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LAWMAKER PROPOSES BILL TO CONSIDER IS TERRORIST GROUP

RUWAEI WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION • MP CALLS FOR PAY HIKES

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EGYPT FM MEETS ISRAEL PM IN RARE VISIT

JERUSALEM: Egypt's foreign minister met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday on reviving peace efforts with the Palestinians, the first such visit in nearly a decade and the latest sign of warming ties. The trip came amid talk of renewing an Arab peace initiative and with Israel's military having recently saluted "unprecedented" intelligence cooperation with Egypt to combat the Islamic State group.

Speaking to journalists alongside Netanyahu before their meeting in Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said it was a "crucial and challenging juncture for the Middle East". Resolving the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict would have a "far-reaching and dramatic and positive impact on the overall conditions of the Middle East region," he said. "Egypt remains ready to contribute toward achieving this goal."

Netanyahu for his part welcomed Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi's "recent offer of Egyptian leadership and efforts to advance peace with the Palestinians and a broader peace in our region". He also called on Palestinians to engage in direct negotiations as he has repeatedly done in the past. Palestinian leaders say years of talks with the Israelis have not ended the occupation and have instead pursued international diplomacy to promote their cause.

Shoukry also held discussions with Palestinian leaders during a visit to the West Bank city of Ramallah on June 29.

Continued on Page 13



JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) shakes hands with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry after giving a joint statement prior to their meeting at his office yesterday. — AFP

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Saleh Ashour yesterday submitted a draft law calling to consider the so-called Islamic State, a jihadist group fighting in Iraq and Syria, as a terrorist organization. The proposal comes a week after security agencies broke up three IS cells that were plotting suicide attacks in Kuwait. Members of the cells have confessed in detail to plotting attacks on a mosque and an interior ministry target.

In his draft law, which will be considered only when the National Assembly comes back from summer recess in October, Ashour called for imposing a jail term of between 10 and 20 years for convicted members of any terrorist group under Kuwaiti laws and those who establish a terrorist group or call for establishing such groups. The bill stipulates a one-year jail term of those who use logos of terrorist groups or support them in the media or promote them on social media.

The draft law also gives the government the right to include any group in the terror list whenever public interests require this. IS, known in Arabic as Daesh, carried out a deadly suicide attack at a mosque in Kuwait City last year that killed 26 worshippers and wounded scores others. The court of cassation, the country's highest court whose rulings are final, has upheld a death sentence against a suspect who drove the bomber to the site of the mosque and provided him with other forms of assistance. The court also sentenced eight others to terms between two and 15 years in jail.

Kuwaiti courts have passed in the past two years several verdicts sentencing people convicted of being members or financiers of Daesh to various periods in jail. Several other cases involving dozens of people are still being heard in courts. The Kuwaiti penal code does not specifically consider IS as a terrorist group but

Continued on Page 13

PORTUGAL STUN FRANCE



SAINT-DENIS, France: Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo holds the trophy after winning the Euro 2016 final football match between Portugal and France at the Stade de France yesterday. — AP (See Page 20)

ARRESTS IN US PROTESTS AS RACIAL TENSIONS HEAT UP

PAGE 9

18 KILLED AS PROTESTERS, POLICE CLASH IN KASHMIR

PAGE 12

HADI THREATENS TO BOYCOTT TALKS

BIN LADEN SON VOWS REVENGE

DUBAI: The son of slain Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has threatened revenge against the United States for assassinating his father, according to an audio message posted online. Hamza bin Laden promised to continue the global militant group's fight against the United States and its allies in the 21-minute speech entitled "We Are All Osama," according to the SITE Intelligence Group. "We will continue striking you and targeting you in your country and abroad in response to your oppression of the people of Palestine, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia and the rest of the Muslim lands that did not survive your oppression," Hamza said.

"As for the revenge by the Islamic nation for Sheikh Osama, may Allah have mercy on him, it is not revenge for Osama the person but it is revenge for those who defended Islam." Osama bin Laden was killed at his Pakistani hideout by US commandos in 2011 in a major blow to the militant group

Continued on Page 13

ADEN: Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi threatened yesterday to boycott peace talks with Iran-backed rebels if the UN envoy insists on a roadmap stipulating a unity government that includes the insurgents. UN-sponsored talks between Hadi's government and the Houthi rebels and their allies are scheduled to resume on Friday in Kuwait after a two-week break. More than two months of negotiations have failed to make headway to end the deadly conflict.

"We will not return to the talks in Kuwait if the United Nations tries to impose the latest proposal by mediator Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed," Hadi said during a visit to inspect troops in Marib province, east of the rebel-held capital. Ould Cheikh Ahmed has put forward a peace roadmap that would see the formation of a unity government and the withdrawal and disarmament of the rebels. He said the negotiators had welcomed his proposal but had not agreed a timetable or the steps needed to implement it. The government had already expressed doubts this month about the UN-backed efforts.

Hadi's government wants to re-establish its authority across the entire country, much of which is rebel-controlled, and restart a

political transition interrupted when the Houthis seized Sanaa in 2014. The rebels have conditioned their withdrawal on both sides agreeing on a new president to manage the transition. In his speech, published on the official sabanew.net website, Hadi insisted that the rebels were using the Kuwait talks to "legitimize their coup d'etat", and rejected the UN proposal for a unity government.

"The UN has tried to convince us to form a coalition government. We said we would issue a statement declaring our boycott of the Kuwait consultations," Hadi said. "The Yemenis will not allow Yemen to be turned into a Persian state" in Iran's orbit, he said, vowing to recapture Sanaa "soon". In February last year the Houthis dissolved the government and parliament and formed their own Supreme Revolutionary Committee to rule Yemen.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed has urged both sides to make concessions to end the conflict. Hadi's visit to Marib comes as fighting raged on between loyalists and rebels in the province's northern oil-rich region of Sarwah. The fighting in Yemen has continued despite a ceasefire coming into effect on April 11. — AFP

Heat, terror fears cloud Eid Al-Fitr celebrations



Heavy fighting erupts in South Sudan capital



Charlie robot new best buddy for kids with diabetes



Masterful Murray roars to second Wimbledon title





KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. — KUNA photos



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES STATE OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Sunday at Sief Palace Speaker of the National Assembly Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem. His Highness also received Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. His Highness also received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh. Furthermore, His Highness received Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. — KUNA



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil Anas Khaled Al-Saleh.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah.



KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah receives Eid Al-Fitr well-wishers.



INTERIOR MINISTRY FIRM IN EFFORTS TO SECURE COUNTRY

KUWAIT: Security personnel will always exert utmost effort to protect and secure country, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah said yesterday. He made this remark after receiving Eid Al-Fitr well-wishers.

He also called on the public to contribute in achieving security and stability to their homeland. Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled expressed appreciation to ministry's personnel for their services in Holy month of Ramadan and Eid Al-Fitr Holiday. — KUNA



KUWAIT: First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received Eid Al-Fitr greetings from his assistants and a number of ambassadors in Kuwait. The event took place yesterday at the ministry's diwan and was attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah. — KUNA

In my view

ONLY IN KUWAIT - PART 10



By Talal Al-Ghannam

local@kuwaittimes.net

Good morning dear and honorable brothers and sisters, and I congratulate you on the occasion of Eid Al-Fitr. In this article, I would like to talk about numerous issues, some of which are good and some are not.

Only in Kuwait you see water dispensing coolers across the country done by philanthropists.

Only in Kuwait when Ramadan comes, so many government workers sleep at work, yell at the clients and tell them to come the following day.

Only in Kuwait you need to fix your car at least twice a month because of the 'great, clean and smooth roads'.

Only in Kuwait you see a passenger escorted with his or her entire tribe to see them off at the airport, which makes the place cram packed.

Only in Kuwait you find some stores sell children fake yet very dangerous shotguns, which are yet to be banned by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Only in Kuwait expat private tutors make a lot of money through private tuition, which are against the Education Ministry's laws and regulations, and they are left to do so without being punished.

Only in Kuwait people are spoiled by the government's generosity as it cuts down the working hours to only four during Ramadan. Even then, you see some workers get reluctant to work or even smile.

Only in Kuwait some policemen stop taxi drivers who carry female passengers inside the car, and try to find fault with the cab driver just as a pretext to give their mobile numbers to the women.

Only in Kuwait a small 500-meter-long road has a trillion mountain-like speed bumps.

Only in Kuwait people go shopping a day before Eid, which makes the shopping centers so cram packed.

Only in Kuwait you see people shopping for Ramadan and competing who fills his or her trolley first, as if there was a famine approaching.

Only in Kuwait you see many bus drivers use the fast lane and zigzag between lanes as if they are driving ordinary cars.

Only in Kuwait public transport buses become a prey for youngsters in some areas of the country.

Only in Kuwait you can be entertained with 'Bukhoor' incense from the buses' exhausts for free.

Only in Kuwait bus stops look like a haunted house where passengers struggle to find a shaded area to wait for the bus, which in many cases does not stop if there are men waiting. But in the case there were women standing, the driver sometimes would stop at any place, even in the middle of the street, just for the sake of their eyes.

I suggest that co-op societies here in Kuwait take up their responsibilities and pitch in to build sophisticated air-conditioned bus stops. But even if that happens, the AC would probably be stolen the next day!

Till the next article insha Allah

DOMESTIC HELPERS COMMIT MOST CRIMES IN KUWAIT: MP

MINISTER SLAMMED OVER UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR'S REMARKS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran said security challenges require speedy implementation of the law to remedy the demographical structure imbalance. Jeeran said that expat domestic helpers are the top group that commit crimes and violates the law, based on the answers provided by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to his question on the highest percentage of crimes committed in Kuwait and the nationalities of the criminals. "I draw attention to the importance of the population imbalance deal, and taking security measures in this regard, including increasing the number of well-trained policemen, increasing prison capacity, signing extradition treaties, especially with countries that have a high percentage of workers in Kuwait, and increasing inspection campaigns, especially in areas with high expat labor density," he said.



MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran

MP Ali Al-Khamis has threatened to grill Education Minister Bader Al-Essa, saying if the minister accepts to have a university professor who insults Muslims and the Prophet Mohammad's (PBUH) companions among the teaching faculty, "then we will not accept the minister to remain in his post." Meanwhile, MP

Ahmad Al-Azmi said the ministers should take quick decision to terminate the university professor to set an example.

MP Humoud Al-Hamdan said in the meantime that the minister should withdraw university scholarships from those who cause strife and insult companions of the Prophet (PBUH).

Hamdan asked Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to implement the national unity law on strife instigators during a time in which Kuwait needs unity.

Board members resign

Two members of the Kuwait Union of Consumer Cooperative Societies' (KUCCS) board of directors resigned because of the union's alleged 'inability to perform and the lack of a future plan,' as mentioned in the resignations. Members Rashid Faris Rubai and Mahmoud Humoud A-Jabry submitted their resignations to the Social Affairs Ministry.



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah visits KFSD Lance Corporal Fahd Mansour Al-Furaih. — KUNA

SHEIKH SALMAN VISITS FIREMAN WOUNDED ON DUTY DURING EID

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah has voiced pride of the acts of heroism by Kuwaitis who make precious sacrifices for their country and people.

Sheikh Salman, also Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs, yesterday visited the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Lance Corporal Fahd Mansour Al-Furaih, who was wounded while trying to put out a fire on the first day of Eid Al-Fitr. The heroism manifested by Furaih and fellow firefighters undoubtedly reflects a strong belief by Kuwaitis to preserve people and

property, making all sacrifices, the minister said. He added that the acts of heroism by the army, police, the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate KFSD and the National Guard constitute a top national responsibility. All people, citizens and expats highly appreciate such acts, he said.

Sheikh Salman noted that the visit was conducted upon directives from Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah to follow up Furaih's medical state and provide due treatment, at home or overseas. He delivered to Furaih greetings from the state political leadership. — KUNA

MINISTRY OFFICIAL JAILED FOR FACILITATING FUNDS' THEFT

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: The appeals court rejected a request to suspend a jail sentence against an official at the Awqaf Ministry and decided to jail him to serve a seven-year sentence in a case of facilitating the theft of public funds from the Holy Quran printing authority. The court will complete the court procedure and consider a request to suspend the execution of the sentence awaiting the second suspect in the case, who is a

Saudi national and also sentenced to seven years in jail.

Separately, the commercial court decided to award a citizen KD 170,000 as material and moral compensation. The citizen had agreed with a contracting company to build a house in a year, but after two years, the contract was not fulfilled. When the frame of the house was finally completed, the engineering office report said the house is not fit for habitation and faces a risk of collapsing.

Road project

Sixteen local companies submitted offers for tender for the Jaber Al-Ahmad Expressway towards Mutlaa to the Central Tenders Committee, which was put out by the Public Works Ministry. The awarding will be announced 10 days after examination of the offers by CTC. Meanwhile, MPW is expected to sign the construction of Ring Road 6.5, which will serve new areas, during August. The 6.5 project links main roads with the new university city with a length

of 15 km that starts from the Seventh Ring Road and ends at the Airport Road.

Unlicensed signboards

Kuwait Municipality's Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said he wrote to the legal department to set a mechanism to deal with those who place signboards on various occasions in violation of rules and regulations. Manfouhi said the signs constitute a danger to motorists, adding that the municipality removed all signs during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday in the six governorates.



Weapons and ammunition found during crackdowns in Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Sabah Al-Salem.

THREE ARRESTED IN CRACKDOWN AGAINST UNLICENSED WEAPONS

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Weapons detectives carried out an inspection campaign at the entrances and exits of Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Sabah Al-Salem Saturday night. The campaign lasted 2.5 hours and resulted in arresting three wanted citizens named Nawaf Ali, Mohammad Humoud and Majid Mohammad, the Ministry of Interior's Relations and Security Information Department said. Meanwhile, a driver attempted to escape, so he was chased and stopped. An AK-47 and ammunition were found in the car, which belonged to a citizen named Fahd Faleh. The arrested persons were sent to concerned authorities. In another statement, the department said prison authorities arrested a person who attempted to enter the prison's complex with

substances suspected of being drugs. He was sent to the proper authorities for further legal action.

No injuries in fires

Fire broke in a house, prompting Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh fire center to respond. The fire started in a room and spread to four more neighboring rooms. Firemen surrounded the blaze from all directions to keep it from spreading further, and it was put out. No injuries were reported. In another incident, firemen put out a fire that broke in a vehicle in Khaitan towards the airport. Meanwhile, fire broke out in a vehicle in Dasma yesterday morning. Hilali fire center responded and brought the fire under control, and no inquiries were reported. Separately, a lift malfunctioned in a house in Garnata. Firemen lowered the lift and freed those trapped inside. No injuries were reported.



Drugs found with a person arrested after he tried to smuggle them into the prison's complex.

Legalese

WHERE TO GO FOR CHANGE/COMPLAINTS?

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

Our world is changing in so many ways, fastidiously and uncontrollably; yet legal systems around the world are still very difficult to comprehend by the average person.

A theory that we were taught in law school was called 'Rule of Law' - it is the rules that make up the laws. In other words, what does law have to be in order for it to be law? One of the many rules was for law to be accessible to the general public, but what if the general public did not speak the official language of the country? In Kuwait we have three times as many expats as Kuwaitis, and in other GCC countries, there are eight or nine times as many expats as there are locals, making the law very difficult to be accessed by those that need to. With that said, in Kuwait and other GCC countries, there have been talks about simplifying the law for expats and other non-Arabic speakers. I hope these projects begin as soon as possible, as they are vital for the society.

When facing an issue that you would like it to stop, and maybe you have even found a solution for this issue to not reoccur, where or whom do you go to? I do not like using the word complaint, so I have substituted it with 'suggestions for change'. Where do you go to make these 'suggestions for change'?

Also, I have to make it clear that one of the main reasons for me to write this article is that you do not have to go to court for issues to be resolved - a lot of issues can be resolved officially through governmental or non-profit institutes, without you going to court or hiring a lawyer.

Commercial

Question: I got a membership at a gym and I signed a contract. The contract said that I can use the gym's facilities seven days a week from 12 am to 12 pm, but after I signed the contract, they changed the gym's hours and are now only open six days a week. I do not think this is fair, because it is not what I agreed on. Where do I go to officially ask them to change their hours or reimburse me?

Fajer: Issues like this can be resolved without a court case, as I said above. I would suggest you file a complaint at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. You will need the receipt/contract and your civil ID. Also, if it is a product and not a service, you will need to take it with you. There are 14 different offices around Kuwait along with a hotline number 135 to receive complaints. If you have tried them out, please email me your experience.

Question: I bought a TV, and after buying it and assembling it, I found that the colors are off. The company doesn't want to take the TV back, and neither do they want to reimburse me. What can I do?

Fajer: Please read the above question!

Health and Safety

Question: I was sick last week and I went to the hospital. The doctor treated me very badly, and gave me medicine that I was allergic to, even though my file clearly said that I was allergic to it. What can I do?

Fajer: You can call the hotline of the Ministry of Health and explain to them what happened. The number is 151 and they are very eager to help. They also have an active Twitter account @Kuwait_MOH where they are updating us on the changes that have been going on!

Public works

Question: The roads in Kuwait can be a mess sometimes. Where can I go to complain?

Fajer: The Ministry of Public Works has a hotline for emergencies. If you think the roads are dangerous, than call them on 150! Also, they have a beautiful user-friendly website mpw.gov.kw that is available in English and very easy to use. Give it a try.

I hope the above helps in any way or form. I would love to know your experiences with the different governmental entities in Kuwait, so feel free to email me on ask@fajerthelawyer.com with your questions and concerns. I also think it is important for you to stay in touch with the officials, and let them know what things can be changed for the better in Kuwait. Expats are an important part of our society and therefore I would love to hear from you!

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



GOLD PRICE UP TO \$1,375 PER OUNCE

KUWAIT: Gold prices went up for the sixth week in a row, hitting \$1,375 per ounce during last week's trading, Sabaek Al-Kuwait Company said yesterday. Gold prices are even expected to edge up to \$1,400 per ounce in the coming few weeks, buoyed by the current circumstances of the world market and the EU's Brexit vote results, the company said in a report released yesterday.

World markets may disagree over goals but they share the same effort in pursuit of a secure resort, it said, mentioning in particular the Asian markets which are experiencing economic slowness, or the European ones which are facing the aftershocks of the EU's Brexit vote.

Investors were disappointed over the findings of the US markets on which they pinned much hope to curtail surging oil prices. As the findings were announced, gold prices fell by roughly \$20 to the level of \$1,336 per ounce, it added. Many dealers anticipated a corrective wave of gold prices in the coming period, it said, suggesting that it is impossible to see 2015 gold price recovery. Regarding silver, the report said silver prices also went up between \$20.50 and \$20.80 per ounce, supported by the current world market conditions and online trading. Silver price plummeted to the level of \$19.20 per ounce last Friday following US employment data for June, the report indicated. At the local market, gold prices hit KD 13,250 per kg for the first time since 2014, it concluded. — KUNA

In Brief

SPEAKER OFFERS
CONDOLENCES

KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent a cable of condolences Saturday to his Pakistani counterpart Sardar Ayaz Sadiq over the death of the renowned Pakistani philanthropist Abdul Sattar Edhi. In the cable, Ghanem expressed his sincere condolences and sympathy over the death of Edhi, a prominent philanthropist, who died at the age 88 on Friday. Ghanem said the death of Edhi is a great loss for humanitarian and philanthropic actions in Pakistan and the whole world, as he played a prominent role in aiding needy people and supporting orphans. — KUNA



920,000 TRAVEL
DURING EID

KUWAIT: The total number of passengers that left or entered Kuwait during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday reached 920,184, said Major General Khaled Al-Saqabi, the Interior Ministry's Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Border Security Affairs. That number includes 497,852 who used the Salmi, Abdali and Nuwaseeb land border outlets, and 422,332 who traveled through Kuwait International Airport from 5th to the 9th of July, 2016, he added.



US DOLLAR STABLE
AGAINST DINAR

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US dollar against the Kuwaiti dinar was stable at KD 0.301, while the rate of the Euro went down to KD 0.333 compared to Monday's rates, said the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) yesterday. The CBK said that the rate of the Sterling Pound was down to KD 0.391, as well as the rate of the Swiss Franc to KD 0.306. The Japanese Yen remained the same at KD 0.003. Meanwhile, the dollar maintained gaining profits compared to the major currencies last Friday, following the issuance of the monthly report of United States Department of Labor during last month. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A man cools himself with water to beat the heat in Kuwait. The country experienced extreme temperatures that reached as high as 50 C degrees during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday.— KUNA photo

OOREDOO CELEBRATES EID WITH CHALLENGE, GIFTS IN AVENUES
VALUABLE PRIZES INCLUDING SMARTPHONES, TABLETS AND OTHER DEVICES

KUWAIT: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, celebrated Eid al-Fitr in the Avenues Mall with competitions valuable prizes on the second and third days of Eid. Prizes included smartphones, tablets, smartwatches and game

consoles. The competition is inspired by the 1980's hit Japanese competition show Takeshi's Castle, which was popular in the Middle East with its Arabic dubbing. Participants were given 30 seconds to enter a maze and search the boxes placed in its

different chambers for prizes.

Commenting on this, Ooredoo's Corporate Communications Director Mijbil Alalyoub said: "We are very happy to interact with our clients on this happy occasion, and we are always seeking opportunities to

be wherever they are. This event is part of our ongoing social responsibility strategy throughout the year."

Hundreds of participants received valuable gifts, including smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and gaming consoles.

Ooredoo's social responsibility activities earlier in Ramadan included visits to several entities such as hospitals, care centers, Mubarakiya Souk and NGOs in addition to the iftar tent which distributed meals throughout the month of Ramadan.



HEAT, TERROR FEARS CLOUD EID CELEBRATIONS

POWER CONSUMPTION REACHED RECORD 12,610 MEGAWATTS



KUWAIT: A man and his daughter buy tickets at a theme park during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Last Wednesday marked the first day of Eid Al Fitr, and Muslims took the opportunity to send greetings and visit one another. Abdulrahman Mustafa said Eid celebrations are a clear expression of social solidarity and tolerance, and is an occasion for family reunions, where people renew their brotherly bonds.

"Eid is a special occasion for Muslims when families and friends visit each other to convey their best wishes. They are served sweets, chocolates and cakes. Eid visits continue although the temperature is 53

degrees," he added. "My wife's family visited us in the morning, then we had lunch in my family's house. And my children visited their friends."

Electricity consumption levels reached its maximum load on the fourth day of Eid, reaching a record 12,610 megawatts according to the Ministry of Electricity and Water. Some residential blocks in Rumaihiya and Rehab faced power outages. "There was a power blackout in Salmiya block 9 and in some buildings in my area, but not mine," Ahmed Abdullah told Kuwait Times. Abdullah said that Eid was very traditional for him, as he visited some relatives and went bowling with friends.

John Ramelas spent the three days of Eid at home with his children, who refused to go outside because of the heat. But Sabah Mahmoud was working on Eid. "I hate to take days off - that is why I spent my Eid working," he said. Laila Al-Taweel spent Eid with a constant fear of terrorism. "When I heard the news about the arrest of several Islamic State (IS) members who were targeting Kuwait, I decided to spend Eid at home and not take risks of being killed in a bomb blast," she said. Taweel celebrated Eid by getting her nails done and cleaning her house. "I am scared of the fact that IS members might be around us," she added.

KUWAIT REITERATES BACKING TO SPECIALIZED ARAB BODIES

CAIRO: The State of Kuwait is eager to throw much weight around Arab specialized organizations, a Kuwaiti official said in Cairo yesterday. "Kuwait is fully committed to paying its contributions to Arab specialized organizations just of belief in their significant role since they are deemed pillars of common Arab action," Chief of the Kuwaiti Finance Ministry's Arab and Gulf Economic

Cooperation Department Yusuf Al-Roumi said on the sidelines of the 25th session of the Committee of Arab Specialized Organizations held yesterday at the Arab League's headquarters in Cairo.

He said Kuwait is a key contributor to the budgets of Arab specialized organizations, sharing 17 percent of their total budgets, adding that it attaches much attention to programs

and projects that are useful to Arab countries. On yesterday's meeting, the Kuwaiti official said the conferees will mainly discuss the budgets of Arab specialized organizations, auditors' reports and achievements. However, he regretted that Arab countries' financial commitments to such organizations have been negatively affected by ongoing political events in some Arab countries.— KUNA



KUWAIT: The Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) hosted a reception on the first day of work after the Eid Al-Fitr holiday yesterday, during which staff members offered greetings to Undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri and other officials.— Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh



KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) hosted a reception yesterday during which officials and staff exchanged Eid Al-Fitr greetings.—Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh

KFH HONORS QURAN RECITERS AT GRAND MOSQUE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) honored the Quran reciters and the working team leaders at the State's Grand Mosque in recognition of their role in leading worshippers throughout the holy month of Ramadan in Qiyam and Taraweeh prayers, and as part of KFH's Ramadan program and commitment to serving the society.

Executive Manager Group Public Relations, Yousef Abdullah Al-Ruwaieh handed out commemorative gifts to the Grand Mosque's reciters on the sidelines of KFH's presence in the mosque during the last

ten days of Ramadan, affirming KFH's keenness to recognize the exerted efforts at all levels. In the same context, He applauded the key role of reciters who contributed in providing a spiritual atmosphere at the mosque.

Ruwaieh extended thanks and appreciation to the Grand Mosque's administration, the concerned parties and to organizers in recognition of their efforts in organizing prayers and offering the best services to worshippers.

It is worth noting that KFH Public Relations team and a number of the

bank's volunteers took part in organizing Al-Qiyam prayer held at the state's Grand Mosque as part of its social responsibly and in continuation of its eventful Ramadan program and charitable activities. KFH PR team and the volunteers distributed beverages among worshippers and the personnel at the mosque. KFH has been keen to establish strong ties with all segments of the society. The bank firmly believes in its important role in assuming the social responsibility, especially during the holy month of Ramadan.



KUWAIT: KFH Executive Manager Group Public Relations Yousef Al-Ruwaieh hands commemorative gifts to Quran reciters.



Stay Tuned for the Winners Announcement at The Avenues Mall



We are waiting to welcome you in the Avenues Mall to announce the names of the three winners of the First Draw of "Al Rabeh" Account who will win the two Range Rover HSE 2016 cars and 3 kilos of gold bars of 999.9 purity on Wednesday, 13/07/2016.

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Crime

Report

TWO HOSPITALIZED AFTER SUICIDE BIDS

KUWAIT: An expat was placed under observation at Adan hospital after he attempted suicide. Fahaheel Health Center's supervisor told police that a Bangladeshi man arrived with his hands bleeding, and was taken to Adan Hospital. He said doctors confirmed that he slashed his wrists with a shaving blade, causing deep wounds in his right and left wrists. The prosecutor ordered the case to be classified as an attempted suicide. The man will be sent to the Fahaheel police station for further legal procedures after he is released from hospital. Meanwhile, a citizen rushed his teenage daughter to Jahra hospital after she ingested unknown pills in an apparent suicide attempt. The girl, who arrived to the hospital in a coma, was admitted in the intensive care unit. A case was filed for investigations.

Involuntary manslaughter

An Egyptian man fell to his death from a scaffold in the Abdallah Port area, and Ahmadi prosecutor ordered the case to be classified as involuntary manslaughter. The accident took place in a school where construction work is being done. The 60-year-old victim died instantly.

Abnormal conditions

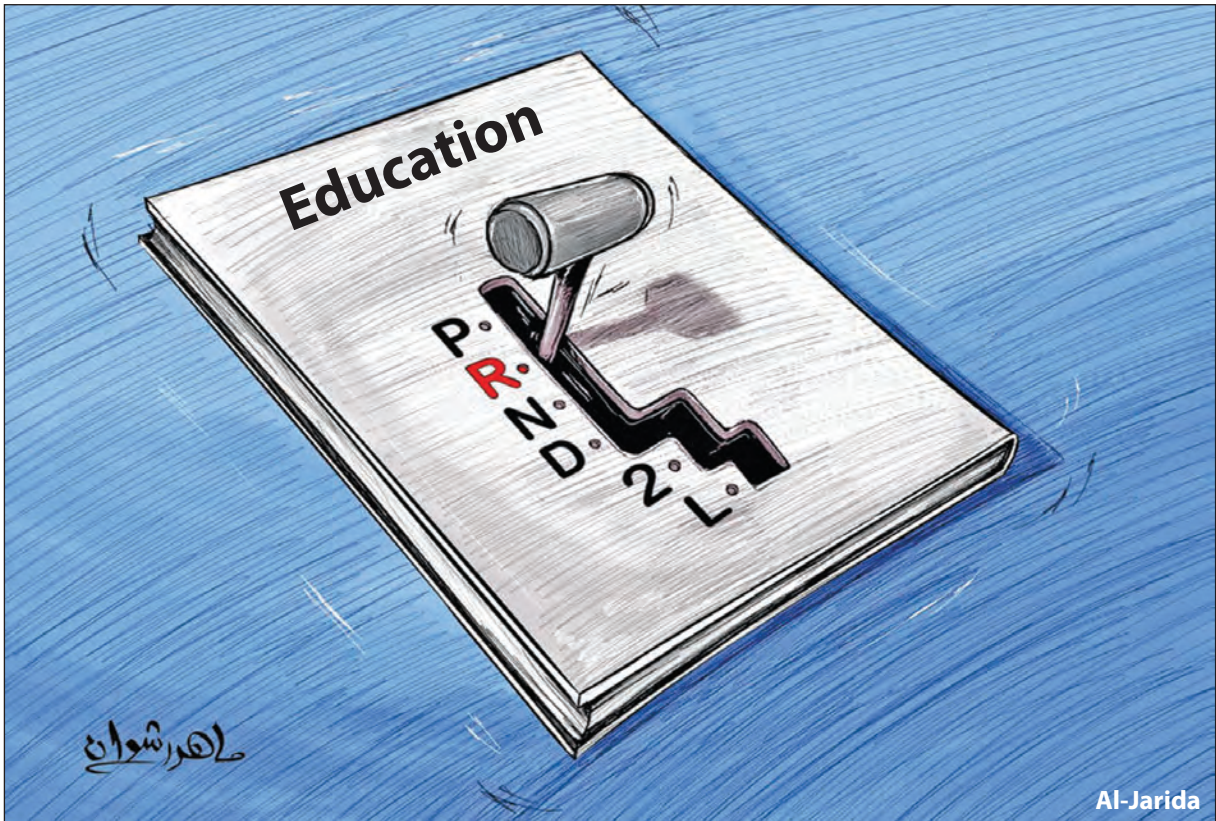
A traffic violation led police to arresting a citizen in an abnormal condition in the Oyoun district of Al-Jahra. He had an envelope containing drugs and imported liquor bottles he kept in a plastic container. A security source said police saw a car driving between street lines, so the driver was pulled over and found to be in an abnormal condition. He was also charged with failure to carrying his driver's license while driving, before being sent to the Drug Control General Department (DCGD).

Drug possession

Two drug users were arrested, one of whom confessed to trading in drugs. Both were sent to DCGD. A security source said, Ahmadi patrols spotted a car with tinted windows, so it was stopped. When the driver was asked to hand over his license, police discovered that he was in an abnormal condition. They also discovered that the man who was sitting on the passenger's seat is wanted to serve a five-year jail sentence. Police also found a box inside the car containing shabu, hashish and pills.

Brothel busted

Tips were received by Farwaniya Security Director Brigadier Saleh Al-Enezi about an Indian man who ran a brothel in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh. Three teams were formed and moved at 1:00 am, after sending undercover sources to the place which was crowded by expats. The place was surrounded and 16 women and 27 men, all expats, were arrested. Twelve of the women were reported absconding and 20 men were found to be wanted on various charges. All were sent to concerned authorities. —Al-Anbaa



Al-Jarida

القلم

Al-Qabas

REASONS ARE MANY, BUT MADNESS IS ONE

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

Two Saudi twins stabbed their father and a third brother killed their mother. They then escaped, before being arrested by authorities. Investigations revealed that they are influenced by Daesh ideology of loyalty and disavowal. Also, during the same week, another fanatic who adopted the takfiri ideology killed his brother, claiming that he is an atheist or infidel. In an earlier clip on social media, a Saudi jihadist said the youth should disown the people nearest to them, as whoever fights religion must be disowned even if he is a father or brother, and consequently killed!

Another scholar issued a fatwa that the person who does not pray is an infidel and should be asked to repent, and if he refuses, he should be killed. What is notable is the increase of the phenomenon of having brothers carrying out killings and participating in terrorist operations, and despite the difference in those youth's origins, cultures, nationalities and ages, what brings them together is belonging to a violent and exclusionist religious ideology. It has been said that the recruitment tactics used by terrorist organizations like IS, which our scholars and Al-Azhar do not consider infidel, is behind this strange phenomenon, which is historically unprecedented.

In addition to the Saudi brothers who killed their mother and stabbed their father, there are those like Ibrahim and Khalid Bakrawi who carried out the Brussels airport suicide attacks. In the beginning of 2015, French authorities accused brothers Saud and

Shareef Kawashi of attacking the Charlie Hebdo newspaper, who were killed by French police. Also, Salah Abdelsalam, the main suspect in the Paris attack, who was handed over by Belgium to France, is the brother of Ibrahim Abdelsalam, one of the suicide bombers who allegedly carried out the attacks that left 130 dead.

Also brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev, both Americans of Chechen origin, participated in the attacks at the Boston Marathon in 2013. There is also a special case of the adolescent Younes, who is 13, joining his brother Abdelhameed Abaoud, the alleged mastermind of the Paris attacks, joining Daesh in Syria, and Younis is considered the youngest fighter in the terrorist organization.

Results of a study by the German Der Spiegel newspaper showed that 466 jihadists who were placed under study in a research center called "New America", which published its results in several other papers, showed that nearly a quarter of the Western fighters of Daesh were joined by some relatives in later stages.

A study conducted by Pennsylvania State University that included 46 percent of 120 terrorist operations that were studied, showed a prior knowledge by a family member of the attacker. It was also said lately that the wife of Omar Mateen, who killed 49 club patrons in Orlando, had knowledge of his intentions and did not tell authorities, and now she is accused of being in collusion over the killings.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

القلم

Al-Qabas

WE ARE LOVE AND LOVE IS US

By Prof Abdelmohsen Al-Moqatie

Some people think that love is something to be acquired, so they go through hardship in an attempt to find love in their lives. They end up exhausting themselves, that overburdens them and causes pain and loss, because they are running towards a phantom that doesn't exist. Love is not a creature, entity or a thing to be looked for in places or with others. Love is within ourselves, settled inside. It is born within us. We may sometimes hide it, either out of shyness, fear, obstinacy or stubbornness, yet our hearts are pulsating with it, and we feel it with all our senses, which even react to it.

It is within us - we show it, care for it and keep it alive. If we knew how to show it, we would have achieved its goal and its good effects. We are love - we are the ones that it should come out of. So as much as keen we are to show it, the more it illustrates its strength or weakness, success or failure, truth or pretense over our control over it, because subjecting it to the brain's control ends it, and releasing it from the brain makes it extensive and may make it reckless.

The other side of love is its realization, and this happens when we communicate with others. So it is reflected in different ways, like the love for the Prophet (PBUH), love for children, love for our spouses, love for siblings, and so on. So, love becomes us if we know its value. It comes with various manifestations, behaviors and stands, but their common dominator is for the person who has a place in our heart.

It seems for others that love is a voluntary behavior and the truth is it is not so, except the preliminary expressions that may lead to having it. It is a reactionary condition of feelings without control or directed arrangement, so this is how love is generated. If love was voluntary, it would have been a product sold and bought, and here the saying is that you can buy everything except people's love.

We realize that human love may sneak into the heart of others secretly, following a temporary look, or acquaintance and exchange of admiration, yet the thing is that behavioral appearances such as presence, exchanging courtesies, gifts, follow up and mere acquaintance will not necessarily lead to love, because it actually gets out of the voluntary influence area and comes out as an involuntary emotional condition.

We cannot embody love unless the other person feels it, and this is what leads to the mutual condition of love, because one-sided love will go away, and having the other side know about love elevates it. Love has basics, preliminaries, degrees and types of its realization.

—Translated by Kuwait Times



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) announced that it successfully concluded its social responsibility program launched during Ramadan, which included visiting care homes, celebrating girgian with children, presenting gifts to outdoor workers and other activities.

BURGAN BANK OFFERS 'BUBA' ACCOUNT HOLDERS EXCLUSIVE FREE CHANCE TO WATCH FINDING DORY AT GRAND CINEMAS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday its latest exclusive offer with Grand Cinemas, to invite its 'BuBa' Kids customers to watch 'Finding Dory' movie at Grand Cinemas - Al Hamra Luxury Centre, on Thursday July 14, 2016 for free at 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

Furthermore, Burgan Bank in collaboration with Grand Cinemas has allocated two exclusive shows for Burgan Bank BuBa customers, wherein each BuBa customer is entitled to two free tickets to enjoy this unique experience at Grand Cinemas. All they have to do is present their BuBa card at Al-Hamra Luxury Centre to collect their tickets.

This offer comes as part of the bank's wide and exclusive range of valuable privileges and benefits that are specially designated for its BuBa customers. Burgan Bank strives to offer its customer-base with best-in-class services along with benefits that suits their needs, and today's announcement is a clear indication of that.

Customers are among the bank's main priorities and by partnering with Grand Cinemas, Kuwait's newest and most luxurious movie theater; the bank continues to reinforce its position as a leading financial institution that meets its individual customer aspirations. This step forward marks a new era for Burgan Bank and Grand Cinemas conjoint customer service, which falls in the strategies of both firms to keep pioneering the entertainment industry and upgrading their clientele's service to the highest of levels.

To find out more about Burgan Bank's BuBa Kids Account, customers are urged to visit any of Burgan Bank's conveniently located branches, or call the bank's call center on 1804080, or log on to Burgan Bank's website at www.burgan.com.



KUWAIT: Kuwait National Guard's Undersecretary Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Refa'ie and other officials visited the exterior sites during the Eid Al-Fitr holiday to offer greetings to officers there.



Activist McKesson arrested as cities protest police violence

AFTER DAYS OF LIMBO, AUSTRALIAN PREMIER CLAIMS ELECTION WIN



DALLAS: An FBI evidence response team works at the crime scene yesterday where five Dallas police officers were killed Thursday. —AP

DALLAS SUSPECT TAUNTED POLICE FOR TWO HOURS

DALLAS: The suspect in the deadly attack on Dallas police taunted authorities during two hours of negotiations, laughing at them, singing and at one point asking how many officers he had shot, the police chief said yesterday.

Micah Johnson, a black Army veteran, insisted on speaking with a black negotiator and wrote in blood on the wall of a parking garage where police cornered and later killed him, David Brown told CNN's "State of the Union."

Johnson, who was apparently wounded in a shootout with police, wrote the letters "RB" and other markings, but the meaning was unclear. Investigators are trying to decipher the writing by looking through evidence from Johnson's suburban Dallas home, Brown said.

Decision to kill

The chief defended the decision to kill Johnson with a bomb delivered by remote-controlled robot, saying negotiations went nowhere and that officers could not approach him without putting themselves in danger.

Brown said he became increasingly concerned that "at a split second, he would charge us and take out many more before we would kill him." Johnson had practiced military-style drills in his yard and trained at a private self-defense school that teaches special tactics, including "shooting on the move," a maneuver in which an attacker fires and changes position before firing again.

He received instruction at the Academy of Combative Warrior Arts in the Dallas suburb of Richardson about two years ago, said the school's founder and chief instructor, Justin J. Everman. Everman's statement was corroborated by a police report from May 8, 2015, when someone at a business a short distance away called in a report of several suspicious people in a parked SUV.

The investigating officer closed the case just minutes after arriving at a strip mall. While there, the officer spoke to Johnson, who said he "had just gotten out of a class at a nearby self-defense school."

Johnson told the officer he was "waiting for his dad to arrive" and pick up his brother. No one else was apparently questioned. On Friday, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings described Johnson as "a mayoral shooter" who had written manifestos on how to "shoot and move." Authorities have said the gunman kept a journal of combat tactics and had amassed a personal arsenal at his home, including bomb-making materials, rifles and ammunition.

The academy website refers to one of its courses as a "tactical applications program," or TAP. "Reality is highly dynamic, you will be drawing your firearm, moving, shooting on the move, fixing malfunctions, etc. all

under high levels of stress," the website says. "Most people never get to train these skills as they are not typically allowed on the static gun range."

The TAP training includes "shooting from different positions," "drawing under stress" and "drawing from concealment." Everman declined to specify which classes Johnson took. "I don't know anything about Micah. I'm sorry. He's gone. He's old to us. I have thousands of people," Everman told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The two men, however, were friendly and talked in Facebook conversations in August 2014. Everman knew Johnson had been out of the country. Army officials said he had been deployed in Afghanistan around that time.

Everman suggested that Johnson "let me know when you make it down this way." "Will be great to get you back in the academy," Everman said, according to a comment thread saved by the AP before Johnson's Facebook profile was taken down. "I concur!" Johnson replied.

Johnson's activities

More recently, a neighbor reported to investigators that Johnson had been seen practicing some sort of military drill in his backyard in the Dallas suburb of Mesquite, said Clay Jenkins, the Dallas County judge, the county's most senior elected official.

Johnson donned a protective vest and used a military-style semi-automatic rifle for the shootings, which marked the deadliest day for US law enforcement since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. In all, 12 officers were shot just a few blocks from where President John F. Kennedy was slain in 1963.

Johnson was a private first class with a specialty in carpentry and masonry. He served in the Army Reserve for six years starting in 2009 and did one tour in Afghanistan from November 2013 to July 2014, the military said.

The attack began Thursday evening while hundreds of people were gathered to protest the police killings of Philando Castile, who was fatally shot near St. Paul, Minnesota, and Alton Sterling, who was shot in Louisiana after being pinned to the pavement by two white officers. Video showed protesters marching along a downtown street about half a mile from City Hall when shots erupted and the crowd scattered, seeking cover.

Marcus Carter was in the area when people started running toward him, yelling about gunshots. Carter said the first shot sounded like a firecracker. But then they proceeded in quick succession, with brief pauses between spurts of gunfire. "It was breaks in the fire," he said. "It was a single shot and then after that single shot, it was a brief pause," followed by many shots in quick succession.—AP

UN SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS A CLOSED MEETING ABOUT SOUTH SUDAN FIGHTING

UNITED NATIONS: The UN Security Council held a closed door meeting yesterday on renewed fighting in the capital of South Sudan, diplomats said.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said he was "shocked and appalled" by the fighting between government and former rebel forces in the capital Juba and called on both sides to halt the violence. South Sudan has seen more fighting than peace since winning independence from Sudan in

July 2011. Civil war broke out in December 2013 when President Salva Kiir accused his vice president Riek Machar of plotting a coup. An August 2015 peace deal was supposed to end the conflict. But the peace process has stalled while fighting has continued despite the establishment of a unity government.

Machar went from being vice president to rebel leader and then back to vice president under the unity government. —AFP



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SIX KILLED IN TWO PKK ATTACKS IN TURKEY

ISTANBUL: Militants from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) killed five Turkish soldiers and a member of a village guard in two separate attacks yesterday, the army and local media said.

One Turkish soldier was killed along with the guard in the car bombing on a military outpost in the eastern province of Van early yesterday, the army said. Village guards are local people who work in cooperation with the Turkish security forces throughout eastern Turkey to protect their settlements from the PKK.

At least 15 people were injured including 10 soldiers and five village guards. Among those wounded, one was seriously injured in the mainly Kurdish province, the army said in a statement. Later yesterday afternoon, four soldiers were killed and another soldier was injured in a roadside bomb attack against an army vehicle in Hakkari province in Turkey's troubled southeast, Dogan news agency reported, quoting the military.

The Turkish security forces had been engaged in Hakkari in a large-scale military operation to elimi-

nate Kurdish militants from the province, which is close to the border with northern Iraq, Dogan added. The attacks come a day after the PKK carried out another car bombing on Saturday in the country's restive southeast, killing two Turkish soldiers and a civilian outside the city of Mardin close to the Syrian border.

Attacks against Turkish military have intensified with almost daily attacks since the collapse of a two-and-a-half-year ceasefire last July, killing hundreds of security forces. The government has in

recent months conducted military operations against the group in the region's towns and cities in an attempt to rid the urban areas of fighters.

Activists claim such actions have also killed innocent civilians caught up in the renewed conflict, which has also seen long curfews supporting the operations. Since the PKK insurgency began in 1984, nearly 40,000 people have been killed. The group is proscribed as a terrorist organization by Turkey as well as by the European Union and the United States. — AFP



BAGHDAD: People gather in front of a burned mall covered with posters in memory of the victims at the scene of last week's massive truck bomb attack claimed by the Islamic State group in the Karada Iraq. — AP

PORTRAITS OF LOSS: VICTIMS OF THE BAGHDAD BOMBING

FOUR VICTIMS REMEMBERED

BAGHDAD: Taha Abbas recites the names of the dead-Hassan, Ali, Issa, Mustafa-and flips through pictures on his phone of smartly dressed young men with coiffed hair striking poses. Nearly a dozen of his friends were killed on July 3rd when the Islamic State group carried out the worst single bombing Iraq has seen in 13 years of war.

One week later, death notices cover the blackened shells of the two shopping centers hit in the July 3 bombing, which killed at least 292 people. The attack was timed to kill as many as possible at night during Ramadan when the streets, shops and cafes were full. Government negligence also played a role. It took firefighters over half an hour to respond, and none of the buildings had fire-escapes. The interior minister resigned in the wake of the attack, and Baghdad's security chief was fired.

Bombings have been a regular feature of life in Baghdad since the 2003 US-led invasion, but the scale and brutality of this attack stunned even the most war-weary Iraqis.

Here are portraits of some of the victims.

MUSTAFA JOWAD

Jowad, a 23-year-old law student, was one of several young men working at the clothing shops, but his relaxed sense of humor set him apart. "He was a very good-looking guy," Abbas said. "He was very popular with women especially. He has so many fans." But Jowad was ready to settle down. He had gotten engaged earlier this year and was saving money to furnish a house he could move into with his fiancée.

"They loved each other so much," Abbas said, as he stood in the hush of the mall, his arms caked with sweat and dirt. Days after Sunday's attack, he and others are still sifting through the debris in search of remains.

Abbas, a clothing wholesaler who knew many

of the mall's clerks, was only a block away when the bomb went off. He watched helplessly as the buildings burned. When the flames died down, he rushed to his friend's store.

He found Jowad curled up against the wall holding his nephew. They had both burned to death. "I want people to remember that these people were Iraqis, and that Iraqis are brave and generous and good," Abbas said.

ATIAF

Atiaf had recently married her longtime sweetheart. Ambitious and smart, the 22-year-old held a degree in engineering and continued to work after having a child. She had gone out shopping and lingered into the early hours on July 3rd, when the blast struck.

Her husband Safi, a military officer on leave, came as soon as he heard about the attack, and found his wife's body. He hasn't left since then. The 24-year-old, his clothes covered in dust, recently led grieving families through the burned out building. Some screamed, while others silently lit candles.

He asked that he and Atiaf be identified only by their first names out of respect for his wife's family's privacy. "We were in love for four years before we married," Safi said, joking that it took him that long to win her father's approval. Their son is a little over a year old. "Our story was a real love story," he said. When asked to elaborate, his eyes welled with tears and he shook his head.

ISSA OBEIDA

After his father died, Obeida had to leave school and work to support his mother and siblings. But the 24-year-old dreamed of being a model. He worked in one of the clothing stores but also modeled for the shop's ads. Passionate about fashion, he had a sense of style that his friends struggled to

define. "He was wearing something different every time you saw him," said Hussein Samir, who held a larger-than-life poster of Obeida during a small vigil at the blast site.

The poster shows Obeida wearing a tee-shirt, with a tattoo poking out from under his right sleeve. In other photos he's wearing a blazer with a popped collar, leaning against a fence in a Baghdad park. Obeida's family found his wallet and ID among the debris. They held a funeral, but are still searching for his remains.

Samir said Obeida was devastated by his mother's death in 2012. "He loved her so much, he used to always put a photo of her on Facebook and say, 'I miss you, when am I going to see you again?'" "Now, he'll see her again," Samir said.

AHMED ODAY

oday, a 29-year-old carpenter, did custom work for many of the stores and offices in the neighborhood. Zahraa al-Nasrawi, an accountant who worked with him, said he was a devoted husband and father.

"The last time I saw him he showed me a picture of his daughter's birthday. She just turned one year old. Even though he didn't have much money, he still made a really nice party for her," al-Nasrawi said, describing the pink decorations and the cake. "In all of his photos on his phone you could see him holding his daughter and you could see the smile on his face, you could tell he really loved her."

It was obvious that Oday was unhappy living in Baghdad - he feared for his wife and only daughter and was frustrated he couldn't find a higher paying job - but al-Nasrawi said he never complained.

Oday was planning to take his family to Iraq's cooler and more stable Kurdish region for Eid al-Fitr, the holiday marking the end of Ramadan. He was shopping for new clothes for his daughter when the bomb went off. — AP

IS TERRITORY SHRINKS 12 PERCENT SINCE START OF 2016

BEIRUT: The Islamic State group lost 12 percent of the territory it holds in Iraq and Syria in the first half of 2016, according to an analysis by research group IHS. The analysis published yesterday says the jihadist group, which proclaimed its self-styled "caliphate" in the two countries in 2014, is continuing to lose ground after a string of setbacks last year.

"In 2015, the Islamic State's caliphate shrunk by 12,800 square kilometers to 78,000 square kilometers, a net loss of 14 percent," IHS said. "In the first six months of 2016, that territory shrunk again by 12 percent. As of July 4, 2016, the Islamic State controls roughly 68,300 square kilometers in Iraq and Syria."

In Syria, IS is under pressure from regime troops backed by Russian forces, an Arab-Kurdish alliance backed by a US-led coalition, and rebel forces. In Iraq, coalition-backed security forces, working with pro-government militia groups, have dealt the jihadists a series of defeats. IS forces are currently under siege in the Syrian town of Manbij, which lies on their main supply route between Syria and Turkey.

In March the jihadists were routed from the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra and in June from the Iraqi city of Fallujah. In 2015, the group lost Tal Abyad, a key

border post on the Syrian-Turkish border, as well as the Iraqi city of Ramadi. In May the Pentagon said that IS had lost some 45 percent of the territory it held in Iraq and between 16 and 20 percent of its territory in Syria.

The IHS report did not include percentages by country. IHS senior analyst Colum Strack said the losses were likely to mean IS would redouble its attempts at "mass casualty attacks". "As the Islamic State's caliphate shrinks and it becomes increasingly clear that its governance project is failing, the group is reprioritizing insurgency," he said.

"We unfortunately expect an increase in mass casualty attacks and sabotage of economic infrastructure, across Iraq and Syria, and further afield, including Europe." IS has also seen its revenues drop, from around \$80 million a month in mid-2015 to \$56 million a month by March 2016, according to IHS.

"This figure has probably continued to decrease since March by at least another 35 percent," said Ludovico Carlino, another senior analyst at IHS. "Combined with the military setbacks on the ground, this is having an impact on the internal cohesion of the group as indicated by a marked increase in defections and desertions since January," he added. — AFP

ASSAD TELLS EU DELEGATION WEST'S ACTIONS IN SYRIA CAUSE TERROR IN EUROPE

BEIRUT: Syrian President Bashar al-Assad told a visiting group of European parliamentarians yesterday that western governments' support for opposition groups in Syria caused terrorism in Europe.

"The problems Europe faces today of terrorism, extremism and waves of refugees are caused by some western leaders' adoption of policies which do not serve their people," Assad told a delegation of members of the European Parliament headed by Javier Couso, vice chairman of its foreign affairs committee. "Especially when those leaders give support and political cover to terrorist groups inside Syria," Syrian state news agency SANA said in a summary of Assad's comments.

The Syrian government, supported by Iran and Russia, refers to all groups fighting it in the

five-year-old conflict as terrorists. Of such groups, the UN classifies only Islamic State and the al Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front as terrorist. A range of countries provide financial, logistical and training support to the many armed opposition groups in Syria, including Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Western and Gulf Arab countries which want Assad out of power blame him for the displacement of tens of thousands of Syrians, through air strikes on rebel-held areas that have killed thousands.

Opposition groups accuse the government of deliberately targeting civilians and breaching ceasefires. United Nations-brokered peace talks broke down in late April as violence escalated, without a set date to resume. — Reuters



DAMASCUS: Syrian President Bashar Assad speaks during an interview with Australia's SBS news channel on July 1st, 2016. — AP

CHILD LABOR DOUBLES IN IRAQ AS VIOLENCE, DISPLACEMENT HIT INCOMES

BAGHDAD: More than half a million Iraqi children are estimated to be at work rather than at school as violence and displacement hurt the income of millions of families, according to the United Nations children's agency UNICEF.

The number of children currently working, more than 575,000, has doubled since 1990, the year when Iraq attacked Kuwait, setting off a chain of events that led to the 2003 US-led invasion and the sectarian strife that continues to this day. "I used to go to school and work here for half a day with a low salary,"

12 year-old Ali Hussien Khudhair, who works the angle grinder in a blacksmith's shop in Baghdad, said, "I quit school and started working full time here and he (the owner) gives me full wages," he told Reuters TV.

UNICEF said since the beginning of 2014, almost 10 percent of Iraqi children - more than 1.5 million - have been forced to flee their homes because of violence. In 2014, the Islamic State group took control of large areas in northern and western Iraq. Nearly one in five schools is

closed due to conflict and almost 3.5 million children of school-age are missing out on an education, UNICEF said in a report on June 30.

In total, at least 3.6 million children in Iraq are at risk of death, serious injury, sexual violence, abduction and recruitment into armed groups, an increase of 1.3 million since the past 18 months, according to UNICEF. "I wish to go back to school and play with my friends," Khudhair said. "I would be glad to go back and learn to read and write; I will be ashamed to have to say that I can't read when I grow up."

About 4.7 million Iraqi children need humanitarian aid, while many families now face deteriorating conditions following military operations against Islamic State, according to UNICEF. "I'm working and learning the craft, it's better than school. What rights do graduates have? They are selling water on streets," 14 year-old Karrar Jaffer, who works in a car mechanic's shop, said. "The government does nothing. It's better for me to learn a craft," he said, his hands smeared with brake fluid. — Reuters

FAMILY OF KILLED US JOURNALIST MARIE COLVIN SUES SYRIA



US war correspondent Marie Colvin. — AFP

BEIRUT: The family of American journalist Marie Colvin, who died in Syria in 2012, has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in a US court, accusing the Syrian government of deliberately killing her.

Colvin and French photographer Remi Ochlik were killed in the besieged Syrian city of Homs in 2012 while reporting on the Syrian conflict, now in its sixth year. The lawsuit, filed in Washington on Saturday and seen by Reuters, said Syrian officials deliberately targeted rockets against a makeshift broadcast studio where Colvin and other reporters were living and working.

The suit alleged the attack was part of a plan orchestrated at the highest levels of the Syrian government to silence local and international media "as part of its effort to crush political opposition". The lawsuit included as evidence a copy of an August 2011 fax which it alleges was sent from Syria's National Security Bureau instructing security bodies to launch military and intelligence campaigns against "those who tarnish the image of Syria in foreign media and international organizations".

"This case is about carrying on Marie's work," plaintiff Cathleen Colvin, Marie Colvin's sister, said. "We are seeking truth and justice not just for her, but for thousands of innocent Syrians tortured or killed under the Assad dic-

tatorship," she said in a statement released by US human rights group the Center for Justice and Accountability (CJA) which filed the case for the Colvin family.

Advocacy group Reporters Without Borders said it supported the lawsuit. The group's secretary-general, Christophe Deloire, said Reporters Without Borders "hopes these efforts will help to expose the truth, namely that these journalists were deliberately targeted and killed because they were providing information about the Syrian army's crimes against civilians."

A murder and attempted murder investigation was launched in France in 2012 into the death of Ochlik and wounding of another journalist, Edith Bouvier, in the same attack. Reporters Without Borders, as an interested party in the case, said it will submit the Colvin family's US lawsuit to the judge in charge of the French investigation today.

Colvin and Ochlik were both prize-winning reporters of wars in the Middle East, Asia and elsewhere. The Britain-based Colvin, who lost an eye while working in Sri Lanka in 2001, was working for the Sunday Times at the time of her death.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry, to whom the lawsuit was addressed, could not immediately be reached for comment. — Reuters

NAFTA A SORE SPOT FOR SOME DEMOCRATS ON CLINTON IN MICHIGAN

MOUNT CLEMENS, MICHIGAN: Michigan is trickier than it may appear for Hillary Clinton, a Democrat whose party's presidential nominees have carried the struggling manufacturing hub for decades.

Bernie Sanders beat her in the state's Democratic primary by railing against the North American Free Trade Agreement. Republican Donald Trump is more popular with Michigan's working-class white voters than past GOP candidates, and has pledged to back out of the treaty some blame for the loss of countless Rust Belt jobs.

While Clinton's history of supporting free trade may not cost her the state, it is costing campaign staff and money to defend its 16 electoral votes. "It's an issue that Sanders used to his advantage in the primary and obviously was successful," said Michigan Democratic organizer Amy Chapman, who was Barack Obama's state director in 2008 and a senior adviser in 2012. "Obviously, it's something they need to figure out as they figure out what it takes to win Michigan."

Trump last week blasted the pact signed by President Bill Clinton and predicted that backing out would restore millions of vanished factory jobs. At stake is the white, working-class vote, which Trump says he can turn out in droves, thereby putting upper Midwestern battlegrounds long carried by Democrats into competition in his quest for the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency.

Trump says his appeal to disaffected workers has taken hold, and can put in play Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, states carried by Democratic presidential candidates since the 1980s.

Hillary Clinton supports renegotiating NAFTA, signed in 1992 and in effect since 1994, with Canada and Mexico. She also has said she opposes the Trans-Pacific Partnership, an ambitious agreement with Asian nations.

But she also has demonstrated that Trump's argument is worth her time to rebut. Last week, Clinton criticized Trump's business practices and sought the help of U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence, D-Mich., to argue Trump's practice as a real estate mogul contradicts his talk.

"What happened in the Trump Casino in Atlantic City was the fact that he did not honor contracts," Lawrence told Michigan reporters after Clinton spoke in Atlantic City, New Jersey. "He did not pay for services."

Trump's trade position, a sharp departure from Republican orthodoxy, has the

appearance of moving to Clinton's left on trade, and sounds an alarm for her to address the treaty in Michigan, say Democratic activists in the state.

"She has to admit that NAFTA hurt people here tremendously," said Ed Bruley, Democratic chairman in Macomb County, a largely white, working-class suburban area stretching northeast from Detroit.

Clinton can still carry Michigan, he added. "But she needs to really emote with people here and recognize that there is a problem."

Although it's not Michigan's only example, Macomb County represents the heart of this voting bloc.

The county northeast of Detroit is a frayed series of suburbs epitomized by county seat Mount Clemens. The once-thriving automakers' bedroom community is marked by shuttered buildings, including the 15-story former courthouse, an art deco monument to more prosperous days.

Less than 20 miles away, the Mexican and Canadian flags fly alongside the stars and stripes outside General Motors' Technical Center in Warren. Michigan has lost a net of more than 500,000 manufacturing jobs since 2000, according to federal labor statistics, a dive that steepened during the recession that infected the rest of the nation in 2008.

A solid third of union members typically vote Republican in presidential elections. But Clinton's advantage among union members in surveys over Trump is the same as Obama's was in over Arizona Sen. John McCain at the same point in the 2008 campaign, said Michael Podhorzer, political director with the American Federation of Labor.

He acknowledges Trump is stronger than past GOP nominees, at least with nonunion, working-class whites. Podhorzer and Michigan union leaders say they are working hard to keep union members from falling into that category. In the chase of 270, Trump can afford to lose Florida's 29 electoral votes, if he can make up for it by winning, say Michigan's 16 and Ohio's 18, or Wisconsin's 10 and Pennsylvania's 20.

Internal Clinton campaign polls suggest she is receiving as much support among other groups, such as African Americans, in Michigan as Obama did in carrying the state by 9 percentage points four years ago, said her director of battleground data, Michael Halle.

Trump would need to make up that deficit with a huge swing in the white vote, Halle said. — AP



WARREN, MICHIGAN: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a rally at Macomb Community College. — AP

COLLEGE-EDUCATED WHITES PUT HOLE IN TRUMP COALITION

ATLANTA: Wanda Melton has voted for every Republican presidential nominee since Ronald Reagan in 1980, but now the Georgia grandmother plans to cross over to support Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"I'm not a real fan of Hillary," Melton says from her office in Atlanta. "But I think it would just be awful to have Donald Trump." She adds: "I cannot in good conscience let that happen."

Melton is among a particular group of voters, whites with college degrees, who are resistant to Trump. Their skepticism comes as an ominous warning as Trump struggles to rebuild even the losing coalition that Mitt Romney managed four years ago.

College-educated whites made up more than one-third of the electorate in 2012. Polls suggest Trump trails Clinton with those voters, especially women.

"Donald Trump simply cannot afford to lose ground in any segment of the electorate" that supported Romney, said Florida pollster Fernand Amandi. Romney's strength with that group, for example, made for a close race in Florida, where President Barack Obama won by less than 75,000 votes out of more than 8.4 million cast.

Republican worries

Some Republicans worry Trump's approach - his unvarnished, sometimes uncouth demeanor and his nationalist and populist arguments - guarantees his defeat, because the same outsider appeal that attracts many working class and even college-educated white men alienates other voters with a college degree.

Ann Robinson, 64, is a lifelong Republican in a Trump's home state of New York, a Democratic stronghold that the real estate tycoon cites as an example of where he can "expand the map." Robinson sneers at the proposition and says she'll vote for Clinton.

"It's just not a reasonable movement," she says of Trump's populist pitch. "I'm not sure he can actually be their savior. She has so much more experience. Trump has nothing."

Mary Darling, 59, is an Illinois Republican who said she won't vote for Trump or Clinton. "If they could just soften his edges, people would flock to him, but that's just not going to happen," she said.

Lew Oliver, chairman of the Orange County Republican Party in Florida, says he's prepared for an uphill fight in no small part because of Trump's struggle among more educated voters. "The fundamentals aren't in our favor, and some of his comments aren't helping," Oliver said.

Romney drew support from 56 percent of white voters with college degrees, according to 2012 exit polls. Obama notched just 42 percent, but still cruised to a second term. — AP



BATON ROUGE: Members of the New Black Panther Party march in front of the Baton Rouge Police Department headquarters on Saturday. — AP

ACTIVIST MCKESSON ARRESTED AS CITIES PROTEST POLICE VIOLENCE

BLACK LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT ESCALATES

USA: Protests and related events nationwide Saturday following the police shootings of black men in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and suburban St. Paul, Minnesota, and the deadly sniper attack on police officers in Dallas:

Louisiana

In Louisiana, authorities say prominent Black Lives Matter activist DeRay McKesson has been arrested during a protest in Baton Rouge.

An Associated Press reporter who was at the scene Saturday night confirmed McKesson's arrest. McKesson was walking alongside Airline Highway when he was arrested. It was not immediately clear what prompted McKesson's arrest.

Protesters were demonstrating against the shooting death Tuesday of 37-year-old Alton Sterling. The protests lasted well into the evening but died down a little after midnight.

Minnesota

Police have used smoke bombs to clear demonstrators blocking Interstate 94 in St. Paul during a protest sparked by the recent police killings of black men in Minnesota and Louisiana.

The smoke was used just after midnight Saturday when about 200 protesters were in the roadway as police in riot gear slowly moved in. The St. Paul Police Department tweeted that arrests were made, but didn't indicate how many, and said at least five officers suffered non-serious injuries when hit by rocks, firecrackers and bottles thrown by protesters.

A leader on a loudspeaker urged the group to march to the governor's mansion, where protesters have gathered since the fatal police shooting Wednesday night of Philando Castile. The 32-year-old black man was shot during a traffic stop in suburban St. Paul. Police said the interstate reopened early yesterday morning.

California

Several hundred protesters outraged by the police killings of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota took to the streets of San Francisco, blocking several roads and ramps to get on and off the Bay Bridge.

The California Highway Patrol closed access to the bridge at least two times Saturday afternoon when

protesters took over freeway ramps, causing traffic to back up. The group began marching from the city's Hall of Justice to the downtown shopping area, causing a temporary shutdown of a popular mall as the crowd gathered there to chant slogans and make speeches.

In central California, several hundred protesters blocked several intersections as they marched against police brutality in central Fresno. Officers in riot gear blocked an on-ramp to keep the protesters from entering State Route 41.

Colorado

Black Lives Matter supporters said they plan to continue a sit-in in Denver in response to the police shootings of black men in Minnesota and Louisiana through Tuesday for a total of 135 hours. That's an hour for each of the black people they say have been killed by police across the country this year.

The gathering, across from the City and County Building, began Thursday afternoon, several hours before police officers were killed in Dallas.

People have been dropping off food and water for those camped out on chairs and blankets in Civic Center Park.

Florida

Hundreds of people marched in West Palm Beach and Fort Lauderdale as part of the Black Lives Matter movement in demonstrations that ended peacefully.

Protesters in Fort Lauderdale on Saturday chanted "No justice, no peace" and "Hands up, don't shoot." At one point the protest stopped outside a Broward County jail and prisoners banged on windows in support. The demonstrations came after police shootings of black men in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and suburban St. Paul, Minnesota, and the deadly sniper attack on police officers in Dallas.

A Palm Beach Post reporter tweeted a photo of a protester shaking a police officer's hand as the West Palm Beach protest disbursed. A third protest was planned in Miami on Saturday evening.

New York

Hundreds of people have marched in New York City to protest police shootings in Louisiana and Minnesota. The protesters chanted "Black lives matter" and "No justice, no peace" as they marched

through Manhattan on Saturday. As many as 1,000 people joined the protest, but many left when it started raining.

Police officers marched alongside the protesters and tried to keep them on the sidewalk. A police spokesman said there were at least 20 arrests. Protester Cynthia Howell said she is not against the police but she wants to see accountability.

Howell is a niece of Alberta Spruill, who died of a heart attack in 2003 after police threw a concussion grenade into her Harlem apartment. Howell said officers who do "reckless, dangerous things" must be held accountable.

Pennsylvania

Angry protesters in Philadelphia marched to two police precincts in the northern part of the city, facing off with police officers who kept calm as demonstrators shout slogans and sometimes taunted them. Hundreds of people took part in Saturday's six-hour march, which attracted a multiracial, multi-ethnic crowd upset over the fatal shooting of black men. They sought to shut down police activity and traffic in the precincts as part of what they proclaimed a "weekend of rage." Philly.com reports protesters yelled expletives at police and walked to within inches of some. "Without the uniform and badge, you are just like us," one protester told a black officer.

In Pittsburgh Saturday, several hundred people broke off from the city's 200th anniversary parade to protest recent police shootings across the country. Some were affiliated with Black Lives Matter. They marched from Point State Park on Saturday afternoon to the county courthouse.

Rhode Island

More than 150 people gathered in downtown Newport in support of the Black Lives Matter movement after a week of violence across the nation.

The Providence Journal reports the group marched on Saturday afternoon to call for changes after the police shootings of black men in Louisiana and Minnesota this week. Speakers urged the crowd to get involved in grassroots efforts to improve law enforcement across the country. Seneca Pender of Middletown organized the rally. He told the crowd that the senseless killings of black people "have to stop." — AP

The Correspondent

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FRENCH LAWSUIT SEEKS PROBE INTO SYRIAN DOCTOR'S DEATH

PARIS: The family of a Syrian doctor who died in a regime prison in 2014 have filed a lawsuit in Paris seeking a probe into his alleged torture and murder, a lawyer said yesterday.

The lawsuit aims to shed light on the death of 37-year-old Hicham Abdul Rahman, as well as to implicate Bashar al-Assad in the killing, said the lawyer for Rahman's Franco-Syrian brother Mustafa. According to the suit, Rahman was arrested in April 2012 after battling to secure medical treatment for people injured in

anti-regime demonstrations.

He was initially detained in military secret service facilities, then in the Sednaya prison near Damascus, where his family was allowed to visit him briefly in May 2014. "He was so unrecognizable that we didn't know it was him at first," lawyer Joseph Breham told AFP. In December 2014 the secret services told the family he had died of a heart attack.

He said the family was taking action in France because Rahman's brother, who has lived in

France for years and has dual nationality, was a direct victim of his sibling's disappearance, torture and death.

Breham said lawsuit has two aims: firstly to shed light on the circumstances surrounding Rahman's death, and secondly for political reasons. "Realpolitik could mean that Bashar al-Assad will return as a full member of the international community. This lawsuit will force politicians to take responsibility for a choice: to accept a murderer back among their ranks because Daesh is

worse," said the lawyer, using an alternative term for the so-called Islamic State group.

The French case, initially reported by weekly newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche and France Inter radio, comes after a sister of US reporter Marie Colvin filed a lawsuit in Washington over her February 2012 death. The US lawsuit claims that the Syrian regime killed Colvin to stop her from covering government atrocities, and names several Syrian officials including Assad's brother Maher. — AFP

MIGRANTS FACE TORTURE, RAPE IN JOURNEY FROM LIBYA TO EUROPE

HOPING IT'S A GATEWAY TO PROSPERITY

ABOARD THE AQUARIUS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA: The young Liberian man went through hell, but when he reached Libya he hoped that there he'd be able to make a living and get an education. Instead, he entered another hell of imprisonment, then near death at sea.

The ordeal of Laye Donzo is a cautionary story for the tens of thousands of Africans each year who take the migrant road to Libya, seeing it as the gateway to life and prosperity in Europe. Instead, for many the war-torn country has meant only torture, imprisonment, rape or death.

It also illustrates the problem for European countries trying to stop the stream of migrants to their shores. By trying to prevent them from taking the dangerous sea journey across the Mediterranean, they are dooming the migrants to prolonged abuse in Libya at the hands of authorities and the country's many militias, rights groups warn. Donzo was among dozens of Italy-bound, would-be migrants rescued off the coast of Libya on June 23 by the Aquarius, a boat chartered by the charity Doctors Without Borders and the rescue group SOS Mediterranée.

On that day, the Aquarius rescued two boats, one of them after nightfall when the captain happened to spy it in the spotlight just as he was giving up the search. Then it took on hundreds more from an Italian navy ship so it could deliver them to shore while the navy vessel continued the search.

So as it headed back to Sicily, the Aquarius was swelling with more than 650 migrants, well over its official capacity of 400. The exhausted migrants - men, women and young children - crowded on the ship's decks and in the halls, wearing white overalls distributed by the aid group and wrapping themselves in gray blankets.

Torture tales

After the initial shock from days on open water subsided, the tales of trauma and torture they endured in Libya poured out. Donzo and his family had fled the civil war in his homeland Liberia to neighboring Sierra Leone. There, many in his family died in an Ebola outbreak. So Donzo made his way to Libya, where he did various jobs, mostly construction.

Early this year, he was detained by armed men at a checkpoint. He spent the next five months imprisoned in a house with hundreds of other Africans, eating a single meal every three days. He's not even sure who detained him. In lawless Libya, the lines between criminal gangs, militias and the security forces of rival governments are often blur-



MEDITERRANEAN SEA: Imad Ibrahim left Sudan last year trying to cross the Libyan border by foot, giving his story after being rescued from his dangerous journey trying cross the Mediterranean Sea aboard the Aquarius humanitarian vessel. — AP

ry. "They beat you like animals," he said. "As long as you're in prison they would beat you. I don't know how many times they beat me. They beat everyone." He showed scars running along his back, legs and arms from being bound and hit with rubber tubes.

Then one day they blindfolded him, took him to the coast and forced him into a boat. He has no idea why.

Plunge into chaos

After the fall of Moammar Gadhafi in 2011, Libya was plunged into chaos, with rebel groups evolving into militias loosely aligned with various competing governments or operating on their own and carving out fiefdoms around the country. The collapse of state control and enforcement of borders proved a draw for migrants.

Some militias use smuggling as a revenue source. But the chaos has also made Africans vulnerable to abuse, whether they are working in Libya or seeking to head on to Europe. Armed groups often detain Africans, ostensibly claiming to be enforcing the laws but really just to extort money or labor. Various factions run detention centers

largely on their own without answering to central authorities. On the Aquarius, Baba Ali, from Mali, said he was detained by local fighters in the town of Bani Walid, east of Tripoli. He was held captive in a factory-turned-prison along with 1,500 other Africans. He sat down and hugged his knees to show how tightly they were squeezed in.

"It was packed," he said. "We couldn't sleep, we had to sleep sitting down." Ali said he and the others were forced to work in construction and menial labor and were beaten regularly. Their captors fired in the air to intimidate them. Ali escaped during the holy month of Ramadan. Others had to pay to get out. "We were looking for a job and got kidnapped by people with police uniforms," says Mostafa Dumbia, a native of the Ivory Coast. He said he was held in a prison for six weeks. His captors only released him and piled him onto a boat after his family sent payment of \$1,000.

Erna Rijnerse of Doctors Without Borders says the accounts are consistent from dozens of survivors who passed through Libya. The scars on many survivors, including the combination of fresh and older scars, amount to evidence of "long-term torturing."

"I see a lot of bruises on places it's impossible to bruise yourself," she told The Associated Press.

Operation Sophia

For the past year, EU naval vessels in the Mediterranean have been working to intercept smuggling boats in a program called Operation Sophia. In June, the operation was extended for another year and expanded, with the EU now training the Libyan coast guard and navy in stopping smuggling. The EU also asked NATO to get involved, a request that will be discussed at the alliance's summit in Warsaw that began Friday.

The aim is in part to save lives. In 2015, at least 3,771 would-be migrants died in the Mediterranean, according to the International Organization for Migration. So far, 2016 is looking as bad if not worse. The IOM has so far documented nearly 2,920 deaths, the vast majority of them from African nations. Operation Sophia is also aimed at deterring migrants from coming by shutting down the smuggling routes. Europe absorbed more than a million irregular migrants in 2015, a five-fold increase compared to 2014. But in a report released Wednesday, Human Rights Watch said the effort "risks condemning migrants and asylum-seekers to violent abuse." — AP

HEAVY FIGHTING ERUPTS IN SOUTH SUDAN CAPITAL

JUBA: Heavy fighting erupted in South Sudan's capital yesterday as former rebels and government soldiers exchanged fire two days after gun battles left at least 150 fighters dead.

"Gunshots, heavily armed exchange UN House area once again; going on now since approx. 0825 (0525 GMT)," the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said on Twitter, later adding the fighting was "relentless".

Fighting was heard in several other parts of the city throughout the day, including the tinderbox Gudele neighborhood where rebel leader turned vice president Riek Machar is headquartered and the central Tongping area near the international airport, with gunfire intensifying and subsiding at different times.

Regional airline Kenya Airways suspended flights to Juba, citing the "uncertain security situation", while the US embassy in Juba warned its citizens to stay indoors. "The situation in Juba has significantly deteriorated. There is serious ongoing fighting between government and opposition forces, including near the airport, UNMISS locations, Jebel and elsewhere throughout Juba," the embassy posted on its Facebook page.

Yesterday's fighting began on the city's western outskirts where both former rebels and government soldiers have bases at the foot of the Jebel Kujur mountain. The nearby UN House site is home to roughly 28,000 people previously uprooted by the war and living in flimsy makeshift houses. Aid workers said rounds had landed inside the UN camp, wounding some civilians.

The violence comes a day after the world's youngest country marked its fifth independence anniversary, and is a fresh blow to a peace deal that has failed to end the civil war that broke out in December 2013.

Civilians seek refuge

City residents hunkered down or began fleeing their homes as the UN reported the use of mortars, rocket-propelled grenades

and "heavy ground assault weaponry".

Helicopter gunships and tanks were also deployed, with a spokesman for Machar saying they were being used to bombard his leader's base. "Our forces have been attacked at Jebel base," said Machar's spokesman, James Gatdet Dak. "We hope it will not escalate."

A thick stream of fearful civilians, clutching children and meagre possessions, headed for the hoped-for refuge of another UN base close to the city's airport, only to find fighting erupting there too. The battles were the first since Friday when brief but heavy exchanges of fire left an estimated 150 soldiers dead on both sides. There were no immediate details of casualties from yesterday's violence. South Sudan has seen more fighting than peace since independence in July.

2011, with civil war breaking out December 2013 when President Salva Kiir accused Machar of plotting a coup. An August 2015 peace deal was supposed to end the conflict but observers say the peace process has stalled while fighting has continued despite the establishment of a unity government.

This week's clashes are the first between the army and former rebels in the capital where the war broke out since both established positions there in April as part of the peace agreement.

In a statement the UN Security Council said the recent fighting showed a "lack of serious commitment" to peace on the part of Kiir, Machar and their supporters. Tens of thousands have died in more than two years of civil war, close to three million have been forced from their homes and nearly five million survive on emergency food rations. The humanitarian crisis has unfolded alongside an economic one with the currency collapsing and inflation spiraling out of control. The country's mainstay oil industry is in tatters and regional towns have been razed. — AFP

ZIMBABWE ACCUSES FRANCE AND US OF PROTEST PLOT

HARARE: Zimbabwe yesterday accused the US and French embassies of backing street protests and a national work boycott which closed businesses and paralyzed the public transport system last week.

The strike action was the latest in a series of protests over growing economic hardship blamed on the policies of 92-year-old President Robert Mugabe, who has been in power for 36 years.

"We have gathered from our intelligence that there was involvement of western embassies in all these disturbances that have been taking place," the state-owned Sunday Mail newspaper quoted home affairs minister Ignatius Chombo as saying. "The evidence that we have gathered so far shows that the French embassy in Harare and other embassies are part of this plot as part of their regime change machinations."

The newspaper reported that US ambassador Harry Thomas had in May met one of the organizers of last week's work boycott, the cleric Evan Mawarire, and that French ambassador Laurent Delahousse was "believed to have met Mawarire several times".

Delahousse denied ever meeting Mawarire and dismissed as "ridiculous" claims he backed the protests. "I deny in

the strongest terms any involvement with any organisation," he told AFP. "I am not in Zimbabwe to cause trouble but to help and support the people of Zimbabwe. These ridiculous accusations are certainly out of line."

"The authorities should focus on working for the good of the people and should investigate police violence." Public shows of dissent have been rare under Mugabe's oppressive rule, but they have grown in recent months as the battered economy has ground to a virtual halt.

Banks have run short of cash, government salaries have been delayed and many basic imports banned at a time when the country has also suffered a severe drought that has left millions hungry.

The job stayaway called by civic groups last Wednesday was well supported across the country after news of the plan spread on social media and organisers have vowed to press on with more protests in the coming weeks.

Information minister Christopher Mushowwe warned Sunday that the authorities were tracking "all those who are abusing the social media to cause unrest in the country". The government has warned that anyone sharing "subversive" material would be arrested. — AFP



MEDITERRANEAN SEA: Laye Donzo from Liberia shows the scars on his leg, as he rests aboard the Aquarius humanitarian vessel. — AP

OBAMA RUSHES THROUGH FIRST PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO SPAIN

MADRID: It took the White House more than seven years to lock in Spain on President Barack Obama's foreign travel schedule. But events beyond Obama's control have turned his first and only visit to Spain, the largest European country that had yet to welcome the president, into a rushed one.

Instead of spending two days sightseeing in southern Spain and tending to more official business in the capital of Madrid, the White House scrapped some of Obama's events - including a staple of his foreign travels, a question-and-answer forum with young adults - and crammed the rest of his schedule into yesterday.

Deadly shootings last week of black men by police in Louisiana and Minnesota, followed by the sniper killings of five police officers in Dallas, led Obama to make the unusual choice to return to the White House late yesterday, a day earlier than originally planned.

Obama has been loath to tear up his schedule in response to previous acts of violence, saying repeatedly that altering his plans would be tantamount to giving in to terrorists. But terrorists didn't strike in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, near St. Paul, Minnesota, or Dallas. The assaults followed June's deadly shooting at an Orlando, Florida, nightclub and the rise in so-called lone-wolf terrorism, heightening fears about public safety.

Obama noted the "difficult week" as he made small talk yesterday with King Felipe VI after arriving at Spain's Royal Palace for a meeting. The king thanked Obama for visiting under the circumstances. The stop in Spain is the last leg of what is likely Obama's final trip to Europe before he leaves office in January. He arrived late Saturday from Poland, where he attended a NATO summit.

The White House said the visit will highlight security cooperation between the trans-Atlantic allies, as well as political and economic ties. Obama was also meeting with acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy before heading to Naval Station Rota, in the south. He planned to tour the USS Ross, one of four guided-missile destroyers based there, and address troops there before the flight home.

Spain has been gripped by a political stalemate for months, with Rajoy unable to garner the necessary support to form a new coalition government following a late-June election. It was the country's second round of inconclusive balloting in the past year. Rajoy's party also won an election in December, but no other major party was willing to help him form a government.

Obama addressed the political situation in an interview Saturday with the El Pais newspaper, saying he hopes Spain's next government

will be just as committed to strong relations with the U.S. and Europe. He said the world needs Spain's contributions to the campaign against the Islamic State group, to counterterrorism efforts that prevent attacks and to its fellow NATO members.

"The relationship between Spaniards and Americans goes back centuries," he said. "We're connected by the ties of family and culture, including millions of Americans who celebrate their Hispanic heritage. Spain is a strong NATO ally, we're grateful for Spain's many decades of hosting US forces, and we're major trading partners."

"That's why the United States is deeply committed to maintaining our relationship with a strong, unified Spain," Obama said. He said he has longed to return to Spain ever since he passed through while backpacking across Europe decades ago, during his 20s, a point he underscored just before his private meeting with the king. He said he could not have imagined that he'd return years later and be greeted by royalty.

"I wish I was staying longer," Obama said yesterday. His wife, Michelle, and their daughters, Malia and Sasha, stopped in Spain in late June during the first lady's three-country trip to promote education for adolescent girls in developing countries. — AP



MADRID: President Barack Obama walks with Spain's King Felipe VI in the Salon de Colonnas of the Palacio Real de Madrid yesterday. — AP

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HONG KONG TAKES AIM AT CHINA FOR TRASH ON BEACHES

HONG KONG: Hong Kong's leader yesterday blamed a huge rise in rubbish blighting the city's beaches on refuse washed ashore from the mainland, and pledged talks with Chinese authorities to stem the tide.

Environmentalists have posted images on social media of trash covering several beaches, including plastic bottles and packaging with labels written in simplified Chinese characters—used in mainland China but not Hong Kong.

Speaking after a visit to a coastal area yesterday morning, Leung Chun-ying said the refuse had been washed up in the city after heavy rain and floods struck southern China. "A lot of domestic garbage was washed towards Hong Kong from the mainland... predictably due to heavy rain falls and floods in the past few weeks," he told reporters on Lantau Island.

The extra waste put an increased burden on cleanup crews, he added, with the amount collected on beaches and other coastal areas "multiple times" what was seen over the same period last year. "This is an extraordinary situation... we will follow this up with Guangdong relevant authorities," he said referring to the mainland province neighboring the city.

Flooding is common during the summer monsoon season in southern China, but rainfall has been particularly heavy this year and many areas have been slashed by torrential rains this week.

"If you actually look at the trash... it does not look like stuff you find in supermarkets here... this is not like our normally trashed beaches," Hong

Kong-based green activist Gary Stokes, of Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, said on Facebook.

But he added it is not "a chance to bash China", as the city should also tackle its own waste problems. "Hong Kong creates more trash per capita than anywhere on earth, our track record on recycling efforts and cleanliness are dire," he said.

Domestic waste is deposited in landfill sites but also litters country parks, coastal areas and waterways. — AFP

AFTER DAYS OF LIMBO, AUSTRALIAN PREMIER CLAIMS ELECTION WIN

ELECTION LEFT THE COUNTRY IN A STATE OF POLITICAL PARALYSIS

SYDNEY: Australia's prime minister said yesterday that his conservative coalition government was re-elected for a second three-year term, after a chaotic national election that left the country in a state of political paralysis for more than a week while officials scrambled to sort out who had won the tight race.

Vote counting was still underway from the July 2 ballot, but Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said that his conservative Liberal Party-led coalition had secured a victory, and that opposition leader Bill Shorten had called him earlier to congratulate him on being re-elected.

"We have resolved this election and done so peacefully," Turnbull told reporters. The election was not, however, entirely resolved. Parties are required to hold at least 76 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives to form a majority government, and neither party has yet to officially reach that number.

There are two possibilities: Either the coalition will form a majority government by a slim

margin, or the country will have a hung Parliament. If that happens, Turnbull's coalition will forge an alliance with independent and minor party lawmakers to form a minority government. Three independent lawmakers have already pledged their support to the coalition if such a situation arises. Asked whether he thought his party would win a majority, Turnbull replied simply, "We've won the election." With about a quarter of the ballots still left to be counted, the Australian Electoral Commission said the coalition was leading in 74 seats, the center-left Labor Party in 71 seats and minor parties and independents in five. It could take days or weeks to resolve the final tally.

Tough road ahead

Despite the victory, Turnbull faces a tough road ahead with a divided party, a fractured Senate and a weary electorate. The government went into the election with a comfortable majority of 90 seats and few had predicted it would suf-

fer such steep losses. The result has raised the prospect that Turnbull could face a leadership challenge from colleagues unhappy with the party's weak showing. If Turnbull ends up being tossed out, Australia would end up with its fifth prime minister in just over three years, continuing a period of remarkable volatility in the nation's politics.

Even if Turnbull manages to hang onto his job, he has a slew of problems to contend with. The moderate leader needs to face the more conservative lawmakers in his party who are angry about his performance and upset that he ousted his predecessor Tony Abbott in an internal leadership ballot less than a year ago.

He will also need to deal with a fragmented Senate that could make it tough for him to pass laws. Though the final makeup of Parliament's upper house is unlikely to be known for weeks, no party will win a majority of seats. That means even if Turnbull gets contentious legislation passed by the House, he would still have to try and strike deals with the opposition or a disparate group of Senate independents and minor parties to get it signed into law.

The turbulence has already caused other problems. Uncertainty surrounding the election prompted rating agency Standard & Poor's to downgrade Australia's coveted AAA credit rating last week from "stable" to "negative." The agency said Australia needs "more forceful fiscal policy decisions" to rein in debt and believes such tough measures could be postponed by the new Parliament. The chaos follows one of the closest elections in Australian history, which failed to deliver an immediate victory. In several seats, just a few hundred votes were separating the coalition from Labor.

Despite the close race, it became clear in recent days that Labor would not be able to win enough seats to form a government, prompting the opposition leader to formally concede the race earlier yesterday. "I hope for our nation's sake the coalition does a good job," Shorten told reporters in Melbourne. "I hope they run a good government."

Shorten said his party would work with the coalition to find common ground, saying he understood Australia's need for a functioning parliament. He also said it was time Australia considered ditching its pencil and paper voting system for a speedier electronic version. "We're a grown-up democracy," Shorten said. "It shouldn't be taking eight days to find out who has won." — AP



TOKYO: A representative of a local election administration commission shows the earliest two voters the empty ballot box before they cast their votes for Japan's upper house parliamentary elections at a polling station yesterday. — AP

JAPANESE MEDIA EXIT POLLS: RULING COALITION HEADS TO VICTORY

TOKYO: Japan's ruling coalition was a clear winner in yesterday's parliamentary election, Japanese media exit polls indicated, paving the way for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to push ahead with his economic revival policies, but also possibly changing the nation's postwar pacifist constitution.

Several major TV news shows and the Kyodo News agency cited their exit polls and reported almost as soon as voting ended that the ruling coalition, headed by Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, had kept its majority and increased its number of seats. The opposition lost many of its seats, they said.

Half of the seats of parliament's less powerful upper house were up for grabs. There had been no possibility for a change of power because the ruling coalition already controls the more powerful lower house, but the balloting was a key gauge for how much support Abe's coalition has among the public. The opposition had called on voters to show their rejection of Abe's position to have a more assertive military role for Japan.

"That is so dangerous, and it may lead Japan into war with other nations and make it a nation without freedoms at home," Yuriko Keino, a musician and composer living in Tokyo, said Sunday. "We must all raise our voices and come together to protect peace and freedom."

With their pro-business policies, the Liberal Democrats have ruled Japan almost continuously since World War II, and until recently enjoyed solid support from rural areas. The few

years the opposition held power coincided with the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters that devastated northeastern Japan. The opposition, however, fell out of favor after being heavily criticized over its reconstruction efforts.

Some Japanese agree with Abe's views on security because of growing fears about terrorism, the recent missile launches by North Korea and China's military assertiveness.

Some analysts see 78 as a magic number - the number of seats that would give the ruling coalition a two-thirds majority in the upper house. That kind of support could be enough for Abe to push forward with rewriting Japan's postwar pacifist constitution. But a referendum would still be needed, and public support for pacifism remains high. Final results of the balloting aren't expected until early Monday.

Sunday's was the first major election after the voting age was lowered from 20 to 18, potentially adding 2.4 million voters. Although "manga" animation and other events were used to woo young voters, results from early and absentee voting pointed to a low turnout. Many young people are disillusioned with mainstream politics.

Masses of people have come out against nuclear power since the March 2011 catastrophe. But that has not weakened Abe in recent elections, although he has made clear he is eager to restart reactors that were idled after the disaster, the worst since Chernobyl, and make nuclear power a Japan export. — AP

15 DEAD FROM FLOODS IN CENTRAL INDIA

NEW DELHI: Flash floods from torrential downpours in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh have killed 15 people, with seven deaths over the weekend, and left thousands of people displaced, authorities said yesterday.

Indian news channels on yesterday showed footage of inundated cities in the state, with residents forced to wade through waist deep water. The state chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan asked senior officials to stay vigilant for the next 24 hours as more heavy rain is forecast. "Seven people have lost their life in the last one day, taking the overall

toll to 15," Chouhan said in a video message on Twitter.

He added that some major roads were still flooded after days of heavy rain. "We have already rescued and moved around 6,000 people to temporary shelters in the last few days. Around 500 were rescued to safer areas on Saturday," he added.

Parts of central India including Madhya Pradesh had also been some of the worst drought affected areas of the country. India has been in grip of its worst water crisis in years, with 300 million people, or a quarter of the population, suffering from drought. — AFP

MURDER SUSPECT INDICTED IN CASE WHICH FUELLED MISOGYNY FEARS

SEOUL: The suspect in a murder of a young woman in Seoul's up market Gangnam district was indicted yesterday, in a case that triggered a public outcry over fears of violent misogyny in South Korea.

Hundreds of mourners attended a candlelight vigil after the 23-year-old victim was stabbed to death by a stranger at a public bathroom in May. Police have said the murder suspect, a 34-year-old man identified only by his surname Kim who remains in custody, had told them he carried out the attack because he felt "belittled by women".

Prosecutors said Sunday they believed a key trigger behind his murder of a random female victim happened two days before the killing, when the suspect said a cigarette butt tossed by a passing woman had landed on his shoe, Yonhap news agency reported.

The suspect told prosecutors women had caused him a lot of stress, according to Yonhap. Kim was diagnosed with acute schizophrenia in 2009 and had been repeatedly admitted to hospital. However, he had stopped taking medication in January when he discharged himself.

Seoul Central District Prosecutors alleged Sunday the suspect murdered the woman because he suffered from an untreated mental illness, Yonhap reported.

Prosecutors added their investigation showed Kim was mentally unstable at the time of the murder and should have been in hospital. But they said it was "difficult" to categorize the murder as a hate crime against women. "The defendant does seem to have hostility against women, but there was no evidence of him holding indiscriminate prejudice against women," an unnamed prosecutor was quoted by Yonhap as saying.

However, prosecutors said Kim had showed no signs of remorse or guilt. South Korea generally has a low violent crime rate, but cases of sexual assault have increased in recent years and women's groups argue that entrenched gender discrimination-rooted in a strong Confucian tradition-is a prime cause.

A subway station exit near the scene of the stabbing was turned into a mini shrine by thousands of mostly young South Koreans leaving piles of flowers and covering its outer walls with messages written on post-it notes.

The murder and public reaction received wide media coverage, with the mass circulation JoongAng Daily running an editorial entitled "Women at Risk." In 2013, President Park Geun-Hye directed the police to focus on combating four "social evils"—the first two being sexual violence and domestic violence. — AFP

18 DEAD IN INDIAN KASHMIR PROTESTS AFTER TOP REBEL KILLED

SRINAGAR: The death toll in Kashmir rose to 18 yesterday as clashes between Indian troops and protesters continued despite a curfew imposed in the disputed Himalayan region to suppress anti-India anger following the killing of a popular rebel commander. Anti-India protests have been reported from many places across Kashmir since Burhan Wani, chief of operations of Hizbul Mujahideen, Kashmir's largest rebel group, was killed Friday in fighting with Indian troops.

The dead included 17 civilians killed in two days of clashes between angry, rock-pelting protesters who defied the curfew and Indian troops, a police official said. The other fatality was a policeman who was killed yesterday after protesters pushed the armored vehicle he was driving into a river during clashes in the southern Anantnag area, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to reporters.

After the protests erupted, Indian troops used live ammunition, pellet guns and tear gas to try and control the angry crowds, police said. More

than 150 civilians have so far been injured in the clashes. Police intelligence chief Shiv M. Sahai said that protesters attacked several police and paramilitary posts in the region. Around 90 government troops were also injured, he said. Thousands of government forces in riot gear have fanned out across towns and villages in Kashmir.

Officials at the region's main hospital, in the city of Srinagar, said yesterday that they were dealing with a medical emergency as they tried to attend to at least 80 civilians admitted with bullet and pellet injuries, local media reported.

Coalition of Civil Society, a prominent local rights group, said in a statement yesterday that government forces "assaulted the patients and attendants" at four hospitals in the region and also attacked ambulances carrying patients.

Indian paramilitary spokesman K.K. Sharma said the complaint would be investigated, but called the allegations "baseless." Wani, in his early 20s, had become the iconic face of militancy in Kashmir over the last five years, using social media like Facebook to reach out to young Kashmiri men.

Kashmir is evenly divided between India and Pakistan, but claimed in its entirety by both. Most people in Kashmir have long resented India's presence, and support rebel demands for an independent Kashmir or a merging with Pakistan. More than 68,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the subsequent Indian military crackdown.

Inspector-General Syed Javid Mujtaba Gillani described Wani's killing as the "biggest success against militants" in recent years.

Indian officials, fearing that the killing could lead to violent protests in the already troubled region, have also indefinitely suspended an annual Hindu pilgrimage to a mountain cave that draws about half a million people each year.

Cell phone services in southern parts of Kashmir remained suspended for a second day and mobile internet services were blocked in the rest of the region to prevent anti-India demonstrators from mobilizing. Shops, businesses and government offices remained closed. Authorities also postponed school and college examinations and suspended rail services. — AP



KASHMIR: A Kashmiri Muslim protester throws back a teargas shell at Indian paramilitary soldiers yesterday. — AP



Members of the British Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, perform ahead of the British Formula One Grand Prix at Silverstone motor racing circuit in Silverstone, central England yesterday. — AFP

EGYPT FM MEETS ISRAEL PM IN RARE VISIT

Continued from Page 1

Sisi said in May that there was a "real opportunity" for an Israeli-Palestinian deal that could lead to warmer ties between his country and Israel. He urged both sides to seize what he said was a "real opportunity" and hailed Egypt's peace deal with Israel.

Egypt's foreign ministry said Shoukry and Netanyahu would discuss "laying the foundation and specifics of confidence-building between Palestinians and Israelis to create a supportive environment to resume direct negotiations between them with the aim of reaching a comprehensive and just solution". Israeli public radio said the trip was also partly intended to prepare the groundwork for a possible visit by Netanyahu to Cairo, but officials have yet to comment on the report.

In 1979, Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with neighboring Israel after years of conflict, and it remains an influential player in the region. Their ties have however been formally cold over Israel's policies towards the Palestinians, and relations further soured after the June 2012 election of the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohamed Morsi as Egyptian president. After president Hosni Mubarak's ouster in the 2011 revolution, protesters stormed Israel's embassy in September that year amid clashes with police. Morsi was ousted in July 2013 by then army chief Sisi, who was elected Egypt's president in 2014.

In June, representatives from 28 Arab and Western countries, the Arab League, European Union and the

United Nations met in Paris to discuss ways to help advance peace efforts. Israel strongly opposes that initiative, which is being promoted by France. Netanyahu has at the same time spoken of reviving a long-dormant Arab peace initiative dating to 2002. The proposal essentially calls for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and resolve the issue of refugees with the Palestinians, leading to the creation of a Palestinian state, in exchange for normalized relations with Arab countries.

But some analysts have questioned whether Netanyahu's comments were a bid to fend off international critics over his appointment of hardline Defense Minister Avigdor Lieberman and his opposition to the French plan. He has said he would seek changes to the Arab proposal. The Arab League has said the terms cannot be changed. There have been repeated warnings that Israeli settlement building and Palestinian attacks are eroding the possibility of a two-state solution, especially with peace efforts at a standstill since April 2014.

Egypt and Israel have cooperated in other areas, particularly with jihadists in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula having pledged allegiance in Nov 2014 to the Islamic State group. In April, the Israeli military's deputy chief of staff spoke of an "unprecedented level of cooperation" with Egypt, mainly regarding intelligence. Shoukry said the situation in the Middle East was "becoming ever more volatile and dangerous, particularly as the phenomenon of terrorism continues to grow and proliferate, representing an existential threat to the peoples of the region and the world at large." — AFP

US AIR FORCE URGES DECISION ON MIDEAST FIGHTER SALES

FARNBOROUGH, England: A top US Air Force official yesterday urged the US government to speed up its consideration of long-standing bids by Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain to buy US fighter jets, citing growing frustration among the key US allies in the Gulf about delays in the process. Air Force Deputy Undersecretary Heidi Grant said she was trying to reassure officials in those countries that Washington's failure to approve billions of dollars of US arms sales to them would not alter the strong bilateral air force-to-air force relationships that exist.

"I would like to see a decision soon," Grant told Reuters in an interview on the eve of the Farnborough Airshow in southern England. Grant said she "absolutely" saw growing frustration among officials in the three countries, which have asked to buy a variety of US fighter planes. "It's caused us to do more to reassure them that this one transaction should not impact the larger relationship ... that they are very valued partners," Grant said. "Hopefully the delay in this decision to move forward isn't going to have any impact."

Grant said the three requests were still being worked on "at the highest levels of our government." She declined to comment on what was holding up the decisions. All three arms sales have stalled amid concerns raised by Israel that equipment sent to Gulf states could fall into the wrong hands and be used against it, and by the Obama administration's desire to integrate arms sales decisions into its broader decision-making on military aid to the Gulf.

The Pentagon and State Department have both have

signed off on the sale of 36 F-15 fighter jets to Qatar and 24 F/A-18E/F Super Hornets to Kuwait, both built by Boeing Co, as well as about 16 Lockheed Martin Corp F-16 fighter jets to Bahrain in a deal valued at just under \$1 billion. Leanne Caret, chief executive of Boeing Defense, Space & Security, told reporters the approval process was clearly taking longer than the company would like, but Boeing's Middle East customers were "hanging in there with us" despite the delays. "I believe we have a bright future on it, and we look forward to resolving it soon," she said.

Grant joins other senior military officials and lawmakers who have weighed in in recent months to urge the White House to move forward on the arms sales requests, some of which have been in work for years. The sale to Kuwait is worth about \$3 billion and the one to Qatar is probably close to \$4 billion, according to sources familiar with the matter.

The value of the Bahrain deal was not immediately available. US Navy Secretary Ray Mabus last month warned the US Navy could see the cost of new F/A-18E/F Super Hornets rise unless the government approves foreign sales of the jets soon.

Mabus said he was frustrated by delays in approving the sale of the Boeing jets to a close US ally. Senior US officials have said they are keen to see the Boeing F-15 and F/A-18 production lines in St Louis, and the Lockheed F-16 line in Fort Worth, Texas, continue, and do not want to foreclose options on fourth-generation aircraft. — Reuters

LAWMAKER PROPOSES BILL TO CONSIDER IS...

Continued from Page 1

members linked to the group are being tried for having contacts with an outlawed organization.

Meanwhile, National Assembly speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem said yesterday that MP Awdah Al-Ruwaei has withdrawn his resignation which he submitted last week because the Assembly refused to discuss a report on corruption prepared by an Assembly panel he chairs. Ruwaei threatened that he would quit his seat if the Assembly did not debate the report. MPs then overwhelmingly voted against the debate and the lawmaker immediately submitted his resignation. Ghanem said

that the lawmaker withdrew the resignation after requests by him and other MPs.

MP Yusef Al-Zalzal said yesterday he will submit a proposal calling for justice for tens of thousands of civil servants whose salaries have not been raised for the past six years. He said that since 2010, special pay hikes had been given to large sections of government employees but around 107,000 of them were excluded from such raises and have been waiting for the so-called strategic payroll alternative plan for all employees. The new pay-scale has not been finalized and these employees have not seen any increase in their wages. Therefore, Zalzal said he will propose immediate salary hikes for them.

BIN LADEN SON VOWS REVENGE

Continued from Page 1

which carried out the Sept 11, 2001 attacks. Documents recovered from bin Laden's compound and published by the United States last year alleged that his aides tried to reunite the militant leader with Hamza, who had been held under house arrest in Iran.

Hamza, now in his mid-twenties, was at his father's side in Afghanistan before the 9/11 attacks and spent time with him in Pakistan after the US-led invasion

pushed much of Al-Qaeda's senior leadership there, according to the Brookings Institution. Introduced by the organization's new chief Ayman Al-Zawahiri in an audio message last year, Hamza provides a younger voice for the group whose ageing leaders have struggled to inspire militants around the world galvanized by Islamic State. "Hamza provides a new face for Al-Qaeda, one that directly connects to the group's founder. He is an articulate and dangerous enemy," according to Bruce Riedel of Brookings.— Reuters

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80 YEARS AGO, SPAIN PLUNGED INTO CIVIL WAR

By Patrick Rahir

Eighty years ago, civil war broke out in Spain, a painful, bloody wound that has yet to heal. A dark prelude to World War II, the conflict unleashed passions around the world for close to three years and led to a decades-long dictatorship. It all started on July 18, 1936, when army generals staged a coup against a fledgling republic that had been established five years prior in a restive, poor country. The coup failed but divided the country between those who supported the Republic and the "nationalist" rebels.

Among these was General Francisco Franco, in command of the army in the Spanish protectorate of Morocco. He promptly gained the support of German and Italian dictators Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, whose planes transported troops onto the mainland in what is known as the world's first major airlift. The planes would go on to regularly bomb cities around the country, and destroy the town of Guernica in the Basque Country, made famous by Picasso's haunting painting. For the first time, civilians were direct targets.

The fighting and violence were reported around the world. Thanks to new portable cameras the war was “the first to be witnessed (...) by a corps of professional photographers at the lines of military engagement and in the towns under bombardment”, American writer Susan Sontag, who also wrote about photography, said in *The New Yorker*.

Atmosphere of Terror'

On the ground, mayhem. "We must create an atmos-

phere of terror... by eliminating all those who don't think like us without any misgivings or hesitation," rebel general Gonzalo Quelipo de Llano called in a radio address in July 1936. As the rebels progressed, left-wing lawmakers, unionists, Socialist activists, supporters or their families were executed in their thousands. On the Republican side, armed gangs chased the wealthy and those suspected of being on the side of the rebels were executed.

Some were taken away at night for a "walk," a car ride from which no one ever returned. Priests and nuns were also targeted for their perceived closeness to upper classes, and more than 6,500 were killed, most at the hands of Republicans. Madrid asked its neighbors for help, in vain. Britain and France refused, scared of being dragged into another world war. They opted instead for a "pact of non-intervention" to which Italy and Germany also signed up, even as they continued to openly help the nationalist rebels.

The conflict moved people the world over. With the inaction of Western democracies, intellectuals took the side of the Republic, from novelist John Steinbeck to India's Nobel Literature laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Soon enough, the Soviet Union entered the fray, arming the Republicans. The civil war had evolved into a clash between fascism and communism. "Our foes are the Reds, the Bolsheviks of the world," sang the young pilots of the Condor Legion sent by Hitler.

Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin jumped on the occasion to strengthen his influence, sending advisers and organizing International Brigades. Some 50,000 volunteered from all over the world. "They saw fascism as an international threat, and the Brigades appeared to offer the best

way of fighting it", writes historian Antony Beevor. They helped the Republic score rare victories, holding onto Madrid in a winter 1936 battle or defeating Italian brigades sent by Mussolini in 1937.

But militarily inferior and weakened by divisions, the Republic slowly lost ground and the Barcelona-based government eventually went into exile in March 1939 along with some 400,000 Spaniards. Five months later, World War II erupted.

Spain Yet to Heal

Back in Spain, Franco declared victory on April 1, 1939 and ruled Spain until his death in 1975. In his book "The Spanish Holocaust", historian Paul Preston calculates that 20,000 Republican supporters were executed after the war. He estimates that 200,000 people died in combat during the conflict, and another 200,000 were murdered or executed — 150,000 of these at the hands of nationalists. Franco's regime paid tribute to its dead, but those who died on the opposite side were largely forgotten and dumped in mass graves.

When Spain transitioned to democracy after his death, authorities opted for a "pact of forgetting" to put the past and its bloody divisions behind. Then in 2007 as more and more people clamoured for the war and its aftermath to be addressed, Spain passed a law to help relatives willing to exhume and recover the remains of loved ones. But acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy has boasted of not having spent one euro to put it into effect. His conservative party, founded by Franco's former ministers, doesn't want to "stir the ashes of the past". — AFP

BLACKS PONDER AVOIDING BECOMING NEXT HASHTAG

By Errin Haines Whack

Javon Grant has come up with a plan for what to do should he cross paths with a police officer: Get as far away as possible. "People are getting shot every day," says Javon, 14. "I'll walk on the other side of the street. I will run. I don't know what they're gonna do." The impact of the constant drumbeat of police shootings of black men and boys - many of them unarmed and killed at the hands of white officers - has left many black youngsters wondering how they can keep from becoming the next social media hashtag.

Javon and his peers are coming of age in the era of Tamir Rice, Jordan Davis and Michael Brown. They do not know if they will be next. At the start of what would be a week of violence ending with two black men shot dead by police on video and five Dallas police officers killed by a sniper, about a group of black boys met with their mentors in Philadelphia in an intervention and diversion program where they learn critical thinking, accountability, goal-setting and other skills. Together, they watched a video of Alton Sterling, who was shot several times Tuesday while being held down by Baton Rouge police officers in front of a convenience store where he was selling CDs.

Slouched in his chair in jeans, a black t-shirt and a pair of Michael Jordan Nike tennis shoes, Javon shook his head and sat quietly, staring ahead for several moments before speaking. "He was just trying to hustle," Javon said. "He was probably selling CDs because he can't get no job. That's messed up." And it reinforced his plan to distance himself from law enforcement as a way to stay alive. Across the room, Nahkai Wright nodded. "I gotta make sure I don't die. Stay out of their way, that's what I think about," said Nahkai, a soft-spoken 15-year-old. "Be ready to leave."

Fatal Mistakes

The boys and their mentors, mostly black men, discussed the shooting and those that preceded it, without surprise and with little expectation of fairness or change. Xavier Revell is 15 but with his frame could be mistaken for a young man. It's an error that has cost other black teenage boys. A 2014 study published in the *American Psychological Association's Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* concluded that black boys as young as 10 are more likely to be mistaken as older, be perceived as guilty and face police violence if accused of a crime.

"Cops be making mistakes all the time," Xavier said before telling a story about a time his older brother had been stopped by police because of how he looked. "I try to keep cool. If the cops come, keep my mouth closed. Say, 'Yes sir, no sir. If they put their hands on you, don't attack"

Javon interrupts. "That's how some of them end up dead," he said. "They don't do nothing."

Present in the room was an understanding the burden was on them - not the police - to preserve their lives, even as they pondered how little control they felt in such an exchange. "I've never got time to get pulled over, but I always have time to survive," said Joseph Douglas, 41, one of the mentors. "The more I talk, the greater chance I got that something bad is going to happen to me. My thing is: 'How can I get this cop away from me as fast as possible? What can I do to minimize this interaction?'"

Vince Carter agreed. The 32-year-old black man said he has been stopped numerous times by police while driving in Philadelphia. At times, his frustration threatens to get

the best of him. "There's been some cases where I was already not in the mood," Carter said. "I always think about the larger picture." Some of the mentors say their role is to impart their experience to save lives. "In their mind, it's like, 'I'm right, and I'm going to stand on this principle if I gotta die,'" said Reuben Jones, a program mentor. "They're so adamant ... It puts in perspective why so many young black men are dying."

For some black men, that can mean swallowing their pride to get through the moment, a lesson that often comes with age. "They need to know how to live today, while we try to figure out what things we can change in the future," Douglas said. "They need to be able to have an encounter with a police officer and walk away alive." — AP



In this July 6, 2016 photo, a teen views a recording of the fatal police involved shooting in Louisiana, during a weekly mentoring meeting at The Bridge, a youth intervention and diversion program in Philadelphia. — AP

BUTTLER SUFFERS
THUMB FRACTURE

MANCHESTER: England wicketkeeper-batsman Jos Buttler is set for a stint on the sidelines after suffering a fractured thumb, his county side Lancashire said yesterday. It is not known how long Buttler will be out of action, but having been overlooked by England for the first Test of a four-match series against Pakistan, he will be hoping to return for the limited-overs games in August. The 25-year-old was struck by the bat of Worcestershire opponent Ben Cox while keeping during Lancashire's T20 Blast win on Friday. Despite that Buttler, who has scored England's three fastest one-day international hundreds ever, went on to score a match-winning 50 from just 20 balls, the quickest in Lancashire Twenty20 history. "X-rays later revealed he sustained a small stable fracture which will be managed conservatively," Lancashire said in a statement. Meanwhile, Bangladesh has ruled out playing England's cricket team in a third country in September, an idea floated after a deadly terror attack in the capital killed 18 foreigners last week. — AFP

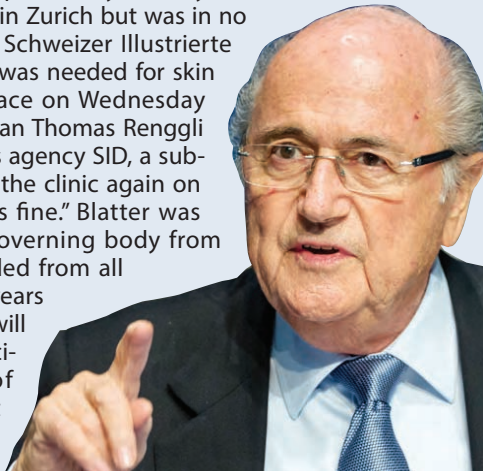


PAGENAUD GRABS
INDYCAR IOWA POLE

LOS ANGELES: France's Simon Pagenaud put his Penske in pole position for IndyCar Iowa Corn 300, notching the 500th pole in the team's racing history. Pagenaud put together a two-lap run of 34.6334 seconds (185.855 mph/ 299 Km/h) on the Iowa Speedway, which at .89 miles is the shortest circuit used in the series. Pagenaud captured the seventh pole of his IndyCar career and his fifth this season. The additional point earned for Pagenaud stretched his lead in the standings to 75 points over Brazilian teammate Helio Castroneves heading into today's 300-lap race. Ed Carpenter Racing's Josef Newgarden posted a two-lap run of 34.6738sec for the second-fastest qualifying time. Castroneves was third quickest and British rookie Max Chilton was fourth-fastest in his Ganassi Chevrolet. Andretti Autosport drivers have won the last six races at Iowa, but will have to make a charge to make it seven straight. Carlos Munoz was the team's top qualifier and will start from the 15th position on the grid. Three-time race winner Ryan Hunter-Reay backed his Andretti DHL Honda into the wall in morning practice and qualified 20th. —AFP

BLATTER HAS SURGERY
'FOR SKIN CANCER'

PARIS: Disgraced former FIFA president Sepp Blatter underwent successful surgery after being diagnosed with skin cancer and has been released from hospital, his spokesman and a report said yesterday. The 80-year-old required the operation in Zurich but was in no danger at the time, Swiss daily Schweizer Illustrierte reported, saying the procedure was needed for skin cancer. "The operation took place on Wednesday and was a success," his spokesman Thomas Renggli told the German-language news agency SID, a subsidiary of AFP. "Sepp Blatter left the clinic again on Thursday to return home. He is fine." Blatter was president of world football's governing body from 1998 to 2015, but was suspended from all football-related activity for six years by a FIFA ethics committee. He will have an appeal against the decision heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on August 25. —AFP



LEXUS RC F FROM GAZOO RACING FINISHES FIRST AT NURBURGRING 2016

KUWAIT: Ten years of hard work nurturing the right team is providing a new springboard for helping to build ever-better cars. This year, GAZOO Racing entered the Lexus RC F for the 44th 24 Hours of Nurburgring endurance race recently and the car took 24th place overall and finished first in the SP-PRO class1. The Lexus RC F car number 36, driven by Takeshi Tsuchiya, Tatsuya Kataoka, Kazuya Oshima, and Takuto Iguchi, successfully completed this famous endurance race held in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany. The Lexus RC F was entered by GAZOO Racing alongside the experienced TOM'S racing team, a partnership that was formed with the aim of learning from the passion and know-how of the veteran TOM'S mechanics. Speaking on the occasion, team representative Akio Toyoda, said, "Ten years have passed since we drove our

first 24 Hours of Nu,rburging. Since then, our drivers, mechanics and support staff have joined together as a team each year with the aim of racing as many laps as possible." Toyoda added, "Over the last ten years, the efforts of GAZOO Racing have been supported by fans from around the world. We have succeeded thanks to the hard work and leadership of many people who committed themselves to seeing things through and refused to give up no matter what difficulties they faced. Our efforts to create ever-better cars and to nurture the people to achieve this are never-ending. As part of these efforts, we hope to continue to take on the challenge of the Nurburgring in the future." According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "The performance of the GAZOO Racing team

at Nurburgring was commendable and testimony to the capability of the Lexus RC F and the racing prowess of the entire team. The 24 Hours of N,rburging provides valuable opportunities to understand the limits of our cars and to nurture the capabilities to improve them under harsher conditions than a conventional test course. We appreciate the support of our customers in our racing endeavours over the years, which have helped us to raise the benchmarks in developing new vehicles and enhancing our existing range of cars." One of the principle aims of GAZOO Racing is to help Lexus build up ever-better personnel in addition to its ever-improving cars through the medium of motor-sports. The Lexus LFA is a well-known example of a production vehicle that incorporated lessons learned during the 24 Hours of Nurburgring endurance race.



KESELOWSKI WINS
FOR THIRD TIME AT
KENTUCKY SPEEDWAY

SPARTA: Brad Keselowski's calm demeanor was never more evident than his cool response to a tense moment. He radioed crew chief Paul Wolfe that his No. 2 Ford was out of fuel but stayed focused, heeding instructions to milk whatever mileage he could. Keselowski ended up having enough to become the first three-time winner at Kentucky Speedway on Saturday night, overtaking Kevin Harvick on lap 201 and holding on for the Sprint Cup Series victory. "We ran out with about two (laps) to go," he said. "Somehow we limped it around and stay ahead of Carl (Edwards) and bring it home. This is something I'm not going to forget. "It's a pretty helpless feeling being out of gas with guys behind you. But there's nothing you can about it, and freaking out ain't going to help anything." Matt Kenseth grabbed the lead with six laps remaining but soon pitted for fuel to hand the top spot back to Keselowski, who had just enough gas in reserve to edge Edwards by .175 seconds in the closest victory margin for the 400-mile race. Keselowski's tank eventually ran dry and he needed a tow truck to get to victory lane. Ryan Newman was third, followed by Kurt Busch and then Tony Stewart in fifth in his final Kentucky race. The three-time series champion is retiring after this season. Keselowski led three times for a total of 75 laps on his way to his second straight win and series-best fourth of the season that clinched a spot in the Chase for the championship. All of his Kentucky wins have come in even-numbered years - the others

came in 2012 and 2014 - and his latest triumph on the 1.5 mile tri-oval might have been his most impressive in terms of strategy. The Penske Racing driver pitted just four times after starting second and made the most of his gas tank down to the last drop, withstanding one last charge from Edwards. Those final laps were still nerve-racking for Wolfe, but he's been in this situation before with Keselowski and things have turned out well. "I felt pretty good about it (fuel) until the 19 (Edwards) closed up on us," he said. "He was able to go and I think he said, shut it off a little bit down the back and as he got into the corner it picked up. Once we were coming off (turn) 4, I saw he was still under power and I felt like we had it at that point." Said Edwards: "I thought he was out of fuel, but he did a good job." Keselowski clearly got a lot from his tires and setup, both of which were important on the resurfaced and reconfigured track featuring higher banking in turns and 1 and 2. He lamented the smoothing of front-stretch bumps he said added character to Kentucky, but quickly adapted to the improvements and new NASCAR rules that reduced downforce and sideforce. Harvick, the pole-sitter, led for a race-high 128 laps and finished ninth. Keselowski guided his Ford past Harvick's Chevy on lap 201 after the race record-tying 11th caution. The race then stayed green to the end. Accidents were the story early on. Some notable names were collected, including Jimmie Johnson, Joey Logano and rookie Chase Elliott. — AP

HAMILTON WINS TO
NARROW ROSBERG LEAD

SILVERSTONE: Lewis Hamilton completed a hat-trick of home wins yesterday when he triumphed ahead of Nico Rosberg in the British Grand Prix to cut his Mercedes team-mate's championship lead to just four points. Defending three-time champion Hamilton reeled off his fourth win in five races as he steams up behind Rosberg in the title race, with the German also subject to a post-race inquiry into radio dialogue with the team when he had a gearbox problem. Talented Dutch teenager Max Verstappen finished third-pushing Rosberg all the way-ahead of his Red Bull team-mate Daniel Ricciardo, with Finn Kimi Raikkonen coming home fifth for Ferrari. In a reversal of the scenes at Spielberg following last Sunday's Austrian Grand Prix,

where Hamilton and Rosberg collided on the final lap, Rosberg was booed by fans during the podium ceremony at Silverstone. "A great job and thank you so much guys for your efforts back at the factory," said Hamilton on his victory lap. From the podium, he added: "We've got the best fans here so thank you so much... I am not sure you can be as happy as I am." A downpour shortly before the race created some havoc and an immediate call for "full wet" tyres and a plodding safety car start. Hamilton led the way for six laps before the real thing began, grumbling on lap four that "this safety car is just really slow." On lap five, he made it more obvious: "We can go, Charlie!" he said, a message directed at the race director Charlie Whiting. And so racing began on lap six, Hamilton throwing up a high

plume of spray ahead of Rosberg as most of the rest-bar the top four-rushed to the pits for intermediate tyres. In the pit lane, there were two near collisions before the race resumed and settled with Hamilton pulling 3.6 seconds clear by lap seven. Both Mercedes men pitted for their intermediates on lap eight, ahead of the Red Bulls, as the Virtual Safety Car (VSC) was deployed when Pascal Wehrlein spun off at Abbey curve. As the track improved, Verstappen and then Rosberg picked up the pace before Hamilton responded. By lap 12, he was 5.2 seconds clear with Rosberg 1.4 clear of Verstappen. Sebastian Vettel was the first in for slick tyres after 15 laps when, in an outrageous move, Verstappen swept round Rosberg at Becketts to take second.

RADIO DIALOGUE

The top order stayed unchanged as the top three traded fastest laps while the circuit remained treacherous, with both Spaniards Fernando Alonso and then Carlos Sainz spinning off at Abbey, but surviving. Rio Haryanto did the same, hit the barriers and retired. Hamilton almost did the same, but retained control as his car twitched. Verstappen also slithered and the top three were separated by only six seconds. By lap 25, Hamilton was surging again, 5.9 seconds clear of Verstappen, who was defending against a rampant Rosberg. Rosberg finally passed Verstappen on lap 38 and began to hunt down Hamilton, 8.2 seconds ahead. The German swiftly cut that to 7.6 with 11 laps remaining while compatriot Vettel, who had forced Felipe Massa off a few laps earlier, was handed a five-second penalty. At the front, Rosberg reeled off fastest laps, but Hamilton nursed his car, and the tyres, as he retained a six seconds' lead until, on lap 47, Rosberg reported a gearbox problem. He lost three seconds and fell back to 11 seconds behind Hamilton. "Avoid seventh gear," the Mercedes team told him. "Shift through it." Sensing blood, Verstappen closed up, notably when the stewards launched an investigation into Rosberg's radio dialogue, but in the end Rosberg hung on. — AFP



SILVERSTONE: Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's British driver Lewis Hamilton reacts as he catches the trophy after throwing it in the air whilst celebrating on the podium with Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team's German driver Nico Rosberg after the British Formula One Grand Prix at Silverstone motor racing circuit in Silverstone, central England, yesterday. — AFP

BERNARD LAGAT READY FOR RIO SWANSONG AT 41



EUGENE: Bernard Lagat, first place, celebrates with daughter Gianna and son Miika Kimutai after the Men's 5000 Meter Final during the 2016 US Olympic Track & Field Team Trials at Hayward Field on Saturday in Eugene, Oregon. —AFP

EUGENE: Bernard Lagat rolled back the years to secure a remarkable fifth Olympic Games appearance on Saturday, sealing his ticket to Rio at the age of 41 with a rousing win in the 5,000 meters at the US trials.

The veteran Kenyan-American, a bronze medalist in the 1,500m at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, stormed home on the final straight at Hayward Field to finish clear of Hassan Mead and Paul Chelimo in 13 minutes 35.50 seconds.

It was a tactical masterclass from Lagat, who had been largely written off before arriving at the trials in Oregon. Lagat had dropped out during the 10,000m final last week as searing temperatures took their toll. However he reveled in cooler weather on Saturday for what he later described as his greatest Olympic qualification.

"Of the five this is my biggest achievement because at 41 a lot of people had ruled me out," Lagat, who represented Kenya at the 2000 and 2004 Olympics before switching to the United States for the Games in 2008 and 2012.

"I was reading the newspapers and they were hardly mentioning me," he told AFP. "I said 'Okay' and that explained what people feel about me at 41. I don't blame anyone. But I wanted to come and do the best I could and run really hard and show that I'm ready to represent the United States."

Lagat attributed his sprightly performance to training with younger runners. "I train with young guys and I don't believe I'm old," Lagat said. "Because if you believe you're old, you're going to run like an old man."

These young guys push me every single day. "What you saw today is what we do in training every day. This was my sixth Olympic trials and out of the six I've made five." Lagat's victory came after a devastating 52-second final lap that laid waste to the field.

"The last 400 meters was exciting. My head was just counting the numbers. I was thinking to myself we have one, two, three, five people ahead of me. I thought, 'This is it.'"

Lagat revealed that he had also been given added motivation to qualify for Rio because of demands from his children. "My daughter tells me, 'Daddy, I want to go back to the Olympics so I can watch gymnastics.' We were watching gymnastics all day yesterday. So I've made my daughter's day today. I'm very happy for that." — AFP

KENYAN ATHLETICS IN DOCK AGAIN OVER DOPING

BERLIN: Athletics powerhouse Kenya are once again in the eye of a doping storm just a month out from the Olympic Games after the latest investigation by German television channel ARD and The Sunday Times. Saturday's documentary alleges doping is rife at the elite training centre in Iten. Previous joint research by ARD and the British newspaper led to the banning of the Russian athletics' team from the Games for state sponsored doping.

Over the past three years some 40 Kenyan athletes have failed doping tests, shredding their reputation for probity and laying bare the reality behind their reputation as the most dominant middle to long distance running nation in the world.

The allegations will come as a major blow as it follows only weeks after Kenyan lawmakers passed into law-after being threatened with a similar sanction as the Russians by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) — legislation making it a criminal act to either dope or to supply such products. The documentary, largely filmed with a hidden camera, says it successfully infiltrated one of their team posing as an athlete into the training centre which is a favoured spot for distance runners, both Kenyan and European, as it is at high altitude 2400 metres above sea level.

The documentary shows images of boxes of the endurance boosting drug EPO on the inside of the training centre and used syringes dumped in a bin. EPO is shown to be widely available in the pharmacies around the centre whilst two doctors are only too willing to propose supplying the journalist posing as an athlete with doping products.

One of the two doctors claims to have

supplied "more than 50" athletes, including three British runners, based on his guarantee he could dramatically improve their performances in "three months".

"Even if the athletes are subjected to doping tests they will find nothing," says the doctor. "That is what the top level athletes take."

The same doctor, according to ARD, when approached again retracted his claims and said he had nothing to do with doping and to have made up supplying the products.

However, both he and the other doctor featured have since been arrested by Kenyan police according to ARD. A man said to be the coach of an Olympic champion, appearing with his face hidden, confirms the claims made in the documentary.

"The great majority of the athletes who appear out of nowhere are doped," he says. The chief executive of UK Anti-Doping, Nicole Sapstead, said the report was "of grave concern and of significant interest", adding they were investigating.

"I can confirm that this evidence is being treated with the utmost importance and urgency, and two UKAD staff are currently in Kenya pursuing a number of lines of enquiry," she said in a statement.

Japhter Rugut, head of the Kenyan anti-doping agency, said the revelations were "very shocking".

"We can see that we have a lot of problems at grassroots level and we will work with the police so as to weed out all those implicated in these criminal activities, both sports people and doctors, who will have to answer for their actions," he told ARD.

"We want to go to Rio with a clean team." — AFP



MOSCOW: In this Sunday Feb. 6, 2011 file photo, Russia's Daria Klishina lands in the sand during a long jump event at the Russian Winter IAAF Indoor Athletic championship in Moscow. The IAAF said yesterday, that US-based Russian long jumper Daria Klishina meets the "exceptional eligibility criteria" to take part in international competition as a neutral athlete, clearing the way for her to possibly compete at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. — AP

IAAF CLEARS RUSSIAN LONG JUMPER FOR RIO

MOSCOW: The IAAF yesterday cleared only long jumper Darya Klishina to compete at the Rio Olympics, meaning the last remaining hope for pole vault star Yelena Isinbayeva and other Russian athletes now rests on an impending court decision. Athletics' governing body, which has suspended the Russian track and field team over state-sponsored doping that has cast a dark shadow over next month's Games, said it had given the go ahead for Klishina to take part in international competition.

"The IAAF Doping Review Board has today agreed that Russian long jump athlete Darya Klishina meets the exceptional eligibility criteria to compete in international competition as a neutral athlete," the IAAF said in a statement.

"The Doping Review Board received a total of 136 applications from Russian athletes seeking exceptional eligibility to compete in an individual capacity," added the statement, which quickly drew fresh condemnation in Moscow.

Klishina's participation at Rio is still subject to acceptance by the International Olympic Committee, which is battling doping on multiple fronts ahead of the Games.

"Rejections have come for everyone, except for Klishina," Alexandra Brilliantova, the head of the Russian Olympic Committee's legal department, told state-run TASS news agency.

Among those rejected were gold medalist pole vaulter Isinbayeva and world champion hurdler Sergey Shubenkov, trainers for the two athletes—who are both based in Russia—confirmed. Russia's tainted athletics federation slammed the decision to reject all but Klishina.

"The federation is fighting for the rights of clean sportsmen and is waiting for the CAS decision," it said in a statement. Sixty-eight Russian track and field stars, including Isinbayeva and Shubenkov, still hoping to go to Rio now hope that the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) will overturn the blanket ban as a last resort.

CAS will make its decision by July 21, two weeks before the start of the Rio Games.

'BEYOND LEGAL SPHERE'

Russia last month had its suspension over allegations of institutionalised and pervasive doping upheld by the IAAF, but it left the door ajar to some Russian competitors not tainted by doping to compete as neutrals in Rio.

In the light of the latest IAAF ruling, the sports minister in Moscow, Vitaly Mutko, again called for the world body to be ripped up. "In my opinion it was difficult to expect any other (ruling)," Mutko told TASS.

"This doesn't surprise me personally, but it is upsetting. They have gone beyond the legal sphere. It is time to dissolve this organisation."

The 25-year-old Klishina, a two-time European indoor champion, revealed her joy at the decision on Facebook, writing: "The news that I am allowed to participate in all international events and also 2016 Olympics in Rio came today late in the night."

"I am really happy," she added, thanking the IAAF. Last week, CAS spokeswoman Katy Hogg told AFP that the court will not be making a case-by-case review of each athlete's record, but will be assessing the validity of the IAAF's decision to ban the entire Russian federation.

Russian athletes and political leaders have voiced outrage that the IAAF was seeking to ban track and field stars with no positive drug tests on their record. The IAAF doping review board has also given the greenlight to Russian doping-cheat-turned-whistleblower Yuliya Stepanova's right to return to competition as a neutral. The 30-year-old took part as a neutral at the

European championship in Amsterdam, but tore a ligament in her foot and was later disqualified from her heat.

Stepanova and her husband Vitaly made the sensational revelations of state-sponsored doping in Russian athletics, which was found to be linked to widespread corruption at the heart of the IAAF. — AFP

CAN CONTINUES TURKEY'S FOREIGN-BORN EURO STREAK

AMSTERDAM: Kenyan-born teenager Yasemin Can sealed a distance double when she won Saturday's 5000m to continue Turkey's astonishing European success built around naturalised foreign athletes from across the globe.

Can's second gold of the championships in Amsterdam, following her victory in the 10,000m on Wednesday, left Turkey atop the medals table with four golds, four silvers and one bronze medal.

All those medals bar the bronze, won by Emel Dereli in the women's shot put, were won by foreigners naturalised to compete for Turkey, be it from Kenya (4), Azerbaijan, Cuba or even Jamaica.

The 19-year-old Can, previously known as Vivian Jemutai and who became eligible to represent Turkey in March, had no problems over the 5km race despite feeling sick and later revealed she would also like to medal for her native Kenya.

She led from the front in a dominant display to come home in 15min 18.15sec, Eritrean-born Swede Meray Bahta holding off Britain's Steph Twell to take silver.

"When I came here, I didn't really expect to win anything. I wanted to come and see if I could get anything at all," Can said.

"I'm feeling very sick and I'm coughing. That's the memory I will take with me from this event: that I won this championship being sick." Can added: "I would also be very happy if I could earn gold for my home country Kenya one day. That's because my fans from Kenya knew about my conditions today and they were cheering for me."

France's Dimitri Bascou will head to the Rio Olympics in four weeks' time as the main European hope against a strong raft of competitors from the United States and Jamaica after clinching the 110m hurdles in 13.25sec.

Hungarian Balazs Baji, in 13.28, held on to edge silver from Wilhem Belocian and prevent a French one-two. There was also a gold and bronze for Norway in a thrilling men's 1500m, Filip Ingesbrigtsen storming through to snatch victory in 3:46.65 ahead of Spain's David Bustos, with Ingesbrigtsen's brother Henrik taking bronze by a whisker.

OFF DAY FOR SPOTAKOVA

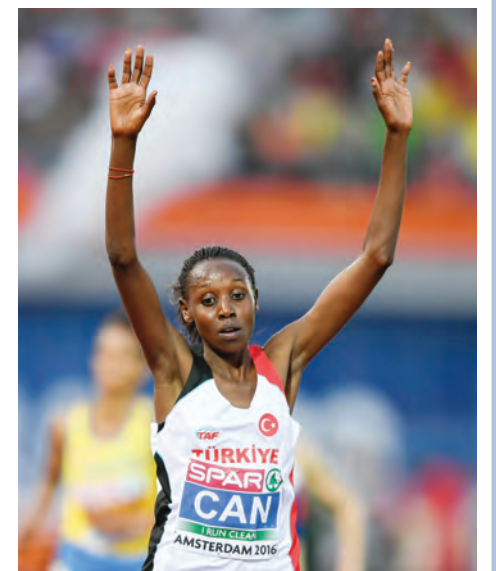
There was an upset in the women's javelin, two-time Olympic champion and world record holder Barbora Spotakova managing only fifth place. The 35-year-old Czech thrower's best of

62.66m was well off her record of 72.28, albeit set in 2008. Gold went the way of Belarus' Tatsiana Khaladovich (66.34m), German Linda Stahl taking silver (65.25) and Croatia's Sara Kolak bronze (63.50).

"It was not my day," rued Spotakova. "I take this and will probably react in Rio."

In the absence of world and Olympic champion Jessica Ennis-Hill of Britain, Anouk Vetter delighted home fans at Amsterdam's Olympic Stadium by winning the heptathlon with a total score of 6,626 points over the two-day event. France's Antoinette Nana Djimou claimed silver (6458), with Austrian Ivona Dadic taking bronze (6408).

Can's feat was mirrored by another 19-year-old in the field, Germany's Max Hess hop, skipping and jumping out to a victorious 17.20m in the triple jump, ahead of Poland's Karol Hoffmann (17.16) and Briton Julian Reid (16.76). And in the men's discus, a tight competition saw Poland's Piotr Malachowski claim back the title he won in the 2010 Barcelona European champs with a best of 67.06m, Belgian Philip Milanov (65.71) edging Estonian veteran Gerd Kanter (65.27) in the battle for lesser podium spots. — AFP



AMSTERDAM: Gold medalist Turkey's Yasemin Can crosses the finish line to win the Women's 5000m final during the European Athletics Championships at the Olympic Stadium in Amsterdam, on Saturday. — AFP



EUGENE: Justin Gatlin celebrates after winning the Men's 200 Meter Final during the 2016 US Olympic Track & Field Team Trials at Hayward Field on Saturday in Eugene, Oregon. —AFP

WALLABIES MALAISE SEEPS INTO SUPER RUGBY

WELLINGTON: Australia's woes from their series whitewash by England have continued in Super Rugby with all five of the nation's sides defeated at the week-end and the results confirming only one will make the playoffs.

Four New Zealand teams, the Waikato Chiefs (51), Canterbury Crusaders (50), Otago Highlanders (48) and Wellington Hurricanes (48) sealed four of the five post-season spots available from the Australasian group over the weekend.

The Canberra-based ACT Brumbies and New South Wales Waratahs, each on 39 points, remain in the hunt after the penultimate round of the regular season but only by virtue of the conference system which guarantees one playoff spot for the nation's top-ranked team.

The other three Australian sides, the Melbourne Rebels (27), Queensland

Reds (16) and Western Force (13) crashed out of contention before the international break in June.

The gap between the trans-Tasman conferences has been amplified by off-field dramas that have buffeted two of the under-performing Australian teams.

The rebuilding Reds sacked coach Richard Graham after successive losses in the opening two games of the season but the caretaker coaching duo of Matt O'Connor and Nick Stiles have coaxed only three wins from the 2011 champions. Western Force coach Michael Foley was fired last month, just after the Perth team was bailed out from financial strife and taken over by the Australian Rugby Union. Having maintained discipline off the field under Foley if struggling on it, the Force were embarrassed last week after two of their senior players were

investigated for misconduct during their tour of South Africa. The pair were fined and demoted from their leadership roles on Sunday.

COVETED TROPHY

The Super Rugby tribulations have followed on from the Wallabies' 3-0 whitewash by England in June, which deflated local fans and media who expected better after last year's surprise run to the World Cup final.

The post-World Cup retirement of a raft of All Blacks stalwarts had even prompted some Australian pundits to suggest 2016 could be the year the Wallabies finally took back the Bledisloe Cup, the coveted trophy contested between the nations, which New Zealand has held since 2003.

But England's sweep exposed a

malaise in the Australian game that has existed throughout the Super Rugby season. Few Wallabies players were performing prior to the international break in June and their Super Rugby sides have won just three of the 19 games against New Zealand teams.

The margins of defeat are additional cause for concern. Averaged out, they have a losing scoreline of 43-23 against New Zealand sides, showing the Australians have shipped tries while being comfortably held in attack.

The Brumbies' 40-15 loss to the lowly Blues on Friday underscored how New Zealand sides have picked apart the Australian game.

The Canberra-based side fancied themselves title contenders at the start of the season, basing their game on building phases and grinding down

defenders until gaps eventually appear.

At Eden Park, however, the approach was one-dimensional and easily defended by the Blues who ripped them apart with a high-pace game that put players into space.

The Chiefs did similarly for the Reds in their 50-5 rout in Brisbane as did the Crusaders in their 85-26 demolition of the Rebels on Saturday. Ironically, the Brumbies or the Waratahs will win the right to host a quarter-final against one of the better-performing New Zealand sides due to the convoluted conference system. "It's not as complicated as it sounds, but frankly, it's just not fair," New Zealand Rugby chief executive Steve Tew told local radio station Newstalk ZB. Unfortunately for the Australian team, the playoff will be against any one of the New Zealand sides. — Reuters

MLB results/standings

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

American League				
Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	50	36	.581	-
Boston	48	38	.558	2
Toronto	50	40	.556	2
NY Yankees	43	44	.494	7.5
Tampa Bay	34	53	.391	16.5
Central Division				
Cleveland	52	35	.598	-
Detroit	46	42	.523	6.5
Chicago White Sox	45	42	.517	7
Kansas City	45	42	.517	7
Minnesota	31	56	.356	21
Western Division				
Texas	54	35	.607	-
Houston	47	41	.534	6.5
Seattle	44	44	.500	9.5
Oakland	38	50	.432	15.5
LA Angels	37	51	.420	16.5
National League				
Eastern Division				
Washington	53	36	.596	-
NY Mets	47	40	.540	5
Miami	46	41	.529	6
Philadelphia	41	48	.461	12
Atlanta	30	58	.341	22.5
Central Division				
Chicago Cubs	52	35	.598	-
Pittsburgh	46	42	.523	6.5
St. Louis	45	42	.517	7
Milwaukee	38	48	.442	13.5
Cincinnati	32	56	.364	20.5
Western Division				
San Francisco	56	33	.629	-
LA Dodgers	50	40	.556	6.5
Colorado	40	47	.460	15
San Diego	38	50	.432	17.5
Arizona	38	51	.427	18



PITTSBURGH: Chicago Cubs' Anthony Rizzo, center, slides into third ahead of the attempted tag by Pittsburgh Pirates third baseman Jung Ho Kang, left, with a triple in the third inning of baseball game in Pittsburgh, Saturday. —AP

CUBS' SLUMP CONTINUES WHILE PIRATES, GIANTS SURGE

PITTSBURGH: Josh Bell hit a grand slam in his second major-league at bat to lift the Pittsburgh Pirates over the slumping Chicago Cubs 12-6 on Saturday night. Bell drove a 1-1 pitch from Adam Warren (3-2) over the seats above the 21-foot wall in right for his second pinch hit in two games since being recalled from Triple-A on Friday. Jordy Mercer followed with another home run to make it a five-run fifth for the Pirates, who have won nine of 10. Andrew McCutchen and Sean Rodriguez homered earlier off Jon Lester, and Arquimedes Caminero (1-2) pitched 1 2/3 innings for the win. Jared Hughes earned his third major league save by tossing three scoreless innings. Ben Zobrist had a two-run homer and Anthony Rizzo had four hits for Chicago, which has lost of nine of 10.

RED SOX 4, RAYS 1

Rick Porcello pitched seven innings to remain unbeaten in his Fenway Park starts this season as the Red Sox sent the Rays to their fifth straight loss. On a day when the Red Sox learned they lost closer Craig Kimbrel to a left knee injury for likely three to six weeks, they won for the fifth time in six games. Dustin Pedroia added a two-run single for Boston, which looks for a sweep of the three-game series Sunday when former Rays ace David Price is scheduled to pitch. Brad Miller homered for the Rays, who have dropped 21 of 24. Matt Moore (5-6) gave up four runs in six innings. Porcello (11-2) allowed a run and six hits. Japanese pitcher Koji Uehara worked the ninth for his fourth save.

GIANTS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Brandon Belt had an RBI triple and Grant Green homered for the first time this season while San Francisco got a big lift from its bullpen. Angel Pagan added two hits and Ruben Tejada doubled in a run for the Giants, who have won seven of nine and are a major league-best 56-33. George Kontos (2-1), one of six relievers used by manager Bruce Bochy after Jake Peavy was knocked out of the game in the fifth, retired four batters for the win. Santiago Casilla pitched the ninth for his 21st save. Arizona's Robbie Ray (4-8) gave up three runs and six hits in five innings.

NATIONALS 6, METS 1

Daniel Murphy homered for the sixth time this year against his former team, powering Max Scherzer and the Nationals to the win. The NL East leaders opened a five-game lead on the Mets. Murphy had a run-scoring single in the third inning, an RBI double in the fifth and launched his 16th home run in the seventh. He is batting .438 (21 of 48) with 19 RBIs against the Mets after becoming a free agent in the offseason and signing with Washington.

Scherzer (10-6) gave up three hits and an unearned run in seven innings. New York's Logan Verrett (3-6) gave up five runs on only four hits in 6 2/3 innings.

TIGERS 3, BLUE JAYS 2

Victor Martinez hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning to help Detroit stop Toronto's seven-game winning streak. Justin Upton had two hits and Andrew Romine reached three times for the Tigers, who had lost seven of their previous nine against the Blue Jays. Bruce Rondon (3-1) earned the win despite allowing a tying home run to Devon Travis in the seventh. Rondon missed the first two games of the series with flu-like symptoms. Justin Wilson pitched the eighth and Francisco Rodriguez finished for his 24th save. Martinez hit a one-out drive off Jason Grilli (3-3) for his 17th homer.

ORIOLES 3, ANGELS 2

Jonathan Schoop scored the tying run on a seventh-inning balk and delivered the decisive RBI single in the eighth, leading Baltimore to the win. The victory assured the Orioles sole possession of first place in the AL East at the All-Star break, which begins after the conclusion of yesterday's schedule. Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading 28th homer for Baltimore, a solo shot in the second inning. Brad Brach (6-1) worked the eighth and Zach Britton finished for his 26th save. Daniel Nava had two RBIs for the Angels, who were bidding for their season-high fifth straight win. Joe Smith (1-4) got the loss.

YANKEES 7, INDIANS 6, 11 INNINGS

Brian McCann's RBI double with two outs in the 11th inning lifted the Yankees to the victory. McCann's clutch hit off Tommy Hunter (2-2) pushed New York to its second win in three days over the AL Central-leading Indians. Yankees left-hander Aroldis Chapman (3-0) struck out four in the final 2 1/3 innings. All-Star Carlos Beltran, who was 3 for 6, started the winning rally with a two-out single. McCann's line drive hit on the track in right field and bounced over the head of Abraham Almonte, scoring pinch-runner Ronald Torreyes.

CARDINALS 8, BREWERS 1

Jhonny Peralta, Tommy Pham and Aledmys Diaz homered, powering the Cardinals to the road win. Peralta hit a leadoff drive in the second off Chase Anderson (4-10). Pham connected for a solo shot and Diaz belted a three-run homer during the Cardinals' five-run ninth. Carlos Martinez (8-6) struck out a season-high 11 in five innings in his first win since June 11. The right-hander allowed one run and four hits with four walks. Anderson struggled with his

command and lasted just four innings. He walked five and allowed two runs and four hits.

DODGERS 4, PADRES 3

Dodgers right-hander Brandon McCarthy won his second straight start after a 14-month recovery from Tommy John surgery. McCarthy (2-0) gave up three runs in five innings, including a two-run homer by Yangervis Solarte in the first. Adam Liberatore got two outs for his club-record 24th consecutive scoreless appearance. He broke the mark of 23 set by John Candelaria in 1991. Kenley Jansen pitched a scoreless ninth for his 26th save. Luis Perdomo (3-4) took the loss.

ROCKIES 8, PHILLIES 3

Tyler Anderson homered and earned his first big league win, leading Colorado to the victory. Anderson (1-3) allowed two runs in six innings. He singled for his first big league hit and homered for his second. Jordan Lyles allowed one run in three innings for his second career save. Tony Wolters' first career triple drove in three runs in Colorado's six-run sixth. Jerad Eickhoff (6-10) was charged with eight runs and eight hits in 5 1/3 innings. The Phillies lost for just the third time in 11 games.

WHITE SOX 5, BRAVES 4

Todd Frazier hit his 25th homer for the White Sox and Jose Quintana outshone Julio Teheran in the majors' first all-Colombian pitching matchup. Frazier, who will go for his second straight Home Run Derby title Monday, hit a two-run shot in the second and an RBI double in Chicago's three-run third. Teheran (3-8) allowed five runs and nine hits over six innings after missing his last start with an infection in his right thigh. Quintana (7-8) won his second straight start despite giving up home runs to Gordon Beckham, Jeff Francoeur and Freddie Freeman in six innings. With closer David Robertson unavailable due to an upper left leg strain, Nate Jones got four outs for his third save.

ROYALS 5, MARINERS 3

Salvador Perez homered and made a key pickoff throw to help Kansas City to the win. Perez hit a solo drive off the foul pole in the seventh inning that gave the Royals a two-run lead. In the eighth, the World Series MVP made the defensive play of the game. With runners at the corners and one out, the star catcher trapped Kyle Seager off first base. The pickoff was Perez's first of the season and 18th of his career. Kansas City's Edinson Volquez (8-8) pitched six innings and was charged with three runs and six hits. Kelvin Herrera got three outs for his first save. Wade Miley (6-6) allowed four runs and 10 hits in 5 1/3 innings for Seattle.

ATHLETICS 3, ASTROS 2

Kendall Graveman pitched eight-plus innings for Oakland, and Stephen Vogt had three hits, including a homer. Vogt hit a solo drive in the second and an RBI single in the third. Graveman (5-6) allowed two runs and five hits. He retired his first 14 batters before A.J. Reed singled with two outs in the fifth. Ryan Dull got three outs for his first save. Houston right-hander Lance McCullers (4-3) was charged with three runs and seven hits in a season-low four innings.

MARLINS 4, REDS 2

Martin Prado had three hits, including a

double that put Miami ahead to stay. Prado hiked his average to .323 and capped a rally in the fifth inning with a two-out, two-run double that right fielder Jay Bruce misjudged. J.T. Realmuto had two hits and scored three times. All-Star Adam Duvall hit his 23rd home run for the Reds, and Brandon Phillips had two hits and an RBI with a broken left hand. Phillips played less than 24 hours after suffering a hairline fracture when he was hit by a pitch from Jose Fernandez. John Lamb (1-6) took the loss despite a career-high nine strikeouts in five innings. Miami's Adam Conley (6-5) allowed two runs in 5 2/3 innings. A.J. Ramos pitched around a walk in the ninth for his 27th save. —AP



CLEVELAND: Cleveland Indians' Jose Ramirez hits an RBI-single off New York Yankees relief pitcher Dellin Betances during the seventh inning of a baseball game Saturday, in Cleveland. — AP

SUSPENSE TAKES OVER FROM FORMALITY AT US TRIALS

SAN JOSE: The US Olympic gymnastics trials, which had shaped up as a formality, have turned suddenly suspenseful with an unexpected shakeup in the battle for Rio Games spots ahead of the final round of competition yesterday.

Three-time world all-around champion Simone Biles, London Olympic gold medallists and Fierce Five team mates Gabby Douglas and Aly Raisman and 16-year-old Lauren Hernandez were announcing the inside track on four of the five Rio berths up for grabs coming into the trials.

That presumably left the rest of the field of 14 battling for the fifth and

final ticket. But previous assumptions have been put on hold following a shaky performance on Friday by London all-around champion Douglas, who fell off the balance beam. Determined challenges from MyKayla Skinner, Ragan Smith and Madison Kocian on Friday have further clouded the situation, leaving US women's national team program director Martha Karolyi with plenty to consider before announcing the squad. The two-day trials will take the scores from each evening, as gymnasts compete on four different apparatus, and add them together to determine overall results.

However, unlike the cut-and-dried U.S. swimming and track and field trials where you win and you are in, a three-member selection panel headed up by Karolyi will have the final say on the makeup of the gymnastics team.

The biggest question mark hanging over the trials going into today is whether Douglas can bounce back from a weak effort and deliver a performance that convinces Karolyi she deserves a ticket to Rio next month.

Sitting seventh after the opening night with her confidence shaken, Douglas will have to quickly regroup and tap into the resolve that has

earned her a reputation as a clutch performer. "We take the decision tomorrow after we compete," said Karolyi. "You have to work with different personalities and figure out what works best with everybody. "You also compare the girls that are behind her (Douglas) and you have to see if anybody else can do more contribution for the team.

"That's how it is. If she (Douglas) can contribute, good. If she cannot contribute, it is a different story." One thing that went to script was Biles sitting top of the rankings with a score of 61.850, more than a point clear of Hernandez,

who is setting herself up as a potential breakout star in Rio.

Raisman put her Olympic experience to good use, shrugging off the pressure to move into third in front of wildcards Skinner and Madison Kocian.

"I don't want to get myself too excited yet but I would be so more than honoured to on that Olympic team," said Skinner, who remains a longshot for a spot despite a strong all-around showing that included a second on vault, fourth on beam and fifth on floor. "Tomorrow, just do the same thing, go out there with confidence and hit all four again." —Reuters

CHAMP DOUGLAS SEARCHING FOR OLD MAGIC AT TRIALS

SAN JOSE: This was not supposed to be part of the story reigning Olympic champion Gabby Douglas had in mind when she set her sights on Rio. A revelation in London four years ago, Douglas figured her bid for another shot at glory would be easy. Hard to blame her considering the way she so effortlessly reached the top of the podium in 2012, a soaring victory that made her a crossover star.

"I came back and said, 'Yes, this is going to be cake,'" Douglas said. For a stretch last fall and this spring, it was. A silver medal in the all-around at the 2015 world championships showed her return was hardly just vanity run amok. Her professional effort while capturing events in New Jersey and Italy in March stirred inevitable comparisons to her sprint to Olympic gold.

Yet sometime over the last month, the momentum stalled. The Douglas that hopped off the beam in frustration during the first night of Olympic Trials on Friday hardly looked like she was having a good time. Her all-around total of 58.550 puts her seventh heading into Sunday's finale, when the five-woman team expected to dominate the Summer Games will be announced.

Douglas described her effort as "just OK" when she knows much more is required. While the Olympic spot that once seemed automatic is still well within reach, the 20-year-old acknowledges the pressure has gotten to her. She figured she would have no trouble handling it when she returned to competition in March 2015.

"I think there's more expectations now than there were before," she said. "I've just got to go out there and just do it, not just

shy away and test the water. I've got to dive in." Douglas believes she's spent too much time focusing on "the wrong thing," unable to completely block out the noise that seems to follow her wherever she goes. When she appeared too serious during national championships, social media lit up with criticism. In some ways, the detractors weren't wrong.

"I lost the joy," she said. "I forgot what it means to go out and have fun, and it's catching up." Douglas presents a complex challenge for national team coordinator Martha Karolyi, who seems intent on giving Douglas every opportunity to get right.

"We look for the potential and you look for the fact of what you see what the girls were able to do in the past also," Karolyi said. Karolyi gave Douglas a brief pep talk as they walked off the floor Friday, one Douglas needed badly.

"I was kind of crushed after, and when she came over, she was like, 'OK, everything's good,'" Douglas said. "I'm just going to go on to Sunday and bang it out."

The sloppy ending to her otherwise steady performance Friday, when she wobbled near the end of her beam routine and was unable to save it before jumping to the floor in frustration, left her visibly shaken. The girl whose life has literally become a reality show - "Douglas Family Gold" just wrapped its first season on the Oxygen Network - is hoping for one more dash of the magic that once came so naturally.

"I don't want to finish like this," Douglas said. "I don't want to finish with St. Louis being not good and trials being OK. I really want to finish on a high note and not let myself go down." — AP

KOCIAN TO DIVERSIFY IN PURSUIT OF OLYMPIC SPOT

SAN JOSE: Madison Kocian is looking to prove she is more than a one trick pony on the uneven bars as she bids for a coveted Rio Games berth at the US Olympic gymnastics team trials yesterday.

Sitting sixth after Friday's opening night of competition, Kocian tied for first in the uneven bars with Ashton Locklear but will have to up her game for Sunday's second and final round if she hopes to be included on the five-member squad for Rio.

Uneven bars is one of the US team's weaker events and the women's national team program director Martha Karolyi has vowed to choose somebody for the team "who is particularly good on that event."

Locklear has dealt with back injuries in recent years that have limited her focus to the uneven bars and the beam. That leaves an opening for Kocian to show the selection committee that she can compete in all four events, which could give her an edge since she is prepared to act as a backup if any of her team mates in Rio get hurt.

"Having these extra events is probably helping my case to make that Olympic team," said Kocian, speaking after the competition on Friday.

"That's why I've been working really hard not just on bars and beam but also on

the floor and vault to have that all around score in case Team USA needs it.

"After (US) championships everyone thought I was a specialist but then I finished fifth overall. I think that helps my case for the selection committee." Kocian finished sixth on the beam on Friday, beating Locklear, who competed on just two apparatus and was 13th.

Kocian played down the rivalry with Locklear, saying she is trying to keep her focus on the beam and floor exercise. "Some fans think we are such big competitors or that we hate each other but we definitely cheer on each other," she said.

Karolyi, the US women's team program director, will ultimately have the final say. She said on Thursday that "both of them are extremely good bar workers," with Kocian choosing routines with a higher degree of difficulty than Locklear, who has better execution scores. With Kocian showing she can deliver more than just a flawless bar routine, she may have a compelling case to end up in Rio next month. "So they are pretty much neck-in-neck," Karolyi said. "The decision maker will probably be who functions better under pressure and who gives something else to the team beside a bar routine." —Reuters



PALAIISOZAKI: Croatia's basket team celebrates at the end of the final match of the Olympic Qualifying Tournament Croatia Vs Italy at PalaIsozaki in Turin on Saturday. — AFP

SERBIA AND CROATIA SEAL OLYMPIC BERTHS

BELGRADE: Bitter Balkan rivals Serbia and Croatia booked two of the last three remaining Olympic basketball berths after contrasting wins over their respective rivals on Saturday.

The Serbians qualified for the first time as an independent nation with a 108-77 rout of Puerto Rico, while Croatia beat Italy 84-78 in an overtime thriller after the game was held up for 15 minutes when the electronic scoreboard malfunctioned.

France meet Canada in the final of the Manila tournament on Sunday for the last remaining berth. Host nation Brazil, champions United States, Argentina, Australia, Venezuela, Nigeria, China, Spain and Lithuania qualified earlier.

Having edged Puerto Rico 87-81 in the group stage of the week-long tournament, Serbia found another gear against the same opposition

in the final as they were roared on by 17,123 home fans in the Belgrade Arena.

The visitors scored the first three points of the game but the Serbians sank the next 24 en route to a 37-4 run which propelled them into a 60-27 halftime lead. The home side stayed aggressive after the interval as shooting guard Bogdan Bogdanovic finished with 26 points and power forward Nikola Jokic added 23.

The 21-year old Jokic, who enjoyed a fine rookie NBA season with the Denver Nuggets, shone throughout the event in his maiden appearance for Serbia and was voted the tournament's most valuable player.

"The past year of my life and career have been everything I could wish for and I really have to thank my Serbia team mates for helping me blend in seamlessly," Jokic told Reuters.

"We will go to Rio determined to play our hearts out in every game and I honestly can't wait to start the build-up after a few days (of) rest," he said. While Serbia won emphatically, Croatia punched their ticket to Rio in dramatic style. Having suffered a 67-60 reverse by the Italians in the group stages, Croatia turned the tables on the tournament hosts in Turin and won thanks to yet another majestic performance by their Brooklyn Nets shooting guard Bojan Bogdanovic.

Bogdanovic netted 26 points, including 12 of 13 from the foul line, as the Croatians grabbed a series of crucial offensive boards in a dramatic finish. Playmaker Krunoslav Simon chipped in with 21 points for Croatia and versatile power forward Dario Saric added 18 to go with 13 rebounds. —Reuters

CONTADOR PULLS OUT OF 2016 TOUR DE FRANCE, BLAMES VIRUS

ARCALIS: Diminished by a fever and still reeling from crashes on the opening two days of the race, two-time champion Alberto Contador pulled out of the Tour de France during the toughest Pyrenean stage yesterday.

Slightly more than 100 kilometers (60 miles) from the end of Stage 9 from the Spanish town of Vielha to the ski resort of Arcalis in Andorra, the 33-year-old Spaniard stopped at the side of the road, hopped off his bike and got into the passenger seat of his team car.

Contador crashed in each of the opening stages - damaging his right shoulder, elbow and hip - and had lost time on the other overall favorites. He was in 20th position at the end of Saturday's eighth stage, 3 minutes, 12 seconds behind leader Chris Froome.

During yesterday's stage, Contador dropped back to his team car four times before finally withdrawing. He had started the stage in a bright fashion, though, attacking alongside fellow Spaniard Alejandro Valverde to catch a group of early breakaway riders on the first climb. But Contador could not continue his effort and was quickly brought back by the pack before he pulled out in the climb at Port del Canto. He then handed his bike to a mechanic and waved to TV cameras as he exited the race that made him famous.

"Alberto had a bit of fever this morning," Sean Yates, the sporting director of Contador's Tinkoff team, said just before the withdrawal. "He told us at the beginning of the race that he wasn't feeling super and it's obvious."

The withdrawal occurred on Contador's home roads near the town of Vilamur in Spain. "It's bad news for me," said Tinkoff team owner Oleg Tinkov, who is planning to leave the sport. "It was my last try to win the Tour de France. But who knows, maybe I'll come back in a few years."

Contador, who won cycling's showpiece race in 2007 and 2009, had made the Tour de France his main goal of the season, skipping the Giro to focus on the Tour.

Contador was stripped of the 2010 Tour title

and was suspended for two years after testing positive for the banned steroid clenbuterol in the final week of the race. He was among the

three pre-race favorites alongside defending champion Chris Froome and Colombian climber Nairo Quintana. —AP



VIELHA VAL D'ARAN: Spain's Alberto Contador, left, strains as he rides in the back of the pack with France's Nicolas Edet, right, during the ninth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 184.5 kilometers (114.3 miles) with start in Vielha Val d'Arán, Spain, and finish in Andorra Arcalis, Andorra, yesterday. — AP



VIELHA VAL D'ARAN: Netherlands' Tom Dumoulin celebrates on the podium his combativity prize at the end of the 184.5 km ninth stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Vielha Val d'Arán and Andorra Arcalis. — AFP

LYDIA KO TAKES LEAD AFTER 3RD ROUND OF US WOMEN'S OPEN

SAN MARTIN: When Lydia Ko first came to a US Women's Open four years ago, her hands were shaking so much out of nerves. Now with two major titles under her belt by age 19, Ko is able to keep those emotions under control and project a picture of calmness on the golf course. Ko birdied the 18th hole to cap a 2-under 70 in the third round Saturday that put her in the lead at the US Women's Open, bolstering her chance for her third major title in less than a year. "I think nerves are good because it means you're excited," Ko said. "You're ready. It means a lot to you. You've got to be able to control it. But a little bit of nerves is always good. It can end up being a little bit of adrenaline."

Whatever Ko is doing is working. She became the youngest woman to win a major last year at the Evian

Championship and followed that up by winning the ANA Inspiration this spring. Now she's in contention for her first US.

Open title after failing to make the top 10 in her first four appearances. Ko has a one-shot lead over 2009 winner Eun Hee Ji and Sung Hyun Park. Brittany Lang and Amy Yang are two shots back at 5 under, and Angela Stanford is in sixth place at 4 under at CordeValle.

"I'm going to just try and enjoy it, just focus on the shot I have in front of me and not think about what everybody else is doing," Ko said. "If I think that way, I won't get too carried away with what position I am at certain parts of the final day." Ko's week at the Open got off to a somewhat shaky start when she was tied for 52nd after a 73 in the first round in the difficult afternoon conditions. But Ko got into contention with a 66 in the second

round and then took sole possession of the lead on the final hole Saturday. Her approach shot spun back about 9 feet from the hole. She calmly sank the putt and then threw her ball into the stands in celebration.

OVER-READ

Ko is tied for the fewest putts through three rounds. She made two other long birdies Saturday, a 25-foot downhill putt on No. 3 and a long left-to-right swinging putt on No. 13 that she initially thought she had over-read.

"That's what I was doing the majority of the day," she said. "I said, 'Oh, man.' And then I was kind of walking a little bit and then I saw the ball drop. So it kind of took me by surprise. So it was a lucky one." Ji has broken par all three rounds with a 69 and 71 in the first two rounds followed by

the 2-under performance on Saturday. She is looking for her first LPGA Tour win since winning the Open at Saucon Valley seven years ago.

Park, playing her first US Open and second major ever, got off to a solid start with birdies on the sixth and eighth holes to move to 9 under. But fortunes quickly changed at the par-5 ninth when she hit her tee shot into a hazard for a penalty and ended up with a double bogey. Lang birdied 14 and 15 and had the low round of the day at 68 to move to 5 under. Lang tied for second as an amateur in her first US Open back in 2005 but has only gotten in the top five once since then back in 2010.

"I've been here before and I think you really have to just get to work on what you're doing, because if you spend a lot of time thinking about where you're

going to finish, you're going to drop down pretty quick," Lang said.

There are several other golfers lurking close enough to make a push on Sunday. Danielle Kang is at 3 under and fellow Americans Cristie Kerr, Stacy Lewis and Kris Tamulis are among seven golfers five shots back at 2 under.

"There's no doubt I have to shoot at least 4 to 6 under, I'd say tomorrow to have a chance," Kerr said. "It depends on the wind and the weather and the pins. Sometimes they like to set it up easier on Sunday and people get some low scores. I don't know what they're going to do, but I have to be prepared for anything. If the conditions are easier, I have to be prepared to go low." The highlight of the day might have been Lee Lopez's ace on the 191-yard, par-3 12th hole. Lopez is at even par for the tournament.—AP

BARCELONA LAUNCH CAMPAIGN BACKING SENTENCED MESSI

BARCELONA: Barcelona have launched a campaign in support of Lionel Messi and his father Jorge after the Argentine pair were sentenced to prison terms this week over tax fraud. The campaign, under the hashtag #WeAreAllLeoMessi, asks Barcelona fans to "express their sympathy for the greatest footballer in the world by voicing their unconditional support on social networks."

Messi, 29, has played his entire club career for Barcelona. "We want Leo to know that he is not alone," the club said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.com). "All members, supporters clubs, fans, athletes, media and everyone else are invited to participate." Club president Josep Maria Bartomeu also tweeted: "Leo, those who attack you are attacking Barca and its history. We'll defend you to the end. Together forever!" A Barcelona city court sentenced Messi and his father on Wednesday to

prison terms of 21 months after they were found guilty of three counts of tax fraud, although it is unlikely they will spend time behind bars.

Spanish law is such that any sentence under two years for a non-violent crime rarely requires a defendant without previous convictions to serve jail time and a spokeswoman for the court confirmed Messi was unlikely to be imprisoned. It is the second campaign in support of Messi in the last two weeks. Argentines have called on him to reverse his retirement from international football, a decision he took after his country's loss on penalties to Chile in the Copa America Centenario final in the United States on June 26.

It was the fourth final in a major international tournament and third as Argentina captain that Messi has been on the losing side, including the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.—Reuters



WIMBLEDON: A combination of pictures created on Saturday shows US player Serena Williams (L) posing with the winner's trophy, the Venus Rosewater Dish, after her women's singles final victory and US player Serena Williams (R) posing with the women's doubles trophy after winning the final with her partner US player Venus Williams on the thirteenth day of the 2016 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on Saturday. — AFP

WILLIAMS SISTERS WIN SIXTH WIMBLEDON DOUBLES CROWN

LONDON: Serena Williams put the icing on the cake of another magnificent Wimbledon campaign by teaming up with sister Venus for a sixth doubles crown at the All England Club on Saturday.

The reigning Olympic champions beat Timea Babos of Hungary and Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova 6-3 6-4 on Centre Court—hours after Serena claimed a record-equalling 22nd grand slam singles title by defeating Germany's Angelique Kerber 7-5 6-3. Serena has now won both the Wimbledon singles and doubles (with Venus) in the same year on four occasions. Together, the American duo have a perfect 14-0 record in grand slam doubles finals.

"It's unbelievable," said Serena. "It's a feat even I couldn't have thought would have happened. It's amazing." For Venus it was a consolation after she lost to Kerber in Thursday's singles semi-finals—denying her a first grand slam singles final since losing to Serena at Wimbledon in 2009. "It's a privilege, it's an honour," said Venus. "When you enter the doubles draw, you dream of winning. Then we enter the singles, we dream of

winning. "To have Williams on both of those, somehow in 2016, it's another dream come true." The sisters, who paired up again this year after a two-year absence, have won 14 grand slam doubles titles together—moving them level with American Gigi Fernandez and Belarussian Natasha Zvereva in second place on the all-time list. They still have some way to go, however, to match the 20 of Martina Navratilova and fellow American Pam Shriver. "I didn't know about that stat until yesterday, that we were 13-0," said Venus. "It's not something you really think about. You just get to the final and try to win."

"I don't think it made us nervous. You got time. If you get down a break, you always have time to get the break back. You can always go to a third (set). "When you're out there, you probably realise you have a chance to go for it again."

The Williams sisters are now 22-1 in all doubles finals they have played together.

Earlier, Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hughes Herbert won the Wimbledon men's doubles title after a straight sets win over fellow French duo Julien Benneteau and Edouard Roger-Vasselin

on Saturday. They were comfortable winners in the end, winning 6-4 7-6(1) 6-3, adding the title to the U.S. Open doubles crown they also won together last year.

Mahut is forever associated with the longest match in tennis history, at Wimbledon in 2010 when he lost an 11-hour marathon to American John Isner, and was close to tears at the end. "I said since I played tennis that Wimbledon is the greatest tournament," former boy's singles champion Mahut said. "When you win the match point in the final, you just realise that you're going to have your name written on the trophy and everywhere. "Being the champion here in Wimbledon, it's a dream come true for me." Mahut already has his name inscribed on a plaque attached to Wimbledon's Court 18—scene of his epic against Isner, but he said that he hoped he would now be remembered for something else. "Now I can come in the press conference as a Wimbledon champion. It's great," he said. He also finished runner-up at the 2015 Australian Open in his first tournament in tandem with Herbert. —Agencies

LESNAR BEATS HUNT, NUNES STUNS TATE AT UFC 200

LAS VEGAS: Brock Lesnar returned from a 1 1/2-year UFC absence with a unanimous decision victory over Mark Hunt, and Amanda Nunes took the bantamweight title from Miesha Tate with a stunning first-round stoppage at UFC 200 on Saturday night.

Jose Aldo also won a competitive decision over Frankie Edgar to claim the interim featherweight title on the UFC's star-studded landmark show. Daniel Cormier dominated a decision over Anderson Silva, who took the fight on two days' notice after Jon Jones was dropped from the main event for failing a drug test.

While Brazil's Nunes shocked Tate in the main event, the hulking Lesnar (6-3) was the greatest curiosity on the card. The pro wrestler earned his first mixed martial arts victory since July 2010, dominating Hunt with wrestling skill and sheer mass.

"I'm older, and when I decided to make this comeback, it was a hard decision," the 39-year-old Lesnar said. "I'm glad I did. This goes to show for everybody out there, if you don't stick your neck out, you'll never get ahead."

Underdog Nunes' victory was a stunner. "Everybody knows that I respect Miesha a lot, (but) I'm the new champion," said Nunes, also the first openly gay champion in UFC history. "For years I've been working hard for this moment. I feel amazing." Nunes (14-4) became the fourth different fighter to hold the UFC's 135-pound belt in the last eight months since Ronda Rousey lost it to Holly Holm. Holm lost the belt to Tate in March, but Nunes dominated Tate (18-6) from the start, stunning her with multiple big shots.

PINNED TO THE CANVAS

Tate was bloodied and unsteady by the time Nunes sunk in a rear naked choke and ended it 3:16 into the first round. Lesnar made a UFC-record \$2.5 million guaranteed

purse for his first bout since late 2011, returning to the sport where he won and lost the heavyweight title during a meteoric MMA career. He never wandered into trouble against the famously heavy-handed Hunt, repeatedly taking down his veteran opponent and keeping him pinned to the canvas.

"I wanted to finish the fight, but the guy's got a coconut head," Lesnar said. "My ground-and-pound, I'm sure he's going to feel it tomorrow, just as I'm going to feel his punch tomorrow." The 41-year-old Silva (33-8) stepped up to fight the UFC's light heavyweight champ after Jones was ruled out Wednesday night. Although Silva is 45 months removed from his last victory - and seven weeks removed from gallbladder surgery - he gamely took a shot at Cormier, who was denied a lucrative, career-defining rematch with the troubled Jones.

Cormier (18-1) had little trouble with one of his heroes, largely keeping Silva pinned to the canvas on his back. Silva goaded Cormier into a few striking exchanges, and he even hurt Cormier slightly in the final minute, but the champ won 30-26 on all three cards. Aldo put on a masterclass in his return, cutting Edgar in the first round and tormenting him for four more rounds. Aldo reclaimed one version of the belt he held until his 13-second knockout loss to Conor McGregor in December - and he's also likely to get the lucrative next shot at McGregor whenever the 145-pound champion finally returns to their division following his second bout with Nate Diaz next month.

The Irish star stood amid the floor crowd at cageside when the fight began. Afterward, Aldo put on his belt and immediately made threatening gestures at McGregor, who shouted back at his most bitter rival. "I have one goal left, and that's to beat this guy," Aldo said. — AP



LAS VEGAS: Mark Hunt punches Brock Lesnar during the UFC 200 event at T-Mobile Arena on Saturday in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP



LAS VEGAS: Amanda Nunes celebrates her victory over Miesha Tate during the UFC 200 event at T-Mobile Arena on Saturday in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

KEANE STRIKES AGAIN FOR GALAXY WIN IN SEATTLE

LOS ANGELES: An early strike from Irish international Robbie Keane secured Los Angeles Galaxy's 1-0 away win against the Seattle Sounders in Major League Soccer on Saturday. Galaxy forward Gyasi Zardes found Keane with a low cross in the 15th minute. Keane slid to flick a shot off the crossbar and in for only the second road win for Los Angeles in the current campaign. "It's always difficult when you play away from home," said Keane, who scored his sixth of the season and second in two games since returning from his stint with Ireland at Euro 2016. "It was very important we got the three points. We dug deep."

It wasn't the prettiest game." The Sounders (5-10-2), who are in last place in the Western Conference, had chances to equalize in the second-half. In the 53rd minute, Galaxy (7-3-8) defender A.J. DeLaGarza got to the goal line in time to block an attempt from Seattle's Jordan Morris. Seattle forward Clint Dempsey was stopped by Galaxy goalkeeper Brian Rowe in the 76th minute and Dempsey hit the post from close range in the 82nd minute. Philadelphia Union midfielder Ilsinho scored twice for the home side in its 3-0 win over D.C. United (5-7-6). The Union (8-6-5) moved to within a point of the Eastern Conference-leading New York City FC (8-5-6). The New England Revolution (5-7-7) received first-half goals from Lee Nguyen and Will Trapp and another from Kei Kamara in the

71st minute in a 3-1 win against the visiting Columbus Crew (3-7-7).

A goal from Justin Morrow in the ninth minute was all that separated the Toronto FC (6-6-5) from the Chicago Fire (3-8-5) in Toronto's 1-0 win at home.

After Cristian Techera scored his first goal of the season with a penalty kick in the 87th

minute for the Vancouver Whitecaps (7-8-4), Axel Sjoberg's header to the back post in stoppage time gave the visiting Colorado Rapids (9-2-7) a 2-2 draw to extend his team's unbeaten streak to 12 games. Real Salt Lake (8-5-5) received the equalizer from Yura Movsisyan on a penalty kick in the 79th minute for a 1-1 draw at home against the Montreal Impact (6-4-7). — Reuters



SEATTLE: Los Angeles Galaxy forward Robbie Keane celebrates after he scored a goal against the Seattle Sounders in the first half of an MLS soccer match, Saturday in Seattle. — AP

Sports

Hamilton wins
to narrow
Rosberg lead

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Russian long
jumper for Rio

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CONTADOR PULLS OUT OF 2016 TOUR DE FRANCE, BLAMES VIRUS Page 18



SAINT-DENIS: Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo, front, and his teammates celebrate with the trophy after winning the Euro 2016 final soccer match between Portugal and France at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, north of Paris, yesterday. — AP

PORTUGAL BEAT FRANCE TO WIN EURO 2016

SAINT-DENISL: Cristiano Ronaldo was stretchered off in tears but an extra-time goal by Eder saw Portugal beat hosts France 1-0 in yesterday's Euro 2016 final to win their first major tournament.

The victim of a heavy challenge by Dimitri Payet, Ronaldo went off in the first half, but returned to the touchline to see Lille striker Eder settle the game with a low 25-yard strike at Stade de France.

Twelve years after losing 1-0 to Greece as hosts of Euro 2004, Portugal inflicted the same fate on France, who were seeking a cathartic victory eight months on from the Paris attacks that left 130 people dead.

France coach Didier Deschamps had hoped to lead his side to a fourth major tournament win, and third on home soil after Euro 1984 and the 1998 World Cup, when he was captain. But it was Ronaldo's Portugal who prevailed. The victory ended Portugal's run of 10 straight defeats against France, who had eliminated them in the semi-finals at Euro 1984, Euro 2000 and the 2006 World Cup. They took the spoils in France despite

having won only one match inside 90 minutes-the 2-0 semi-final victory against Wales-in the whole tournament. Coach Fernando Santos had dubbed the team "the ugly duckling". Victory was above all sweet for Ronaldo, despite his early exit. He had shed tears on the pitch as a 19-year-old after Greece's win in Euro 2004 in Lisbon, cried as he was carried off on Sunday and shed more tears as he raced on in celebration at full-time. In winning a major tournament he surpasses Portugal greats Eusebio and Luis Figo. He has also stolen a march on his great rival Lionel Messi, who announced his Argentina retirement two weeks ago, in the battle for the next FIFA Ballon d'Or.

Taken off in the 25th minute, he returned at the start of extra time to deliver on-pitch pep talks that appeared to inspire his team to victory.

RONALDO APPLAUDED

Eder, a 78th-minute replacement for Renato Sanches, saw a header pushed out by France goalkeep-

er Hugo Lloris, while Raphael Guerreiro hit the bar from a free-kick. With 11 minutes of the extra period to play, the goal that Portugal's fans have waited their lives to see arrived as Eder held off Laurent Koscielny and drove a crisp shot into the bottom-left corner from 25 yards.

A sultry night in Saint-Denis began with a swarm of moths flitting around the French national stadium and littering the playing surface.

There was an early exchange of chances-Nani shooting over for Portugal, tournament top scorer Antoine Griezmann's header drawing a fine finger-tip save from Rui Patricio-before Ronaldo took centre-stage.

A juddering knee-on-knee challenge by Payet in the eighth minute left him writhing on the turf and after attempting to play on, he dropped to the ground in the 16th minute, tears filling his eyes.

After having his knee heavily strapped, Ronaldo re-entered the fray four minutes later, only to go down again in the 23rd minute, flinging his armband to the

floor. A stretcher was brought on and as the Portugal captain was carried off, to be replaced by Ricardo Quaresma, the whole stadium rose to applaud.

France's Moussa Sissoko unexpectedly stepped into the spotlight vacated by Ronaldo, driving a left-foot shot over the bar and then stinging Rui Patricio's palms after nutmegging Adrien Silva with a slick Cruyff turn.

But the game seemed to be diminished by Ronaldo's premature exit and it took the 58th-minute introduction of Kingsley Coman in place of Payet to enliven France.

The Bayern Munich winger produced a glorious cross that Griezmann could only head over from six yards and then slipped a pass through to Olivier Giroud, whose shot was parried by Rui Patricio.

Rui Patricio also repelled a 25-yard shot from the marauding Sissoko and when France substitute Andre-Pierre Gignac neatly sidestepped the fit-again Pepe in stoppage time, he could only scuff his shot against the post. — AFP

MASTERFUL MURRAY ROARS TO SECOND WIMBLEDON TITLE

LONDON: Britain's Andy Murray clinched a second Wimbledon title and third Grand Slam crown yesterday when he downed misfiring Milos Raonic of Canada 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/2).

The 29-year-old world number two added the 2016 trophy to his 2013 triumph at the All England Club and his 2012 US Open breakthrough. Appearing in his 11th final at the majors, but his first against an opponent other than Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, the Scot put on a Centre Court masterclass.

Murray buried his head in his towel and wept in the moments after victory. "It's the most important tournament for me every year. I've had some great moments and tough losses. I played some really good stuff today," Murray said. "The wins feel extra special because of the tough losses. I'm proud to have my hands on the trophy again."

Murray faced just two break points in the two hour 48 minute encounter while 25-year-old Raonic, who had clobbered 137 aces going into the final, managed just eight yesterday.

"It's a difficult challenge. Andy has been playing great and he deserved to win, congratulations to him," Raonic said. "This one is going to sting. I'm going to make sure I do everything I can to be back here for another chance." Victory for Murray helped make up for the disappointment of losing the Australian and French Open finals to Djokovic this year. It also illustrated the master-stroke he pulled off in tempting Ivan Lendl back into his coaching corner.

RUSH OF BLOOD

Raonic was attempting to become the first Canadian to win a Slam title but he was thwarted by Murray's tough-as-teak defence and inspired return game. In the final analysis, his 29 unforced errors compared to

Murray's miserly 12 proved fatal in a match where serve was broken just once. Victory preserved the iron-grip on the majors of the sport's 'Big Four' with Lleyton Hewitt the last man outside of Murray, Djokovic, Federer and Rafael Nadal to win Wimbledon back in 2002.

Fittingly for such an occasion, the Centre Court Royal Box was packed with sporting and celebrity star power.

Prince William and wife Kate were joined by former champions Bjorn Borg, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg as well as Hollywood actors Bradley Cooper, Benedict Cumberbatch and Hugh Grant.

Murray had won all four of the pair's meetings in 2016, including the Australian Open semi-finals and in the final at Queen's Club. The second seed was unable to convert his first break point in the seventh game but deservedly edged ahead at 4-3. In a rush of blood to the head, Raonic came to the net off a weak approach and Murray gleefully fired back the ball to induce the crucial error. It was only the sixth time the 25-year-old Canadian, who had stunned Federer in a five-set semi-final, had dropped serve in the tournament. Murray backed up the break for 5-3 before Raonic took the ninth game in which he fired his first ace of the final.

He had gone into the match having hit 137 aces in the previous six rounds. A straightforward volley allowed Murray to claim the opener 6-4 with Raonic having hit just nine winners.

Raonic remained under siege, saving another break point in the first game of the second set, one more in the seventh and two more in the ninth as he clung on although his escape was aided by two Murray back-hand errors. Raonic unleashed a serve of 147mph in that game but his opponent still won the point-a dispiriting snapshot of his afternoon. Murray remained in cruise control, breezing through the tie-break for a two sets lead. — AFP



WIMBLEDON: Britain's Andy Murray poses with the winner's trophy after his men's singles final victory over Canada's Milos Raonic on the last day of the 2016 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, yesterday. — AFP



G20 ECONOMIES WILL BOOST TRADE DESPITE PROTECTIONISM



AMRITSAR: This file photo taken on May 17, 2016 shows an Indian security guard walking through a field of solar panels at the Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant, some 45km from Amritsar. —AFP

CHINA, INDIA EYE NEW ASIAN CENTURY

ASIA MAY HOLD HALF THE WORLD'S GDP BY 2050

NEW DELHI: Britain's vote to leave the European Union and simmering discontent in other Western countries is seen as hastening the arrival of an "Asian Century", analysts say, led by the rise of China and India. By 2050, Asia will account for over half the world's GDP, almost double that of 2011, according to the Asian Development Bank, with three billion newly affluent citizens. The EU and other powerful collectives such as the United Nations, NATO, IMF and World Bank hark back to the post-World War II era, with a vision of cooperation leading to peace, prosperity and security. But the churning currents of globalization and institutions' reluctance to reform have left Asian nations feeling that they are not well-represented and looking to form new alliances.

"The old system which kept the West rich and safe is under threat," said Neelam Deo, a former ambassador and director at Gateway House think-tank in Mumbai. "The British voting to

leave the EU in the way they did will impact the old institutions which were set up after World War II and intended to entrench Western power," she said. Brexit has summoned the spectre of a domino-like departure of other members of the EU, pounded by the migrant and euro crises, as well as a fragmenting United Kingdom, should Scotland vote for independence. A resurgent Russia, which is angered by EU- and US-imposed sanctions and has friendly ties with China and India, has hailed the Brexit vote as it looks for cracks to exploit.

'Decline of Europe'

As the "American Century" got underway after WWII, following imperial Britain before it, China was writhing in the chaos of civil war and colonial India was just gaining independence. Now China is the world's second-largest economy, set to overtake the US in around a decade, while India will be the world's most populous

nation by 2022. The IMF named the Chinese renminbi a reserve currency—a main world currency—last November, joining the pound, dollar, euro and yen. Rising economic stars Indonesia and the Philippines are growing at around five percent a year, while Europe remains sluggish. Yet emerging markets argue that IMF voting reforms still don't give them a big enough voice, while India laments its lack of a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Three centuries ago, before the industrial revolution, Asia was the dominant power, far away from the twin Atlantic centers. With a name that harks back to those days, Beijing's flagship "One Belt, One Road" policy seeks to revive the ancient Silk Road trade route with huge investment from central Asia to Europe.

In January China opened the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, seen as rivaling the World Bank or the Japan-led Asian Development Bank, seeking to expand its finan-

cial clout. Describing itself as "a bank conceived for the 21st century", AIIB has attracted 57 members including Britain and Australia—with the notable exclusions of the United States and Japan.

'Romantic vision'

Asia's growing clout rests on various assumptions, including that nations continue on the same economic trajectory and aren't derailed by unforeseen financial crises. Other threats include rising inequality, the middle-income trap—where an economy gets stuck at a certain stage of development—and competition for natural resources. Tensions between rivals China and India were highlighted in June when Beijing blocked New Delhi's entry to the Nuclear Suppliers Group, a trade group of 48 nations. "India and China have a fair amount of discontent. Until this is resolved, the Asian Century is going to be very elusive," C Uday Bhaskar, a leading Indian security analyst told AFP.

And the West will vigorously defend itself after Brexit, with US President Obama insisting at a NATO summit Friday that the earthquake will not harm transatlantic unity. World Bank chief Jim Yong Kim used a visit to New Delhi in the aftermath to warn against nations "looking inward". But the US is feeling similar pulls, with presidential candidate Donald Trump playing to a desire to retrench from globalisation and immigration by pledging to bring back manufacturing and build a wall with Mexico.

Some see a drift back towards sovereign nation states hostile to outside forces—seen in the mantra of "take back control from Brussels" that won the Brexit vote.

"We had this romantic vision to be one world—it is clearly over, nation member states have come back with a vengeance," said Samir Saran, a senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi. "It is something we are witnessing around the world." —AFP

DEUTSCHE BANK WOES FUEL EXISTENTIAL FEARS

FRANKFURT: Deutsche Bank once epitomized the best of Germany's financial sector, shining brightly as the European economic powerhouse's biggest lender. But this week its share price slid to new lows, fuelling concerns about the health of the institution, with some even questioning if it has a long-term future and the IMF moved to see it as a "systemic" risk to global finance.

The price of Deutsche Bank shares slumped to an all-time closing low of 11.44 Euros on Thursday. That means they have lost a staggering 49 percent in value since the beginning of the year and are the worst performing stock in the blue-chip DAX 30 index. Over a 10-year period, the drop is even more alarming: in May 2007, before the sub-prime crisis erupted, Deutsche Bank shares had hit the giddy heights of more than 100 Euros. Contacted by AFP, the bank did not want to comment on the development, which has repeatedly fuelled speculation that Deutsche Bank could seek to raise fresh capital.

Like most of its European rivals, "Deutsche" as it is simply known, has been battered in recent weeks by uncertainty related to the British vote to quit the European Union. In addition, the chronic weakness of the Italian banking sector is feeding investor concerns about the solidity of other European institutions. Such factors are hitting the sector as a whole. But in combination with what are perceived to be Deutsche Bank's own in-built weaknesses, the bank was recently described by the International Monetary Fund as "a major source of systemic risk in the global financial system."

Deutsche Bank, which has total assets of more than 1.6 trillion Euros (\$1.8 trillion) and a workforce of 100,000, "appears to be the most important net contributor to systemic risks in the global banking system, followed by HSBC and Credit Suisse," the IMF wrote in a study in June. The US Federal Reserve last week revealed that Deutsche's US arm failed two sets of stress tests in a row.

'Spectacular' decline

"Deutsche Bank's decline has been spectacular," a source at a major European bank told AFP. Certainly, long gone are the days when Deutsche Bank was seen as Germany's financial pride and joy, a leading global player with the proud ambition of attaining a return on capital of 25 percent. That was the era of the then chief executive Josef Ackermann, and it was at this time, too, that the rot set in. Since then, a seemingly endless list of scandals and malpractices has come to light and Deutsche Bank has become engulfed in nearly 8,000 litigation cases all over the world.

At the same time, it is pressing ahead with a fundamental overhaul, while also battling an environment of extremely low interest rates and much tougher banking sector regulation. All these factors pushed the group into a massive loss of nearly seven billion euros last year while its closest German rival Commerzbank, much more modest in size, notched up a profit of around one billion euros. Adding to its humiliation, Deutsche Bank was compelled to waive the dividend payment to its shareholders both this year and next year, which it had managed to avoid even at the height of the financial crisis. Within the bank itself, the mood is grim.

Less than half of staff say they are proud to be working for Deutsche Bank, according to a recent study published by the group itself. More and more people are quitting. On Wednesday, it was the head of foreign exchange and emerging market debt trading, Ahmet Arinc, according to a number of media reports.

Another Lehman?

"There are very real concerns on the financial markets about the bank. It's got a lot of problems. And it's also got huge exposures on the derivatives markets. Many people are concerned it could turn into a new Lehman," one Frankfurt-based financial source told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity. The US investment bank Lehman Brothers collapsed in 2008, triggering a global financial crisis followed by a eurozone debt crisis in the summer of 2011. Briton John Cryan, who took over as Deutsche Bank's chief executive a year ago, has promised to slash costs, trim the balance sheet and boost profitability and focus on digital banking. The strategic overhaul will entail cutting 3,000 jobs in Germany and closing 188 branches. —AFP



FRANKFURT: This file photo taken on January 28, 2016 shows the headquarter of German company Deutsche Bank. —AFP

EGYPT JUMPS ON FURTHER DEVALUATION SPECULATION

DUBAI: Egypt's stock market posted its largest one-day gain in nearly four months yesterday as speculation over a further currency devaluation in the North African country combined with positive global cues to propel the exchange higher.

In the first day of trading after the Eid Al-Fitr holiday, which marks the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, Egypt's main index jumped 4.7 percent. The surge came after a 2.9 percent increase last Monday, the last session before the holiday, following comments from Egypt's central bank governor which said the Egyptian pound should be a market-based currency where demand and supply set the price. Economists now believe it is inevitable there will be another currency devaluation in the current fiscal year. Real estate-related stocks were among the biggest winners yesterday, building on substantial gains in the last session. They, as well as tourism-focused and export-orientated firms, are seen benefiting from currency devaluation.

Developers Talaat Mostafa Group Holding and Sixth of October Development and Investment Co (SODIC) closed limit up, and Ezz Steel and South Valley Cement rose 7.2 percent and 7.9 percent respectively. Yesterday was also the first day when markets across the Middle East could absorb gains notched up by global markets at the end of last week following consensus-beating jobs data in the United States.

Solid gains

In Saudi Arabia, the bourse rose 0.9 percent, aided by solid gains in mid-cap companies ahead of the start of second-

quarter earnings season this week. Property developer Dar Al Arkan, a favorite of speculative retail investors, accounted for more than half the shares traded on the whole exchange yesterday. It ended the day up 9.3 percent, its highest close since Oct. 19. Retailer Fawaz Alhokair gained 4.1 percent, and Al Tayyar Travel Group was up 3.1 percent after it announced an agreement with Starwood Hotels to rebrand a recently-refurbished hotel in the holy city of Mecca as a Sheraton.

Dubai's measure also rose, ending the day 0.4 percent higher on the back of the 5.6 percent increase recorded by construction firm Arabtec, another favorite stock for speculators. In neighboring Abu Dhabi, the emirate's bourse slipped from the 9-1/2 week closing high posted in the previous session to end Sunday 0.2 percent lower. This was despite continued speculation about more mergers and acquisitions activity in the emirate after a spate of big deal announcements, including a proposed merger of First Gulf Bank and National Bank of Abu Dhabi.

Union National Bank was 2.3 percent higher, and Abu Dhabi National Energy Company rose 3.9 percent, taking their gains in the past four sessions to 12.5 percent and 10.2 percent respectively.

Both are seen as among the most plausible candidates for consolidation, following confirmation last week that the boards of National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank had agreed to a merger. These two banks closed flat and 0.4 percent lower respectively yesterday. Their proposed deal came days after the government ordered a tie-up between state investment funds Mubadala and International Petroleum Investment Company. —Reuters

THE FEDERAL RESERVE SHOULD NOT LOOK BACKWARD

By Hayder Tawfik



To raise or not to raise rates has been the dilemma for Janet Yellen the Federal Reserve chairwomen over the past year or so. The Federal Reserve has been struggling with an economy that isn't behaving as expected. Most of the Federal Reserve's policy makers have to do lots of re-thinking in private and most importantly in public.

Economic growth has been slowing down, productivity has been quite weak and inflation is stuck at very low level. The Federal Reserve has been hoping to see inflation accelerating so as to give them the reason to raise rates but it is taking longer than expected to accelerate, prompting Janet Yellen to refer to the "new normal." At the same time, Federal Reserve's interest-rate hikes forecasted to be gradual are looking much far away and market rates remain very low. Obviously

the Brexit event did not help the Fed in its plans. Yields on US treasury bonds have been falling quite sharply. This indicate that the chances of the Fed raising rates is becoming very remote.

The policy makers at the Federal Reserve have tried to adjust their time plan for increasing rates but at the same time kept cutting their estimates for the pace of future tightening. Investors have given up on the Fed and actually are saying that the Fed has been too optimistic. The contradiction between what the Federal Reserve has been saying and what they are doing has been one of the reasons for the much of the volatility and distortions in the global market financial pricing that is causing unnecessary confusion for future Fed policy.

Some of the policy makers and economists are now projecting only one rate increase through the end of 2018, suggesting the economy is doing as well as it can given low productivity levels.

Low growth

The global economy has been stuck in a very low

growth and no threat from inflation. The US economy has created millions of jobs. Unemployment has fallen to around 5% which is near record low but the economic growth has been way below historical trend. This is may be what Janet Yellen calls the "New Normal". The fact that the economy has been slow to respond to rock-bottom borrowing costs is drawing attention to a possible decline in the long-run equilibrium or neutral rate that is consistent with an economy at full employment and stable prices. There are some who disagree about this theory but the fact is the US economy is no longer isolated from the rest of the world and what is happening in the US is happening around the world. I think there is a strong case for this theory and we should be more optimistic than just disagree for the sake of it.

Most central banks in the developed economies have always targeted a maximum of 2% inflation, when setting their monetary policies. However, this 2% inflation target was at times when economic growth was strong and inflation was way above the 2% target. Since the global financial crises back in

2008, the global economy has been growing much slower than it used to be and inflation has literally become no longer an issue. So, yes may be to keep up with slow economic growth and very low inflation or deflation in some economies, monetary policies have to be adjusted accordingly. The Federal Reserve is slowly coming to the "New Normal" reality and the delay or no rate raises for the foreseeable future is another new normal.

For sure there is a shift in the way Janet Yellen is thinking. There's some shifting in real time of her view — that the global economy including the US are not working out the way the Federal Reserve wanted. The market has been right and the Fed has been wrong. It is absolutely clear that short and long term rates are going to be lower than they have been historically, and where they will be in the years ahead is very much anyone's guess. There is a limit how far monetary policies can be eased and how much new money can be thrown at the economy. It has become just a hope for most central banks. Hoping things will get better as times pass by but it has not been working.

NON-FARM PAYROLLS DRIVE THE US DOLLAR HIGHER

NBK WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT

United States

US Payrolls Jumped 287,000 in June

The FOMC minutes released this week showed a split Fed officials over the path of future rates amid uncertainty regarding the labor market, growth, risks to the economy and inflation. At their June's meeting, Fed officials agreed that it was prudent to wait for additional data regarding labor market conditions as well as information that would allow them to assess the consequences of the UK vote for global financial conditions and the US economic outlook. The meeting of the Fed took place 8 days before the Brexit vote.

Overall, officials left options open after the June meeting. However, investors believe the chances for a July rate hike are minimal following UK decision to leave the European Union and slowing employment growth. Policy makers continued to project two rate increases in 2016 in the US, but cut their projections to three increases in each of the next two years, down from four. Median estimates for the longer run rate also fell to 3 from 3.25% projected in earlier meetings. The fresh financial markets turmoil and renewed questions about global growth have investors pricing in no chance of an interest-rate increase at the Fed's July 26-27 meeting and only 14% odds of a move by year end. These uncertain times are clearly weighing on the Fed's outlook and potential monetary policy actions.

On the currency front, the Euro opened the week at 1.1140 and managed to reach a short lived high at 1.1183. The currency slowly weakened as speculations heightened over further stimulus measures by the ECB. The currency closed the week at 1.1052.

The Sterling Pound weakened last week as concerns regarding the Brexit situation continues to hurt the currency. The UK referendum decision to leave the EU has increased underlying market concerns surrounding the economy. The currency opened the week at 1.3246 dropping to a low of 1.2796, however managed to close the week at 1.2955.

The Japanese Yen remains as a safe haven for investors and keeps on extending its value compared to the other currencies. The outperformance on the Yen continues to pressure Japanese equities. The Yen opened the week at 102.51 and managed to reach a low of 100.18 against US dollar on Wednesday. The pair closed the week at 100.53.

On the commodities side, oil prices climbed back on Friday from two-month lows hit in the previous session. Indeed, crude prices rose after the US Energy Information Administration said that inventories dropped by 2.223 million barrels in the week ended July 1. Market analysts' expected a crude-stock drop of 2.25 million barrels. The data came a day after the American Petroleum Institute reported a supply decrease of 6.7 million barrels. Investors remain cautious as Britain's shock decision to leave the European Union has continued to fuel uncertainty over the consequences of the UK vote on the country's and the global economy as a whole.

Federal Open Market Committee Meeting Minutes

Federal Reserve officials left interest rates on hold last month as heightened uncertainties

about the US labor market and financial stability threatened their outlook, according to minutes of their meeting the week before the UK voted to leave the European Union. Minutes of the June meeting showed that the Federal Open Market Committee saw it was prudent to wait for the result of Britain's June 23 referendum, which at the time was still too close to call.

The decision in favor of Brexit has since sent the pound tumbling and has driven bond yields to record lows. The committee also weighed the health of the US economy and the long-run trajectory for rate increases. A slowdown in hiring was among their chief concerns and another reason for caution. While "participants generally agreed that it was advisable to avoid overreacting to one or two labor-market reports" the implications of recent employment data were viewed as "uncertain," the minutes showed.



Most officials judged that they needed more information on jobs, production and spending.

US Non-Farm Employment Change above market expectations

America's job market stirred to life in June as payroll growth accelerated by the most since October. Payrolls rose by 287,000 last month, exceeding the market expectations, after a revised 11,000 gain in May, a Labor Department report showed Friday. The forecast called for an 180,000 increase. The jobless rate rose to 4.9% as more people entered the labor force. Wages improved modestly, with average hourly earnings climbing 0.1% from a month earlier. The year-over-year increase was 2.6%, less than the 2.7% median forecast.

The average work week for all workers held at 34.4 hours in June. The figures will help reassure workers and Federal Reserve policy makers alike that companies are staying the course on hiring in the face of weaker profits and overseas developments such as Britain's vote to leave the European Union. While job growth may be moderating as the economy approaches full employment, wages are slowly picking up and will support consumer spending.

Unemployment claims beating forecasts

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 16,000 last week to a nearly three-month low of 254,000, showing no evidence of rising layoffs ahead of the key US jobs report for June.

Economists had forecast new claims to total a seasonally adjusted 265,000 in the week stretching from June 26 to July 2. Layoffs have remained extremely low even though hiring tapered off in the early spring. Companies see little reason to reduce staff amid steady sales and a tight labor market in which skilled workers are harder to find.

US Purchasing Managers' Index inched up

The final June US PMI services-sector data was revised higher to 51.4 from the flash 51.3, but markets were expecting a slightly larger upward revision. The composite index was confirmed at 51.2 from 50.9 previously. Overall doubts surrounding the economic performance will continue, especially with weak business confidence, although the ISM data was notably more encouraging with a significant

around 160,000 and this was the first figure significantly above consensus expectations for four months. The data should provide a small boost to confidence in the labor market with Friday's payrolls data still crucial for sentiment. There was a reported increase in employment of 95,000 in small businesses and 52,000 for mid-sized companies, while large employers added 25,000 jobs. There was an increase in services-sector jobs of 208,000, while the manufacturing data was disappointing with a decline of 21,000 for the month and construction jobs also declined by 5,000.

Europe & UK

Europe Sentix Investor Confidence

The sentix economic survey is the first indicator of its kind to provide an indication whether UK's decision to leave the EU affects the economy of other world regions. The Brexit referendum in the UK hurts investors' expectations for Eurozone. Expectations plummeted from June's +10 points to -2 points in July which mark the lowest level since November 2014. At the same time, the headline index drops to +1.7 points.

UK Services PMI Reached 38-Month Low Recorded

Growth of UK services sector activity weakened in June to match the 38-month low recorded in April, according to the latest PMI survey data. Growth over the second quarter as a whole was the weakest since the first quarter of 2013 when the current upturn began. Moreover, the 12-month outlook was the darkest since December 2012. Companies often reported that uncertainty linked to the EU referendum had weighed on workloads and incoming new business. The Business Activity Index fell from 53.5 in May to 52.3 in June, matching April's 38-month low and signaling a relatively weak rate of growth in UK services output.

UK Manufacturing and Industrial Production Data better than expectations

The industrial and manufacturing production data showing that the manufacturing sector activity dropped into contraction in May, driving the overall industrial output in the negative territory in the reported month. Manufacturing output dropped 0.5% in May against a 2.3% rebound seen in April, while total industrial output contracted 0.5%, after climbing 2.1% in April. Markets had expected a negative reading of -1.2% and 1% respectively. On annualized basis, UK manufacturing production was up 1.7%, compared with expectations of +0.6%. Total industrial output rose 1.4% from a year earlier, while it was predicted to have advanced 0.6%.

UK Trade Deficit widened

The trade deficit in the British economy deteriorated further in May; with the country's exports coming in at GBP2.26 billion lower than its imports in May. While, the UK's trade deficit with non-EU countries expanded to GBP2.560 billion in May. The deficit on trade in goods was £9.9 billion in May 2016, widening by £0.5 billion from April 2016. This widening reflected a larger decrease in exports than the decrease in imports.

monthly improvement for June. There was an increase in new business activity to the strongest pace for five months, which will provide some support to future output. There was also a further increase in employment, but the rate of expansion slowed for the third successive month and was the lowest reading since December 2014. Overall confidence in the outlook remains weaker with business expectations at the lowest rate since late 2009.

US Trade deficit expanded

US goods and services deficit was \$41.1 billion in May, up \$3.8 billion from \$37.4 billion in April, revised. May exports were \$182.4 billion, \$0.3 billion less than April exports. May imports were \$223.5 billion, \$3.4 billion more than April imports. The May increase in the goods and services deficit reflected an increase in the goods deficit of \$3.7 billion to \$62.2 billion and a decrease in the services surplus of \$0.1 billion to \$21.1 billion. Year-to-date, the goods and services deficit decreased \$7.2 billion, or 3.5%, from the same period in 2015. Exports decreased \$47.2 billion or 4.9%. Imports decreased \$54.3 billion or 4.7%.

US ADP employment growth strengthens

The US Automatic Data Processing report recorded an increase in private-sector employment of 172,000 for June, while the May report was revised down slightly to 168,000 from 173,000. Market expectations were for a figure

NETWORKING EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO 95% OF MIDEAST PROFESSIONALS

DUBAI: Career success consists of a number of different components and insights from MENA professionals illustrate how closely connected these factors may be. But a few key elements prevail, as shown by a recent poll entitled "The Bayt.com Secrets of Career Success in the MENA" poll, conducted by Bayt.com, the Middle East's leading career site. The vast majority (95%) of the respondents from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) believe that networking and maintaining relationships has been important in their career success. More than half (50.2%) of MENA respondents have a career mentor.

Almost nine out of ten (88.8%) MENA professionals think that taking risks has been important in their career success; while, nearly one-third (29.1%) of respondents owe their career success mostly to hard work while far fewer chalk it up to intelligence (5.6%) or luck (3.6%). When asked about the biggest career mistake that a professional can make, nearly one-fifth (17.9%) of respondents said that poor ethics and integrity are most detrimental to one's career. Other responses included neglecting to network (11.9%), hiring poor performers (7.4%), and not maintaining relationships (5.3%).

"It's great to see that the overwhelming majority of people (95%) said that networking and building relationships both have been important to their career success," said Suhail Masri, VP Employer Solutions, Bayt.com. "Over the past 16 years, we've been designing new ways to help professionals in the region forge valuable relationships and meet each other, and urging our members to make the best of their existing networks. This all started in the year 2000, when Bayt.com was created to connect between job seekers and employers, but evolved to include connecting together everyone on the career spectrum. Today, millions of people use Bayt.com Specialties to connect with industry peers, and millions of people have public profiles on Bayt.com Peoplethat could be used for online networking."

Aside from important career habits and skills, other elements of career success for MENA professionals have to do with their personal lives. The overwhelming majority (95.6%) of respondents say that their family has been important to their career success and nearly the same proportion (93.6%) say that exercise and physical fitness have also been important.

Education and learning, both prior to beginning a career as well as on the path to success, also seem to be important components. Nearly 9 in 10 (89.1%) of MENA respondents think that their college education has been important to their career success and more than half continue to read books related to their career on either a daily basis (33.2%) or on a weekly basis (20.3%).

When asked about the best source of learning for career growth, responses were generally comparable. Poll results cited the following sources in order of importance: university courses or professional programs (16.3%), online courses (10%), books (9.6%), career-specific internet sites (7.5%), internet forums and discussion groups (7.1%), industry conferences and forums (4.3%), and business magazines and journals (2.7%). Not surprisingly, the largest proportion of respondents (34.9%) said that all of these sources are equally important in learning for career growth.

Data for the 2016 Bayt.com 'Secrets of Career Success in the MENA' poll was collected online from April 20 2016 to May 17 2016. Results are based on a sample of 7,018 respondents. Countries that participated are the UAE, Bahrain, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Qatar, KSA, Yemen, and Others.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	3.011
Indian Rupees	4.497
Pakistani Rupees	2.982
Srilankan Rupees	2.091
Nepali Rupees	2.814
Singapore Dollar	226.660
Hongkong Dollar	39.021
Bangladesh Taka	3.859
Philippine Peso	6.433
Thai Baht	8.618

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.763
Qatari Riyal	83.194
ani Riyal	786.642
Bahraini Dinar	804.300
UAE Dirham	82.457

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.750
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.479
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.216
Tunisian Dinar	138.280
Jordanian Dinar	427.330
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.018
Syrian Lira	21.531
Morocco Dirham	31.531

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	302.700
Euro	337.210
Sterling Pound	398.350

Canadian dollar	234.020
Turkish lira	105.370
Swiss Franc	311.100
Australian Dollar	232.170
US Dollar Buying	301.500

20 Gram	275.460
10 Gram	140.650
5 Gram	71.170

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.900
Canadian Dollar	232.475
Sterling Pound	393.070
Euro	335.600
Swiss Frank	298.815
Bahrain Dinar	801.279
UAE Dirhams	82.700
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.495
Jordanian Dinar	427.030
Egyptian Pound	34.013
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.094
Indian Rupees	4.506
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Bangladesh Taka	3.858
Philippines Peso	6.433
Cyprus pound	159.630
Japanese Yen	4.005
Syrian Pound	2.395
Nepalese Rupees	3.805

Malaysian Ringgit	76.475
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.630
Thai Bhat	9.585
Turkish Lira	104.965

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
Europe		
British Pound	0.388347	0.403347
Czech Korune	0.004426	0.016426
Danish Krone	0.041106	0.046106
Euro	0.0330315	0.0339315
Norwegian Krone	0.031696	0.036896
Romanian Leu	0.086817	0.086817
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.031372	0.036372
Swiss Franc	0.302742	0.313742
Turkish Lira	0.099777	0.110077
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.222237	0.234237
New Zealand Dollar	0.216235	0.225735
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.227538	0.236538
Georgina Lari	0.136691	0.136691
US Dollars	0.299050	0.303550
US Dollars Mint	0.299050	0.303550
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003388	0.003972
Chinese Yuan	0.044043	0.047543

Hong Kong Dollar	0.036949	0.039699
Indian Rupee	0.004335	0.004745
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002939	0.003119
Kenyan Shilling	0.003113	0.003113
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071677	0.077677
Nepalese Rupee	0.002854	0.003024
Pakistan Rupee	0.002744	0.003034
Philippine Peso	0.006398	0.006698
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.219849	0.229849
South African Rand	0.014829	0.023329
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001672	0.002252
Taiwan	0.009286	0.009466
Thai Baht	0.008289	0.008839

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.796216	0.804716
Egyptian Pound	0.027069	0.032187
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.423014	0.432014
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019290	0.043290
Nigerian Naira	0.001248	0.001883
Omani Riyal	0.779684	0.785364
Qatar Riyal	0.082319	0.083769
Saudi Riyal	0.079620	0.080920
Syrian Pound	0.001283	0.001503
Tunisian Dinar	0.135279	0.143279
Turkish Lira	0.009777	0.010077
UAE Dirhams	0.080975	0.082675
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448

FARNBOROUGH AIR SHOW FLIES INTO BREXIT STORM

FARNBOROUGH: The Farnborough air show opens today in the face of turbulence from Britain's shock decision to exit the European Union. The event held every two years southwest of London traditionally features a battle between US titan Boeing and Europe's Airbus for supremacy on the order books. Organizers know there is little chance to beat the record \$201 billion (181 billion Euros) of business-both firm airplane orders and commitments-clinched in 2014, with the industry beset by major production backlogs.

Ahead of the meeting, some airlines have posted profit warnings linked to expected fallout from Brexit. Britain's referendum to quit the 28-nation European Union has cast a shadow over the air show that runs from Monday until Sunday. The vote sent financial markets

tanking and sparked worries about global economic fallout that could weigh on demand for airline travel. Brexit "is likely to have an impact over the medium term" on demand for new planes, independent aviation analyst John Strickland warned.

"Order books are currently full but if demand softens then ultimately this could lead to reduced orders or possibly some cancellations," he told AFP. However, Argon Consulting analyst Jean-Louis Dropsy forecast Brexit would not affect the sector, arguing it relies more on keen demand from outside Europe-and particularly from emerging markets. "Brexit should have no impact on the global industry, which is driven mainly by air traffic growth, mainly in Asia, India and the Middle East," he said.

Removal from the single European air-space could however lead to airlines

passing on higher taxes to passengers, in turn curtailing demand for aircraft in the long run. Since the June 23 referendum result, British Airways owner IAG and British no-frills airline EasyJet have issued profit warnings. And while incidents such as the recent EgyptAir plane crash and the terrorist attacks on Brussels and Istanbul airports have also taken their toll on the sector, ultra-low oil prices have slashed fuel costs for airlines.

'Significant' production backlogs

The aerospace industry is already being dogged by a record backlog for orders of planes, which-alongside weaker demand from airlines-contributed to a 30-percent decline in aircraft purchases last year. "I'm not expecting any big orders this time around as most major airlines already have significant backlogs

of already-ordered aircraft," noted Strickland. Kepler Cheuvreux analysts noted that Airbus and Boeing could still deliver surprises.

"The consensus is that few new orders are expected at the show," they wrote in a note to clients. "We are nevertheless wary of such a cautious view, arguing that Boeing celebrating its 100th anniversary at the show is likely to make a splash with some key orders. "In response, we expect Airbus to have kept a few key orders for announcement at the show," they added. Orders could feature also for Bombardier's fuel-efficient C Series jetliner as the Canadian firm looks to challenge the dominance of Airbus and Boeing in medium-range, single-aisle aircraft.

US-based Delta Air Lines in April placed an order for 75 CS100 Bombardier aircraft with an option to

purchase 50 more in a deal worth US\$5.6 billion. Stephane Albernhe, analyst at Archery Strategy Consulting, predicted announcements from Bombardier at Farnborough. "If they manage to save this program, we will not have a duopoly," she said. So far this year, Boeing is leading the orders race with Airbus, winning 276 firm orders since the start of the year compared with its European rival's 183. It comes as the industry faces a record backlog of about 13,400 civilian aircraft orders — 94 percent of which are for the world's two leading planemakers. Whatever the outcome for orders, this week's show will be lit up by the F-35 fighter jet carrying out a flypast over Farnborough, two years after the world's most expensive warplane's appearance was cancelled owing to engine problems. —AFP

ZIMBABWE PROTESTS SIGNAL GROWING RISKS FOR MUGABE

HARARE: Street protests, national work boycotts and internet activism are on the rise in Zimbabwe-offering hints that opposition to ageing President Robert Mugabe could be building towards a boiling point. Public shows of dissent have been rare under Mugabe's decades-long oppressive rule, but they have erupted regularly in recent months as the battered economy has ground to a virtual halt. Banks have run short of cash, government salaries have been delayed and many basic imports banned at a time when the country has also suffered a severe drought that has left millions hungry.

With the 92-year-old president's health increasingly uncertain and the ruling ZANU-PF party uncertain by a succession battle, Zimbabwe could be heading for a period of turmoil-and perhaps a long-awaited new chapter. "People are beginning to ask who the source of their problems is. The anger is mounting," Rushweat Mukundu, a political analyst with the Harare-based Zimbabwe Democracy Institute think-tank, told AFP. "The spontaneous acts we are witnessing now may escalate into mass uprisings."

A national "shutdown" strike closed many businesses, shops and schools on Wednesday, with public transport and some government departments and courts also ceasing to function. The strike followed days of sporadic protests triggered by a sudden outbreak of demonstrations on the outskirts of Harare over police road blocks accused of extorting cash from motorists. That unrest, in which at least 113 people were arrested, started on a small scale among public minibus drivers but soon spread, with rocks thrown at police and tyres burnt in roads as unemployed young men joined in.

No jobs

The riots revealed the long-bubbling frustration normally kept under strict control by Mugabe's ruthless security forces in a country where 90 percent of the population are not in formal jobs. A few days earlier, around 70 people were arrested in the town of Beitbridge at the border with South Africa during protests over a ban on imports of commodities such as canned vegetables, powdered milk and cooking oil.

"Civil servants who were loyal to the

government because they were getting salaries or using state infrastructure to engage in petty corruption are now among the discontented," said Mukundu. Even the police and army-essential to Mugabe maintaining power-have been affected, with both forces paid about 12 days late last month. "As things stand, there is no capacity to address the crisis," Ibbo Mandaza, head of the regional think-tank Southern Africa Political and Economic Series, told AFP. "Nothing short of political and economic reforms will stop the crisis. It will continue like this until the end comes."

But Mugabe has proved a tough survivor since coming to power when the country won independence in 1980, and he is expected to fight to retain his grip on the country. His rule has been defined by antagonism towards the West, and authorities have accused unnamed "Western embassies" of sponsoring groups organizing the protests.

IMF rescue?

One target of that jibe is thought to be the #ThisFlag internet movement, which has grown rapidly as Zimbabweans have embraced social media as a relatively safe and open way to express their opposition to Mugabe. ThisFlag founder Evan Mawarire, a Baptist pastor, shot to instant fame after he posted a video of himself on Facebook venting against state corruption and the government's failure to provide basic services. Now the hashtag has become a unifying symbol for the various strands of protest, and Mawarire has suggested another national shutdown next week.

The government is desperately seeking an IMF loan, but international donors are wary of support that could prolong the regime rather than encourage reform. Zimbabwe, which abandoned its own currency in favor of US dollars in 2009 to end hyperinflation, spends more than 80 percent of its revenue on state workers' wages and is rated among the most corrupt nations worldwide. "Security forces have reacted heavy-handedly (to protests), including beatings and arbitrary detentions of activists," Robert Besseling, head of EXX Africa risk intelligence, said in a note. "A military coup or other form of political intervention is increasingly likely." —AFP



MAKOKOBA: This file photo taken on July 06, 2016 shows a protester shouting anti-Mugabe slogans in front of burning tyres during a demonstration. —AFP

SWISS CENTRAL BANK VOWS 'FLEXIBILITY' TO FACE BREXIT

GENEVA: Switzerland's central bank will react with "flexibility" to the shifting economic realities following Britain's vote to leave the European Union, its chief said in a newspaper interview published yesterday. "The question for Switzerland is to figure out how to adapt in an optimal way," central bank chief Thomas Jordan told the Le Matin Dimanche weekly, adding that it was "a bit premature to speak about risks and opportunities." "In the short term, Switzerland must react with flexibility to the changes affecting financial markets and the global economy," he said.

The Swiss National Bank has already shown its willingness to act swiftly. Just hours after the results of Britain's June 23 Brexit vote became clear, the bank announced it had "intervened in the foreign exchange market to stabilize the situ-

ation and will remain active in that market." The move was aimed at stabilizing the strengthening Swiss franc, as investors fled from the tumbling pound to Switzerland's safe haven currency. Jordan told Le Matin Dimanche that he and his staff had pulled an all-nighter that night, checking the exchange rates every 15 minutes.

"Our goal is to reduce pressure on the franc, which remains considerably overvalued," he said. A stronger franc hits Swiss exporters, who are forced to squeeze costs and cut prices to remain competitive on an international market. The Swiss central bank introduced a negative deposit rate early last year after it abruptly abandoned its three-year effort to hold down the franc's exchange rate against the euro to protect exports. —AFP



GREAT YARMOUTH: In this Wednesday, July 6, 2016 photo, a couple sits inside a pub. —AP

BRITAIN MAY BE YEARNING FOR A COUNTRY THAT NEVER WAS

‘THIS IS A CHANCE TO HAVE A GO AT THE BANKERS’

GREAT YARMOUTH: Across Britain, from dilapidated Welsh coal mining towns to English beach resorts frozen in time, people say they voted to leave the European Union and plunge into the unknown to get their country back. But which country is that, exactly? Could their stinging blow to the European project have stemmed from a yearning for a Britain that never really existed?

On a rare blue-sky day in Great Yarmouth, a quintessentially English seaside resort with squeaky-floored hotels and screeching seagulls, the mostly elderly people strolling along the beach longed for a bygone era. Not just in this declining coastal town but throughout the United Kingdom, they said, the sense of community that once glued the country together had been shattered. They blamed politicians, bankers, foreigners, European bureaucrats and even political correctness.

Yvonne Pycroft, a 69-year-old with purple highlights in her white hair, summed up the feelings of many "leave" voters when she said she's not sure Britain will be better off outside the European Union, "but what we had I didn't like so we're just taking a gamble. I'm just hoping it will change for the better." In the Working Men's club of Haltwhistle, a quaint countryside village whose claim to fame is being the geographical midpoint of Britain, gray-haired men agreed their country was better off before it joined the EU in 1973. Except for Dryden Smith, the oldest man in the club and one of the few who said they voted "remain." With gleaming badges on his blazer, he said the quality of life has improved greatly since he was young.

"I'm 81 years old now. I'm looked after left, right and center. And I can't ask for more," he said, hands trembling. "I come out here and enjoy my whisky. Bring my wife out with us. And we just have a good time. Before that, we couldn't because we hadn't the money." "Leave" voters, many of them pensioners, told Associated Press journalists on a road trip across Britain last week they were sick and tired of being told what to do by Brussels. But besides the free movement of people, which has resulted in hundreds of thousands of European migrant workers coming to Britain, they struggled to find examples of how the EU has encroached on their lives.

Unique features

They still enjoy many of Britain's unique features, such as paying with pounds rather than Euros, the currency of 19 EU members, driving on the left side of the road and using electricity plugs with three pins instead of two, the norm in most of Europe. In Wales, more than 52 percent of the electorate voted out despite getting more money back from the EU than they put in. Jenny Hughes, an education consultant in the town of Pontypridd, said it reminded her of a scene in the 1979 Monty Python comedy film "Life of Brian," where occupied Judeans ask "what have the Romans done for us?" except improve sanitation, medicine, education, irrigation, public order and roads.

"They say this is a chance to have a go at (Conservative Prime Minister David) Cameron, this is a chance to have a go at the bankers," Hughes said. "They are voting against immigration, they are voting against the establishment." Except in Scotland and Northern Ireland, which voted to remain, people in deprived former coal, steel and shipbuilding towns admitted they voted "leave" without having a clear idea of the potential economic consequences. Their decision, they said, was fueled by a feeling of being ignored and abandoned even by Labour, the traditional party of the working class, and this was their chance to make their voices heard.

In Great Yarmouth, Pycroft said she would like Britain to return to the days when children could play conkers, a traditional school yard game with chestnuts that some schools have reportedly banned for safety reasons, and people didn't get offended by nursery rhymes. "We're not allowed to say 'baa-baa black sheep anymore,'" she said. "It's ridiculous." Having a pint on the beachfront promenade, Sean Sutton and Maria Atkins, both 46-year-old leave voters, said they didn't think they were glorifying the past. "We were the best country in the world for making steel and producing coal and everything and it's all gone now," Sutton said, sunglasses perched on his shaved head.

Heavy industry jobs that gave people an income and sense of identity have been sent overseas, while migrant workers are bringing

down the pay for remaining jobs in Britain, he said. Gone, too, he added, is the community spirit whereby "you can leave your back door open if you want. You can go to the shops without being scared of being mugged or anything like that. And that's what Britain's got to go back to."

Decline in crime

Several studies have shown crime levels are declining in Britain and other Western European countries. Figures from the EU's official statistics agency show England saw an 18-percent drop in violent crimes recorded by police between 2002 and 2012. Still, Atkins said people aren't treating each other the way they used to. Manners and respect for the elderly has gone "out the window," she said. Sutton agreed, saying migrants were partly to blame. "They won't open doors for you," he said. "I was brought up to open doors for people and say 'please' and 'thank you.' Some of them just barge past you."

Great Yarmouth was among several areas in eastern England where more than 70 percent voted "leave." Like many English seaside resorts it started stagnating when package tours to Spain became affordable in the 1970s. It's now struggling with unemployment, low education levels and high rates of teenage pregnancy.

In Peterborough, an eastern city with a high rate of immigration, the "leave" side got 61 percent. Mike Bullock said he voted "leave" partly because of the loneliness he had felt as the only Englishman working in a packing factory. "All the rest of them spoke either Lithuanian or Polish," he said. "If there wasn't anybody else available, anybody who spoke English, I used to go have my tea break on my own."

In a market stall in the city, 67-year-old Bruce Johnson also complained about immigration and said he wanted his country back from a "faceless group of diplomats" in Brussels. Asked whether he could think of anything Britain had gained from its EU membership, he paused for a second. "I'm trying to think of something," he said. "I don't think it has." Behind him a jukebox was playing "Land of Hope and Glory," viewed by many as England's unofficial national anthem. —AP

BRAZIL GOVERNMENT MAY SELL REMAINING AIRPORTS

SAO PAULO: Brazil's government will consider selling airports in Sao Paulo and Rio to help to reduce a large fiscal deficit next year, inter-

im President Michel Temer told the Folha de S.Paulo newspaper on Sunday. The paper said that the previous government's objections to a potential sale of the Santos Dumont airport in Rio and

Congonhas airport in Sao Paulo are not echoed by Temer, nor the government's economic team.

"It is possible that we end up selling them... It would give us a good sum," Temer was quoted as saying. Congonhas is the second-largest airport in Sao Paulo behind Guarulhos, which has already been sold to private investors.

Congonhas handles most domestic flights, including the busiest Sao Paulo-Rio route, which has Santos Dumont airport as its main destination.

Brazil plans to sell several assets and award licenses for companies to build and operate infrastructure projects as it tries to revamp the economy and reduce a budget

deficit estimated at 170 billion reais (\$51.59 billion) this year. Finance Minister Henrique Meirelles wants to reduce the deficit to 139 billion reais next year and told the O Estado de S.Paulo newspaper on Sunday that the government will need 80 billion reais of spending cuts to reach that target. —Reuters

Empire State manufacturing survey and a preliminary reading on consumer sentiment. Yet even with stocks scraping up against a record high, some investors remain cautious in light of uncertainty about the Fed's plan for rates, upcoming US elections and potential ripple effects as the UK begins to move forward with its exit from the European Union. "It just strikes me there are just too many things that can go wrong over the next couple of months," said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist, at Federated Investors, in New York. — Reuters



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MYANMAR'S STATE JADE SALE RAKES IN 530 MILLION EUROS

NAYPYIDAW: Myanmar's annual jade and gems sale netted more than 530 million euros (\$587 million), an official tally showed, as Chinese buyers continue to drive a shadowy industry linked with rebel conflicts and notorious for perilous working conditions. Lusted after by wealthy Chinese, Myanmar's jade mines were in the hands of the military and their 'crony' elites during the junta years and are still believed to raise tens of billions of dollars in undeclared sales. While

the price of the green stone has slipped in recent months, thousands of poor migrant workers still risk their lives to comb unstable pits in northern Myanmar for jade fragments.

Hundreds of slabs of jade worth 527 million euros were bought during the 12-day sale in the capital Naypyidaw, according to government figures, with around six million euros-worth of gems and pearls also snapped up. The event, which drew 895 Chinese companies, is

the country's only official jade sale. "We displayed fewer lots of jade than the previous emporium... so we also received less money than the previous one," Than Zaw Oo, of state-owned Myanma Gems Enterprise said, without giving last year's sale total.

Anti-corruption campaigners say the real value of Myanmar's jade runs into the tens of billions of dollars annually. Powerful syndicates linked to smuggling rings and rebel commanders slip tons of

the precious stone across the northern border to China each year, depriving the state of huge sums of income. Most of the world's best quality jadeite—the rarer and more expensive of two minerals containing jade—is mined in Hpakan, a strip of torn earth in Myanmar's insurgency-wracked northern Kachin state bordering China, a country with a voracious demand for the precious stone.

Jade is widely believed to be an important revenue stream for the

Kachin Independence Army (KIA) which is resisting ceasefire overtures in its fight against Myanmar's army. Jade mines have also long been a dangerous workplace for the itinerant miners who scratch a living from the stone—around 100 people died in a major landslide in November last year. The falling price of jade in recent months has been attributed to customs action in China's border area, deterring smugglers and leading to a glut. —AFP

ECONOMY IN THE SPOTLIGHT AS JAPAN VOTES FOR UPPER HOUSE

TOKYO: Japan's prime minister is counting on the upper house election yesterday to show support for his economic revival policies, while the opposition is asking voters to reject any turn toward a more assertive military role. Half the seats in parliament's less powerful upper house are up for grabs, but there is no likelihood of a change of power. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party controls the lower house, which chooses the head of government. The only contention in the balloting is how much support Abe can win.

Abe had repeatedly stressed during his campaign that his "Abenomics" program to bolster growth is still unfinished, and patience is needed for results. He has not touched on the other part of his agenda, which is to have Japan assert itself more as a military power. "That is so dangerous, and it may lead Japan into war with other nations and make it a nation without freedoms at home," said Yuriko Keino, a musician and composer living in Tokyo, who was planning to vote later in the day. "We must all raise our voices and come together to protect peace and freedom."

Pro-business policies

The Liberal Democrats have ruled Japan since World War II almost incessantly with their pro-business policies, and until recently enjoyed solid support from rural areas. The few years the opposition held power coincided with the 2011 quake, tsunami and nuclear triple-disasters that devastated

northeastern Japan. The opposition fell out of favor as inept in reconstruction efforts. Some Japanese agree with Abe's views on security because of growing fears about terrorism, the recent missile launches by North Korea and China's military assertiveness.

Yesterday's was the first major election after the voting age was lowered from 20 to 18, potentially adding 2.4 million voters. Although "manga" animation and other events were used to woo young voters, results from early and absentee voting show turnout may be low. Many young people are disillusioned with mainstream politics. Some analysts see 78 as a magic number — the number of seats that would give the ruling coalition a two-thirds majority in the upper house. That kind of support could be enough for Abe to push forward with rewriting Japan's postwar pacifist constitution. But a referendum would still be needed, and public support for pacifism remains high.

Masses of people have come out against nuclear power since the March 2011 catastrophe. But that has not weakened Abe in recent elections, although he has made clear he is eager to restart reactors that were idled after the disaster, the worst since Chernobyl, and make nuclear power a Japan export. "I voted hoping the economy of the country gets better. I think the economy is still hitting bottom, and I hope it gets better even just a bit so that my life gets easier," said Jiro Yonehara, a "salaryman," as company employees are called, after emerging from a voting booth. —AP



SHANGHAI: This file photo taken on December 1, 2015 shows people doing morning exercises in front of the skyline of the Lujiazui Financial District in Pudong. —AFP

CHINA INFLATION UP 1.9 PERCENT IN JUNE, SLOWEST IN 6 MONTHS
GLOBAL RECOVERY REMAINS GRIM

BEIJING: Soft Chinese inflation and G20 concerns that the global recovery remains grim are hardening views among some economists that more government stimulus will be needed to support China, the world's second-biggest economy. Consumer inflation last month remained under the official target of around 3 percent for this year, data released yesterday showed, indicating persistently weak domestic demand. The consumer price index (CPI) rose 1.9 percent in June from a year earlier, compared with a 2.0 percent increase in May, China's National Bureau of Statistics said. Analysts had expected a 1.8 percent gain, a Reuters poll showed.

Against that backdrop of slack price growth, international trade remains weak and the country is plagued by massive overcapacity, particularly in coal and steel, and debt-ridden zombie companies. Externally, China faces a global recovery that its trade minister on Saturday described as "complicated and grim." "In our view, while China reiterates the importance of supply-side reform due to debt and overcapacity concerns, the authorities still need to stimulate demand in order to achieve its growth target," Zhou Hao, senior Asia emerging market economist at Commerzbank in Singapore, said in a note.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) last cut

interest rates on Oct. 23, the seventh time since late 2014. China's leaders have set an economic growth target of 6.5 percent to 7 percent for 2016. The economy expanded 6.9 percent last year, its slowest pace in a quarter of a century. "Of course, further policy easing is still on the cards, and we hold our view that the PBOC will cut both interest rates and reserve rate requirement this month," Zhou said. Other economists say authorities should use fiscal policy to boost growth, adding that question marks remain over the effectiveness of further monetary easing.

Food & floods

In China, food prices rose 4.6 percent in June, compared with a 5.9 percent gain in the previous month. Recent flooding in China "is likely to push vegetable and fruit prices higher in the coming months," ANZ economists Raymond Yeung and Louis Lam wrote in a research note. Non-food prices inched up 1.2 percent versus May's 1.1 percent gain. A top government-backed think tank forecast in late June that consumer prices will likely rise 2 percent for the year, while the long decline in producer prices will ease.

The producer price index (PPI) dropped 2.6 percent in June from a year earlier. Analysts had expected PPI to fall 2.5 percent. The decline

extended a falling streak to 51 consecutive months, though it continued to moderate, suggesting strains on companies' profits may be easing. The PPI eased 2.8 percent in May. Producer prices for mining fell 8.2 percent in June from a year earlier, while raw materials dropped 6.1 percent.

Global economy

China is due to release its second-quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data on July 15, along with figures for June's industrial output, investment and retail sales. Most analysts say GDP growth likely edged lower in the second quarter from 6.7 percent in the first on a year-on-year basis. To make matters worse, the global economic situation is grim, China's trade minister Gao Hucheng said on Saturday at the Group of 20 trade ministers meeting in Shanghai, adding that major economies must lead the way in tackling problems including sluggish growth and weak trade. G20 trade ministers agreed yesterday to cut trade costs, increase policy coordination and enhance financing. "The global recovery continues, but it remains uneven and falls short of our ambition for strong, sustainable and balanced growth," the ministers said in a joint statement. "Downside risks and vulnerabilities persist." —Reuters



TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister and ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) president Shinzo Abe (L) places a red paper rosette on an LDP candidate's name to indicate an election victory at the party's headquarters. —AFP

CHINA HEALTHCARE COSTS FORCE PATIENTS INTO CRIPPLING DEBT

SHANGHAI/LONDON: As China's medical bills rise steeply, outpacing government insurance provision, patients and their families are increasingly turning to loans to pay for healthcare, adding to the country's growing burden of consumer debt. While public health insurance reaches nearly all of China's 1.4 billion people, its coverage is basic, leaving patients liable for about half of total healthcare spending, with the proportion rising further for serious or chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

That is likely to get significantly worse as the personal healthcare bill soars almost fourfold to 12.7 trillion yuan (\$1.9 trillion) by 2025, according to Boston Consulting Group estimates. For many, like Li Xinjin, a construction materials trader whose son was diagnosed with leukemia in 2009, that means taking on crippling debt. Li, from Cangzhou in Hebei province, scoured local papers and websites for small lenders to finance his son's costly treatment at a specialist hospital in Beijing, running up debts of more than 1.7 million yuan, about 10 times his typical annual income.

"At that time, borrowing money and having to make repayments, I was very stressed. Every day I worried about this," said Li, 47, adding that he and his wife had at times slept rough on the streets near the hospital. "But I couldn't let my son down. I had to try to save him," he said. Li's boy died last year. The debts will weigh him down for a few more years yet.

Medical loans are just part of China's debt mountain, consumer borrowing has tripled since 2010 to nearly 21 trillion yuan, and in eight years household debt relative to the economy has doubled to nearly 40 percent — but they are growing. That is luring big companies like Ping An Insurance Group, as well as small loan firms and P2P platforms, as China's traditional savings culture proves inadequate to the challenge of such heavy costs. The stress is particularly apparent in lower-tier cities and rural areas where insurance has failed to keep pace with rising costs, said Andrew Chen, Shanghai-based healthcare head for consultancy Parthenon-EY. "It's a storm waiting to happen where patients from rural areas will have huge financial burdens they didn't have to face before," he said, adding people would often take second mortgages on their homes or turn to community finance schemes.

Roots of poverty

China's government has moved to ramp up rural health insurance, boost coverage for major illnesses and put pressure on drug companies to slash prices, but it is an uphill battle. Official data show up to 44 percent of families pushed into poverty were impoverished by illness. The Ministry of Health, which did not immediately respond to requests for comment, is currently investigating the impact of these costs on the country's labor force.

"Typically, what happens in China is the whole family contributes when someone gets a severe disease like cancer," Severin Schwan, chief executive of Roche Holding AG, the world's biggest maker of cancer drugs, told Reuters. "When it comes to innovative medicines, the financial burden is just too much. Families can go broke." Roche itself has schemes in China to make cancer drugs more affordable, including an insurance scheme developed with Swiss Re.

There are no reliable figures for total healthcare lending, as lenders do not usually advance the money for healthcare-specific purposes. "If you want to use it for medical bills, cosmetic surgery or plastic surgery that's all fine," says Ping An Puhui, which advertises that its loans can "alleviate the pain of illness" and "bring new hope to sick families". But there is plenty of anecdotal evidence from online lenders that it is a growing segment. "Our loan numbers have risen steadily, and no small number of people have used these for medical purposes," said Li Jin, a customer service worker at peer-to-peer (P2P) lender ppdai.com. "Healthcare costs are high, and lots of people don't have good state cover, so they need a loan."

China Minsheng Banking Corp has launched a healthcare loan scheme in the western city of Chengdu, while Shanghai Pharmaceuticals Holding Co Ltd rolled out a loan scheme in April to help patients access expensive drugs. Some desperate patients are pawning their personal belongings. "They use things of various value from jewelry to purses and even cars," said Chen Yi, an office worker at online lender minbaodai.cn. "Previously the majority of people were looking for extra cash flow for their business, but last year and this we've seen a rise in healthcare loans." —Reuters

G20 ECONOMIES WILL BOOST TRADE DESPITE GROWING PROTECTIONISM

SHANGHAI: The world's top 20 economies will work to boost sluggish global trade despite growing protectionism, overcapacity concerns, and uncertainty over Brexit, G20 trade ministers said yesterday at a meeting in Shanghai. "The global recovery continues, but it remains uneven and falls short of our ambition for strong, sustainable and balanced growth. Downside risks and vulnerabilities persist," the trade ministers said in a joint statement, adding that trade should remain "an important engine" to spur global growth.

The G20 nations, which account

for 85 percent of global trade, admitted that protectionism has been rising since the financial crisis, and said that new trade restrictions in the group had reached the highest monthly average registered since the WTO began monitoring in 2009. "We note with concern that despite the G20's repeated pledge, the stock of restrictive measure affecting trade in goods and services has continued to rise," they said in the statement.

Ahead of the meeting, WTO chief economist Robert Koopman warned that restrictive measures

could affect industries including air freight cargo, sea based cargo, automobile sales and production, electronics trade, and agricultural raw materials. The world's leading economies at the weekend pledged to oppose trade protectionism and reiterated a promise not to add new protective measures until 2018.

Global trade is expected to grow at a tepid 2.8 percent in 2016, the World Trade Organization (WTO) said in April. And this year is expected to be the fifth in a row where trade grew at less than three per-

cent—its weakest sustained level in 30 years, WTO Director-General Roberto Azevedo said on Friday ahead of the talks. To combat the global slowdown, the ministers said they agreed to improve global trade governance and to work towards easing and liberalizing trade.

Brexit, China concerns

Concerns over China's production overcapacity in steel have led to trade disputes with the EU and US, and China's vice commerce minister Wang Shouwen said yesterday that the G20 economies "have realized the necessity to take global cooperation to handle the challenge caused by production overcapacity". But despite claims that China is dumping steel in foreign markets, he said "China's effort in (handling) over capacity has been highly recognized" by the group. "While some other countries are talking about how to cut down production, Chinese government has already taken measures which have been effective."

Meanwhile Britain's referendum vote to leave the European Union has added new concerns for the recovery of global economic and trade growth. "Britain leaving the European Union will definitely have some impact on global trade, especially short-term investment," China's Wang commented yesterday. Britain's trade minister Mark Price told the Financial Times in Beijing ahead of the weekend talk that tariffs would jump to an average level of at least three percent after its exit from the EU. He said it's time to "start exploring options" on trade agreements and "China is making very positive noises at the moment", the report said. —AFP



SHANGHAI: Trade ministers and delegates attend the opening session of the G20 Trade Ministers Meeting. - AP



WORLD PREMIERE OF THE MERCEDES-BENZ GLC COUPÉ

The dynamic-expressive styling of the GLC Coupé concept was a centre of attention at its world premiere in 2015 in Shanghai. It unites the typical stylistic elements of a Coupé with the design language of current SUV models. Just one year later, this promise has become a reality: the new GLC coupé translates the design idiom of the show car, with its distinctive basic structure and stretched greenhouse, virtually unchanged into series production.

At the same time, the sports car among Mercedes-Benz's mid size SUVs impresses with its brand-typical safety, modern assistance systems and an especially sporty-dynamic character. The as-standard sports suspension as well as more direct sports steering, DYNAMIC SELECT and 4MATIC permanent all-wheel drive with 9G-TRONIC nine-speed automatic transmission combine effortlessly superior ride comfort with decidedly sporty agility. Two suspension variants with continuously adjustable damping are optionally available: the new DYNAMIC BODY CONTROL with steel springing as well as the already familiar AIR BODY CONTROL multi-chamber air suspension. Both options make for further enhanced driving dynamics and comfort.

"The GLC coupé reflects our iconic Mercedes-Benz coupé design while symbolizing the bipolarity of our brand - it is 'hot and cool'," says Gorden Wagener, Head of Design at Daimler AG. "With its design idiom of sensual purity, it perfectly embodies our styling philosophy while at the same time representing contemporary luxury."

The combination of multifunctional SUV and emotively appealing coupé constitutes a skilful fusion of emotion and intelligence. With an exterior length of 4.73 meters, a height of 1.60 meters and a wheelbase of 2.87 meters, the GLC coupé is dynamic and compact in appearance. This makes the coupé almost eight centimeters longer and some four centimeters lower than the multi-talented GLC, with which it shares its basic architecture. The GLC coupé owes its distinct character to a typically coupé-esque, single-louvered diamond radiator grille and a restyled, dropping roofline. The A-pillar is less

steeply raked, while the continuation of the roof outline is lower, terminating in the elegantly flowing, muscular rear end typical of a coupé. The rear window dispenses with a wiper, as the airflow does not break away until after the spoiler lip, which means that water is unable to strike the rear window.

Design elements from two different worlds

The striking features of the front end are its dominant, steeply raked diamond radiator grille with single louvre and integral star, short overhang and SUV-inspired override guard. The innovative headlamp concept, optionally in LED High Performance technology, sports the now characteristic Mercedes-Benz light signature. A striking injection of sports car genes is provided by the large lateral air inlets.

The perfection with which the intrinsically opposed design worlds of coupé and SUV have been brought into harmony is revealed by the side view of the 1.60-metre-high GLC coupé with its typical, stretched roofline of a sports coupé. The squat greenhouse blends in perfectly with the side of the vehicle to underline its coupé character. The interplay between high beltline and wide shoulders results in proportions that lend the GLC coupé its dynamic looks. This interaction is given added emphasis by the drawn-in waist between the dropping line and the lower, rearwards ascending light-catching contour. A clear clue to the vehicle's distinctive SUV heritage is given by the optionally available side running boards. Flush with the outer edge of the body, wide wheels up to a size of 50.8 centimetres (20 inches) together with ample ground clearance underpin the GLC coupé's sporty-dynamic ambitions on unpaved tracks and unsurfaced roads.

Rear end with athletic looks

The styling of the rear end gives added emphasis to the vehicle's coupé genes. With its pronounced shoulders, muscular bumper design with integral exhaust tips and underride guard in the form of a diffuser, the wide rear end of the GLC coupé underlines the vehicle's athletic looks while enabling the coupé to hug the road. Narrow, split tail lights, a centrally

positioned brand star and a sharp spoiler lip reflect a design that made its debut with the S-Class coupé and which all Mercedes-Benz coupé models have since followed. Relocated to the lower section of the bumper, the number plate as well as the typical form of the rear window with its rounded upper area are among the further stylistic features. Like the headlamps, the night design of the LED tail lights sports the typical light signature of Mercedes-Benz.

Interior with typical coupé flair and high-grade ambience

Following the exterior design philosophy, the interior welcomes the occupants with typical coupé flair and a high-grade ambience. The design idiom combines sensual purity with dynamic sportiness while embodying a convincing interpretation of modern luxury.



Mercedes-Benz

Distinctive stylistic elements of the GLC coupé are the dashboard and the centre console with its flowing lines, a large, one-piece console panel making an elegant sweep below the semi-integrated media display from the centre air vents to the armrest. These clear lines give a feeling of spaciousness while conveying a puristic modernity. The optionally available AMG Line Interior provides a clear commitment to even greater dynamism and sportiness. This package includes, for example, sports seats with upholstery in ARTICO man-made leather/DINAMICA microfibre with the option of sports seats with bi-colour look leather upholstery.

Dynamic body control

The new GLC coupé comes as standard with sports suspension including DYNAMIC SELECT with the five transmission modes ECO, COMFORT, SPORT, SPORT+ and INDIVIDUAL. DYNAMIC BODY CONTROL sports suspension with steel springing and adjustable damping is

optionally available. Also with this option, DYNAMIC SELECT allows the driver to adapt the individual character of the vehicle.

Uniquely in this market segment, the suspension can be equipped with fully supporting multi-chamber springing and electronically controlled, continuously adjustable damping. The AIR BODY CONTROL air suspension combines excellent driving stability and optimal comfort with sporty agility. Specific characteristics are preselected depending on the DYNAMIC SELECT settings. For example, In Sport+ mode, the occupants feel as if they are sitting in a sports car with a high level of lateral dynamics due to the even stiffer suspension, which is lowered by 15 millimeters. Another key parameter for the sporty characteristics of the GLC coupé compared with the classic GLC SUV is the retuned Direct-Steer system, which, with 15.1:1 (GLC: 16.1:1), offers a more direct steering ratio together with even sportier characteristics of the power assistance in the SPORT and SPORT+ modes.

Equipment configuration: comprehensive and individual

The new GLC coupé impresses even in its basic equipment configuration, which includes light-alloy wheels of 45.7-centimetre (18-inch) diameter, the Chrome package with visible exhaust tips, EASY-PACK tailgate, Audio 20 CD multimedia system, reversing camera, KEYLESS-GO start function and upholstery in ARTICO man-made leather. Also included as standard are assistance systems such as COLLISION PREVENTION ASSIST PLUS, Crosswind Assist, Headlamp Assist, ATTENTION ASSIST and ESP(r) with Dynamic Cornering Assist. Comfort and safety can be significantly further enhanced by additional driver assistance systems.

Mercedes-Benz also offers a wide selection of optional packages for its new SUV coupé. Customers can choose between AMG Line Interior and Exterior, EXCLUSIVE Interior and Night package. A highlight in terms of both looks and driving dynamics is provided by AMG light-alloy wheels of 48.3-centimetre (19-inch) or 50.8-centimetre (20-inch) diameter with mixed tyres. The attractive light-alloy

wheels are available in numerous design variants. An optional sports exhaust system for the petrol-engined models makes for a sporty engine sound.

GLC coupé also available as exclusive EDITION 1

As familiar from other Mercedes models, the GLC coupé will also be available from launch as an EDITION 1 model. Combining a series of exclusive appointments, such as AMG Line Exterior, 50.8-centimetre (20-inch) AMG light-alloy wheels with mixed tyres, attractive design paint finishes as well as Bi-Color look leather upholstery, this special model turns the SUV coupé into a very special, attention-grabbing automobile. However sporty and aesthetically appealing, the dynamic GLC coupé also impresses with some highly practical features. With a capacity of 491 to 1205 liters, the luggage compartment leads this market segment. And the availability of space in both front and rear puts the GLC coupé on a par with the multi-talented GLC in terms of comfort. Entrance height, shoulder room, elbow room and legroom are all identical.

Protection in an emergency

In keeping with the Mercedes-Benz tradition, the body forms the foundation for exemplary crash safety. A high-strength safety passenger compartment forms the core of this concept. It is surrounded by specifically designed and crash-tested deformation zones, which ensure the best possible occupant safety by virtue of optimised force paths and a combination of die-cast aluminium components and ultra-high-strength materials.

In addition to 3-point safety belts with pyrotechnical and reversible belt tensioning and belt-force limitation for driver, front passenger and those in the outer rear seats, numerous airbags serve to protect the vehicle's occupants in an accident. These include combined thorax/pelvis sidebags for driver and front passenger and an optimized windowbag extending over both seat rows, optional sidebags for the outer rear seats and a driver kneebag.

KFH: 3 DAYS LEFT FOR AL-RABEH DRAW

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced that only three days remain to announce the winners of two 2016 Range Rover's and 3 KG of Gold in the draw to take place at Avenues mall on July 13th 2016 at 7 pm under the supervision of representatives of the Ministry of Commerce. KFH cordially invites all clients to join this special event that will witness the announcement of the winners amidst exciting and suspense atmospheres.

Al-Rabeh salary account, which was launched last February, is an investment savings account based on Mudaraba sharia principle that gives clients annual profit distributions. Clients can open this account at any of KFH 64 branches around Kuwait. It is noteworthy that the account is offered for clients wishing to transfer their salaries and manage their personal accounts with the ability to save and invest. Al-Rabeh account is available for individuals in KD and it requires salary transfer as a prerequisite.

With regards to the prizes campaign terms and conditions, KFH gives away two Range Rover's 2016 HSE for the first two winners and a 3 KG Gold for the third winner in quarterly draws to be held in the



months of January, April, July, and October, providing that clients should have deposited 3 salaries in the three months prior to the draw, yet their minimum monthly balance is not less than KD 50 by the end of each month, bearing in mind that each KD 50 in the account entitles clients to one entry in the draw, thus more money in an account means more chances to win.

KFH is keen on improving its banking products and services in line with clients'

requirement in efforts to achieve customer satisfaction and cater more closely for their needs. KFH endeavors to offer unique advantages and valuable prizes stemming from its continuing endeavors to offer outstanding products and services that address clients' requirements and meet their aspirations, yet consolidate Bank's prestigious status and excellence in offering products as per the highest standards of quality.

NISSAN CREATES WORLD'S FIRST NISMO DEDICATED SHOWROOM CORNER

DUBAI: Nissan today announced that the world's first 'NISMO Corner' dedicated showroom space will be launched in the Middle East and then rolled out across Nissan's dealerships globally. The 'NISMO Corner' is a unique, customer showroom area for Nissan performance vehicles and products, and is a completely new showroom concept that was developed in the Middle East. The NISMO Corner follows the regional launch of NISMO brand and vehicles last October 2015, and Nissan has introduced the NISMO Corner in the Middle East as a world's first as it prepares space at seven regional dealerships.

"The Middle East is a significant growth market for Nissan worldwide and our regional team continues to innovate, excite and deliver customer experiences that set a new benchmark for Nissan globally," said Samir Cherfan, Managing Director of Nissan Middle East. "The NISMO Corner is testament to the region's creativity in creating new customer experiences that surpass global expectations. Our new Patrol NISMO embodies the essence of what performance and luxury can be when combined and the new showroom space has been designed to reflect that at the very first customer touch point."

Seven Nissan dealerships across the Gulf will have dedicated NISMO Corners that dramatically display the attributes of the NISMO brand. In Dubai, the NISMO Corner will be available at Arabian Automobiles' Deira showroom, with Al Masood Automobiles' Khalidya Showroom featuring the NISMO Corner for Abu Dhabi customers. In Qatar, NISMO Corner will be created at the Salwa Road showroom of Saleh Al Hamad Al Mana Co, with the Oman NISMO Corner being showcased at Suhail Bahwan Automobiles' Qurum showroom in Muscat.



Three dealerships in Saudi Arabia will complete the list including Petromin's Jeddah showroom at the Auto Mall and two corners will be established by longstanding partner Alissa Automobiles Company in Jeddah (Madinah 2) and Riyadh (Exit 4). Designed to be eye catching and embody the excitement of the brand, the NISMO Corners are raised display areas in white with exciting red accents and include merchandise space near the display vehicles. Each

display allows customers to interact with the vehicle and immerse themselves in the space as they meet with NISMO sales advisors.

NISMO has built a pedigree in the global motorsports arena, and for millions of automotive fans and enthusiasts, NISMO represents the blueprint of what today's Nissan's road going models are derived from. NISMO's first model that sold in the region was the Patrol NISMO, which went on sale in March 2016.

AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw on 10th July, 2016. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr Abdulaziz Ashkanani. The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are:-

Mohammad Salim Mohammad Nazir KD 7000/-
Mufeed Mubarek Ali Mubarek KD 7000/-

Bigger and brighter

Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. Using the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000. The new prizes scheme for AlNajma account

Daily draw to win KD 7000

Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start



from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000
1ST QUARTER KD 100 000
2ND QUARTER KD 150 000
3RD QUARTER KD 200 000
4TH QUARTER KD 250 000

With Al Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes. You deserve to win! Open an account now with just KD 500 and you will enter all draws.

MICROSOFT LEADERSHIP SHAKE-UP AS VETERAN EXEC DEPARTS

SAN FRANCISCO: Microsoft on Thursday announced a shake-up in its top ranks, including the departure of longtime chief operating officer Kevin Turner for a new job. Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella said that five executives will divide the duties held by Turner, who played a pivotal role over the past decade as Microsoft shifted from packaged software to programs offered as services in the internet cloud to a gamut of connected devices.

Turner will remain at Microsoft to aid

with the transition through this month, then leave to become chief executive officer at global financial firm Citadel Securities, according to Nadella. "Kevin is a world-class business builder with experience managing large and complex organizations," said Citadel founder and chief Kenneth Griffin said in a separate release.

"Kevin is a proven innovator who brings expertise in technology and operations with a client-first focus," Nadella praised Turner as having a tremendous impact at Microsoft during his 11 years with the soft-

ware giant. "I have learned a lot from Kevin over these past few years and wish him all the best," Nadella said in a blog post.

Turner's departure comes with shifts in the duties and responsibilities of Microsoft executives Judson Althoff, Jean-Philippe Courtois, Chris Capossela, Kurt DelBene, and Amy Hood. The leadership changes come as Microsoft prepares to mark the one-year anniversary of Windows 10 with a major update to the software powering more than 350 million computing devices.

The Windows 10 update is set for

release on August 2.

Windows 10 operating system is designed to work on laptops, desktops, smartphones, Xbox One consoles, HoloLens augmented reality headsets and more. Microsoft has been aggressively promoting upgrades from old versions of Windows, and has made Windows 10 available as a free upgrade until the operating system turns one year old on July 29.

After that, it will be sold pre-installed on new devices or available for purchase separately, with a home computer version

priced at \$119, according to the Redmond, Washington-based company. Microsoft provoked ire by pushing people to upgrade to Windows 10 by automating the process and, for a time, modifying the red "x" in a corner of an upgrade notice pop-up box to approve the action, instead of simply closing the message. Microsoft has set a goal of having the operating system in use in more than a billion devices by 2018, which would put it on par with Apple, which said this year it has one billion active devices running iOS.—AFP



SEOUL: Middle school students use their smartphones in front of Samsung Electronics showroom in Seoul, South Korea. —AP

GALAXY PHONES DRIVE 17 PERCENT JUMP IN SAMSUNG'S 2Q PROFIT

SEOUL, South Korea: Samsung Electronics said Thursday that its second-quarter operating income jumped 17 percent over a year earlier to the highest quarterly profit in more than two years, as strong sales of its Galaxy smartphones drove profit growth in the mobile business. In its earnings preview, the South Korean company put its operating income at 8.1 trillion won (\$7 billion), compared with 6.9 trillion won a year earlier.

That was much higher than forecasts. Analysts predicted 7.4 trillion won of operating income according to FactSet, a financial data provider. It was the best performance in nine quarters. The last time Samsung raked in more than 8 trillion won of operating income was during the January-March period in 2014 when it reported 8.5 trillion won in operating profit. Sales rose 3 percent to 50 trillion won. Samsung did not give its net profit or breakdowns among its business divisions.

The company is the world's largest maker of smartphones, televisions, memory chips and display panels. Each of Samsung's four business divisions likely showed strong results during the latest quarter, according to analysts. Key products of each business division - the Galaxy S7 smartphones, ultra-high definition TVs, solid state computer storage devices and thin and light displays known as OLED - all saw solid demand.

The most important drive behind its forecast-beating earnings was smartphones. In recent weeks, analysts revised up their forecasts on Samsung Electronics saying that Samsung's mobile business performed better than expected thanks to robust sales of the Galaxy S7 smartphone models. The optimistic view reflects a shift from earlier this year when analysts thought Samsung's best year was behind it and that its annual profit would fall, largely because they saw Samsung's mobile growth coming to a halt.

After the release of the Galaxy S7 and S7

Edge smartphones in spring, however, the mood has changed. While Apple's flagship iPhone sales slowed, analysts predicted that Samsung's mobile profits would gain this year. "Foreign investors' sentiment toward Samsung Electronics is quickly changing after the second quarter," CW Chung, an analyst at Nomura Financial Investment Co., said before Samsung's disclosed its earnings preview.

"We think it is the most promising stock among Asian tech companies," Chung said. Shares of Samsung Electronics have surged nearly 20 percent since January. Some analysts said Samsung's new strategies with its flagship phones paid off since Samsung launched the Galaxy S7 and the S7 Edge smartphones in March, a month earlier than it did with the previous flagship phone. The camera and the battery life of the S7 smartphone were better than in the older models and the phone was water resistant, but its price was lower.

In 2015, the company struggled to meet demand for smartphones with curved displays, but this year component supply issues have been resolved and some analysts believe the higher-priced S7 Edge smartphones, which feature curved displays, saw stronger performance than its sister phone with a flat screen. Samsung is expected to announce the latest version of its Galaxy Note smartphone - featuring a larger screen and a stylus - in the fall.

IBK Securities analyst Lee Seung-woo estimated Samsung sold 16 million Galaxy S7 and S7 Edge smartphones in the second quarter, with slightly more than half of its quarterly profit coming from the mobile division. Analysts said besides the high-end S7 smartphone, the company's its middle-of-the-line J series smartphones are doing well in countries such as India, which helped its profit gain.—AP

NORTH DAKOTA BASE COULD BE HOME TO ARCTIC MISSION

FARGO, North Dakota: An Air Force installation in North Dakota has been trying to find its niche since its mission was changed a few years ago from refueling tankers to unmanned aircraft. Its focus might one day be at the top of the world. The state's two US senators have been promoting the idea of an Arctic mission for the Grand Forks Air Force Base, which is located about 90 miles from the border with Canada. The 319th Air Base Wing now focuses on the launch, recovery and maintenance of drones, which would be preferred over manned missions in the hostile northernmost conditions.

Retired US Air Force Lt Gen David Deptula, dean at the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, said the North Dakota base should be part of a team effort to help the country gain a presence in the Arctic region. "Maintaining peace and stability and open access to the Arctic is in everybody's best interest," Deptula said. "Grand Forks is a logical focal point in the northern United States that provides the access and the infrastructure that is already available and operating."

Awareness of activity

The Grand Forks base is home to three unmanned aircraft models, including the RQ-4 Global Hawk. The Global Hawk is considered particularly valuable because it can conduct long-range missions, fly at 60,000 feet and roam in a particular area for 24 hours or more. The base also shares space and a runway with the nation's first unmanned aircraft tech park, Grand Sky, which has major

defense contractors and drone makers Northrop Grumman and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. It's likely that the US will need help from the private sector to further its Arctic plans.

"I believe there is an inherent public-private partnership to that mission," Grand Sky Development Co President Thomas Swoyer Jr said. Deptula said "robust aerospace intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities" are needed in the Arctic to help maintain open access to resources, facilitate the structure for commercial transit, ensure that resources are being legally extracted, and deter any adversary from taking hostile action.

The region is "becoming of greater interest to nations that quite frankly don't have our best interests at heart," Deptula said, citing Russia and China. Nations across the world have been laying claim in the last few years to Arctic resources, including oil, natural gas, minerals and fisheries. Last month Russia unveiled what it called the world's biggest nuclear-powered icebreaker, to be used for hauling natural gas from its Arctic terminal.

US Sens John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota are trying to persuade Air Force Gen Lori Robinson, who oversees the US Northern Command and the North American Defense Command, to visit the North Dakota base. "The Arctic is increasingly important to our nation's security, and I believe the Global Hawk can help our military prepare to meet the objective of increasing our awareness of activity in this region," Hoeven said.—AP

OSCAR-WINNER GIBNEY ON CYBER WARFARE IN 'ZERO DAYS'

NEW YORK: Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker Alex Gibney believes the first atomic bomb of the cyber warfare age has already been dropped. That bomb was Stuxnet, a computer virus that's the subject of Gibney's latest movie, "Zero Days." Stuxnet disrupted an Iranian uranium-enrichment facility beginning in 2010 and set back Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Iran considers Stuxnet part of a concerted effort by Israel and the US to undermine its nuclear program through covert operations, though neither government has acknowledged any involvement. "Zero Days" is an examination of Stuxnet: how outside security researchers got wind of it, where it came from, and what it portends for global security in the future. In the movie, Gibney warns of the destruction that could come from the proliferation of state-sponsored hacking.

The movie opens Friday in theaters, online and through video on demand. Gibney, who won the Oscar for a documentary on Afghanistan and has tackled WikiLeaks, Enron and Scientology, sat down with the media to talk about the movie. Questions and answers have been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Throughout the movie, you draw parallels between cyber warfare and nuclear war. How big of a threat is cyber warfare today?

A: The potential threat from these kinds of cyber weapons is huge, especially when you start talking about shutting down electric power grids. I'm not talking about the threat to me personally, but the threat to all of us. We're just at a point where everyone is starting to recognize the potential calamity.

Q: You relied on confidential intelligence sources, including NSA employees, and combined them into a composite character that's played by an actress and digitized to look more computer generated. How hard was it to gain their trust?

A: They were cautious at first. But the more information we discovered, the more we were able to say, "Can you tell us if we're on the right track? Does this sound right? Does this sound wrong?" It was only when we devised this idea of the character that they felt comfortable coming forward. A composite character gave everybody a lot more protection.

Q: Cyber security largely remains a boy's club, with few women in the field. Why did you make the composite character a woman? Were any of the sources women?

A: I'm not going to talk about sources, but I did feel it was important. All of the other voices in the film were men. There are women at the NSA, but the choice of a woman had more to do with the balance of men and women in the film.

Q: The actual Stuxnet code makes an appearance, with pieces incorporated into graphics. What went into that?

A: The code graphics took a lot of time. When you work with a graphics company like that, they always do beautiful work but it has to be tethered and focused to the story. It can't just be

pretty in its own right. Also, we were determined to get it factually right, to make sure that at the right moments we go over the right code.

Q: What about creating the composite character?

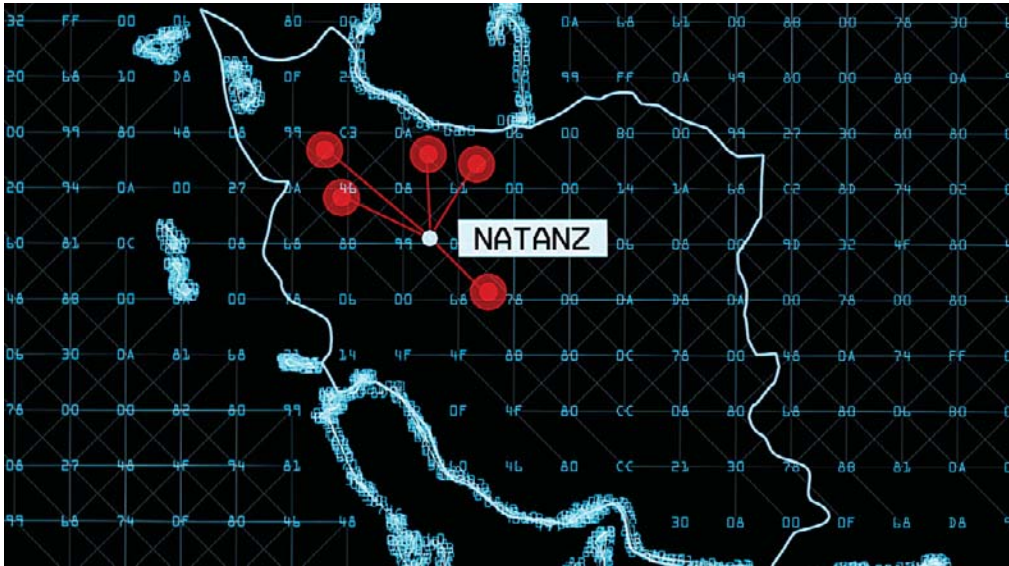
A: Everyone assumed that we wanted a more perfect look. Actually, we wanted something that looked more patterned, particularly as you move around to the side you can see her hair starts to trail off in spectral dots. That was a hard effect to achieve, and in some aspects, something not entirely controllable. And that was kind of what we liked about it.

Q: Was the NSA involved?

A: We had hundreds and hundreds of emails between us. They kept saying, "We'll work something out," but they never worked something out.



FILE PHOTO: This image released by Magnolia Pictures shows a scene from the documentary, "Zero Days." —AP Photos



FACEBOOK LIVE DEATH VIDEOS: SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS ADJUST TO NEW ROLE

LOS ANGELES: Facebook's live video-streaming platform become a major media powerhouse-although not in the way the social giant perhaps may have expected or desired. The ability for anyone with a smartphone to become a live broadcaster has changed the media equation, as gruesome deaths have gone viral on Facebook Live and spread across traditional media. On Wednesday night, Minnesota woman Diamond Reynolds live-streamed video on the social service after her boyfriend, Philando Castile, was shot and killed by police.

That came a day after the killing by police of a man in Baton Rouge, La.-captured on video that was uploaded to Facebook and Instagram. The two deaths touched off nationwide protests over police violence against black citizens and led to what officials said were the racially motivated killings of five white police officers in Dallas Thursday evening; at least one bystander, Michael Kevin Bautista, shared Facebook Live video of the chaos as shooting erupted.

With social outlets providing instantaneous access to newsworthy events, Facebook, Twitter and other Internet companies are having to refocus on how they treat such content-weighting free speech and privacy with questions of when to allow disturbing and violent material to remain on their services and when to remove it. The process of drawing those lines is still in flux, and the real-time nature of live video makes the task even more urgent.

Facebook is trying strike a balance between enabling shared experiences while providing a safe and respectful environment, a com-

pany rep said. "We believe the vast majority of people are coming together to share experiences and moments on Facebook Live," the spokesperson said. "That said, we take our responsibility seriously and we are committed to improving it."

Tech companies like Facebook prefer to portray themselves as open platforms, not media gatekeepers controlling the flow of information. And all Internet companies have set policies about what, generally speaking, is unacceptable for users to post-but those rules are subject to interpretation and judgment.

Related Mark Zuckerberg Addresses Philando Castile Facebook Live Video. With recent events, Facebook's practices regarding what is and isn't allowed is drawing more intense scrutiny. Facebook denied a report Friday by UK tech site the Register that police were responsible for removing Reynolds' video Wednesday night. The live video was unavailable for about an hour, before it was restored with a "warning: graphic video" message. The video dropped offline because of a technical error on Facebook's part, according to the company. As of Friday afternoon, the video had been viewed more than 5 million times.

How are the decisions made about what Facebook's more than 1.6 billion users worldwide are able to see? In this case, it would be helpful if Facebook provided more details about its handling of the video,said Emma Llanso, free expression director at the Washington, DC-based Center for Democracy and Technology. "It's not clear to people if (the Reynolds' video) violates any terms of Facebook's service. I think

leaving it up as a matter of public interest is the right call," Llanso said. "But it points to the difficult questions in this area, because it comes down to definitions and in what context do you understand the content to be acceptable?"

Facebook says it has a clearly outlined policy in its "community standards" section. Among other things, those prohibit content that glorifies or celebrates violence, while disturbing content such as the death of a human being may be OK but will be flagged as "graphic," with video-autoplay disabled and the post made unavailable to users under 18. Facebook says it has a global team dedicated to monitoring requests about content that violate those standards around the clock, and that in the majority of cases responds within 24 hours to such requests. The company also says it has the ability to interrupt a live stream if it violates the policy.

In another area recently, Facebook's roles as information gatekeeper flared into the public spotlight after it was accused of political bias in Trending Topics section to downgrade conservative-leaning stories. The company responded by trying to provide greater transparency into its inner workings: CEO Mark Zuckerberg and other execs met with conservative leaders to discuss the issue and posted an explanation of the process. It also now mandates all employees to under training about identifying political bias as a standard policy.

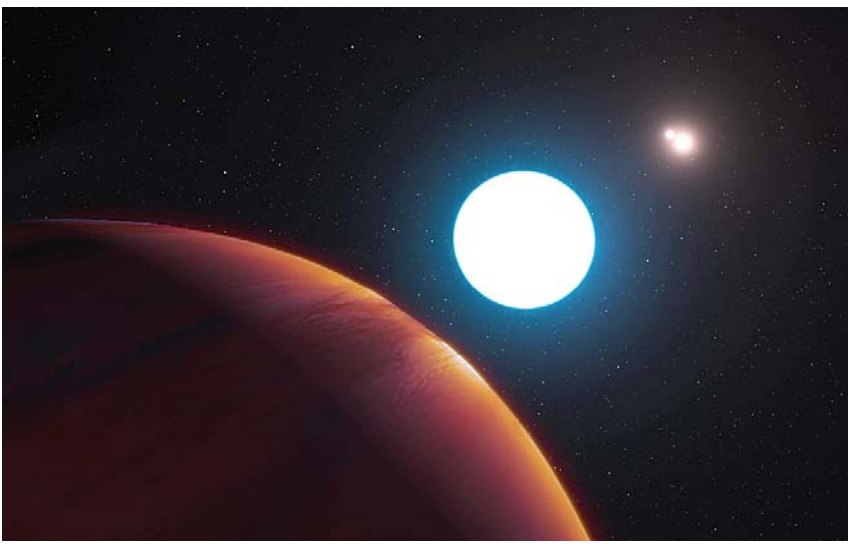
Related Facebook Live Coverage of Falcon Heights Police Shooting Stirs Outrage, Protests for better or

worse, Facebook, as well as Twitter, YouTube and any other company that allows user shared content, must rely on algorithms and individual users flagging material that is inappropriate or illegal. "If you think about the amount of content that's uploaded to these sites, any pre-publication review is just impossible," Llanso said. What's important is for users to have the right to appeal a decision, because mistakes will inevitably happen and content-flagging systems will be subject to abuse, she added.

As a legal matter, Facebook is protected by the First Amendment and has the right to allow or disallow the distribution of content according to its own policies, said David Greene, civil liberties director at the Electronic Frontier Foundation. "Facebook has a near-absolute right to this platform, and it users have a near-absolute right to transmit a live feed," Greene said. He added that the company may have a contractual duty to comply with its terms of service.

In addition, Internet companies are also beholden to copyright laws to remove any infringing content that's posted without authorization. In the case of Diamond Reynolds' video, the fact that she was broadcasting it live was important, Greene said, because if police officers had confiscated her phone the video may have never seen the light of day. "What you're getting with Facebook Live, Periscope and other services is you don't need to be a professional journalist," Greene said. "It's just citizens broadcasting live on the Internet. People seeing and sharing newsworthy information is a good thing."—REUTERS

TRIPLE SUNRISES, SUNSETS AT THIS STRANGE NEW WORLD



FILE PHOTO: This image provided by the European Southern Observatory shows an artist's impression of the triple star system HD 131399 from close to the gas giant planet orbiting in the system. —AP

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: Imagine a planet with triple sunrises and sunsets every day for part of the year, and non-stop daylight at other times. Astronomers revealed such a place Thursday: A strange new world in the Constellation Centaurus that has not one, not two, but three suns. What's more, a year there lasts half a millennium from Earth's perspective.

Discoverer and lead author Kevin Wagner said he's thrilled "to have seen such a beautiful part of nature that nobody else has seen." As amazing as three sunsets and sunrises are, "I think nature will have some other surprises in store for us as we continue exploring," Wagner, a doctoral student at the University of Arizona at Tucson, said via email.

Triple-star systems with detected planets are rare enough; this is believed to be just the fifth such discovery. But the giant gassy world in this one - formally known as Planet HD 131399Ab - has the biggest

known orbit in a multi-star system. Its orbit is double Pluto's - or roughly 550 Earth years. That's how long it takes to orbit its system's brightest star, a super-size sun. The two smaller stars orbit one another and, as a pair, orbit with their big stellar brother.

Planet HD 131399Ab has four times the mass of our own Jupiter. With such a wide orbit and companion stars, scientists would expect a planet like this to be kicked out in a tug of stellar war. Yet that's not the case. During part of the planet's orbit, all three stars are visible on the same day, offering triple sunrises and sunsets and allowing for day and night. For about one-fourth of its year - around 100 to 140 Earth years - there's continuous daylight. That's because as the big sun is rising, the two smaller ones are setting.

"With three suns, the planet will see different weird combinations of sunrises and sunsets," said co-author Daniel Apai, a University of Arizona astronomer. He

added: "This is a system for which I would not want to design a calendar." The astronomers used the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile to spot the planet 320 light-years away. It is one of the few exoplanets - planets outside our own solar system - to be directly imaged.

Most exoplanets are identified by periodic dips in starlight as the planets pass between us and their stars. The team reported the discovery Thursday in the journal *Science*. As for the planet's alphabet-soup label, "I wish we had a better name," Wagner noted. There is an official protocol for naming planets and their surface features.

The International Astronomical Union, in fact, has a relatively new group to handle public naming campaigns. "Informally, we called in 'The Planet,' Apai said in an email. "But with more possible planet candidates in sight, we will have to change this soon." —AP

CHARLIE ROBOT NEW BEST PAL FOR KIDS WITH DIABETES

6,000 CHILDREN WITH TYPE 1 IN NETHERLANDS DIABETES

EDE, Netherlands: Cheeky Ruben is just seven and learning to read. But thanks to his new knee-high buddy Charlie robot he can expertly measure his blood sugar and count carbohydrates in a glass of milk. Such skills could be life-savers for the blonde Dutch boy diagnosed with childhood diabetes just over a year ago.

Just like other kids his age, he enjoys birthday parties, riding his bike or playing video games. But these can all play havoc with his blood sugar levels, and unlike his peers, Ruben has to learn how to navigate such potential minefields while managing a disease he will have all his life. There are roughly some 6,000 children across the Netherlands with Type 1 childhood diabetes. And at least one a year dies from the disease.

Now thanks to a unique collaboration between healthcare professionals, robotics engineers and academics in the Netherlands, Italy, German and Britain, families struggling to learn about the illness and manage it on a daily basis have a new life coach on their side. He's a friendly red-and-white robot called Charlie, with arms and legs, big round eyes and speakers disguised as ears, who can talk and dance.

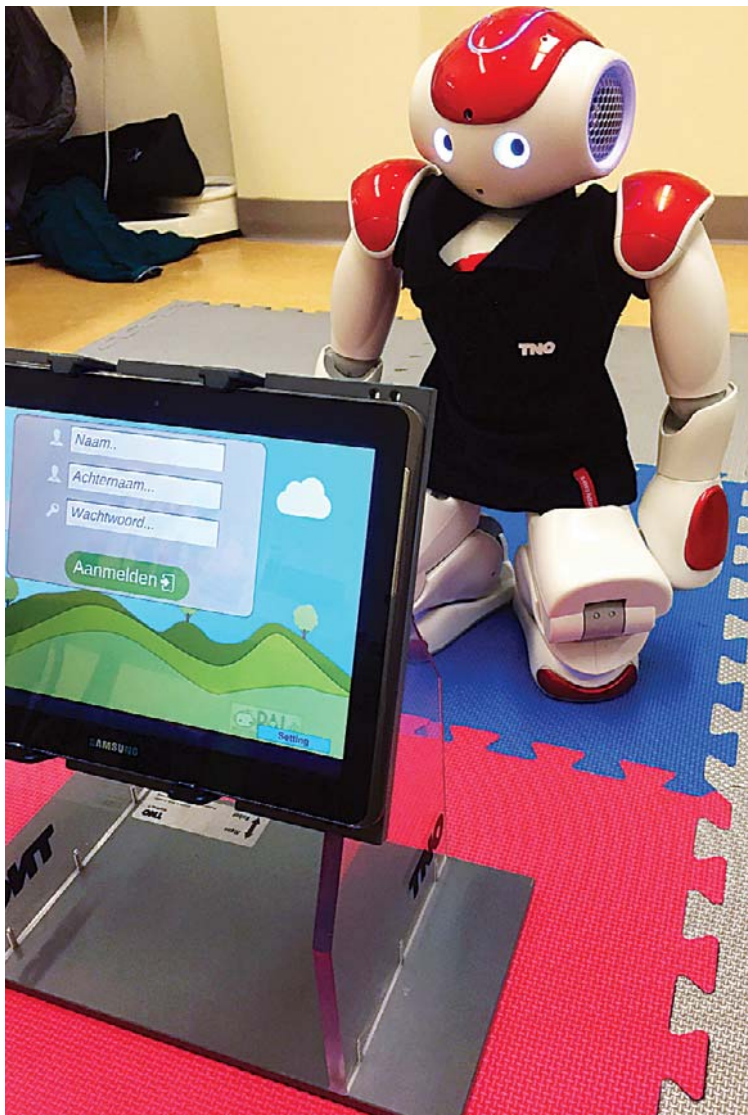
Some 40 Dutch children have so far been involved in the testing-the first phase of a four-year EU-funded project launched in March 2015. Young patients can chat with Charlie during clinic visits-currently two hospitals in The Netherlands and one in Italy are participating. And the kids have access to Charlie's avatar twin whenever they want on their tablets and computers at home.

There's a staggering amount to learn. "A child and a parent with diabetes thinks about diabetes every 10 to 15 minutes a day," said pediatrician Gert Jan van der Burg, medical director at the Gelderse Vallei hospital in the Dutch town of Ede.

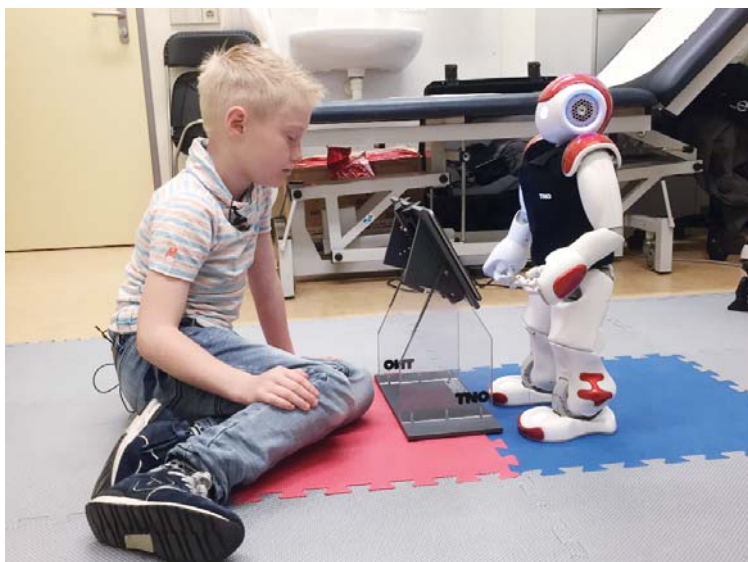
'Coma risk'

In Type 1 diabetes, the pancreas fails to produce the hormone insulin needed to break down sugars in the blood to convert into glucose used for energy. These can then build up to dangerous levels. The only way to control the disease is by regularly taking in insulin either through injections or a pump. Children and parents must figure out injections, blood sugar levels, carbohydrate intake, knowing how much insulin to take. Too much or too little can cause shock, seizures and even coma.

"It's a huge burden and that's why a lot of children with diabetes also have a lot of social problems," Van der Burg told AFP. Parties awash with cake, or trips to kid-friendly fast food places, sports days, even an hour on a



EDE, Netherlands : Charlie Robot, a robot designed in a Dutch-German-Italian-British collaboration to help children with childhood diabetes, waits at the Gelderse Vallei hospital in Ede to play with a young patient.



EDE, Netherlands: Dutch boy Ruben van As, 7, plays with Charlie Robot, which is helping to teach him about managing his diabetes at the Gelderse Vallei hospital in Ede, the Netherlands. —AFP

favorite video game can all send blood sugar levels soaring dangerously too high or too low. "What must you do if you are feeling hypo?" Charlie asks Ruben in one play session, referring to hypoglycemia when blood sugars are too low.

Charlie can talk-in Dutch and Italian at the moment-but the questions are also written out on a tablet in front of the child, with an answer and a line "true or false?" The mini robot is currently aimed at children between the ages of seven-as they can read a little-and 13 to 14. "We've noticed that he is counting his carbohydrates much more," said Ruben's mum, Caroline van As. Although it's faster if she intervenes, she knows that "he has to learn, it's his life".

"We try to live as normal a life as possible, even if we know he could suffer for it the next day." Unlike the more common Type 2 diabetes which develops more often in adults and results from unhealthy lifestyles, the exact cause of Type 1 is unknown. Genetics play a role, but researchers believe there is also an as yet unknown environmental factor, such as possibly a slow acting virus.

The \$4.5 million project called Personal Assistant for a Healthy Lifestyle (PAS) is a collaborative effort between the Dutch Organization for Applied Scientific Research, TNO, and its Italian and German counterparts FCSR and DFKI as well as TU Delft university and Imperial College in London.

'Emotional support'

It aims to develop "a specific new kind of character that supports the children to cope with the disease, to learn what the disease is, to learn what the effects are of exercising, or food for example," said senior research scientist Mark Neerinx, from TU Delft. For children acutely aware they are different from others, Charlie also provides "social support, that helps them to express their feelings also when they feel bad... they can tell the robot and share some experiences".

Charlie builds up a profile of each child, so he gets to know them and their likes and dislikes. "Charlie's nice, he ask questions about me. I like to play with him, he is helping me learning things about diabetes," said 10-year-old Sofiye Boyuksimsek, diagnosed two years ago.

Researchers are now expanding the trials to better assess the needs of children and parents, as well as improving Charlie's voice and making his interactions more conversational. "It's not only that they want to learn about the diabetes. A little small talk with the robot is already very valuable," added TNO researcher Olivier Blanson Henkemans. —AFP



PHOENIX: In this file photo, a sign, in direct sunlight, indicates 120 degrees, in Phoenix. —AP

HOT, WET AND WILD 2016 WEATHER AS US RECORDS WARMEST JUNE

WASHINGTON: America's warm, wild and costly weather broke another record with the hottest June, federal meteorologists say. And if that's not enough, they calculated that 2016 is flirting with the US record for most billion-dollar weather disasters. The month's average temperature in the Lower 48 states was 71.8 degrees, 3.3 degrees above normal, surpassing the Dust Bowl record set in 1933 by a couple tenths of a degree, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reported Thursday.

Every state in the nation was warmer than normal in June, with Utah and Arizona having their hottest Junes. "2016 has been hot, wet and wild for the contiguous US," NOAA climate scientist Jake Crouch said Thursday. The nation had its third hottest first half of the year. June's record heat is from a combination of natural variability and long-term global warming, Crouch said. Records go back to 1895. But there's been a wet and wild aspect of the year, too.

So far, NOAA calculates that there have

been eight billion-dollar weather disasters in the first half of this year, not counting the West Virginia flooding, which is still being calculated. They've been a combination of severe storms with tornadoes and heavy rains and downpours that cause damaging flooding. Seven of those have hit Texas. NOAA calculates billion-dollar disasters, adjusting for inflation, to show trends in the most extreme and damaging weather.

Since 1980, the US has averaged five billion-dollar disasters a year, but in the last five years the country has averaged nearly 11 a year. There were eight in 2015. The record is 16 different billion-dollar disasters in 2011. "The main lesson is that it shows us how vulnerable we are to climate change," Texas A&M climate scientist Andrew Dessler said in an email. "People frequently think that, 'Oh, we'll just adapt to climate change.' But we're learning that it's going to be a lot harder than people realize to do that. How do you adapt to the amount of rain that West Virginia got?" —AP

STUDY OF PROMISING CANCER THERAPY HALTED DUE TO DEATHS

WASHINGTON: A study of an experimental treatment for leukemia was abruptly halted this week following two patient deaths, raising questions about a closely-watched approach to cancer that involves reprogramming cells to seek and destroy the disease. The Food and Drug Administration suspended the Juno Therapeutics trial Wednesday, after the company reported that two patients on its most advanced treatment died from swelling of the brain.

A similar death was reported in May though both the FDA and Juno concluded there were "compounding factors," company executives said in a Thursday conference call. Seattle-based Juno blamed the two recent deaths on the addition of a second chemotherapy drug to its pre-treatment regimen, rather than on the company's new therapy. The FDA is expected to let the study of the drug continue without the additional chemotherapy drug.

Juno's initial studies used only one chemotherapy drug to prime the immune system to work with the experimental therapy. But after adding a second drug, fludarabine, doctors saw an increase in "severe neurotoxicity," said CEO Hans Bishop. "The last week has been difficult and humbling for everyone involved, in particular, of course, the physicians and the patients' families," said Bishop. Experts said the researchers are taking the right approach by stopping the study and proceeding with caution. But they added that such setbacks are part of the research process.

"This sort of thing is incredibly common in new drug development. It's unfortunate, but I don't know how you avoid it," said Dr Otis Brawley, chief

medical officer for the American Cancer Society. Juno's approach is part of a promising, but still unproven, approach that reengineers patients' immune systems to attack cancer. The company filters patients' blood to remove white blood cells called T-cells and genetically alters them in the lab so they can target cancer cells. They then return the modified cells to the patient.

One of study's researchers says that more than 300 patients have been treated with similar therapies in the US, without reports of brain swelling. "These are relatively rare events, so I don't think it changes the fundamental promise or the long-term plan here," said Dr Jae Park of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, who is one of several physicians conducting the trial. The company's therapy, known only as JCAR015, is in mid-stage testing, a make-or-break phase of development that usually focuses on effectiveness.

Twenty patients are now enrolled in the trial and the company aims to eventually enroll 90 patients. The company said it will seek FDA permission this week to continue the study without fludarabine. For now, the trial is on hold until the FDA signs off on new testing protocols, patient disclosure forms and other elements of the trial. Juno said that the FDA has agreed to review those materials on an accelerated timetable.

Juno is studying several similar gene-altering immunotherapy's for various forms of leukemia and expects its first approval in early 2018. Other companies in the field include Novartis and Kite Pharma. Juno shares plunged more than 30 percent in trading Friday to close at \$27.81. —AP

MOTHER'S DNA MAY AFFECT AGEING: STUDY

PARIS: A tiny repository of DNA inherited only from one's mother may be key for healthy ageing, according to researchers who swapped out mouse genes to prove the point. For a study published Wednesday, the team created two sets of lab mice identical but for their mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) — and found that one group was much healthier and more sprightly in old age.

"The way we age might be determined long before the ageing process starts and the first signs appear," said a statement from the Spanish National Center for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC) in Madrid, whose scientists took part in the study. Previous research had suggested that mtDNA variants could yield different health impacts, "but the issue remained very controversial due to contradictory observations," study leader Jose Antonio Enriquez told AFP.

The new findings, however, "definitively demonstrate" that this is true, he said. Every cell in the human body holds about 20,000-25,000 genes, almost all of them in the nucleus-so-called nuclear DNA. But 37 others reside in tiny

structures called mitochondria, which turn sugar and oxygen into energy and power our cells. While nuclear DNA is transferred to offspring by both parents, mtDNA is inherited from the mother alone.

Sometimes, genetic mutations can cause mitochondria to malfunction, resulting in organ failure and even death. Both strains of mtDNA used in the study were healthy, with only a 0.5-percent difference in genetic coding. All the rodents were bred to have the same nuclear DNA.

'Mind-boggling'

Mice in one group "were ageing healthier and had a median life span longer than" the other, Enriquez explained by email. Lab mice have a life expectancy of just over two years. Comparing a specimen from each test group at the age of two, the researchers remarked that one showed "evident signs of superior health".

It has "more abundant and more lustrous fur," they noted, "is more robust, has more muscular mass, and is more active." Liver function was

also better. "Regarding the central fact that different mtDNA variants may contribute to the natural differences between individuals, we don't see any reason why this would be different in humans," said Enriquez.

Experts not involved in the study called the results surprising. Few would have expected that mixing and matching mtDNA would have such an obvious effect. And while the implications for human health remain unclear, commentators said the results may be important for the field of "pronuclear transfer"—a technique for producing embryos free of mitochondrial diseases carried by their mothers.

The work "is an important contribution to the necessary and continuing debate concerning mtDNA replacement," said Robert Lightowlers, director of the Institute for Cell and Molecular Biosciences at Newcastle University. Stem cell researcher Dusko Ilic of King's College London described the results as "fascinating and mind-boggling," though further study must determine whether they could be replicated in humans. —AFP



GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL CELEBRATES EID AL FITR 'CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CELEBRATES EID AL FITR WITH PATIENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD'

KUWAIT: This year Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children (GOSH) in London chose to celebrate Eid al Fitr with its patients, families and staff by hosting a party and giving gifts to the children on their international patients wards. "There's a fantastic atmosphere here," A Kuwaiti mother commented, "My daughter attended the hospital Eid party; she was very excited and had a lovely time."

GOSH held a party to celebrate Eid al Fitr with all the families, patients and staff at the hospital. A reading was given and a

local Muslim all-girls school choir performed for the party. Later a range of hot food and deserts were provided, including lamb machbous, batataharra and cold mezze. A henna artist, arts and crafts and a photo booth were also enjoyed by guests and the activities were well received by all.

Nurses and staff were delighted to give out presents to the children in their care. The presents were well received by the children and the nurses were especially happy to share in such a happy

occasion with their patients and families. Throughout Ramadan a coloring competition was held for patients and siblings at the hospital, and the two winning pieces of art were used to promote the party on posters and invitations around the hospital. The winners were also given a prize for their creative pieces of art.

Commenting on the Eid celebrations, Trevor Clarke, Director of the International Division at GOSH said: 'We are once again happy to be able to celebrate the occasion of Eid with our

patients, their families and our staff. It is always difficult to be away from home at such a happy time but we hope that getting together to mark Eid has brought enjoyment to all those who came to the celebrations at the hospital.'

Great Ormond Street Hospital in London is recognized as one of the few truly world-class hospitals for children. As a global leader, GOSH has top clinical and research experts working every day to find new and better ways to treat children. While breakthroughs and medical

expertise are essential to the treatment of patients.

GOSH also places great emphasis on the support and care provided for children by nurturing an open and supportive atmosphere, ensuring that parents and patients are well informed and closely involved in the treatment process. Children receive the highest standards of care and attention from the expert team of medical and support staff during their stay at GOSH, and are always treated with respect, trust, concern and openness.



FLINT, Michigan: In this file photo, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing looking into the circumstances surrounding high levels of lead found in many residents' tap water in Flint, Michigan. —AP

RESEARCHERS MOVE FORWARD ON STUDY ON FLINT WATER, HEALTH

FLINT, Michigan: A group led by Wayne State University researchers is moving forward on efforts to evaluate possible links between changes in the water system in Flint, Michigan, and public health. The Flint Area Community Health and Environment Partnership announced this week it's begun implementing an 18-month plan to address the area's risk for Legionnaires' disease. Study plans were announced earlier this year in the wake of a Legionnaires' disease outbreak.

This week, officials confirmed the first case of Legionnaires' disease this year in Genesee County, which includes Flint. At least 91 Legionnaires' cases, including 12 deaths, were detected over a 17-month period in the Flint area between 2014 and 2015. Some experts have linked the outbreak to Flint's lead-tainted water crisis after the city switched to Flint River water in 2014.—AP

NEW HOMES FOUND FOR 4 DOZEN NEEDY GOATS

METHUEN, Massachusetts: It didn't take much goading to find new homes for more than four dozen needy goats. An animal rescue farm in Massachusetts says all 46 goats it acquired in mid-May from an owner overwhelmed by his rapidly growing herd have been adopted. The MSPCA-Nevis Farm in Methuen (mih-THOO'-uhn) said Friday that an additional five kids born since May also have been claimed. Most of the goats - an assortment of alpine, pygmy and angora mixes - are already in their new homes.

Farm barn manager Gia Barss says the goats recovered from the parasitic infections and other ailments they had when their former owner voluntarily turned them over. —AP

ARIZONA IS SITE OF LARGEST US MEASLES OUTBREAK

TUCSON, Arizona: Health officials in Arizona say the largest current measles outbreak in the United States is in part because some workers at a federal immigration detention center refuse to get vaccinated. Authorities have confirmed 22 measles cases in Arizona since late May. They all stem from the Eloy Detention Center, an Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility managed by the private Corrections Corporation of America.

Pinal County health director Thomas Schryer said the outbreak likely began with a migrant but that detainees have since been vaccinated. Convincing employees to get vaccinated or show proof of immunity has proven much tougher, he said. "And so they're actually the ones that are passing along the measles among each other and then going out into the community," Schryer said. The facility includes about 350 CCA employees and an unknown number of ICE staffers, although Schryer estimates it's about 100. ICE doesn't publicly release staffing levels, nor does it require employees to be immunized. There are currently over 1,200 detainees being held at the facility.

Yasmeen Pitts O'Keefe, an ICE spokeswoman, said the agency is working closely with health officials to monitor detainees and employees and that it instituted several measures to prevent the disease from spreading more, including providing immunizations, referring staffers to nearby clinics, handing out flyers and pamphlets on the dangers of measles and providing masks and gloves.

'Vaccines'

CCA, the Tennessee-based corporation that operates the facility, says most of its staffers have been vaccinated or shown proof of immunity. Those who have not are required to wear surgical masks or stay home. Arizona



ARIZONA: In this file photo, a sign warns of the dangers of measles in the reception area of a pediatrician's office in Scottsdale, Arizona. —AP

Department of Health Services Director Cara Christ says the facility has been more responsive in the past few days and that a large number of CCA employees were immunized late last week. "Once they understand how important it is and the outcomes it can have on the community, they tend to cooperate. So we hope to get a cooperative response from ICE," Christ said.

Measles is highly contagious and preventable through vaccines. It was eradicated in the US in 2000. But the past couple of years have seen new cases in large part because of unfounded fears that the vaccination causes autism in children, Schryer said. The symptoms are usually mild but can be deadly in babies, who cannot be immunized until they're a year old. Officials last year said that a massive measles outbreak that sprouted at Disneyland in California and spread to several other states

was largely fueled by parents refusing to vaccinate children.

In Arizona, health officials are providing free vaccines, sending physicians to the detention center and providing educational outreach to staffers in an effort to contain the measles spread. Schryer said officials were considering asking the Arizona governor to declare a state of emergency, although Christ said that might not be necessary. Efforts to encourage immunization have been met with resistance in part because some people underestimate the danger of measles, Schryer said. One staffer spent about four days hospitalized after coming down with severe symptoms, he said. "To trigger a four-day stay in the hospitals require that you be pretty darn sick. It's not really something to play with, and maybe they just underestimated the seriousness of it," Schryer said.—AP

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Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
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ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER CONDUCTED ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING FOR 2015-16

American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter is a premier voluntary, non-profit making Health, Safety and Environmental organization, which strives to provide professional guidance, training, consultancy and resources to the industrial and social sectors in the region. ASSE Kuwait Chapter conducted Annual General Body Meeting for the year 2015-16 on 21st June 2016 at Hotel Safir, Fintas. More than 130 members of the Chapter attended the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, different committees of the chapter displayed their booths on the activities carried out by their team in their tenure and quiz competitions were held and members were rewarded with gifts. In addition, Shauiba Industrial Medical Centre (SIMC) conducted a Health check-up for the members. During this health check-up, tests like BMI, Glucose level, BP and Lung function were conducted.

Fadel Al Ali Chairman of the ASSE Kuwait Chapter in his opening speech extolled the activities performed by the office bearers of 2105-16 under the leadership of the President G Sampath Reddy and wished successful year for the next team for new term. Sampath Reddy, President ASSE KC, in his presidential address highlighted the achievement by the

chapter to conduct two major events HSSE Professional Development Conference and GCC HSE Excellence award in one-year term.

He mentioned that all the chapter programs were focused towards chapter objectives like professional development of the members, chapter growth and protecting people, property and environment in the region. He stated that chapter was able to implement all its planned activities successfully only with the unconditional voluntary support of the ASSE Executive committee members.

He conveyed his appreciation to the chapter Elected members, Executive Committee, Advisory Committee, Advisory Board, Chairman, sponsors, ASSE US president, Global region Vice President and the chapter members for the efforts, support and encouragement for all the activities during the year. Reddy also conveyed gratitude to CEO's and HSE Leaders of various state owned & private sector organizations and Governmental agencies of the State of Kuwait. He declared that the chapter year 2015-16 will be remembered and as one of the successful year in the chapter history.

Jignesh Shah, Chapter Secretary, appreciated the efforts of the Committees. He stated that during this chapter term many new initiatives were taken and gave the brief summary

of the activities conducted during the year in brief by highlighting the major activities, achievements and awards received during the term. The Chief Guest for the program Ali Al-Kshawhe, Manager (HSE) of Kuwait National Petroleum Company applauded the Kuwait Chapter activities and assured KNPC's support towards chapter activities.

The Heads of the chapter committees Velichetty Babu (Training Committee), Sunil Sadanand (Technical Events Committee), Dr Shaikha Al Fajjam (WISE Committee), Mohammed Alamgir (Environment & Health Committee), Sony Thomas (Publication Committee), Safdar Ali Khan (Outreach Committee), Ramu Muvvala (Membership Retention), Jhaid Thakor (Membership Drive), Ashok Lenka (Strategic Planning) and Najet Al Ghareeb (Student & Govt Affairs Committee) presented in brief on their respective committees annual activities.

Sanjay Jaiswal, Chapter Treasurer presented the financial report for the chapter with the revenue and expenditure for the year 2015-16. As a token of gratitude for the efforts during the year, the chapter Chairman Fadel Al-Ali presented the elected core committee members, committee heads, subcommittee members and Advisory Committee members with mementos and letter of appreciation.



In addition the Executive committee also recognized the members who have completed 15 years & 10 years membership with ASSE Kuwait logo lapel pins for their continuous support to the chapter. Muhammad Alamgir, Elected Vice President of ASSE Kuwait Chapter for the year 2016-17 introduced the elected members for the year 2016-17, along with the

nominated head of committees and Advisory Committee Members. In the closing ceremony, Dinesh Dutta, Chapter Vice President thanked all the members for their participation and wished the new team a successful year ahead.



GUST MEN'S SOCCER TEAM WINS 3RD PLACE AT BELGRADE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY SPORTS TOURNAMENT

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) men's and women's soccer teams attended the 9th annual Belgrade International University Sports Tournament in Belgrade, Serbia. The tournament brought together different Universities from across Europe, Russia, and the Middle East to compete whilst experiencing different cultures and forge international friendships. The tournament itself was attended by over 1000 students from DIF, PEP and FON Universities of Serbia, GUST of Kuwait, Qatar University, AUB, LAU and USEK of Lebanon, Sabanci University of Turkey, CTU of the Czech Republic, ZESM of Croatia.

One of the standout teams of Men's Football competition during the tournament was the GUST men's team that won 3rd place. Representatives of the Kuwaiti Embassy also attended matches to see the men's soccer team in action. Tournament Organizer, Sonja Milicevic, said, "In a great football competition held over 3 days, the GUST men's football team was an absolute surprise. They played their football like warriors and fought like Spartans with only luck standing between them and the gold

medal. The teams spent 7 days in Belgrade. Upon their arrival, they started training for the tournament, registered, and had a comprehensive tour of Belgrade. On May 19th-20th the GUST men and women's teams played against their adversaries. Finally, on the last day was the semi-final, where GUST's men's team won 3rd place.

Craig Drennan, Athletics Director at GUST, said, "Our result was a credit to the team's dedication, persistence and guidance of coach Mohammed Al Senusi and captain Mubarak Al Hajiri. GUST striker Ali Al Bassam showed his class and was also the top scorer in the tournament with 5 goals in 4 matches, while Captain Mubarak Al Hajiri was awarded GUST MVP for his consistent, outstanding performances."

The women's soccer team also garnered praise and were regarded as having the best sporting behavior of the tournament. BEST tournaments, occur every year in Belgrade, and has been occurring for 9 years now. GUST has been invited to participate in next year's tournament, which coincides with the organization's ten year anniversary.

YOUTH CONFERENCE OF ST PAUL'S CSI CONGREGATION



The Youth Conference of St. Paul's CSI congregation Ahmadi was held on 7th July. Rev John Alexander took the class based on the theme. "If life to be successful". Also advocate Thomas Stephen explained about "Pravasiyum Pothuniyamangalum." Rev C C Sabu delivered the presidential address. The felicitation was rendered by K P Koshy, Madhan George, Liby Abraham, and Sijinol Ajan.



AWAMI VOLUNTEER LEAGUE MEET ON EID REUNION

Bangladesh Awami Volunteer League Kuwait chapter met on Eid reunion on Thursday 7th July at Gulshan hotel in Kuwait city. The program was presided Over by Mohammed Masud Karim President of Awami Volunteer League Kuwait. It was brilliantly presented by Belal Uddin acting General Secretary of Awami Volunteer League Kuwait. Gallant freedom fighter Engineer Abdur Rob chief advisor of Awami Volunteer League Kuwait was the chief guest at the program. Among the Special guests were Abdul Khalek Chowdhury, Awami League Leader Ashraq Ali Ferdous, Ansar Al Hawladar, Emam Uddin Badal,

Convenor of Awami jubo League Kuwait, Moynul Islam president of Projonmo League Kuwait, Poet Salim Reza General Secretary of Probashi Sahitta Porisad Kuwait. Mohammed Ismail project manager of Aal Abraq company. The program started with recitation of verses from Holy Quran Recited by shahsdad hossain, Awami Volunteer Leagues vice-president Mohammed Yousuf, Abu Taher, Jahangir Miah, Abdul Mabud, joint Secretary Mohammed Shahadat, Organizing Secretary Anisul Hoque Sumon, Ashrafal Azam Mohobbot, Jakir Hossain, Mohammed Shahin Alam, delivered their speech at the functions.





The Scientific Center received visitors during Eid by launching a new film on the giant A-Max screen. Deputy Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Scientific Center Mijbel Suleim Al-Mutawa said the center presents one of the most recent movies the “Humpback Whale”, in 3D, which will inspire and fascinate its viewers, in those marine mumbles that reach 17 meters in length and 50 tons in weight.



MCDONALD'S TAKES THE SPICE-O-METER A NOTCH HIGHER

McDonald's Kuwait announced the launch of the Jalapeno Cheese Balls, the latest mouth-watering addition to its menu. The new bite sized Jalapeno crispy cheese balls appetizer, will be available in all stores starting July 6th, 2016 and until stock lasts. Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at McDonald's Kuwait commented: "Our customers in the region have exceptionally discerning palates; research shows that bolder flavor profiles are extremely popular in the Middle East. We're following a trend our customers are seeking with our new Jalapeno Cheese Balls, which are bound to be a hit this summer. McDonald's is always working on evolving the menu offerings to meet the customers' different lifestyles choices and we look forward to our customers trying our new creation."





03:25 Speed Of Life
04:15 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
05:49 Australia Doesn't Just Want To Kill You
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 River Monsters
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 River Monsters
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Wildest Africa
17:25 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
18:20 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
18:45 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Wildest Africa
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
22:25 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters (Best Of Series 1-5)
00:45 Spawn Of Jaws: The Birth
01:40 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars



03:20 Bedlam
04:10 Doctors
04:40 Eastenders
05:10 Doctor Who
06:00 Eastenders
06:30 Eastenders
07:00 Eastenders
07:30 Doctors
08:00 Doctors
08:30 Father Brown
09:15 Upstairs Downstairs
10:10 Doctor Who
11:00 Doctors
11:30 Eastenders
12:00 Father Brown
12:45 Upstairs Downstairs
13:40 Doctor Who
14:30 Doctors
15:00 Eastenders
15:35 Father Brown
16:25 Upstairs Downstairs
17:20 Doctor Who
18:15 Casualty
19:10 Father Brown
20:00 The Living And The Dead
21:00 The Living And The Dead
22:00 Ripper Street
22:55 Bedlam
23:45 Casualty
00:35 The Living And The Dead
01:30 The Living And The Dead
02:25 Ripper Street



03:40 Extreme Collectors
04:05 Storage Wars Canada
04:30 Storage Hunters UK
05:00 How Things Work
06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
06:50 Junkyard Empire
07:40 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
08:30 Extreme Collectors
08:55 Storage Wars Canada
09:20 Storage Hunters UK
09:45 How Things Work
10:35 Fast N' Loud
11:25 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
12:15 Street Outlaws
13:05 Extreme Collectors
13:30 Storage Wars Canada
13:55 Storage Hunters UK
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 Junkyard Empire
16:00 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
16:50 How Things Work
17:40 Gold Divers
18:30 Pacific Warriors
19:20 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Storage Hunters UK
21:00 Gold Divers
21:50 Pacific Warriors
22:40 Outback Truckers
23:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
00:20 Junkyard Empire
01:10 Gold Divers



03:00 Dirty Jobs
03:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
04:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
05:30 Invent It Rich
06:20 How It's Made
07:00 Doki
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 My Cat From Hell
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 My Cat From Hell
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 Doki
16:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
17:00 Welcome To Rio
17:50 Kings Of The Wild
18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
21:10 Welcome To Rio
22:00 Kings Of The Wild
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Ultimate Survival
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Welcome To Rio



03:00 I Am Homicide
03:48 Beauty Queen Murders
07:00 Deadly Devotion
10:20 Love The Way You Lie
11:10 Murder Comes To Town
12:00 Tabloid
15:20 Love The Way You Lie
16:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
17:00 Nowhere To Hide
20:20 Love The Way You Lie
21:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
22:00 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
22:50 Vanity Fair Confidential
23:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
00:30 Redrum
01:20 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
02:10 Vanity Fair Confidential



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Sofa 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
09:25 Liv And Maddie
10:15 Austin & Ally
10:40 Jessie
11:55 Girl Meets World
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Shake It Up
13:35 Jessie
14:25 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
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopedidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopedidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopedidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopedidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofa 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
13:55 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 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopedidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopedidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopedidoo
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 Saving The People Who Save People
09:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
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 Saving The People Who Save People
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: Bionic Island
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:40 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: Bionic Island
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
21:30 Pickle And Peanut
21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



03:00 Mystery Diners
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 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
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Man v Food
20:30 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
21:00 Restaurant Takeover
22:00 Mystery Diners
22:30 Mystery Diners
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Restaurant Takeover
02:00 Mystery Diners



03:25 It's Not Rocket Science
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 It's Not Rocket Science
08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40 The Chase
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 Together
17:00 Tracey Ullman's Show
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 Together
21:00 Tracey Ullman's Show
21:25 Don't Tell The Bride
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:10 The Chase
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries



03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 The Loud House
08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Harvey Beaks
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Get Blake
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School

15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 The Loud House
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 Harvey Beaks
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 The Loud House
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 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 Mad Love
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 Mad Love
14:30 The Last Man On Earth
15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
15:30 Dr. Ken
16:00 Modern Family
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Living With Fran
18:30 Mad Love
19:00 The Last Man On Earth
19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
20:00 Comedians
20:30 Comedians
21:00 Dr. Ken
21:30 Modern Family
22:00 Ballers
22:30 Man Seeking Woman
23:00 Life In Pieces
00:00 Comedians
00:30 Dr. Ken
01:00 Modern Family
01:30 Ballers
02:00 Man Seeking Woman
02:30 Life In Pieces



03:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
04:00 Nothing Left Unsaid
06:00 Dana Carvey: Squatting Monkeys Tell No Lies
07:00 Boycott
09:00 Introducing Dorothy Dandridge
11:00 Hello Ladies: The Movie
12:30 Public Speaking
14:00 Bette Midler: The Showgirl Must Go On
15:30 Hello Ladies: The Movie
17:00 Nothing Left Unsaid
19:00 The Wire
20:00 John Adams
21:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
21:30 Ballers
22:00 The Night Of
23:30 How To Make It In America
00:00 The Wire
01:00 John Adams
02:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
02:30 Ballers



03:00 Damien
04:00 Bones
05:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
07:00 Rosewood
08:00 The Whispers
09:00 Code Black
10:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
11:00 Rosewood
12:00 The Whispers
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show



ARMAGEDDON ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD



18:00 The Whispers
19:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
21:00 Stitches
22:00 Code Black
23:00 Better Call Saul
00:00 Rosewood
01:00 Stitches
02:00 Code Black



03:30 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies
06:30 The Bourne Legacy
09:00 Dracula Untold
11:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
12:30 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
14:30 The Bourne Legacy
17:00 Armageddon
20:00 Robot Overlords
22:00 Kiss The Girls
00:00 The Quiet Ones
02:00 Snakehead Swamp



04:00 The Trip To Italy
06:00 Chef
08:00 Green Card
10:00 The Trip To Italy
12:00 Chef
14:00 Bubble Boy
16:00 Green Card
18:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
20:00 Lost In The Cloud
22:00 Talladega Nights
00:00 A Million Ways To Die In The West
02:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!



03:00 Dinosaur
05:00 101 Dalmatians
07:00 Penguins Of Madagascar
09:00 A Bug's Life
11:00 102 Dalmatians
13:00 Paranorman
15:00 Finding Nemo
17:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
19:00 Mr. Magoo
21:00 A Far Off Place
23:00 Herbie Fully Loaded
01:00 Mr. Magoo



03:00 Capital
05:00 Atlas Shrugged Part 2: The Strike
07:00 Belle
09:00 Breathe In
11:00 Middle Of Nowhere
13:00 United Passions
15:00 The Citizen
17:00 Breathe In
19:00 The Mirror Has Two Faces
21:00 Prefontaine

23:00 Out Of The Furnace
01:00 The Citizen



04:30 Mortdecai
06:15 Interstellar
09:00 Into The Woods
11:15 Jupiter Ascending
13:30 From Up On Poppy Hill
15:15 Paddington
17:00 Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb
18:45 The Longest Ride
21:00 Playing It Cool
22:45 Gone Girl
01:30 Love & Mercy



04:30 Blackie And Kanuto
06:00 Dixie And The Zombie Rebellion
08:00 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic
10:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
11:30 Snow Queen
13:00 Saving Santa
14:30 Marco Macaco
16:00 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
18:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
20:00 Moomins And The Comet Chase
22:00 Marco Macaco
23:30 The Olsen Gang In Deep Trouble
01:15 Ghatothkach - Master Of Magic



04:15 Ghostbusters
06:15 Ghostbusters II
08:15 Dragonheart 3: The Sorcerer's Curse
10:00 Dragonheart 3: The Sorcerer's Curse

12:00 Ghostbusters
14:00 Ghostbusters II
16:00 Dragonheart 3: The Sorcerer's Curse
17:45 Avengers: Age Of Ultron
20:15 The Throwaways
22:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
00:00 Fifty Shades Of Grey
02:15 Avengers: Age Of Ultron



03:30 Before And After
05:30 Fright Night
07:30 Surrogates
09:00 Finding Neverland
10:45 Teaching Mrs. Tingle
12:30 Con Air
14:30 Confessions Of A Shopaholic
16:30 Hope Springs
18:00 The Village
20:00 Unbreakable
22:00 House Of DVF
00:30 Stalky & Hutch
02:15 All's Faire In Love



03:00 The Bridge
04:00 House Of DVF
05:00 Style By Jury
05:30 Style By Jury
06:00 The Simpsons
07:00 Bones
08:00 American Idol
10:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
11:00 The Bridge
12:00 House Of DVF
13:00 Style By Jury
13:30 Style By Jury
14:00 The Simpsons
15:00 Bones
16:00 American Idol
18:00 Grey's Anatomy
21:00 Cougar Town
22:00 The Simpsons
23:00 Bones
00:00 American Idol
02:00 Grey's Anatomy



03:20 Miss Firecracker
05:00 First Position
06:35 Movie Talk
07:00 Iconoclasts
08:00 Nick Nolte: No Exit
09:15 The Journey
10:55 Look, Stranger
12:15 Kill The Poor
13:45 The Matador
15:00 Iconoclasts
16:00 Writers' Room
16:30 Discovering-Hamlet
17:20 Look, Stranger
18:40 The Journey
20:20 Out There
22:00 Killing Joke: Death/Resurrection Show
00:30 The Off Hours
02:00 Restoration
TLC HD
03:15 Your Style In His Hands
04:00 Ugly House To Lovely House
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Little People, Big World
05:35 Cake Boss
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Shopping Is My Life
07:15 Toddlers & Tiaras
08:05 Fat Chance
08:55 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
09:45 Little People, Big World
10:10 Little People, Big World
10:35 Jon & Kate Plus 8
11:25 Cake Boss
11:50 Ugly House To Lovely House
12:40 Shopping Is My Life
13:30 Say Yes To The Dress, Åi



AVENGERS- AGE OF ULTRON ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD

CLASSIFIEDS



Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Arrival Flights on Monday 11/7/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 11/7/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	KAC	618	Doha	18:55
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	KAC	104	London	19:00
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	MSR	618	Alexandria	20:30
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
KKK	6501	Istanbul	06:00	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	174	Munich	21:00
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
JZR	563	Sohag	06:55	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	BBC	143	Dhaka	22:40
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	08:20	RBG	555	Alexandria	23:15
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00				
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
QTR	1070	Amman	09:25	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JAV	621	Amman	09:25	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
CCE	345	Sohag	10:00	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	JZR	562	Sohag	00:30
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	FDK	804	Damascus	01:35
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
FEG	953	Asyut	12:55	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	KAC	417	Manila	03:55
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	RJA	645	Amman	03:55
KAC	672	Dubai	14:00	MSC	502	Alexandria	03:55
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
KAC	742	Dammam	14:55	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
OMA	645	Muscat	15:10	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
UAE	857	Dubai	15:45	FEG	954	Asyut	06:00
NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
RJA	640	Amman	16:00	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
FDB	051	Dubai	16:10	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
QTR	1072	Doha	16:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
JZR	535	Cairo	16:20	JZR	240	Amman	06:55
JZR	257	Beirut	16:25	KKK	6502	Istanbul	07:00
KAC	562	Amman	16:55	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
KAC	118	New York	17:00	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
SAW	705	Damascus	17:05	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15	BAW	156	London	08:25
GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	KAC	173	Munich	08:35
JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
SYR	341	Damascus	18:00	KAC	671	Dubai	09:15
JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:40
KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
				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	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohamme Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhazeem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayooobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gupare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam	23845955
Bern University	
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid	
MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC	
Assistant Professor Of Medicine	
Head, Division of Cardiology	
Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib	2611555-2622555
MD, PH.D, FACC	
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

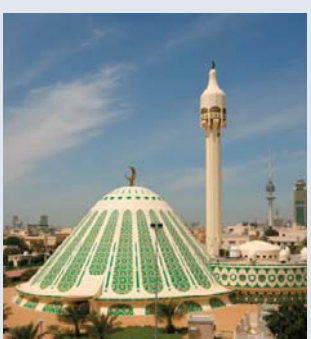
ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation available
One big room available in a
two bedroom flat in
Mahbulah for a decent lady
or bachelor. Please contact
66901533 or 55891657
10-7-2016

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:23
Shorook	04:56
Duhr:	11:53
Asr:	15:28
Maghrib:	18:50
Isha:	20:21



INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Guatemala	00502
Albania	00355	Guinea	00224
Algeria	00213	Guyana	00592
Andorra	00376	Haiti	00509
Angola	00244	Holland (Netherlands)	0031
Anguilla	001264	Honduras	00504
Antiga	001268	Hong Kong	00852
Argentina	0054	Hungary	0036
Armenia	00374	Ibiza (Spain)	0034
Australia	0061	Iceland	00354
Austria	0043	India	0091
Azerbaijan	00994	Indian Ocean	00873
Bahamas	001242	Indonesia	0062
Bahrain	00973	Iran	0098
Bangladesh	00880	Iraq	00964
Barbados	001246	Ireland	00353
Belarus	00375	Italy	0039
Belgium	0032	Ivory Coast	00225
Belize	00501	Jamaica	001876
Benin	00229	Japan	0081
Bermuda	001441	Jordan	00962
Bhutan	00975	Kazakhstan	007
Bolivia	00591	Kenya	00254
Bosnia	00387	Kiribati	00686
Botswana	00267	Kuwait	00965
Brazil	0055	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Brunei	00673	Laos	00856
Bulgaria	00359	Latvia	00371
Burkina	00226	Lebanon	00961
Burundi	00257	Liberia	00231
Cambodia	00855	Libya	00218
Cameroon	00237	Lesotho	00266
Canada	001	Lithuania	00370
Cape Verde	00238	Luxembourg	00352
Cayman Islands	001345	Macau	00853
Central African	00236	Macedonia	00389
Chad	00235	Madagascar	00261
Chile	0056	Majorca	0034
China	0086	Malawi	00265
Colombia	0057	Malaysia	0060
Comoros	00269	Maldives	00960
Congo	00242	Mali	00223
Cook Islands	00682	Malta	00356
Costa Rica	00506	Marshall Islands	00692
Croatia	00385	Martinique	00596
Cuba	0053	Mauritania	00222
Cyprus	00357	Mauritius	00230
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Mayotte	00269
Czech Republic	00420	Mexico	0052
Denmark	0045	Micronesia	00691
Diego Garcia	00246	Moldova	00373
Djibouti	00253	Monaco	00377
Dominica	001767	Mongolia	00976
Dominican Republic	001809	Montserrat	001664
Ecuador	00593	Morocco	00212
Egypt	0020	Mozambique	00258
El Salvador	00503	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
England (UK)	0044	Namibia	00264
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Nepal	00977
Eritrea	00291	Netherlands	0031
Estonia	00372	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Ethiopia	00251	New Caledonia	00687
Falkland Islands	00500	New Zealand	0064
Faroe Islands	00298	Nicaragua	00505
Fiji	00679	Nigar	00227
Finland	00358	Nigeria	00234
France	0033	Niue	00683
French Guiana	00594	Norfolk Island	00672
French Polynesia	00689	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Gabon	00241	North Korea	00850
Gambia	00220	Norway	0047
Georgia	00995	Oman	00968
Germany	0049	Pakistan	0092
Ghana	00233	Palau	00680
Gibraltar	00350	Panama	00507
Greece	0030	Papua New Guinea	00675
Greenland	00299	Paraguay	00595
Grenada	001473	Peru	0051
Guadeloupe	00590	Philippines	0063
Guam	001671	Poland	0048

CROSSWORD 1308

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ACROSS

1. A defensive missile designed to shoot down incoming intercontinental ballistic missiles.
4. (zoology) Of or resembling a goose.
12. The executive agency that advises the President on the federal budget.
15. An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
16. A juvenile between the onset of puberty and maturity.
17. A close friend who accompanies his buddies in their activities.
18. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
19. An expression forming a grammatical constituent of a sentence but not containing a finite verb.
20. Lower in esteem.
22. By bad luck.
24. Cause annoyance in.
26. According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
27. Well matched.
29. The central area of a church.
32. Hungarian choreographer who developed Labanotation (1879-1958).
34. Norwegian mathematician (1802-1829).
38. State in eastern India on the Bay of Bengal.
41. A rare silvery (usually trivalent) metallic element.
42. A rosid dicot genus that includes moon carrots.
43. Breed of sled dog developed in Alaska.
46. Nut of any of several trees of the genus Corylus.
47. Small aquatic plant having tufted awl-shaped leaves in a basal rosette and minute white flowers.
51. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
52. A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
53. Widely distributed genus of herbs or shrubs with glandular compound leaves and spicate or racemose purple or white flowers.
57. A comedian who uses gags.
58. An ancient city on the Nile in Egypt.
61. Flightless New Zealand birds similar to gallinules.
63. Outstanding Italian operatic tenor (1873-1921).
65. Equipped with or wearing a helmet.
69. The seed of the chickpea plant.
72. The cry made by sheep.
73. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
74. An established ceremony prescribed by a religion.
75. Constituting or having to do with or suggestive of a literary epic.
78. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing.
79. West Indian tree having racemes of fragrant white flowers and yielding a durable timber and resinous juice.
80. (Irish) Mother of the Tuatha De Danann.

DOWN

1. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
2. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
3. Designer drug designed to have the effects of amphetamines (it floods the

- brain with serotonin) but to avoid the drug laws.
4. A nucleotide derived from adenosine that occurs in muscle tissue.
5. Indian statesman and leader with Gandhi in the struggle for home rule.
6. In regular succession without gaps.
7. A substitution of part of speech or gender or number or tense etc. (e.g., editorial 'we' for 'I').
8. Tear down so as to make flat with the ground.
9. One of the five major classes of immunoglobulins.
10. A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
11. A period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.
12. Large elliptical brightly colored deep-sea fish of Atlantic and Pacific and Mediterranean.
13. An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
14. (pathology) An elevation of the skin filled with serous fluid.
21. A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
23. A plaything that is ridden up and down by children at either end.
25. A member of a nomadic people of the northern Ural mountains.
28. An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
30. (Welsh) Lord of Annwn (the other world).
31. Mexican revolutionary leader (1877-1923).
33. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
35. Make steady.
36. Submerged freshwater perennials.
37. Of or relating to Libya or its people.
39. A city in western Russia on the Dnieper River.
40. Of or pertaining to hearing or the ear.
44. (astronomy) A measure of time defined by Earth's orbital motion.
45. An associate degree in applied science.
48. An ancient Hebrew unit of dry measure equal to about a bushel.
49. The Creator.
50. East Indian cereal grass whose seed yield a somewhat bitter flour, a staple in the Orient.
54. A member of the Siouan people formerly inhabiting the Black Hills of western South Dakota.
55. A regulator for controlling the flow of a liquid from a reservoir.
56. A highly unstable radioactive element (the heaviest of the halogen series).
59. Formerly a term of respect for important white Europeans in colonial India.
60. Produce a literary work.
62. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
64. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
66. The basic unit of money in Western Samoa.
67. Very dark black.
68. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
70. A federal agency established to coordinate programs aimed at reducing pollution and protecting the environment.
71. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
76. A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
77. A bachelor's degree in religion.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a good day to relax and become involved in some creative project. By using your creative energy you will find it much easier to solve problems. Writing may be another area in which you could excel. You have a great love of the written and spoken word and ideas in all their flavors are what you like to work with best. Family matters occupy your attention the latter part of this day. Errands, chores, preparations for the week ahead, as well as a most delightful sunday evening meal are all included in this day's activities. Communication between you and your partner is easy and lively. Slowing the pace this evening by taking a stroll after dinner with a loved one is a pleasant way to end a very full day. Can you identify the stars?



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today brings you a kind of recognition of who you really are, particularly with regard to how you appear to others in the business as well as the social world. You are wise to make plans toward securing your professional and financial life instead of spending time in worry. Write out a plan that will include your goals. More demanding years could be in the forecast on down the road. Now is the time to build on not only what you have accomplished in the business world but in your relationships as well. A lover or child becomes a focal point in your life this afternoon and you have a great opportunity to see into the personality and character of your children. Laughter and fun communications come easily. There is some fun competition with a hobby this evening.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You have a great love of the written and spoken word and ideas are what you like to work with best. Your enthusiasm for the mind, the intellect and the world of ideas makes it easy for you to communicate to others. You may find yourself teaching spiritual lessons. You have no trouble putting your feelings into words and what you say carries a lot of meaning. A choice among entertaining, teaching, speaking or singing is a way in which you will often become involved in order to communicate to others about hope, realities and possibilities. Your expression of hope, acceptance and good insights shows off the magnitude of your perspective. You find new ways to relate in a love relationship and this evening is a good time to keep the home fires burning.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may try your hand at a new recipe or do some favor for the people with whom you enjoy living your life. This, however, could be the day that others do for you-let them. You and a friend may take the gym bag, fishing tackle box or golf clubs and enjoy your morning of play. It may be quite a change to be in the hands of someone other than yourself today but this could be the answer to keeping you busy until the time is right for a gathering later today. A camera is the only thing you need to keep track of today. Family time may find you searching for the old picture album. There is a chance to understand those around you and to have a special time with your circle of friends and family. A reunion of sorts is taking place.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You show a great deal of understanding and sensitivity about the needs of others and you are most interested in some gathering with your co-worker friends. There are plenty of calls for you to hurry and bring a variety of things but it might be best if you just ignored the phone and moved along to the gathering with the items you have already collected. You may find the unexpected as well as the usual lineup of fun things to do but your main interests are with some of the games, the swimming and the yummy meals. You will certainly feel like you are getting away from your routine and by the end of the day it may take a great deal of effort to move you back to where you started. This evening may bring opportunities to bathe animals, whether you want to or not.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You will act as a minister to others, like it or not. People seek you out for all sorts of answers. Religious and psychological ideas are natural. You can sense and see the unity of life. There is a time this day when all that is sensitive and secret will come storming out of the closet to confront you. There are emotional vulnerabilities for you to understand. Fighting the changes that are coming now will only delay what is predictable. Change is the easiest thing to do. Let the new changes happen and do your best to create positive results. Everything conspires to value and to bring out your unique and unusual qualities. You may find that someone close to you understands your needs and is supportive of your ways.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Insight into how to please people may extend to the culinary arts. Your vision into what unites people as well as the understanding of the mystical regions of the mind is profound. You may be working and communicating with others in these matters. New paths to world or personal unity are a major interest. As a mother to every animal, child or needy person you will have to be mentally strong when asked to lead a volunteer program. You may be helping in a hospital or a special home where you can show some folks how to grow herbs or others how to care for a fish. Helping people to gain a positive outlook is commendable and healing for those you teach; also, your actions bring a boost of good feelings to yourself. Relax with family or friends tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

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. This may mean you are a writer but whatever the case the energies present today are for keeping notes and accounting for activities. It is a plus if you decide on a budget and an adventure if you begin to write about some recent experience. Your use of words will grab the attention of many readers and over time you may be surprised at the quantity and quality of stories you will be able to write. Others will find you have natural physical dexterity as you gather some friends to exercise later this afternoon. Anyone for a sports game in the swimming pool?



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have a natural appreciation for the past, personal as well as world history-all that is traditional. There is an opportunity to head an organization that has to do with a club or church celebrations. This may be an opportunity to create a once a month event for the people who want to have a safe place to come and be entertained. You have the creative mind to come up with lots of ways to have entertainment and may even find a way to get ideas from the group as well. You find it easy to work with music, color, fabric and the arts-whatever is beautiful and genial. You would make a superb decorator of homes and all kinds of environments. You enjoy moods and emotions, especially in a group setting. Tonight you prepare for the workweek ahead.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

With a tablet in hand you may decide to walk around inside your home to find the changes you want to make this summer. This may amount to paint, shelving, pictures, window treatment, etc. Instead of traveling this year, you seem to be looking forward to a little updating or upkeep to your home. The most important areas may be the unexpected but you can tackle any surprises with the help of the hardware store near your home. Independent contractors are wonderful when you need them but you only need to ask a few questions and perhaps check a book out from the library and you are on your way to accomplishing great things. A knowledgeable friend will be helpful with suggestions. A classic movie or a book has your interest tonight.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best. Your logical abilities are at a high point. You can really get your thoughts and ideas over to others. This is a good time to think or study-you have a real appreciation for ideas and thoughts. You may find yourself enjoying long conversations later this afternoon. One or two of your friends may drop by later today and ask you to go with them for a drive around town. You will enjoy the outing and may have an opportunity to check out some new housing addition in your city with open-house signs. The search for a mate, and marriage in particular, may cause you to wonder if you have things backward, but if you find a house and can buy it, you will see a good investment.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

A sentimental journey begins now, emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life. You want to belong on a private, intimate, personal level and to be needed and to feel it is okay to have needs. You are in a mood of self-enjoyment and can appreciate your own better qualities. You may see value in or feel love for an older person or someone in authority. You are very animated and it is easy for you to convey your ideas. Books on mysticism, psychic phenomena and the imagination in general intrigue you-despite your convictions. Look for books on meditation and relaxation. You will find new ways to relate and you are creative in making a relationship blossom.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Musical Instruments 1

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

BANJO	HURDY GURDY	SITAR
BASSOON	KEYBOARD	TAMBOURINE
BOUZOUKI	MARACAS	TIN WHISTLE
BUGLE	MARIMBAS	TROMBONE
CHIMES	MELODICA	TUBA
COW BELL	OCARINA	UKULELE
EUPHONIUM	PICCOLO	VIOLA
FRENCH HORN	RECORDER	

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

Car Parts 2 - Solution

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

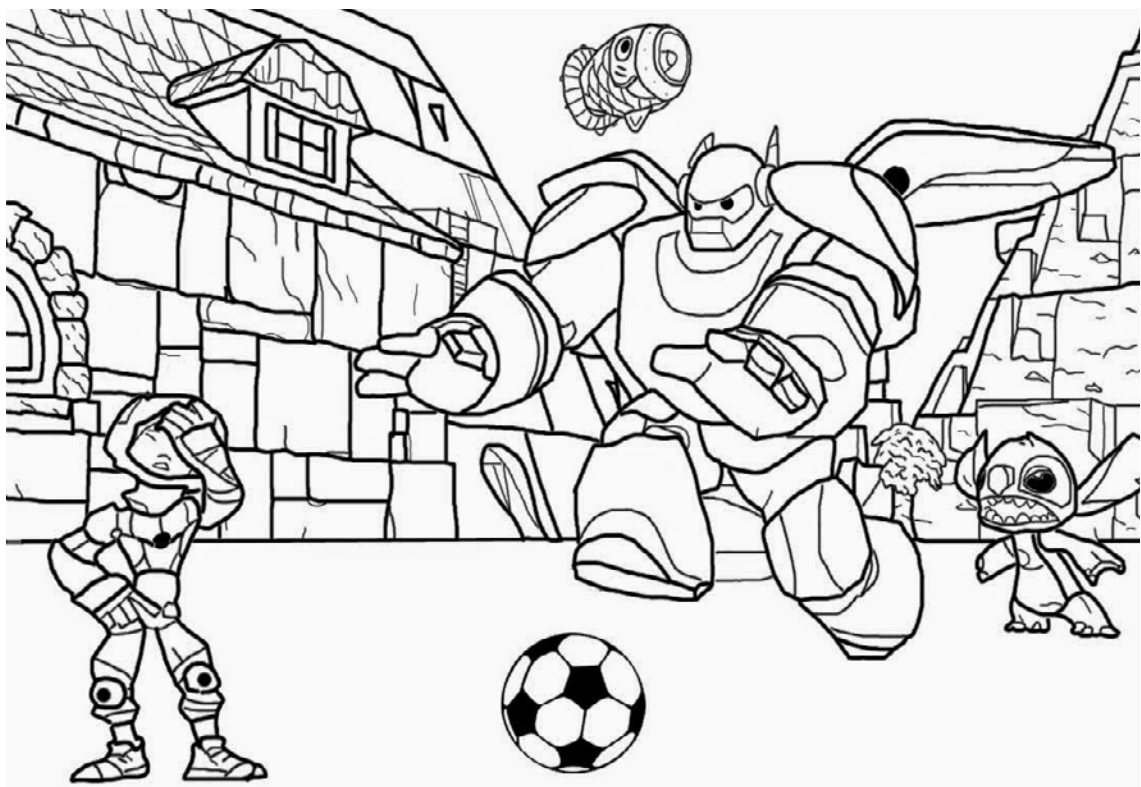
ALTERNATOR	DEFROSTER	RADIATOR
AXLE	DRIVE SHAFT	SPARE TIRE
BATTERY	FRAME	STARTER
BUMPER	FUSE	SUSPENSION
CARBURETOR	HEADLIGHT	TRANSMISSION
CLUTCH	HORN	TURN SIGNAL
COOLING FAN	IGNITION	WHEEL RIM
CRANKCASE	MIRROR	

Yesterday's Solution

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



Color me!



Frilled Shark

The frilled shark is one of two extant species of shark in the family Chlamydoselachidae, with a wide but patchy distribution in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. This species is found over the outer continental shelf and upper continental slope, generally near the bottom, though there is evidence of substantial upward movements. It has been caught as deep as 1,570 m, although it is uncommon below 1,200 m. In Bay, Japan, it is most common at depths of 50-200 m. Exhibiting several "primitive" features, the frilled shark has often been termed a "living fossil". It reaches a length of 2 m and has a dark brown, eel-like body with the dorsal, pelvic, and anal fins placed far back. Its common name comes from the frilly or fringed appearance of its six pairs of gill slits, with the first pair meeting across the throat.

Seldom observed, the frilled shark may capture prey by bending its body and lunging forward like a snake. The long, extremely flexible jaws enable it to swallow prey whole, while its many rows of small, needle-like teeth make it difficult for the prey to escape. It feeds mainly on cephalopods, leavened by bony fishes and other sharks. This species is a placental viviparous: the embryos emerge from their egg capsules inside the mother's uterus, where they survive primarily on yolk. The gestation period may be as long as three and a half years, the longest of any vertebrate. Litter sizes vary from two to fifteen, and there is no distinct breeding. Frilled sharks are occasional by catch in commercial fisheries, but have little economic value. The Nature has assessed it as near threatened, since even incidental catches may deplete its population given its low reproductive rate. This shark, or a supposed giant relative, is a suggested source for reports of sea serpents.

Distribution and habitat

Rather uncommon, the frilled shark has been recorded from a number of widely scattered locations in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. In the eastern

Atlantic, it occurs off northern Norway, northern Scotland, and western Ireland, from France to Morocco including Madeira, and off Mauritania. In the central Atlantic, it has been caught at several locations along the Mid-Atlantic Ridge, from north of the Azores to the Rio Grande Rise off southern Brazil, as well as over the Vavilov Ridge off West Africa. In the western Atlantic, it has been reported from waters off England, Georgia, and Suriname.

Human interactions

The frilled shark has seldom been encountered alive, and thus poses no danger to humans. On August 27, 2004, the first observation of this species in its natural habitat was made by the ROV Johnson Sea Link II, on the Blake Plateau off the southeastern United States.

On January 21, 2007, a Japanese fisherman discovered a 1.6 m long female alive at the surface, perhaps there because of illness or weakness from the warm water. It was brought to Awashima Marine Park in Shizuoka, where it died after a few hours. Garman, and numerous authors since, have advanced the frilled shark as an explanation for sea serpent sightings. Because of the shark's modest size, some cryptozoologists have posited the existence of a giant relative, particularly as larger Chlamydoselachus species are known from the fossil record.

This shark is sometimes sold for meat or processed into fishmeal, but is not economically significant. Because of its very low reproductive rate and the continuing expansion of commercial fisheries into its habitat, the International (IUCN) has listed it as Near Threatened.

In December 2014, trawler skipper David Guillot caught a 1.5 meter frilled shark while fishing in water more than a kilometer deep near Lakes Entrance, in Victoria, Australia. The shark was taken to the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, where its identification was confirmed.

DID YOU KNOW?



- Diamond is an allotrope (different form) of carbon.
- The word diamond comes from the Greek word meaning unbreakable.
- The carbon atoms in diamonds are arranged in a strong, tetrahedral structure.
- Diamond is the hardest natural material known and is often used for industrial cutting and polishing tools.
- Diamond has a hardness of 10 on Mohs scale of mineral hardness, with 1 being the softest (talc) and 10 being the hardest.
- Diamond is the best known thermal conductor (heat transfer) among naturally occurring substances.
- Under the normal pressures and temperatures we experience on the Earth's surface, diamonds are actually thermodynamically unstable, slowly transforming into graphite. Yes, you read that correctly, diamonds are indeed turning into graphite, but thankfully for all those diamond owners out there it's a process that is far too slow for humans to notice.
- Most of the Earth's natural diamond deposits are found in Africa.
- Around 26,000 kilograms (57,000 lb) of diamonds are mined around the world every year. They are worth billions of dollars to the powerful companies that control their production.
- Diamonds have often been a source of conflict and controversy, the term blood diamond refers to a diamond mined in an unstable area and sold to finance war. This issue was brought to public attention in the 2006 movie named Blood Diamond (starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Jennifer Connelly).
- Diamond is the world's most popular and sought after gemstone. They are frequently worn as part of jewelry such as rings and necklaces. As well as their rarity, they are also well suited to jewelry because they polish well and can only be scratched by other diamonds.
- Diamonds are cut with considerable precision to optimize the luster and attention gathering shine of each specific diamond.
- Diamonds are valued according to their cut, color, carat and clarity.
- Over the years there have been many famous (and very expensive) diamonds. The following are four well known examples:
 - The Koh-I-Noor diamond was found in India and once thought of as the largest diamond in the world. It is now part of the British Crown Jewels in the Tower of London.
 - The 45.52 carat Hope Diamond appears blue because of boron in its crystal structure and is famous for supposedly being cursed.
 - Discovered in the Kimberley Mine in South Africa, the Tiffany Yellow Diamond weighed an amazing 287.42 carats (57.484 g) when discovered. It was later sold to a New York jeweler named Charles Tiffany who had it cut into a cushion shape of 128.54 carats (25.708 g) with 90 facets to show off its beauty.
 - Naturally occurring diamonds are formed over billions of years under intense pressure and heat. They are often brought to the Earth's surface by deep volcanic eruptions.
 - The technology for synthetic diamonds was researched in the 1940's and the first synthetically created diamond was produced in the 1950's.

JOKES

Q: How does the barber cut the moon's hair?
A: E-clipse it!

Q: What happened when the wheel was invented?
A: It caused a revolution!

Q: What do librarians take with them when they go fishing?
A: Bookworms

Q: What is the world's tallest building?
A: The library because it has the most stories.

Q: What vegetables do librarians like?
A: Quiet peas.

Q: Why did the clock in the cafeteria run slow?
A: It always went back four seconds.

ACTIVITY

MAKE A PUPPET: CHINESE DRAGON

What you need:

- * 2 paper plates
- * an egg carton
- * stapler
- * glue
- * paint and paintbrush feathers and streamers

Activity:

1. Gather your supplies
2. Cut one plate in half and fold the other in half as pictured. Cut the end of the egg carton off (these will be the eyes).
3. Staple the plate edges together around the edges and glue or staple the egg carton section on top.
4. Paint brightly and leave to dry.
5. When dry, glue on feathers and streamers behind the eyes.



SUDOKU

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

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

LEAN GREEN PITA DIPPERS

Ingredients:

- * 1 tablespoon olive oil or butter
- * 200 grams chopped button mushrooms or 3 cups chopped mushrooms
- * 1/2 cup chopped spring onions with the greens or 1/2 cup chopped onions
- * 1/2 teaspoon chopped garlic or 2 to 3 garlic, chopped
- * 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- * 1/2 teaspoon crushed black pepper
- * 1 tablespoon chopped parsley or coriander leaves or mint leaves * salt as required
- * 6 to 8 slices of bread - whole wheat, white, brown, oats or multi grain bread

Directions:

1. Firstly rinse or wipe the mushrooms and then chop them. Then heat 1 tablespoon olive oil in a pan. You could also use butter instead of olive oil. Add chopped garlic. Saute till the raw aroma of garlic goes away. No need to brown the garlic.
2. Then add chopped spring onions with the greens. Saute for a minute on a low to medium flame. You can also add chopped onions. If adding onions, then saute till they are translucent.
3. Now add the chopped mushrooms.
4. Stir and saute them on a low to medium flame.
5. Initially the mushrooms will leave lot of water.
6. Continue to saute them till all the water evaporates.



7. Once all the water has evaporated, add dried oregano, crushed black pepper and chopped parsley or coriander leaves. Also add salt as per taste. You can add any dried herb or fresh herbs of your choice. Mix well. Switch off the flame.
8. Take the bread slices. Slice the edges if you want. You can use whole wheat bread, multi grain bread or brown bread or white bread. Spread the mushroom filling on the bread slices.
9. Top with another bread. Repeat the same with other bread slices. Place in a preheated toaster or grill. You can also toast these sandwiches in a hand held stove top toaster.
10. Grill the sandwiches till crisp and golden. Slice the grilled mushroom sandwiches. Serve mushroom sandwich hot with green chutney or tomato ketchup.





Paris couture reaches creative climax in Valentino, Saab, Fendi

Paris couture week reached a creative climax Wednesday with strong showings from Maison Margiela, Valentino and Elie Saab. Here are some of the highlights of the last of the fall-winter 2016 collections.

Maison Margiela

John Galliano continues to raise the profile of Maison Margiela. In Wednesday's ever-creative show, the Gibraltar-born Briton went one step further in stamping the unique brand of Galliano Romanticism on the once-minimalist house. These styles and artistry have been sorely missed on the couture calendar ever since the designer was deposed from the creative helm of Christian Dior in 2011, when an anti-Semitic rant by him was captured on video. Abstractions based on Asian styles opened the show in a dropped wrap-around style Chinese red jacket with huge limp tubular arms.

It was, of course, worn with black stripper boots. But this is Galliano: the kinky boots, with purposeful irony, could well have been mistaken for a fisherman's wading boots — a detail that parodied the note

of sensuality with panache. Styles were eclectic, but held together by the sheer theatricality and exuberance of the

soft lines of the silhouette.

The fashion industry's model-of-the-moment, Anna Cleveland, was included in the fashion musing to no surprise, and was deservedly given one of the most archetypal looks. She prowled with signature dramatic confidence and an exaggerated look of horror down the runway in a Napoleonic hat, with a voluminous 19th-century coat. It prompted many a smile from the front row. Judging by the maison's financial buoyancy since last year, the 55-year-old Galliano can proudly boast not only creative success in womenswear but a commercial one as well.

Valentino

Grand Elizabethan chic with a twist was the style that Valentino's lauded designers Pierpaolo Piccioli and Maria Grazia Chiuri produced for their — typically — magnanimous couture spectacular. Yet, much of the front row chatter centered on whether it would be newly bottle-blond Chiuri's last collection for the storied house. There are ever-intense rumors that her name, among a few others, is on the shortlist to succeed Raf Simons at Christian Dior. The LVMH brand announcement is expected imminently. The Valentino show was specifically inspired by the bard William Shakespeare. It marked, in a couture way, the 400 years since his death. But in the process it also reminded spectators of the "intellectual" nature of the ever-artistic house, and most of all, the close relationship between the two arts of theater and clothes-making. White Renaissance ruffs and embellished fur petticoats were mixed with "Game of Thrones"-style perforated dramatic black

warrior mini-dresses to define the immediate aesthetic. Criss-cross sleeves and gathered silken skirt then added to the on-theme bard-like imagery. Valentino's designers do best when they stay in their tried-and-tested realm of 16th and 17th century goddesses. And this strong collection was a case in point.



Models present creations for Maison Margiela.





Models present creations by Elie Saab during the 2016-2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection fashion show in Paris. — AP/AFP photos



Sonia Rykiel for Lancome
Lancome is paying tribute to fashion house Sonia Rykiel with a party to mark its new collaboration on a make-up brand. At the exclusive Ecole Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris' storied Left Bank, the Parisian cosmetic giant is hosting a celebrity-filled event called the Club Saint-Germain party. Award-winning film director Jacques Audiard, Spanish actress Adriana Ugarte and models including Coco Rocha are among the headlining VIPs. The event — with stunning and surprising scenography — features a live performance by three internationally-renowned music artists under the artistic direction of French artist Andre.

Elie Saab goes classic
Old-school Hollywood glamour was back in vogue at Elie Saab's fall collection. It injected the fashion calendar with the most archetypally couture show seen all season. Saab, like other couture masters, plays with his own rulebook and need not pay heed to the wearable trends of the season. Split leg, floor length sensuality was the order of the day. A velvet royal blue evening gown was given a twist, with asymmetrical feather-like detailing at the shoulder and waist. It complemented a brooding palette of dark and often sheer materials with the signature Saab cinched-waisted hour glass vava-voom silhouettes.
One highlight was a mother and daughter couture ensemble in gray, modeled simultaneously. Flashes of Art Nouveau patterning were the season's added ingredient, evoking the graphic sensuality of Gustav Klimt. The creative musing reached its climax in a traffic-stopping floor-length textured ball gown. It had fashion insiders reaching for their cameras with its blissful couture embroidering of thousands of blue and cream flowers.





Models present creations by Fendi during a fashion show at the Trevi Fountain in Rome to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the fashion house.



Lebanese fashion designer Elie Saab acknowledges the audience at the end of the 2016-2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection fashion show.



Gaultier halos the face
Jean Paul Gaultier treated guests to a silken, sultry and fur-dripping couture display that oozed glamour. It was all about the one dramatic detail in his fall collection. The couture master's leitmotif was the accentuation of models' faces in cheek-bone hugging — and non-eco-friendly — circular halos, delivered in fur. Elsewhere, this one-detail style was carried through in jackets sporting ballooned peplums, accentuated shoulders or in gathered asymmetrical midriff detailing.

One show-stopping vermilion red fur coat in segments almost dripped off a model in a silk sheer floor-length skirt. Fashion's once-named enfant terrible is, however, hard to pin down, and gowns of every color and material swept past celebrity guests.

Fendi models walk on water in Rome's Trevi fountain

Shimmering models wearing the latest creations by Fendi appeared to walk on water Thursday at a fairytale show in Rome's Trevi fountain to mark the luxury fashion house's 90th anniversary. Above the sparkling waters of the Baroque fountain, models wearing hand-painted dresses in pale pink, blue and cream, adorned with hand-stitched flowers or starlit scenes, glided across a transparent catwalk in the basin. The soft, luxurious collection of 46 outfits was inspired by Danish fairytale illustrator Kay Nielsen, who painted color plates for the book *Fairy Tales* by Hans Christian Andersen in 1924 and also later worked for Disney, including on sequences of the film *Fantasia*.

Glittering evening gowns with slits up the sides transformed their wearers into modern-day Hansel and Gretels, the reflection of lights scintillating in the turquoise waters echoing the shine of pebbles glinting in the moonlight in the fairytale. Dresses were nipped in at the waist or featured a bell skirt, the house's trademark fur coat made an appearance in lynx, but what wowed the 200 exclusive guests was a patterned cape, in

grey silk, which opened at both the front and back. Bags looked like they were made of fur but were actually tiny pieces of silk, sown together to look like snakeskin. As the models, including Americans Kendall Jenner and Bella Hadid, wound up their catwalk, designer Karl Lagerfeld, wearing his trademark gloves, came out to take a bow along with the Italian house's accessories designer Silvia Venturini Fendi.



Models present creations by Jean Paul Gaultier during the 2016-2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection fashion show.



Coins in the fountain

Reaching the middle of the glass bridge he threw three coins over his shoulder into the fountain with a grin—a tradition that is said to ensure a return to the eternal city. The fountain, made famous by a scene in Federico Fellini's "La Dolce Vita" in which Anita Ekberg wades through its pristine waters, was restored last year in a clean-up funded by the fashion house, which first opened its doors in the capital in 1926. Commissioned by Pope Clement XII in 1730, it is the end point of one of the aqueducts that supplied ancient Rome with water.

The tradition of throwing coins into the fountain was made famous by Frank Sinatra's rendition of "Three Coins in the Fountain" in the 1954 romantic comedy film of the same name. Fendi, now part of French luxury giant LVMH, said it wanted to capture the romance of the nearly 300-year-old monument, visited by millions of tourists every year, where tradition has it visitors can ensure eternal love by drinking its waters.]

For those not lucky enough to bag tickets to the show, the house was putting on a sumptuous dinner for 600 guests at in the city's Villa Borghese park, decorated for the occasion with Roman fountains. As part of its anniversary celebrations, the fashion giant is also hosting an exhibition in the Square Colosseum, its headquarters in Rome, from July 9 to October 23. Entitled "Fendi Roma: The Artisans of Dreams", the show explores the creative history of the Italian house through a video installation and drawings by Lagerfeld of his most prized creations.— Agencies

Models present creations by Jean Paul Gaultier during the 2016-2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection fashion show.



Models present creations by Valentino during the 2016-2017 fall/winter Haute Couture collection fashion show.



Participants run ahead of Pedraza de Yeltes' fighting bulls on the fourth day of the San Fermin bull run festival in Pamplona, northern Spain yesterday. On each day of the festival six bulls are released at 8:00 am to run from their corral through the narrow, cobbled streets of the old town over an 850-meter (yard) course. Ahead of them are the runners, who try to stay close to the bulls without falling over or being gored. — AFP

Iran bids farewell to late director Kiarostami



Iranian reformist cleric Mahmoud Doaei (center) prays next to the coffin of Iranian film-maker Abbas Kiarostami during a ceremony in the Iranian capital Tehran ahead of his funeral in the town of Lavasan. — AP/AFP photos



Iranian film directors, including Rakhshan Bani-Etemad (right) and Asghar Farhadi (center), and actress Niki Karimi (left) attend a ceremony for Iranian film-maker Abbas Kiarostami.

Several thousand cinema lovers joined top artists in Tehran yesterday to bid farewell to renowned Iranian film director Abbas Kiarostami following his death last week in Paris. Kiarostami, who won the coveted Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997 for "Taste of Cherry", emerged from the Iranian New Wave of the late 1960s to become one of the world's most revered directors. "Thank you for paving the tough road of globalization for Iranian cinema," director Asghar Farhadi whose "A Separation" won the country's only Academy Award to date in 2012 — told a morning memorial service. "If there is any enthusiasm or curiosity toward Iranian cinema, it is owed to the steps that you took in those difficult times," Farhadi said. "Thank you for not abandoning this land despite all the neglect and lack of gratitude," he said. Kiarostami, who died in France aged 76, had been making films outside Iran for years due to restric-

tions and difficulties working in the Islamic republic. Despite the global attention given to his films, Kiarostami did not enjoy official support and his films were rarely shown in Iranian cinemas or on state television. Some at the memorial service held posters reading "First Welcome, Last Farewell"—a reference to the lack of official attention Kiarostami received in his homeland. In a

speech at the memorial service, the head of the Iranian culture ministry's cinema department, Hojatollah Ayubi, thanked Kiarostami "for trumpeting the name of Iran in cinema and the world." The event was held at Tehran's Centre for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, where Kiarostami became head of the film department in 1969. Many of those in attendance lamented the lack of official

acknowledgement for the director's work. "We can't ignore such influential figures," said Ebrahim Ghavamipour, 36. "To ignore Kiarostami is to ignore ourselves." "We want the world to know how much we value our artists like Kiarostami," said Helia Pakbaz, a 20-year-old theatre student. Iranian director Jafar Panahi, an old friend of Kiarostami who is banned from working in the Islamic republic, was present at the service but did not make a statement. Packed with well-known figures from Iran's art scene, the service was a serene event, after calls on social media for those in attendance to act respectfully and avoid taking selfies with celebrities. Kiarostami's body, which was repatriated to Iran on Friday, was taken to Lavasan, a small town northeast of Tehran, for a private family burial. Following his death Kiarostami was praised as a "towering figure" in world cinema for his poetic parables of ordinary lives, known for their modest style, dark realism and sly humour. — AFP



Iranians hold posters bearing a portrait of Iranian film-maker Abbas Kiarostami.