tax fraud scheme; the Russian presidential council on human rights concluded he was beaten and denied medical treatment in jail.

Magnitsky Act

Magnitsky worked for British-American financier William Browder, who ran Russia's largest investment fund before being expelled from the country in 2005. Browder, who lobbied for the law that became known as the Magnitsky Act, has traced the missing money to accounts linked to Russian officials in various countries and has sought to freeze the assets. A New York court is currently examining the case of a Russian-owned holding company called Prevezon, whose \$14 million worth of assets have been frozen by the US government in connection with the fraud.

The Magnitsky Act infuriated officials in Moscow, many of whom like to travel, buy property and educate their children in the West. Russia retaliated by banning American families from adopting Russian orphans. This spring, Rohrabacher met with Russian officials while on a trip to Moscow and then sat down with a Prevezon representative in Washington.

In May, Rohrabacher tried unsuccessfully to persuade the House Foreign Affairs Committee to drop Magnitsky from the name of a bill extending sanctions to human rights abusers from other nations. During the vote, he suggested that Browder might have been involved in the tax fraud himself. "I would like to



WASHINGTON: In this photo taken June 23, 2016, Rep Dana Rohrabacher is seen in his office on Capitol Hill. — AP

say that it's possible ... but we don't know enough," he said.

Browder accused Rohrabacher of spreading disinformation. Magnitsky's abuse in jail is well-documented; the Justice Department named Browder's company "a victim, not a perpetrator" of

the fraud, according to court filings. "He is knowingly putting out a narrative on the Magnitsky case which is contradicted by evidence from Russia and a large amount of analysis by independent bodies, including the US government," Browder told the AP of Rohrabacher. —AP



NEW YORK: Police officers stand near the borders of a crime scene around the site of an explosion in Central Park on Sunday. —AP

TOURIST BADLY HURT BY BLAST IN NEW YORK CENTRAL PARK

NEW YORK: A 19-year-old tourist in Manhattan's Central Park suffered a severe foot wound on Sunday after an apparent homemade firework exploded when he jumped off a rock and stepped on the device, authorities said. Police said there was no reason to suspect that the blast, on the eve of Fourth of July celebrations, was the work of extremists or that the explosive object had been designed to hurt anyone. Investigators said the object was likely fabricated by an amateur fireworks enthusiast for the thrill of creating a loud noise and flash. At least one bystander in the park told CNN the blast sounded "like a cannon."

Photographs of the injured man, who police said was visiting from Virginia with two friends, showed his left foot bandaged and badly mangled as he was being treated by emergency medical technicians on the scene. The man was taken to Bellevue Hospital, where police said he was undergoing surgery and was listed in serious but stable condition. His two companions, aged 18 and 20, were not injured. None was believed to have had anything to do with making the device.

The late-morning explosion occurred when all three men jumped off a rock and the victim landed on top of the object, which had been stashed near the boulder out of the way of normal foot traffic, police said. "At this time, we have no evidence this is related to terrorism," NYPD Deputy

Chief John O'Connell told reporters in the park, adding there were "no specific credible threats directed at New York or the July Fourth celebrations."

Lieutenant Mark Torre, commander of the police bomb squad, said there was nothing to indicate the device was "put in this area with a specific intent to harm any individual" and that evidence showed it was not meant to be detonated by someone stepping on it. He said the device, which was believed to have been in the park for at least a day, "may have not gone off at an earlier time and was just left there."

The 778-acre park in the heart of Manhattan is a major draw for tourists visiting New York City. The park remained open to visitors following the blast. But police were checking for any additional explosives in the park, using dogs trained to detect vapor trails left behind by explosives or would-be bombers. Teams of so-called Vapor Wake Detection dogs were being deployed in New York for the first time as part of stepped-up measures to protect America's most populous city during the holiday weekend.

The enhanced security comes amid heightened US vigilance against potential assaults on public places following deadly attacks during the past week on a Bangladesh cafe, claimed by Islamic State, and at Istanbul's main airport blamed on the militant group. —Reuters

DOCTOR SHOT NEAR HOUSTON MOSQUE ON WAY TO PRAYER

HOUSTON: A Muslim doctor headed for morning prayers on Sunday at a Houston mosque was shot in an attack by three men, police said. The motive for the attack was unclear, but comes a day after another Muslim man was beaten outside a Florida mosque. The victim of the Texas incident, Dr Arslan Tajammul, an eye specialist in his 30s, was undergoing surgery and was expected to survive, according to Mustafa Carroll, executive director of the Houston branch of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

The wounded physician escaped internal organ damage and was expected to fully recover, though he remained hospitalized in intensive care late on Sunday, according to Houston police officer Muzaffar Siddiqi, a liaison with the city's Muslim community. The doctor had parked his car and was walking to the Madrasah Islamiah mosque for the day's first prayers when he was ambushed about a block away from the mosque and shot twice at about 5:30 am EST (0930 GMT), Siddiqi said. The three attackers fled on foot. "It's a real strange occurrence because the mosque is in a poor neighborhood, and they (the attackers) were wearing masks, which could mean all kinds of things," Carroll said.

Siddiqi said investigators had not confirmed

the assailants were masked. He urged the public not to jump to conclusions, despite concerns in the Muslim community that the attack was a hate crime. "We don't know yet," Siddiqi told Reuters in a telephone interview, adding that robbery might have been the motive. But he said police were escalating their presence around the mosque in the meantime. The Muslim holy month of Ramadan ends on Tuesday.

The shooting took place a day after a Muslim man was beaten outside a Florida mosque that had been attended by the gunman who killed 49 people at an Orlando nightclub. The victim in that case was punched in the head and face outside the Fort Pierce Islamic Center early on Saturday, the St Lucie County Sheriff's Office said. Taylor Anthony Mazzanti, 25, was arrested in the attack and was charged with felony battery, the sheriff's office said, adding that the case was still under investigation. The Florida branch of CAIR said the attacker uttered racially offensive comments, including "You Muslims need to get back to your country," before the assault. The Islamic Center's imam had requested extra security following last month's mass shooting by Omar Mateen at the Orlando gay nightclub Pulse. Mateen had worshipped at the center. —Reuters

UNDER FIRE AS USUAL, CLINTON RAMPS UP HER TRUST CAMPAIGN

CANDIDATE CALLS IN HELP FROM ADVOCATES

WASHINGTON: The Clinton trust campaign is turning to powerful advocates, chief among them President Barack Obama, to vouch for the Democratic candidate shadowed by an FBI investigation on the brink of her presidential nomination. Clinton herself acknowledges that she has "work to do" to earn the trust of voters after nearly four decades in public life as she faces Republican Donald Trump in the general election. And she's called in help from advocates to attest to her "good heart", as Sen Elizabeth Warren put it - whatever the results of the FBI probe into Clinton's private email server while she was secretary of state.

On Sunday's news shows, Sen Sherrod Brown and Labor Secretary Tom Perez - both potential running mates for the Democratic ticket - explicitly talked about Clinton and trust. Today, Obama is set to join Clinton in a campaign event in battleground North Carolina meant to personalize the "I trust Hillary" theme. It's the president's first appearance with his former secretary of state during the 2016 campaign. Vice President Joe Biden will reinforce the message Friday in his hometown of Scranton, Pennsylvania, with Clinton at his side.

"Trust" is on the lips of Democrats because it's a remarkable vulnerability that persists for Clinton, despite and because of her decades of public life. And the timing of her credibility campaign is no accident. Her husband, former president Bill Clinton, met last Monday with the FBI's boss, Attorney General Loretta Lynch, on the tarmac in Phoenix in a session both say was innocent but regrettable. Then, five days later, the FBI interviewed Hillary Clinton for more than three hours about whether she exposed gov-

ernment secrets by blending personal and official business on a home email server.

She immediately gave an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press" in which she denied wrongdoing and repeated an acknowledgment she had slipped into a speech last week on the same day Warren vouched for her. Clinton told NBC she will do "everything I can to earn the trust of the voters of our country" and added: "I know that's something that I'm going to keep working on, and I think that's, you know, a clear priority for me."

After Warren had endorsed her, Clinton acknowledged she'd "made mistakes. I don't know anyone who hasn't." And she defended her sometimes too-cautious style. "The reason I sometimes sound careful with my words is not that I'm hiding something. It's just that I'm careful with my words," she said at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition's event in Chicago.

Questions about Clinton's ethics have dogged her from her days as first lady of Arkansas and later the United States during Bill Clinton's governorship and presidency, through her service a senator from New York, her failed 2008 presidential campaign and as Obama's secretary of state. So pervasive has the image been that her opponents have only to utter buzzwords like "Whitewater" - the name of the Clintons' failed land deal in which neither was implicated in wrongdoing - to invoke the image of what Trump terms, "Crooked Hillary."

Character

Not helping the trust campaign: the Bill Clinton-Loretta Lynch meeting. "I learned about it in the news," Hillary Clinton told NBC on

Saturday just hours after the FBI session. "They did not discuss the Department of Justice's review." Was the visit inappropriate, she was asked? "Well, I think, you know, hindsight is 20/20." Clinton's supporters leapt in with defenses of her overall character. "I trust Hillary Clinton in part, because, for a whole lot of reasons," Brown said on "This Week" on ABC. "I know how she started her career advocating for the Children's Defense Fund. She didn't go off to Manhattan or to Washington to make a lot of money."

Perez repeated Clinton's own reasoning that in the quarter century since her husband was first elected president, some accusations against her have stuck, rightly or wrongly. "The Hillary Clinton that I've gotten to know well and the Hillary Clinton that the voters of New York got to kick the tires on very well, they have always said and consistently said that we trust her," Perez, another vice presidential possibility, said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press". He urged voters to look at the public service work Clinton has done during her career. "That really gives me, and I think the American people, a window into her moral compass. And her moral compass is about helping those who are in the shadows."

Added Rep Xavier Becerra, another potential vice presidential pick: "The secretary has made it very clear she understands she's got to earn people's trust. She's going to work very, very hard to do that. And I give her credit for saying she's made some mistakes," he said on "Fox News Sunday." "She's going to try to show the American people that she's going to work hard, especially for working families in America, to earn their trust." —AP

JULY 4 MESSAGE FROM PUTIN TO OBAMA: LET'S HAVE BETTER TIES

MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday in a July Fourth message to President Barack Obama that he hopes ties between the two countries will get back on track. Relations between Moscow and Washington hit a post-Cold War low in 2014, when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and threw its weight behind separatists in eastern Ukraine. The Kremlin, however, has recently sought rapprochement with the United States.

In the Independence Day message released by the Kremlin, Putin recalled the history of Russia-US ties, saying that at one time the two countries were able to solve "the most difficult international problems to the benefit of both our nations and all humankind." Putin expressed hope that this experience will help the two countries get back to working together.

Elsewhere in Moscow, a youth wing of the ruling United Russia party staged an impromptu exhibit on a central square to condemn US military involvement in other countries. The Young Guard activists put up easels with the portraits and quotes of former world leaders that the activists claim were toppled by the United States, like Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich or Libyan



BOSTON: Fireworks shoot from the Hatch Shell during rehearsal for the annual Boston Pops Fireworks Spectacular on the Esplanade on Sunday. —AP

President Muammar Gaddafi.

"Under its current leadership, the United States has become a parasite state that attacks other countries under any pretext, violating their sovereignty, causing revolutions, using military force, killing

civilians and their destroying statehood," activist Denis Davydov said. "We call on the United States on the Independence Day not only to preserve their own independence but also respect the independence of other countries." Putin officially

is not a United Russia member despite having canvassed for the party in the past. Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev has been recently announced as party leader for the upcoming parliamentary campaign. —AP

ISTANBUL NEARLY A GHOST TOWN AS TOURISTS STAY AWAY

ISTANBUL: The tourists are so scarce you can hear their footsteps clattering down the empty shopping street. Nearly a week after the deadly airport bombings, it is eerily quiet in Istanbul. The magic of Turkey's biggest city has been seducing visitors for centuries, from its array of historic mosques and palaces to its stunning views over the sparkling Bosphorus. But for people working

in the once-thriving tourist trade, Tuesday's gun and suicide bomb spree represents one more nail in the coffin for an industry already reeling from a string of attacks this year.

"It's disastrous," said Orhan Sonmez as he stood hopelessly offering tours of the Hagia Sophia, the cavernous former mosque and church that is now a museum. "All my life I've been a tour guide. Most of us have come to a

turning point where we don't know if we can go on. It's tragic." Restaurants sit empty in the Sultanahmet tourist district, and five-star hotel rooms can be booked for bargain prices.

In happier years the queues outside the Hagia Sophia might have stretched an hour or longer at this time of year - today you can walk straight in and share the place with just

a smattering of other visitors. To add to the ghost town feel, many Istanbulites have left the city for Bayram, a nine-day nationwide holiday that began Saturday.

'An Unlucky Lottery'

Nineteen foreigners were among the 45 people killed at Ataturk airport by suspected Islamic State jihadists, and analysts say the attack may have been a deliberate attempt to weaken the Turkish state by hitting its tourist industry. The group had already been blamed for a January suicide blast that killed 12 German tourists in Sultanahmet, while three Israelis and an Iranian died in another on the Istiklal shopping street in March.

The TAK, a radical Kurdish group that has carried out several attacks in Turkey this year, also warned foreign tourists to stay away after it killed 11 people in an Istanbul car bombing in June. The United States, Germany and several other countries have warned their nationals against threats in Turkey, which is a candidate to join the European Union. Those still arriving say they are enjoying the peace and quiet, while taking a philosophical approach at a time when jihadist attacks have gone global. "This could happen in any city - it's an unlucky lottery," said Irish visitor Nessa Feehan, perusing Sultanahmet's empty shops as she whiled away a stopover on her way to India. "The people are really friendly, and I really think I'll come back and spend some more time here."

'Afraid to Work Here'

In May, Turkey suffered its worst drop-off in visits in 22 years - down 35 percent from a year ago - as an industry which ordinarily brings in 30 billion euros (\$33.2 billion) went into free fall. This was partly a result of a Russian ban on Turkish package holidays that Moscow had slapped on Ankara over a bitter diplomatic row. That ban was lifted last week as the two countries made up - cause for celebration in the resort province of Antalya, where Russians traditionally come to sun themselves in their droves.

That will be a boost for the tourist industry as a whole, but Russians tend to plump for all-inclusive deals on Turkey's turquoise coast rather than heading to Istanbul to soak up history. "If it goes on like this, many shops will close," said Ismail Celebi, worrying at a string of prayer beads in one hand as he sat at the gleaming counter of his jewellery shop. "I'm thinking of moving to America. I can't make money here." The large Chinese tour groups still arriving are about the only bright spot on the horizon, said Celebi, adding that they spend "crazy money".

"But it's not enough," he said. "We need Americans, we need Europeans." His shop is just a stone's throw from the scene of the Sultanahmet bombing that left a dozen Germans dead six months ago - and Celebi said he didn't blame people for not wanting to come. "Even I'm afraid to come to work here," he said. —AFP



ISTANBUL: This file photo taken on Jan 12, 2016 shows a general view of the Blue Mosque in Istanbul's tourist hub of Sultanahmet. —AFP

ANTI-EU CHAMPION FARAGE STEPS DOWN AFTER BREXIT

TUMULTUOUS TIMES AHEAD AS UK NAVIGATES DEPARTURE

LONDON: The leader of the insurgent rightwing UK Independence Party said yesterday he was stepping down after realizing his ambition to win a vote for Britain to leave the EU, the latest twist in a dramatic reshaping of the nation's politics. The departure of brash former commodities trader Nigel Farage would sideline one of the most outspoken and effective anti-EU campaigners from the debate about how to sever Britain's ties with the other 27 countries in the bloc.

But it could also give his UKIP party - which under Britain's winner-takes-all election system won just one seat in parliament last year despite capturing 12.6 percent of the vote - an opportunity to select a less polarizing figure and take on the mainstream in a radically altered political environment. The June 23 Brexit vote to leave the EU has thrown both the two main political parties into disarray, with the ruling Conservatives seeking a replacement for Prime Minister David Cameron and lawmakers from the main opposition Labour Party voting to withdraw confidence in leader Jeremy Corbyn.

"I have never been, and I have never wanted to be, a career politician. My aim in being in politics was to get Britain out of the European Union," Farage told reporters. "During the referendum campaign, I said 'I want my coun-

try back.' What I'm saying today, is, 'I want my life back,' and it begins right now." The acrimonious leadership battles in the main political parties have added to uncertainty at a time when Britain is embarking on its biggest constitutional change since the dissolution of its empire in the decades after World War Two. The government, which failed to convince voters that a Leave vote would wreck the economy, is now racing to reduce the damage. George Osborne, the finance minister, has abandoned his target of balancing the budget within four years and floated the idea on Sunday of a quick cut in corporate tax to 15 percent from 20 percent. Labour accused him of trying to turn Britain into an offshore tax haven.

No Firm Plan

Britain has no firm plan for how it wants to proceed in negotiations with the EU over a future relationship. European leaders say London must choose between continuing to allow free movement of EU citizens, or expulsion from the common market. This week will see the Conservatives start the process of whittling down the candidates to succeed Cameron, who has said he will leave it to his successor to withdraw from the EU.

Theresa May, a party stalwart who has run the law-

and-order portfolio in the cabinet for six years, is the favorite to succeed Cameron despite having campaigned to remain in the EU. According to bookmakers, her strongest rival is Andrea Leadsom, 53, a junior minister who was unknown to most Britons before the referendum campaign but was widely judged to have mounted an effective case for 'Leave' in an eve-of-vote televised debate seen by millions.

If the betting odds are correct, Britain is on course to get its first woman prime minister since Margaret Thatcher left office in 1990. Leadsom, setting out her leadership credentials yesterday, said talks over Britain's departure from the EU should be as short as possible to avoid prolonged uncertainty. She offered reassurance to EU nationals currently living in Britain: "I commit today to guaranteeing the rights of our EU friends who've already come here to live and work. We must give them certainty. There is no way they will be bargaining chips in our negotiations." She and May are opposed by three other candidates: Work and pensions minister Stephen Crabb, former defense minister Liam Fox and Justice Secretary Michael Gove. Gove, a Leave campaigner, caused high political drama last week by turning against his ally, former London mayor Boris Johnson, and driving him from the race.

Divorce Process

Despite the 52 percent referendum vote, Britain has not yet invoked Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty to begin the formal process of breaking away. While all the candidates to succeed Cameron say there is no going back, some anti-Brexit politicians say it is still not a foregone conclusion. Law firm Mishcon de Reya said yesterday it had started legal action to demand the government win legislative approval from parliament before triggering the divorce process. Most of the 650 members of the House of Commons opposed Brexit before the vote.

"The outcome of the referendum itself is not legally binding and for the current or future prime minister to invoke Article 50 without the approval of parliament is unlawful," Kasra Nouroozi, a partner at Mishcon de Reya, said in a statement. It has been in correspondence with government lawyers since June 27 to seek assurances for its clients that the government will respect the sovereignty of the British parliament.

Former defence chief Fox, a pro-Brexit figure and an outsider in the leadership contest, said Britain should activate article 50 before the end of the year, and he did not believe any parliament vote was needed. He said the free movement of people across Europe - a core principle of the EU but a major concern for many Britons because of high immigration - should not be on the table in negotiations about a trade deal with the EU after Brexit.



LONDON: United Kingdom Independence Party leader Nigel Farage announces he is resigning as party leader during a speech at The Emmanuel Centre yesterday. —AP

IS SUSPECTS HELD AT ISTANBUL AIRPORT DAYS AFTER ATTACK

ISTANBUL: Two suspected Islamic State jihadists have been detained at Istanbul's Ataturk airport days after it was hit by suicide bombers, as Turkish authorities move to boost security at sensitive sites. Dogan news agency said the two suspects held late Sunday were Kyrgyz nationals, identifying them only by their initials, K V and F M I, aged 25 and 35 respectively. Police found night-vision binoculars and military-style clothes in their suitcases, the agency said, along with two passports in different names. The pair were questioned by anti-terrorism police in Istanbul. It was not clear whether they had been leaving or arriving at the airport.

Their detention came as 13 suspects, including three foreigners, were charged Sunday over the June 28 gun and suicide bomb assault at the airport that killed 45 people including 19 foreigners. Officials believe the Islamic State group was behind the attack, the worst in a series to hit Turkey's biggest city this year. In total police have detained 29 people "including for-

eigners" in connection with the airport assault, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said.

Yildirim said Monday that police were on high alert and had boosted their presence at the airport and

other sensitive Istanbul sites including metro stations and the Marmaray rail tunnel. A team of 80 special forces troops have been patrolling Ataturk airport, one of Europe's busiest hubs, since

Sunday. Last week's carnage "followed a new model" of attack in Turkey, Yildirim said, noting that the bombers had first sprayed passengers with bullets, allowing them to get inside the terminal before blowing themselves up. Of more than 200 people injured, 47 are still in hospital.

Authorities believe the attackers were a Russian, an Uzbek and a Kyrgyz national. State news agency Anadolu has named two of them as Rakim Bulgarov and Vadim Osmanov, without giving their nationalities. Central Asia's former Soviet republics have been a major source of foreign jihadists travelling to fight with IS and other extremist groups in Iraq and Syria.

Turkish media have identified the strike's organizer as Akhmed Chatayev, the Chechen leader of an IS cell in Istanbul who allegedly masterminded two other deadly attacks that killed tourists in the city. Turkey has been rocked by a series of attacks over the past year, blamed on both IS jihadists and Kurdish rebels. —AFP



QALQILYAH: Palestinians mourn over the body of Raian Shrim, who was killed with his mother in the Istanbul airport attack blamed on the Islamic State (IS) group on June 28, during his funeral in this West Bank town yesterday. —AFP



HARARE: Armed Zimbabwean police beat alleged rioters yesterday. —AP

POLICE BATTLE RIOTERS IN ZIMBABWE CAPITAL

HARARE: Police in Zimbabwe's capital yesterday fired tear gas and water cannons in an attempt to quell rioting by minibus drivers and others protesting what they describe as police harassment. The violence came amid a surge in protests in recent weeks because of increasing economic hardship and alleged mismanagement by the government of President Robert Mugabe. An AP journalist saw protesters severely beating two police officers with sticks, then taking their uniforms and helmets and wearing them.

The protesters blocked roads leading into the center of Harare, forcing many people to walk up to 10 km to get to work. Rioters threw stones at police and vehicles, and some children on their way to school were caught up in the chaos. Outnumbered police later sought to negotiate with the crowds after failing to disperse thousands of protesters, who were concentrated in Harare's eastern suburbs. Many rioters were young men who can't find regular employment and make a living off drivers by charging a small fee to load passengers into minibuses.

The drivers' grievances stem from anger over numerous roadblocks that police sometimes set up in city streets, which drivers allege are to demand bribes. Police recently promised to reduce the number of roadblocks after complaints from parliamentarians, tourism operators and others.

Such acts of defiance and clashes with the police are rare in Zimbabwe, although the government deployed the army against 1998 riots over soaring food prices. Mugabe, 92, has ruled the southern African country since independence from white minority rule in 1980, scoffing at frequent allegations of human rights violations.

Frustrations over rapidly deteriorating economic conditions in Zimbabwe, com-

pounded by dissatisfaction over alleged government corruption and incompetence, have resulted in near-daily protests in recent weeks. On Friday, protestors burned a warehouse at Beitbridge, a busy border post between Zimbabwe and South Africa, over a Zimbabwean decision to ban a wide range of imports. Seventeen people appeared in court on Sunday over the Beitbridge protests and were charged with public violence.

Separately, state hospital doctors and other government workers said they will strike over the government's failure to pay their June salaries on time. Finance minister Patrick Chinamasa has been pleading with Western countries to unlock financing for Zimbabwe in the form of loans that were halted close to two decades ago. The financing dried up due to failure to repay debts as well as international sanctions imposed because of concerns over democratic rights.

Some recent political protests have been notable for their brazenness. Police said they are looking for Lumumba William Matumanje, a former ruling party activist who used an obscenity to denigrate Mugabe while launching his own political party last week. People have often been sent to jail for such conduct in Zimbabwe.

Last month, video footage showed an anti-government protester shouting in the lobby of an upscale hotel in Harare and haranguing police until they move in and drag him away. The video shows a protest by activists angry at Vice President Phelekezela Mphoko's alleged 18-month stay in a \$400-a-night hotel suite in the capital, Harare. Activist Sten Zvorwadza was charged with threats to commit malicious damage to property and was freed on \$200 bail. The majority of Zimbabwe's citizens survive on just a dollar a day, the official statistics agency says. —AP

NATO-RUSSIA TALKS AFTER WARSAW SUMMIT

BRUSSELS: NATO is set to hold formal talks with Russia shortly after a summit in Warsaw this week where the alliance will endorse a military buildup following the Ukraine conflict, chief Jens Stoltenberg said yesterday. In April the NATO-Russia Council held its first meeting since June 2014 when relations were effectively frozen, and the talks ended in "profound disagreements" over Ukraine and other issues. "The NATO-Russia Council has an important role to play as a forum for dialogue" and could "increase predictability", Stoltenberg told reporters in Brussels ahead of the two-day summit starting on Friday. "That is why we are working with Russia to hold another meeting of the council shortly after the summit," he added.

In May Stoltenberg had said NATO member states were aiming to try for a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council before

the summit. "We were ready to have a meeting before the summit but to be honest it doesn't matter that much whether it is before or after. The important thing is that it takes place," Stoltenberg said. The next NATO-Russia meeting should address "risk reduction, transparency and predictability", especially after incidents including the downing of a Russian plane on the Turkey-Syria border last year and the buzzing of a US ship in the Baltics, he said.

Leaders meeting in the Polish capital this weekend will rubber-stamp the 28-nation alliance's biggest military buildup since the Cold War in response to a newly resurgent Russia. Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine and its annexation of Crimea stung NATO out of its post-Cold War complacency and into a major revamp to boost its readiness and resources to meet a host of new security challenges. —AFP

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CALL FOR TURNBULL RESIGNATION AMID ELECTION CHAOS

SYDNEY: With Australia's government in chaos amid a dramatic national election that failed to deliver an immediate winner, the country's opposition leader called yesterday for the prime minister to resign, dubbing him "the David Cameron of the southern hemisphere". The dig by opposition leader Bill Shorten comes as the country faces up to a month of uncertainty while officials scramble to count the millions of mail-in and remaining ballots that will determine who, if anyone, won Saturday's knife-edge election.

With about a quarter of the votes left to be tallied, neither Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's conservative Liberal Party-led coalition nor Shorten's center-left Labor Party had secured the required 76 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives to form a government - raising the prospect of a dreaded hung parliament. "Mr. Turnbull clearly doesn't know what he is doing. Quite frankly, I think he should quit," Shorten told reporters. "He has taken this nation to an election on the basis of stability. He has delivered instability. ... The bloke is not up to the job."

Shorten mocked Turnbull for assuring voters that sticking with the coali-

tion was the safer, steadier choice amid the global chaos prompted by Britain's decision to exit the European Union and British Prime Minister David Cameron's subsequent resignation. "Mr Turnbull tried to capitalize on the Brexit vote and say therefore, because of what happened in England, you had to vote for him in Australia," Shorten said. "He Brexited himself. This guy is like the David Cameron of the southern hemisphere."

Turnbull was facing fierce criticism from all sides yesterday for his decision to call a rare early election. Most analysts had predicted the race would be tight, but few had anticipated it would be this close: Labor and the Liberals were in a virtual tie, raising the possibility that neither will end up with enough seats to form a majority government, resulting in a hung parliament.

That would force the Liberals and Labor to try to strike alliances with independent and minor party lawmakers in a bid to form a minority government. If no alliance can be forged, the government could end up calling yet another election - a possibility sure to frustrate politically weary Australians who have endured five changes of



Malcolm Turnbull

prime ministers in as many years.

Turnbull, who is pinning his hopes on mail-in and early ballots that traditionally favor the conservatives, said he remained quietly confident of an eventual victory, and his coalition could indeed still win by a slim margin. But the strong comeback by the Labor Party had many questioning whether Turnbull could hang onto his job, even if his party is re-elected. Mobbed by reporters outside

his Sydney home yesterday morning, Turnbull ignored a question about whether he was still confident of his leadership, telling journalists simply that "the counting continues."

As of yesterday, Australian Broadcasting Corp election analysts - considered among the most reliable - were predicting that Labor and the coalition were tied at 67 seats each and minor parties were leading in five seats. Another 11 seats were in doubt. Counting by the Australian Electoral Commission was on hold until today, with Turnbull warning that the ultimate result may not be known until the end of the week. The electoral commission said it may take up to a month.

Hung Parliament

With the possibility of a hung parliament looming, Turnbull and Shorten both said they had contacted the five independent lawmakers who could make up a minority government if needed. Two of those - Tasmania state independent Andrew Wilkie and Victoria state independent Cathy McGowan - said yesterday they had yet to commit to either party.

Independent Senator Nick Xenophon

said he had spoken with both leaders, describing the phone calls as simple, "G'day, let's keep in touch and see where the dust settles" conversations. "I still think it's likely that Malcolm Turnbull might just get across the line with a one-seat majority," Xenophon told Melbourne radio station 3AW.

Shorten declined to elaborate on what any Labor deals with the independents might involve, but vowed to work with all lawmakers in a bid to restore order to the fractured parliament. "We will work with the Liberals, we will work with the crossbenchers and the minor parties because this country, and this parliament, is too important to fall foul of needless partisanship," he said. "But we won't compromise our principles."

The lack of certainty wrought by the election continues an incredibly volatile period in Australian politics, with Monday's front page headline in Sydney's Daily Telegraph aptly blaring "CHAOS REIGNS." The election result comes as frustrated Australians have watched as internal party squabbling and fears over flagging poll ratings have prompted both Labor and the Liberals to oust a series of leaders in rapid-fire succession in recent years. —AP

EDUCATED, WELL-OFF DHAKA
ATTACKERS DEFY STEREOTYPE

MILITANTS DO NOT FIT USUAL PROFILE

NEW DELHI: The young men had been missing for months. Their families sensed something was wrong. Some had come from privileged backgrounds, had grown up loved and were educated in top schools. They had bright futures. It wasn't until the horror of the weekend hostage crisis in Bangladesh's capital unfolded that they learned their sons had become radicalized as religious extremists and launched one of the country's deadliest attacks in recent years.

The young men, armed with knives, bombs and automatic firearms, engaged in a gun battle with police, killing two and wounding more, then seized a popular restaurant in a Dhaka neighborhood on Friday night and held some 35 people hostage. Over the next few hours, they would kill 20 of their captives - including nine Italians, seven Japanese, an Indian teenager and three students at American universities. A witness said some victims were tortured when they could not recite verses from the Quran.

"This is very painful. He killed innocent people," said the aunt of one of the attackers, Rohan Imtiaz, whose father is a leader in Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's governing Awami League party. "We sensed that Rohan was changing and his behavior increasingly became different," she told the Associated Press in disbelief. When Imtiaz went missing on Dec 31, as his mother and father were in India for medical treatment, the family asked the police to help find him. "My brother went to everybody: police, ministers and higher authorities after he went missing," said Rohan's aunt, who refused to be identified by name. "He became just crazy after his son went missing. But nobody could help us."



This combination of pictures shows five men, allegedly the gunmen who carried out an attack in Dhaka on July 1, 2016 posing with rifles in front of a flag of the Islamic State jihadist group at an undisclosed location. —AP

Backgrounds

As details emerged of the men who laid siege to the Holey Artisan Bakery, it became clear that the attackers did not fit the typical profile for religious radicals coming from economically deprived backgrounds and latching onto extremist groups that promised a new future. Some analysts said that's what made them attractive as recruits; their backgrounds meant they would not raise suspicions. "They do not fit the usual stereotype of the madrassa-educated youth," said Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty, a former Indian diplomat and policy expert on Bangladesh for the Observer Research Foundation, a New Delhi think tank. "My suspicion is that these young men were roped in by spotters or recruiters."

He said their defiance of the usual militant profile gave credibility to claims the attackers were part of a campaign waged by extremist groups abroad. "This is a conscious decision on their part that they will get this kind of people," Chakravarty said. "The shock value for the radical groups of recruiting educated, affluent people is huge. The government will never suspect them. The intelligence agencies will never suspect them. Because these boys were never under any kind of surveillance."

Police released photographs of the bodies of five attackers killed by paramilitary forces who ended the hostage siege. They also released names - Akash, Badhon, Bikash, Don and Ripon - which did not match those given

by family members. Police said only that militants often go by many names to obscure their identities. Another suspected attacker was captured and was being interrogated. The men, all younger than 30, belonged to the banned domestic group Jumatul Mujahedeen Bangladesh, or JMB, according to police. Asked whether they might also have had Islamic State ties, police said authorities were investigating that possibility.

'Flamboyant'

"It is difficult to imagine how they were radicalized. At least four come from very wealthy backgrounds," said Benazir Ahmed, head of the country's paramilitary Rapid Action Battalion, according to Indian broadcaster NDTV. Describing them as "flamboyant young men", he said some had also been frequent visitors to the same restaurant they attacked. The Islamic State, in claiming responsibility for the attack, had also published photos of the five smiling young men, each holding what appear to be assault rifles and posing in front of a black IS flag. The men in those photographs released by the Amaq news agency, affiliated with IS, also appear to match the police images of the dead assailants in the restaurant after the hostage crisis ended.

Another attacker identified as Khairul Islam went missing six months ago, according to Bogra district police chief Mohammed Asaduzzaman. "The family is poor, and did not report his disappearance to police," Asaduzzaman said. But while Islam's background seemed to fit the stereotype, his upbringing suggested otherwise. Islam was educated, having studied in a madrassa before enrolling in a public university in Dhaka. The family identified Islam as one of the attackers after seeing a photograph of his body on Facebook, he said. Authorities have detained his parents, sister and brother-in-law for questioning.

At least some of the attackers had also known each other for years. Imtiaz had studied at the same English-language school as Meer Sameeh Mobashwer, whose family said he went missing on Feb 29. Mobashwer's father, a businessman, and mother, an economics teacher, had planned to send their son to join his brother studying in Canada. "I understood that my son had changed, something was wrong with him," his father, Meer Hayat Kabir, told the AP. "I was worried and tried to make him understand. But suddenly he went missing. I felt like the whole world crumbled around me."

Police, contacted by Mobashwer's family for help, were unable to track him down. "They told me maybe your son has gone somewhere with friends. He will come back. But he never came," Kabir said. He only found his son once police invited him to identify the body of one of the weekend attackers. "We had lot of dreams," his father said. "I cannot believe my son was inside that restaurant, he was part of that. But that's the reality now. My everything is over." —AP

RICH KIDS WHO GREW
UP TO BE MILITANTS

DHAKA: Well-educated and hailing from wealthy families, the gunmen who killed 20 hostages in a Bangladesh cafe defy the increasingly outdated stereotype of jihadists from poor backgrounds who have been radicalized in madrassas. Six young men were shot dead Saturday at the end of the all-night siege in a Dhaka cafe claimed by the Islamic State group.

One may have been an innocent bystander, but among the remaining five are a graduate of Bangladesh's leading private university, an 18-year-old student at an elite school and the son of a ruling party official. As jihadist groups such as IS focus their recruitment efforts on disenfranchised middle class youth, government efforts to eradicate extremism become ever more complicated. "They are all highly educated young men and from well-off families," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told AFP. Asked why they would have become jihadists, Khan said: "It has become a fashion."

While the Bangladesh government has continued to deny IS has a foothold in the country, the group claimed the attack and its associated news agency, Amaq, posted pictures of the five gunmen posing with weapons. Similarly in militancy-ravaged Pakistan, the government denies that the international jihadist network has a formal presence in the country. But a Pakistani security official recently told AFP that authorities had busted several IS recruitment cells focused on a similar affluent demographic.

Taj Hashmi, a Bangladeshi who teaches security studies at the Austin Peay State University in the United States, pointed out that many of the Saudi hijackers behind the September 11 attacks were also from wealthy families. But he says that middle-class youth have been providing Islamist terror groups with foot soldiers since long before the emergence of IS. "Marginalized and angry people from the higher echelons of society have been swelling the ranks of Islamist terrorists for the last 30-odd years," he said.

Bangladeshi authorities have so far only released code names of the cafe assailants after interrogating a gunman who was captured alive, but they have released photos of their bloodied corpses. Friends of one confirmed his identity as 22-year-old Nibras Islam who had been studying at the Malaysian campus of Australia's Monash University before going missing in January. A school friend remembered him as popular pupil. "He was a good athlete whom everyone admired," the friend told AFP on condi-

tion of anonymity. After leaving school, Nibras went to North South University (NSU), a private university which came to prominence when one former student tried to bomb the Federal Reserve Bank in New York in 2012.

'Brainwashed'

In early 2013, seven NSU students hacked atheist blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider to death, kickstarting a campaign of murders of secular activists. At their subsequent trial, prosecutors said the students had been radicalized through the Internet. Another of the cafe attackers was identified by multiple sources as Mir Saameh Mubashwer, who was due to sit his A-levels at Scholastica, an elite English language school, but disappeared in February. His father Mir Hayat Kabir told the Prothom Alo daily that he had feared his son, who was 18, had been brainwashed. "I felt in my heart that he was under someone's spell. We were good parents yet they took him away from our home," he said.

Yet another of the attackers was identified as Rohan Imtiaz who also reportedly studied at Monash in Malaysia after leaving Scholastica where his mother teaches. His father, Imtiaz Khan Babul, is a former youth affairs secretary of the Dhaka wing of the ruling Awami League. He filed a missing person's report for his son in January. Monash said it was aware of reports that some of the killers had studied in Malaysia but added in a statement that it "has not received, nor seen, any official confirmation" of the identities.

Only one of the five attended a madrassa, the son of a laborer who has been named as Khairul Islam Payel. Some analysts attribute the rise in extremism in the South Asia region to the preachings of radical Saudi-trained clerics in madrassas, religious seminaries that are often the only way for poorer families to give their children an education.

But Mubashar Hasan, an expert on political Islam at Dhaka's Liberal Arts University, described that narrative as misleading. "Many so-called experts of Bangladesh have been writing and blaming only madrassas for terrorism," said Hasan. "Many foreign governments and agencies have spent millions in cash for projects on reforming and modernizing madrassa education... What are (they) going to reform now? The liberal universities and English medium schools whose curriculums are embedded on Western enlightenment?" —AFP

News

in brief

Nepal probing Indian couple's Everest claim

KATHMANDU: Nepal's mountaineering authorities are investigating a climbing claim by an Indian couple who are accused of altering photographs of themselves on the summit of Mount Everest, an official said yesterday. Department of Tourism chief Sudarshan Dhakal said that authorities are reviewing the Everest climb made by Dinesh Rathod and his wife Tarakeshwari in May. They were issued climber's certificates from the Nepal government after they presented a photograph of themselves on the 8,850-m summit. The couple, who are both police officers from Pune in Indian state of Maharashtra, had also claimed they were the first Indian couple to scale Everest. Fellow climbers, however, say the couple never reached the summit and used someone else's photographs to earn their climbing certificates. Another Indian climber, Satyarup Sidhantha from Bangalore, said it was his photograph that the couple altered to make it appear they were on the summit. If the accusation is found to be true, the couple would lose their certificates and be banned from climbing any mountains in Nepal.

Farage pic gets dirty laughs in Malaysia, Philippines

MANILA: Leading "Brexit" campaigner Nigel Farage went viral in Southeast Asia yesterday after he was pictured underneath a banner that accidentally spelt out a crude slang word for vagina. The image showed the outgoing boss of the UK Independence Party - who lead the successful campaign to pull Britain out of the European Union - sitting under a poster that repeated the acronym UKIP with no spaces in between. But Filipino and Malay Internet users were quick to point out the banner also spelt - multiple times - 'PUKI', which is slang for vagina in both Malay and Tagalog. "Farage and his UKIP partly leave Malaysians in fits of laughter," Malaysia's Star Online said, as it carried the picture of Farage under the banner. Several commentators also remarked that the name "Farage" sounds similar to the Malay word "faraq" which also refers to female genitalia. "Nigel Farage has officially pulled out of PUKI... I mean UKIP," one Malaysian tweeted.



MANILA: Filipino drug addicts and dealers raise their papers as they cooperate with the government's drive against drugs during their voluntary surrender at a police station yesterday. —AP

PHILIPPINE POLICE
SEIZE \$19M DRUGS

MANILA: Philippine police have seized about 180 kg of high-grade methamphetamine worth 900 million pesos (\$19.2 million), officials said yesterday, in a major haul for the government of new President Rodrigo Duterte, who has promised to wipe out crime and corruption within six months. National Police chief Ronald dela Rosa said police and drug enforcement agents seized the methamphetamine hydrochloride, known locally as shabu, in 180 plastic bags on Sunday in an abandoned farm in northern Cagayan province's Claveria town following a tip from an informant.

Authorities are investigating whether it was smuggled into the Philippines by a foreign syndicate or was manufactured locally, officials said. "We know that there in the north, in the Cagayan area, which is the nearest point going to China and Taiwan, the shabu coming from abroad is docked there," dela Rosa said.

He also said more than 100 armed drug dealers have been killed in gunbattles with police since last month and thousands of drug users have surrendered to authorities during the intensified anti-drug campaign. The drug users will undergo mandatory drug treatment. Nine policemen from different regional offices who tested positive for illegal drugs in mandatory tests last Friday will face criminal and administrative charges, he added. —AP

‘HONOR’ KILLINGS GROW MORE BRUTAL

Continued from Page 1

In the city of Abbottabad, a teenage girl who helped a friend elope was tortured, injected with poison and then strapped to the seat of a vehicle and set on fire. A jirga, or council of local elders, ordered her killing as a message to others. The brutality and rapid succession of killings horrified many Pakistanis.

The numbers of such killings have been climbing. Last year, 1,096 women and 88 men were killed in “honor” crimes in Pakistan, according to the independent Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. In 2014, the number was 1,005 women, including 82 children, up from 869 women a year earlier. The true numbers are believed to be higher, with many cases going unreported, activists say.

Some human rights and women's rights activists believe the rise in numbers and brutality reflects an older generation digging in against creeping change. Over the years, more women have been going to school and working outside the home, and social media have helped women raise their voices. More than 70 percent of Pakistan's 180 million people are under 30, and some are challenging traditions to an unprecedented degree.

“The old order of misogyny and extremism is falling apart, is really crumbling,” says Marvi Sernid, a women's rights activist. Centuries of tradition in Pakistan tie the idea of a woman as an untouched commodity to a family's honor. Traditions have been further strengthened by governments that often curried the support of religious hard-liners with legislation enshrining the old ways.

Those who kill for “honor” are almost never punished in Pakistan. A law based on Islamic Shariah allows the family of a victim to forgive a killer, and in these cases the killers are almost always family. So other relatives give their forgiveness, unwilling to see loved ones jailed. Still, outrage over recent killings and other violence against women has fueled an outcry against the establishment. One target has been the Council of Islamic Ideology, a body of conservative Muslim clerics that advises the government to ensure laws don't stray from Shariah.

When the government proposed a law aimed at protecting women against violence, the council in May put forward an alter-

native allowing men to “lightly beat” their wives. Young people replied with a Twitter campaign with the mocking hashtag #TryBeatingMeLightly. On TV talk shows, guests denounced the council as misogynist and out of touch. Some lawmakers called for it to be disbanded. The outcry appears to be having an effect. The council in June decreed that honor killings are un-Islamic.

Meanwhile, police and prosecutors have found a way around the forgiveness loophole. Rafiq and one of her sons suspected of helping in Zeenat's killing have been detained and face charges under the anti-terrorism law, which defines any act that causes general panic as terrorism. Zeenat's death underscores the social traditions that underpin “honor” crimes. For months, neighbors said, her mother complained about her two elder daughters, who married men of their own choice.

Zeenat was Rafiq's last chance to save her honor. She planned an arranged marriage for Zeenat with a member of their own social caste, the Rajput, which is said to be descended from kings. But Zeenat had her heart set on a childhood friend, a 20-year-old motorcycle mechanic named Hassan Khan who lived nearby in their crowded Lahore shantytown. “We were in love,” Khan said, his voice barely a whisper. He showed a collection of selfies on his phone that Zeenat had put together to the rhythm of their favorite song, an Urdu pop tune called “You Made Me Your Lover.” As the music played, Zeenat in the photos struck different poses, always smiling, her black hair falling past her shoulders.

She loved taking selfies, music and poetry, he said. She had memorized the Quran and taught it to local children. Zeenat and her mother fought about Khan, and Zeenat told him her mother beat her. Khan said Zeenat pleaded with him to marry her. In May, they finally did, marrying at a courthouse. Zeenat moved into Khan's home. A few days later, Zeenat's mother and uncle came, begging her to come home, just for a few days. They said they would arrange a proper wedding for her and Khan, which would save their honor by showing neighbors she didn't elope. Zeenat's uncle promised she would be safe. Khan's elders eventually agreed that Zeenat would go with her mother. At first, it seemed Zeenat's mother had accepted their marriage, Khan said. — AP



LAHORE: Hassan Khan, whose wife Zeenat was killed by her mother, lays rose petals on her grave in Lahore, Pakistan. —AP

ANGER MOUNTS AS IRAQI DEATH TOLL...

Continued from Page 1

“I understand the emotional feelings and actions that occurred in a moment of sadness and anger,” Abadi said in a statement. IS claimed the attack in a statement saying it was carried out by an Iraqi as part of “ongoing security operations”.

The jihadist group said the blast targeted Iraq's Shiite Muslim majority, whom the Sunni extremists consider heretics and frequently attack in Baghdad and elsewhere. Bombings in the capital have decreased since IS overran large areas north and west of Baghdad in June 2014, with the jihadists apparently more concerned with operations elsewhere. But the group has struck back against Iraqi civilians after suffering military setbacks, and in May, Baghdad was rocked by a series of blasts that killed more than 150 people in seven days.

‘Cowardly and heinous act’

With thousands of vehicles moving in and out of the city each day, such bombings are difficult to prevent. But there are also flaws in security measures in the city, especially the use of fake bomb detectors at checkpoints

years after the man who sold them to Iraq was jailed for fraud in Britain. Abadi announced a series of security changes after Sunday's bombing, including scrapping the fake detectors.

He also ordered the deployment of scanning devices at entrances to Baghdad to be sped up, directed that security personnel be banned from using mobile phones at checkpoints, and called for increased aerial reconnaissance and coordination among security forces. But soldiers and policemen still carried the fake detectors at some checkpoints in central Baghdad yesterday, saying the order to stop using them had not yet been passed down.

The bombing came after Iraqi forces completely recaptured Fallujah, a city 50 kilometers west of Baghdad, a week ago. Anti-government fighters seized Fallujah in early 2014 and it later became one of IS's main strongholds in the country. IS's defeat there was compounded by a devastating series of air strikes targeting jihadist forces as they sought to flee the Fallujah area that officials said killed dozens and destroyed hundreds of vehicles. Sunday's Baghdad bombing was widely condemned, with UN Iraq envoy Jan Kubis calling it a “cowardly and heinous act of unparalleled proportions”. — AFP

KUWAIT BUSTS THREE IS CELLS PLOTTING ATTACKS

Continued from Page 1

The third cell comprised of two Kuwaitis, one of them a policeman, who were seized along with two Kalashnikov rifles and ammunition. The pair confessed to plotting attacks in the country, the Ministry said. In November last year, Kuwaiti police busted an international cell led by a Lebanese man that was sending air defense systems and funds to the Islamic State group. Several suspected IS members and sympathizers were tried in the Gulf emirate for a suicide bombing last month claimed by the group.

In another development, the Public Prosecution has released the suspect Abdullah Mubarak Mohammad, with whom authorities found a box containing two weapons, ammunition and an IS flag, because there are no charges against him by law. Tweeters posted part of a telephone call with the suspect in which he said he has nothing to do with the organization, but was questioned because he owns the farm where the box was found. A source said Kuwaiti law does not criminalize joining IS, adding that the suspect was expected to be released after interrogations because there are no clear

charges against him. Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday sent a cable to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. In his cable, His Highness the Amir thanked the minister, the Ministry's Undersecretary and all security agencies and personnel for their fervent, relentless and sincere efforts marked by efficiency and dedication in order to maintain national security, and citizens' and residents' safety. The Amir appreciated the great security efforts in foiling three terrorist plans targeting national security and stability.

His Highness the Amir voiced confidence that the security personnel would remain vigilant against any bid to undermine national security, wishing the nation everlasting security and stability. 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 two similar cables to Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, highly commending the security personnel's great efforts to thwart terrorist attempts targeting national security. — Agencies

SUICIDE BOMBER STRIKES NEAR US CONSULATE...

Continued from Page 1

near the US consulate in Jeddah... which occurred in the early morning hours of July 4.” “There are no casualties or injuries among US consulate staff. Media report two Saudi police officers were injured,” it said.

US embassy and consulate remain in contact with the Saudi authorities as they investigate the incident,” it added, urging Americans to “take extra precautions when travelling throughout the country.” In March last year the US embassy closed its main office, as well as consulates in Jeddah and Dhahran, for a few days over unspecified “security concerns”.

Blast in Medina, Qatif

In another development, a suicide bomber detonated a device near the security headquarters of the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, Saudi Arabia, the second-holiest site in Islam, Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya television reported yesterday. The blast followed others in Qatif and Jeddah yesterday, the last day of the Muslim holy fasting month of Ramadan and start of the Eid Al-Fitra festival. Pictures circulating on social media showed dark smoke billowing from flames near the mosque.

Wave of IS attacks

The US consulate in Jeddah was previously targeted in December 2004 when gunmen opened fire and lobbed explosives at the compound, killing five people, in an attack blamed on Al-Qaeda. It was not immediately clear who may have been behind yesterday's incident, but since late 2014 Saudi security officers and minority Shiites have been hit by deadly violence claimed by IS. Branding its rulers “apostate tyrants”, IS leader Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi has called for attacks on Saudi Arabia, which is taking part in the US-led coalition bombing the jihadists in Syria and Iraq.

In May the Interior Ministry said four suspected jihadists died-two by blowing themselves up-during a

raid east of Jeddah. Two of them were wanted for some of the deadliest recent attacks in the kingdom. These included the suicide bombing which killed 15 people at a mosque inside a Saudi Special Forces compound in the southwestern city of Abha last August. Another suspect killed in the May raid was sought in connection with deadly suicide blasts at two Shiite mosques in the kingdom's east.

Police said he was also involved in the November 2014 shooting of seven Shiite worshippers, which began the series of attacks allegedly linked to IS in the Sunni-dominated kingdom. IS-linked violence has also struck neighboring Kuwait, where a suicide bomber blew himself up in a Shiite mosque, killing 26 worshippers, a year ago.

Yesterday Kuwait's Interior Ministry said it had broken up three IS cells plotting attacks there. Five Kuwaiti nationals were arrested, including a policeman and a woman. They all confessed to plotting attacks against a Shiite mosque and an interior ministry target, the ministry said in a statement. Despite the upsurge in attacks against Saudis, foreigners have rarely been targeted in recent years. In November 2014 a Dane was shot and wounded in the capital Riyadh. Police arrested three alleged Saudi supporters of IS in connection with the attack.

Meanwhile, His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah has sent a cable to King Salman Bin Abdulaziz of Saudi Arabia, expressing Kuwait's strongest condemnation to the ‘terror act’ that took place at one of Jeddah's hospitals' parking lot. His Highness the Amir voiced out his support to all security measures that will be carried out by the Saudi Government to combat terror acts. He reiterated Kuwait's refusing stance to all manifestations of terrorism everywhere. Also, 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 cables of condolences to the Saudi King over the victims of the blast. — Agencies

RAMADAN & PATIENCE

Continued from Page 1

The Quran describes real patience as beautiful. “Therefore, be patient with beautiful patience” (70:5). Beautiful patience is one of contentment and absolute conviction of God's goodness and care. In Ramadan, for example, patience means being cheerful and productive throughout the month, and anticipating God's pleasure, forgiveness and generous rewards.

The Quran encourages us to be patient: “Indeed, mankind is in loss, except those who believe and do righteous deeds, and exhort one another to uphold truth and exhort one another to persevere

with patience.” (103:2-3) “Those who show patience and work righteousness - for them is forgiveness and a great reward” (11:11). “So persevere in patience, for the Promise of God is true.” (40:77) What a greater way to show patience than Ramadan!

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.

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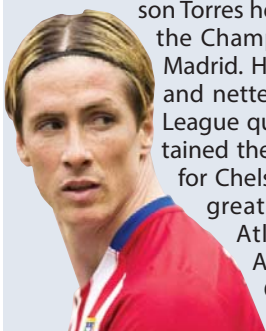
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 • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

(The content is provided by Chinese embassy)

SYDNEY: A board at the Australian Securities Exchange shows losses on the stock market in Sydney yesterday. Economists yesterday warned a hung parliament risks Australia's coveted AAA credit rating with the inconclusive result of weekend elections seen as bad news for the economy and investment markets. —AFP

TORRES SIGNS NEW CONTRACT WITH ATLETICO MADRID

MADRID: Spanish international striker Fernando Torres has signed a new one-year contract with Atletico Madrid, the Spanish club announced yesterday. The 32-year-old returned to Atletico on an 18-month loan deal from AC Milan in December 2014 and had been a free agent after his contract expired at the end of the 2015/16 season. "I am happy to be here. I never had any doubts about where I wanted to be during the course of this process-even though we didn't know what was going to happen," Torres said in a statement on Atletico's website. "In the end, the important thing is that I got what I had hoped for." Last season Torres helped Atletico finish third in La Liga and reach the final of the Champions League, which his side lost on penalties to Real Madrid. He scored 11 league goals in 30 appearances last season and netted once in Europe against Barcelona in the Champions League quarter-final. Torres started his career at Atletico and captained the team until he left for Liverpool in 2007, before signing for Chelsea in 2011 and then leaving for AC Milan in 2014. "It is great news for us because Fernando belongs here and all Atletico fans are happy that he will continue with us," Atletico Madrid sporting director Jose Luis Perez Caminero added in the statement. —AFP



TOKYO 2020 BOSS TELLS ATHLETES DON'T 'MUMBLE' ANTHEM

TOKYO: The gaffe-prone 2020 Tokyo chief has warned Japan's Olympic team not to "mumble" the national anthem, saying those who can't sing it properly don't deserve to represent the country. Former prime minister Yoshiro Mori, who heads up the committee for the 2020 Games hosted by Tokyo, was speaking at Sunday's send-off event for the 300 Japanese athletes heading to next month's Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. "When you go up the podium, please do not be mumbling but sing the national anthem loudly," Mori said. "Athletes who cannot sing the anthem should not be considered to be Japan's representatives," he added, according to the Asahi newspaper. Mori turns 79 this month and served a short one-year stint as prime minister in 2000 to 2001, a tenure mostly remembered for a series of public blunders. In 2014, he came under fire after criticising Japanese figure-skating heroine Mao Asada after a disappointing performance at the Sochi Olympics. He also criticised Japan's ice dance pairing, Cathy and Chris Reed, saying: "They live in the US. We let them be part of the Japanese team because they are not good enough (to represent the United States)". — AFP

ILES SETS SIGHTS ON RIO AFTER DIAMOND DUMPED

MELBOURNE: Teenager Mitch Iles will shoot for Australia at the Rio de Janeiro Games following the disqualification of double Olympic champion Michael Diamond for drink-driving and firearms offences. Diamond, who won back-to-back trap golds at the Atlanta and Sydney Games, had been selected ahead of Iles but the sport's national governing body cancelled that after an Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) executive hearing last Thursday. Iles, 17, won an appeal against his non-selection at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), who referred the matter back to Shooting Australia (SA) last Friday. SA defended its decision to select 44-year-old Diamond, who had his firearms licence suspended after being arrested in the wake of a domestic dispute in Nelson Bay, New South Wales in May. "However, due to the ineligibility of Michael Diamond to be nominated under the AOC selection and nomination criteria, Shooting Australia have nominated Adam Vella and Mitchell Iles for selection to the shooting section of the Australian Olympic team," SA said. Iles' team mate Vella won a bronze at the 2004 Athens Games but the Melbourne schoolboy has outshone his senior colleague at recent international events. —Reuters



MLB results/standings

Toronto 17, Cleveland 1; NY Mets 14, Chicago Cubs 3; Detroit 5, Tampa Bay 1; Washington 12, Cincinnati 1; Philadelphia 7, Kansas City 2; Boston 10, LA Angels 5; Chicago White Sox 4, Houston 1; Minnesota 5, Texas 4; St. Louis 9, Milwaukee 8; Pittsburgh 6, Oakland 3; Seattle 9, Baltimore 4; LA Dodgers 4, Colorado 1; San Francisco 5, Arizona 4 (11 innings); NY Yankees 6, San Diego 3; Miami 5, Atlanta 2.

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	47	34	.580	-
Boston	44	37	.543	3
Toronto	45	39	.536	3.5
NY Yankees	40	41	.494	7
Tampa Bay	33	48	.407	14

Central Division

Cleveland	49	32	.605	-
Detroit	44	38	.537	5.5
Kansas City	43	38	.531	6
Chicago White Sox	42	40	.512	7.5
Minnesota	27	54	.333	22

Western Division

Texas	52	31	.627	-
Houston	43	39	.524	8.5
Seattle	43	39	.524	8.5
Oakland	35	47	.427	16.5
LA Angels	33	49	.402	18.5

National League

Eastern Division

Washington	50	33	.602	-
NY Mets	44	37	.543	5
Miami	43	39	.524	6.5
Philadelphia	37	46	.446	13
Atlanta	28	54	.341	21.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	51	30	.630	-
St. Louis	43	38	.531	8
Pittsburgh	41	41	.500	10.5
Milwaukee	35	46	.432	16
Cincinnati	30	53	.361	22

Western Division

San Francisco	52	32	.619	-
LA Dodgers	47	37	.560	5
Colorado	37	44	.457	13.5
Arizona	37	47	.440	15
San Diego	35	47	.427	16



WASHINGTON: Adam Duvall #23 of the Cincinnati Reds hits a two-run RBI double in the first inning against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park in Washington, DC.—AFP

REDS LOSE FOR 10TH TIME IN 12 GAMES TO NATIONALS

WASHINGTON: Stephen Strasburg did not allow a hit or run in 6 2/3 innings and Danny Espinosa had four hits, including two homers, and six RBIs as the first-place Washington Nationals slugged a season-high six homers to crush the last-place Cincinnati Reds 12-1 on Sunday. Strasburg, who came off the disabled list before the game, had not allowed a hit when manager Dusty Baker pulled him after throwing 109 pitches with two outs into the seventh and a runner on third. Blake Treinen came on to pitch with the score 9-0 and retired Billy Hamilton on a grounder to end the inning. Strasburg (11-0, 2.71 ERA), who struck out five and walked four, is the last qualifying starter in the majors who does not have a loss. He has won 14 games in a row dating back to last year and is the first National League starter to begin the year 11-0 since Andy Hawkins of the San Diego Padres in 1985.

METS 14, CUBS 3

Wilmer Flores tied a franchise record with six hits and his homer leading off the second inning launched a seven-run outburst that lifted New York over Chicago. Flores had a sweep of the four-game series. Flores had an RBI single later in the second, a single in the fourth, a two-run homer in the fifth and singles in the seventh and eighth. The second six-hit game in franchise history — Edgardo Alfonzo achieved the feat on Aug. 30, 1999 — raised Flores' average from .224 to .255. The Mets outscored the Cubs 32-11 in a rematch of last year's National League Championship Series, which New York also swept in four games.

BLUE JAYS 17, INDIANS 1

Russell Martin had five RBIs, Troy Tulowitzki added four RBIs, left-hander J.A. Happ struck out a season-best 11 in seven innings and Toronto defeated Cleveland . Happ (11-3) allowed five hits and one run to win his fifth straight start and give the Blue Jays a split in the four-game series after Cleveland won the first two games. Martin and Tulowitzki each had three-run homers and Justin Smoak had a two-run shot for the Blue Jays.

TIGERS 5, RAYS 1

Ian Kinsler started a rally with a double and scored the tying run in the eighth, then capped a four-game sweep with his 200th career home run in the ninth as Detroit beat Tampa Bay. It was another late-inning collapse for the Rays, who opened the series Thursday by giving up eight runs in the ninth inning in a 10-7 loss and have now dropped 16 of 18 games. The Tigers now head to Cleveland with momentum and hoping to avenge a three-game sweep last week. Kinsler hit two-run homer in the ninth, joining Carlos Beltran, Alex Rodriguez and Jimmy Rollins as the only active players with at least 200 home runs, 1,000 runs scored, 1,600 hits and 200 stolen bases.

PHILLIES 7, ROYALS 2

Philadelphia wasted little time jumping on Kansas City starting pitcher Yordano Ventura en route to a win that was highlighted by a three-run homer from Cameron Rupp in the first inning. Rupp blasted an opposite-field shot to bring in Peter Bourjos and Maikel Franco. The single from Bourjos three batters earlier extended his hitting streak to 12 games, the longest by any Phillies player this season. Franco mashed his team-leading 14th homer of the season in the eighth inning as the Phillies finished with 11 hits. Cody Asche also joined in on the home-run parade as he picked up his third home run of the season after missing the first 53 games.

WHITE SOX 4, ASTROS 1

Jose Quintana dazzled for seven innings and Chicago won its fourth consecutive series by claiming the rubber match against Houston. Quintana (6-8) limited the Astros to just two hits and two walks while recording four strikeouts. He surrendered a leadoff home run to George Springer in the first inning and pitched with a pair of baserunners on the in the third inning before retiring the final 15 batters he faced.

The White Sox had supplied Quintana with one run or less of support eight times over his last nine starts. They scored twice in the third inning off Astros right-hander

Collin McHugh (5-6) before tacking on insurance runs in the eighth.

RED SOX 10, ANGELS 5

Sean O'Sullivan turned in a much-needed strong start and Boston used a seven-run fifth inning to beat Los Angeles. O'Sullivan, who had been recalled from Triple-A Pawtucket before the game to make the spot start, left to a standing ovation in the sixth after throwing five scoreless innings. O'Sullivan (2-0) had made two other starts for the Red Sox this season, including a May 15 no-decision against Houston in which he allowed six runs on five hits over 4 1/3 innings. Hanley Ramirez, Sandy Leon and Dustin Pedroia drove in two runs apiece while David Ortiz, Jackie Bradley Jr. and Marco Hernandez added RBIs for the Red Sox, who won their first series since taking two of three against Seattle on June 17-19.

TWINS 5, RANGERS 4

Minnesota got to one of the best pitchers in the American League and then hung on late to beat Texas to take the rubber match of the three-game series. The Twins scored five runs off Rangers left-hander Cole Hamels (9-2), driving him from the game before he could record an out in the fifth inning. It was Hamels' shortest outing in 29 games since being traded to Texas from the Philadelphia Phillies last summer. Kurt Suzuki and Robbie Grossman each had two hits and Miguel Sano reached base three times, scoring twice.

DODGERS 4, ROCKIES 1

Right-hander Brandon McCarthy pitched five shutout innings in his first appearance in 14 months to lead Los Angeles over Colorado at Dodger Stadium. McCarthy conceded just two hits and one walk while collecting eight strikeouts and throwing 72 pitches in his first game since April 2015, when he underwent Tommy John surgery. McCarthy combined with four relievers in permitting just four total hits and amassing 15 strikeouts, with Kenley Jansen getting his 24th save. Corey Seager extended his hitting streak to 16 games, matching the

Miami Marlins' Marcell Ozuna for the major leagues' longest this year. Trayce Thompson and Yasmani Grandal added solo home runs as Los Angeles earned its sixth victory in seven games.

MARINERS 9, ORIOLES 4

Another home run from left fielder Seth Smith helped Seattle sweep Baltimore at Safeco Field. Smith hit his 10th home run of the season, and his fourth of the series, to lead a Mariners offense that had 10 hits. The Mariners won their fourth in a row while finishing off the Orioles' first four-game sweep of the season. Baltimore matched its longest losing streak of the season, having lost four in a row.

PIRATES 6, A'S 3

Left-hander Francisco Liriano gave up three runs over five innings and ended his five-game losing streak as Pittsburgh rallied for the third straight game to defeat Oakland and complete a series sweep at the Oakland Coliseum. Liriano allowed six hits, struck out two and walked only one, his lowest total since walking none on April 30 against Cincinnati, winning for the first time since beating Arizona on May 24. Rookie left fielder Adam Frazier made his second career start and went 2-for-4 with a triple and a double for the Pirates. He drove in the game-tying run with a sixth-inning triple then scored the go-ahead run that inning.

GIANTS 5, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Ramiro Pena's pinch-hit double drove in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, and San Francisco continued its roll through the National League West with a victory over Arizona at Chase Field. The Giants are 18-4 against division opponents since being swept in a four-game homer series by Arizona on May 18-21. They lead the NL West by five games. Jarrett Parker singled to open the 11th inning off right-hander Enrique Burgos before Pena doubled into the right field corner to drive in the decisive run.

YANKEES 6, PADRES 3

Mark Teixeira drove in three runs with a

pair of homers after Didi Gregorius hit a solo homer and New York defeated San Diego at Petco Park to prevent a three-game sweep. Yankees right-hander Chad Green held the Padres to one run on three hits over six innings in his second major League start, while Gregorius's ninth homer of the season, off Padres right-handed starter Andrew Cashner, broke up a 1-1 tie in the fourth.

Teixeira made it 3-1 when he led off the eighth inning with his sixth homer of the season against Padres right-handed reliever Carlos Villanueva. The 400th homer of the Yankees first baseman's career was a high fly that landed in the short-porch seats down the right-field foul line at Petco Park.

BREWERS 9, CARDINALS 8

Stephen Piscotty's two-out grand slam in the bottom of the sixth led St. Louis to a three-game sweep of Milwaukee at Busch Stadium. Piscotty blasted a 3-2 fastball from reliever Blaine Boyer 425 feet into the third deck in left field-his second slam of the season to give the Cardinals an 8-2 lead. This year, Piscotty is 5-for-9 with 13 RBIs with the sacks filled, and is 8-for-15 in his career with 18 RBIs. Rain delayed the game's start for 80 minutes and halted it for another 55 minutes in the middle of the Brewers' two-run rally in the seventh. By the time the game ended, perhaps 2,000 fans were left from the announced crowd of 41,148.

MARLINS 5, BRAVES 2

Adam Conley pitched six shutout innings, and Miami perked up on offense to defeat Atlanta in an historic event on the Army base at Fort Bragg.

It was the first regular-season game in any major professional sport to be played on an active US military base. The game was set up to honor military personnel on the Fourth of July holiday weekend. Conley (5-5) was spectacular in limiting the Braves to four hits and one walk. He struck out two. J.T. Realmuto, Martin Prado and Christian Yelich all rapped three hits for the Marlins, who won for only the fourth time in 12 meetings with Atlanta this year. — Reuters

ROSBERG ON ANOTHER COLLISION COURSE WITH HAMILTON

SPIELBERG: Championship leader Nico Rosberg set himself at odds with Formula One stewards and his Mercedes team mate Lewis Hamilton after another costly collision at the Austrian Grand Prix on Sunday.

The German, who had led before he and Hamilton drove into each other on the last lap, was handed a 10-second penalty- which did not change the finish order-for causing the collision.

He made clear to reporters, before

the officials' decision, that he considered race winner Hamilton to blame for their third coming together in five races.

"I'm just extremely frustrated because I had the win in the bag," said Rosberg, who limped home in fourth in a damaged car. "The collision completely took me by surprise. I didn't expect Lewis to turn in... I can say that for sure I didn't drive into anybody, because I had the car fully under control at all times," added the German, whose lead over

Hamilton was slashed to 11 points.

"Apparently he said in a TV interview that I was in his blind spot so maybe that is why he turned in."

Rosberg's comments contrasted with those of some British television analysts who laid the blame at his door and even questioned whether there was some deliberate intent as he struggled with brake problems and Hamilton closed in.

Hamilton, who has now won three races to Rosberg's five this season, did

little to defuse the situation. "I don't want to get into any negatives," said the Briton, who was booed and whistled on the podium, when asked whether he felt there had been any deliberate action.

"I just want to focus on the fact that I won today. I have got to enjoy that. You guys can see it, you can see the manoeuvre, how it evolved, and you can take your own opinion from that.

"For sure, I have my own opinion on it but would rather keep it to myself."

While the team's non-executive chairman Niki Lauda found fault with Rosberg, telling Reuters that "Lewis did nothing wrong", team boss Toto Wolff made clear he was angry with both his drivers. "It's not black and white," he told reporters. "Nico was with a car that was handicapped, trying to brake late and not on the line that was the normal line, and Lewis came from outside where first contact was made. It takes two to make contact." — Reuters



AKRON: Hideki Matsuyama of Japan hits off the sixth tee during the final round of the World Golf Championships - Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone Country Club South Course on Sunday in Akron, Ohio. —AFP

JAPAN'S HIDEKI MATSUYAMA WITHDRAWS FROM OLYMPICS

AKRON: Japanese star Hideki Matsuyama said Sunday he was pulling out of the Olympics because of the Zika virus, making him the seventh golfer to cite the mosquito-borne virus for sitting out golf's return to the Olympics after 112 years.

Matsuyama, who won the Phoenix Open earlier this year in a playoff for his second PGA Tour victory, told Japanese reporters of his decision after he finished the Bridgestone Invitational. He later issued a statement through his management company. "Although I am excited that golf is returning to the Olympics and I realize that my potential success would help grow the game in Japan, I have come to the conclusion that I cannot put myself or my team member's health at risk," he said.

That makes seven players from the top 25 in the world who have said they are not going to Rio next month. The others are Jason Day and Adam Scott of Australia, Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland and the South African trio of Branden Grace, Louis Oosthuizen and Charl Schwartzel.

Of the 11 golfers who said they would not go, seven specifically cited Zika. Brazil has been the hardest hit of the approximately 60 countries that have reported an outbreak of Zika, the mosquito-borne virus linked to severe birth defects and possible neurological problems in adults.

"I have been getting information from

all the concerned parties as well as my doctors about the situation in Rio, but I cannot be 100 percent sure about my safety, and my team's safety, from the Zika virus," Matsuyama said. "Additionally, my body has a tendency to react strongly to insect bites."

He called the choice "heart wrenching" not to go to the Olympics. His announcement capped a tough week for golf, which last was part of the Olympics in 1904.

Day is the No. 1 player in the world and said on Tuesday he would not be going. Shane Lowry said Wednesday that he was too concerned about the Zika risk because he married in April and wants to start a family.

Jordan Spieth said he remained undecided. Golf is assured of being part of the Tokyo Games, though the International Olympic Committee votes next year to determine if the sport will be part of the program beyond 2020.

With one week remaining before qualifying ends through the world ranking, Japan's two spots currently would go to Hideto Tanihara and Yuka Ikeda. Tanihara won on the Japan Golf Tour on Sunday to move into the No. 2 spot among Japanese players even before Matsuyama withdrew.

Each country is allowed two players until the 60-man field is set, with a maximum of four players provided they are among the top 15 in the world. — AP

NZ HOPES FOR SUCCESS AS RUGBY RETURNS IN RIO

WELLINGTON: When rugby sevens was added to the rollcall of sports for the 2016 Summer Olympics, New Zealanders rubbed their hands in gleeful anticipation.

Rugby, as a 15-a-side sport, had last been part of the Olympics program in 1924 when the United States defeated France in the gold-medal match. If any nation seemed well placed to benefit from rugby's return to the games after 92 years, even in its compact form, it was New Zealand - home of the famed All Blacks.

By 2009, when the IOC voted to include rugby sevens for the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro, New Zealand men's teams had won the world series in eight of its 11 seasons since its creation in 1999. It has won it four more times since, hardening the belief that the gold medal in the men's competition was New Zealand's to lose.

And there was the exciting prospect also of a gold medal in women's sevens. To some degree these were uncharted waters for New Zealand and most other nations: women's rugby sevens barely existed in an internationally competitive form before it became an Olympic event.

New Zealand had a well-established and successful women's rugby team - the Black Ferns - who had been almost as dominant in the women's international game as the All Blacks in the men's. But women's sevens was new and while it was expected players from the 15-a-side game would easily translate, it was also recognized new talent was needed.

So New Zealand, and many other rugby nations which sensed an Olympic opportunity, sent out a rallying call to its best female athletes. New Zealand Rugby advertised open tryouts and invited the best from other women's sports.

The result was a team drawn not just from rugby but from basketball, netball, touch - rugby's non-contact form - track and field, softball. It seemed a recipe for Olympic success.

But all has not gone quite to plan for the New Zealand women. In the 2014-2015 season, they were clearly the best team in the world but in the season just ended Australia took over as No. 1 by reaching three of the five finals on the world series.

New Zealand's "Sevens Sisters" made only two of the five finals and failed to win

a title at any tour stop, placing second overall, and dulling the bright confidence that the gold medal was within reach.

Countries which had never previously adopted rugby with enthusiasm flocked to the game and sped their development. Nations that had played the game with limited success became more focused and competitive.

At the end of the world series, Canada was ranked third in the women's game, Russia seventh and Spain ninth. The field lay more open than most could have expected. New Zealand captain Sarah Goss remains optimistic and says the team is approaching its potential as senior players return from injury and newcomers settle in.

"We're going to show we're a pretty powerful side come Rio," Goss said. "We've done a lot of work and ... by August we'll come in fighting."

Indicative of the women drawn to sevens by its Olympic inclusion is Niall Williams, sister of the All Blacks and sevens star Sonny Bill Williams. Niall Williams, a mother of two, was a touch rugby player before switching to sevens.

"A lot of skills transfer over from touch but the contact area was the hardest thing to pick up," Williams said. "But I do have two big brothers to help out with that."

The outlook for the New Zealand men's team is far less favorable than it appeared seven years ago. New Zealand's grip on the world series title has slipped. Fiji has won the last two world championship titles and likely will start as favorite in Rio. In all, there were six winners in 10 world series tournaments including New Zealand (with three), South Africa, Samoa, Kenya and Scotland.

England, Australia, the United States and Argentina the teams which could finish on the Olympic podium without causing any surprise. The 2016 season has been hampered by a heavy injury toll and the intermittent availability of Super Rugby players. When he put a call out to All Blacks players to join the team for Rio only Sonny Bill Williams and Liam Messam signed up. Williams made the final cut, Messam did not. —AP

CAS TO RULE ON RUSSIAN ATHLETES' OLYMPIC BAN

GENEVA: The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said yesterday it will decide whether to overturn the ban against Russia's athletics programme by July 21, two weeks before the start of the Rio Games.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) banned Russia's entire track and field federation following revelations of massive, state-sponsored doping.

The suspension first announced in November was maintained last month, which appeared to all but crush Russia's hopes of sending athletes to the Games in Rio de Janeiro, which open on August 5. But the announcement from CAS offers yet another last chance for Russia's disgraced track and field programme.

The IAAF, the Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) and 68 Russian athletes have reached "a specific arbitration agreement" which lets CAS decide on the validity of the IAAF ban, a statement from the Lausanne-based court said.

"The parties have agreed to an expedited procedure which should conclude on 21 July 2016," the statement added. Qualification for most athletics events closes on July 11. But with the Russian case under intense public scrutiny and facing political pressure from Moscow, the IAAF may retain some

flexibility to extend key deadlines.

A NEW TWIST

The IAAF ban followed a November report from the World Anti-Doping Agency which said Russia's track and field programme had been corrupted to the point where even clean drug tests were meaningless.

When it maintained the ban last month, the IAAF said individual Russian athletes who proved they had not been tainted by the country's tarnished system could still be cleared for Rio. CAS is not going to conduct such a case-by-case review of each athlete, a spokeswoman for the Lausanne-based court, Katy Hogg, told AFP.

The issue in the CAS appeal is whether the IAAF has grounds to suspend an entire athletics team, given that such a move invariably results in punishments for individuals with no positive drug tests on their record. Hogg said the court's decision will be narrowly focused on the validity of IAAF competition rule 22.1 which holds that "athletes whose National Federation is suspended by the IAAF are ineligible for competitions."

The ROC and the 68 Russian athletes have specifically asked the court to "order that any Russian athlete who is not currently the subject of any period of ineligibility for the commission of an anti-doping rule violation may participate

at the 2016 Olympic Games," assuming they otherwise qualified. Russian officials have blasted what they call the IAAF's hypocrisy, noting that two American celebrity sprinters-Tyson Gay and Justin Gatlin-will be among a series of athletes competing in Rio who have previously tested positive for doping.

IOC CONFUSION?

International Olympic Committee executives last month said the IAAF had full authority to decide on which athletes can contest in Rio.

IOC president Thomas Bach said anyone who gets the green light from the IAAF will be allowed to compete under the Russian flag.

That was at odds with the IAAF position: the governing body said that athletes who individually proved they were drug free could compete under a neutral flag, as the Russian track and field federation would remain banned.

Several Russian track and field stars have already filed petitions with the IAAF to establish their drug-free credentials.

But if CAS overturns the blanket ban, those individual petitions could be rendered meaningless. The court did not provide a list of the 68 athletes involved in the case, but it likely includes most potential Olympians with no positive drug tests on their record. — AFP



EUGENE: Allyson Felix runs to victory ahead of Natasha Hastings in the Women's 400 Meters Final during the 2016 US Olympic Track & Field Team Trials at Hayward Field on Sunday in Eugene, Oregon. — AFP

FELIX, GATLIN STORM TO US TRIALS VICTORIES

EUGENE: Allyson Felix and Justin Gatlin powered to the fastest times in the world this year to book their tickets for the Rio Olympics at a high standard US trials on Sunday.

World champion Felix shook off an ailing ankle to win the women's 400 metres in 49.68 seconds before Gatlin claimed the 100 metres over fellow world medallist Trayvon Bromell in 9.80 seconds. The 20-year-old Bromell was second in 9.84. World-leading performances were also recorded in the men's 400 metres, long jump, women's high jump and the decathlon. Felix, still running in pain from the April injury, accelerated from fifth place off the bend to take the lead on the home straight and keep alive her dream of becoming only the third woman to complete a 200-400 double at the same Olympics. She starts the 200 metres trials on Friday. "Two months ago I couldn't even walk," the Olympic 200 metres champion told reporters after securing her spot at a fourth Games. "Somehow we found a way." Her coach Bob Kersee claimed the victory was the 30-year-old's greatest performance.

"I just gave it everything I had," added Felix, who is her country's most decorated female sprinter. "Things were hitting me right and left but giving up wasn't an option." Gatlin had shown in the semi-finals he was ready to make a statement by clocking 9.83 but the 34-year-old was pushed all the way by a fast-starting Bromell in the final before the 2004 Olympic gold medallist finished the stronger.

"This year I have had little knocks and bruises, ankles, quads, hamstrings, but at the end of the day when the competition shows and rises, I have got to rise with it," Gatlin said.

Marvin Bracy (9.98) grabbed the third spot as veterans Mike Rodgers and Tyson Gay took fourth and fifth to miss out on the 100 metres team for the Aug. 5-21 Games. Local favourite English Gardner claimed the women's title in

10.74 with Tianna Bartoletta and Tori Bowie both clocking 10.78 to also advance.

LaShawn Merritt powered away from the field in the final 50 metres to win the men's 400 in the year's best time of 43.97. The decathlon title went to Oregon native Ashton Eaton, whose winning total of 8,750 points is superior to the personal bests of any of his rivals destined for Rio, according to statisticians. Chaunte Lowe, the 32-year-old mother of three, made her fourth Olympic team in the high jump, outperforming rising world indoor champion Vashti Cunningham. Lowe cleared 2.01 metres, the first

two-metre jump of the year, with the 18-year-old daughter of retired National Football League quarterback Randall Cunningham leaping 1.97 to also qualify the Games. Jeff Henderson outduelled recent collegiate champion Jarion Lawson for the long jump title, leaping a wind-assisted 8.59 metres to beat Lawson by one centimetre with the runner-up registering the best legal mark of the season. Olympic bronze medallist Will Claye finished third but will not be going to Rio because he does not have a legal qualifying mark, leaving fourth-placed finisher Marquis Dendy to claim his spot. — Reuters



CHARLOTTE: Tatyana McFadden, left, makes her way past Amanda McGrory, right, to a first-place finish in the Women's 1500 Meter Run during the 2016 US Paralympics Trials in Track and Field at Irwin Belk Complex at Johnson C. Smith University on July 2, 2016 in Charlotte, North Carolina. —AFP

CAMPBELL WANTS GOLD AT RIO, NOT RECORDS: COACH

MELBOURNE: A month out from the Olympics, Cate Campbell's 100 metres freestyle world record is a testament to her class and determination but the Australian will not chase the time in pursuit of gold at Rio de Janeiro, according to her long-serving coach.

Campbell's 52.06-second swim at the Brisbane Grand Prix on Saturday shaved just one one-hundredth of a second off Britta Steffen's seven-year-old mark but landed a heavy psychological blow to her rivals, including her world champion sister Bronte. None have come close to German Steffen's time which was set in a now-banned synthetic suit in 2009. Bronte Campbell is a distant second in the world rankings, her best time of the year more than half a second slower than her older sisters.

Simon Cusack, mentor to both Campbell sisters, was bursting with pride after Cate tore up the Brisbane

Aquatic Centre but was also quick to remind her that the world record would mean little on the starting block at Rio.

"Whilst it's really nice to have the mark, it's no guarantee of what's going to happen at the Games," the Brisbane-based 39-year-old told Reuters yesterday. "Winning a gold medal comes down to one moment in time and not only do you need great preparation, you do sometimes need a little bit of luck on your side," he added. "When you're living in an Olympic village with people coming from all corners of the globe and eating out of the same food hall you get exposed to a lot of viruses and bacteria. "So that's why winning a gold at the Olympics is such a tough thing and very often they're not won in world record time. So I've expressed that to Cate," Cusack said. "She's very, very happy with having that world mark but it doesn't change anything from here on in." The

24-year-old Campbell is unlikely to need further reminders of how luck can change the game when she appears at her third Olympics.

She won bronzes in the 50m freestyle and 4x100m relay on her 2008 Games debut in Beijing before losing years to illnesses including glandular fever and post-viral fatigue. At her second Olympics in London, she won gold in the 4x100m freestyle relay but her individual campaign was wrecked by a bout of pancreatitis.

When fully fit, the 2013 world champion has shown she has no peer, however, as witnessed by her breathtaking return to form this year.

THROWN DOWN

The record has inevitably been viewed as a gauntlet thrown down, but Cusack said it came by coincidence, not design. "It was just an organic thing," he

said. "I never really give her a time to chase, it's more of a process but sometimes (swimmers) do get it in their head to chase a time and they generally over-cook the first 50 in a 100-metre race.

"She's really learnt just to rely on 'automaticity' which is just created by race training sets," he added. "She just let it flow out there and it came together, so it was just fantastic." Cusack said he felt Campbell could raise her pace again.

"I don't think the project's ever finished," he said. "She's obviously probably somewhere towards the peak of her career but it depends on how long she's willing to stay in it. "Her starts and turns are consistently improving and that's been a gradual process. So, I'd like to think that she can get faster."

Campbell joins an illustrious club of Australians to have held the world record in the blue riband event, including four-times Olympic champion Dawn

Fraser and Jodie Henry, who won gold in Athens in 2004. Queenslander Libby Trickett, another four-times Olympic champion, held the record three times from 2004-09 before Steffen took it in a synthetic suit and improved her mark at the 2009 world championships in Rome.

A number of records set during the controversial super-suit era remain. "I was there in Rome on the day when Steffen set the record and I remember thinking back then, 'this one is going to stand for a while.' And it did," Cusack said.

"For the super-suit era, the sooner it can be erased, the better. It was just a tumultuous time in swimming history and what it did at the time was it made a bit of a joke out of world record standards. It really discriminated against the ones who set the previous ones in the old lycra costumes," he added. "So it's a great thing that Cate's been able to erase that mark." — Reuters



OMAHA: In this Saturday, July 2, 2016 file photo, Jay Litherland, from left, Kevin Litherland and Mick Litherland speak to reporters at the US Olympic swimming trials in Omaha, Neb. The Litherlands left everyone seeing triple at the US Olympic swimming trials. Jay, Kevin and Mick are 20-year-old triplets who competed in Omaha over the past week. While Jay was the only one to earn a spot in Rio, they'll all be there in spirit. — AP

TRIPLETS MAKE THEIR MARK AT US SWIM TRIALS

OMAHA: So much for a double take. The Litherlands left everyone seeing triple at the US Olympic swimming trials. Jay, Kevin and Mick are 20-year-old triplets who competed in Omaha over the past week. While Jay was the only one to earn a spot in Rio, they'll all be there in spirit.

"All for one," Jay said.

The Litherlands produced one of the most indelible moments at the trials when Jay rallied on the freestyle leg of the 400-meter individual medley to stunningly pass defending Olympic champion Ryan Lochte for the second spot on the team behind winner Chase Kalisz.

As soon as they saw the "2" beside their brother's name, Kevin and Mick hopped over a railing at the CenturyLink Center to congratulate him. Jay popped out of the water, the three of them embracing on the deck, before Jay jumped back into the pool, unsure if he was breaking some sort of rule.

No worries there. He's headed to the Olympics. "Once I saw them, I just started crying," Jay recalled at the end of the trials. "It was amazing to share that experience with them."

Jay will be able to go home to Georgia for a few days, and then he hits the road again with the US Olympic team for its training camps in San Antonio and Atlanta. He will likely be away from his brothers for at least a month, longer than they've ever been apart.

"It's always kind of different when I'm not with my brothers at a meet," Jay said, a bit of trepidation in his voice.

BORN IN JAPAN

The triplets were born in Japan. Their mother, Chizuko, is from that country, while their father, Andrew, is a chef from New Zealand. The family settled in the United States when the boys were about 3 years old, and they're now citizens of all three countries.

While impossible for many to tell apart on dry land, Jay has clearly pulled ahead of his brothers in the pool. He was the first to earn a spot on the US national team, which meant that was the only country he could swim for at the Olympics.

Mick and Kevin could've competed for either Japan or New Zealand. Their father's country was the best hope, but the brothers weren't quite fast enough to be selected for the New Zealand team.

They were still able to compete at the US trials with their brother, but Jay was the only one with a legitimate shot to make the world's most powerful swimming team. In addition to his stunner in the 400 individual medley, he also qualified for the final of the 200 IM and finished fifth. He was competitive in the 200 backstroke, as well, but withdrew from that event after the prelims to put his focus solely on the 200 IM.

Kevin nearly qualified for the final of the 400 freestyle, missing the eighth spot by a mere 0.17 seconds. Mick was disqualified in the prelims of the 100 butterfly for a false start, and he was eliminated in the semifinals of the 200 fly.

MOTIVATION

For Kevin and Mick, Jay's success has provided plenty of motivation. "Yeah, there's definitely a little jealousy," Kevin said. "But that's only going to make us stronger." When the Litherlands are in the pool, their coaches can easily tell them apart since they specialize in different events. Out of the water, the brothers have some subtle differences as well.

Mick is the father figure, the one who got his driver's license more than a year ahead of his brothers and often served as their chauffeur. Kevin is the straightforward one, the guy who always says exactly what's on his mind. Jay is considered the most free-spirited of the bunch, always going along for the ride.

That may have something to do with how they entered the world. Kevin was born first, followed by Mick and Jay. Kevin and Mick are identical, while Jay is fraternal.

"It's weird how similar people think they look when they first see them," said Gunnar Bentz, a good friend and fellow Georgia swimmer who also made the Olympic team. "But after like six months of knowing them, you really start to be able to tell. Their bodies are all a little bit different, their faces are all slightly different."

Not that most people can tell. In high school, they tried to use that to their advantage. "We actually got DQed from a meet because of that," Jay said with a sheepish grin. "I think Mick was sick or something and he couldn't go, so I tried to swim his events. But they found out." At the University of Georgia, where all three are pursuing business degrees while competing for the school's powerful swimming program, Mick and Kevin are roommates, while Jay rooms separately with Bentz.

BEST FRIENDS

But the triplets are never far apart. "I'm always over there," Jay conceded. That's not surprise. Even after their family moved to a bigger house, one that had enough bedrooms for each of them to have their own, the brothers continued to room together until they were 16. They never wanted to spend too much time apart.

"They're best friends," said Andrew Litherland, their father. "They're so lucky to have each other. To get up in the morning and say, 'Hey, get out of bed, let's go.' Or say, 'Hey, we've got to get to bed early, we've practice in the morning.'" The triplets seriously considered going to different colleges, wondering if it was time to branch out on their own. In the end, they all wound up at Georgia. "They committed one at a time," remembered their college coach, Jack Bauerle, "with a 15-minute break in between." Kevin and Mick want to be in Rio with their brother, but they aren't sure if they'll be able to go. Tickets and hotel rooms are hard to come by, and they'd have to miss a significant amount of class time heading into their junior years at Georgia. Besides, they plan on competing together at the Tokyo Olympics four years from now. All for one, you know. "This is only the beginning," Jay said. "I'm looking forward to going with them in 2020." — AP

PHELPS LEADS NEWCOMERS ON ROAD TO RIO OLYMPIC

OMAHA: Michael Phelps, one of the world's most recognisable athletes, will lead a crop of new faces to Rio as a week of ruthless competition at the US Olympic trials ended on Sunday and shifted the focus to the Summer Games pool. Phelps and old foe Ryan Lochte, the 31-year-old pillars of US swimming who between them have amassed 33 Olympic medals, will again provide the foundation for a 45-member squad that will be a mix of experience and youth. At one end of the spectrum are Phelps, who will compete in his fifth Games and Lochte his fourth. At the other extreme are 30 Olympic newcomers. Out, are Olympic champions, Tyler Clary, Matt Grevers, Cullen Jones and Natalie Coughlin.

In, are a wave of first time Olympians, including Maya DiRado who qualified in three events. "Going forward we are going to have to step up to a new level and we will see some new faces step up at the top," said Bob Bowman, Phelps' coach who will also be in charge of the U.S. men's team in Rio.

"We have our tried-and-true guys and I think with Michael and Ryan we're going to be able to count on them but it's going to be very exciting to have a new group of guys step up ... and kind of take us into the next era of swimming."

Swimmers arrived in Omaha declaring the pressure of the U.S. trials was far greater than anything they face at an Olympics but monstrous expectations will weigh heavily in Rio where the stage is bigger, the spotlight brighter and the competition tougher.

With thumping rock music, pyrotechnics, flaming geysers and capacity crowds of over 14,000 filling the CenturyLink center for every session the US trials offered up exceptional entertainment but in the end delivered more flash than substance.

NO WORLD RECORD

The trials failed to produce a single world record while just one American mark fell. The meet finished with only two American men, Josh Prenot (200 breast) and Ryan Murphy (100 back),

at the top of the world rankings, and just two women in Katie Ledecky (200, 400, 800 free) and Lilly King (100 breast) atop the lists.

Many of the winning times were slower than those four years ago at the London trials, a puzzling development that neither Bowman nor women's coach David Marsh could explain.

"One of the things we have always done well, better than anyone else, is improve from the trials to the Games," said Bowman.

"I'm confident we will do that again, we have a great plan in place and quite frankly we are going to have to do that if we are going to have the kind of Olympics we expect to have and want to have." That warning hit home loud and clear on Saturday when Australia's Cate Campbell powered to a world record in the 100 metres freestyle at the Brisbane Grand Prix.

BREAKOUT OLYMPIC STARS

Even Phelps, heading for his fifth Olympics, acknowledged times will have to improve dramatically between now and the opening of the Rio Games on Aug. 5 if he is to add to his haul of 18 gold medals.

"I think it's going to take a lot faster times," said Phelps after winning the 200 medley. "There are always fast times that are swam throughout the world. "I do understand that I have to swim faster to have a chance to win the gold medal; I do know that." Having qualified in the 100 and 200 fly and 200 medley and a candidate for the relays, Phelps, already the most decorated Olympian of all-time, will expect to add to his staggering medal haul.

For the last three Summer Games, Phelps has shouldered plenty of the load but now 31 and having dramatically scaled back his agenda, the US will have to count on big contributions from others if the Americans are to confirm their status as swimming's super power.

The best American shots at gold in the pool will come from the team's youngest member 19-year-old distance queen Ledecky.

Ledecky could leave Brazil as one of the breakout Olympic stars as she tries to complete



OMAHA: Michael Phelps of the United States celebrates during Day Eight of the 2016 US Olympic Team Swimming Trials at CenturyLink Center on Sunday in Omaha, Nebraska. — AFP

a rare gold medal hat-trick in the 200, 400 and 800 freestyle. "Hopefully I think they're going to be scared! I mean, it's no secret that we're going to be there towards the end," warned a defiant Lochte. "I think the Japanese, everyone, Brazil, Hungary, we've all been racing against each other so many times that we know it's going to be a dog fight till the end. "The US is not easy to beat, and we're going to definitely prove that in Rio." — Reuters

CHINESE SWIMMER NING ASSURES FANS OVER RIO

BEIJING: Chinese swimmer Ning Zetao has said his preparations are in full swing for the Rio Olympics and has assured fans he will be going to the Games following social media reports that he will be cut from the team for undertaking too many commercial engagements.

The 23-year-old from China's heartland province of Henan last year became the first Asian swimmer to win the 100 metres freestyle at the world championships.

He edged out Australian favourite Cameron McEvoy, clocking 47.85 seconds in the blue riband event, four years after he tested positive for the banned stimulant clenbuterol.

The swimmer with boyish good looks is a household name in China and goes by the nicknames "Baozi" or "steamed bun".

"There has suddenly been news recently about the Steamed Bun that has caused concern among many leaders, media, friends, family and Bun fans who have come one after another to show concern and seek proof," Ning said in a statement.

He said he and his team mates had been preparing hard for the Olympics, adding that two days ago leaders from China's General Administration (of sports) visited their training camp to lift morale. "With just over a month to go before the Olympics, striving for glory for the nation at the Olympics is without a doubt the biggest dream of a lifetime for all athletes and is my greatest motivation in training hard and swimming forward each day."

Dropping an athlete from the team due to

endorsements and television commercials is not unprecedented in China which holds its national athletes to strict standards of conduct.

Olympic diving champion Tian Liang was kicked out of the national squad in 2005 for taking part in too many commercial activities, despite having won a gold and a bronze at the 2004 Athens Games and the 10 metres platform title in Sydney in 2000.

"As for some rumours, the Steamed Bun does not want to respond because it would only create more noise amid preparations for the Olympics," Ning added.

"Now is a critical time in the sprint of preparations for us athletes... People all around the country are paying attention, it's once in four years, and there can be no mistakes!" — Reuters



OMAHA: Missy Franklin waves to fans during the closing ceremonies at the US Olympic swimming trials, Sunday, in Omaha, Neb. — AP

JAIL LOOMS AS PISTORIUS TO BE SENTENCED FOR MURDER

JOHANNESBURG: Disgraced Paralympian Oscar Pistorius could return to jail tomorrow, when a judge is set to sentence him for murdering his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp three years ago. Pistorius was freed from prison in the South African capital Pretoria last October after serving one year of a five-year term for culpable homicide—the equivalent of manslaughter.

But an appeals court upgraded the conviction to murder, which has a minimum standard sentence of 15 years. Due to his time already spent in jail and mitigating factors such as his disability, he may be given a lesser term. Pistorius, 29, shot Steenkamp to death in the early hours of Valentine's Day in 2013, claim-

ing he mistook her for a burglar when he fired four times through the door of his bedroom toilet.

Judge Thokozile Masipa, who heard the original trial, will deliver the sentence three weeks after a court hearing that marked another episode of high drama in the long-running case.

Pistorius, sobbing heavily, hobbled on his stumps across the courtroom to demonstrate his physical vulnerability as his lawyers argued he should not return to jail on account of his anxiety disorder and depression. "I don't think he will get the 15 years," Ulrich Roux, who is unaffiliated with the case but has followed it closely, told AFP. "His personal circumstances and the disability will be taken

into account.

One possibility is that part of the sentence may be suspended."

'PAY FOR HIS CRIME'

At the sentencing hearing, prosecutor Gerrie Nel argued that the double-amputee sprinter should be given a lengthy jail term as he failed to show any remorse for the murder.

Nel also criticised Pistorius for filming a television interview, despite claiming to be too unwell to give evidence in court. In the interview—his first since the killing—Pistorius said that he believed Steenkamp would want him to devote his life to charity rather than return to prison.

"If I was afforded the opportunity of redemption, I would like to help the less fortunate," he said. "I would like to believe that if Reeva could look down upon me that she would want me to live that life."

At a June court hearing, Steenkamp's father 73-year-old Barry broke down during his testimony as he called for Pistorius to "pay for his crime" of murdering Reeva, a model and law graduate.

Pistorius, who pleaded not guilty at his trial in 2014, has always denied killing Steenkamp in a rage, saying he was trying to protect her. The sentencing may not be the end of the saga that has gripped South Africa and the world, as Pistorius or the state could launch a

final round of appeals. If jailed on Wednesday, he would likely return to the hospital section of Kgosi Mampuru II Prison in the capital Pretoria, separated from the general population of inmates.

Since his release, Pistorius has lived under restrictions at his uncle's mansion in Pretoria. Supreme Court of Appeal judges in December described the sprinter's testimony at his trial as "untruthful" and delivered a damning indictment of the original verdict.

Pistorius, whose legs were amputated below the knee when he was 11 months old, made history by becoming the first Paralympian to compete against able-bodied athletes at the 2012 London Olympics. — AFP

SUCCESS DOWN TO DESTINY: SAGAN

CHERBOURG: Slovakia's Peter Sagan put his recent success down to destiny after reaching a new milestone in a career where he is already world champion.

The 26-year-old will wear the iconic Tour de France yellow jersey for the first time ever yesterday following his victory in Sunday's second stage.

The honour comes after the Tinkoff rider won the world title in September and his first prestigious "Monument" one-day classic in April.

Yet at last year's Tour, Sagan was repeatedly frustrated by his inability to turn high placings into victories. He hadn't won a Tour stage for three years before Sunday and had racked up the near misses to such an extent that comparisons were being made to legendary French rider Raymond Poulidor, who finished second in the Tour three times and third five times, but never won it and never even donned the yellow jersey. Before Sunday's victory, Sagan had finished in the top three 27 times but won only four stages. Last year, he complained that he was a marked man because everyone knew how fast he was in sprint finishes. That, he said, was hampering his ability to win races as no-one wanted to work with him as they were all afraid he'd beat them in a sprint finish.

Yet since then, he's achieved the great-

est successes of his career. He insists he's doing nothing differently. "Not For sure not, I don't change anything. It's like destiny, sometimes when you want to go up you have to fall down," he said.

"I didn't really fall, I was always there: second, third, second, third—OK, sometimes I won. "I'm very happy with what I did in the last year. For sure in every big race you get more experience in life. Everything that happens in life, you get more experience. It's like that."

Sagan stands a good chance of keeping hold of the yellow jersey for the next four days before the overall contenders start their hostilities on Friday's seventh stage.

That's when the first major climb arrives on the Tour. Monday's third stage is long and flat and unless a breakaway stays clear and gains significant time, Sagan should be able to end the 223.5km run from Granville to Angers still in yellow.

But he says he's more focused on simply enjoying the race. "If I was second (on Sunday) I wouldn't be here now," said Sagan at the post-stage press conference.

"Life is life. Life brings me what I take. What can I change? Nothing.

"I believe everybody has some destiny, right in space somewhere. "The first two years in professional cycling were stressful, but now I'm trying to enjoy it." —AFP



TAUNTON: Pakistan's Mohammad Amir, right, celebrates taking a wicket during day two of the Somerset versus Pakistan tour match at the County Ground, Taunton, south western England, yesterday. —AP

PAKISTAN'S AMIR STRIKES TWICE ON ENGLAND RETURN

TAUNTON: Pakistan's Mohammad Amir marked his return to first-class cricket in England with three wickets as Somerset collapsed at Taunton yesterday.

Left-arm fast bowler Amir took three for 36 in 11 overs, all top-order wickets including former England opener Marcus Trescothick. Somerset slumped to 128 all out in reply to Pakistan's first innings 359 for eight declared—a deficit of 231 runs. Amir's exciting career came to a shuddering halt at Lord's in 2010 when, during a Test against England, he and new-ball partner Mohammad Asif were caught bowling no-balls to order on the instructions of captain Salman Butt as part of a tabloid newspaper sting operation.

All three received five-year bans from cricket and together with sports agent Mazhar Majeed, jail terms. Amir, who served three months in an English young offenders institute, has only featured in the game's shorter formats since his return to Pakistan duty in January.

But the 24-year-old is now back in England and could make his Test return in the first of a four-match series at Lord's on July 14. After Pakistan had declared on the second morning of three in their tour opener against Somerset, Amir took the new ball.

Despite suggestions from England captain Alastair Cook that spectators might jeer Amir, there was nothing but polite applause as he came on to bowl.

Trescothick blocked his first ball and took two fours off Amir's opening over, a push through cover-point and another down to third man.

'LEADER OF THE PACK'

But Amir struck with his 14th ball back in first-class cricket on English soil. Left-hander Trescothick, on eight, could only edge a superb outswinger that moved late and wicket-keeper Sarfraz Ahmed held an excellent diving catch.

Amir struck again when a full-length inswinger bowled first-class debutant Adam Hose (10). Somerset were now 23 for two, with Amir having taken two wickets for six runs in 11 balls. And eight minutes after lunch, Amir bowled Peter Trego (23) with another fine inswinger that knocked over the batsman's middle stump and left the other two standing.

Fellow quicks Sohail Khan (three for 26) and Rahat Ali (two for 38) also bowled well, with leg-spinner Yasir Shah taking two wickets late on.

Not a single no-ball was bowled in the Somerset innings. Meanwhile Pakistan great Wasim Akram said fellow left-arm paceman Amir could form an effective partnership with Shah, Pakistan's highest ranked bowler who is returning from a doping ban.

"Amir can be the leader of the pack which also has a quality leg-spinner Yasir Shah," said Wasim in an interview with AFP in Karachi yesterday. "I think if Shah is fit he can be the trump card in a varied bowling attack," said Wasim, who in his own playing days often paired up with spinners Mushtaq Ahmed and Saqlain Mushtaq to devastating effect.

Only Somerset's James Hildreth (47 not out), long overlooked by England, offered much resistance after being dropped on 13 by Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq in the slips off Rahat.

Pakistan resumed on their overnight score of 324 for five, with Younis Khan 99 not out. It took the 38-year-old Younis 12 balls Monday to com-

plete his 53rd first-class hundred but he got there with a two to fine leg off Dutch paceman Paul van Meekeren.

Younis's century came off 173 balls, including 14 fours. He was out soon afterwards, well

caught by a diving Tim Rouse in the slips off Scotland seamer Josh Davey. There was an ironic moment when the first delivery Amir faced was a Davey no-ball. Next ball, Amir was caught behind off Davey for a duck. — AFP

I WILL NOT CURB KOHLI'S AGGRESSION, SAYS KUMBLE

BENGALURU: India's new head coach Anil Kumble admires test captain Virat Kohli's aggression and will not try to curb his natural instincts. The 27-year-old Kohli replaced Mahendra Singh Dhoni as India's captain in the longest game's format after the wicket-keeper-batsman's retirement from test cricket during the tour of Australia in late 2014.

The Delhi cricketer was initially perceived as another brash personality from the streets of a city long accused of encouraging aggression in its youth, having often been involved in wars of words with opponents on the field.

Former India captain Kumble's appointment as coach was welcomed by many who expect the former leg-spinner to be a calming presence in a team led by an expressive captain. "I love his aggression," Kumble told reporters sitting alongside Kohli. "I was no different, I was also aggressive, very different in terms of the way we probably came across on the field.

"But you don't want to curb aggression. I will be the last person to curb someone's natural instincts," Kumble added. "But we all know how important it is to be ambassadors of India and to be a part of the Indian cricket team. That everybody understands. We will ensure that there is a thin line and everybody knows

that." India will play four tests against West Indies and after returning from the Caribbean the world's second-ranked side are set for a busy season at home when they will play 13 test matches, eight ODIs and three T20 internationals.

"It will be one test match at a time. It's a long season, we have the opportunity to plan well," Kohli told reporters ahead of the team's departure for the West Indies.

"It will be an opportunity for the team to gel together and execute our plans," he added. "It will be the perfect situation and opportunity to challenge and assess ourselves as a test team. I feel these few months will determine how India play test cricket in the next few years."

Kumble, India's most successful bowler, capturing 619 wickets in 132 tests and 337 in 271 one-day internationals, has just overseen a six-day training camp in Bengaluru. "Our intention will always be to go for wins," Kohli said. "There have been situations in the past where we have lost while trying to go for wins. "But we lost due to our mistakes. We have realised we reached that position playing 80 percent good cricket. Now we are focusing on rectifying the remaining 20 percent and continue to play positively." — Reuters



EDINBURGH: Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah (R) plays a shot watched by Scotland's wicketkeeper Matthew Cross during play in the 1st One Day International (ODI) between Scotland and Afghanistan at The Grange in Edinburgh, Scotland yesterday. — AFP

KOC SAYS WILL IMPLEMENT CAS DECISION ON PARK QUICKLY

SEOUL: The Korean Olympic Committee (KOC) will not drag its feet if the Court of Arbitration for Sport sides with swimmer Park Tae-hwan in his bid to repeal a controversial doping ban, KOC Secretary-General Cho Young-ho said yesterday.

Park, the first Korean to win an Olympic swimming medal when he won the 400 freestyle gold in Beijing, completed an 18-month ban imposed by world governing body FINA in March after testing positive for testosterone ahead of the 2014 Asian Games. However, under KOC regulations, he was then subject to an additional three-year ban from the national team the day the FINA suspension expired, effectively ruling him out of the Rio Olympics.

Park took his case to the CAS and is

expected to be notified of the result this week, with the Korean team set to decide on the swimming team on July 18.

The 26-year-old's chances of forcing the KOC to repeal the ban were emboldened on Friday when a local court ruled that he was eligible for selection for the national team. Park had lodged an injunction with Seoul Eastern District Court last month against the KOC and Korea Swimming Federation over the ban. Cho said they would move quickly to resolve the issue when CAS hands down its decision.

"If the CAS decision is in line with that of the domestic court, we will promptly take the necessary steps regarding Park," Yonhap news agency quoted Cho as saying. —Reuters



BANGALORE: Indian Test cricket team captain Virat Kohli and head coach Anil Kumble (R) take part in a press conference on the last day of the team's practice session at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bangalore yesterday. The Indian team is taking part in a preparatory camp ahead of their West Indies Test tour. — AFP



UEFA SAYS NEW CONVENTION CAN AVOID REPEAT OF EURO 2016 VIOLENCE

PARIS: Russia was among 14 countries which signed a convention between the Council of Europe and European soccer body UEFA on Sunday aimed at stopping a repeat of fan violence which has marred Euro 2016.

UEFA said the convention would include a better exchange of intelligence between police forces to warn countries hosting matches of potential troublemakers.

The Euro 2016 tournament being played in France has seen a return of football hooliganism which had been largely absent from

recent international competitions.

The worst incidents happened in Marseille before and after the match between England and Russia where clashes lasted several days.

"I'm sure that in the future we can use the intelligence of various police forces," said Michael van Praag, head of UEFA's Stadia and Security committee.

"That has not been working 100 percent until now and this is the reason why we have this convention.

"I am sure in the future when this exchange

of information between countries and police forces will go on, problems like the one we had in Marseille and in many competitions in Europe will belong in the past," the Dutchman told reporters.

Van Praag said that "we can and must do more" to avert hooliganism and described the Council of Europe convention as a "significant step" forward.

However, he rejected a suggestion that tournament organisers should change venues and kickoff times for matches which were con-

sidered high risk.

"The authorities were very well prepared to organise this match but nobody expected this (violence) to happen on such a level," he said.

"You cannot expect the tournament organisation to beforehand change kickoff times, or beforehand change the venues.

"We knew for months in advance that this match had to be played in Marseille and there were no signals whatsoever that the game would be disturbed in the way it was."

France, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Lithuania,

Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Switzerland, Macedonia and Ukraine were the countries who signed on Sunday.

Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjorn Jagland said he expected more countries to sign up.

"This is the opening day for signing the convention and it is extraordinary that so many signed on the first day, it's nearly a record. We expect that many will follow suit," he said. — Reuters

NEW CITY BOSS GUARDIOLA AIMS TO PROVE HIMSELF IN ENGLAND

LONDON: New Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has no intention of ditching the methods that brought him success in Spain and Germany and wants to prove it is possible to win in the Premier League by playing attractive football.

Guardiola won two Champions League trophies, three La Liga titles and two King's Cup crowns as Barcelona coach before two domestic doubles followed at Bayern Munich.

He took over at City from Manuel Pellegrini, who guided the club to one Premier League title and two (Capital One) League Cups in his three years in charge.

"I have no preconceptions at all about coming to England or the football in the Premier League. I want to learn as much as possible," he said in an interview on CityTV on Sunday.

"I have an idea of how we will play, but when I arrived in Germany with Bayern Munich, I had some ideas of how the team would play but changed them as I went along.

"I know how hard the Premier League is and some people have said that I will find it hard to play the football I like to play in England, so I said to myself, 'Why

not?' That's why I'm here - because I want to try," he added.

Guardiola will take his first training session on Monday as he prepares for his City debut against Bayern on July 20 at the Allianz Arena before taking his new squad to Asia for their pre-season tour and he was fully aware of the task ahead of him.

"We have to find a way to win and if we win one game, the next week we will say, 'OK, let's try and do the same things this week' - and if we win again, we'll say, 'let's do the things that won us those two games' and so on," he said.

"I've been told it will be hard to do that in the Premier League but we did it at Barcelona and Bayern Munich and people may say, 'Yes, that's because it was Barcelona and Bayern - it won't be possible to do that in England' and I just say OK, let's try."

Guardiola was earlier presented to about 7,000 City fans at the Etihad Stadium where he conducted a question and answer session and was asked if he would sign Lionel Messi.

The Spaniard replied: "He's not a bad player this guy. Messi has to stay in Barcelona for the rest of his career." —Reuters



PARIS: Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo stretches during a training session in Marcoussis, near Paris, France, yesterday. Portugal will face Wales in a Euro 2016 semi final soccer match in Lyon tomorrow. —AP

ICELAND HUNGRY FOR MORE OF 'BIG STAGE'

PARIS: Gylfi Sigurdsson promised Iceland will not be content to bask in the glory of their Euro 2016 heroics having had a taste of the highs and lows of tournament football.

The smallest nation ever to take part in the European championship with a population of just 330,000 stunned England to reach the last eight. They received a reality check in a 5-2 thrashing by hosts France on Sunday.

But Iceland's cool blue replica shirts had already sold out before the France defeat. They have made their mark.

"Of course this experience was (an) incredible, fantastic three or four weeks for us and I'm sure all the players want to experience this again," said Swansea City playmaker Sigurdsson.

"We've got the World Cup coming up and hopefully we can qualify again."

Goalkeeper Hannes Halldorsson had a night to forget at the Stade de France as a double from Olivier Giroud bookended goals from Paul Pogba, Dimitri Payet and Antoine Griezmann to send France into a semi-final meeting with old foes Germany.

However, Halldorsson hailed Iceland's "fantastic journey" from whipping boys to serious contenders on the European stage over the past decade.

"We can be proud of what we did, even though we wanted more."

"We have had great support from all over the world and it is has been a fantastic journey. Sadly it ended tonight."

SMALL NATION, BIG HOPES

Iceland started the tournament by stunning Cristiano Ronaldo's Portugal with a 1-1 draw.

Ronaldo's comment that they had a "small mentality" because of their dogged defence won only more supporters for Iceland.

They held Hungary by the same score and beat Austria 2-1 to reach the last 16 and create one of the biggest shocks of all time by coming back from a goal down to beat England 2-1.

Halldorsson, who plays for NEC Nijmegen in the Netherlands, believes Iceland now belong among Europe's best.

"Now we have gotten a taste of being at the big stage, we love it and we belong here."

"It is going to be very tough, but we are going to go all in and give it all we have

to qualify (for the World Cup).

"I think we've shown with the consistency we had in the tournament other than tonight that we belong up there with the big boys and we can get results and we'll go for it."

Sigurdsson was the only Premier League player in the 23-man Icelandic squad, but he believes many more of his compatriots deserve a chance to ply their trade in the world's richest league.

"Lots of the players probably want to play in the Premier League, but it is a question of right place at the right time," said Sigurdsson.

"They are good guys, good personalities and good players as well."

The big challenge ahead of Iceland is replacing veteran Swedish coach Lars Lagerback, who will hand over the reigns to co-coach and part-time dentist Heimir Hallgrimsson after the tournament.

"It's been a fantastic journey these last four-and-a-half years. All the support I've got from everywhere I've been in Iceland and around the game has been absolutely fantastic," said Lagerback.

"It's something really, really extra this tournament with all the fans coming here and what we heard from back home and all the interest and positivity."

Lagerback took charge in his seventh major finals having led his native Sweden to five and Nigeria at the 2010 World Cup.

He believes the future for Iceland can be bright even without his expertise.

"Hopefully the FA in Iceland and clubs can take this in and perhaps use the income from this tournament and put it into a project to help develop young players. I think the future is pretty good," said Lagerback.

"If you look upon the whole tournament, as a newcomer to reach the quarter-final it's been absolutely fantastic."

Sigurdsson said Lagerback will go down as a "legend" for what he has done for Icelandic football.

"He is one of the guys that took us to France and to the quarter-finals. He will be a legend in Icelandic football history."

"He helped us get to the finals and achieve some of our dreams, so it is very sad he is leaving and I'm sure we'll be in contact for the rest of our lives." — AFP

BASHFUL BALE HAS RUTHLESS RONALDO IN HIS SIGHTS

LYON: The two most expensive players in football go head-to-head tomorrow when Cristiano Ronaldo leads Portugal against club teammate Gareth Bale and Wales in a Euro 2016 semi-final which could lead one to unprecedented glory.

Bale is junior partner when the two line up for Real Madrid, despite winning two Champions Leagues in three years since arriving in Spain for a world record fee to team up with Ronaldo.

However, his performances and three goals in France in leading Wales to their first semi-final in a major tournament, allied to his starring role at the end of Madrid's season, suggest Bale at 26 is in line to take over from Ronaldo now 31.

The key to Bale's and Wales' success has been built upon a remarkable unity which their star man fosters.

"With our team spirit, it's like being with your mates on holiday," said Bale last week, clearly more at ease with the joviality in the Wales camp than the pressure cooker Madrid dressing room.

"Together stronger" has been the moto of Wales' historic campaign. A unity captured perfectly in the goal that kick started their run after Bale smashed a free-kick into the Slovakia net just 10 minutes into their first match at a major tournament for 58 years.

With much hype and the expectations of a nation resting on his shoulders, Bale wheeled away in celebration and headed straight into a pack of adoring teammates and coaching staff by the Wales bench.

"Balo is just a nice guy, a nice human being, a family guy. He's livelier on the pitch than off it because he doesn't say a lot. He's very much one of the lads. He's quiet, unassuming—that's just his personality," said Wales boss Chris Coleman.

"He has matured a bit more as he has got older, but he has always been the same person really - very quiet and it doesn't float his boat all the attention he gets."

Despite the quiet nature, Coleman insists that Bale is a leader in his own right by setting standards for his teammates to match.

"He could be a little bit more demanding because of his game. But that's why he has got so much respect of the players because he's not like that."

"They automatically want to gravitate that way to where he is. And that's how it should be, you know. It's not bringing him down to where we are, and myself included, because he is a special talent."

love to win a title with the national team. We're on the right road," he said after squeezing past the Poles on penalties.

However, Ronaldo will also have his eyes on the individual prize when facing Bale in Lyon.

With both having contributed to Madrid's 11th European Cup win in May and hot on the heels of Lionel Messi's retirement from international football — whoever emerges victorious from Ronaldo and Bale's personal duel will be favourite to win the Ballon d'Or as the world's best player for 2016.

"Ronaldo is a cannibal. He wants it all. Even in a situation where it seems so

difficult to focus on the personal objective like this, he doesn't lose sight of achieving it," said Madrid sports daily Marca on Sunday.

"He is not just playing for the first (tournament win for Portugal), but also his fourth (Balon d'Or)."

By contrast, Coleman insists a Zurich gala in January will be the furthest thing from Bale's mind in Lyon.

"I don't think that is in Gareth's head. Of course he's a human being. Thoughts will run through his mind, but he'll be thinking about how we perform in the next game and nothing beyond that." — AFP

I'LL NEVER MANAGE ENGLAND, VOWS COLEMAN

DINARD: Wales manager Chris Coleman would "never, ever" even consider taking charge of his team's beleaguered British rivals England, he said ahead of tomorrow's Euro 2016 semi-final against Portugal.

Having guided Wales to a first ever major tournament semi-final by masterminding a stirring 3-1 win over Belgium last Friday, Coleman's star is firmly in the ascendant.

England are seeking a new manager after Roy Hodgson stepped down following their last 16 humiliation by Iceland and while Coleman is not expecting a call from the Football Association, he says he has no interest in the job.

"I have a lot of time and respect for Roy Hodgson," the 46-year-old told reporters at Wales's media centre in Dinard, northwest France.

"I think he's a very good manager. He's lost his job so England now will search again, but it's something that would never, ever enter my thinking, to be honest."

"I'm a Welshman through and through. At international football, it was only Wales, it would only ever be Wales. My next job after Wales, whenever that is, will be somewhere maybe abroad."

"To manage another country? No, I wouldn't. That's not something I would consider."

While Wales are looking forward to the biggest match in their history, England have embarked upon the now familiar round of soul-searching that follows their elimination from every major tournament.

England's Football Association has pledged to carry out a "definitive review" of the tournament to identify where Hodgson went wrong.

Asked for his opinion, Coleman suggested that pre-tournament target-setting may have had a negative effect.

THOUGHTS OF SPEED

"The bigger countries have got to get into the quarter-finals, semi-finals, final. We didn't," he said.

"We had to come and perform for us, for inside our camp. I thought we had a good chance of getting to the quarter final. I never came out and said to the players: 'That is what we can do.'"

"We don't think: 'We've got a game here. We've got to win it to get to this or that stage three games down the line.'"

"For some countries that was the case. It wasn't for us."

He added: "The next game in the (qualifying) campaign was the biggest one and it's been the same in the tournament. The next one is even bigger."

"We don't need to change anything we do. We'll go into it as the underdogs, no problem at all." — AFP



DINARD: Wales Performance Psychologist Ian MitchesII (L), Wales' coach Chris Coleman and Wales' assistant coach Osian Roberts take part in a training session in Dinard, yesterday during the Euro 2016 football tournament. — AFP



SANTIAGO: Chile's team players pose with the Copa America Centenario trophy during a celebration at the National Stadium in Santiago, on Sunday. — AFP

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SAINT-DENIS: France's Paul Pogba, top right, scores on a header his side's second goal during the Euro 2016 quarterfinal soccer match between France and Iceland, at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, France, Sunday. — AP

FRANCE INTO EURO 2016 SEMIS

PARIS: Olivier Giroud scored twice to take man-of-the-match honours as France marched into the Euro 2016 semi-finals but even after a 5-2 hammering, Iceland departed with pride having struck new underdog blows. France now play Germany aiming to settle old scores from past World Cups and Euros. And having home advantage and an attack led by Giroud and Antoine Griezmann that is starting to fire gives the French growing confidence. The semi-finals will start on Wednesday however with Gareth Bale's Wales taking on Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal.

Giroud hit a goal in each half of the comprehensive victory at a rain-drenched Stade de France. He was joined on the scoresheet by Paul Pogba, Dimitri Payet and Griezmann. Atletico Madrid striker Griezmann hit a brilliant chip on the stroke of half-time and now leads the tournament rankings with four goals.

French coach Didier Deschamps may have been worried however by the way Kolbeinn Sigthorsson and Birkir Bjarnason exposed France's defensive frailties with two second-half goals.

Giroud was quick to pay tribute to Iceland, the reve-

lation of the European Championship after their 2-1 victory over England. "We scored five goals, we are very satisfied but Iceland never gave up.

They fought with valour, they were very determined," said the Arsenal striker. "I want to pay tribute to them. They had a wonderful Euro," added Giroud, who was brought off after his second goal to avoid getting a new yellow card that would have led to a suspension.

ICELAND 'BELONG'

"I'm very proud. It's been a fantastic tournament, something special for a small team like us," said Iceland striker Gylfi Sigurdsson. "We've probably overachieved. It is something no-one expected us to do, which is good because it gives kids back home hope that this is possible and hopefully in the future we'll be back in the finals," added the Swansea City star.

"We have probably 10-15 players who are at a really good age and we'll be looking forward to the World Cup qualifiers which aren't too far away." Iceland has only a population of 330,000 but Euro 2016 has put the country "on the map", according to Arnor Ingvi Traustason.

"I've been getting messages from all over the world from people proud of us," he said. Didier Deschamps' men will take on Germany in Marseille on Thursday for a place in the final.

Deschamps hailed his side's performance though he acknowledged the weaknesses highlighted by the two goals. "It's not ideal even if I made some changes but there are so many positives to take from tonight," he said. "Germany are the best team, there is no doubt about that, even if Italy gave them a few scares. But we are there in the final four and we'll give it our all," said Deschamps.

Germany beat France in the 2014 World Cup quarter-finals. But France feel their defeat in the 1982 semi-final when Patrick Battiston suffered critical injuries even more. Iceland, who had never beaten France in 11 attempts, kept faith with the side that shocked England, making European Championship history as the first team to name an unchanged line-up for their first five matches. Sluggish starts have been a hallmark of France matches in the tournament, but the hosts quickly seized control and Iceland goalkeeper Hannes

Halldorsson had to smother Payet's early effort at the second attempt. It took less than a quarter hour for France to make the breakthrough. Giroud raced onto Blaise Matuidi's floated ball over the defence and drilled through Halldorsson's legs.

Pogba headed home a Griezmann corner for his first goal of the tournament and in a powerful end to the half, Griezmann teed up Payet whose low drive whistled into the far corner.

Griezmann tucked away France's fourth on the stroke of the interval, running onto Giroud's pass and lifting the ball over Halldorsson. Sigthorsson, who netted Iceland's winner against England, scored for the second game running after poking in Sigurdsson's cross on 56 minutes. But France replied with Giroud beating Halldorsson to a Payet free-kick immediately before the Arsenal striker was withdrawn. Iceland were rewarded for their perseverance though as they grabbed a second goal when Bjarnason headed in Ari Skulason's cross on 84 minutes. "Now we have gotten a taste of being at the big stage, we love it and we belong here," said Halldorsson.— AFP

MARIN CILIC INTO Q-FINALS AS INJURED NISHIKORI QUILTS

LONDON: Marin Cilic reached the Wimbledon quarter-finals for the third year running after Kei Nishikori quit with a rib injury midway through their fourth-round match yesterday.

Nishikori was trailing 6-1 5-1 when he decided to follow the advice of his coach Michael Chang, who could be heard saying "Don't push it, it's not worth it." The Japanese fifth seed, who swallowed a pill given by the trainer at the previous change of ends, shook his head at the umpire to indicate he could no longer continue before going up to Cilic to shake hands.

While the Croatian ninth seed looked forward to a quarter-final with seven-times champion Roger Federer, a dejected Nishikori was left to reflect on how injury scuppered his Wimbledon dreams for the second year in a row. "It was too much pain I could not really compete today. Every point I played it got worse. I did not want to but I had to retire," Nishikori, who withdrew from last year's tournament with a calf strain, told reporters.

Cilic's serving was on fire during the first set as he blasted down 12 aces, including four in the first game, and dropped only two points on serve.

He won 26 out of 33 points contested as Nishikori surrendered the set in only 16 minutes. The 2014 US Open champion, who beat his Japanese rival in Flushing Meadows to win his only grand slam title, could not keep up the same intensity in the second set as Nishikori broke back to level at 1-1.

But from then on Nishikori failed to win a game and, after dropping serve for the third time in the set, with a double fault, he could not hide his despair.

While Chang, the 1989 French Open champion, indicated with his hands to 'cut it', Nishikori covered his eyes before burying his head under a towel as he slumped into his chair. When the trainer came on court and handed a pill to Nishikori, it was clear that Asia's number one player was struggling and one game later it was all over as muted applause greeted Cilic's passage into the last eight. "When he started to hit some serves, I noticed that he's not hitting them at all," Cilic said after recording only his fourth win in 12 meetings with Nishikori.

"Then in the first couple of games I was trying to see where he's not comfortable at all to try to play that obviously. It was definitely a tough situation for him." — Reuters



LONDON: Kei Nishikori of Japan goes off court for medical attention during his men's singles match against Marin Cilic of Croatia on day eight of the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, yesterday. — AP



The Mercedes-Benz
E-Class design

CLARION CALL FOR NIGERIAN FARMERS TO BATTLE FOR LAND



SYDNEY: A journalist prepares for a live cross as boards at the Australian Securities Exchange show losses on the stock market in Sydney yesterday. — AFP

UK EYES BUSINESS TAX CUT TO CUSHION BREXIT HIT
BRITISH CONSTRUCTION BATTERED IN JUNE BY BREXIT FEARS

LONDON: British Finance minister George Osborne said yesterday he would seek to slash corporation tax over fears of a corporate exodus following the country’s shock decision to leave the European Union. Chancellor of the Exchequer Osborne could extend planned cuts to Britain’s levy on company profits to under 15 percent, the Treasury said yesterday, confirming a weekend report in the Financial Times newspaper.

Last month’s shocking Brexit vote triggered political turmoil and warnings that the country could be plunged into recession. Prior to the vote, tax rates on corporate profits were already set to be cut from 20 percent to 19 next year and to 17 percent in 2020. But the new target, which has no timetable, would give Britain the lowest rates of any major economy, and put it closer to the 12.5 percent rate in EU member Ireland.

“We must focus on the horizon and the journey ahead and make the most of the hand we’ve been dealt,” Osborne told the newspaper. Scott Corfe, an analyst at the Centre for Economics and Business Research, said the cut would be a sensible move. “With signs that the economy is set to slow drastically, there is a strong case for fiscal stimulus and measures which assure companies that the UK is an attractive place to do business,” he told AFP. “While a cut in corporation tax would cost the government money initially, over the medium-to-long term it would be a revenue raiser given the increase in economic activity that it would stimulate.”

Osborne has been steadily cutting corporation tax since 2010, when the rate stood at 28

percent. His plan to bring it down to below 15 percent received an angry retort from John McDonnell, finance spokesman for the main opposition Labour Party. “Instead of turning the whole country into a giant tax haven and playground for the ultra-rich, the chancellor needs to get a grip on the real problems,” he said.

Osborne, along with outgoing Prime Minister David Cameron, had spearheaded the “Remain” camp which sensationally lost the June 23 referendum on Britain’s membership European Union. While Osborne wants to take an axe to corporation tax, the chancellor last week said taxes in general would have to rise. He also scrapped the Conservative government’s promise for a budget surplus by 2020, sparking forecasts of more austerity pain. Analysts were quick to point out that even without Brexit, Osborne was unlikely to have met the ambitious target.

His own future as finance minister is also far from certain amid the race to find a new Tory leader and prime minister. Interior minister and Conservative leadership frontrunner Theresa May on Sunday said she would honor the result of the referendum and has ruled out holding a general election before 2020. She is backed by Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, who in The Telegraph newspaper yesterday wrote that going forward Britain’s central trade-off with the EU would be “access to the single market versus freedom of movement of people”. He added: “Those who believe there is no need for such a trade-off have misunderstood something fundamental about the politics of the European Union.”

Construction stalls

Britain’s construction industry suffered its worst contraction in seven years in June as concern grew about a referendum on European Union membership, according to a survey that was mostly conducted before Britain voted on June 23 to quit the EU. Financial data company Markit said yesterday its construction Purchasing Managers’ Index plunged to 46.0 in June from 51.2 in May, its lowest level since June 2009, in what could be a sign of worse to come. It was the



Britain’s Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne

first time since April 2013 the index had fallen below the 50 level that separates contraction from expansion, and sterling briefly turned negative on the day after the result.

“This is an absolutely dire survey that fuels serious concern over the construction sector ... (and) can only intensify concern as to just how much the construction sector will be hampered by the Brexit vote,” Howard Archer, chief UK economist at IHS Global Insight said.

Some investors are already pulling out of com-

mercial property deals in London, though the picture is mixed as the sharp fall in sterling makes the city cheaper for foreigners. But the construction industry is likely to face cost pressures from Brexit, as many materials are imported from elsewhere in the EU. Many construction workers also come from Europe and may find Britain a harder place to work in future. “The extent and speed of the downturn in the face of political and economic uncertainty is a clear warning flag for the wider post-Brexit economic outlook,” said Tim Moore, a senior economist at Markit. “The latest figures raise the likelihood that the Bank of England will inject additional stimulus this summer in an attempt to dampen the short-term impact of Brexit uncertainty on the real economy.”

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney said last week that he thought the central bank would have to provide more stimulus for the economy over the summer as it reels from the shock of the “Leave” vote. House-building activity was hardest hit in June, closely followed by commercial work. Civil engineering was stable.

Incoming work fell at its fastest rate since late 2012. Markit said 80 percent of the survey responses were received before June 24, when it was announced that British voters had decided to leave the EU. Construction makes up 6 percent of Britain’s economy, though it accounts for a lot of volatility in official gross domestic product data. A PMI survey for Britain’s manufacturing in June, published on Friday, showed factory output rose last month, while the closely watched services PMI due today is forecast to show a slowdown. — Agencies

SHELL SEEKS \$2BN FROM ARAMCO IN JV BREAKUP

LONDON/HOUSTON: Royal Dutch Shell has asked Saudi Aramco for up to \$2 billion as part of the breakup of their giant Motiva Enterprises refining joint venture in the United States, where the latest stumbling point in a partnership fraught with tension.

The payment would be compensation for the Saudi company retaining a larger share of the nearly two decade-old JV. Its split was announced in March and is expected to be completed in October but disagreements over the payment could postpone the final date, sources close to the talks told Reuters.

Under the agreement announced in March, Aramco will take control of Motiva’s largest US refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, and retain 26 distribution terminals. That underscored Aramco’s strategy to expand its global refining footprint in order to secure markets for its crude oil and could also be part of its ambitious public offering plan. Shell will become the sole owner of Motiva’s Louisiana refineries in Convent and Norco, where it also operates a chemicals plant, as well as Shell-branded gasoline stations in Florida, Louisiana and the northeastern United States.

Shell is focusing on developing its global chemicals business but also plans to sell \$30 billion of its assets by 2018 to finance its \$54 billion acquisition of BG Group in February, which will include several refining assets. The Anglo-Dutch company is seeking 1 billion to \$ 2 billion from

Aramco to compensate for the Saudi company keeping a bigger stake in the JV, two sources close to the talks said. Aramco nevertheless believes the fee should be significantly lower, they added. A Shell spokesman declined to comment. An Aramco spokesperson said the company does not comment on speculation. Shell has indicated in the past it will receive a cash payment from Aramco as part of the deal, but the size of the cash consideration has not been disclosed before.

ACRIMONY

The payment is primarily due to Aramco retaining a larger refining capacity than Shell—the Port Arthur plant can process 603,000 barrels per day (bpd) while the two Louisiana plants jointly have a combined 473,000 bpd capacity. The Texas refinery is also considered more advanced after extensive upgrading in recent years. Additional infrastructure such as storage tanks and pipelines will also be included in the payment.

Refineries are generally valued according to the quality of the units as well as the outlook for its profit margins. “It is a little bit of an awkward time for Shell to be holding out their hand for a lot of money because refining margins have come off recently,” said Neil Earnest, President of Dallas-based consultancy Muse Stancil.

“The margin climate has shifted away from Shell towards Aramco in terms of any cash con-

sideration that needs to be exchanged. Aramco will be saying that the cash consideration today should be lower because the short and medium term outlook for US refining margins is not as robust as it was,” Aramco has rapidly expanded its corporate headquarters in Houston and has hired several new traders in recent months, according to several sources. Motiva’s refined product trading business was separated from Shell’s trading business in Houston in June 2015 after disagreements between the sides, and it has hired several new traders in recent months, trading sources said.

The Motiva JV was set up in 1998. Relations between the partners started to sour during a huge upgrade of the Shell-operated Port Arthur refinery, which suffered several setbacks and cost overruns which doubled the initial plan of \$5 billion. In 2012, the main refining unit at the heart of the expansion was damaged by a release of caustic chemicals, keeping the unit out of production for eight months and leading to acrimony between the partners as costs ballooned.

“The Motiva Port Arthur upgrade cost overruns were received very badly by Saudi Aramco and put the relation under a lot of stress,” said Earnest. Shell and Aramco continue to cooperate in two major joint ventures: the 50:50 Saudi Aramco Shell Refinery Co (SASREF) in Jubail, Saudi Arabia, and the Showa refining venture in Japan. — Reuters

EGYPT SURGES, GULF RISES AHEAD OF EID

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Cairo’s main stock index rose 2.9 percent yesterday on expectations of a further currency devaluation this fiscal year, while Gulf stock markets closed on a strong footing before the Eid Al-Fitr holidays. On Sunday, Tarek Amer, Egypt’s central bank governor, was quoted in local papers saying the currency should be a market based one where demand and supply will set the price.

Economists now believe it is inevitable there will be another currency devaluation in the current fiscal year. This boosted the stock market, where most of the shares that traded posted gains and local institutional investors were net buyers, bourse data showed.

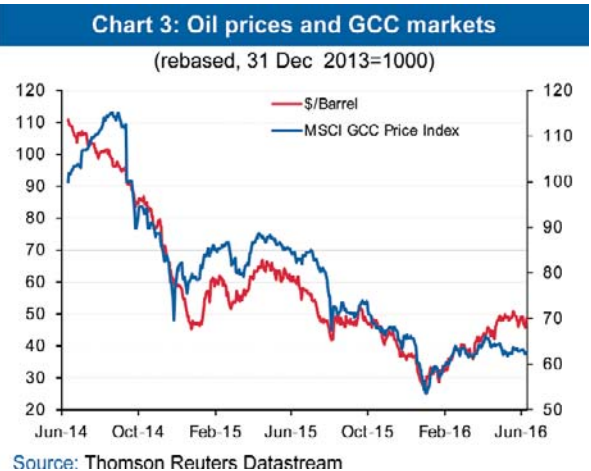
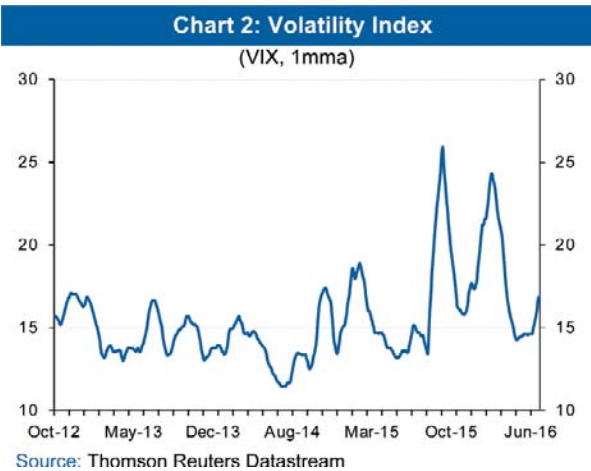
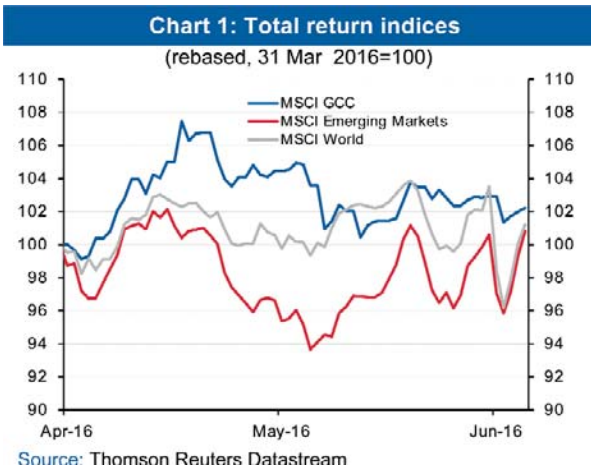
Companies that are set to benefit from a currency devaluation are tourist-related, export-oriented and real-estate focused. Egyptian Resorts jumped 7.1 percent and developer Talaat Mostafa Group rose 9.1 percent.

In the Gulf, Abu Dhabi’s index added 0.6 percent, its highest close in 9-1/2 weeks. The index had risen on Sunday after the boards of First Gulf Bank and National Bank of Abu Dhabi approved a proposed merger, aiming to complete it

in the first quarter of 2017. NBAD was up 2.0 percent, extending a 4.0 percent gain from the previous session. FGB was flat after closing 2.0 percent higher on Sunday. Abu Dhabi National Energy added 2.0 percent. Shares in the energy company, which is majority owned by the government, have gained 6.0 percent since Abu Dhabi said it would merge its two sovereign wealth funds Mubadala Development and International Petroleum Investment Co.

Dubai’s index gained 1.0 percent, with momentum building up in the final hour of trade as investors took positions in mid-sized shares ahead of Eid Al-Fitr holiday. Dubai Parks and Resorts added 0.6 percent. Builder Arabtec jumped 2.9 percent. Qatar’s Barwa Real Estate kicked off the Gulf’s second quarter results season and shares in the developer gained 1.8 percent after it reported a near-trebling of second-quarter net profit.

Doha’s main index rose 0.6 percent. Saudi Arabia’s stock market was closed for Eid Al-Fitr holiday and stock markets in the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain will be closed as of July 5 and will resume trade on July 9. — Reuters



GCC EQUITIES RECOVER AS OIL PRICES REBOUND

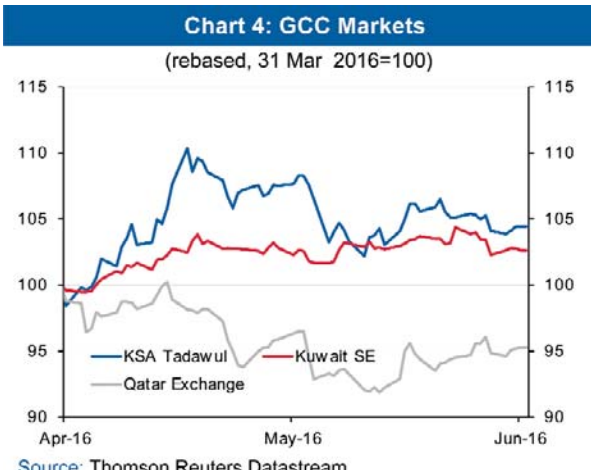
KUWAIT: Following a weak start to the year, regional markets recovered some ground in 2Q16 as oil prices rebounded. Most equity markets had registered some gains in the second quarter of the year before shedding some of it in the aftermath of the Brexit referendum. In their first post-vote trading session, all GCC equity markets closed in the red but have since weathered the big event better than their international counterparts. The MSCI GCC total return index closed the quarter up 2 percent, outperforming most world markets. Total GCC market capitalization stood at \$877 billion at the end of the quarter, having gained \$12 billion during 2Q16.

Internationally, most equity markets continued their recovery well into 2Q16, but the British vote to leave the EU took them by surprise. Encouraging data from major economies (particularly the US) helped to end the correction that had hit markets in the second half of 2015 and which continued well into January 2016. Markets were also supported by further monetary easing from central banks. The US Fed, which had been signaling its intention to raise its benchmark federal funds rate four times (25 bps each) in 2016, is now looking to hike rates twice if not once. Meanwhile, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Bank of Japan (BOJ) went ahead with more quantitative easing and rates cuts (in some cases to negative). But equity markets tumbled in the few sessions that followed the referen-

NBK ECONOMIC UPDATE

dum as they were obviously positioned “wrong” in regards to the Brexit vote. The MSCI World total return index shed most of the gains it made on the quarter up to the referendum date, closed the quarter up a mere 1 percent. Volatility, which had come off in the past few months, was exacerbated by Brexit.

Regionally, markets continued to recover with oil prices well into 2Q16. Oil prices bottomed out towards the end of January and are now hovering around the \$50/barrel level, up 75 percent from their low in January. GCC markets kept their close tie to oil prices for well over a year now. Despite the recent rise in oil prices, they remain relatively low and continue to raise concerns about fiscal sustainability and growth in regional economies. A prolonged period of low oil prices could force governments to reduce capital spending and benefits, and put pressure on liquidity.



Decoupling

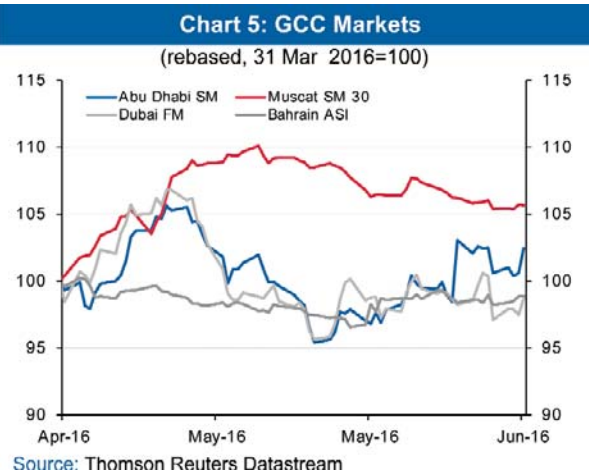
GCC equities may be decoupling from oil prices as the latter appear to stabilize, and as other market specific factors come into play. The MSCI GCC total return index closed the quarter up 2 percent but performance varied notably across markets. Oman outperformed with its price index up 6 percent followed by Saudi Arabia (KSA) at 4 percent. The Saudi market had suffered more losses than most markets when oil prices tumbled earlier in the year and a stronger rebound was expected; nonetheless, KSA continues to underperform the region year to date (-6 percent vs. +2 percent). Sentiment in Saudi Arabia has improved since authorities unveiled their much anticipated “Vision 2030” plan, which aims to diversify the economy away from oil and improve the kingdom’s fiscal standing. The announcement of new Qualified Foreign Investors (QFIs) regulations and a potential partial listing of Aramco also gave a boost to the Saudi market. Meanwhile, the Qatari market was the worst performer regionally, closing the quarter down 5 percent. Banking, the markets biggest sector, is being pressured by declining liquidity. Some banks are also dealing with capitalization issues. Meanwhile, lack of clarity regarding government spending plans, including potential cuts, is not helping sentiment. Dubai also underperformed and was off 1 percent on the quarter but remains one of the better markets ytd. Dubai Financial Market (DFM) took the biggest hit on its first trading session post-Brexit. Its rela-

tively large foreign investor base makes it more susceptible to international markets volatility.

Low liquidity

Market liquidity continues to be low. The daily turnover in 2Q16 averaged \$1.6 billion, down 10 percent from 1Q16 average. With banks and sovereigns now turning to fixed-income markets to issue Basel III-compliant perpetual and other bonds, and sovereigns looking to tap capital markets to help finance deficits, some liquidity is bound to be directed away from equities. Also, with GCC rates now starting to rise in tandem with US rates, fixed-income assets are becoming more attractive. Liquidity also tends to be lower in the summer and during Ramadan and Eid period.

Volatility in equity markets is likely to remain high. Brexit and the political changes it induces have introduced substantial uncertainty into markets and the dust is yet to settle. The Fed’s upcoming meetings and the likelihood and timing of further rate hikes will keep markets excited. GCC markets will continue to follow up on governments’ fiscal and reform plans for the coming years in order to gauge the implications for non-oil growth and business in GCC economies. In the near term, focus will be on the upcoming 2Q16 corporate earnings. Meanwhile, oil prices will remain a primary factor for regional markets.



GOLD PUSHES BACK TOWARDS 2-YEAR HIGH

LONDON: Gold rose yesterday as political turmoil following Britain’s vote to leave the European Union supported prices after a burst of short-covering activity in China had pushed them back towards last week’s two-year high. The precious metal reached a peak of \$1,357.60 an ounce overnight, less than \$1 below last month’s high, before easing back below \$1,350 an ounce.

Silver also benefited from a surge of buying in China which at one point took it up more than 7 percent, breaking above \$21 an ounce for the first time in two years. The metal has also benefited from strong technical signals. Spot gold was up 0.7 percent at \$1,351.35 an ounce at 1130 GMT, while US gold futures for August delivery were up \$15.40 an ounce at \$1,354.40. Silver was up 2.7 percent at \$20.29 an ounce. “Silver always moves faster than any other,” ABN Amro analyst Georgette Boele said. “It’s more to do with liquidity. There is momentum in the market, gold is already up a lot, and silver is still relatively cheap. It is also benefiting from haven demand.”

“You have a combination on the one hand of safe-haven demand because of the Brexit vote, and at the same time the pricing out of the Fed rate hike expectations, which is positive

for precious metals.” A post-Brexit recovery across European markets stalled yesterday with major share indexes mixed.

Holdings in the world’s largest gold-backed exchange-traded fund, SPDR Gold Shares, rose 3.9 tonnes to 953.91 tonnes on Friday, the highest since July 2013. In the first half its holdings increased by 308 tonnes, its biggest half-yearly increase in seven years. The US markets are closed yesterday for the Independence Day holiday. The gold/silver ratio, which measures the number of silver ounces needed to buy an ounce of gold, fell to a two-year low on Monday, as silver extended gains against gold.

“There is a little bit of a two-way battle going on in silver with a number of players going short in China,” said an analyst with an international investment bank. The Shanghai Exchange Futures went limit up as onshore players have aggressively been covering their short positions in the last few days, especially on Monday, the analyst said. Hedge funds and money managers raised their bullish positions in COMEX gold and silver contracts to record highs in the week to June 28.

Platinum was up 0.3 percent at \$1,062.05 an ounce, while palladium was up 0.2 percent at \$605.47 an ounce.—Reuters

OIL FIRMS AS SAUDI SEES BALANCING MARKET

LONDON: Oil prices rose yesterday after Saudi Energy Minister Khaled Al-Faleh said that the market was heading towards balance, although signs of slowing demand in Asia weighed. Brent crude futures were trading at \$50.58 per barrel at 1152 GMT, up 23 cents from their last settlement. US crude futures were up 14 cents at \$49.13 per barrel. US markets are closed yesterday for the US Independence Day holiday.

The energy minister of Saudi Arabia, the world’s top crude exporter, and the secretary general of producer club OPEC agreed that global oil markets were heading towards balance, and that prices reflected this. However, analysts at Morgan Stanley said there were also signs that prices could fall again soon, pointing at stalling gasoline

News

US dollar stabilizes against Kuwaiti dinar

KUWAIT: The US dollar yesterday stabilized against the Kuwaiti dinar trading at KD 0.301, as well as the euro which steadied at KD 0.336, compared to Sunday’s trades, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said Sunday. It added that the Sterling Pound also stabilized at KD 0.400 as well as the Swiss Franc at KD 0.309. The Japanese yen was unchanged at KD 0.002.

OPEC basket price at \$45.42 pb

VIENNA: The OPEC daily basket price stood at \$45.42 a barrel Friday, compared with \$46.27 the previous day, the OPEC said yesterday. The monthly average of the OPEC basket price for May hit \$43.21pb, compared with \$37.86 pb in April, it added. The new OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Girassol (Angola), Oriente (Ecuador), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basra Light (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Qatar Marine (Qatar), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

Egypt cuts arrears owed to foreign oil firms to \$3.4bn

CAIRO: Egypt has reduced the arrears it owes foreign oil companies to \$3.4 billion in 2015/16 from \$3.5 billion a year earlier, Petroleum Minister Tarek El Molla told Reuters yesterday. El Molla also said that Egypt received crude oil and natural gas from the foreign partners’ share during 2015/16 worth \$5.4 billion. Egypt paid them \$5.5 billion.

Commercial Bank of Qatar appoints Abraham as CEO

DUBAI: Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ) has appointed Joseph Abraham as chief executive, the Gulf Arab state’s third-largest bank by assets said in a statement yesterday. Abraham succeeds Abdulla Saleh Al-Raisi, who has been promoted to adviser to the board of directors. Before joining CBQ, Abraham was chief executive of Australia and New Zealand Banking Group’s Indonesia business since 2008, the statement added.

Egypt’s EGPC to buy up to 165,000 tons of gasoil

LONDON: Egypt’s EGPC issued a tender to buy up to 165,000 tons of 0.1 percent sulfur gasoil in five cargoes during August, according to the tender documents. It requested cargoes of 30,000-33,000 tonnes for delivery into Alexandria or El Dekheila, with the delivery window for the first cargo set for August 10-12. The deadline for submitting offers is July 14 at 1100 GMT, and offers will remain valid until July 21 at 2200 GMT.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.952	
Indian Rupees	4.498	
Pakistani Rupees	2.889	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.079	
Nepali Rupees	2.819	
Singapore Dollar	226.630	
Hongkong Dollar	39.001	
Bangladesh Taka	3.857	
Philippine Peso	6.472	
Thai Baht	8.650	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.723	
Qatari Riyal	83.520	
ani Riyal	786.253	
Bahraini Dinar	803.910	
UAE Dirham	82.416	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.450	
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 Pound	2.157	
Morocco Dirham	31.516	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	302.550	
Euro	338.550	

Sterling Pound	404.810
Canadian dollar	236.370
Turkish lira	105.270
Swiss Franc	314.170
Australian Dollar	226.380
US Dollar Buying	301.350
GOLD	
20 Gram	272.030
10 Gram	138.930
5 Gram	70.310
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	2.075
Indian Rupees	4.504
Pakistani Rupees	2.889
Bangladesh Taka	3.856
Philippines Peso	6.462
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

WANT TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS?



By Haider Al-Mosawi

Let's face it, starting your own business is both intimidating and challenging. There are lots of moving parts to any business: You have to understand your customers, their problems, and their needs.

You have to understand the business financial equation of keeping costs low and increasing revenue. You need to work on branding, marketing, and selling. Need help getting your work done? Where do you find talented men and women to join your team? And how do you ensure they perform at their best? You may soon discover that leading a team is a lot more challenging than juggling tasks on your own.

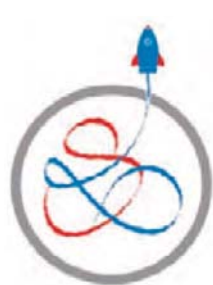
Need capital to get started? Well, where do you find investors and how do you approach them? With traditional businesses, you can look at companies doing similar things and conduct a feasibility study on the potential of your business idea. But with a startup, it's likely that no other company is doing what you're doing, so there's no real benchmark to compare yourself against and no data to do a study on. Add to that the internal conflicts and doubts

you'll inevitably face as an entrepreneur, which may be the biggest hurdles you'll come across. And we didn't even get started on all the bureaucratic paperwork you need to get sorted to be a registered business, which can leave you scratching your head on good days and pulling your hair out on bad ones.

Yes, starting a business can be challenging, but the rewards are often worth the effort and sacrifices. You will regret the dreams you didn't pursue more than the mistakes that you made, so it's worth overcoming the initial sense of intimidation and getting started, because it's not going to get any easier.

The Founder Institute Program... Coming To Kuwait

If you feel like you need a helping hand guiding you through the entire process of starting, establishing, and growing your business, then perhaps the Founder Institute Program is what you're looking for. The Founder Institute is a Silicon Valley-based company seeking to promote entrepreneurship throughout the globe. It does this by offering a 14-week program (with only 1 evening session a week, plus simple



SIRDAB LAB
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assignments) that covers the full spectrum of everything you need to cover to establish your own company, and it does so through local mentors who understand the unique struggles entrepreneurs will face in the cities they want to grow from. The Founder Institute has launched in over 100 cities, with some impressive stats to boast about: 86% of Founder Institute participants register their businesses, 70 percent ahead of their plan, and 45 percent get funded.

The Founder Institute has helped 1,500 companies get established, with several notable graduates, including Udemy, the online educational giant.

The Benefits of Joining the FI Program

Many startups begin with a burst of

energy and enthusiasm, only to fizzle out a few short months later. That's because maintaining momentum is crucial to the success of any startup. Without momentum you may have a blueprint, but no building (or worse: a building that's abandoned half way through construction. Think of the wasted time, effort, and resources).

A comprehensive program like the Founder Institute's program helps increase the likelihood of seeing your business through from A to Z, without dropping out when you face a hurdle.

The Program is also designed so that it's part-time, allowing you to pursue your dream of starting your own business without taking a huge risk. As part of the application process you will also take an entrepreneurship test to deter-

mine whether starting your own business is the right match for you, so you can feel confident in your decision to continue with the registration or not.

Being part of a global network of entrepreneurs will help you build both local and international connections, which can greatly enhance your chances for business success.

Upcoming Founder Institute Events

To learn more about the Founder Institute program, and to get a feel of what the training sessions will be like, you can attend any of the upcoming Founder Institute events (at Sirdab Lab, Dasman Complex):

July 19: Startup Funding 101: How To Raise Capital For Your Idea (Register at: <http://fi.co/e/93621>)

July 26: Making The Leap From Employee To Entrepreneur (Register at: <http://fi.co/e/93611>)

You can directly apply to the upcoming program (scheduled to launch in late September/early October) on: fi.co/join

"Haider Al-Mosawi is a cofounder of startup hub Sirdab Lab, and user experience design firm Catalyze Co. Want help with your startup? Email him at: haider@sirdab-lab.com



LSE DEFENDS DEUTSCHE BOERSE DEAL AFTER BREXIT

SHAREHOLDERS ASKED TO BACK \$27BN MERGER

LONDON: The London Stock Exchange Group asked its shareholders to back a \$27 billion merger with Deutsche Boerse yesterday, dismissing concerns it was "shackling itself to a corpse" after Britain voted to leave the European Union.

LSEG Chairman Donald Brydon told an extraordinary meeting of shareholders, called to vote on the all-share merger to create one of the world's biggest bourses, that he was confident of "satisfactory" regulatory approval for the deal from Brussels. "There is no reason to think otherwise today," Brydon said. Some 50 shareholders gathered for the subdued, short meeting. It was free of demonstrations, with only two questions asked. Dinesh Jain, an individual shareholder, asked why, given that Britain was leaving the EU, "do we want to shackle ourselves to a corpse?"

The exchange should abandon the merger as it seemed "unlikely" that Germany would now

approve it given that Britain would be outside the EU, Jain said.

LSEG should instead be looking to do deals with "lively" Asian or Latin American exchanges, Jain said. He also asked whether any American or other exchange had made a counterbid, and about any threat to LSEG's business from French President Francois Hollande's desire to repatriate euro-denominated clearing to the eurozone.

Brydon said Hollande's comments were a measure of how valuable LSEG's operations were. "You are quite right, there are some people already seeking to pick over the bones of the UK very, very rapidly indeed. Everyone would be wise to take things a step at a time in this area," Brydon said.

LSEG's LCH.Clearnet is the main clearing house in Europe for euro denominated swaps. Brydon denied that LSEG had received any approaches

from any company other than Deutsche Boerse.

Britain would remain in the EU for at least another two years, during which there was ample time to work out the "optimal structure" for the deal, Brydon said. Last week German markets regulator BaFin said it was hard to see how the head office of the merged group could still be in London given that Britain was leaving the EU. LSEG Chief Executive Xavier Rolet said the group was "extremely well positioned" globally no matter what the outcome of British negotiations with the EU on new trading terms.

The deal needs at least 75 percent in value of shares voted to pass. It is the third attempt by the LSE to merge with Deutsche Boerse in some 16 years. The result of the vote will be announced later yesterday. Deutsche Boerse is also asking its shareholders to back the deal in a postal vote that closes on July 12. — Reuters



MIAMI: Construction workers work on a building in Miami Beach, Florida. The Commerce Department reported on Friday on US construction spending in June. — AP

ITALIAN BANK SLUMPS ON BAD LOAN WARNING

MILAN: Italy's number-three bank, Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena, took a hammering on the stock market yesterday as the European Central Bank told it to slash its large bad-debt burden.

Investors, many of them shaken by Britain's vote to leave the European Union, are fretting over the fragile balance sheets of debt-laden Italian banks. Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena, or BMPS, is among the banks at the forefront of those concerns with gross bad loans amounting to 46.9 billion euros (\$52 billion). BMPS shares plummeted by more than 10 percent at one point on the Milan stock exchange. In early afternoon trade they were down 8.9 percent at 0.3483 euros.

Other Italian banks were also down heavily, with top bank Unicredit sliding more than three percent and several others down by a similar margin. In a draft letter,

the Frankfurt-based ECB ordered BMPS to lower its gross bad loans by more than 13 billion euros to a maximum 32.6 billion euros in 2018, the Italian bank said in a statement to the stock exchange.

The central bank also ordered BMPS to present by October 3 its plans to cut the ratio of doubtful loans to 20 percent of the total loan portfolio in 2018. BMPS said the ECB requirements were in line with plans that the Italian bank had already approved.

Those plans, which focused on a faster process of ridding itself of bad loans, had been submitted at the time for the ECB to assess, the bank said. "The bank has immediately initiated discussions with the European Central Bank in order to understand all the indications included in this 'draft' letter, and to present its reasoning before the final decision expected by the end of July 2016," BMPS said. — AFP

SRI LANKA'S NEW CB CHIEF VOWS TO STAY INDEPENDENT

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's new central bank chief pledged yesterday to maintain the monetary authority's independence in decision making and to avoid policies that lead to boom and bust cycles.

Indrajith Coomaraswamy, a former central banker, became the 14th governor of the central bank when he took office yesterday for a six-year term. President Maithripala Sirisena appointed the veteran economist to help quell uncertainty after the previous governor declined to seek reappointment. Successive Sri Lankan leaders have appointed central bank heads of their choice outside the monetary authority or civil service since 2004. The political appointments have sometimes been criticised as being biased towards governments in power.

"I have spoken to our leaders too about this that the central bank does its work independently and in a technical way and discreetly advises the government about what we think is the best way forward ... which the central bank has responsibility," he told the staff in his inaugural speech.

He also said the central bank needs to get away from a cycle of stop-go policies of creating artificial periods of boom through misaligned policies. The 66-year-old Coomaraswamy was a former director of economic affairs at the Commonwealth Secretariat. He faces stiff challenges, including stabilising a faltering rupee, averting a balance of payments and debt crisis and boosting a sluggish economy.

Many civil society organizations and political parties, including the opposition, have welcomed Coomaraswamy's appointment. Arjuna Mahendran, the former central bank chief who took up his post in January 2015, stepped down on Thursday amid a corruption investigation that embroiled his son-in-law in a bond scam. Mahendran has denied any wrongdoing, but the ongoing investigations have perturbed financial markets.

Volatility in the rupee currency seen last week calmed down after Coomaraswamy's appointment as markets expect some key policy changes from the new governor, dealers said. — Reuters

PETROBRAS' INDIAN PARTNERS FIGHT DELAY IN BRAZIL PROJECT

RIO DE JANEIRO/NEW DELHI: Petrobras has warned its Indian partners in a huge offshore project to not expect oil from the site until 2022, according to sources, a fresh sign of how low oil prices and the state-owned company's corruption scandal and mountain of debt are dragging on Brazil's energy industry. The previously unreported, four-year delay in the "super-giant" discovery off the northeastern coast of the Brazilian state of Sergipe is forcing India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp and IBV Brasil Petroleo Ltd to seek ways to speed up the Petrobras-led project which has cost them \$2.1 billion with no return in sight.

The delay and pressure from the Indian partners is just one of many challenges for new Petrobras Chief Executive Pedro Parente, named by Brazil's interim-President Michel Temer in late May amid an ongoing financial crisis. In the face of a massive bribery and kickback scandal and Petrobras' \$126 billion of debt, Parente has pledged to run the company in a more market-friendly way but has declined to comment on individual projects. He has also promised a revamped investment plan by the end of October - though it is unclear whether it will address the Sergipe offshore standoff.

In April, Petrobras told IBV, a 50-50 joint venture between state-owned Bharat Petroleum Corp and privately held Videocon Industries Inc, that there will be no oil output from Sergipe "until at least 2022," an IBV executive told Reuters. A year ago, Petrobras promised first oil by 2018.

Hoping to speed up development, IBV told Reuters it has offered to arrange up to \$10 billion in loans from Indian and other international development banks to finance the Sergipe development - Brazil's biggest oil prospect outside the prolific sub-salt region near Rio de Janeiro where Brazil is pinning hopes of energy independence.

"It's a common and simple loan structure, if Petrobras is willing to provide future output as collateral, it won't have to pay a penny until oil starts flowing, something we could can probably do by 2020," the IBV executive said. "But we get the feeling that Petrobras has yet to accept its new, more restricted circumstances," the executive added.

Petrobras told Reuters it has yet to receive a formal proposal from its Indian partners to finance the project. Asked about the delays, Petrobras said in a statement it has invested about \$3.5 billion on

exploration in the Sergipe blocks it owns with ONGC and IBV. It expects to complete a development plan for the areas by 2020 but has no date for the first production of oil.

All development decisions have been made in conjunction with its partners, Petrobras said, and delays have been the result of "considerable" deep-water technical challenges, efforts to reduce costs and a lack of infrastructure to transport the area's natural gas. After investing \$2.1 billion in the offshore finds since 2007, the Indian partners are getting impatient. "We can't put off a return forever," the IBV executive, whose company has spent \$1.6 billion in Sergipe, told Reuters. "We've been investing for nearly a decade. They now say we'll have to wait at least four years more. In our experience with Petrobras, it will probably be longer."

An ONGC executive, who also declined to be named, said the partners hope the new Parente regime will speed up development plans "so that we can monetize and unlock the potential at the earliest." The company did recently relinquish its stake in one of two proposed production areas in the Sergipe

block that it owns a quarter of to partner Petrobras.

SHARED BLAME FOR DELAYS

In nine years, ONGC has invested \$500 million exploring with Petrobras off the coast of Sergipe. It has spent another \$2 billion elsewhere in Brazil and produces about 12,000 barrels a day in the country, a small amount considering the outlay so far. The expected prize, though, is Sergipe. The BM-SEAL-11 block, 40 percent controlled by IBV, holds more than 3 billion barrels of oil and equivalent natural gas, enough to supply all the world's petroleum needs for more than a month. There are no public estimates for the two adjacent blocks, one fully owned by Petrobras and the other owned 25 percent by ONGC, but people involved with them say the volumes of oil and gas are very large.

The Sergipe project's problems have also been compounded by IBV and ONGC's own failures. Two sources involved with the Indians in Sergipe exploration said IBV and ONGC often missed deadlines to pay their share of costs, only paying after Petrobras threatened legal action. —Reuters



TOKYO: A woman stands in front of an electronic stock board of a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. — AP

EUROPEAN, UK SHARES SNAP WINNING STREAK

LONDON: The post-Brexit recovery across European markets stalled yesterday with major share indexes mixed and safe-haven demand for precious metals helping the price of silver surge to a near-two year high. Light trading volumes because of the July 4 public holiday in the United States is likely to keep markets choppy through the day. Europe's Stoxx 600 fell 0.4 percent and London's FTSE 100 fell 0.2 percent with weaker financials offsetting gains from shares in mining companies.

Earlier in the day, the Australian dollar recovered from a wobbly start caused by political uncertainty post-election while Asian shares and base metal

prices rose, partly on expectations of economic stimulus from China. JPMorgan strategists warned investors against chasing the rally in risky assets.

"We do not believe that we will see a sustained upmove. Positioning is not washed out, market internals are not positive and political uncertainty will linger," they wrote in a note.

Caution is likely to persist through the week with the Bank of England scheduled to publish its quarterly financial stability report yesterday, the June US Federal Reserve meeting minutes due today and US jobs data on Friday. In bond markets, worries about the health of Italian banks and some 20 billion euros

(\$22.24 billion) of bond supply in the region this week combined to halt a post-Brexit tumble in regional borrowing costs.

Italian banking index fell more than 3 percent on Monday, while the European Central Bank asked Italy's Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena to slash its bad debts by 40 percent over three years, heaping more pressure on Rome and Brussels to stabilise the Italian banking system.

Italy is in talks with the European Commission on devising a plan to recapitalise Italian lenders with public money limiting losses for bank investors, an EU spokeswoman said on Sunday.

UK POLITICS

Sterling came under pressure from poor data that showed Britain's construction sector PMI survey suffered its worst contraction in seven years in the run up to the vote to leave the European Union. The currency was off 0.1 percent at \$1.3251, still nursing its losses after an 11-percent plunge to a 31-year trough of \$1.3122 a week ago following last month's shock Brexit vote.

The weekend's headlines were dominated by mixed messages from the candidates seeking to replace David Cameron as Conservative Party leader and prime minister, offering markets little certainty about the outlook for the months ahead. The euro edged lower to \$1.1121 and was down slightly against its Japanese counterpart at 114.27 yen EURJPY=R. The dollar rose 0.2 percent to 102.65 yen. Crude oil prices extended gains from Friday's surge after comments by the Saudi energy minister that the oil market is heading towards balance despite signs of slowing demand in Asia.

ASIA STOCKS RISE

Asian stocks pushed higher again yesterday, building on last week's rally as central banks around the world promised support to financial markets after Britain's vote to leave the EU fuelled fears of another rout. The optimism that characterised last week continued as investors tracked another surge in New York and Europe, helped by upbeat US and euro-zone data. However, analysts warned there was still a plenty of headwinds as Britain and European Union leaders must agree a break-away deal, while the global economy remained fragile.

Tokyo rose 0.6 percent-marking a sixth-straight gain-Hong Kong climbed 1.3 percent

in the afternoon and Shanghai added 1.9 percent by the close. Seoul added 0.4 percent.

Sydney rose 0.7 percent, despite the weekend's general election producing no clear winner raising the prospect of a hung parliament. With votes still being counted, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the final result might not be known for several days, while Standard & Poor's warned the uncertainty could lead to the country's top-class AAA rating being cut.

South Korea's promise of \$17 billion in stimulus last week came as dealers speculate that Japan will bolster its own multi-billion-dollar program, while the chances of the US raising interest rates this year have all but evaporated. On Thursday, Bank of England boss Mark Carney became the latest to provide assurances, indicating policymakers could embark on fresh monetary easing-and possibly cut rates.

Richard Jerram, chief economist at Bank of Singapore, said: "Overall the impact of Brexit on the global economy seems likely to be limited, with the pain concentrated on the UK and, to a lesser extent, the rest of the EU."

But Nicholas Teo, a trading strategist at KGI Fraser Securities in Singapore, told Bloomberg News: "While the potential for increased liquidity from central banks has helped calm stock markets, there's still a lot of uncertainty out there.

"The strengthening US dollar isn't good for emerging markets. With China still on a slow-down, US recovery tentative and the messy UK-EU divorce, volatility will remain heightened." The pound edged up against the dollar after taking a hammering from the referendum outcome. In late Asian trade it bought \$1.3281 against \$1.3267 Friday in New York and is well up from the 31-year low of \$1.3121 it touched at the start of last week. —Agencies

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report

Monday 04 July 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▲ 20.57	5,389.80	5,369.03	5,391.00	5,354.27
Weighted Index	▲ 0.41	351.12	350.71	351.30	349.89
KSX 15	▲ 3.38	805.56	802.18	806.89	802.18

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	100	— 0.0
IKARUS	40.0	40.0	70,850	2,834	4	40.0	▲ 0.5
IPG	330	330	200	66	2	330	▼ -5.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	— 0.0
ENERGYH	49.5	48.5	38,090	1,855	12	49.5	▲ 1.0
GPI	40.0	39.5	1,330,679	53,179	35	40.0	— 0.0
ARAR	100	95	700	68	2	100	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,440,479	58,002	55	792.80	▼ -0.65

KFOUC	174	172	29,442	5,077	7	172	▼ -4.0
DFCC	500	490	46,469	22,915	5	500	▲ 5.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	— 0.0
ALQURAIN	192	192	3,224	619	2	192	— 0.0
Basic Materials			79,135	28,611	14	965.00	▼ -1.11

KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0.0
CABLE	385	380	21,100	8,038	5	380	▼ -10.0
SHIP	156	154	105,314	16,398	5	156	▲ 4.0
PCBM	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	280	135	30	2	300	— 0.0
GGMC	310	280	6,070	1,881	3	280	▼ -20.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	142	— 0.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	240	— 0.0
NICBM	204	204	10,705	3,408	1	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
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	70	63	330,343	22,083	31	70	▲ 5.0
AGLTY	475	465	405,391	190,098	30	470	— 0.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
CLEANING	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.5	— 0.0
KGL	45.0	44.0	711,037	31,335	35	44.0	▼ -2.5
KCPG	178	168	2,703	457	7	178	— 0.0
HUMANISOFT	1,400	1,400	2	3	1	1,400	— 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	160,500	5,083	16	33.0	— 0.0
MAYADEEN	27.0	26.0	4,002,701	105,077	54	26.5	▲ 0.5
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	— 0.0
MTCC	64	63	327,750	20,748	10	63	▲ 1.0
UPAC	690	690	500	345	1	690	▲ 10.0
ALAFICO	212	202	320,800	64,925	10	212	▲ 2.0
MUBARRAD	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	61	— 0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	— 0.0
SCBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	— 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0
QIC	72	72	29,548	2,127	1	72	▲ 5.0
FCBM	75	73	1,390,000	102,047	16	75	— 0.0
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
SPEC	78	77	100	8	2	77	▲ 3.0
Industrials			7,830,699	574,101	230	1063.24	▲ 3.22

KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	150	— 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0
PAPCO	104	100	2,100	210	2	104	▲ 6.0
CATTL	200	190	30,022	5,804	5	200	▲ 2.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	— 0.0
POULT	178	178	5,000	890	1	178	— 0.0
FOOD	2,500	2,460	219,494	542,645	24	2,480	▲ 20.0
Consumer Goods			256,616	549,549	32	1186.97	▲ 16.28

MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	— 0
Health Care			0	0	0	992.41	— 0.00

KCIN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,700	— 0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	— 0
SULTAN	61	55	331,442	19,344	20	61	▲ 5
CABLETV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	— 0
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	— 0
OLULFAH	110	110	676	74	2	110	— 0
MUNTAZAHAT	81	81	10,000	810	2	81	▼ -4
JAZEERA	900	890	120,000	107,000	3	900	— 0
SOOR	118	110	3,436	378	5	110	▼ -4
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	112	— 0
ALRAI	162	158	84,019	13,435	10	162	▲ 2
ZIMAH	49.5	47.5	8,817,153	428,582	200	49.0	▲ 2
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	— 0
Mezzan	1,140	1,100	31,670	35,703	17	1,140	▲ 40
Consumer Services			9,398,396	605,327	259	997.52	▼ -1.37

ZAIN	340	340	1,199,065	407,682	51	340	▲ 5
OOREDOO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,200	— 0
HITSTELEC	40.5	39.5	2,873,366	114,930	48	40.5	▲ 1
VIVA	930	930	15,154	14,093	16	930	— 0
Telecommunications			4,087,685	636,705	115	613.39	▲ 2.64

NBK	580	570	1,794,748	1,040,454	50	580	— 0
GBK	234	230	50,432	11,644	6	234	▲ -2
CBK	410	410	2,177	893	2	410	▼ 5
ABK	330	315	890,297	283,575	16	315	▼ -15
ALMUTAHED	395	395	44,993	17,772	3	395	— 0
KID	184	182	64,256	11,823	3	184	▲ 2
BURG	325	320	2,542,040	813,503	63	320	▼ -5
KFIN	460	455	239,941	109,401	14	460	▲ 5
BOUBYAN	385	380	136,004	51,822	14	380	— 0
AUB	188	188	402,200	75,614	6	188	▼ -2
ITHMR	35.0	34.5	782,000	27,170	19	35.0	— 0
WARBARANK	170	170	180,272	30,646	23	170	— 0
Banks			7,128,360	2,474,316	225	784.14	▼ -3.55

KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	— 0
GINS	710	650	30,745	20,014	2	710	▲ 10.0
AINS	465	465	3,475	1,616	1	465	— 0.0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	— 0.0
KUWAITIRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	— 0.0
WETHAQ	31.0	31.0	2,870	89	1	31.0	— 0.0
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0.0
insurance			37,090	21,719	4	1027.74	▲ 2.99

Trades							
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	35.0	34.0	735204	25,451	29	35.0	▲ 1.0
KRE	53	52	175,000	9,250	7	53	— 0.0
URC	93	93	16,940	1,575	2	93	— 0.0
NRE	86	85	1,170,024	90,802	37	86	— 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	— 0.0
TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	— 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	134	— 0.0
MASGALCHI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	44.0	— 0.0
ARABREC	31.5	30.5	257,066	8,021	8	31.5	▲ 1.5
ERESCO	50	49.0	29,000	1,430	4	50	— 0.0
MADANEC	760	750	142,851	107,338	13	750	▼ -10.0
INJAZZAT	72	72	5,200	374	1	72	▲ 3.0
INVESTORS	22.5	21.5	3,737,004	82,957	52	22.5	▲ 1.5
IRC	28.0	28.0	204,949	5,739	13	28.0	▼ -0.5



THE MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS DESIGN

DYNAMIC, EXCITING AND POWERFUL

KUWAIT: With a contemporary, clear elegance and dynamically sensual looks, the new E-Class embodies the current values of the premium Mercedes brand while radiating high-tech character.

Impressing with its hallmark Mercedes saloon proportions, the elongated bonnet coupled with a coupE-esque roof and sensual, broad-shouldered tail end creates an exciting silhouette. Short overhangs, long wheelbase and large wheels emphasise the athletic character of the vehicle. The distance from the front wheel arch to the door opening - a measure of comfort - is exceptionally large in the case of the new E-Class, confirming its unique position and style defining superiority.

Commenting on the design of the new E-Class, Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer of A R Albisher and Z Alkazemi, the authorized general distributor for Mercedes-Benz in Kuwait said: "Each new E-Class generation brings a strong mix of innovation and intuitive design, pushing boundaries and resulting in the constant redefinition of modern luxury. The latest is no exception with a sleek silhouette, new tail light effects, altered seating concept and charging station in the centre console. It's no wonder the E-Class has long been a favourite among motoring enthusiasts."

The taut, well-defined flanks display a fresh, stylish and dynamic interpretation of the feature line, developing from the headlamps and extending over the whole vehicle length. A sculptural reverse curve in the lower region of the doors and bumper visually resumes the feature line, while ensuring a stylistic tension. Low, stretched-looking side windows surrounded by high-grade discontinuous aluminium trim around the window outline also contribute to the muscularly stretched vehicle body, which appears more compact than it actually is. The E-Class therefore embodies the Mercedes-Benz design philosophy of "sensual purity".

Front with prestige look

The new E-Class presents a muscular front end that boasts a different look for each design and equipment line. The base version features the clas-



Mercedes-Benz



sic Mercedes radiator grille with the star on the bonnet, as does the EXCLUSIVE line - albeit in a different fashion. The AVANTGARDE and AMG Line models are identifiable by the sports radiator grille with a large Mercedes star as its centre-piece. Each of the radiator grille variants lends the E-Class a distinct character.

Distinctive headlamps

The intelligence of the new E-Class is reflected also in the headlamps. A characteristic element is the double eyebrow of the reinterpreted daytime running lamps. The face of the vehicle is shaped by distinctive headlamps with a clear-lens design.

A striking feature is the integration of the brand-typical daytime running lamp design in the High Performance and MULTIBEAM LED headlamps. Following the inner contour, it gives a distinctive note to the direction indicators, Coming Home lights, side lights and daytime running lamps. This means that the Mercedes-Benz E-Class models are uniquely identifiable in both their night and day



design, standing apart from other vehicles at the visual level. All headlamp functions are grouped under a lens of clear polycarbonate with scratch-resistant coating. Like various other design elements, the housing is in black, giving an impression of both quality and depth.

Sporty rear end with stardust

Single-piece tail lights featuring a two-bar design framed by the vehicle body clearly identify the E-Class as a new member of the Mercedes saloon family. Similarly to the front end, the tail

lights are equally tautly drawn. In the night design, the torch design of the tail lights emphasises the characteristic form of the tail lights and makes for improved safety.

Optionally available rear lights also provide a highlight reminiscent of stardust, the Milky Way or the glow of a jet engine. This "stardust" effect is created by an innovative reflector technology, with a specially designed surface structure for the tail light ensuring a brilliant appearance. The optionally available rear light uses all-LED technology.

The newly designed rear lights are also brilliant in terms of safety. Multi-level functionality allows the light intensity of the brake lamp and the direction indicators to vary between daytime and nighttime, within the legally permissible limits. A black insert in the rear bumper gives the rear end a lighter and therefore sportier look. All equipment lines come with a two-part rear bumper and visible stainless steel tailpipe trims integrated into the bumper (except Basis line).

The Mercedes-Benz E-Class arrived in Kuwait in June and is available at AR Albisher & Z Alkazemi Co's Shuwaikh Showroom. Visit our showroom and ask for a test drive.



PARIS: Chinese group HNA Chairman Wang Jian (right) and Pierre et Vacances Chairman Gerard Bremond shake hands during a signing ceremony in Paris yesterday about joint projects of the two groups. — AFP

CHINA DATA TO SHOW WEAK TRADE, DROP IN FX RESERVES

BEIJING: A flurry of data from China incoming weeks is expected to show continued weakness in trade and investment, sluggish industrial output and another drop in foreign reserves, reinforcing views that Beijing will roll out more economic support measures soon.

Weak factory surveys and heightened economic uncertainty following Britain's vote to leave the European Union have added to views that authorities will ramp up fiscal stimulus and ease monetary policy by cutting interest rates and banks' reserve requirements in coming months.

Reuters reported on Thursday that the People's Bank of China (PBOC) also would tolerate a fall in the yuan to as low as 6.8 per dollar in 2016 to support the economy, if it did not trigger a backlash from major trading partners. Economists polled by Reuters expected June exports fell 4.1 percent, the same rate as in May, while imports likely dropped 5 percent, renewing their decline after only a marginal drop in May raised hopes that domestic demand was reviving.

China's trade surplus is forecast to hit \$46.6 billion in June, from around \$50 billion in May. The consumer inflation rate may have dipped slightly to 1.8 percent in June, which would be a five-month low, while producer deflation may show further signs of moderating, easing strains on companies' profit margins.

Factory-gate prices are expected to have declined 2.5 percent, which

would be the slowest decline since October 2014. Loan and money supply data may also show signs of moderating. After record lending by Chinese banks in the first quarter, policymakers seem to have put the breaks on credit as it became clear it was not translating into faster economic growth, while adding to already elevated debt levels.

Banks likely extended 1 trillion yuan (\$150 billion) in new loans in June, up slightly from May, the polls showed. Based on the June estimate, total new loans in the first half of 2016 were less than 10 percent more than the year-ago period, and would put loan growth slightly off the record pace seen in China's massive stimulus during the 2009 crisis.

Growth in M2 money supply may have fallen to a 13-month low in June, in line with recent calls from the government to reduce leverage. Forex reserves likely dropped \$20 billion to \$3.17 trillion, after falling in May to their lowest since December 2011. After stabilising early this year, China's forex reserves have begun declining again amid renewed pressure on the yuan, which tumbled 3.1 percent against the dollar in the second quarter, the biggest quarterly depreciation since China established the domestic foreign exchange market in 1994. Forex reserves data are expected to be released later this week, with trade, inflation and loan figures out next week. Industrial output, investment and retail sales will be released on July 15 along with second-quarter gross domestic product (GDP). — Reuters

HEDGE FUNDS TO US REFINERS, PRODUCE MORE DIESEL, LESS GASOLINE

LONDON: Hedge funds and other money managers are betting diesel and heating oil will take over from gasoline as the main driver of US refinery profitability in the second half of the year.

For the past 18 months, refiners have been rewarded for maximizing output of gasoline and minimizing production of diesel, but that could all be about to change. By the middle of June, hedge funds had accumulated the largest net long position in heating oil futures and options since oil prices began to slump in July 2014. At the same time, hedge funds were running one of the smallest net long positions in gasoline contracts in the past decade.

The most recent data published by the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission shows some profit-taking on these positions in the week to June 28. But the strongly bullish position on heating oil and bearish position on gasoline remains fundamentally intact for the time being.

At the start of the year, hedge funds were bearish towards heating oil and bullish on gasoline, but the position began to switch from March onwards. The switch in hedge fund positions has coincided with a marked strengthening in the refining margins for diesel and weakening of those for gasoline.

The gross refining margin for diesel for October is now 35 cents per gallon compared with just 23 cents per gallon for gasoline. Despite record consumption of gasoline, refiners have struggled to work down the excess stockpiles that built up in January and February. Gasoline stocks remain close to the highest level for a decade even after adjusting for current record rate of demand. Gasoline stocks are currently equal to 24.6 days worth of consumption, down from 29.2 days at the end of January, but still well above the 22.7 days at this point last year and the 10-year average of 22.9 days. By contrast, the enormous overhang of diesel stocks that built up at the start of the year has been steadily reduced over the last two months. Diesel stocks have dropped from almost 50 days worth of con-

sumption at the turn of the year to 39.3 days although they are still well above the 34.5 days this time last year and the 10-year average of 31.9 days.

During the summer driving season, gasoline stocks normally fall while diesel stocks rise, as refiners run hard to produce motor fuel and find themselves with too much distillate as a by-product.

But this year gasoline stocks show little signs of reducing while diesel stocks are exhibiting an unusual seasonal decline. Counter-seasonal stock movements suggest the US market is on course to have surplus

gasoline and not enough distillate once the summer driving season is over. Margins are adjusting accordingly. Hedge funds and futures prices are also anticipating stronger demand for diesel during the winter of 2016/17 after unusually weak demand over the winter of 2015/16. El Nino, which contributed to an unusually warm winter in parts of North America during 2015/16, is now giving way to La Nina. The unusually warm winter temperatures experienced last winter are unlikely to be repeated in the coming winter which should increase consumption of heating oil. — Reuters

WEST CHINA CEMENT SHARES PLUNGE AS DEAL COLLAPSES

HONG KONG: Shares in struggling West China Cement plunged as much as 34 percent yesterday after a much-needed merger deal with the country's largest cement maker collapsed last week.

Major rival Anhui Conch Cement offered nearly \$600 million for a controlling stake in the firm late last year, but China's commerce authorities failed to approve it by the June 30 deadline, scuttling the deal, Anhui Conch said on its website Thursday. Hong Kong-listed shares of West China Cement dropped as much as 34 percent to HK\$0.71 when it resumed trading Monday morning, compared to the previous close at HK\$1.07. It was trading at HK\$0.81 at 11:00 am (0300 GMT). It was believed the merger was part of an effort by Beijing to tackle overcapacity in the industry, which is dominated by inefficient, largely state-owned firms. A merger with Anhui Conch would also have given West China Cement, which posted losses of 309 million yuan (\$46 million) last year, a boost with better financing access. Analysts believe the deal collapse is a "business decision" given the firm's weak books. "Investors had doubted

about its accounting practices... It was trading down for a very long time until an upcoming Anhui Conch deal gave it a boost. Now the stamp of confidence is gone," Jackson Wong, associate director for Simsen Financial Group in Hong Kong, told AFP. Rumours the deal was in danger saw its shares plunge 33 percent in Hong Kong on Tuesday before they were suspended from trading. It has lost half its capitalization in the last two trading days, according to Bloomberg News. Wong said he believed Beijing would continue restructuring efforts despite the collapse of the deal.

"The Chinese government is still trying to push bigger players to merge with smaller players to improve capacity and efficiency," he said.

China's cement industry boomed during the country's three decades of massive investment in highways, airports, apartment buildings and office blocks, bloating to more than 3,300 firms. Restructuring has been difficult as most major industrial firms have powerful political backers, making efforts to shutter or merge them particularly challenging in the face of vested interests. — AFP

FUADAH GHULAIM WINS KD 250,000 IN NBK'S AL-JAWHARA QUARTERLY DRAW

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) announced Fuadah Tamah Ghulaim the winner of KD 250,000, NBK's Al-Jawhara quarterly prize. The winner's name was announced live on Marina FM and the draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

NBK has added a new feature to the Al-Jawhara account recently by doubling customers' chances to win in the weekly, monthly and quarterly draws when they do not withdraw or transfer from their accounts. Al-Jawhara quarterly draw is one of the biggest cash prizes in Kuwait. NBK customers have the opportunity to double their chances to win the next quarterly draw in June.

NBK customers have chances to win KD 5,000 weekly, KD 125,000 monthly and a grand prize of KD 250,000 quarterly. Each KD50 in a customer's account entitles them to one entry in the draw, thus

more money in an account means more chances in each draw. The new feature introduced to al Jawhara Account enables customers to double their chances when maintaining their balance without withdrawing. Al-Jawhara is the most popular prize-giving account in Kuwait. Al-Jawhara account entitles account holders to enter the weekly, monthly and quarterly Al-Jawhara draws. All prizes are automatically credited to the winners' accounts the day after the draw. Al-Jawhara accounts are available to both Kuwaitis and expats and can be opened at any one of NBK's branches around Kuwait, or through NBK website for existing customers.

NBK pioneered many firsts in both the local and regional markets by offering innovative products and value added services. For more information, please contact NBK Call Center at 1801801 or visit NBK's official website www.nbk.kw.





GULF BANK CLOSES DURING EID AL-FITR

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank would like to inform its clients that during the Eid Al-Fitr Holiday, its branches will be closed from today (5 July) through to Thursday, 7 July as per the approved guidelines set by the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). The bank will resume its regular working hours on the first business day following the Eid Al-Fitr holiday, Sunday, 10 July 2016.

However, Gulf Bank's dedicated Customer Call Center will be operating round-the-clock, and is can be reached by dialing 1805805. Clients can also use online portal, (www.e-gulfbank.com) to find out more about the latest products and services; and to download the Mobile Banking App's (App store/Android) to monitor accounts and conduct self-service banking transactions.

Gulf Bank also recently launched its Eid Al-Fitr video, which has been recently published through its social media channels and satellite TV channels, the video's main objective is wishing people of Kuwait a happy Eid encouraging them to enjoy its traditions and customs.

On this blessed occasion, Gulf Bank would like to convey its sincere congratulations and best wishes to the Amir of the State of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah; 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. Gulf Bank also extends its best wishes to everyone for a blessed Eid Al-Fitr.

KFH TO SERVE CLIENTS ELECTRONICALLY, THROUGH AIRPORT BRANCH DURING EID

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced that it is ready to fulfill its commitments towards its clients during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday. The bank will continue to offer various services for its clients in Kuwait and overseas through its website that offers over 150 services, in addition to the 24/7 airport branch and other service channels that provide clients with necessary services round the clock.



Moreover, the Call Center will be ready to receive calls from clients throughout the day, and will work relentlessly to overcome any problems that might face clients in Kuwait and overseas.

In addition, KFH continues to offer its IVR service on 1803333 that is available throughout the day. Clients can call to make account transactions, ask for financial transaction, pay bills, purchase cards to recharge cell phone, and other services. Further, clients can take advantage of



KFH's ATM machines (Shamel) that are available at most of the branches in vital locations. KFH offers Mobi Baitok vehicles that serve as mobile branches that allow people to deposit and withdraw cash in addition to other usual transactions. Mobi Baitok will be available during the Eid holiday in the areas of Aliya Hospital in Almahboula, Ali Subah Alsalem Cooperative Society in Om Alhayan, and Al-Regae.

KFH has additional technical privileges, such as allowing clients to conduct basic banking operations through smart phones on Kfhonline application. KFH has recently launched a new e-service that allows KFH customer subscribed to KFH's SMS Baitak notification service to receive Push message-type notifications - in addition to the regular SMS notifications - onto their smartphones. KFH's e-Banking customers who are also SMS Baitak subscribers will be able to register to - and receive - the Push messages for free via the KFH Online Smartphone app, and will also be able to receive and view the Push messages using the smartphone apps.

It is worth noting that KFH will resume its duties on Sunday July 10th. KFH was established in Kuwait in 1977 and is enlisted in the Kuwait

Stock Exchange. KFH Group is a global pioneer in the field of Islamic banking services, where it offers a wide array of Islamic products and services, not to mention a high standard of innovation and client service.

KFH manages its operations in the GCC, Asia, and Europe through over 446 branches, including KFH-Turkey, in order to offer services for the bank's clients in Turkey, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Germany, Jordan, and Dubai.

KFH's mission is to achieve highest levels of excellence and innovation in the field of client service, while developing common interest for all those concerned with the financial institution. KFH's vision is to spearhead the global development in Islamic financial services, and to upgrade the bank into the level of becoming the most sustainable profitable Islamic bank in the world.

KFH's values include cementing leadership through all its businesses, including leadership in the Islamic banking services worldwide, through innovation and in client service and the development of its employees. In addition, KFH is committed to all its procedures, and to setting up long-life partnerships with the concerned authorities.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Mohammad Abdulsameeah Mesameh Rawi
2. Meqdad Mohammad Akbar Jumaah
3. Mubarak Ahmad Ebaid Al Ayadah Al-Shammari

4. Sadeqa Ghoulum Hussein Karam
5. Beebi Abdulmehsen Mobarak Al-Wazzan
In addition to the daily draw, Borgan Bank also offers a quarterly draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers daily and quarterly draws, the quarterly draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for two months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Borgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Borgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply

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 Borgan Bank's www.borgan.com for further information.

JOYALUKKAS' GOLD CENTRE, DEIRA SHOWROOM DAZZLES WITH NEW LOOK

DUBAI: Joyalukkas Gold Centre, Deira showroom reopens its doors, fully refreshed and renovated. The signature Joyalukkas design showroom now features an expanded showcase floor and brighter display areas amongst many other exciting changes.

The showroom was inaugurated by John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group in the presence of Antony Jos, Director, Joyalukkas Group, other dignitaries and various customers.

"My vision for our jewellery business is to 'ornament the world' and we will manage this by offering customers the best mix of Price, Choice, Convenience and Service," said Joy Alukkas, Chairman & MD, Joyalukkas Group.

Joyalukkas Jewellery is currently a 120 plus showroom chain network spread across 11 countries around the world. The brand which is one of the world's largest jewellery retail chains is a part of a multi-billion dollar global conglomerate, which has varied business interests. The Joyalukkas Group's business interests include Jewellery, Money Exchange, Fashion & Silks, Luxury Air Charter, Malls and Realty. The world's largest jewellery retail chain has presence in

Singapore, London, UAE, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and India and will soon open in 2 new countries. The jewellery retailer currently has a customer base of over 10 million customers worldwide and offers over 1 million choices in all types of jewellery at each of its showroom. "Our plan for Joyalukkas Jewellery in this financial year includes strengthening our presence across various parts of India and opening our showrooms in cities and towns that we feel is ready for Joyalukkas experience," said John Paul Alukkas, Executive Director, Joyalukkas Group.

The showroom features over One Million dazzling collections and exquisite designs in gold, diamond, precious stones, platinum and pearl. The collection is a mix of traditional, ethno contemporary and international designs that have won of hearts and following of customers around the world.

This international jewellery retail chain is also one of few retail chains to be recognised with many awards and accolades for its exceptional standards in jewellery retailing. Joyalukkas has also been awarded the prestigious 'Superbrand' status 7 years in a row.



BURGAN BANK'S AIRPORT BRANCH RESUMES NORMAL WORKING HOURS DURING EID

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank yesterday announced that its airport branch will resume its normal working hours during the Eid Al-Fitr holidays. The branch will commence operations from 8 am to 10.30 pm, in an effort to accommodate banking requirements for travellers' and customers during the public holiday.

For more information on any products or services, customers are required to contact Borgan Bank's call center 1804080 during the holiday. On this occasion, Borgan Bank extends its best wishes and greetings to the public.

Established in 1977, Borgan Bank is the youngest commercial Bank and second largest by assets in Kuwait, with a significant focus on the corporate and financial institutions sectors, as well as having a growing retail, and private bank customer base. Borgan Bank has majority owned subsidiaries in the MENAT region supported by one of the largest regional branch networks. The Bank has continuously improved its performance over the years

through an expanded revenue structure, diversified funding sources, and a strong capital base. The adoption of state-of-the-art services and technology has positioned it as a trendsetter in the domestic market and within the MENA region. Borgan Bank's brand has been created on a foundation of real values - of trust, commitment, excellence and progression, to remind us of the high standards to which we aspire. 'People come first' is the foundation on which its products and services are developed.

The bank was re-certified with the prestigious ISO 9001:2008, making it the first bank in the GCC, and the only bank in Kuwait to receive such accreditation for the third consecutive year. The Bank also has to its credit the distinction of being the only Bank in Kuwait to have won the JP Morgan Chase Quality Recognition Award for twelve consecutive years. Borgan Bank, a subsidiary of KIPCO (Kuwait Projects Company), is a strongly positioned regional Bank in the MENA region.

CLARION CALL FOR NIGERIAN FARMERS TO UNITE IN THE BATTLE TO SAVE THEIR LANDS

ABUJA: Farmer Shobantaruba, a father of seven, was stunned to arrive at his small farm in Adamawa state in northeast Nigeria one day about five years ago to find barbed wire fencing off the plot cultivated by his family for decades. Farmland belonging to hundreds of other villagers had also been cordoned off as had land on which their livestock graze. They soon found out that it had been sold to an unknown businessman by the district chief who lives in a nearby village.

"They told us that we were not the owners of the land," said Shobantaruba, 41, who asked that his surname not be used for fear of reprisal. Shobantaruba explained that while his parents were born and bred in Namtari and farmed there for decades, they did not have deeds to prove ownership, a requirement under Nigerian law.

Like many other Nigerian farmers who have lost their land, he felt powerless to do anything but campaigners are now trying to raise awareness among small scale farmers of their rights.

Agriculture is the largest sector of the Nigerian economy with studies showing 80 percent of the nation's food is produced by small-scale farmers, the majority of whom are women, and loss of land can impact millions of the 175 million population. Reverend Father Maurice Kwairanga, who works with rural communities, including Namtari, said over the past five years, he has seen the same fate befall hundreds of people in at least five different communities in Adamawa. "The local people are not educated and so the rich can get away with it," Kwairanga told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an interview in the Nigerian capital of Abuja.

Many district chiefs are told if they sell local land this will lead to benefits for the local population, including jobs and development opportunities, he said. "But the reality is far from that. The lands are fenced off and are not cultivated, and the locals are not allowed to use it," said the priest, who wrote a dissertation last year on the impact of large scale land acquisitions on rural people. He added that the suspicion is that the land is bought for speculative purposes, some-

times by former government officials "fronting for international interests".

"Even in rare cases where the locals are employed as labourers to work on the land they earn very little, often less than 500 naira (\$1.75) a day, and during the seasons when their services are not needed, they do not earn any income." Asked by the Thomson Reuters Foundation to comment on allegations of arbitrary land sales in Adamawa, the state's commissioner for land and survey, Ibrahim Mijinyawa, said he could not comment. "We cannot comment because we have not received any complaint from any people that their land was snatched by any individual or company," he said. "All are rumours."

STANDING UNITED

"It's really happening," said Azubuike Nwokoye, advisor for the ActionAid Food and Agriculture Program in Nigeria, which is working with local

communities to create awareness of land rights. "But if the people are united and know what they should do, it won't happen," he said. Nwokoye said in one recent case in Taraba state, in north east Nigeria, a united response from local communities stopped the acquisition of 30,000 hectares (74,131 acres) of land by a Texan company. The lack of a proper land registration framework is a serious problem in Nigeria, said Andrea Staeritz, who used to worked on the West Africa program at the Heinrich Boll Foundation, a German-based think tank. Staeritz, who now works with charity Transparency International, said when land is not registered officially, anyone who has money and power can simply take it.

Transparency International said land acquisition has been used as a vehicle for money laundering in Nigeria and there have also been cases of foreign investors acquiring land without consultation with land users. — Reuters

AUB OFFERS ITS SERVICES DURING EID HOLIDAYS

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced yesterday that it is ready to communicate with its customers as well as provide its wide range of banking services during the upcoming Eid holidays through the Bank's electronic platforms which include its 24/7 telebanking 'Hayakom' service which is available on 1812000.

Furthermore, customers can also use the Bank's website, www.ahliunited.com.kw for more information, the internet banking, the mobile banking while also conduct their financial transactions through the Bank's ATM's that have been uniquely positioned across all districts in Kuwait.

In the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr Ahli United Bank congratulates and extends its warm wishes to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Crown

Prince Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah the government, the citizens of Kuwait and all residents across the country.

IN RACE TO BE ASIA'S FINTECH HUB, SINGAPORE LEADS HONG KONG

SINGAPORE: Singapore is rushing to reinvent itself as Asia's financial technology, or fintech, hub to fend off a regulatory threat to its wealth management industry and revive a sluggish economy. State funding, light-touch regulation and a recent move to allow start-ups to test financial products in a controlled environment have put Singapore ahead of rival Hong Kong to be Asia's fintech hotspot. Much like Uber, Airbnb and others have harnessed technology and online social networking to disrupt taxi and hotel services, fintech firms are shaking up the traditional banking and financial services industry.

Singapore's fintech drive comes as its role as an offshore private banking centre is under threat from a multi-billion-dollar money laundering scandal in neighboring Malaysia, and as Indonesia chases undeclared money parked in the low-tax city state. Also, Singapore's traditional shipping and manufacturing growth drivers are faltering amid a global economic slowdown and a slump in commodity prices and demand.

Brexity boost

Singapore is attracting interest, too, from among the 60,000 or so fintech firms based in London's near-\$9 billion market - a trend likely to accelerate with Britain's referendum vote to leave the European Union. "We already have registered interest from UK-based companies to move to Asia as it's getting very

crowded there," said Markus Gnirck, partner and co-founder of tryb, a fintech consultancy. "Brexity will probably accelerate a few of these conversations."

Britain's soft approach to regulation and its influence on Europe would likely wane with Brexit and any new barriers that would create. "In the long term (this) makes Europe much less attractive as a place for entrepreneurs," Taveet Hintikus, CEO of peer-to-peer money transfer firm TransferWise, told the World Economic Forum in the Chinese city of Tianjin this week.

He told a panel session that his company was looking at Asia for expansion, and Singapore appeared a more vibrant fintech centre than Hong Kong. A KPMG report said Singapore has been more aggressive in pursuing fintech opportunities, and tryb noted that all but a dozen of the around 210 fintech firms operating in Singapore have opened in the past two years - the fastest growth rate in Asia.

OBSTACLES

However, Singapore's immigration laws are an obstacle, start-ups and consultants say, as measures to curb the number of foreign workers and give priority to Singaporeans have left a shortage of talent. And Singapore's banking regulations have created a risk averse culture that is at odds with the trial-and-error approach of fintech start-ups. But the city state's efforts are bearing fruit.

SmartKarma, a start-up that operates a platform offering Asian institutional research and analysis on demand, chose Singapore over Hong Kong for its headquarters. "There's no other city in the world where you have such a progressive government when it comes to supporting innovation today - be it from grants, to having funding vehicles to operational support," said co-founder and CEO Raghav Kapoor. Singapore state agency SPRING is an investor in SmartKarma, and government agency International Enterprise is helping the firm expand overseas. With Moody's expecting Singapore's economy to grow at its slowest pace since the global financial crisis, government officials are keen to engage with new industries: one fintech entrepreneur in shorts and flip-flops says he keeps in touch by WhatsApp with regulators and meets them once a week.

Not moving fast enough

In Hong Kong, despite nearly \$300 million in fintech funding, start-ups face tough regulatory hurdles say lawyers, consultants and fintech executives. There are fewer than 100 fintech firms in Hong Kong, according to tryb. Hong Kong's rules and regulations make it difficult to set up crowd funding platforms, payment firms and peer-to-peer lending operations, and to secure operating licenses.

For example, Chinese peer-to-peer lender Jimubox spent nearly a year setting up in Hong

Kong only to abandon the plan because strict rules on account openings made it hard for the firm to take on customers. "I spent time and money and hired a couple of people to explore this and ended up having to kill it because it didn't make sense from a commercial standpoint, purely around the account opening process," said Jimubox co-founder Barry Freeman.

In Singapore, any entity can operate payment systems and e-wallets without seeking approval, while rules introduced in Hong Kong last year require firms to have a licence for Stored Value Facilities, or a prepaid electronic cash or card. Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) managing director Ravi Menon said fintech firms would only be regulated when they grow large enough to pose a risk to the traditional financial system.

A spokeswoman for Hong Kong's Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau, the agency overseeing fintech policy development, said the government "is committed to facilitating the development of fintech in Hong Kong, whilst upholding the 'technology neutrality' principle and ensuring appropriate consumer protection." "We are absolutely not moving fast enough" on fintech, said Laura Cha, chairman of Hong Kong's Financial Services Development Council (FSDC). "This is an area of development that is a very key element of the financial industry that we cannot ignore." — Reuters

CHINA SAYS TO CRACKDOWN ON FAKE NEWS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

BEIJING: China's internet regulator will launch a crackdown on the reporting of news gathered from social media, as part of what the government calls a campaign against fake news and the spreading of rumors. In a statement late on Sunday, the Cyberspace Administration of China said that online media cannot report any news taken from social media sites without approval.

"It is forbidden to use hearsay to create news or use conjecture and imagination to distort the facts," it said. "All levels of the cyberspace administration must earnestly fulfill their management responsibility for internet content, strengthen supervision and investigation, severely probe and han-

dle fake and un factual news," the regulator added. It listed a number of fake news stories it said had recently circulated on the internet, including one about a bus fire.

The Chinese government already exercises widespread controls over the internet and has sought to codify that policy in law. Officials say internet restrictions, including the blocking of popular foreign sites like Google and Facebook, are needed to ensure security in the face of rising threats, such as terrorism, and stop the spread of damaging rumors. Foreign governments and business groups have pointed to restrictions on the internet as a broader trade issue. —Reuters

3-2-1: A LOOK AT NASA'S JUPITER MISSION BY THE NUMBERS

LOS ANGELES: Since launching in 2011, NASA's Juno spacecraft has been cruising toward the biggest planet in the solar system. Yesterday, Juno is scheduled to perform a nail-biting move designed to enter orbit around Jupiter to explore its cloud-covered atmosphere and interior makeup.

Here are a few key numbers about the \$1.1 billion mission:

1.8 billion miles

That's the total distance traveled from launch to arrival. Juno's journey wasn't a straight shot. Because the rocket that carried Juno wasn't powerful enough to boost it directly to Jupiter, it took a longer route. It looped around the inner solar system and then swung by Earth, using our planet as a gravity slingshot to hurtle toward the outer solar system.

3,100 miles

That's how close Juno will fly to Jupiter's cloud tops. It'll pass over the poles 37 times during the mission on a path that avoids the most intense radiation.

48 minutes, 19 seconds

That's the time it takes for radio signals from Jupiter to reach Earth. During the encounter, Juno will fire its main engine for

about a half hour to slow down. By the time ground controllers receive word that it started, the engine burn would have been completed, and if all goes as planned, Juno would be in orbit.

20 months

That's how long the mission will last. Because Juno is in a harsh radiation environment, its delicate electronics are housed in a special titanium vault. Eventually, Juno will succumb to the intense radiation and will be commanded to plunge into Jupiter's atmosphere to avoid any collision with the planet's moons.

Nine

Juno carries a suite of nine instruments to explore Jupiter from its interior to its atmosphere. It will map Jupiter's gravity and magnetic fields and track how much water is in the atmosphere. Its color camera dubbed JunoCam will snap close-ups of Jupiter's swirling clouds, polar regions and shimmering southern and northern lights.

Three

Three massive solar wings extend from Juno, making it the most distant solar-powered spacecraft. The panels can generate 500 watts of electricity, enough to power the instruments. —AP



FILE PHOTO: This artist's rendering provided by NASA and JPL-Caltech shows the Juno spacecraft above the planet Jupiter. — AP



UAE STUDENTS ENGAGE LIVE WITH THEIR KENYAN COUNTERPARTS

DUBAI: As part of its efforts to inspire youth to consider careers in technology, Cisco brought together students from Jebel Ali School in Dubai with their counterparts from Makini School in Nairobi, Kenya through Cisco Telepresence. Aligned with Cisco's vision of 'changing the way we work, live, play, and learn', the immersive digital experience provided more than 140 students an opportunity to engage live across continents to share insights into their daily lives while gaining first-hand access to the latest technology.

Students first engaged in an interactive learning session that explored the accelerated pace at which technology and the Internet of Things (IoT) is changing our lives and the world. They were astonished to see and hear some of the unexpected things technology is connecting and enabling and the potential implications on the way we carry out daily tasks. Students then weighed in with their ideas on what they wished to see connected and how this would enrich their lives. A lively discussion ensued on the kind of innovations students would like to see implemented and why they selected specific ideas.

"With more than 50 billion devices expected to be connected to the internet by 2020, the Internet of Things is changing the world. All kinds of unexpected things are being connected, from toothbrushes to lightbulbs and basketballs to fridges, turning everyday items into much more useful 'devices'," said Den Sullivan, Head of Software, Cisco EMEA.

"By hosting students that are continents apart in our offices for the day, our aim is to inspire eager young minds and illustrate the power of technology and connectivity. It's incredible to see the kind of ideas this generation is able to come up with once you spur their imagination and open their eyes to the possibilities. It was exciting to hear how they view IoT from unconventional, fresh perspectives."

'Quality discussions'

The students then connected with each other through Cisco's TelePresence video technology at the company's offices in Dubai, UAE and Nairobi, Kenya. They were excited to interact with their cross-continent counterparts in real time through a vivid and true-to-life experience as if everyone was in the same location. The students gave

back by lunch!" said Jennifer Foote, teacher at Jebel Ali School. "The impact can be seen in the energy of the students, the quality of discussions that took place, and the different kind of information that they have retained from students their age about how life and communities truly are thousands of miles away."

"Technology is transforming our lives across



insightful overviews on what living in a vastly different country was like, including the different chores their typical day entails.

This stimulated questions and a lively interaction in which some UAE students decided to show off their knowledge of Swahili and an impromptu recital of the well-known Kenyan "Jambo Bwana" song took place. "Today's session really left an impression on the students as it allowed them to share their experiences and culture with others thousands of miles away. It was like a school trip to Kenya, and then we're

so many domains and we as educators are constantly searching for new, impactful ways to inject inspiration into the curriculum. Cisco has been really supportive in helping us develop creative approaches to learning, particularly when it comes to getting students interested in technology," added Ms Foote. The activity is part of Cisco's ongoing efforts to familiarize students and youth with the power and appeal of technology and to spur interest in them at a young age to consider careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and ICT.

ISRAEL'S HIGH TECH BOOM THREATENED BY LABOR POOL

TEL AVIV: In the high tech hub of Tel Aviv, where companies have been responsible for ground-breaking advances like the USB stick, Or Offer never thought it would be hard to find workers for his fast-growing Internet data firm SimilarWeb. But an alarming lack of engineers, technicians and even doctors, which is jeopardizing Israel's place among the world's technological elite, sent him looking abroad.

"There's a brutal fight over skilled employees," said Offer, whose company has quadrupled in size in the past two years, hiring over 200 new people. To boost the technical side of the business that analyzes website data, he set up a development centre in Ukraine. Without the huge populations of emerging markets like India or the vast network of foreigners who call Silicon Valley home, Israel's high tech enterprise seems to have dried out the well.

Over the next decade it will face a shortage of about 10,000 engineers and programmers in a market that currently employs 140,000, according to the country's chief scientist, Avi Hasson, who is the government's point man on sustaining innova-

tion. "The issue of skilled and available manpower is the main barrier to growth and competitiveness in the field of high tech," Hasson said.

The industry, which sprouted from an advanced military and flourished with state backing, became a major growth engine and investment magnet for Israel. Multinationals like Apple, Intel and Google have been eager to snap up local start-ups and set up research centers. High-tech goods and services now account for 12.5 percent of Israel's gross domestic product and half its industrial exports.

Younger firms are noticing the skills problem as they compete for workers with the global giants operating in Israel. "There are a lot of international players around, coming in with deep pockets. Facebook, Google and others can make offers 50 percent above market and equity packages that are very lucrative," said Nir Zohar, president of website-designer Wix.com, which is known for its big-budget Super Bowl ads. "It's becoming harder and harder with the amount of effort you need to put in to recruit."

Human capital

Since taking office in 2013, Bank of Israel Governor Karnit Flug has been sounding the alarm over the threat to Israel's pool of "human capital". An aging population, lagging education and poor integration of Israel's Arab and ultra-Orthodox Jewish minorities in the labor market is making the workforce less effective, she said in a May speech. Combined, Israeli Arabs and ultra-Orthodox Jews make up about 30 percent of the population.

Nearly half the country's doctors, for example, are 55 or older - the highest figure in the Western world - while the rate of students completing medical school is among the lowest. University graduates in math and computer science fell to 1,600 in 2008 from 3,000 in 2005.

The figure has recovered, but not returned to prior levels. Israel is ranked 17 among the 34 members of the OECD in the ease of finding skilled workers.

Tech companies prospered for years by tapping into the skills of workers trained in the military or intelligence sectors and start-ups benefiting from tax breaks and govern-

ment funding. But those are drying up. Two years ago Israel lost the top spot it held for more than a decade among the OECD when it comes to investment in research and development, mainly due to a steep drop in government investment.

South Korea is now top of the tree. Ultra-Orthodox Jews and Arabs rarely serve in the military and are marginalized from the high tech industry. The government is now implementing a number of programmes to include them, like improving language skills and special training.

Visas

Feeling the heat, firms have been fighting to bring in qualified foreigners to ease the stress. "In Israel, to get a work permit is harder than to make peace," said Eldad Tamir, head of the Tamir Fishman Investment House and a partner in Eucalyptus Growth Capital, a fund that invests in high tech companies. Tamir's partner in Eucalyptus, David Perlmutter, former chief product officer at Intel, lamented that Israel imports labor for agriculture and construction but not for technology.

"If you look at other countries that want to develop, they bring in workers. All of Silicon Valley is based on that. Here it doesn't happen," he said. Nearly 75 percent of computer and math workers aged 25-44 employed in California's Silicon Valley are foreign-born, according to the Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies.

In the 1990s, the influx of one million immigrants from the former Soviet Union helped fuel Israel's high-tech boom. Today about 30,000 people arrive annually, but it is not enough to meet the demands of the growing industry. "Israel was built in a very homogenous way in terms of our innovation ecosystem. We did import talent, but only Jewish talent," and that needs to change, said Hasson.

Only an "anecdotal" number of foreign high tech workers are being brought in today, Hasson said, referring to a smattering of cases like the US-born CEO of TowerJazz who over the past decade helped turn around the ailing chipmaker. He said Israel would soon begin a pilot for issuing a few hundred work visas a year, but it's unlikely to be enough. —Reuters

AMID DROUGHT, MYSTERY DISEASE KILLS ZIMBABWE'S BAOBABS

CHIMANIMANI: A black baobab tree stands forlornly on the side of a highway in Chimanimani district, in the east of Zimbabwe. The tree is one of many in this region afflicted by a mysterious disease, which turns the baobabs black before they lose their branches and die. The giant trees, which dwarf their more common acacia and mopani neighbors in this dry part of the country, have long been revered as a way to survive drought.

Families cook and eat the leaves as a vegetable. The fruits can be eaten raw or cooked into porridge. Baobab seeds substitute for coffee. And the bark fiber can be woven into mats. "Porridge made from baobab fruits has saved many people from dying in times of drought," villager Dorcus Chiadzwa told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. But environmentalists fear a disease that is now attacking baobabs - particularly those that have had part of their

bark harvested - could wipe out entire baobab populations and leave people battling drought with fewer survival options.

"Initially the disease attacked damaged trees but it's spreading to other trees. And the disease is spreading very fast," warned Lawrence Nyagwande, who heads Environment Africa, a non-governmental organization in Zimbabwe's Manicaland province. He said there was little research available on what is causing the disease - suspected to be caused by one or more fungus species - or how to stop it from spreading.

Food shortages

With Zimbabwe struggling with a devastating El Nino-induced drought, which has decimated more than half of the country's food crops, many people in drought-hit areas of the east are now depending on baobabs for survival. According to government officials, at least 4.5 million people are

food insecure in Zimbabwe as a result of the drought. The country is seeking up to \$1.6 billion in aid to feed those unable to grow crops. "Many people are harvesting the fruits to sell. These fruits are bringing much-needed income for villagers," Chiadzwa said. The fiber from the baobab trees is also used to make mats, which are now in demand from tourists travelling the Mutare-Masvingo highway. Along that route, women and children selling baobab fruits and mats are a common feature of the landscape. But villagers say the disease that is turning baobabs black has afflicted many trees in the dryer parts of Chimanimani, Chipinge, Buhera and Mutare districts.

They fear it could wipe out the entire baobab tree population there. "The disease is now widespread in these areas," said Malvern Mudiwa, one villager. "But I don't know what is causing the disease. The trees are turning black before they finally die."

Chiadzwa said the villagers were worried that their source of livelihood might be wiped out. "The affected trees are no longer producing fruits. The tree branches fall before the tree finally dies," she said.

Too much stress

Experts suspect that the fungus which may be attacking the trees takes hold after a tree is damaged by having bark removed. Extended drought may also be stressing the trees, reducing their ability to withstand the fungus or recover from bark harvesting. "Normally it takes six months or more for trees to recover after the barks have been removed for mats," said Clive Kapfumvuti, another villager. "And during this recovery time trees are susceptible to the disease".

Kapfumvuti said many people in drought-hit areas like Nyanyadzi in Chimanimani district were earning up to \$6 a day selling baobab fruits. "Money from

baobab fruits has helped to sustain many people here," he said. Because the trees have no national commercial value, little research has been done on how to save the baobab trees, experts say. A senior official with the National Museums and Monuments of Zimbabwe, Paul Mupira, told during journalists at a May press briefing in Mutare that baobab trees were dying in large numbers.

He said there was also a lack of young trees growing to replace those dying, in part because people were collecting baobab seeds for food. "Animals are eating the young plants," he said. "People eat the small plants too as vegetables." Nyagwande, of Environment Africa, said villagers in the affected areas were being encouraged to plant more baobab trees to reverse the decline. "Unless something is done as matter of urgency, baobabs face extinction," he predicted. — Reuters



COLOMBO: In this photograph, a Sri Lankan Buddhist monk watches as mahouts bathe an elephant at a temple in Colombo. — AFP

SRI LANKA'S LATEST STATUS SYMBOL, A BABY ELEPHANT

COLOMBO: Expensive and high-maintenance, baby elephants have become the ultimate status symbol for Sri Lanka's wealthy elite—a trend that has horrified conservationists and prompted a government crackdown. Elephants are venerated in mainly Buddhist Sri Lanka and capturing them is illegal. Yet authorities say more than 40 have been stolen from national parks over the last decade and are being kept as pets.

"The new rich wannabes want an elephant at home for prestige," said Asian elephant expert Jayantha Jayewardene, recalling an old Sri Lankan aristocratic tradition of keeping herds of the wild beasts. "This is for social climbing." Earlier this year, the gift of a baby elephant to the visiting New Zealand Prime Minister John Key sparked anger from animal rights activists who said it was cruel to separate her from her family, and the incident has not been repeated.

Worse, Jayewardene says elephants are almost certainly dying to fuel the illegal trade. "The maternal instinct in elephants is very, very strong," he said. "Poachers can't get at a baby without the mother putting up a fight, and it usually ends with the death of the mother." Guns are used to scare off the mothers, and sometimes to kill them, Jayewardene told AFP. Elephant calves have also been known to be killed by the tranquilizer drugs used to make them more docile for capture.

Pubudu Weeraratna, the head of the Species Conservation Centre wildlife group, has been involved in a number of rescues and remembers one young elephant succumbing to an overdose of tranquilizers. Another story had a happier ending—in 2014 he confronted a group of men transporting a baby elephant on the back of a tractor trailer near a wildlife park. The calf had been sedated, but it made a good recovery. Intentionally killing an elephant is considered such a serious crime in Sri Lanka it is punishable by death—though no one has been prosecuted in decades.

Two years ago a group of activists reported catching rustlers red-handed with a baby elephant, but no action was ever taken. In 2013, wildlife activists raised suspicions of a cover-up by some in the administration of former leader Mahinda

Rajapakse after a registry of domesticated elephants disappeared. The document later re-appeared with entries doctored—the case is being investigated by police.

Temple tradition

Rustlers are prepared to take such risks because of the huge sums involved—the Species Conservation Centre says baby elephants sell for as much as \$125,000. Some of the country's most powerful have been implicated. Last month, judge Thilina Gamage was arrested following intense pressure from wildlife activists, who accused him of illegally keeping a baby elephant as a pet.

He is now on bail awaiting trial, and has been suspended by the Judicial Service Commission. That followed the arrest in March of Buddhist monk Uduwe Dhammaloka for keeping a two-year-old elephant at his temple in Colombo, though he says he was unaware he was acting illegally. "I did not capture the elephant, it was left at my temple," he told the court during a preliminary hearing. "I treated it like any cat or dog people leave at temples when they can't afford to feed those pets."

Now out on bail, Dhammaloka faces charges of stealing state property, which carries a possible jail sentence of three years. Wildlife minister Gamini Jayawickrama Perera has told parliament he is determined stop the illegal trade. The government has stopped the tradition of gifting animals from its elephant orphanage in Pinnawala to Buddhist temples after activists raised concerns. But it faces pressure from the country's top Buddhist temple, which says the crackdown on keeping the animals has created a shortage of tame elephants for its annual religious pageant.

The chief custodian of the Temple of the Tooth Nilanga Dela told AFP that at least 80 elephants were required for the event in the historic city of Kandy, in which relics said to be from the Buddha are paraded on the animals' backs.

"We are facing a crisis situation," said Dela, who put the number of domesticated elephants at fewer than 125 — though wildlife officials say the number is closer to 200. "We may not get the elephants we need." —AFP

PACIFIC OCEAN RADIATION BACK NEAR NORMAL AFTER FUKUSHIMA: STUDY

SYDNEY: Radiation levels across the Pacific Ocean are rapidly returning to normal five years after a meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant spewed gases and liquids into the sea, a study showed yesterday. Japan shut down dozens of reactors after a magnitude 9.0 earthquake-generated tsunami on March 11, 2011 triggered one of the largest ever dumps of nuclear material into the world's oceans.

In the days following the quake and explosions at Fukushima, seawater meant to cool the nuclear reactors instead carried radioactive elements back into the Pacific, with currents dispersing it widely. Five years on a review by the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research, which brings together ocean experts from across the world, said radioactive material had been carried as far as the United States.

Radioactive material

But after analyzing data from 20 studies of radioactivity associated with the plant, it found radiation levels in the Pacific were rapidly returning to normal after being tens of millions of times higher than usual following the disaster. "As an example, in 2011

about half of fish samples in coastal waters off Fukushima contained unsafe levels of radioactive material," said Pere Masque, who co-authored the review published by the Annual Review of Marine Science. "However, by 2015 that number had dropped to less than one percent above the limit."

But the study also found that the seafloor and harbor near the Fukushima plant were still highly contaminated in the wake of the world's worst nuclear accident since Chernobyl in 1986. "Monitoring of radioactivity levels and sea life in that area must continue," added Masque, a professor of environmental radiochemistry at the Edith Cowan University in Western Australia. The research examined radioactive cesium levels measured off Japan's coast across the Pacific to North America.

Cesium is a by-product of nuclear power and is highly soluble in water, making it ideal for measuring the release of radioactive material into the ocean, it said. Although no one is recorded as having died as a direct result of the nuclear accident, tens of thousands of people were uprooted, with many still unable to return home because of persistent contamination. —AFP

ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN GATORS, HUMANS MOUNTING IN FLORIDA

MIAMI: At a small outdoor amphitheater in the Florida swamp, about 50 tourists gawk at the spectacle center stage: a man placing his head between the massive jaws of an alligator. Later, patrons at the Everglades Alligator Farm—one of many Florida establishments featuring gator shows—get a chance to cradle a baby gator, which is passed excitedly between sweaty hands, amid a barrage of selfies. "My husband is a big fan of reptiles, so while we were in Florida, we simply had to make a stop at a wildlife reserve," said Emilia Armendariz, 34, a visitor from Ecuador.

Florida, famed for its sandy beaches, is almost as well known for its alligators, an iconic symbol of the swamp-filled southeastern US state that is the natural habitat for the fearsome reptiles. Humans are not their favorite meal, but you wouldn't know that from the recent series of alarming gator attacks on people. The most recent incident—the death of a two-year-old boy in an attack last month at a Disney World resort in Orlando—made headlines around the world. The reptile snatched the child as he frolicked at the edge of a man-made lake, and his father was unable to free him from the animal's grip.

The toddler's body was recovered the next day. Just days before, an gator was seen in the city of Lakeland in central Florida with a human body clenched between its teeth.

A similar incident was reported about 200 miles away in Fort Lauderdale. The incidents have been multiplying with alarming rapidity. In another case last month, one of the giant reptiles reportedly bit a man's leg. In May, an alligator ripped the arm off a fugitive trying to escape the police.

Vying for territory

Ron Magill, spokesman for the Miami Zoo and animal behavior expert, says that humans and gators increasingly find themselves vying for the same territory. "I think we're probably having more incidents between alligators and humans because there are more alligators, there are more humans, and humans are now building into alligator habitat," Magill told AFP. By the 1970s, the alligator population in Florida had dwindled to just several thousand, and the reptiles were classified as an endangered species, Magill told AFP.

Today, thanks to conservation efforts, they number some 1.3 million. At the same time, the human population has also increased, rising 7.8 percent between 2010 and 2015, according to the US Census Bureau, from 18.8 million to 20.3 million. The human population growth has forced the reptiles to be more resourceful as their habitat is encroached upon. "Alligators are learning to adapt. They are going to go into residential areas if there are lakes, man-made lakes, canals," Magill said. "Alligators use the canals, lakes and bodies of water throughout Florida almost like a freeway system. They use that to go from one area to another."



FLORIDA: An American Alligator rests on a rock at the alligator lagoon at Everglades Alligator Farm in Homestead, Florida. — AFP

Golf gator

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has warned residents of the increasing likelihood of close encounters with gators. "Florida has experienced tremendous human population growth. Many residents seek waterfront homes, and increasingly participate in water-related activities," the FWS said in a statement. "This can result in more frequent alligator-human interactions, and a greater potential



FLORIDA: Zoo Miami communications director Ron Magill holds a juvenile American Alligator as he describes the animal to the media at Zoo Miami in Florida. — AFP

for conflict." Not all of these conflicts end in tragedy. A gator recently became an Internet sensation when it took a casual stroll through a Florida golf course.

And it is quite a common phenomenon to hear about gators lounging in a family swimming pool. "Just because you think that you have a fence around it, or that it's isolated on the golf course, or it's a man-made lake, that you aren't going to find alligators, that would be a big mistake," Magill said. "Alligators travel quite a bit over land to go from one body of water to another body of water, especially after the breeding season, or during the breeding season, when the males are looking for females," he said.

The most dangerous periods are between April and June, when gators are looking to mate, and from June to August, when they are tending their nests and awaiting the emergence of their hatchlings. A relatively safe place for gator encounters are the nature preserves like the Everglades Alligator Farm, which despite some of the performance aspects of its shows, promotes itself as an educational venture.

Jeremy Possman, manager of the Everglades Alligator Farm, told AFP that the staff hammers home the message that gators are dangerous animals. They advise patrons to avoid fresh waters in Florida to limit the chance of a close encounter of the reptile kind. "An alligator has a natural fear of men, and one of the first things that they always teach you is don't feed alligators," Possman said. "What they need is to be respected for what they are, left alone, and if you have an alligator in your backyard, don't feed them." — AFP

KENYA SEEKS TECH ALTERNATIVES TO BREAK TABOO OVER SEX EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

NAIROBI: When Kenyan teenager Rosemary Olale found out she was pregnant, her guardians threw her out of their home in shame, despite the fact no one taught her about safe sex. She didn't dare tell them she was also HIV positive. "You just feel like everybody doesn't want you," said Olale, sitting with a dozen other HIV positive women, each with a small child on her lap, in a small home in Nairobi's Saika slums.

Olale, now 37, started the group in 2005 to provide other HIV positive women and young mothers with support in dealing with stigma, poverty and reproductive health issues. Teenagers across Africa urgently need more information about sex to combat soaring rates of HIV and unwanted pregnancies, experts say, as widespread taboos and cultural conservatism prevent discussions in schools and homes. "Where I come from, talking about the sex education with your girl is really difficult," Olale told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. However, a growing number of businesses, charities and individuals are seeking to fill the gap in information.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Nailab, a Kenyan firm that supports technology startups, are behind the latest initiative, which targets entrepreneurs for their ideas on providing sex education through technology and social media.

Candidates in the I AM campaign launched this month, have until August to submit their ideas before four winners are chosen to receive training, mentorship and funding to develop their ideas further. "All girls, all boys must have comprehensive sexuality education," said Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA executive director. "That's really when they can make the choice in their lives."

Conservative backlash

Kenya pledged to improve access to sexual education and family planning services at the 2012 London Summit on Family Planning, but has had difficulty implementing new policies due to conservative opposition. A bill to teach sex education and provide access to contraceptives in schools was introduced into Kenya's upper house of parliament in 2014, provoking a national outcry.

"People are fearing that when you're speaking about sex or when you're speaking about sex education, it's like losing your values," said David Opoti Inzofu a pastor at Nairobi's Riruta Christ Bible Church, who openly discusses family planning with his congregation. "There is no day I can remember where my mother or my father sat with me and discussed with me about sex. Never."

Sex education and family planning are critical in delaying motherhood, reducing HIV

rates and deaths from unsafe abortions, UNFPA says. Some 29,000 young people aged between 15 and 24 are infected with HIV annually in Kenya, government data shows. New infections are spiking among adolescent girls who know less about HIV transmission than boys, it says.

One in five teenage girls are mothers, with some 13,000 dropping out of school each year to raise their children, UNFPA says. Kenya is a hotbed of technological innovation in Africa, with technology giants such as Google, IBM and Microsoft setting up headquarters in Nairobi. For an issue as taboo as sex, technology allows people to have anonymous and informative conversations without the fear of stigma or discrimination.

"(If) somebody builds a software that allows people to anonymously chat about their sexual challenges, and we see tens of thousands of young people using it - that will be the most exciting part of this," said Sam Gichuru, chief executive of Nailab. Technology can also reach many more people than face-to-face groups like Olale's. Some 80 percent of Kenyans own a mobile phone, government data shows. "A lot of these children are now getting access to mobile phones and technology," said Siddharth Chatterjee, UNFPA's representative in Kenya. "Imagine the knowledge they can generate through that technological edge." — Reuters



IOWA: This file photo shows four white heifers, "genetic twin sisters" produced using cloning technology, from a very elite Shorthorn cow in the US, at the headquarter of Trans Ova Genetics in Sioux Center, Iowa. — AFP

CLONING FOR MEDICINE: MIRACLE THAT WASN'T

PARIS: When Dolly the cloned sheep was born 20 years ago on July 5, many hailed mankind's new-found mastery over DNA as a harbinger of medical miracles such as lab-grown transplant organs. Others trembled at the portent of a "Brave New World" of identical humans farmed for spare parts or as cannon fodder. As it turns out, neither came to pass. Human cloning-complicated, risky and ethically contentious-has largely been replaced as the holy grail of regenerative medicine by other technologies, say experts.

"It has not lived (up) to the hype," said Rosario Isasi of the University of Miami's Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy. "It was like a eureka moment: that we will finally be able to understand more (about) the mechanisms of disease, be able to maybe use it as a treatment for infertility," she told AFP. "But that has not happened." Arguably the world's most famous sheep, Dolly was the first mammal cloned using a technique called somatic-cell nuclear transfer (SCNT).

It involves removing the DNA-containing nucleus of a cell other than an egg or sperm-a skin cell, for example-and implanting it into an unfertilized egg from which the nucleus has been removed. In Dolly's case, the gene-encoding cell was taken from a mammary gland, which saw the ewe named for buxom country singer Dolly Parton. Once transferred, the egg reprograms the mature DNA back to an embryonic state with the aid of an electric jolt, and starts dividing to form a single-parent embryo. No human is known to ever have been created in this way.

'Slippery slope'

Cloning as a human reproductive tech-

nique is a global no-no. Apart from ethical and human rights objections raised to the creation of carbon-copy people, safety is a key concern. In animals, only a handful of cloned embryos survive to birth, and many have health problems later. Experts say moral opposition to cloning as a means of reproduction, has clouded opinion on the technique's potential usefulness in regenerative medicine.

Mainly, people fear that scientists will not be able to resist the temptation of playing God. "With the ethical safeguards in place, there's... no way to go into reproductive applications," insisted Isasi. Yet, many people "fear that slippery slope... that one thing leads to another, leads to another, until there is a bad result. "That's the main concern. That is probably what has held back the use of the technology."

Investment in therapeutic cloning research has dwindled, and few countries among them Belgium, China, Israel, Japan, South Korea, Britain, Singapore-allow the creation of embryos for experimentation. In the United States it is not explicitly illegal. In therapeutic cloning, scientists harvest stem cells from a very early-stage embryocalled a blastocyst-a hollow ball of about 100-200 cells.

Coaxing these "blank," juvenile cells into specialized liver or blood cells, for example, holds the promise of curing disease or repairing damaged organs. If grown from the patient's own DNA, the risk of transplant rejection is dramatically lowered. But producing stem cells this way involves destroying embryos, another moral quagmire. And while a handful of scientists have succeeded in creating stem cells through SCNT, none have been grown into a functional human organ. — AFP

SEOUL: At \$100,000 a head, the puppies frolicking around the fenced lawn in western Seoul don't come cheap-but at least their owners know exactly what they are getting. The lawn belongs to the Sooaam Biotech Research Foundation, a world leader in pet cloning that has run a thriving commercial business over the past decade catering to dog owners who want to live with their pets forever ... literally.

With a client list including princes, celebrities and billionaires, the foundation offers owners protection against loss and grief with a cloning



SEOUL: This picture shows South Korean researchers checking donor eggs for dog cloning at the Sooaam Biotech Research Foundation, a world leader in pet cloning, in Seoul. — AFP

service that promises the perfect replacement for a beloved pet. Since 2006, the facility has cloned nearly 800 dogs, commissioned by owners or state agencies seeking to replicate their best sniffer and rescue dogs.

"These people have very a strong bond with their pets ... and cloning provides a psychological alternative to the traditional method of just letting the pet go and keeping their memory," said Wang Jae-Woong, a researcher and spokesman for Sooaam. "With cloning, you have a chance to bring back the pets," he said in the facility's "care room" where each cloned puppy is kept in a glass-fronted, temperature-controlled pen and monitored by researchers around the clock.

Ever since the milestone birth of Dolly the sheep in 1996, the rights and wrongs of cloning have been a topic of heated debate and Sooaam Biotech has been regarded with particular suspicion because of its founder, Hwang Woo-Suk. In two articles published in the journal Science in 2004 and 2005, Hwang claimed to have derived



SEOUL: This picture shows a South Korean researcher holding a cloned dog in her arms at a care room of the Sooaam Biotech Research Foundation, a world leader in pet cloning, in Seoul. — AFP

stem-cell lines from cloned human embryos, a world first. He was lauded as a national hero in South Korea before it emerged that his research was fraudulent and riddled with ethical lapses. Hwang was given a two-year suspended prison sentence in 2009, after being convicted of embezzlement and bioethical violations. Sooaam Biotech clones many animals, including cattle and pigs for medical research and breed preservation, but is best known for its commercial dog service.

The process involves harvesting a mature cell from the dog to be copied and transferring its DNA to a donor egg cell that has had its own genetic material removed.

The cell and the egg are "fused" with an electrical jolt, and the resulting embryo is implanted in a surrogate mother dog, which will give birth about two months later. Despite the \$100,000 price tag, requests for the service have poured in from around the world, Wang said-around half from North America.

Some have sought clones of other pets like cats, snakes and even chinchillas, but Wang said the demand for such animals was too small to justify the cost. Walls around the five-storey Sooaam Biotech centre are adorned with dozens of photos of cloned dogs and their smiling owners-tagged with their national flags including the US, Mexico, Dubai, Russia, Japan, China and Germany. "The clients understand that a clone is an identical twin of the original pet, but also has a lot of genetic predispositions and the potential to develop as the original pet," Wang said.

9/11 canine hero

One well publicized cloning was of Trakr, a former police dog hailed as a hero after discovering the last survivor of the 9/11 attack on the

World Trade Center. Sooaam produced five clones after Trakr's owner won a contest for the world's most "clone-worthy" dog. High profile clients have included Princess Shaikha Latifah of Dubai who cloned her pet dog in 2015 and helped launch a joint research study into cloning camel breeds known for high milk production.

For the most part, the foundation's clients and financial supporters of Hwang Woo-Suk's research prefer to remain anonymous. "Few of our backers-even the most loyal ones-want to voice their support publicly," said Sooaam Biotech's general manager Kim Hoon, who acknowledged that the scandal involving the facility's founder had tainted its image. "I think the only way to win the public's trust back is making more genuine scientific breakthroughs," he said.

The centre does not conduct any human stem cell research after being repeatedly denied a state approval to do so. But it is pushing a number of ambitious projects, most notably an effort to clone an extinct mammoth. Since 2012, Hwang's team has attempted to cultivate living cells from the frozen remains of mammoths in Siberia.

Disease models

For medical research purposes, Sooaam Biotech also produces genetically-engineered animals, or "disease models" that are predisposed to Alzheimer's, diabetes or certain cancers. During a visit to the clinic by AFP, Hwang himself was leading a procedure to inject the embryo of a Beagle into a surrogate mother dog's womb. "This dog, once born, has a possibility to become a disease model for human brain tumors," Hwang said. —AP

THE DOLLY LEGACY: ARE YOU EATING CLONED MEAT?

PARIS: Two decades after Scotland's Dolly the sheep became the first cloned mammal, consumers may well wonder whether they are drinking milk or eating meat from cookie-cutter cows or their offspring. The simple answer: "probably". The fact is, there is no way to know for sure, say the experts, even in Europe, which has come closer to banning livestock cloning than anywhere else in the world.

With the possible exception of the ram sacrificed by Abraham in the Bible, Dolly must be the world's most famous sheep. The ewe's birth in an Edinburgh laboratory on July 5, 1996 was front-page news, provoking hype and hand-wringing in equal parts. For the most part, cloning turned out to be a dead end. But there is one sector in which Dolly's legacy is alive and well: the dupli-

cation of prize breeding animals. How aggressively the private sector has developed this niche market has depended in large part on national or regional regulations, with key differences between the United States, China and the European Union.

US: FDA approved

"The most dramatic impact of the cloning of Dolly has been on animal cloning in the United States," said Aaron Levine, an expert in bioethics and cloning at Georgia Tech. In 2008, the US Food and Drug Administration concluded that "food from cattle, swine and goat clones is as safe to eat as food from any other cattle, swine or goat." Not even scientists can distinguish a healthy clone from a conventionally bred ani-

mal, the regulatory agency said. There are no requirements to label meat or milk from a cloned animal or its offspring, whether sold domestically or abroad. For industry, the aim was never to set up assembly-line production-cloning is difficult and expensive at more than 10,000 Euros (\$11,000) a pop, and the success rate low, with few clones surviving to birth. So the focus, instead, is on copying genetically outstanding specimens so they may naturally sire exceptional progeny.

"It's fairly widespread in US to use cloning to produce breeding stock," said Levine. "Cloned animals are not intended to enter the food supply directly." "I suspect some may have," he added. Among the leaders in commercial livestock cloning in the US are Cyagra, based in

Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, and ViaGen, in Austin, Texas. At least one company, ViaGen, also provides services for copying cherished cats and dogs. US companies typically produce hundreds or a few thousand clones per year.

The Boyalife Group's cloning new factory near the northern coastal city of Tianjin in China, however, is aiming for an annual output of 100,000 cows this year, scaling up to a million by 2020. Also in the pipeline are thoroughbred racehorses, pets and police dogs specialized in searching and sniffing.

Boyalife has said it is working with South Korean partner Sooaam and the Chinese Academy of Sciences to improve primate cloning technology, to create better test animals for human disease research. —AP



EDINBURGH: This file photo shows Dolly, the cloned sheep at the Edinburgh Institute. —AFP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM

Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368



AUK S.IGNS MOU WITH ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

The American University of Kuwait (AUK) is pleased to announce it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Algonquin College (AC), Kuwait's first Canadian College. The MOU will enable the two institutes to collaborate in several areas, such as academics,

and social and cultural activities. AUK President, Dr Nizar Hamzeh, looks forward to establishing a long-lasting relationship with the college. "Algonquin College shares the same dedication towards its students as AUK. The relationship between the two institutes is a mutually beneficial one; one

that enables smooth academic, intellectual, and extracurricular exchange," he said. Dr Dave McHardy, President of AC-Kuwait, said "Algonquin College provides students with the practical skills they need to enter the workforce and the academic skills they need to successfully pursue fur-

ther studies. This agreement with AUK establishes the framework for us to create clear pathways for AC-Kuwait graduates to gain admission to Bachelor's degree programs at AUK and to explore other potential areas of collaboration with AUK. It is agreements like this that will help institutions like

AC-Kuwait make significant contributions to the Government of Kuwait's efforts to train effective leaders and build the capacity of its workforce."



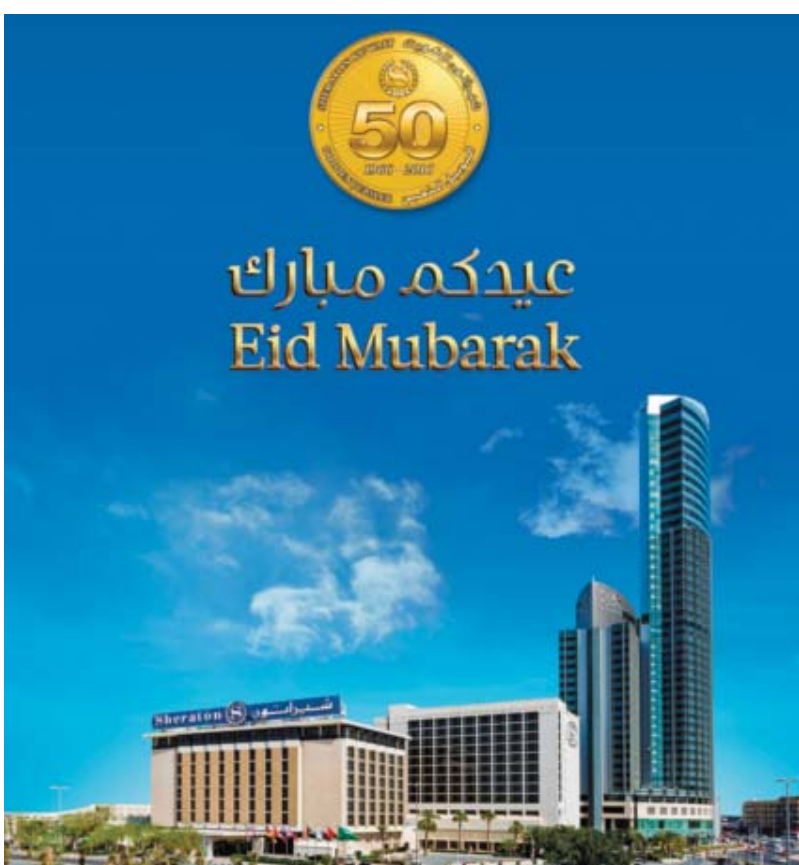
EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCE OF EID AL-FITR AT SHERATON KUWAIT AND FOUR POINTS

The Sheraton Kuwait and Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait hotels express sincere congratulations and blessings for the approach of Eid Al-Fitr, and invite you to spend unforgettable times with family and friends with unique cultural experiences of hospitality and dining venues, which coincides this year with the celebrations of its 50th Anniversary as the first managed Sheraton to open outside United States and the first five stars hotel in Kuwait, which reflects a real icon in the Arabian Hospitality world.

The guests of Sheraton Kuwait can indulge in a luxurious Eid spirit through its prestigious restaurants, which extends from the Sheraton Kuwait to the Avenues, the largest mall in Kuwait, where they can choose from a wide selection of menus around the world in accordance with high level of hospitality standards and outstanding services.

Riccardo Restaurant is welcoming you again to experience the exemplary fine dining of the genuine Italian cuisine whilst listening to live music that captures the happiness of Eid performed by the Italian due. Enjoy lavish dining experience with Al-Hambra restaurant and savor a variety of international buffets specially prepared for this occasion.

Lebanese delicacies in a distinctive traditional ambiance at le Tarbouche restaurant to enjoy the best cold and hot mesas; Also Bukhara restaurant which offers a rich treasure of Indian dishes prepared with the finest types of authentic spices, as well as Shahrayer restaurant, the Iranian cuisine where you relish the most vibrant cuisine and taste the best barbecue with hot Tannur bread. Enjoy tradi-



tional English tea in a luxurious and classic ambiance with original flavors at the English Tea Lounge with a variety of delectable scones and snacks.

Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait is welcoming you at Pizzeria La Mamma to celebrate a unique Eid where you can enjoy an assortment of appetizing antipasti, freshly prepared pasta and pizza baked on the wood to meet your culinary desire. Special summer offers on rooms and suites are also available to enjoy your holidays and

suit your expected desires. The Sheraton Kuwait restaurants in the Avenues-Grand Avenue are welcoming you to enjoy both shopping and taste the best cuisines in a classy and superior atmosphere.

On this occasion Fahed Abushaar - General Manager of Sheraton Kuwait and Mounir Amer - General Manager of Four Points by Sheraton Kuwait, the Executive Committee and all the associates wish the people of Kuwait and all residents a happy Eid.

SLOAN'S ICE CREAM OFFERS SPECIAL PACKAGES FOR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Families looking for a venue to celebrate their kid's birthday in Kuwait can now enjoy special party packages at the recently opened Sloan's Ice Cream store. The USA ice cream parlor, which made its Middle East debut in Kuwait at the end of March, is offering kids birthday party packages inclusive of invitations, food and beverage, decorations, activities, a birthday cake and sundae decorating with Sloan's Specialists at its The Promenade location.

Groups of 15 kids or more can also enjoy exclusivity of the store for two hours either during weekdays or at the weekend, with additions of face painting, balloon twisting, and a nail station also available. Ali Al-Mutawa, general manager of AFM Establishment, the company behind the store's Middle East venture, said: "We are excited to be offering our store for the enjoyment and celebration of kids of all ages and look forward to playing a part in their happy occasion".

"In our first few months of opening our store in Kuwait, we have already become a popular venue with families from across the country and had great interest from those wanting to host celebrations and events with us." Sloan's Ice Cream store, with its signature pink walls and ceilings, offers a variety of confectionery, plush toys lined the walls, homemade sweets filled the countertops, and rich original ice cream flavors made from the finest ingredients.

Some of the innovative flavors brought from the store's Florida origins include: Tracy's Scrumptious Pretzel (caramel ice cream with milk chocolate covered salty pretzels and peanut butter swirls), Cookie Monster (made with homemade chocolate chip cookies) and Mom's Apple Pie (apple pie ice cream with pieces of homemade apple pie).



EIDAL-FITR FESTIVITIES AT MARINA HOTEL KUWAIT

With EidAl-Fitr celebrations just around the corner, Marina Hotel Kuwait extends its warmest greetings to guests and their families and has organized exciting family packages for the festive holidays. The hotel has unveiled a rich choice of culinary flavors, family entertainment and special room packages to make this Eid truly memorable. Guests can look forward to incredible room packages with a wide range of other benefits which include access to the state of the art Coral Reef Health Club, pool and beach or just use the opportunity to relax in the luxurious rooms.

Guests whose taste palettes crave

for unique and diverse cuisines can start their morning with steaming coffee and breakfast at the Six Palms Restaurant and indulge during dinner on the International buffet filled with Oriental specialties. They can also watch authentic innovations spring to life for lunch at the renowned Atlantis Restaurant with the finest dishes from around the world, an exciting kids corner, and views of the Arabian Sea.

Commenting on the occasion, Nabil Hammoud, General Manager, Marina Hotel Kuwait said: "Eid, being a time of joy and togetherness, brings us great pleasure in gifting these exclusive offers to our guests whilst sharing in their celebrations. I would

like to wish everyone a blessed Eid. These promotions are tailor made to appeal to every family member preferences with an aim to experience a unique stay at our property."

Marina Hotel has planned special programs for children of all ages to participate in the Eid celebrations. With the Marina Kids Club program they have an opportunity to benefit from the various fun filled activities which include games for adults and kids, movie viewing, football, volleyball, basketball, bouncy castles, face painting, and much more. Experience a memorable journey while sharing this special time with friends and family at Marina Hotel.



PROF AL-HUMOUD ANNOUNCES AOU FINAL RESULTS OF 2ND SEMESTER

Prof Moudi Al-Humoud, President of the Arab Open University (AOU) announced on Wednesday the final exam results for the second semester of the academic year 2015-2016 of all students of the AOU branches, which operate in eight Arab countries. This came in a press release where Al-Humoud said, 'On behalf of the Chairman of AOU Board of Trustees, HRH Prince Talal bin Abdul-Aziz, and all Board members, I offer my congratulations to all students who passed the exams and wish them more success and progress in their academic and working life.' In addition, she appreciated the

efforts of students' parents and thanked the Central Examination Committee (CEC) and the examination subcommittees as well as all academic and administrative staff, faculty members and proctors for their efforts in providing students with a suitable atmosphere for examination. She added students could check their results on the AOU website by entering their student number.

She said that the approval of results came after a series of procedures and approvals conducted by the CEC, examination subcommittees and external examiners from the Open University in the UK. She pointed out



the external examiners came to check samples of exam papers and review results in order to assure quality of exam marking system.



LA PLUS BELLE SALON HOLDS GHABQA

In a first of its kind event in Kuwait, the famous La Plus Belle beauty salon and center recently held a special Ghabqa to

which it invited female celebrities and members of the media at the Millennium Hotel.

Guests were received by the operations manager, Sana Samman and welcomed them to enjoy some of the outstanding serv-

ices the center provides. Notably, located at the Millenium Hotel, La Plus Belle Salon is a place specialized to prepare brides in an

atmosphere of relaxations. It also has two special rooms for VIP brides as well as sections for body and skin care.



UNMATCHED SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS BY ICSK STUDENTS

The students of the Indian Community School Kuwait have brought glory to the school by winning several prizes in various events of the CBSE Kuwait Cluster Sports 2016-17.

TABLE TENNIS

In the U-19 Table tennis girls' event, the ICSK team bagged the Championship trophy. The event was conducted on 14th and 15th May, 2016 at the Indian Educational School. The winning team comprised Akila P Krishnan (Class XII), Mariam Paul (Class XI), Sarah Johnson (Class XI) and Umama Bawaji (Class XI). The U-11 girls were runners up in the table tennis tournament. The team comprised Hannah Kurian (Class V), Emma Kurian (Class V), Riya Theresa Rajan (Class V) and Eshita Srivastava.

The U-14 boys were runners up in the table tennis tournament that was conducted on 20th and 21st April, 2016 at the Indian Central School. The team members were Sarthak Jogiani (Class VII), Aaryan Rajeev (Class VII), Rishi Anoop (Class VII) and Raghav (class VI).

BADMINTON

The Kuwait Cluster badminton tournament for boys was held on 11th and 12th May, 2016.

The Indian Community School Kuwait was the host for the event. The U-14 boys won the championship in the category. The winning team members were Adnan Jeff (Class VII), Aiden Anish Mathew (Class VI), Delwin Menezes (Class VIII), Abhishek Daniel Joseph (Class VIII).

CHESS

In the Chess tournament, U-11 girls' won the trophy. The tournament was held on 27th and 28th April at the Indian English Academy School. The team comprised Arshiya Anand (Class VII), Ruth Gladwin (Class VI), SakinaTaha (Class V) and Aaliya Kadiri (Class IV).

Also, in chess tournament U-19 category, Sneha Ashok (Class XII), HarithaGnanasegar (Class XII), Aleeta (Class X) and PranathiPrasanth (Class IX) were the winners. The Chess boys' tournament was held on 23rd, 24th and 25th April, 2016 at India Integrated School (Jaleeb). The U-11 team was the runners up in this tournament. The team members were Smit Kubal (Class IV), Vaishakh Rajeev (Class IV), Ashwil Biju (Class V) and Bryan Thomas (Class V).

SWIMMING

In the U-14 boys' Swimming competition

that was held on 27th and 28th April, 2016, Jai Ajith Barot (Class VI) stood 3rd in the 50m Freestyle event and Adil Roshan Anwar (Class VI) also came 3rd in the 100m backstroke event. In the same competition, U-17 boys category, Shabbir Murtaza (Class XI) won the bronze medal in the 50m Freestyle event, Arjeet Singh Rekhi (Class XI) secured the silver medal in 4X100m freestyle. Anson Pereira (Class XI) won silver medal in 4X100m freestyle and bronze in 100m backstroke. Ebrahim Kaeed (Class XI), Nilay Thummar (Class XII), Roshan K Thomas (Class XI) and Tariq Ahmed (Class XI) won the silver medal in 4X100m freestyle relay.

The U-17 girls' swimming competition was held on 30th April and 1st May, 2016. Pranathi Prasanth (Class IX) stood 3rd in the 100m backstroke event.

VOLLEYBALL

In the 18th CBSE Kuwait Cluster Volleyball Tournament that was hosted by Carmel School Kuwait and was held on 7th and 8th May, 2016, the U-19 boys' team was the runner up. The team comprised Ryan Johnson (Class XII), Nooh Faisal (Class XII), Jeffin Manoj (Class XII), Kevin Sajan (Class XII), StepenRoshan (Class XII), Manjot Singh (Class XII), Rusener

Josemario (Class XII), Taha Juzer (Class XII), David Thomas (Class XI), Kevin Tom (Class XI), Ali Hussain (Class XI) and Cristy Sajan (Class

VIII). Congratulations to all the winners who worked hard to achieve the glory!





03:25 Into The Pride
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
06:12 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
06:36 Meet The Sloths
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
08:40 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
13:15 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Into The Pride
17:25 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
18:20 Restoration Wild
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Wildest Africa
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 Restoration Wild
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
00:45 Human Prey
01:40 Restoration Wild
02:35 Tanked



03:20 Whitechapel
04:15 Casualty
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Doctors
07:50 Casualty
08:40 Father Brown
09:25 The Paradise
10:20 Doctor Who
11:10 Casualty
12:05 Father Brown
12:50 The Paradise
13:45 Doctor Who
14:35 Casualty
15:30 Father Brown
16:15 The Paradise
17:10 Doctor Who
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Doctors
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Silent Witness
21:00 Silent Witness
21:55 Ripper Street
22:50 Bedlam
23:40 Doctors
00:10 Doctors
00:40 Silent Witness
01:35 Silent Witness
02:30 Ripper Street



Discovery Channel HD
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: Top 5
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 Gold Divers
11:25 Pacific Warriors
12:15 Outback Truckers
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 Diamond River Hunters
18:30 Deadliest Job Interview
19:20 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Storage Hunters UK
21:00 Diamond River Hunters
21:50 Deadliest Job Interview
22:40 Dive Wars Australia
23:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition
Theater
00:20 Wheeler Dealers: Top 5
01:10 Diamond River Hunters
02:00 Deadliest Job Interview
02:50 Dive Wars Australia



03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Dick n' Dom Go Wild
07:25 Kids vs Film
07:50 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 Nextworld
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
12:50 Ultimate Survival
13:40 How It's Made
14:05 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 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
17:50 Driving Me Crazy
18:40 Nextworld
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
21:10 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
22:00 Driving Me Crazy
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Ultimate Survival
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
02:10 Driving Me Crazy



03:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
03:48 I Almost Got Away With It
07:00 Deadly Affairs
07:50 I Almost Got Away With It
09:30 On The Case With Paula Zahn
10:20 Nightmare Next Door
11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
12:00 I Almost Got Away With It
15:20 Heartbreakers
16:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
17:00 I Was Murdered
20:20 Heartbreakers
21:10 California Investigator
22:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
22:50 Murder Among Friends

23:40 Disappeared
00:30 Redrum
01:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
02:10 Murder Among Friends



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipper
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipper
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 Jessie
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
13:35 Jessie
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Austin & Ally
14:50 Austin & Ally
15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:20 Gravity Falls
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 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 Zipper
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipper
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
13:45 Miles From Tomorrow
14:25 The Lion Guard
14:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:20 Doc McStuffins
15:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
16:30 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:25 Goldie & Bear
17:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:20 The Lion Guard
18:45 Miles From Tomorrow
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:30 PJ Masks
22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
22:45 Unbungalievable
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:50 Loopidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopidoo
02:45 Art Attack



06:00 Boyster
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 Action Hero
09:35 Mighty Med
10:00 K.C. Undercover
10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 Supa Strikas
11:20 Supa Strikas
11:45 Kirby Buckets
12:10 Kirby Buckets

12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:30 Lab Rats: Bionic Action Hero
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 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
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 Heat Seekers
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man v Food
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man v Food



03:25 Lewis
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 Lewis
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
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples
15:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:30 Code Of A Killer
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 Code Of A Killer
21:25 Don't Tell The Bride
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:10 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
12:12 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
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 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
02:12 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 Hank
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Better With You
08:30 Hank
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 Hank
13:30 The Bernie Mac Show
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 Suburgatory
19:30 Angie Tribeca
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Dr. Ken
21:30 Modern Family
22:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
22:30 My Big Fat Greek Life
23:00 Life In Pieces
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Dr. Ken
01:00 Modern Family
01:30 My Big Fat Greek Life
02:00 My Big Fat Greek Life
02:30 Life In Pieces



04:30 How To Make It In America
05:00 First Time Felon
07:00 Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth
08:30 Weapons Of Mass Distraction
10:30 Wit
12:30 Einstein And Eddington
14:30 Nightingale
16:00 An Apology To Elephants
17:00 Wit
19:00 The Wire
20:00 John Adams
21:00 True Blood
22:00 Five Days
23:00 Entourage
23:30 Entourage
00:00 The Wire
01:00 John Adams
02:00 True Blood



04:00 388 Arletta Avenue
06:00 The Expendables 3
08:15 Reclaim
10:00 Hercules
12:00 Mega Shark vs. Mecha Shark
13:45 The Expendables 3
16:00 Breakdown
18:00 Reclaim
20:00 Flightplan
22:00 Last Knights
00:00 Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!
02:00 Breakdown



04:00 Space Dogs
06:00 Sweet Home Alabama
08:00 Three Men And A Baby
10:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
12:00 Sweet Home Alabama
14:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
16:00 Three Men And A Baby
18:00 Raising Helen
20:00 Bringing Down The House
22:00 I Love You Beth Cooper
00:00 Three Men And A Baby
02:00 Bringing Down The House



03:00 Better Call Saul
04:00 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 Stitches
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

04:00 Space Dogs
06:00 Sweet Home Alabama
08:00 Three Men And A Baby
10:00 The Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy
12:00 Sweet Home Alabama
14:00 Charlie And The Chocolate Factory
16:00 Three Men And A Baby
18:00 Raising Helen
20:00 Bringing Down The House
22:00 I Love You Beth Cooper
00:00 Three Men And A Baby
02:00 Bringing Down The House

SHARKNADO 3- OH HELL NO! ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



03:00 71
05:00 Streetdance: All Stars
07:00 Filly Brown
09:00 Escape
11:00 Streetdance: All Stars
13:00 Grand Central
15:00 Before I Go To Sleep
17:00 Rudderless
19:00 Cake
21:00 Haunting In Hollow Creek
01:00 Escape



03:00 Camp Nowhere
05:00 Garfield's Fun Fest
07:00 Eragon
09:00 Flubber
11:00 Mulan
13:00 Big Hero 6
15:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid
17:00 Ice Age: The Meltdown
19:00 My Favorite Martian
21:00 Freaky Friday
23:00 Diary Of A Wimpy Kid
01:00 My Favorite Martian



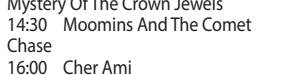
03:00 Second Coming
05:00 Ed Wood
07:30 Veronica Guerin
09:30 Wall Street
12:00 Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps
14:30 Legends Of The Fall
17:00 Veronica Guerin
19:00 What Dreams May Come



04:15 Parkland
06:15 Next Goal Wins
08:00 One Chance
10:00 Ana Maria In Novela Land
12:00 The Theory Of Everything
14:15 Song For Marion
16:00 One Chance
18:00 Taken 3
20:00 Blackhat
22:30 The Transporter: Refueled
00:15 One Chance
02:15 Taken 3



04:30 Hatching
06:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
07:45 Memory Loss
09:45 Marco Macaco
11:15 Jack And The Cuckoo Clock
Heart
13:00 Baby Geniuses And The Mystery Of The Crown Jewels
14:30 Moomins And The Comet Chase
16:00 Cher Ami
18:00 Marco Macaco
20:00 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby
22:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
23:30 Cher Ami
01:15 Memory Loss
02:45 Baby Geniuses And The Space Baby



04:30 Hatching
06:00 Ploddy Police Car On The Case
07:45 Memory Loss
09:45 Marco Macaco
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23:30 Cher Ami
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04:15 Parkland
06:15 Next Goal Wins
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10:00 Ana Maria In Novela Land
12:00 The Theory Of Everything
14:15 Song For Marion
16:00 One Chance
18:00 Taken 3
20:00 Blackhat
22:30 The Transporter: Refueled
00:15 One Chance
02:15 Taken 3



05:15 Shanghai
07:15 Coyote Ugly
09:00 The Proposal
10:45 Jack
12:45 Under The Tuscan Sun
14:45 The Hurricane
17:15 The Horse Whisperer
20:00 Pearl Harbor
23:00 Instinct
01:15 A Lot Like Love



03:00 Grey's Anatomy
05:00 Cougar Town
06:00 The Simpsons
07:00 Low Winter Sun
08:00 American Idol
10:00 Grey's Anatomy
13:00 Cougar Town
14:00 The Simpsons
15:00 Low Winter Sun
16:00 American Idol
18:00 Low Winter Sun
21:00 Cougar Town
22:00 The Simpsons
23:00 Low Winter Sun
00:00 American Idol
02:00 Low Winter Sun



04:00 Charge!
05:30 The Wolfpack
07:00 The Matador
08:15 Produced By George Martin
09:45 Kill The Poor
11:10 The Journey
12:50 Glassland
14:20 Vernon, Florida
15:20 A Small Section Of The World
16:20 Les Paul: Chasing Sound
17:50 Produced By George Martin
19:20 Swedish Auto
21:00 Vernon, Florida
22:00 Glassland
23:30 Kill The Poor
00:55 The Journey
02:35 Swedish Auto



03:15 Ballroom Blitz
04:00 Love At First Swipe
04:25 Love At First Swipe
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 Shopping Is My Life
07:15 Toddlers & Tiaras
08:05 Sister Wives
08:55 Single Dad Seeking...
09:45 Little People, Big World
10:10 Little People, Big World
10:35 Jon & Kate Plus 8
11:00 Jon & Kate Plus 8
11:25 Cake Boss



TAKEN 3 ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD

CLASSIFIEDS

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Tuesday 5/7/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:01
MEH	400	Beirut	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20
MEA	408	Beirut	00:25
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55
DLH	635	Doha	01:00
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40
RJA	642	Amman	01:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45
AXB	395	Kozhikode	01:50
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40
LMU	5101	Cairo	04:00
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00
THY	1414	TXZ	05:05
THY	6676	Istanbul	05:05
DXH	170	Bahrain	05:10
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15
SYR	343	Damascus	05:40
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30
BAW	157	London	06:40
JZR	563	Sohag	06:55
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50
KAC	354	BLR	08:00
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25
KAC	784	Jeddah	08:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05
IRM	1180	Mashhad	09:15
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40
IRA	675	Lar	09:40
CCE	341	Alexandria	10:00
SYR	341	Damascus	10:00
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:10
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25
RBG	553	Alexandria	11:30
MEA	412	Beirut	11:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50
CLX	794	Luxembourg	12:15
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25
JZR	241	Amman	12:30
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45
FEG	961	Sohag	12:55
MEA	406	Beirut	13:00
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10
GFA	221	Bahrain	13:15
KAC	514	Tehran	13:45
BON	101	Sarajevo	13:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10
MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
KAC	178	Vienna	14:15
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
FBA	831	Al Najaf	15:00
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
KAC	620	Doha	15:15
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
RJA	640	Amman	16:00
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
JZR	325	Al Najaf	16:15
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25
KAC	562	Amman	16:55
KAC	680	Muscat	16:55
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
ABY	121	Sharjah	18:15
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

502	Beirut	18:35	IRM	1181	Mashhad	10:30
786	Jeddah	18:35	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
774	Riyadh	18:35	IRA	674	Lar	10:40
742	Dammam	18:50	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
542	Cairo	18:55	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
618	Doha	18:55	SYR	342	Damascus	11:00
104	London	19:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:05
875	Dubai	19:05	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
217	Bahrain	19:05	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
166	Paris/Rome	19:05	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
063	Dubai	19:10	KAC	679	Muscat	11:25
614	Bahrain	19:10	KAC	619	Doha	11:30
123	Sharjah	19:15	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
572	Mumbai	19:35	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
674	Dubai	19:45	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
059	Dubai	19:50	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
634	Frankfurt	20:05	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
402	Beirut	20:15	MEA	413	Beirut	12:35
647	Muscat	20:20	JZR	324	Al Najaf	12:50
189	Dubai	20:25	KAC	783	Jeddah	13:00
618	Alexandria	20:30	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
1088	Doha	20:35	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
5053	Dubai	20:55	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
859	Dubai	21:15	CLX	713	Doha	13:45
229	Colombo	21:20	FEG	934	Alexandria	13:55
415	Amsterdam	21:25	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
764	Istanbul	21:30	MEA	407	Beirut	14:00
172	Frankfurt	21:50	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
1082	Doha	21:55	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
GFA	Bahrain	22:00	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
NIA	Cairo	22:10	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	783	Riyadh	15:00
JZR	Bahrain	22:15	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
PIA	Sialkot	22:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
802	Taif	22:40	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:10
782	Jeddah	22:50	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
185	Dubai	22:55	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
574	Mumbai	23:20	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
614	Cairo	23:30	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
071	Dubai	23:35	JZR	189	Dubai	15:50
301	Amman	23:45	FBA	832	Al Najaf	16:00
			KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
			BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
			OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
			ABY	126	Sharjah	16:15
			ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
			NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
			RJA	641	Amman	16:55
			JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
			FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
			QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
			KAC	781	Jeddah	17:30
			UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
			JZR	801	Taif	17:45
			SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
			JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
			GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
			JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
			JZR	238	Amman	18:45
			ABY	122	Sharjah	18:55
			QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
			JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
			MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
			KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
			GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
			FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
			KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
			ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
			FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
			UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
			JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
			KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
			DLH	634	Doha	20:50
			KAC	353	BLR	20:55
			KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
			KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
			KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
			JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
			MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
			OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
			MSR	607	Luxor	21:30
			QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
			DXH	171	Bahrain	21:50
			FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
			ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
			ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
			KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
			UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
			KLM	415	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
			THY	1403	AYT	22:25
			KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
			KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
			KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
			GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
			ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
			NIA	152	Cairo	23:10
			JZR	528	Asyut	23:15
			KAC	155	Istanbul	23:15
			QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
			KAC	411	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
			PIA	240	Sialkot	23:35
			KAC	203	Lahore	23:40

Departure Flights on Tuesday 5/7/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
AIC	976	Goa/Chennai	00:05
BBC	144	Chittagong/Dhaka	00:10
JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	562	Sohag	00:30
KLM	411	Amsterdam	00:55
MSC	416	Sohag	01:00
MEA	401	Beirut	01:05
MEA	409	Beirut	01:25
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
AXB	396	Kozhikode	02:50
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
KAC	177	Vienna	02:55
MSC	404	Asyut	03:10
KAC	783	Jeddah	03:30
MEA	411	Beirut	03:40
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
645	Amman	03:55	
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
MSC	412	Asyut	04:05
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
LMU	5111	Cairo	05:00
JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FEG	962	Sohag	06:00
RJA	643	Amman	06:25
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
THY	6376	Istanbul	06:35
SYR	344	Damascus	06:40
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	240	Amman	06:55
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
BAW	156	London	08:25
FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40
SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
KAC	513	Tehran	09:15
Jeddah	787	Jeddah	09:30
KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
JZR	482	Istanbul	09:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	

CROSSWORD 1305

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13	14
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63	64				65			66					67	68	
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78					79							80			

ACROSS

1. A depression in an otherwise level surface.
4. All the New World monkeys except marmosets and tamarins.
11. Wrap us in a cecreloth, as of a corpse.
15. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
16. A support consisting of an arrangement of straps for holding something to the body (especially one supporting a person suspended from a parachute).
17. Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
18. Italian lawn bowling (played on a long narrow dirt court).
20. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
22. A region of northeastern France famous for its wines.
23. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
25. A Mid-Atlantic state.
26. A radioactive transuranic element.
30. Greek author of fables (circa 620-560 BC).
33. Very attentive or observant.
34. Capital city of the Apulia region on the Adriatic coast.
37. The process of combustion of inflammable materials producing heat and light and (often) smoke.
38. Being nine more than forty.
39. A former agency (from 1946 to 1974) that was responsible for research into atomic energy and its peacetime uses in the United States.
40. Failing to speak or communicate etc when expected to.
41. A large mass of fog on the sea (as seen from a distance).
45. The content of cognition.
46. The 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
49. A rare heavy polyvalent metallic element that resembles manganese chemically and is used in some alloys.
50. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
52. A particular environment or walk of life.
53. Informal terms for a mother.
56. A committee having supervisory powers.
58. A silvery malleable metallic element that resists corrosion.
61. A cloth having a crisscross design.
63. Large family of important mostly marine food fishes.
69. (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
70. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
72. 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.
73. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
74. Type genus of the Ranidae.
75. Someone who cuts and delivers ice.
78. A small nail.
79. Roman statesman and philosopher who was and advisor to Nero (circa 4 BC - 65 AD).
80. A small cake leavened with yeast.

DOWN

1. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
2. A material effigy that is worshipped as a god.
3. Either of two large muscles of the chest.
4. The seed of the chickpea plant.
5. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
6. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
7. Set up for use.
8. A period of 10 years.
9. The residue that remains when something is burned.
10. A radioactive transuranic element produced by bombarding plutonium with neutrons.
11. Filaments from a cobweb.
12. An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
13. Scottish philosopher of common sense who opposed the ideas of David Hume (1710-1796).
14. Freedom from difficulty or hardship or effort.
19. Alternatively, a member of the family Nymphaeaceae.
21. The longest division of geological time.
24. Desert shrub of Syria and Arabia having small white flowers.
27. South American plant cultivated for its large fragrant trumpet-shaped flowers.
28. Lacking in liveliness or charm or surprise.
29. The occurrence of a change for the worse.
31. Submerged freshwater perennials.
32. Having wisdom that comes with age and experience.
35. Prolific Flemish baroque painter.
36. An immunosuppressive drug (trade name Imuran) used to prevent rejection of a transplanted organ.
42. A stock exchange in New York.
43. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
44. Monoamine oxidase inhibitor (trade name Nardil) used to treat clinical depression.
47. A logarithmic unit of sound intensity.
48. A bottle with a stopper.
51. A member of the Shoshonean people of northeastern Arizona.
54. Surveying instrument consisting of the upper movable part of a theodolite including the telescope and its attachments.
55. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
57. A town in northern Michigan on an arm of Lake Huron.
59. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
60. The state prevailing during the absence of war.
62. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
64. The sixth month of the civil year.
65. Type genus of the Apidae.
66. Stable gear consisting of either of two curved supports that are attached to the collar of a draft horse and that hold the traces.
67. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
68. God of love and erotic desire.
71. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.
76. A radioactive element of the actinide series.
77. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Do not take chances or risks just now. Be satisfied with the ordinary and usual. Novel ideas or insights could be more damaging than useful. Hectic emotional energy is present. Taking care of the normal flow of business is in order now. Look for opportunities to exercise-you could have lots of restless energies. You have the ability to give words meaning or to put ideas into words and give others a feeling for what things mean. You also have a sharp and clear mind that is also clever and perhaps entertaining. You bring laughter to what would otherwise be a difficult situation. You can appreciate the difficulties of others and be understanding of the problems that may exist. You discriminate between superficiality and the reality beneath.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Balancing the checkbook and taking a grocery inventory this morning will give you an idea of how you can contribute to a fun gathering with friends this afternoon. As a thrifty person you know just how to amazingly entertain and create a wonderful group meal. Playing the role of a channel for others is rewarding. Are you in love you may be going against tradition and being too pushy for group approval. There must be something on your mind other than business for today. You could become carried away under this kind of pressure and make mistakes. Careful, eat wisely-exercise. If you are not involved in a relationship, tonight is a good time to begin one! You can appreciate feelings and movement. Perhaps love is in the air-dancing anyone?



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are driven when it comes to fulfilling your ambitions and carving out a career. There is no lack of energy and nothing can stand in your way. Everything is poured into making the right moves and the correct decisions. Today, however, you will find lots of time on your hands and lots of invitations to go in different directions. If you are working, you may be working in some type of service capacity. You are outgoing, enthusiastic and diplomatic-everybody's favorite. You have a natural instinct for making the correct move at the right time. Politics or some public career seems inevitable. There is a constant desire for unity and atonement. You may have a secret urge to put out to sea and visit other countries-save your money and make your plans.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a good day. Your management skills are natural and you may be called upon to help out in management but not necessarily work-related activities. If you are not working today you will be organizing groups of people and shuffling around to make sure of timing of food or transportation is in order. At the end of this day there will be several things to celebrate and nobody forgets that it is your special day. You may be a bit eccentric but that is what makes you so crazy fun, people love to be around you and, in a crowd, other people will wonder how come they didn't get the message to be in your group. You belong with a group of fun, relaxed people and today you have wonderful insights into life circumstances.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Careful-you may tend to take paths at right angles to your real ambitions and self-interest today. This could result in trouble with authorities or older people. The answer here is to say the word no when it comes to extra projects that take away from your own progress. Your struggle to succeed is aided when you show self-control or discipline and find that middle road. You may be guiding young people in artistic endeavors this afternoon. You have an ability to work with the imagination, reaching beyond the mundane to the future potential. Your enthusiasm for mystical and religious experiences makes you an excellent teacher in artistic and creative matters. Promote your own ability to visualize and bring some focus into play for your current goals.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Today could bring the unexpected or find you in an unusual mood. It may be that you feel like getting away from the routine and just doing something different. A break from the usual routine can bring new insights or breakthroughs. You could take a vacation from your responsibilities and explore a more social adventure. Speculative interests are strongly emphasized. Details are the important factor in making profitable decisions, however. Your mind is exceptional in its clarity. All that is mental comes to you without struggle or labor-ideas, thoughts and mental things of all kinds. The light in your eyes reveals the brightness of your mind to everyone who comes to know you. It is time to begin a new hobby and today just might be the day to begin.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You have a lot of energy and come across as quite successful and in control. Much can be accomplished today. The exchange of ideas becomes a focal point of your day. Learning and knowing a little about a variety of things and keeping informed satisfies your need for mental stimulation. This afternoon, neighbors and brothers or sisters may play a role in this and young people figure more prominently in your life. Self-expression is personified and lends itself to your particular ideas and thoughts. A good conversation with those you love is possible. You can really communicate well and be understood by most anyone. You may visit with an old friend this evening, perhaps with e-mail or a phone conversation, if not in person.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

This is a time when you can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition from those around you. The lines of communication are open. You have a very analytical bent and your mind excels at making practical decisions. Your ideas run deeper than superficial issues; you could have an in-depth interest in psychology and even occult and mystical subjects. Your brilliant imagination and enchanting manner transport all who meet you beyond the mundane and into the extraordinary regions where you spend a lot of your time. If you are eating out this evening, pay your own way. Tonight is a great time to reflect and understand your own situation, just how you feel about yourself. Emotions and the feelings of others are very clear-a nice time.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

There could be a few challenges in the workplace today, but you learn and move forward and may even realize that without the challenges, the knowledge and capability that you have would probably not continue to grow. You are a natural architect and builder, able to use your mind to make decisions in matters of form and function. For you, the goal and the way to get to it are the same. You like to build each step and have each decision be an end in itself. Things must be done right. You also have great skill with the law, whether manmade or that of nature; you can put all of this into words. You could teach others. You deal with your feelings for a romantic partner this evening. You may think about whether you could have a happy future together.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Making money is second nature and you are able to field ideas and bring forth growth and success. You may find yourself guiding others in ways to invest their money. You may not be able to initiate any plans but plans can be made. You become interested in working toward a safety cushion regarding finances for yourself as well. You are independent and value freedom and nonconformity. Your career will be anything but ordinary and leave it to you to find unusual ways of supporting yourself. You bring a lot of mental skill and understanding to whatever you do. You might consider teaching or guiding others to take a more independent approach to their lives or careers. Pay attention to nature tonight-you may need protection from a few mosquitoes.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You could find yourself mentally acute and in a problem-solving mood. However, there is a real possibility that the decisions you make today and the solutions you find may have to be redone tomorrow. Correct choices and the best path for you may be at odds with your sense of values. You may not appreciate the easy way or clear-cut option and may choose instead a more difficult path. Circumstances may appear to work against you and bring very sensitive issues to your attention. As you take on a mindset to be patient, you will find answers become available. Self-sacrifice and an understanding attitude could have far-reaching effects. A little laughter this evening with a friend can be a great way to relax. Laughter is a great healer.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are a great doer-accomplished. Opportunities come up today that will allow you to express your outgoing nature. You have extremely skillful ways of handling crowds and groups. You are a natural for working with or for the public. You would make an excellent public relations manager or customer relations worker with a large company. Your career is never a problem-for you have the kind of drive that most people can only wish they had. Everything is working out well for you. You love to work with young people and may consider working with children as a teacher, coach or in some volunteer position. You appreciate a heartfelt approach and are an enthusiast if there ever was one. You encourage emotions, feelings and creativity from all.

WORD SEARCH

Good Eating - Word Search
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

BEANS
BREADS
CEREAL
CHEESE
DAIRY
EGGS
FATS
FIBRE

FISH
FRUITS
MEAT
MILK
MINERALS
NUTS
OILS
PASTA

POULTRY
PROTEIN
RICE
VEGETABLES
VITAMINS
WATER
YOGURT

Yesterday Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
Old TV Shows 6 - Solution

S	T	S	N	H	E	S	O	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	F	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	P	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	MC CLOUD	T J HOOKER
FAMILY GIDGET	MEDICAL CENTER	THE SAINT
	MOONLIGHTING	

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



JOKES



Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—
Ashe—Ashe who?

A: Bless you!

Q: Knock, knock—Who's there?—
Nobel—Nobel who?

A: No bell, that's why I knocked!

Q: Knock, knock—Who's there?—
Leaf—Leaf who?

A: Leaf me alone!

Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—
lettuce—lettuce who?

A: Lettuce in and you'll find out!

Q: Knock-knock—Who's there?—
Aaron—Aaron who?

A: Why Aaron you opening the door?

Q: Knock, knock—Who's There?—
Tank—Tank Who?

A: You're welcome!

SUDOKU

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

L	S	Z	F	E	8	9	6	I
I	9	E	L	S	6	F	Z	8
8	F	6	Z	I	9	S	E	L
F	Z	I	9	L	S	6	8	E
9	E	8	6	Z	F	L	I	S
S	6	L	I	8	E	Z	9	F
Z	I	S	E	6	L	8	F	9
E	8	9	S	F	Z	I	L	6
6	L	F	8	9	I	E	S	Z

Solution

Word Search

Scan the letters below. How many words can you find in 12 minutes?

Planet Earth

Below are 18 things that might be found on a globe or world map.

18 words ...12 minutes!

Antarctica	north
bay	North Pole
coast	ocean
continent	river
desert	sea
east	south
equator	South Pole
island	Tropics
lake	west

How many of the above words can you use to describe the country where you live?

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THE NARWHAL

The Narwhal, or Narwhale is a medium-sized toothed whale that possesses a large "tusk" from a protruding canine tooth. It lives year-round in the Arctic waters around Greenland, Canada, and Russia. It is one of two living species of whale in the Monodontidae family, along with the beluga whale. The narwhal males are distinguished by a long, straight, helical tusk, which is an elongated upper left canine. The narwhal was one of many species described by Carl Linnaeus in his publication Systema Naturae in 1758.

Like the beluga, narwhals are medium-sized whales. For both sexes, excluding the male's tusk, the total body size can range from 3.95 to 5.5 m; the males are slightly larger than the females. The average weight of an adult narwhal is 800 to 1,600 kg. At around 11 to 13 years old, the males become sexually mature; females become sexually mature at about 5 to 8 years old. Narwhals do not have a dorsal fin, and their neck vertebrae are jointed like those of other mammals, not fused as in dolphins and most whales.

Found primarily in Canadian Arctic and Greenlandic and Russian waters, the narwhal is a uniquely specialized Arctic predator. In winter, it feeds on benthic prey, mostly flatfish, under dense pack ice. During the summer, narwhals mostly eat Arctic cod and Greenland halibut, with other fish such as polar cod making up the remainder of their diet. Each year, they migrate from bays into the ocean as summer comes. In the winter, the male narwhals occasionally dive up to 1,500 m (4,900 ft) in depth, with dives lasting up to 25 minutes. Narwhals, like most toothed whales, communicate with "clicks", "whistles", and "knocks".

Narwhals can live up to 50 years. They are often killed by suffocation when the sea ice freezes over. Another cause of fatality, specifically among young whales, is starvation. The current population of the narwhal is about 75,000, so narwhals qualify for Near Threatened under the criterion of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Narwhals have been harvested for over a thousand years by Inuit people in

northern Canada and Greenland for meat and ivory, and a regulated subsistence hunt continues.

Tusk

The most conspicuous characteristic of the male narwhal is a single long tusk, a canine tooth that projects from the left side of the upper jaw, through the lip and forms a left-handed helix spiral. Their tusks grow throughout life, reaching lengths from about 1.5 to 3.1 m.

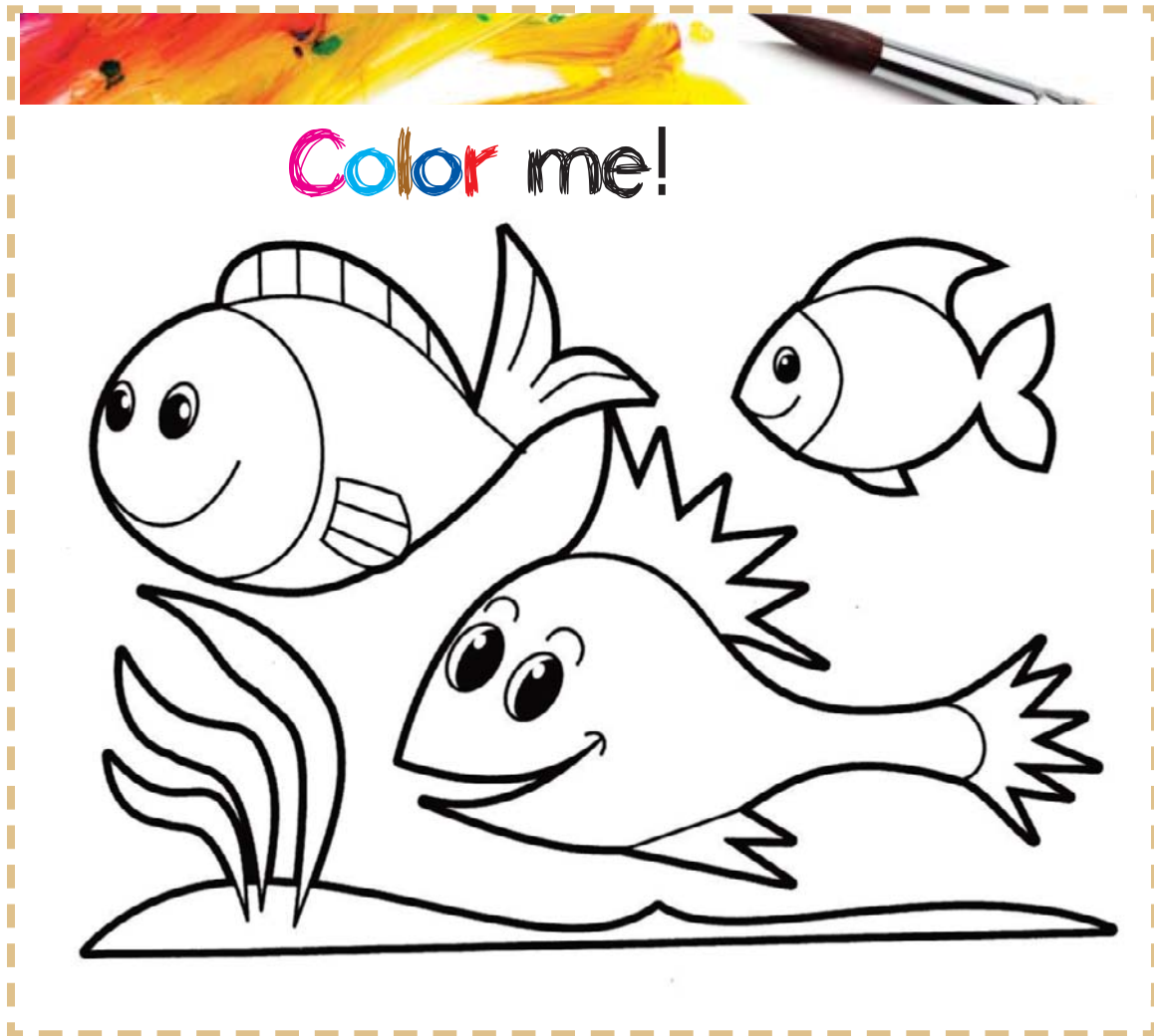
The tusk is an innervated sensory organ with millions of patent nerve endings connecting seawater stimuli in the external ocean environment with the brain. The rubbing of tusks together which males engage in is now hypothesized to communicate information about the water each has traveled through rather than to represent the previously assumed "male-to-male rivalry". Narwhals have only occasionally been observed using the tusk for aggressive behavior.

Diet

Narwhals have a relatively restricted and specialized diet. Their prey is predominantly composed of Greenland halibut, polar and Arctic cod, cuttlefish, shrimp and arm hook squid. Additional items found in stomachs have included wolffish, capelin, skate eggs and sometimes rocks, accidentally ingested when whales feed near the bottom.

Life span and mortality

Narwhals can live up to at least 50 years. Almost all modern predation of narwhals is by humans; other predators are polar bears, which attempt to swipe narwhals at breathing holes and mainly target young whales, and killer whales (orcas) which can group together to overwhelm narwhals. Greenland sharks and walrus may take a few small young or weak and wounded adults, though this is likely quite rare. When it comes to escaping predators such as orcas, narwhals typically use prolonged submergence to hide under the ice rather than relying on speed.



- A hurricane is an intense tropical storm with powerful winds and heavy rain.
- Other names for a hurricane include cyclone, typhoon and tropical storm.
- While they are essentially the same thing, the different names usually indicate where the storm took place. Tropical storms that form in the Atlantic or Northeast Pacific (near the United States) are called hurricanes, those that form near in the Northwest Pacific (near Japan) are called typhoons and those that form in the South Pacific or Indian oceans are called cyclones.
- Hurricanes usually form in tropical areas of the world.
- Hurricanes develop over warm water and use it as an energy source.
- Hurricanes lose strength as they move over land.
- Coastal regions are most at danger from hurricanes.
- As well as violent winds and heavy rain, hurricanes can also create tornadoes, high waves and widespread flooding.
- Hurricanes are regions of low atmospheric pressure (also known as a depression).
- The wind flow of hurricanes in the southern hemisphere is clockwise while the wind flow of hurricanes in the northern hemisphere is counterclockwise.
- Weather in the eye of a hurricane is usually calm.
- The eye of a hurricane can be anywhere from 3.2



- kilometers in diameter to over 320 kilometers but they are usually around 48 kilometers.
- The winds around the eye of a hurricane are usually the strongest.
- Hurricanes can be tracked by weather satellites and weather radar closer to land.
- Hurricanes have led to the death of around 2 million people over the last 200 years.

- The 1970 Bhola Cyclone that struck Bangladesh killed over 300,000 people.
- In 2005 Hurricane Katrina killed over 1800 people in the United States and caused around \$80 billion dollars worth of property damage. The city of New Orleans was hit particularly hard with levee breaches leading to around 80% of the city being flooded.

RECIPES FOR KIDS



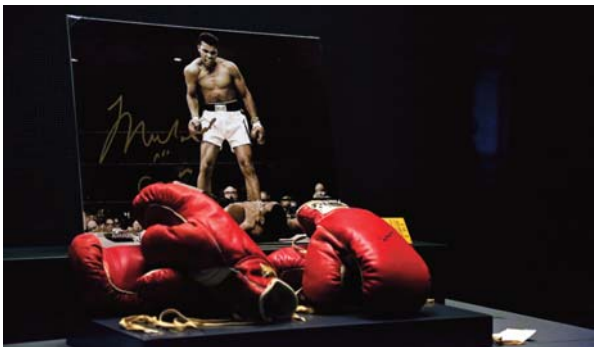
Tortilla Bowl Deluxe

What you need

- 1 medium boneless, skinless chicken breast, grilled or cooked as desired, and cut into bite-size pieces
- 1/4 cup diced avocado
- 1/4 cup diced orange bell pepper
- 1/4 cup diced tomato
- 1/4 cup lactose-free shredded Monterey Jack cheese (can substitute regular cheese if you have no dietary restrictions)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 corn tortilla bowl

What to do

1. In a medium bowl, toss together the chicken, avocado, bell pepper, tomato, and cheese.
2. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Scoop into the tortilla bowl and serve immediately.



‘Muhammad Ali: Tribute to a Legend’ exhibition to open at MIA

Qatar Museums will open ‘Muhammad Ali: Tribute to a Legend’, a homage to boxing legend and activist Muhammad Ali, in a unique collection of artefacts spanning the first 18 years of his 21-year professional boxing career, from 1960 until 1978. The temporary exhibition will be on show from July 7, 2016 in the Museum of Islamic Art’s fourth floor eastern gallery.

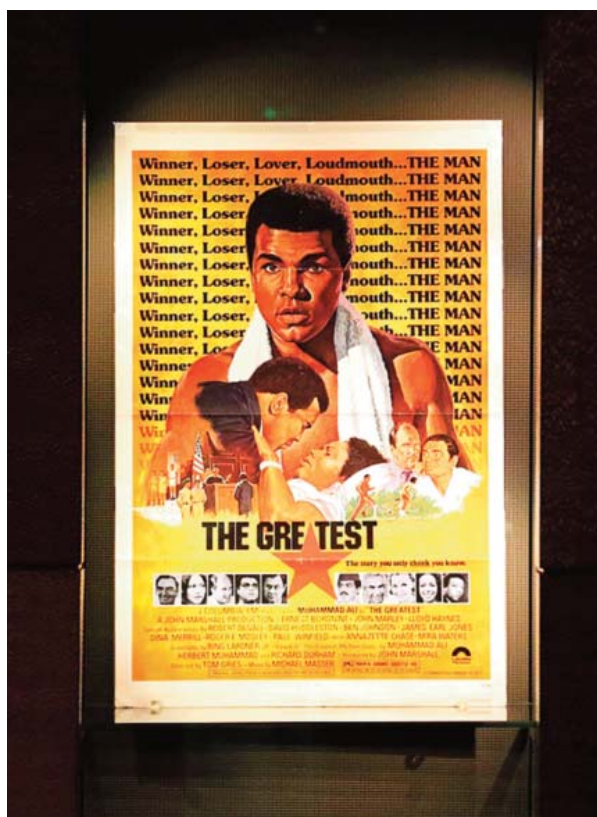
Ali passed away on the 3rd June, aged 74. He was a significant global sporting figure, having been the first boxer to win the undisputed world heavyweight boxing title three times. Ali was also a global cultural icon and prominent activist and campaigner throughout the Muslim world, having converted to Islam and changed his name in 1964, immediately after defeating Sonny Liston in his first world heavyweight title fight. In 1966 he refused the draft to the US armed services on grounds of conscientious objection (and as a minister of the Lost Found Nation of Islam), an act which saw him banned from boxing and stripped of his world title from 1966 to 1971, when his conviction was overturned on appeal. Having returned to boxing in 1970, he fought an exhibition bout in Doha in 1971.

‘Muhammad Ali: Tribute to a Legend’ is the first significant exhibition dedicated to Ali since his death. Organised under the patronage of Qatar Museums Chairperson, HE Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, the exhibition brings together 22 artefacts that have been collected and curated under the auspices of the 3-2-1 Olympic and Sports Museum. This museum will open in a permanent home as part of the redeveloped Khalifa International Stadium, featuring some of the exhibits from this show.

The significant artefacts within the exhibition include photography from Ali’s outdoor exhibition bout at the Doha Stadium in 1971; and significantly his momentous ‘draft exemption’ letter, which will be exhibited for the first time - on loan - on the 50th anniversary that a 24-year-old first Ali wrote it. In this letter, addressed to the US Selective Service Directorate on 23rd August 1966, Ali refused his ‘draft call up’ to the US armed forces to fight in Vietnam. Arguably it is a letter which changed history.

Other notable memorabilia on display in ‘Muhammad Ali: Tribute to a Legend’ spans Ali’s journey to the 1960 Rome Olympics (where he won a gold medal); Ali’s two world title winning bouts against Sonny Liston in 1964; the ‘Rumble in the Jungle’ fight in Kinshasa, Zaire in 1974, where Ali regained his heavyweight crown from George Foreman; and his final world title winning fight against Leon Spinks in New Orleans in 1978.

Commenting on the exhibition launch, Khalid Yousef Al-Ibrahim, Consultant at Qatar Museums, said: “We are pleased to organise this innovative exhibition and to show our important collection ahead of it moving into the 3-2-1 Olympic and Sports museum’s permanent home at Khalifa International Stadium. For many in Qatar and throughout the Arab world, Muhammad Ali truly was ‘the greatest’ - an icon and inspiration as an athlete and a man. This retrospective celebrates that, and his life following his sad passing”.



‘Saq Al Bamboo’ and ‘Been Galbin’: Episode 28

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 28th episode:

‘Saq Al Bamboo’ (Bamboo Stalk)

Eisa's friend from the mosque, Ibrahim visits him at his flat and finds Mirla there. He asks Eisa if he thought of working with him in spreading Islam, but Eisa thinks it's early and he is still getting to know Islam, and doesn't want to make money. Mirla is surprised when she knows that Eisa converted towards Islam.

When Eisa goes to change the gas tube by taxi, a policeman stops him to check his ID but he was not carrying it so they take him to the police station. Ghasan comes to the police station with Eisa's ID and releases him. He feels depressed and calls Khawla to meet, but she apologizes as Ghanima doesn't allow her.

Noor comes to visit Eisa. She tells him, she will try to find him a job. He tells her how sad he is because he was arrested just because of his face and that he wants to leave the country. Ghasan comes to his flat and finds Noor. He drops Noor home and advises her to stop communicating with Eisa for her own benefit.

Eisa calls Jaber to meet, and they go to the Diwaniya. Eisa then visits Khawla in their father's office and he tells her that he found a job in a restaurant. Jaber calls Noor telling her he loves her and she replies saying he is silly. So he asks her why she agreed to marry him and she tells him it was her mother's decision.

Eisa visits Ghasan and finds Mirla there. He asks her what she was doing in his house, she replies saying she wants to leave. Ghasan then told Eisa he asked her to visit him and that he brought her to Kuwait and that she only came when he told her about an available job. Ghasan told him that he and Hind brought Mirla to make him forget about Noor.



Been Galbin (Between Two Hearts)

Aryam tells Bashar she did all this to stay with him all the time as she loves him, but he locked himself in his room and didn't answer.

Aryam calls her mother telling her to come as she is sad and lonely after Bashar left the house. Her mother comes and blames her for being selfish, trying to control Bashar and not giving him any freedom.

Marzouq drops Rashid to his mother's house and tells her that he knows about her husband who left the house, which he considers a good sign explaining she knows Bashar is a swindler. Aryam kicks him out saying telling him not to come again. Aryam's mother talks to Bashar and convinces him to return to their house and give Aryam another chance, as she loves him and is afraid about losing him.

Dana calls Noora and tells her that she got engaged and is getting married next week. Noora is surprised that Dana is getting married so quickly. Dana insists that Noora comes to Dubai to attend her wedding.



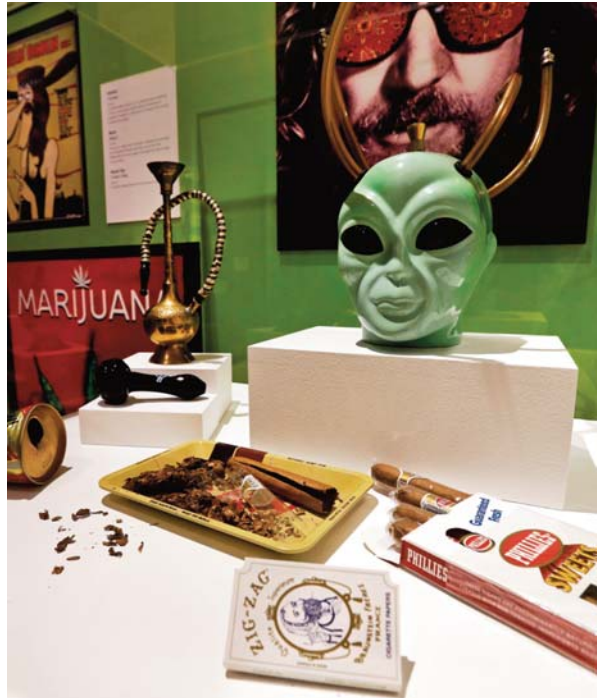
California pot exhibit aims for debate on provocative plant

It's known as Mary Jane, ganja, Chronic and even the sticky icky and has been featured in countless movies, including one that warned of its dangers, "Reefer Madness." Now, marijuana is the subject of a contemporary history and science exhibit. "Altered State: Marijuana in California," a one-of-its-kind museum exhibition focusing on the topic, is open through the summer at the Oakland Museum of California. Set against the backdrop of a California ballot measure this year asking voters to legalize marijuana's recreational use, the exhibition features artwork, political documents and posters, scientific displays, and interactive and multimedia exhibits all meant to provoke questions and conversations about the provocative plant.

"We have designed an open and participatory experience to engage anyone who has an opinion or wants to learn more about the complex issues and information about this topic," said Associate Curator of Natural Sciences Sarah Seiter. "We're interested in presenting a forum for all sides of deep community conversations about marijuana, its history, politics, culture and impacts on our state," Seiter said.

The exhibit comes at a time when 35 states already have medical marijuana laws on the books and four states and Washington, DC, have legalized weed for recreational use. It is organized into 10 different areas of focus - Cannabis Science, Medical Marijuana, Profitable Pot, Sacred Ganja, Criminal Dope, Creative Grass, Evil Weed, Politically Loaded, Youth and Weed, and Recreational Reefer. It was a two-year project with about 100 collaborators. "Weed has a lot of fans," Seiter said. "We didn't want to open ourselves up to criticism. We wanted to do our homework." Highlights of the exhibition include live and preserved specimens of cannabis on loan to the museum, a walk-in installation by artist Cybele Lyle that alters viewers' perspectives of space and time, and a "Cannabis Confessional" that allows visitors to share their private, anonymous thoughts about marijuana.

"All of us as individuals and as staff have very personal and emotional reactions to pot," said Lori Fogarty, the museum's director. "I think a lot of that depends on where you are in your



Marijuana smoking paraphernalia sits on display as part of the "Altered State: Marijuana in California" exhibit at the Oakland Museum of California in Oakland, Calif. — AP photos

life and your own personal experiences. What we were striving to do is move the conversation beyond those purely emotional reactions to a broader understanding." The exhibition runs through Sept 25. — AP



Visitors look at Cannabis indica marijuana plants on loan from Dark Heart Nursery.



fashion rebels Vetements stitch up haute couture

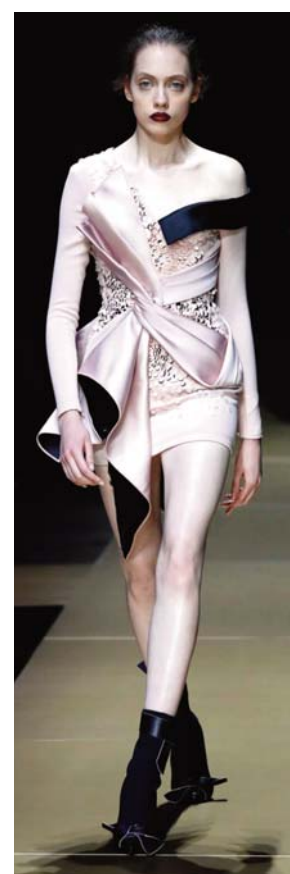


Rebel brand Vetements sent fashion into a spin yesterday with an haute couture show that broke all the rules, appropriating clothes and shoes from 17 other brands and recutting them in its own irreverent neo-Soviet street style. The most talked about brand in fashion had been invited to show as a guest in the elite, uniquely Parisian events, seen as the pinnacle of exclusive made-to-measure clothing. But instead of bowing to couture's near century-long tradition of handmade artistry, Vetements called in brands as diverse as Levi's, Mackintosh and Brioni to supply them with their trademark garments which they then remade. The result was an attention-hogging show that left few indifferent.

Social media was abuzz afterwards with the red velour tracksuits with "Juicy" picked out in crystals across the bum, gigantic dungaree-aprons and hoodies with shrunken hoods. The show began with the oversized jackets that have become Vetements calling card, replete with their overlong "gorilla sleeves". Then designer Demna Gvasalia rolled out a series of jarring, eye-catching new tropes, pulling up his perennial thigh-high boots so they sometimes reached to the waist and beyond. He even seemed to be trying to create a previously uncharted erogenous zone halfway between the navel and the sternum by pulling diamond-shaped peep holes in his Comme des Garçons shirts.

Putting the boot in

Also striking was how Georgian-born Gvasalia—who fans hail for defying the "system"—set out to blur the difference between high and low end brands with Dr Martens boots and Manolo Blahnik stilettos sharing the same runway. "The idea was to work with brands and their specialized suppliers," he told reporters backstage after the show. "Vetements unsubscribes to the difficult production cycle that has been forced upon many designers," the label said in a statement, referring to the punishing turnaround times creators increasingly must adhere to.



"Trailblazing brands—trendsetters of their time—are still relevant today. Not only because of their acclaimed designs, but also because of years of perfecting material and production methods," it added. While many questioned whether Vetements' spring men and women's show was really haute couture, few doubted that it was shock to the increasingly frenetic fashion system which has seen many designers complain of burnout. Unlike most of their peers who produce several collections, Vetements—founded by 35-year-old Gvasalia and his younger brother Guram only two years ago—make only two a year so their clothes can spend longer in the shops.

But in one crucial respect the Gvasalias did bow to pressure. Having been pilloried for the lack of black faces in their previous shows, this one was more diverse, prompting Elle magazine's Kenya Hunt to tweet, "Nice to finally see some people of color on the Vetements runway." Another post-Soviet creator also impressed yesterday, with the Kazakh designer Ulyana Sergeenko using suspender belts worn over clothes to symbolize "Khrushchev's thaw" in the 1960s.

In the two other highlights of the opening day, Donatella Versace unveiled an untypically demure 1950s influenced collection of shimmering gowns that still managed to show off the legs. And Yuima Nakazato—best known for his creations for the singer Lady Gaga—became the first Japanese designer to show in haute couture for more than a decade. His futuristic feathery ensembles used coloured layers of PVC cut by machine and then "treated as origami". "Combining technology with craftsmanship could be the future of couture," he told AFP afterwards. — AFP





Models wear creations as part of Versace's fall-winter 2016-2017 Haute Couture fashion collection, presented in Paris, France, Sunday. — AP/AFP photos



Models present creations by Ulyana Sergeenko.



Models present creations for Vetements during the 2016-2017 fall/winter collection fashion show.



Sama Hamami, 3, looks at a traditional Ramadan lantern placed on the balcony of her family house during the holy month of Ramadan in Gaza City, Sunday, July 3, 2016. Ramadan is traditionally a time of reflection and prayer, and Muslims are fasting to abstain during daylight hours from food, drink, smoking and sex and to focus on spirituality, good deeds and charity. — AP

‘Black girl magic’ on display at The Colored Girls Museum



The wall of a room dedicated to black laundresses is shown on the second floor of The Colored Girls Museum in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. — AP photos



An open Bible, a pair of spectacles and a piece of peppermint resting on the pages is displayed in a room dedicated to black laundresses at The Colored Girls Museum.



Four figures memorializing the four black girls killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham in 1963 are displayed in the sitting room of The Colored Girls Museum.

Nestled in Philadelphia’s historic Germantown neighborhood, the Victorian facade of The Colored Girls Museum beckons visitors past its gate, up the flower-lined path and onto the inviting wraparound porch. Inside, objects ranging from quilts to a bag of black-eyed peas honor the culture and experiences of what museum founder and artist Vashti Dubois calls “everyday black girls.” “This museum is a celebration of the ordinary, extraordinary colored girl,” said Dubois. Referring to the house as a living thing, she adds: “She’s speaking to the girl in us.” The 127-year-old home with high, earth-toned walls is filled with art, artifacts and treasures that take visitors on a communal journey of loss, joy, healing and memory.

In one corner, spectacles and a piece of peppermint candy sit on the open pages of a Bible. In another room, brown-faced dolls beg to be picked up and have their yarn hair stroked. Bright quilts hang on walls and lie folded across chairs and shelves, adorned with the words, images and even the clothing scraps - buttons, a piece of a nightgown - of previous generations.

Friday night parties

The sight of a bag of black-eyed peas lying in the kitchen can trigger a smile of recognition among visitors who grew up eating this staple of African-American home cooking. In the sitting room, hanging fans memorialize four black girls killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1963.

Many rooms display books that have provided refuge and affirmation for countless black girls, including well-worn titles by African-American women like Maya Angelou, Toni Cade Bambara, Zora Neale Hurston. The house is also filled with music that has served as the soundtrack for several generations of Saturday morning chores and Friday

night parties, from Nina Simone to Michael Jackson.

Together, the artifacts are transformed into treasures connecting visitors to the culture of black girls, the women who love and nurture them in an often hostile world, and the collective strength of black women past and present. Museum board member and writer Barbara Neely says there is power in these displays of “the things we have handled and the things that we use ... almost like a physical salve. Being here is like being healed and centered.”

For Neely, one doll in particular transported her back to her black girlhood in northern Pennsylvania. “By the time I was in my late teens, all I wanted to do was get the hell out of there,” Neely recalled, remembering the racism she encountered. “I do not spend a lot of time thinking about that. But something about that doll reminded me that I’d thrown the baby out with the bath water.” She says the museum helps visitors “reclaim those things that we knew were valuable, but that we were told were not.”

Personal tributes

The museum opened last year. Each room is curated by a different artist and dedicated to different black women, some famous, some not, with their work and objects shown alongside Dubois’ family belongings. Many displays are personal tributes to mothers and grandmothers, black women plain and proud, whose lives offer lessons. “When you think about a museum, about who even visits a museum, it’s not ordinary girls and women of color,” said artist Marie-Monique Marthol-Clark, one of the artist curators. But this museum “brings us from the margins to the center and elevates us, not only those who are celebrities or have a certain degree of accomplishment.”

One room, dedicated to black laundresses,



Artist Vashti Dubois poses on the porch of The Colored Girls Museum.

shows off a grandmother’s Sunday best: The dress and hat she wore to church on the one day a week that belonged to her and not the white family she worked for. Her bottle of French perfume sits on an end table nearby. Langston Hughes’ poem “A Song to a Negro Wash-Woman” is also on display. In the back of the house, a toolshed curated by Marthol-Clark is dedicated to a celebration of creativity as “a survival tool.” “When you use something on a day-to-day basis, you may not recognize that as a gift and a skill,” she said. “We may even take that for granted because everyone else does. So this is about correcting and curing that.” — AP



A room dedicated to black laundresses is shown on the second floor of The Colored Girls Museum.



Hair dressing, a comb and a brush are displayed on a chair on the porch of The Colored Girls Museum.



Four figures memorializing the four black girls killed in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham in 1963 are displayed in the sitting room of The Colored Girls Museum.