



Survey shows
Kuwait becomes
'cheaper'
place to live



Kashmir seethes
as 30 killed in
clashes with
Indian forces



Airbus, Boeing
face off at
rain-soaked
Farnborough



Spurs star
Tim Duncan
retires after
19 seasons



GOVT SEEKS TO PRIVATIZE OIL SECTOR AS PART OF REFORMS

KUWAIT TO TACKLE POPULATION IMBALANCE, MULLS QUOTAS



Min 35°
Max 47°
High Tide
05:27 & 17:08
Low Tide
11:38 & 23:35



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THERESA MAY TO BECOME NEW BRITISH PM

LONDON: Theresa May tomorrow will become the prime minister who leads Britain into talks to quit the European Union, after her last rival in the bid to succeed David Cameron pulled out. May became the only contender after Andrea Leadsom - who had stirred a storm for suggesting she was more qualified to be premier because she had children - abruptly quit the race yesterday. Cameron later announced May would take over from him tomorrow, when he will go to Queen Elizabeth II and tender his resignation after one final Prime Minister's Questions session in parliament.

"We'll have a new prime minister in that building behind me by Wednesday evening," he said in a statement outside 10 Downing Street. Accompanied by her banker husband Philip and surrounded by supportive MPs, a smiling May later stressed the need "to negotiate the best deal for Britain in leaving the EU" in brief comments outside parliament.

Britain has faced the worst political turmoil in generations following June 23's shock vote to leave the European Union. The outcome prompted Cameron to step down, plunging his Conservatives into a bitter leadership race. At the same time, the head of the main opposition Labour party, Jeremy Corbyn, is also facing a challenge to his job. Senior MP Angela Eagle formally launched her bid yesterday, and Labour's election coordinator, Jon Trickett, said the party should brace for general elections soon after May takes office.

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LONDON: Britain's new Conservative Party leader Theresa May is applauded by the party's members of parliament outside the Houses of Parliament yesterday. — AP

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: A top finance ministry official yesterday said Kuwait is going ahead with the privatization of its oil sector and will be offering a portion of its shares to the public as part of the state's privatization program, similar to the plan by Saudi Aramco announced in April. "This plan will also enable Gulf and foreign investors to bid for part of the offered shares in the Kuwait market," Finance Ministry Undersecretary Khalifa Hamada said.

While Hamada did not set a date for the underwriting, he said offering oil sector shares to citizens and investors is within the projects and plans of Kuwaiti programs like the rest of the GCC countries to strengthen citizen and private sector participation and reduce the burden on the state's general budget. He said Kuwait plans to establish companies whose shares will be put up for public underwriting or for foreign investors, and other shares will be for citizens.

"This move may be like the Saudi offering of a percentage of Aramco shares. Oil prices have dropped and indicators show the slump may last five more years. These forecasts are by most financial bodies including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, who expect oil prices will not exceed \$50 a barrel, so we have adopted our reforms based on these figures," Hamada said.

As for Gulf investments in Britain after it voted to leave the EU, he said "it is sure that we will be affected by the lack of clarity, as there are indicators that the British economy will shrink". He said that the government makes its investments through its investment office in London, adding measures to counter the risks will be an internal matter according to the investments and their size.

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QANA, Lebanon: This file photo taken on July 30, 2006 shows a man screaming for help as he carries the body of a dead girl after Israeli air strikes on this southern Lebanese village. — AFP

DECADE AFTER ISRAEL WAR, HEZBOLLAH MIRED IN SYRIA

JERUSALEM: Israel this week marks a decade since its 2006 war with its "main enemy" Hezbollah, but the Lebanese group's involvement in Syria has made another conflict less likely for now. The war sparked by Hezbollah's capture of two Israeli soldiers on July 12, 2006 is viewed negatively in Israel, with analysts saying there was a lack of a clear strategy. Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot, who was head of operations at the time, posted an open letter on Sunday paying tribute to the troops involved, and also saying lessons had been learned.

"The threat from Lebanon still exists and contains many challenges, and necessitates the (Israeli military) to be prepared for any scenario," Eisenkot wrote. Earlier this year, he described the Iran-backed Hezbollah as Israel's main enemy, and deputy chief of staff Yair Golan said in April that the group's improved capabilities were worrying. Golan also warned that in any future crisis "it's going to be full-scale war".

He said that because of the presence of Hezbollah fighters in civilian areas, "there is no other way to take out this threat without really creating large damage to the Lebanese infrastructure, to Lebanese houses and other civilian facilities". Israel's military believes Hezbollah has between 100,000 and 120,000 short- and medium-range missiles and rockets,

as well as several hundred long-range missiles, with the medium-range missiles capable of reaching Tel Aviv.

But now the group's focus is on the war in Syria where it is fighting in support of President Bashar Al-Assad. It has sent thousands of fighters to help regime forces battle rebels and jihadists. "For now, Hezbollah's attention is on Syria," said Phillip Smyth, an adjunct fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. "It's hard for them to open another front against a markedly superior foe like the Israelis, especially as they have to deal with fighting a multitude of foes across Syria."

Amid the chaos in Syria, Israel has also acknowledged attacking dozens of convoys there that were transporting weapons destined for Hezbollah. Israel occupied parts of Lebanon for 22 years until 2000, with Hezbollah claiming credit for its withdrawal following persistent guerrilla attacks, and the two countries are still technically at war. The 34-day conflict in 2006 led to the deaths of 1,200 people in Lebanon, mainly civilians, and 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers.

It began when Israel retaliated over a cross-border raid in which Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers and killed three, and quickly spiralled into a fully-fledged war.

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US TO SEND 560 MORE TROOPS TO IRAQ

ERDOGAN DEFENDS CITIZENSHIP FOR SYRIAN REFUGEES

ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdogan defended his plan to give Syrian refugees Turkish citizenship in comments published yesterday, arguing the country has ample space after a backlash against the suggestion. Erdogan said on July 2 that Syrians could eventually be granted Turkish citizenship "if they want it", in remarks which were met with anger from opposition politicians and social media users. More than 2.7 million Syrian refugees now live in Turkey, where they have guest status, according to the Turkish government.

In his first comments on the issue since announcing the plan, Erdogan said Syrians with dual citizenship did not have to return to Syria once the conflict was over. "Is it a must for dual citizens, for people with citizenship, to return to their countries of birth?" he told Turkish reporters on the sidelines of the NATO summit in Warsaw, quoted by the Hurriyet daily. "When Turks went to Germany in 1963, no one asked whether they would or would not return to Turkey," he said, referring to the Turkish so-called Gastarbeiter who helped Germany's economic recovery after World War II.

He added: "There is no need to worry, this country has 79 million people living on 780,000 square kilometers of land. Germany is half our size and has 85 million people," he added, lightly overstating the German population. We are a country that can easily overcome (challenges)."

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BAGHDAD: Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi (right) meets US Pentagon chief Ashton Carter yesterday. — AFP

BAGHDAD: Pentagon chief Ashton Carter said yesterday that Washington will deploy 560 additional troops to aid Iraq's fight to retake Mosul from jihadists, deepening US military involvement in the country. The announcement, which will bring the total authorized number of American military personnel in Iraq to more than 4,600, came two days after Baghdad said it had recaptured a base south of Mosul that is seen as an important step toward the eventual battle for the city.

Iraq's second city Mosul has been under Islamic State group control since June 2014, when the jihadists overran large parts of Iraq, carrying out atrocities including execution-style killings, mass kidnappings and rape. IS also holds territory in neighboring Syria, but has lost significant ground in both countries, and Carter wanted to highlight successes, even as the jihadists have struck back with devastating attacks in Iraq and abroad.

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PUSH TO MAKE MED DIET COOL AGAIN

MILAN: It may be on the UNESCO heritage list, but global experts warn the Mediterranean diet, prized for its health benefits, is losing so much ground to the fast food culture that the decline may be irreversible. Rich in vegetables, fruits, cereals and extra virgin olive oil, the Mediterranean diet is based on a moderate consumption of fish, dairy products, eggs, red wine, and a small amount of meat. Found to varying degrees in all countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea, it was named in 2010 onto UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list for seven countries, from Croatia to Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Portugal.

But the diet, which the United Nations also praises for promoting hospitality, neighborliness, intercultural dialogue and creativity, is going rapidly out of fashion. "In Greece, it has decreased by 70 percent over the last 30 years, in Spain 50 percent", Lluís Serra-Majem, head of the International Foundation of Mediterranean Diet, told AFP at a recent conference in Milan. The experts, from Israel to New Zealand to Sweden, explored ways to revive the diet, from making it appealing to teenagers, to persuading people to buy fresh and sometimes costlier food in a period of economic crisis.

In Spain, celebrities like actress Penelope Cruz may add some glamour with their love of Mediterranean cuisine, but ever fewer people are enticed. Less than 15 percent of the Spanish population still eats a Mediterranean diet, while 50 to 60 percent do so sometimes. Between 20 to 30 percent have ditched it altogether, Serra-Majem said. And it's the same in Greece, says Antonia Trichopoulos from the Hellenic Health Foundation. Unsurprisingly, over 65-year-olds are the best at eating traditional dishes, while the youngest generations have succumbed to the lure of fast food.

"The decline has various causes. We are witnessing a globalization of eating habits, with the spread of the 'Western diet'," said Serra-Majem, pointing a finger of blame at the growth of the tourism sector in particular. It has been more marked in coastal areas, particularly in Spain or on Italy's Adriatic coast. "Uncontrolled tourism leads to high urbanization and... increased consumption of meat, refined flours and a reduction of the traditional diet," he said.

The change in eating habits is having a significant impact on public health with the rise of obesity, cancer, cardiovascular disease

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received yesterday at Sief Palace the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah as well as Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khudher. His Highness also received the National Security Bureau's Chief Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: This handout photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah meeting with Bahraini Minister of Interior Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

KUWAIT, SAUDI EYE CLOSER SECURITY COOPERATION

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and visiting Bahraini Minister of Interior Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa discussed yesterday bilateral security coordination and cooperation. The Interior Ministry's information office said in a release that both ministers had considered ways of beefing up bilateral security efforts in order to address the current regional security developments.

During the meeting, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled stressed the depth of distinguished and historical relations between both Gulf nations, pointing to the political leadership's instructions for further promoting and cementing their deep-rooted bonds, it said.

He highly commended such visits and meetings as providing chances to exchange views on regional security challenges and how to consolidate security cooperation between both sides, according to the release. He added that he and the Bahraini minister shared the same views on a host of regional security issues that concern Kuwait and Bahrain.

Meanwhile, Bahraini Minister of Interior Rashid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa thanked the Kuwaiti minister for warm welcome and hospitality, underlining the significance of security cooperation in light of various criminal phenomena and issues that necessitate closer cooperation within the GCC. He voiced much satisfaction with the outcomes of his talks with Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled as "fruitful, constructive and positive". The Bahraini minister and his accompanying delegation have left Kuwait, ending a one-day visit to the country.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Sabah meets with Major General Fahd Saud Al-Jahni, the envoy of Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

Security challenges
In other news, Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled received yesterday a letter from Deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Defense Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz.

The letter tackled means of enhancing cooperation and coordination between both countries in the military field, and means of encountering security challenges in the region, the Interior Ministry's Public Relations and

Security Media Department said in a press statement

Major General Fahd Saud Al-Jahni, who delivered the letter, conveyed to Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled the greetings of Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz, and his wishes for Kuwait political leadership and people for further progress, security and prosperity. The meeting was attended by Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Mohammad Khaled Al-Khudher. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah (second from left) chairs the cabinet's meeting yesterday. — KUNA

CABINET RE-DEPLORES SAUDI ATTACKS

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Cabinet yesterday reaffirmed condemnation of recent attacks in Saudi Arabia, which left several people dead or wounded. During its routine weekly meeting chaired by Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the cabinet renewed Kuwait's rejection of terrorist acts that contravene all heavenly religions and human values and norms, Minister of Information and Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said.

The cabinet also reiterated Kuwait's support to all measures taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to maintain its security and stability, the minister said in a press statement following the meeting. In this context, it emphasized that efforts should be exerted to protect Muslim societies from the perils of external ideologies that target everyone indiscriminately, urging the international community to exert concerted efforts to fight terror-

ism and various terrorist organizations, he added. The cabinet offered sincere condolences to Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Saudi people over the victims of the bombings, praying that Allah Almighty would bestow mercy and forgiveness on the souls of the victims. It also wished those wounded a quick recovery and Saudi Arabia safety and security.

Intellectual property

Afterwards, the cabinet reviewed a report by the intellectual property rights protection committee on joint efforts by the ministries of interior, information and health and the General Administration of Customs to protect intellectual property rights.

The ministers also listened to a briefing by Minister of Commerce and Industry Yousef Al-Ali on ways of eliminating all forms of intellectual property right violations and putting relevant laws in place effectively. Ali said his

ministry has completed a strategy to develop the intellectual property sector, respond to all complaints on fake commodities, and boost consumers' public awareness of fake commodity hazards.

Kuwait has joined the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), he said, adding that his ministry has installed Internet Prospect Acceleration System (IPAS) which contributes to linking the ministry and the GCC Secretariat's Patent Office. At the onset of the customary meeting, the cabinet was apprised of a letter sent to His Highness the Amir from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, thanking His Highness the Amir for attending a recent world humanitarian summit held in Istanbul and inviting him to visit Turkey in the near future.

The ministers also reviewed a letter sent to His Highness the Amir from Iraqi parliament speaker Salim Al-Jabouri, voicing satisfaction with the outcomes of his recent visit to Kuwait. — KUNA

KRCS CONDUCTS PROSTHETIC PROCEDURES ON SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

KUWAIT/BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) launched yesterday in Lebanon a campaign to conduct prosthetic procedures on Syrian refugees with severed limbs, a result of a war in their country that remains largely unabated. Head of KRCS's youth department Dr MUSAAD AL-EZEZI said that the society has treated 10 prosthetic cases amongst Syrian refugees.

Moreover, Ezezi described the campaign as a humanitarian endeavor aimed to mitigate the adversity that the refugees are mired in, adding that KRCS would do everything possible to restore normalcy to the lives of the needy. The campaign is part of a series of relief projects designed to lend a helping hand to Syrian refugees, he said, noting that the beneficiaries of such aid are grateful to Kuwait for such projects.

Separately, Kuwaiti relief teams distributed food parcels to Syrian refugees in Lebanon's northernmost region of Akkar, in the latest humanitarian action for relieving the civilians who fled the horrors of war at home.

KRCS teams delivered the food provisions to more than 200 Syrian families at the refugee camps in Akkar, said Yousef Abdulrazzak Al-Najjar, the KRCS chief in Lebanon, in a statement on Sunday. A KRCS delegation visited Al-Rahma refugee camp in Al-Rihaniah, located close to the Lebanese-Syrian borders, to examine the refugees' conditions and needs, Al-Najjar added.

The Kuwaiti delegation comprised Al-Najjar, Abdulaziz Al-Ruwais and Meshari Al-Ezezi. The philanthropic organization distributed, during the past fasting month of Ramadan, more than 20 iftar meals, as well as food supplies, to the Syrian refugees in various regions in Lebanon. The Kuwaiti relief agency started humanitarian aid for the estimated 1.5 million Syrian refugees in Lebanon when the Syrian crisis broke out more than five years ago. KRCS teams and voluntary workers have reached the refugees in farthest locations in Lebanon. Hard terrain and weather, particularly snowy weather, have not hindered the Kuwaiti relief operations for the refugees. — KUNA



BEIRUT: KRCS teams deliver food provisions to Syrian refugees in Lebanon. — KUNA

MINISTRY REINSTATES BEDOON, EXPAT NURSES

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: A problem created when the health ministry terminated the contracts of some bedoon (stateless) and expatriate nurses has been resolved after the ministry agreed to reinstate them, Chairman of Kuwait Nursing Society Bandar Al-Enezi said. He said that health ministry undersecretary Dr Khalid Al-Sahlawi cancelled the decision to terminate them and restored them to their jobs, based on the society's demands. He lauded the humanitarian actions of Dr Sahlawi to help nurses and

the unlimited support he offers them.

Official bailed out

The appeals court released an official at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs on a KD 5,000 bail and deferred his trial for facilitating embezzlement of public funds until October 30. The criminal court had sentenced the suspect for seven years for helping a person embezzle KD 28,000. Separately, the cassation court deferred consideration of a request by former MP Abdullah Al-Barghash to replace the judge overseeing his citizenship revocation case until September 19.



KUWAIT BECOMES 'CHEAPER' PLACE TO LIVE: SURVEY

9TH MOST EXPENSIVE IN MENA REGION

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Kuwait has become a cheaper place to live, according to the 2016 Mercer's Cost of Living Survey that was released recently. Kuwait ranked quite low on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) list at 9th place - the most expensive place to live in the MENA region is Dubai and the cheapest place to live is Jeddah. The cost of living in Kuwait is more or less equivalent to that in the majority of European nations for an average Western expatriate.

The cost of living index covers the prices of defined quantities of the same goods and services across several basket groups. But the lack of taxation is a major advantage in Kuwait, particularly on certain items like cars. However, the cost of living, just as the case is in any other location, largely depends on your personal lifestyle.

Very high

Eman El-Shahawy, who was born and raised in Kuwait, told Kuwait Times that the survey could be true if it was released 10 years earlier, as nowadays, the cost of living is very high compared to incomes. Mimi Rasmy agreed with Shahawy, commenting that Kuwait has become very expensive. "Ten years ago, times were good, when you were considered a rich person if you bought groceries for KD 10," she said. "KD 10 was a big amount of money with which you could buy a lot of things, but now everything is

expensive," she added. Cherine Wagih said that she has been living in Kuwait her entire life, and things have changed. "Our flat's rent was KD 90 for two bedrooms, but currently, a one-bedroom flat costs about KD 250 or more. We used to buy a good amount of meat for KD 10, but now KD 10 will buy nothing." But Zeina Saadeh has a different opinion. "I was living in Qatar - the rent was much higher than Kuwait. But school fees and the cost of living is the same," she said. As for the advantage of living in Kuwait, Saadeh said that Kuwait always has discounts and offers on everything.

Education

Hwaida El-Maghraby said education is expensive in Kuwait. "Of course there is a huge difference in the cost of living now and then. The problem is that salaries are still the same and some people cannot find job opportunities. The salary does not cover the expenses of rent, school fees and food. But Kuwait will still be our second home despite the difficulties," she added.

On the other hand, Kuwait's economy is expected to expand by 2.3 percent if the government pushes ahead with further fiscal adjustments. Mercer's survey includes 209 cities across five continents and measures the comparative cost of more than 200 items in each location, including housing, transportation, food, clothing, household goods, and entertainment. The survey is designed to help

multinational companies and governments determine compensation allowances for their expatriate employees. New York is used as the base city, and all cities are compared against it. Currency movements are measured against the US dollar.

Top 10 most expensive cities to live in the MENA region:

- 1- Dubai, UAE
- 2- Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 3- Beirut, Lebanon
- 4- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 5- Manama, Bahrain
- 6- Doha, Qatar
- 7- Cairo, Egypt
- 8- Muscat, Oman
- 9- Kuwait City, Kuwait
- 10- Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

The 10 most expensive cities to live in the world are:

- 1- Hong Kong, China
- 2- Luanda, Angola
- 3- Zurich, Switzerland
- 4- Singapore, Singapore
- 5- Tokyo, Japan
- 6- Kinshasa, Dem Rep of the Congo
- 7- Shanghai, China
- 8- Geneva, Switzerland
- 9- Ndjamena, Chad
- 10- Beijing, China

GCC CHIEF HOLDS TALKS WITH UN ENVOY ON SETTLING YEMEN CRISIS

RIYADH: GCC Secretary General Dr Abdulatif Al-Zayani yesterday held talks with the UN envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed on prospects of pursuing diplomatic efforts to resolve the Yemeni crisis. The discussions between the two sides dealt with conditions in Yemen and means to bolster efforts by the UN and the international community to pursue the peace consultations in the State of Kuwait, said the GCC General Secretariat in a statement. It quoted Dr Zayani as expressing the GCC support for the UN envoy's efforts to settle the crisis according to the GCC initiative,

the national and dialogue and the UN Security Council resolution 2216.

The initiatives basically aim to withdrawal of Ansarullah gunmen from Sanaa and other regions, reinstating legitimate authority and hand-over of the guns to the legitimate authority. The State of Kuwait has recently hosted marathon UN-sponsored compromise consultations among the Yemeni parties, however they could only agree on some prisoners' swap, short of a full-fledged major deal. The Kuwait-hosted consultations had been suspended but would resume on July 15th. — KUNA



KRCS DELIVERS 250 AID KITS TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed yesterday more than 250 aid kits to Syrian refugee families in southern Lebanon. KRCS continues its humanitarian efforts to assist Syrian refugees all across Lebanon, said KRCS's delegate to Lebanon Yousef Al-Najjar. Moreover, he noted that the kits contain

food that is a month's worth of supply, as he underscored the misery these refugees have been living in. Ever since the war in Syria erupted some five years ago, KRCS has doled out an incessant flow of aid to refugees, running the gamut from nutritive to medical and educational assistance. — KUNA

KUWAIT BANS IMPORT OF LIVE BIRDS FROM HOLLAND

KUWAIT: The Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) banned import of all types of live birds from Holland, due to confirmed cases of H7N9 bird flu in the country. All imported livestock must commit to the authority's rules and regulations, in accordance with the terms of the World

Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and animal health laws of the GCC countries, said PAAAFR in a statement yesterday. After examining the animals by the authority's laboratories, infected animals will be sent back to the country of origin and costs will be paid by the importer, it added. — KUNA

SOUTH SAAD AL-ABDULLAH HOUSING PROJECT'S EXPANSION APPROVED

KUWAIT: The Municipal Council yesterday approved a request by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare for expanding the South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project, adding 5.52 square kilometers from the west. Thus, the total area of the project will be 64.42 square kilometers, Municipal Council Acting Director Abdullah Al-Emadi. This expansion will add 3,500 housing units to the project's 40,000 ones, he said.

The Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) rejected expansion of the project from the east, Emadi said. He pointed to some obstacles facing the project such as the Kuwait Municipality's scrapyard, poultry farms and the area of assembling old car tires. A committee has been formed to remove the obstacles over the coming five years, he said.

Meanwhile, the council yesterday approved a request by the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) for allocating an area for the Basel Salem Al-Sabah Motor Racing Club in Arifjan, besides another one by the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to build two new mosques in Hawally and Al-Sedeeq. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A scene from yesterday's Municipal Council session. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh



KUWAIT: Firemen take a break while tackling a blaze in Bneid Al-Gar.



Plastic bags containing alcoholic drinks found in a house in Saad Al-Abdullah.

TWO MOTORISTS KILLED IN SEPARATE ACCIDENTS

FIREMEN INJURED IN BNEID AL-GAR BLAZE

By Hanan Al-Saoudon

KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti woman was killed and another driver was injured in a three-way collision reported in Zahra yesterday. The female citizen's body was recovered by the coroner, while the injured man, Korean, was taken to Mubarak Hospital. The third vehicle's driver, Syrian, was not injured in the accident. A case was filed for investigations. Meanwhile, a 33-year-old Kuwaiti citizen was killed in an accident on the Fifth Ring Road near Bayan. The collision took place between the citizen's car and a water tanker driven by a Bangladeshi man. The body was recovered by the coroner.

Firemen hurt

Two firemen were injured Sunday while fighting a fire in a Bneid Al-Gar building. Shuhada fire center along with Madina center responded to the call. The fire was on the first floor, and the building was evacuated. The two injured fire-

men were taken to Amiri Hospital by paramedics and were later discharged. It was found the burnt flat was used for storing paints in violation of the law. Legal action is being taken.

Car theft

A citizen told Waha police her car was stolen, and said it may have been taken on a tow truck from in front of her house. A case was filed for investigations.

Breach of trust

A citizen in Sabah Al-Salem accused an exchange company of breach of trust, adding that he transferred KD 1,468 to an expat's account, and has a receipt, but the money did not reach him.

Liquor found

Police raided a house in Saad Al-Abdullah used in making liquor, where large quantities and manufacturing tools were confiscated.

DGCA: 867,000 PASSENGERS USED AIRPORT IN JUNE

KUWAIT: Up to 867,064 passengers used the Kuwait International Airport in June, compared to 946,069 the same month last year, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said yesterday. The DGCA added in a press release that the airport welcomed 383,826 arriving passengers last month, less than 447,718 in June 2015. Departing passengers in June were 483,023 passengers, compared to 498,351 the corresponding period last year.

Combined incoming and outgoing flights using the airport last month hit 7,985, compared to 8,239 in June 2015. Incoming and outgoing commercial flights using the airport last month reached 7,593 compared to 7,757 the same month last year. Weight of cargo transported through the airport in June totaled 16.4 million kilograms, compared with 16.5 million kilograms in June 2015. — KUNA



South Al-Mutlaa

Kuwait's largest housing project of 28,363 units



KUWAIT: South Al-Mutlaa City is the largest housing project in Kuwait with 28,363 units, currently being executed in cooperation with international experts. By the end of last June, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) signed a contract of about KD 288 million with the Italian Salini Costruttori engineering company and Turkey's Kolin group to build the city's infrastructure. The project will also see the floating of 60 tenders for construction including public utilities and power plants.

The authority also signed a five-year contract worth about KD 23.5 million with the US Hill International, the global leader in managing construction risk, to provide program management consultancy services during the development of the project. The contract involves ensuring the completion of the project on the specified date, evaluating contractors and consultants and training Kuwaiti employees at PAHW on running projects and contracts.

South Al-Mutlaa project consists of 12 suburbs including roughly 28,363 houses, covering 400 square meters each. It is located 40



km northwest of Al-Jahra City. It has a total of 30,000 housing units. The first construction license is expected to be issued in December 2018, for those who have submitted their applications on June 30, 2010. Al-Mutlaa City, set to house about 400,000 residents, includes 116 schools, about 156 mosques, 48 mini markets, 12 public health centers and three specialized clinics and other utilities. — KUNA

Ministry to launch road projects in Mutlaa city soon

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Public Works announced yesterday impending plans of a pair of projects designed to renovate roads in Al-Mutlaa city, part of efforts to ensure a smooth flow of traffic in the area.

The first project entails complete repair of a northern road that connects Al-Mutlaa to the Al-Abdili highway, while the second one deals with all roads and intersections in the area, said Assistant Undersecretary of the road construction department at the ministry Ahmad Al-Hassan in a

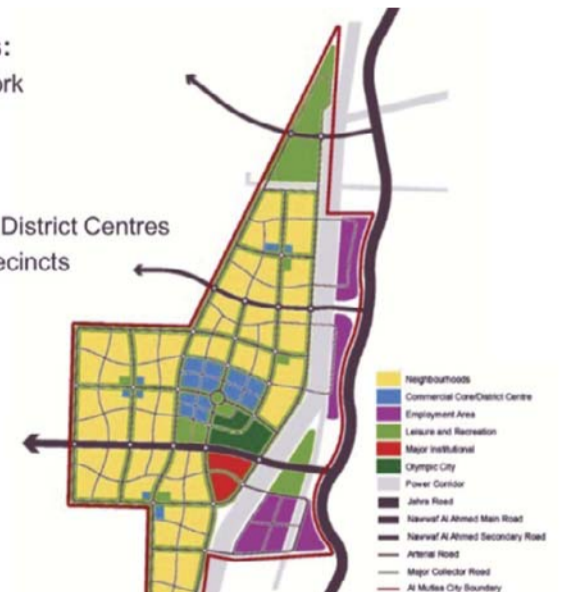
press statement. Moreover, he noted that the budding projects are in preliminary stages, with work expected to commence soon.

On the time needed to finish both projects, Hassan put a 36 month timeframe saying that upon completion, the projects will ensure seamless flow of traffic in the city. Meanwhile, he also underscored the ministry's commitment to bring all planned projects to fruition, describing how instrumental they would be to sustained development. — KUNA



Structuring Elements:

- Green and Blue Network
- Al Mutlaa Gateway
- Grand Boulevard
- Central Park
- Commercial Core and District Centres
- Leisure and Sports Precincts
- Institutional Area
- Employment Areas
- Place to call Home



NBK LAUNCHES ATM FOR THE BLIND



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) launched an automated teller machine (ATM) specifically designed to serve visually impaired clients. The new machine is placed at a special location in the NBK head office to maintain the highest levels of quality service and privacy for clients while they perform their financial transactions.

The machine provides services such as cash withdrawal, balance inquiry, and others. It is equipped with a special operating system that present interactive options for visually impaired clients, such as voice guidance. "This step reflects NBK's constant commitment to its responsibilities towards its clients with special needs, and meeting their financial demands easily and quickly

as part of its strategy to come closer to them," said Mohammad Al-Othman, Deputy General Manager, Retail Banking Group.



Mohammad Al-Othman



KUWAIT: Undersecretary of the Kuwait National Guard Lieutenant General Hashem Al-Refaie visited fireman Lance Corporal Fahad Mansour Al-Furaih, who suffered a severe injury while tackling a blaze on the first day of the Eid Al-Fitr holiday.



KAMCO OPENS FIRST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE IN DUBAI INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CENTRE

KUWAIT: KAMCO Investment Company, a leading investment company with one of the largest private sector Assets under Management (AUMs) in the region, today announced the opening of its first international office in DIFC.

A subsidiary of United Gulf Bank BSC (UGB) Bahrain, KAMCO obtained a Category 4 license from the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA). Servicing its broad international client base, KAMCO's DIFC operations will advise on financial products and credit along with arranging for credit or deals in investments.

Faisal Sarkhou, Chief Executive Officer of KAMCO, said: "After years of operating in Kuwait's dynamic investment industry, KAMCO has successfully established a robust reputation for solidity through its conservative investment philosophy, level of transparency, as well as innovative products and services. This is why we believe that the DIFC's solid growth and stable platform make it the ideal hub for KAMCO to access emerging markets in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA). With its existing operations in the United Arab Emirates, KAMCO's DIFC office will strengthen the firm's presence in the area while granting access to a larger base of potential regional and international clients."

Strategic outlook

"We look forward to expanding our operations within the region as part of our strategic outlook, focusing on meeting the needs of our existing and potential clients. KAMCO will bring almost two decades worth of accumulated knowledge and investment experience to the DIFC. We currently hold over \$11 billion of client AUM and have successfully completed investment banking transactions worth over \$12.5 billion as of March 31st,



2016. To expand KAMCO's reach within the regional and international markets, we believe that opening an office in the DIFC will help move the firm to the next level by providing new opportunities for development and growth," he added.

The DIFC's internationally recognized and independent regulation, common law framework, tax-friendly regime, and enabling environment make the ideal hub to access the region's rapidly growing demand for financial and business services. DIFC fills the time-zone gap between the leading financial centers of London and New York in the West and Hong Kong and Tokyo in the East.

Dynamic portfolio

Arif Amiri, Chief Executive Officer of DIFC Authority, said: "We are pleased to welcome KAM-

CO to DIFC's business community. The inauguration of KAMCO's first international office marks another step in our 2024 strategy to grow and diversify DIFC's dynamic client portfolio in addition to increasing overall AUMs in the Centre to \$250 billion by 2024.

Providing a geographically attractive platform, underpinned by an internationally benchmarked regulatory and legal system, DIFC enables investors to tap into key emerging markets across the MEASA region while having the certainty of an established framework." Guided by its core values of integrity, transparency and efficiency, the Centre continues to play a pivotal role in meeting the growing financial needs of the region and serves as an ideal destination for international business hubs across the region.

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Crime

Report

MAN ATTEMPTS ESCAPE THROUGH SALMY BORDER

KUWAIT: Land border security men in Salmiyah foiled a bedoon (stateless) young man's attempt to enter Saudi Arabia through the wire fence. The arrest was made as security men noticed unusual activity near the fence through infrared cameras. When they went there, they found the youth trying to get through. The bedoon said he was trying to go illegally because he has no passport, adding that he intended to perform umrah in Makkah. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Travel ban

Five citizens were detained at Salmiyah border outlet for attempting to leave the country illegally. A security source said the five citizens wanted to leave the country in an SUV, and after documenting their departure and reaching the gate, they told a policeman that they were four, but he discovered a fifth hiding under a blanket in the backseat. When his ID was checked, he was found to be banned from traveling. The rest confessed they knew about the ban, and wanted to get him out of the country because he was depressed. One of those involved was found charged in another case of attempting to help another suspect to leave the country illegally. They were all sent to concerned authorities.

Worker dead

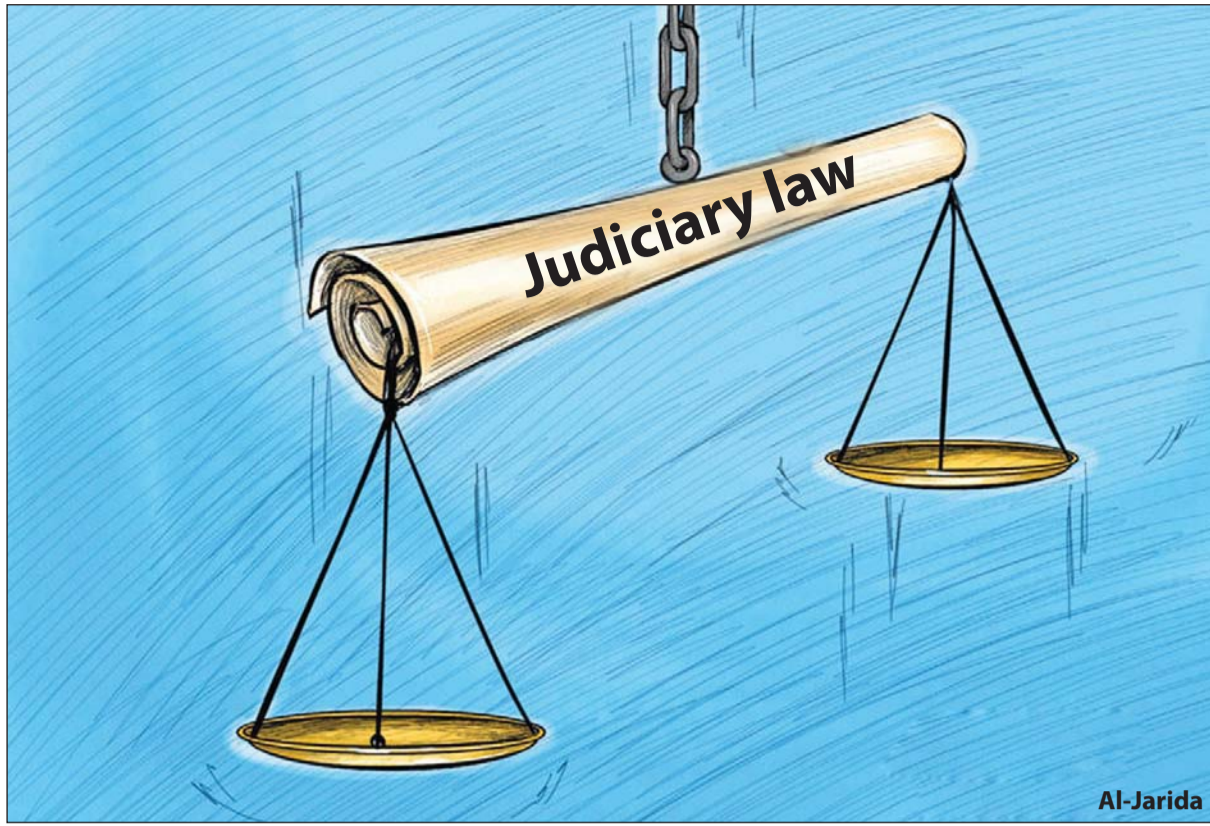
An Asian man was killed when he fell out of a pickup truck driven by his sponsor. A security source said the man was on top of the pickup, and when the sponsor hit a speed bump, he fell to his death. An investigation was opened into the case.

Women fight

Three women who met over morning tea got into an argument and exchanged insults and blows, then lodged charges and counter charges at Salmiyah police station. The three neighbors, two citizens and a Syrian, met to drink tea in the flat of one of them, but a heated discussion began before turning into a fight. Police are investigating.

Fugitive laughs his way to jail

A citizen was laughing hysterically while attending a play at Yarmouk Club theater, so some of the audience members called the police, who escorted him out. When his ID was checked, he was found to be an ex-convict, and had a record of shooting, armed robbery and various thefts. A security source said Hawally Security Director Brig Abdeen Al-Abdeen ordered his men to locate the man's car and search it. The source said the car was found in a narrow road, which made them suspicious, so they called the explosives department to check it. The citizen refused to open the car, so policemen blew the trunk open but did not find anything in it. He was taken to criminal detectives for interrogation. —Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa



Al-Jarida

News

in brief

Prosecution releases Gitmo ex-detainee

KUWAIT: The Public Prosecution released former Guantanamo Bay prison detainee Fayed Al-Kandari on Sunday, sources said, adding that official procedures are set to be finished 'within days'. Kandari spent six months in rehab after returning home last January following 15 years spent in the high security US prison. Meanwhile, Fawzi Al-Awdah, who was released in 2014 after spending 12 years in the Guantanamo Bay prison, is set to get married tomorrow, according to sources close to his family. —Al-Rai

Rent contract

KUWAIT: A government source revealed a proposal to create a new form for apartments' rent contracts, which could help reduce rent-related court cases. The 'executive formula contract', as the source describes it, allows the landlord to take all measures to obtain the rent in case the tenant delays the monthly payment beyond the 20th of the month, except for evaluation which would require a court order. —Al-Rai

Hajj costs

KUWAIT: The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs reached an agreement with Hajj campaign offices in Kuwait to provide up to 60 percent discount on pilgrimage costs for 600 pilgrims from needy families. The offices did not object this proposal since it provides an alternative to low cost campaigns, a government source said. Meanwhile, the Kuwait Awqaf Public Foundation is set to pay pilgrimage costs for 100 pilgrims, while the Public Authority for Minors' Affairs would send 50 orphans and widows for Hajj this year, the source added. —Al-Rai

Absence rate

KUWAIT: Employees' absence rate at state departments on the first day of work after the Eid Al-Fitr holiday reached 55 percent, Al-Qabas reported yesterday based on tours carried out at the Ministries' Complex and other government buildings. —Al-Qabas

Court cases

KUWAIT: Court cases increased by 37 percent in 2016 compared to last year, new statistics showed. They also revealed that an average 2,800 cases are viewed in courts every day. Family related cases are on the rise, sources said, as they reached second place in terms of their total numbers following judicial writ cases. —Al-Qabas

القاسم

Al-Qabas

OFFICIALS' DEGREES

By Qais Al-Usta

The answer given by State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah to a question by MP Faisal Al-Shaye with regards to those who got postgraduate degrees outside government scholarships as well as study leaves is very important, and should be reason for pause. The number reaches nearly 5,700 citizens of both genders, and the question is who are these people? And why were their degrees accepted, as most of them did not get them legally? And from which universities they received the certificates? Where were their superiors, especially that they got them while at work? Did they get them from international universities like Harvard? Or from the university of "All is the Same"? Did they receive promotion at work based on these certificates?

All these questions and others must be put forward to know the size of the problem that the various state departments got us in as they did not carry out their duties for two decades. Some of them became members of the teaching faculty at the university or Public Authority for Applied Education and Training, while others became engineers at various state ministries, so are they trusted to teach our children or supervise buildings we are going to live or work in?!

The undertaking of the state minister carries some sort of an apology, as he confirmed with audio and video, and through the National Assembly session that "we will not repeat it", but what his excellency missed is to promise to try those who got us to this stage, especially that there is unanimity that what took place is not accepted by anyone.

This issue confirms what we have repeatedly wrote about, which is the unrealistic disintegration that hit state departments in the past two decades, to a point we started to celebrate the "U" turns, while our neighbors speak about hosting the World Cup and events at the international level. The plague is that most of those who were responsible in the past two decades, who directly contributed to this deterioration, returned to the management system, either through the title "advisor" or member of the board of an important authority.

If the youth had been successful to start with during their service years, we would not have reached this stage. Enough problems - people cannot bear with it! Find new people, it is much better, but to complain to anyone other than Allah is an insult.

Was the message delivered? I hope so.

—Translated by Kuwait Times

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: An old 'souk' (market) recreated at the Kuwait National Museum. —KUNA photo



Srebrenica buries 127 victims of massacre, Serbs absent over genocide denial

ON DALLAS TRIP, OBAMA WILL TRY TO MAKE SENSE OF SHOOTINGS



JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN: Black smoke is seen rising above the capital on Sunday. — AP

SOUTH SUDAN LEADERS ORDER CEASEFIRE
 CIVIL WAR FEARS GROW • HELICOPTERS OVERHEAD, TANKS SEEN ON STREETS

JUBA: South Sudan's president and vice president ordered their rival forces to cease hostilities yesterday after days of fighting threatened to plunge the nation back into civil war and bring further instability to an impoverished region of Africa. Fighting erupted four days ago in the capital Juba between loyalists of President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, the former rebel leader who became vice president under a deal to end a two-year civil war.

The violence, which has killed hundreds of people, broke out as the world's newest nation prepared to mark five years of independence from Sudan on July 9. Presidential spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny said Kiir and Machar had spoken by phone yesterday, a day which saw tanks and helicopters involved in some of the fiercest clashes yet. "All the commanders of (Kiir's) forces are directed to cease any hostility and abide by the order and control their forces," Ateny told Reuters. "President Salva Kiir is determined to carry on his partnership with Riek Machar."

Machar responded by ordering his troops to stand down. "The president has declared a unilateral ceasefire, I want to reciprocate the declaration of unilateral ceasefire," he told the independent Eye Radio. However much is not clear about the latest violence in Juba, including what the objective of either side has been and how much control Kiir and Machar have over their forces.

The fighting has raised fears of a return to the civil war that erupted in late 2013 and broadly ran along ethnic lines, pitting Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, against Machar, a Nuer. The conflict killed thousands of people, forced more than 2.5 million people from their homes and left almost half the population of 11 million people struggling to find food. Oil production, by far the biggest source of government revenue, has plummeted.

A new flare-up risks driving yet more people to refugee camps in neighboring nations and further destabilising a region in the centre of Africa already plagued by myriad woes. Central African Republic is riven by conflict, the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo is contending with a patchwork of militias and rebels groups, and

Burundi is embroiled in a violent political crisis. The UN Security Council on Sunday demanded Kiir and Machar rein in their forces and end the fighting. The UN mission in South Sudan, UNMISS, expressed its "outrage" after its bases in Juba were caught in the cross-fire between the two sides and two Chinese peacekeepers were killed.

Wrangling

Kiir and Machar have long been rivals, both in politics and on the battlefield. The civil war that broke out in 2013 came a few months after Kiir sacked Machar as his deputy. Fighting has often erupted outside Juba since the two men signed a peace deal in August last year. But this was the first time it had flared in Juba since Machar finally returned in April after months of wrangling about terms of the pact. Experts say the failure to swiftly implement key elements of the deal, such as integrating and demobilizing their forces, has allowed tension to fester and risked igniting a new conflict. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon yesterday urged the Security Council to impose an arms embargo on South Sudan, sanction leaders and commanders who blocked the implementation of a peace deal and fortify the UNMISS mission. There has been no official death toll from the recent flare up but at least five soldiers died on Thursday and a Health Ministry source said 272 people, including 33 civilians, were killed on Friday. Sunday and yesterday's fighting was more fierce.

UNMISS said gunfire had erupted on Monday around the UN headquarters in the Jebel area of Juba and also around a base near the airport. It said UN sites had been hit in exchanges of fire, killing eight and injuring 67. China's Foreign Ministry said two of its peacekeepers were killed. Commenting on the fatalities that resulted from weekend fighting, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said: "We do understand that it was a direct confrontation from the military." Highlighting lawlessness on Juba's streets, one resident said he saw police officers trying to loot a shop in his neighborhood by shooting off the padlocks and firing in the air to scare away people, echoing similar witness reports on Sunday. — Reuters

BAHRAIN LAUDS KUWAIT ANTI-TERRORISM EFFORTS

MANAMA: Bahrain lauded Kuwait's proactive anti-terrorism efforts, as well as security bodies' vigilance in detecting terrorist cells inside the country, which resulted in capturing a number of terrorists and foiling their heinous schemes to destabilize the country.

It is important to consolidate all efforts toward combating terrorism and countering its perpetrators, sympathizers, and promoters, Bahraini Cabinet stated during its weekly session yesterday.

Coordinating efforts are continuing to counter such terrorist actions that target security and stability of the region's countries, it added, noting that such criminal acts would only boost "our will and determination in facing and countering terrorism." — KUNA

ALGERIAN LAWYER GETS 2-YEAR SENTENCE FOR INSULTING PRESIDENT

ALGIERS, Algeria: A lawyer for Algerian journalist Mohamed Tamalt says his client has been sentenced to two years in prison and a 200,000 dinar (\$1,800) fine for insulting President Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

Tamalt's sentence is the latest in a series of worrying signs for Algeria's press, which has come under pressure as the country struggles with slumping oil revenues and an ailing head of state.

Amine Sidhoum told The Associated Press the journalist's representatives are appealing the sentence on the grounds that Algerian law forbids punishing journalists for doing their jobs.

Tamalt, a London resident, administers a Facebook page critical of politicians, military brass and their families. He was arrested at his family home in Algeria on June 27 after being put under surveillance. — AP

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In addition, the hospital has 28 level 3 Intensive Care beds, which enables us to care for complex patients that have had major surgery whether general, neurological or cardiac.

All of us at The Wellington Hospital are constantly striving to maintain and expand the highest standard of care that you will find anywhere.



ISRAEL JEWISH LEADERS DEMAND RIGHT TO PRAY IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM: The president of America's Union for Reform Judaism blasted the Israeli government yesterday for delaying a plan to give liberal Jews a special space to pray at a Jerusalem holy site, and vowed to escalate his movement's struggle with public demonstrations and legal action.

"For this government agreement to collapse would be the signal of a real rupture of the North American-Israel relationship," said Rabbi Rick Jacobs.

The liberal Reform Movement is the

largest American stream of Judaism, claiming to represent 1.5 million people. Reform congregations hold mixed-gender prayers, employ female rabbis and have members who drive to synagogue on the Sabbath - all customs that go against Orthodox tradition.

Reform synagogues are common in the United States but the movement is marginal in Israel.

In January Israel announced it would enlarge and officially recognize a special

mixed-gender prayer area at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. The wall, believed to be a retaining wall of the Second Temple, is the holiest place where Jews can pray. Leaders of liberal streams of Judaism in Israel and the U.S. negotiated with Israeli authorities for three years to obtain the agreement.

Yet the plan to expand the egalitarian space has stalled since. The Western Wall is managed by an ultra-Orthodox rabbi who opposes Reform customs

on the holy site.

In the meantime, Reform Jews have increased their prayer services near the traditional prayer plaza of the Western Wall, against the objections of the site's rabbi. Hecklers have attacked activists as they prayed. Last week, an ultra-Orthodox man tore apart a prayer book belonging to an activist with Women of the Wall, a group demanding gender equality at the site.

In a letter to Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu, Jacobs and leaders of American and Israeli Reform and Conservative movements said the current situation was "unjust and insulting." They announced they would file suit in Israel's Supreme Court and demand a third, egalitarian prayer space at the traditional Western Wall plaza, where today men and women pray separately. This space would be in the central prayer site, whereas the egalitarian space outlined in January would be a short distance away. —AP

REBELS LAUNCH FIERCE ASSAULT IN SYRIA'S DIVIDED ALEPPO

KILLING SEVERAL CIVILIANS AND DESTROYING HOMES

ALEPPO: Opposition fighters launched a major assault on government-held districts of Syria's long-divided Aleppo yesterday, after the regime severed their only remaining supply route into the battleground city.

The attack on multiple fronts was accompanied by heavy rebel shelling of the western side of the city, killing several civilians and destroying homes. Once Syria's economic powerhouse, Aleppo has been ravaged by the war that began with anti-government

correspondent said, reporting heavy clashes between regime and opposition forces along the front line of the northern city.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported the assault. "Opposition factions launched a wide-scale attack on four fronts against the regime inside Aleppo city, including in the Old City," said Observatory chief Rami Abdel Rahman.

"There is currently fierce fighting underway, but the opposition

wounded in fire by "terrorist groups on residential neighborhoods in Aleppo city."

There was no immediate toll for either side taking part in the clashes. Ahmed, a resident of western Aleppo, said the shelling had completely destroyed his home in the Syriac quarter. "The shells have rained down on the western neighborhoods since 4:30 am," he told AFP.

Meagre food stocks
Residents of the neighborhood

Mahmud Abu Malak, a spokesman for the Nureddin al-Zanki rebel group, described fierce fighting. "All kinds of heavy artillery and machineguns are being used in the assault, which is intended to ease the pressure on the Mallah and Handarat fronts," he said, referring to areas near the rebel supply route into Aleppo.

The Castello Road route was effectively severed on Thursday when government forces seized a hilltop within firing range.

The advance leaves the opposition-held east of the city cut off, and raises the prospect of total siege. On Sunday, rebels launched an assault to push government forces back from the road and reopen the route, but it failed and ended with at least 29 opposition fighters dead.

The ongoing fighting comes despite a nationwide truce declared by the government last Wednesday, to coincide with the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

The ceasefire has produced little respite in violence, but was extended for another 72 hours on Saturday. The severing of the Castello Road has already created shortages of food and fuel in the east of Aleppo, with local market stalls sparsely stocked.

"There are very few vegetables today because the Castello Road is closed," said Abu Mohamed, a vendor in the Bustan al-Qasr neighborhood. "This eggplant and zucchini is grown here inside Aleppo," he said, gesturing to his meagre stock. "If we hadn't planted eggplant and zucchini inside the city, we wouldn't have had any vegetables at all."

Residents also described searching in vain for fuel, whether for vehicles or home use. The situation has raised fears of a lengthy siege of the east of the city. The UN says nearly 600,000 Syrians live in besieged areas, most surrounded by government forces, although rebels also use the method. —AFP



ALEPPO: A Syrian boy stands in front of an empty vegetable market on Sunday. —AP

protests in March 2011 and has killed more than 280,000 people.

The city has been divided between government control in the west and rebel control in the east since mid-2012, with the regime long seeking to sever the key Castello Road supply route into the opposition side. The rebel offensive began at dawn, an AFP

has not advanced because of the heavy aerial bombardment the regime is carrying out on the areas where fighting is underway."

A barrage of 300 rebel shells had been fired into western Aleppo since dawn, killing nine civilians, said the Observatory. State television said eight civilians had been killed and 80 people

gathered in one of the affected areas on Monday morning, lifting debris and helping locals gather their belongings so they could leave in search of shelter elsewhere. "The sounds of the fighting can still be heard and are very loud, and the shelling on the western neighborhoods is ongoing," he said.

GERMANY, TURKEY AIRBASE ROW FLARES AFTER 'GENOCIDE' VOTE

BERLIN: Germany yesterday insisted that its lawmakers had the right to visit an airbase in Turkey despite Ankara's opposition, in an escalating row between the NATO partners.

A German delegation this month was to travel to the Incirlik base in southern Turkey, used to launch coalition raids against Islamic State (IS) jihadists in Syria, but Turkey has

"To us, it's a military issue," Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said Monday, referring to any visit to Incirlik. "On the German side, the issue of Incirlik or sending soldiers is under the authority of the German parliament."

He said because of differences in the two nations' laws, "the visit of the German delega-

Bundestag deputies to be able to see our military in Turkey at Incirlik-it is a military under the control of the parliament."

Merkel told ARD public television late Sunday that she would press on in talks with Ankara. "It is not the first time in politics that the first conversation did not suffice," she said.

No 'alliance of values'

Turkey's Hurriyet newspaper reported that during their meeting, Erdogan expressed discomfort to Merkel about the German parliament's Armenia resolution and said he expected Berlin to distance itself from it.

After the Bundestag vote, Erdogan had charged that the 11 German MPs with Turkish roots who backed the resolution supported "terrorism" by the banned Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), and demanded that they undergo "blood tests" to see "what kind of Turks they are."

Deputies from Merkel's ruling left-right coalition said that Berlin should consider pulling out of Incirlik if Ankara did not back down in the dispute. "Soldiers and bases of a parliamentary army must be able to be visited by lawmakers at any time and everywhere," Andreas Scheuer, a leading member of the co-ruling Christian Social Union, told the daily Tagesspiegel.

Erdogan "is risking as a result the withdrawal of the German military". Social Democrat Niels Annen issued a similar warning. "We want to surmount these tensions but it must be clear: a permanent refusal by Turkey can lead to the end of the German participation in the NATO mission."

National daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung said the affair pointed to a deeper rift, just as Germany is relying on Turkey to implement a complex deal to stem the flow to the European Union of Middle Eastern asylum seekers. "With this ban, President Erdogan is once again showing his true colors," it said.

"Turkey and Germany are both members of NATO but it has been a long time since there has been an alliance of values between Merkel and Erdogan." —AFP



BERLIN: Armenian activists waving flags outside the Bundestag after lawmakers voted to recognise the Armenian genocide after a debate during the 173rd sitting of the German lower house of parliament. —AFP

blocked the trip. Germany in December agreed to send Tornado surveillance jets and tanker aircraft to Incirlik to aid the multinational coalition fighting IS and currently has about 240 soldiers stationed there.

Media reports said the ban was in retaliation for Germany's Bundestag lower house passing a resolution last month calling the mass killing of Armenians by Ottoman forces during World War I a "genocide". But Turkish officials did not confirm this publicly.

tion is not yet certain. Talks are continuing," Chancellor Angela Merkel held fruitless negotiations with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the planned visit at a NATO summit in Warsaw at the weekend but her spokesman said Berlin would keep up the pressure.

"The goal is crystal clear: it must be possible for our deputies to visit our soldiers," the spokesman, Steffen Seibert, told reporters in Berlin. "Of course it is necessary for our



Nizar Zakka, a Lebanese technology expert and advocate for Internet freedom, second right, posing with his relatives at an unidentified location. Tehran prosecutor said yesterday that Zakka, is among four people with foreign ties indicted on unknown charges in the Islamic Republic. Iran does not recognize dual nationalities. —AP

IRAN ANNOUNCES INDICTMENTS FOR 3 DUAL NATIONALS, FOREIGNER

TEHRAN: Iran announced yesterday that three dual nationals and a foreigner held in the country have been indicted on unknown charges, part of a series of detentions in the wake of last year's nuclear deal with world powers.

The four, who have ties to Britain, Canada and the US, all are believed to have been detained by hard-liners in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. The reasons for their arrests remain unclear, though the husband of one of them says his family was told by the Guard she'd be released if the British government agreed to their demands.

The suspects

Iran's semi-official ISNA and Tasnim news agencies quoted Tehran's prosecutor, Abbas Jafari Dowlatabadi, naming the four charged as: Homa Hoodfar, an Iranian-Canadian woman who is a retired professor at Montreal's Concordia University;

Siamak Namazi, an Iranian-American businessman who has advocated for closer ties between the two countries and whose father is also held in Tehran;

Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, an Iranian-British woman who works for the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of the news agency; and Nizar Zakka, a US permanent resident from Lebanon who has done work for the American government.

The four were arrested in connection with separate cases over the past year. Family members and representatives of the four say they did nothing wrong. Dowlatabadi's statement did not elaborate on the charges. He said another seven people faced charges related to the unrest that surrounded the country's disputed 2009 presidential election.

Iran does not recognize dual nationalities. In previous cases involving dual nationals, like the detention of Washington Post journalist Jason Rezaian, officials initially announced indictments had been handed down without providing specifics. Later, news organizations with close ties to security services offered details of the charges.

Whats next

Those detained typically face trial in Iran's Revolutionary Court, a closed-door tribunal which handles cases involving alleged attempts to overthrow the government. Rezaian was convicted but later released in January as part of a prisoner swap between Iran and the US.

While Iranian officials have not publicly demanded another swap, analysts have suggested the detainees might be used by hard-liners as bargaining chips. Richard Ratcliffe, the husband of Zaghari-Ratcliffe, said as much in a statement to journalists Monday marking the 100th

day of his wife's detention. Ratcliffe said the Guard told his wife's family she would be released as long as the British government reached "an agreement" with them. He said they did not elaborate, other than to say it did not involve the recent nuclear deal, which lifted economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for it limiting its atomic program.

His infant daughter, Gabriella, also remains in Iran, as authorities seized her passport. "That the Iranian authorities are willing to hold a mother and baby hostage for domestic politics and as a



TEHRAN: Retired Iranian-Canadian professor Homa Hoodfar. —AP

bargaining chip in their international negotiations shows that we have reached a very dark place," Ratcliffe said.

Iranian officials in Tehran could not be reached for comment. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Yesterday's announcement did not include any mention of Namazi's father, Baquer Namazi, a former Iranian and UN official in his 80s who is also detained. Also unaccounted for is former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who vanished in Iran in 2007 while on an unauthorized CIA mission.

The hard-line crackdown since the nuclear accord has included the detention and sentencing of Iranian poets, filmmakers, artists and others. Most recently, famed Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli found himself banned from traveling abroad and had his passport seized.

Yesterday, Tanavoli told The Associated Press that police had filed a complaint alleging that his work was "disturbing public opinion" and "spreading lies." The sculptor called the complaint "baseless" and said his lawyer would fight against his travel ban, which prevented him from giving lectures in London. —AP

EMIRATI TOP DIPLOMAT SAYS UAE COMMITTED TO FIGHT IN YEMEN

NICOSIA, CYPRUS: The foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates says his country is committed to continue its support of Yemen's internationally recognized government of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan said after talks with his Cypriot counterpart that the UAE is also "very much committed" to pursuing Al-Qaeda in Yemen where the group has taken root because

of the lack of government control.

He didn't address the question whether the UAE intended to either scale up or down its troop presence in Yemen as part of a Saudi-led coalition fighting Houthi rebels and allied troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. A senior Emirati official last month stepped back from earlier remarks that the war in Yemen was over for UAE troops. —AP

GERMAN MINISTRY SEES POSSIBLE DELAY IN SIGNING MISSILE DEFENSE CONTRACT

LONDON: Germany may not finish negotiations with Europe's MBDA and Lockheed Martin Corp on the MEADS missile defense system by the end of the year as planned, according to a document sent to lawmakers by a senior German defense ministry official.

The document, dated July 8 and sent by State Secretary Ralf Brauksiepe, said it was unclear if the project could be submitted to the parliamentary budget committee by

the end of this year, or if it would slip into early next year. A copy of the document was seen by Reuters.

Company officials told Reuters last month they hoped to submit a final contract proposal for the Medium Extended Air Defense System (MEADS) by the end of July and wrap up negotiations on the \$4.5 billion project by year's end.

Lockheed officials were not immediately available to comment on the ministry

document. Experts say it may be difficult to win parliamentary approval if negotiations drag on too long too close to Germany's national elections in September 2017.

Tobias Lindner, a member of the Green party, said the delay made him question if the ministry had fully understood the risks involved in the project. Germany announced last year it had chosen the MEADS system over Raytheon Co's Patriot

system to replace the current Patriot system fielded in the 1980s, but said the companies had to meet demanding performance milestones to retain the contract.

Germany funded a quarter of the \$4 billion invested by it, the United States and Italy to develop the new system as a successor for the Patriot system. The US military, citing financial pressures, decided several years ago not to buy the system, while Italy has not yet announced its plans.

European missile maker MBDA is jointly owned by Airbus Group, Britain's BAE Systems Plc and Italy's Leonardo Finmeccanica SpA. Raytheon, a candidate to build a separate radar system that would be integrated with the MEADS system, says it is staying in close touch with the German government in case the MEADS consortium fails to meet the milestones set by the government. —Reuters



BOSNIA: A Bosnian woman prays next to a coffin containing the remains of her relative perished in the Srebrenica massacre, during a funeral ceremony for the 127 victims at the Potocari memorial complex near Srebrenica yesterday. —AP

SREBRENICA BURIES 127 VICTIMS OF MASSACRE, SERBS ABSENT

PAIN IS IMMENSE

SREBRENICA, Bosnia: Thousands of Muslim Bosniaks paid respect to 127 victims of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre buried in individual graves yesterday in a ceremony avoided by Serbs after survivors said they were not welcome because they denied genocide had occurred.

Nationalist Bosnian Serb forces led by General Ratko Mladic executed 8,000 Bosniak men and boys after overrunning Srebrenica near the end of Bosnia's war 21 years ago and dumped their bodies in pits - Europe's worst atrocity since World War Two. Serb forces subsequently dug up the bodies and scattered them in a systematic effort to conceal the crime. UN war crimes investigators later excavated the mass graves, but over 1,000 bodies are still missing. Most Serbs, both in Bosnia and Serbia whose 1990s leadership armed and funded Bosnian Serb forces, strongly deny that the massacre was genocide as judged by the UN war crimes tribunal for former Yugoslavia.

They dispute the death toll and the official account of what happened, reflecting conflicting narratives about how and why Yugoslavia broke up in bloodshed. That divide continues to hinder reconciliation and stifle Bosnia's progress toward integration with Western Europe. The Balkan country today is split into autonomous Serb and Bosniak-Croat entities.

Pain is immense

For Muslim Bosniaks, Srebrenica has become a symbol of collective suffering and July burials of victims an annual ritual. July 11, the start of the five-day massacre, was made a national day of mourning by Bosnia's weak post-war central government comprised of Bosniaks, Serbs and Croats.

Some Serb officials attended previous burial ceremonies but this year was the first time none came after families said that those who deny genocide happened in Srebrenica were not welcome. "How can anyone say this was not a genocide?" said Nura Suljic, 57, pointing at endless rows of white marble tombstones in the flower-shaped Potocari memorial

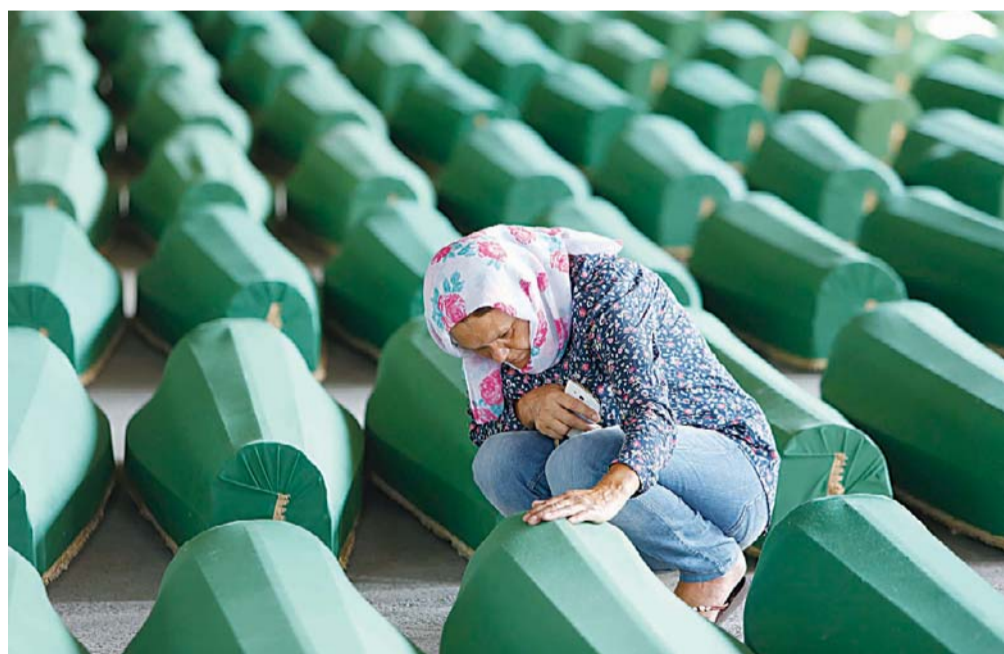
cemetery near Srebrenica, where more than 6,300 victims are now interred.

Suljic buried her brother after his bones were found in three different mass graves. Bakir Iztbegovic, the Bosniak chairman of Bosnia's three-person inter-ethnic presidency and son of its late wartime president, urged Serbs to face up to historical facts. "Acceptance and recognition of the truth is the first step towards genuine trust," he said.

Last year's 20th anniversary was marred when an angry crowd at the ceremony chased away Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, who had enlisted ally Russia to veto a UN resolution that would have condemned the denial of Srebrenica as genocide.

Survivors did not want a possible repeat of any such incidents that would distract attention away from the victims. Serbian and Bosnian Serb officials bristled at the condition for attendance. "That was not genocide and Serbs will never accept that word," Bosnian Serb President Milorad Dodik said.

Thousands of grieving families stood by green-draped coffins in sweltering mid-summer heat, some kneeling, crying and hugging the caskets before they were lowered into freshly-dug graves. "All I have been left with are these three cold stones I can hug instead of my two sons and husband, and a grief I will carry in my heart until I die," said 67-year-old Nezir Memic. —Reuters



BOSNIA: A Bosnian Muslim woman touches the coffin of a relative, among 127 coffins displayed at the memorial centre of Potocari near Srebrenica yesterday. —AP

US FREES YEMENI PRISONER FROM GUANTANAMO, SENDS HIM TO ITALY

MIAMI: A Yemeni prisoner at Guantanamo Bay was released and sent to Italy after more than 14 years in custody, the Pentagon said Sunday. The release of Fayiz Ahmad Yahia Suleiman reduced the number of men held at the US base in Cuba to 78. He was among about two dozen low-level Guantanamo prisoners expected to be released in the

coming weeks. "The United States is grateful to the Government of Italy for its humanitarian gesture and willingness to support ongoing US efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility," the Defense Department said in a statement.

Military records show Suleiman, who is about 40, was suspected of fighting with al-Qaida against US and

coalition forces in Afghanistan. He was never charged, and officials cleared him for release in 2010. But the US does not send Yemeni prisoners to their homeland because of instability there and had to find another country to accept him for resettlement. The US transferred two Guantanamo detainees to Italy in November 2009. President Barack

Obama has been seeking to close the detention center amid opposition from Congress, which has prohibited transferring detainees to the US for any reason. The administration has been working with other countries to resettle detainees such as Suleiman who have been cleared for transfer after a comprehensive security review. —AP

UK'S OSBORNE WELCOMES PROSPECT OF MAY BECOMING PRIME MINISTER

LONDON: British finance minister George Osborne said it was good news that interior minister Theresa May was now the sole candidate to become the country's next prime minister after her remaining rival Andrea Leadsom dropped out of the race yesterday.

"Welcome news we have 1 candidate with overwhelming support to be next PM," Osborne said on Twitter. "Theresa May has strength, integrity and determination to do the job."

Separately, Osborne told BBC television it was important that the British economy had more certainty. He had not previously given his public backing to any of the candidates to lead the ruling Conservative Party. Osborne was once considered a strong contender to succeed Prime Minister David Cameron but his hopes were dashed by the defeat of the "Remain" campaign in last month's European Union membership referendum which he and Cameron led. —Reuters

UK OPPOSITION LABOR PARTY SAYS LEADERSHIP CONTEST TRIGGERED

LONDON: Britain's opposition Labor Party said yesterday that a leadership contest had been officially triggered following the receipt of sufficient nominations for a rival candidate to left-wing leader Jeremy Corbyn.

"I have now received sufficient nominations to trigger a contest for the position of Leader of the Labor Party," party General Secretary Iain McNicol said in a statement. He said the party's National Executive Committee would meet to confirm arrangements for the contest. Earlier, Labor lawmaker Angela Eagle launched her bid to take over the leadership of the party, saying Corbyn was unable to defeat the ruling Conservative Party. —Reuters

HUNDREDS ATTEND FUNERAL OF GORED BULLFIGHTER IN SPAIN

SEPULVEDA, SPAIN: Hundreds of people joined family, friends and members of Spain's bullfighting world for a funeral Mass yesterday for bullfighter Victor Barrio who was fatally gored in a bullring this past weekend.

People applauded and shouted "torero, torero" as the coffin was carried from a hearse to a packed San Bartolome church in the central town of Sepulveda where Barrio lived.

The 29-year-old matador died after being gored in the thigh and chest in the central city of Teruel on Saturday. The goring was broadcast live on television and news of his death stirred widespread reaction across Spain. King Felipe VI and acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy expressed condolences.

Medics were at Barrio's side almost immediately but he died later in the bullring's infirmary. He was the first professional matador to die during a bullfight in Spain since 21-year-old Frenchman Jose Cubero Yiyo was fatally gored in 1985 in Madrid.

His wife, Raquel Sanz, was at the ring when the goring happened. In messages on her official Twitter account Sunday, Sanz thanked those who had expressed condolences and said, "My life has gone, I have no strength."

Prominent members of the bullfighting world were among those attending the Mass. "Today you can see it, everybody is here, all the bullfighting world - to put our arms around a destroyed family, and to acknowledge the valor, the commitment and all the values that Victor Barrio had as a person and as a bullfighter," matador Enrique Ponce told reporters.

Fellow bullfighter and a friend of Barrio's, Esau Fernandez, said, "The words don't come out. He was a good friend, he was a colleague, we grew up together." Festivities in Teruel were immediately suspended following Barrio's death, and Las Ventas, the Madrid bullring where he debuted in 2010, posted a heartfelt remembrance of the young bullfighter. —AP



SPAIN: This framegrab taken from Castilla La Mancha TV shows matador Victor Barrio on the ground after being gored by a bull during a bullfight as the banderilleros distract the bull, in the Teruel bullring on Saturday. —AP

GERMANY PLANS TO ASSUME GREATER SECURITY ROLE

BERLIN: "Economic giant, political dwarf" - that is how the world long viewed post-World War II Germany, the European export power reluctant to use military muscle in global conflicts. It is an image that Europe's most populous country wants to shed as it gradually assumes a bigger defense role, within the frameworks of NATO and the European Union.

That ambition, the outcome of a debate that began two decades ago, is the message of Germany's new military roadmap, the defense ministry's so-called White Paper, to be released Wednesday. It marks a shift for Germany which, burdened by guilt about Nazi terror and the Holocaust, for decades stepped softly on the world stage and long refrained from sending troops abroad.

The paper, the first of its kind issued in a decade, envisions a future defense union of European states - reviving a 1950s-era idea that was rejected by France at the time - as Europe is nervously eyeing Russia and digesting the shock of the Brexit vote. "Germany is increasingly seen as a key player in Europe," says a draft of the document seen by AFP. "Germany, a globally highly connected country... has a responsibility to actively help shape the world order," it says, vowing that the country is ready to "assume responsibility" and "help meet current and future security and humanitarian challenges".

Paradigm shift

The paper presents a paradigm shift for a country often lampooned as a "Bigger Switzerland" - prosperous and seeking to stay neutral - in the words of French economist Alain Minc.

While Germany's dark past has nurtured a strong pacifist tradition, its leaders have also often been stung by allies' criticism that they are not pulling their weight in tackling crisis hotspots, lack the stomach for full-fledged military engagement and prefer chequebook diplomacy.

It was not until 1994 that Germany's highest court allowed the country to participate in multinational peacekeeping missions. Germany has since deployed troops to conflict zones, from the Balkans to Afghanistan and Mali, but has also earned criticism for staying out of other conflicts, especially the 2011 NATO intervention in Libya.

Over the past two years, President Joachim Gauck and Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen have repeatedly argued that Germany must engage

more forcefully abroad. Berlin has since joined the international alliance against the Islamic State group, though in a non-combat role, sending Tornado reconnaissance jets, aerial refueling planes and other support.

Germany, a major arms exporter, has also broken with another taboo - sending weapons into an active conflict - by arming Kurdish Peshmerga fighters battling IS in Iraq. And at the NATO summit in Warsaw, Germany was one of the members to pledge to station rotating battalions in Poland, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania from 2017 as a collective deterrent against Russian adventurism.

'European defense union'

The new engagements come as the German army has complained of being overstretched, underfunded and plagued by equipment failures, including its G36 assault rifle, which reportedly doesn't shoot straight at high temperatures.

The Bundeswehr is now set to see its budget boosted and to get its first increase in troop strength since the Cold War, when it was still a conscript force, with plans to recruit nearly 20,000 personnel over seven years.

Germany, in order to reassure international partners, stresses in the White Paper that it will act within the trans-Atlantic and European frameworks. "As a long-term goal, Germany aims for a common European security and defense union," says the text. For now, this means using all ways of military cooperation authorized under the EU treaties and "strengthening the European defense industry" through tie-ups, with France in particular.

A former German chancellor, Gerhard Schroeder, presented an even more ambitious vision in an article co-authored with Minc, the French economist, in news weekly Die Zeit. They propose that Paris and Berlin "pool their resources" in foreign and security policy, and that their armed forces work together as closely as possible.

France, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, would commit to presenting a common position with Germany, the authors suggested. It is far from certain, however, that such an idea could gain traction now in France, a nuclear-armed military power whose politicians have been traditionally wary of German pacifism and still resent its abstention in the UN vote on the Libya intervention. —AFP

TWO INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS SWITCHED FROM BANGLADESH AFTER ATTACK

DHAKA: An Asia-Pacific money laundering group has moved its meeting out of Bangladesh citing security concerns, officials said yesterday, 10 days after militants stormed a cafe in an upscale part of the capital and killed 20 people, mostly foreigners.

Some 350 foreign delegates had been expected in Dhaka to attend the July 24-28 annual meeting of The Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering that seeks

to pool efforts to fight illegal money transfers and terrorist financing.

The group said in a statement on its website that the meeting will now be held in September in the United States. The exact location will be decided later. It gave no reason. But a senior official at Bangladesh's central bank said the July 1-2 attack in which seven Japanese, nine Italians, an American and an Indian were among the victims,

had led to the change of venue.

Several countries, including the United States, have issued warnings about travelling to Bangladesh or asked citizens to take extra care following the assault claimed by Islamic State. Another conference on telecommunications, the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre, scheduled for Sept. 29 in Dhaka, has also been moved and will be held either in Sri Lanka or Thailand, organizers said.

Around 450 foreign delegates had been due to attend. Mohammad Aminul Hakim, one of the organizers, urged foreigners not to panic, amid concerns that the growing threat of militant violence in Bangladesh will hurt the economy, and in particular the vital \$26 billion garment sector.

"The international community should keep faith in us. The government is taking security measures," he said. Bangladesh's central bank is trying to

recover \$81 million that hackers stole from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in February and transferred into accounts in the Philippines.

Officials at Bangladesh Bank and police investigating the biggest online theft in banking history had told Reuters earlier they hoped the money laundering conference would help coordinate efforts to recover the funds from the Philippines. —Reuters

SRI LANKA ARRESTS SON OF FORMER LEADER RAJAPAKSA

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan police arrested the eldest son of former president Mahinda Rajapaksa yesterday for misappropriation of funds in an apartment project, his lawyer said, the third member of the once-powerful family to be detained.

Namal Rajapaksa, who is also a member of parliament, had been questioned by financial police investigating the \$650-million high-end project in the capital Colombo. He appeared before a court on Monday and was remanded in police custody for a week, his lawyer Premanath C. Dolawatta said.

Namal has denied any wrongdoing and said the government was on a witchhunt of its political rivals instead of delivering on its promise of good governance. Since he swept to power in January 2015, President Maithripala Sirisena has launched a series of investigations into deals that were cleared by his predecessor Rajapaksa and his

family members, some of whom were in the cabinet.

Namal's uncle Basil Rajapaksa, who headed the economic development ministry, was arrested over the misuse of an anti-poverty government fund and under anti-money-laundering charges. Another son of Mahinda, Yoshitha, who led the national rugby team, was arrested under the money-laundering law in February.

The former president's wife is also facing investigation for financial impropriety, while another brother, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, is accused of running a "private military" while he led the defence department. The Rajapaksas have denied the allegations. "This is the good governance," Namal told reporters as he was taken to court. The former president, in a Facebook post after the arrest, said: "I will be in politics for the people of this country even if my entire family is jailed." —Reuters



SRINAGAR, INDIA: Kashmiri Muslim protesters taunt Indian policemen as they clash yesterday. —AP

KASHMIR SEETHES AS 25 KILLED IN CLASHES WITH INDIAN FORCES

SRINAGAR, INDIA: Indian authorities struggled to contain street protests yesterday by Kashmiris defying patrols and a stringent curfew after at least 25 people died in clashes that followed the killing of a top rebel leader.

Paramilitary troops and police in riot gear patrolled villages and towns in the Himalayan region. Most shops were shuttered, businesses were closed, and cell phone and mobile internet services were suspended in parts of the region. But crowds ignored the clampdown and clashed with government troops in parts of the main city of Srinagar and several other places in the region.

At least two teenagers injured in the clashes died in a hospital on yesterday, said a police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to reporters.

The protests erupted Saturday, a day after Indian troops killed Burhan Wani, the young leader of Kashmir's largest rebel group, Hizbul Mujahideen, which has been fighting since the 1990s against Indian rule. Wani, in his early 20s, had become the iconic face of Kashmir's militancy, using social media to rally supporters and reach out to other youths like him who had grown up while hundreds of thousands of Indian armed forces have been deployed across the region.

Police Inspector-General Syed Javaid Mujtaba Gillani described Wani's killing as the "biggest success against militants" in recent years. As news of his death spread, spontaneous protests erupted and crowds of youths threw rocks at Indian police and paramilitary soldiers, shouting "Go India, go back!" Police said protesters attacked and burned

scores of police and paramilitary posts, and that some homes of pro-India politicians were burned.

At least 24 civilians and one policeman have died from wounds sustained in clashes since Saturday, as law enforcement officers used live ammunition, pellet guns and tear gas to try to break up the protests. Most of those killed were teens and men younger than 26 from southern Kashmir, police said. In addition, more than 150 civilians and 100 government troops have been injured. At least 10 of the injured civilians were in serious condition.

In several neighborhoods in Srinagar, activists painted graffiti on

iron shutters of shops and walls, deploring India and eulogizing Wani. Messages that they wrote included "Burhan our hero" and "Burhan still in our hearts."

Opposition to India is strong in the portion of Kashmir it controls, a region of 12 million people, about 70 percent of whom are Muslim. Many resent the deployment of hundreds of thousands of Indian troops, and openly voice support for rebels fighting to demand independence or a merger with neighboring Pakistan.

Both India and Pakistan claim all of Kashmir as their own, while each administers a part of the mountainous region. The two sides are divid-

ed by a heavily militarized Line of Control. Two of the three wars between the nuclear-armed rivals were fought over Kashmir, and India continues to accuse Pakistan of arming and training anti-India rebels - a charge Pakistan denies.

More than 68,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the subsequent Indian military crackdown.

Amid the protests, Indian officials indefinitely suspended an annual Hindu pilgrimage to a mountain cave that draws about half a million people each year. Authorities also postponed school and college examinations and suspended rail services. —AP



SRINAGAR, INDIA: Indian policemen walk away after collecting a handcart full of stones and bricks thrown at them by Kashmiri Muslim protesters yesterday. —AP

US EMBASSY FAMILIES IN BANGLADESH GIVEN OPTION TO LEAVE

WASHINGTON: The State Department says it is authorizing the voluntary departure of family members of US government personnel at the US Embassy in Bangladesh.

The move, effective on Sunday and made public yesterday, follows a spate of militant attacks in the Muslim-majority, South Asian country. A department official said the authorization means family members can opt to leave the capital Dhaka in the coming days and their

expenses are covered. The official said the embassy recommended this step to ensure that people are not caught in potential outbreaks of violence.

The measure does not cover embassy staff. The official was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. On July 1, a restaurant popular with foreigners was attacked and 20 hostages - including one American - were killed. —AP

INDIA SLAMS PAKISTAN OVER STATEMENTS ON KASHMIR

NEW DELHI: Indian Government yesterday rejected statements made by the Pakistani leadership over current developments in the disputed state of Jammu and Kashmir and advised Islamabad not to interfere in India's internal matters.

This is amid local reports that the death toll in ongoing clashes between Indian security forces and protesters reached 32 people.

Spokesman of the Indian External Affairs Ministry Vikas Swarup, in a strongly worded reaction to the Pakistani stand towards the killing of Kashmiri separatist leader and Pakistan-based

Hizbul Mujahideen commander Burhan Wani, said the statements reflect "Islamabad's connection with terrorism and Pakistan's use of it as an instrument of state policy."

Swarup also asked Islamabad to stop interfering in the internal affairs of others. "We have seen statements from Pakistan on the situation in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir. They reflect Pakistan's continued attachment to terrorism and its usage as an instrument of state policy. Pakistan is advised to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of its neighbors," the Indian statement said. —KUNA



KENYA: India's Prime minister, Narendra Modi (L) pays homage to a bronze-cast statue of Mahatma Gandhi at the Nairobi University yesterday. —AFP

PAKISTANI CHRISTIAN CHARGED WITH BLASPHEMY OVER WHATSAPP POEM

LAHORE: A Pakistani Christian was charged with blasphemy yesterday after his Muslim friend alleged he had sent a poem on Whatsapp that insulted Islam, police said. Yasir Bashir said Nadeem James had sent him a poem on the messaging app that was derogatory about the Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) and other holy figures.

"Police have registered a case on blasphemy charges against Nadeem James and are searching for him as he has fled his home," a local law enforcement official told AFP on condition of anonymity due to the sensitive nature of the matter.

Another police official said that James' relatives had been taken into "protective custody" and that there was increased security in Christian neighborhoods in the town of Sara-i-Almgeer, around 160 kilometers north of Lahore, because of local tension arising from Bashir's complaint.

Such allegations can trigger beatings and mob violence in the conservative country, which has strict blasphemy laws including the death penalty for insulting the prophet.

A Christian couple were lynched then burnt in a kiln in Punjab in 2014 after being falsely accused of desecrating the Quran. Rights campaigners say blasphemy laws are often used to settle personal disputes in the Muslim-majority country. —AFP

SPAIN CALLS IN UK AMBASSADOR TO PROTEST GIBRALTAR INCIDENT

MADRID: Spain's Foreign Ministry has called in the British ambassador to protest what it described as reckless behavior by a Gibraltar police boat patrol toward a Spanish police vessel.

In a statement, the ministry said yesterday that it had lodged a serious complaint with Ambassador Simon Manley, saying Gibraltar police had approached a Spanish police vessel twice at great speed Friday

and only diverted its direction and avoided a collision at the last moment.

It said the action, which occurred in waters between Gibraltar and Spain, had placed both crews at risk. Spain ceded Gibraltar's sovereignty to Britain in a 1713 treaty, but has persistently sought its return ever since. Diplomatic friction between Britain and Gibraltar and Spain isn't totally unusual. —AP

US TO SEND 560 MORE TROOPS TO IRAQ

Continued from Page 1

"I am pleased to report today that... we agreed for the United States to bolster Iraqi efforts to isolate and pressure Mosul by deploying 560 additional troops," Carter said at the Baghdad airport following meetings with the Iraqi premier and defense minister. "With these additional US forces we are describing today, we will bring unique capabilities to the campaign... at a key moment," Carter said.

President Barack Obama made ending the US's nearly nine-year war in Iraq a centerpiece of his presidency, but Washington has been drawn ever deeper back into the country by the war against IS. And while most of the US forces in Iraq are in non-combat roles, others have directly battled IS, and three American military personnel have been killed by the jihadists. "The additional troops will provide a range of support for Iraqi security forces, including infrastructure and logistical capabilities at the airfield near Qayyarah," the Pentagon said in a statement.

Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi announced Saturday that Iraqi forces had recaptured the Qayyarah airbase, some 60 km south of Mosul, which IS seized in June 2014. The base "will become a vital springboard for the (Iraqi forces) offensive into Mosul", the Pentagon said. Lieutenant General Sean MacFarland, the commander of the US-led operations against IS, said that the "preponderance" of the 560 additional troops will be based at Qayyarah, and would start being deployed "relatively soon". Earlier in the day, Carter held meetings with Abadi as well as Defense Minister Khalid Al-Obeidi, offering his condolences for recent IS attacks and con-

gratulations on Iraqi advances. IS has carried out bloody attacks against civilians as it loses ground, including a bombing in Baghdad earlier this month that killed 292 people, one of the deadliest to ever hit the country, and an attack on a Shiite shrine a few days later in which 40 died.

Ahead of his meetings, Carter told journalists flying with him to Iraq that he would discuss the next moves in the war against the jihadists. "What I'll be discussing with Prime Minister Abadi and our commanders there are the next plays in the campaign, which involve the collapse and control over Mosul," he said. The ultimate goal was "the recapture of all of Iraqi territory by the Iraqi security forces, but of course Mosul is the biggest part of that," Carter said.

US defense officials say the campaign's first "10 plays" have been successfully completed in the US-led counter-IS campaign in Iraq and Syria. These steps include the recapture of several important areas across the two countries, including Ramadi in Iraq and Al-Shadadi, a town in northeastern Syria previously considered a strategic IS stronghold. Carter and Obama have been criticised for the pace of the campaign, which began in autumn 2014 and got off to a slow start, particularly in war-torn Syria, where the United States had few assets on the ground to provide targeting information.

The Pentagon has announced a series of measures to speed up the war, including a revised mission to train anti-IS rebels in northern Syria and extra advisers for Iraqi forces. Coupled with coalition air support, the results have seen the IS group losing roughly half its territory in Iraq and about 20 percent of its Syria claim, the Pentagon said.—AFP



An Egyptian couple poses for a wedding photographer as the sun sets on the beachfront in Alexandria yesterday. — AP

PUSH TO MAKE MED DIET COOL AGAIN

Continued from Page 1

and diabetes among populations previously known for their longevity. Seven in 10 Greek adults are now overweight or obese, and about 11 percent have diabetes, according to Trichopoulou. The Mediterranean diet combined with physical activity could prevent many diabetes cases, said Serra-Majem.

While some regions are doing better at resisting fast food - such as southern Italy and northern Africa - the race is on to find a way to slow or reverse the diet's decline, with the meeting in Milan just one such bid to save it. As well as the health fallout and associated medical costs, dropping the diet also has an impact on the environment since "almost 25 percent of greenhouse gas emissions come from food production," he said. It also puts at risk of extinction local skills and traditions such as harvesting, fishing, animal husbandry and conservation.

Healthy eating has not fallen by the wayside com-

pletely: the Mediterranean diet is a hit with "educated people and those who belong to higher social classes" in Greece, Trichopoulou said. "It is more related to a social problem and education than money, because vegetables and fruits are relatively cheap," she said, but people are cooking less and advertisements promote sugary or preserved products.

What's needed is to encourage initiatives in local communities and find a way of selling sustainable tourism - including a return to local food production - even in mass tourism areas, says independent expert Florence Egal. In Spain's Balearic Islands, including the hugely popular Majorca and Ibiza, "thousands of tourists eat at buffets in large hotels," while "in the countryside orange trees are weighed down with unpicked fruit", which rots because imported oranges cost less. And she warns, as groves are abandoned and migration to cities increases, the Mediterranean diet takes one more step towards becoming a thing of the past. — AFP

THERESA MAY TO BECOME NEW BRITISH PM

Continued from Page 1

"It is crucial, given the instability caused by the Brexit vote, that the country has a democratically-elected prime minister," said Trickett. "I am now putting the whole of the party on a general election footing." While May supported Britain staying in the EU, she cut a low profile during the referendum and insists she will honor the vote, stressing: "Brexit means Brexit". "There will be no attempts to remain inside the EU, there will be no attempts to rejoin it by the back door, no second referendum," she said at a leadership campaign event before Leadsom pulled out.

She wants to begin formal talks to leave the EU by the end of the year at the earliest, despite pressure from Brussels to speed things up. Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutch finance minister who heads the Eurogroup of his 19 eurozone counterparts, restated calls for the transfer of power to take place as soon as possible. "The sooner we can sort out - let me say it diplomatically - this problematic situation, the better," Dijsselbloem told reporters.

The pound, which hit a 31-year low following the Brexit vote, briefly rose after Leadsom, a pro-Brexit figure with no senior ministerial experience, withdrew from contention to be prime minister. May, a 59-year-old clergyman's daughter, will be Britain's second female prime minister after Margaret Thatcher, who was in office from 1979-1990. She has portrayed her-

self as the leader who can unite the country and a tough negotiator who can stand up to Brussels in what promises to be tortuous talks over Britain's exit from the 28-nation bloc.

Leadsom's withdrawal means all the ruling Conservative party's top Brexit campaigners - Boris Johnson, Michael Gove and Leadsom as well as outgoing UK Independence Party leader Nigel Farage - have now stepped back from leadership roles. On the latest in a string of recent astonishing days at Westminster, Eagle also launched her bid to take over the Labour leadership. Corbyn, a veteran socialist supported by many grassroots members, has lost the confidence of at least three-quarters of his MPs, many of who accuse him of lacklustre campaigning to stay in the EU.

Eagle, who is from Labour's "soft" left and was the first female MP to enter a civil partnership with her female partner in 2008, said Britain faced "dangerous times". Of the referendum, she added: "This vote was a message for millions in our country who felt that no-one had listened to them for a very long time." "For many of them, it was a howl of pain." By contrast with the Conservative outcome, there is still much uncertainty about how the Labour leadership contest will work. Central to the race will be a decision by Labour's governing National Executive Committee (NEC) about whether Corbyn automatically gets on to the ballot or needs to secure 51 lawmakers' nominations, which he could struggle to do. The NEC is due to meet today.—AFP

ERDOGAN DEFENDS CITIZENSHIP FOR SYRIAN...

Continued from Page 1

The president even suggested that empty homes built by the state housing agency could be used to house Syrians. "Most of these Syrians work illegally. What we're saying is, there needs to be a solution. Among these people, there are doctors, engineers, lawyers, health workers, teachers, all of these people can benefit our country: they can be given citizenship," Erdogan added.

In January this year, Turkey allowed Syrian refugees to be given work permits but only 5,502 Syrians were granted such paperwork, according to Turkish media quoting labor ministry statistics. The president's comments come after Haberturk newspaper reported on Saturday that there were plans to give up to 300,000 Syrian refugees Turkish citizenship, targeting skilled individuals. Soon after the report appeared, #suriyeliil-

erehayir ("No to Syrians") was the top trending topic on Twitter in Turkey.

On Saturday, a Syrian man and Turkish teenager were killed after a fight between a group of Turks and Syrians in central Konya province in the latest violent incident highlighting the growing tension.

Devlet Bahceli, leader of the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP), warned that Erdogan's plan would cheapen Turkish citizenship and cause ethnic conflict, saying "Turkish citizenship must be deserved and confirmed in good conscience". Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus, who is government spokesman, said after a cabinet meeting yesterday that work on the citizenship plan was in progress but had not been completed. "Currently work continues on how those Syrians who will benefit Turkey, have no links to terrorism and can build a bridge between Turkey and Syria can become Turkish citizens." —AFP

DECADE AFTER ISRAEL WAR, HEZBOLLAH MIRED...

Continued from Page 1

Hezbollah fired thousands of rockets into northern Israel, which carried out devastating strikes across Lebanon. Many people in Israel considered the massive ground and air war on Lebanon to be a failure because it did not halt Hezbollah rocket fire or recover the two captured soldiers.

Their bodies were returned two years later in exchange for the release of five Lebanese prisoners. Then prime minister Ehud Olmert and military leaders at the time faced heavy criticism. A key government report on the war called it a "serious missed opportunity" for Israel, saying there was a lack of planning and no clear exit strategy. The so-called Winograd report highlighted the controversial ground offensive launched in the final days of the war, while the United Nations was brokering a ceasefire agreement, saying it did not achieve its objectives.

"I think it's still viewed as a blemish on the IDF for not

being prepared for it," said Efraim Inbar, director of Israel's Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies, referring to the Israeli military. "A lot of confusion at the highest echelons in the military. And also the political strategic leadership failed," he told AFP. But as the years have passed, some in Israel have adopted a more forgiving view, noting the relative quiet along the Lebanese border even before the Syrian war began in 2011 and drew in Hezbollah, said Jonathan Spyer, director of Israel's Rubin Centre for international affairs research.

There are concerns, however, over whether Hezbollah could benefit from its fighting experience in Syria, becoming more battle-hardened and knowledgeable after having fought on the same side as Russia, which also backs Assad. Spyer said the likelihood of another conflict with Hezbollah was low until the Syrian war ends. But he also noted that "Hezbollah remains committed to the destruction of Israel" and that the militia is "much stronger now than it was back in 2006". — AFP

GOVT SEEKS TO PRIVATIZE OIL SECTOR AS PART...

Continued from Page 1

Separately, informed sources said development projects and the imbalance in the population structure will be the issues that will receive most attention by the government in the summer recess, as meetings by committees will be intensified to prepare follow-up reports and plans so they are ready by the Cabinet at the start of National Assembly's new term in October.

The sources said Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and Planning and Development Hind Al-Subaih will be involved in intensive meetings with the committee preparing the plan to deal with the population structure with the participation of senior officials at the social affairs, interior and other ministries, in addition to the Civil Service Commission and manpower restructuring department.

The sources said a comprehensive report by Subaih

to present solutions to deal with the population structure will be ready at the Cabinet by November to be discussed by the government to seek legislations from the Assembly when necessary to implement the recommendations, especially since dealing with the population structure requires changes in the laws of importing workers and terminating and deporting them.

The sources said the government's decision to curtail expats in government departments will be implemented and exemptions will only be for specialties still needed by ministries, adding that this aims at setting quotas for each nationality. This means hiring doctors for the health ministry will not be limited to one country only, as it is noted a concentration is on Egyptian doctors, so if hospitals need 1,000 new doctors, then they will be hired from various countries, as each nationality will be limited to 10 percent for example, and the same goes for other specialties.

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Focus

DALLAS TOP COP
BECOMES FACE
OF TRAGEDY

By Thomas Urbain

As America reeled from a week of violence pitting police officers against civilians, Dallas Police Chief David Brown came to personify the nation's trauma. After a black army veteran killed five white officers at a peaceful march in the Texas city, the 55-year-old police chief, who is African-American, delivered a simple but poignant message: "We are heartbroken," he said. "This must stop. This divisiveness between our police and our citizens."

Brown's own story, marked by personal tragedy, encapsulates the painful tensions surrounding policing, race and gun violence in America. Shortly after Brown took the helm of the Dallas police force in 2010, his 27-year-old son, David Brown Jr, fatally shot an officer and another man while high on drugs, before being killed by police. The city's top cop and Dallas native - who was moved to join the force to confront a crack cocaine epidemic in his own inner city neighborhood - also lost both his brother and a former police partner to gun violence.



David Brown

"That man went through a lot," said Ron Franklin, one of the many Dallas residents come to pay tribute at a memorial outside the police headquarters. "I can feel his pain. He's trying to do the best that he can do."

Despite the blows he has suffered, Brown is steadfast in his drive to help mend the nation's fraying social fabric and burnish the image of law enforcement. "Police officers are guardians of this great democracy," Brown said Friday, the day after the atrocity. "The freedom to protest, the freedom of speech, the freedom of expression. All freedoms we fight for with our lives; it's what makes us who we are as Americans."

'He's Human'

As police chief, Brown has gained national recognition for his progressive approach to law enforcement, working to cultivate more amicable relations between cops and community members. "He's human. He understands a lot of different sides. Not just his own. Not just from a police perspective," said Julie Gavran, the southwest director of the organization Keep Guns Off Campus. "He's got a lot of experience and I think he brings that to the course, and that opens dialogue that's much needed," said the gun control activist.

Despite facing initial internal reluctance, Brown has geared the force away from violence as a first resort, training cops with simulation exercises to de-escalate confrontation without using their weapons. Department statistics have shown a steady decline in the number of officer-involved shootings since 2012, which last year dropped to their lowest level in a decade. "Our chief in the last couple of years has done great things to strengthen the community and the relationship with the police department," said Gavran.

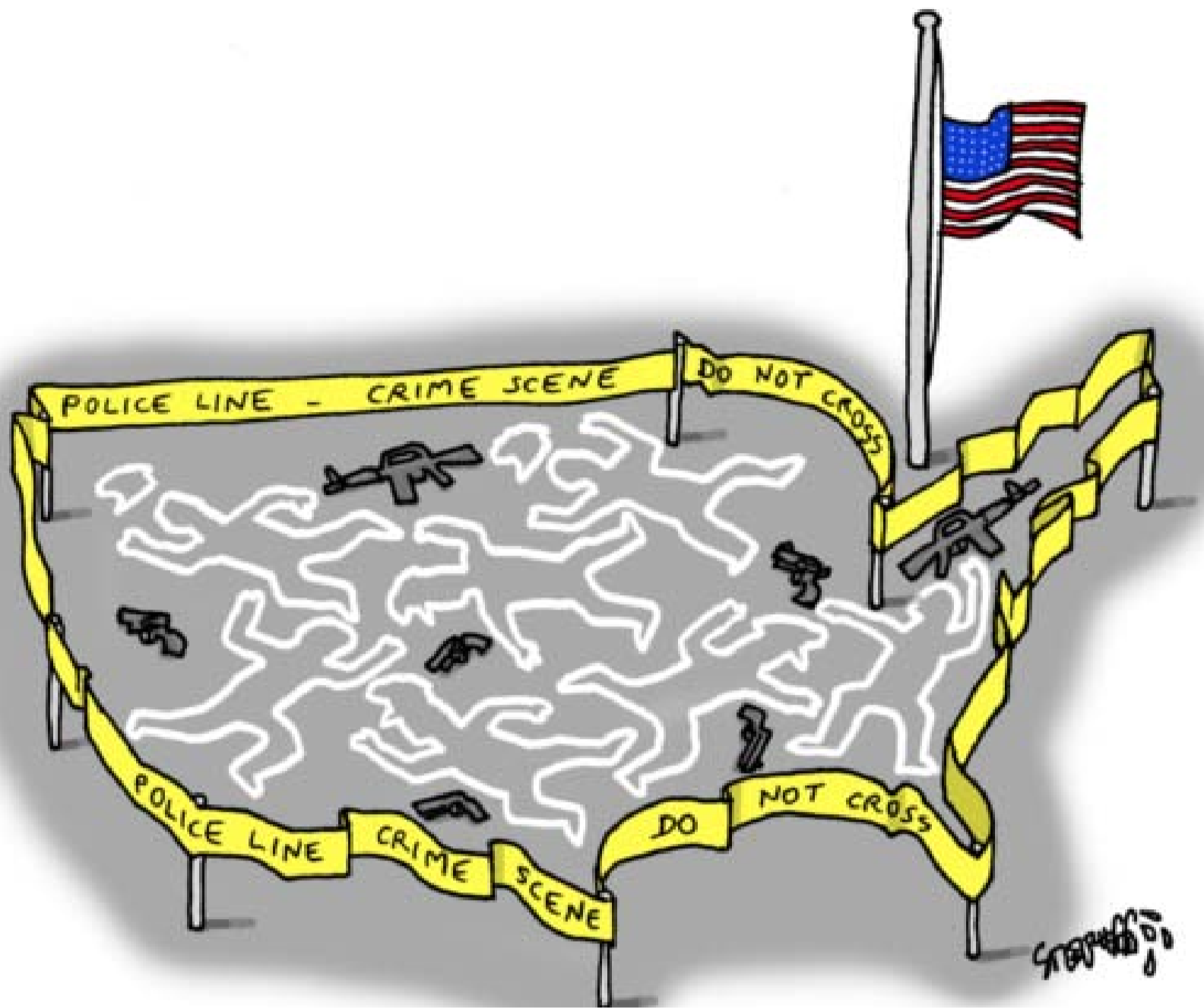
Words Aren't Enough

This increasing conviviality was evident Thursday, as police and residents shook hands and took selfies in the hours before gunman Micah Johnson opened fire, turning the demonstration into a chaotic combat zone. In the wake of the attack, Brown came to appear, as he briefed a stunned public on the tragedy in Texas, more like a political leader than a cop. "We are not going to let a coward who ambushed police officers change our democracy," Brown said. "Our city, our country, is better than that."

University of Iowa sociologist Jessica Welburn said the fact that Brown is black man leading a major police force of 3,500 officers marked a "step in the right direction." "He definitely seems to have experienced each side of the situation," Welburn said. "He definitely recognizes the position he is in." She was less sure, though, whether Brown's words can really help heal the wounds that have given rise to the Black Lives Matter protest movement.

"The chief only has so much power. His words can only go so far." As for being thrust into the spotlight, Brown's message has been one of humility. "This city has embraced me as its police chief," he said on CNN's "State of the Union." "I have always felt a sense of urgency about delivering police service. "But I never wanted this job to be about me." — AFP

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CALIFORNIA ILL-PREPARED FOR THE BIG ONE

By Jocelyne Zablit

Beyond the sunshine, the palm trees and Hollywood, if there is one certainty in California, it's that a massive earthquake will strike at some point. But when the Big One hits, a recent report says, the western state is ill-prepared and local officials as well as major businesses need to face that reality to "prevent the inevitable disaster from becoming a catastrophe". Drafted by a group of business and policy leaders, the report identifies several key areas that need to be addressed before a quake as strong as a magnitude 8 happens, notably aging infrastructure, water supplies and the risk of catastrophic fires.

One of the biggest vulnerabilities, the report states, relates to the Cajon Pass, a narrow mountain pass where the mighty San Andreas Fault intersects with key lifelines, including freeways, railway lines, gas and petroleum pipelines as well as electric lines. A major earthquake on the San Andreas, one of California's most dangerous faults, would cut most lifelines in and out of southern California, preventing critical aid from reaching some 20 million people and hampering recovery efforts, experts say.

The quake would also rupture flammable pipelines, triggering explosions and fires that could burn out of control. "Anything that comes into southern California has to cross the San Andreas Fault to get to us - gas, electricity, water, freeways, railways," said seismologist Lucy Jones, who acted as advisor for the Southern California Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative committee, which issued the report. "Most of the water that we get has to cross the fault to reach us but when the earthquake happens, all of the aqueducts will be broken at the same time," Jones, known as California's "earthquake lady," told AFP.

She said one way to get around this dependency was to look at alternative water sources, including from contaminated aquifers beneath the Los Angeles area that could be cleaned up, albeit at a massive cost. "The best defense against a broken aqueduct is to not need an aqueduct," Jones said. Installing automatic shutoff valves on natural gas and petroleum gas pipelines that run near the San Andreas Fault could also help prevent major fires, according to the report. As for maintaining communication with the outside world once the Big One strikes and disrupts energy grids, Jones said solar power could be one answer.

'In This Together'

Also addressed in the report is the vulnerability of many homes and buildings in southern California, where local communities have yet to follow the example of the city of



This file photo taken on Aug 26, 2014 shows Margaret Harrington inspecting a lantern while shopping for earthquake supplies at the Earthquake Supply Center on Aug 27, 2014 in San Rafael, California. — AFP

Los Angeles in requiring that structures that risk collapsing be retrofitted. In addition, experts say, building codes need to be reviewed to make sure that not only will structures not kill people but will remain standing and usable after a major quake. "Today, we are building in a huge financial vulnerability," Jones said. "We are not going to kill people with these buildings but we are not going to be able to use them afterward and that's a big deal. "For one to two percent more of the cost, we could most likely make buildings still usable."

Computer simulations by the US Geological Survey (USGS) suggest that a magnitude 7.8 quake on the southern end of the San Andreas fault would cause shaking for some two minutes, killing at least 1,800 people, injuring 53,000 and causing \$213 billion in damage. The largest recorded earthquake in California was the 1857 Fort Tejon quake that ruptured the San Andreas for 360 km.

Scientists say pressure and seismic energy has since furiously been building along the fault, which constitutes the boundary between two moving tectonic plates - the North American and Pacific plates. "It is inevitable that we will have a big earthquake because that pressure needs to be released," said Robert Graves, a seismologist with the USGS. He said that given the certainty that disaster will strike, California needs to address head-on vulnerabilities to minimize the impact.

"We need to get people to recognize that an event like this is a community event and we are at the beginning of that process," Roberts said. "This is more than say me as an individual making sure my building is gonna be safe. "If all the other buildings in my neighborhood are knocked down and the water delivery system and power aren't working, it won't matter that my building is safe," he continued. "So we are in this together." — AFP

BURHAN WANI: KASHMIR'S FACEBOOK MILITANT

By Parvaiz Bukhari

Burhan Wani was part of a new generation of young, educated Kashmiri militants using social media to spread their demands for independence from Indian rule, turning growing Internet use in the restive region into a powerful recruiting tool. Wani, whose death in a shootout with government forces has triggered deadly clashes with protesters in Indian Kashmir, was the son of a headmaster who excelled at school before he left home aged just 15 to join the region's largest rebel group.

Wani's father has said he took the decision after he and his brother were stopped by government forces on their way home and "assaulted and humiliated". "Our young pick up guns because of the daily humiliation and torture they face here," Muzaffar Wani told AFP in 2014. "My son is not the first one. But if he dies for his self-respect and his people, he will be a martyr."

Charismatic and articulate, Wani rose quickly through the ranks of Hizbul Mujahideen, a militant group that fights for mainly Muslim Kashmir to be part of Pakistan. He soon began posting pictures on Facebook of himself in battle fatigues holding an assault rifle and videos of his band of young fighters - a departure from the militant tradition of anonymity that won him a loyal following among the region's youth. His posts, made from different accounts to make it harder to trace his whereabouts, would be shared thousands of times over within minutes of going live.

By the age of 21 he had become the most senior Hizbul Mujahideen commander in the Kashmir Valley. Local reports after his death said cricket tournaments had been named after him and schoolchildren were acting out his life in plays. Army and government officials say his messages on social media led to a major rise in the number of homegrown militants on the Indian side of the Line of Control that separates Indian-administered Kashmir from



In this photograph taken on July 9, 2016, Kashmiri mourners take photographs of the body of Burhan Muzaffar Wani, the new-age poster boy for the rebel movement in the restive Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir, ahead of his funeral in Tral, his native town, 42 km south of Srinagar. — AFP

Pakistan. Previously, they had been outnumbered by fighters from Pakistan.

The death of his brother Khalid Wani last year sparked an outpouring of public sympathy as well as angry protests. The government said Khalid was killed in a shootout, but his father said his body showed signs of torture, and there were no bullet wounds. In his last video statement on June 8, Wani exhorted Kashmiri police offi-

cers to stop supporting "Indian occupation" and to join the struggle for "freedom".

Nearly 100,000 people are estimated to have attended his funeral in his native Tral area on Saturday. "Mark my words - Burhan's ability to recruit into militancy from the grave will far outstrip anything he could have done on social media," Kashmir's former chief minister Omar Abdullah tweeted. — AFP

FROOME IN YELLOW BUT KEPT IN CHECK BY QUINTANA

ANDORRA LA VELLA: Once again, Chris Froome reached the first rest day of the Tour de France in yellow, but this year, his advantage is much thinner and his main rival Nairo Quintana is keeping his cards close to his chest.

The Briton, who hammered the opposition in the first summit finish of the Tour in 2013 and 2015, leads fourth-placed Quintana, the runner-up in those two years, by 23 seconds.

In 2013 and 2015, the Team Sky rider was leading Quintana by about 2 min-

utes going into the first rest day. Froome, who took the overall lead with a stunning attack in the final descent of the eighth stage, was however unable to drop Movistar's Quintana in the final ascent to Arcalis the next day and the Colombian never looked in trouble even if he failed to attack.

Froome, however, is confident he is well equipped to add a third Tour title to his trophy cabinet, especially because he feels he has the best team support.

"It really is a good place to be at the

moment and I'm really happy to have the yellow jersey on my shoulders, tactically and obviously for the morale for the team," the 31-year-old told a news conference on Monday.

"Tactically, it just puts the shoe on the other foot. It's up to other teams now to have to go out there and try and gain back time that they've lost already.

"It means with the team that I've got, they've shown themselves over the last few days just in terms of numbers in the final that we do have the strongest team

here." Others disagreed on the Team Sky riders' form.

Frenchman Romain Bardet (AG2r-La Mondiale), who is sixth overall, 44 seconds off the pace, said he was expecting more from the British outfit. "Sky are very powerful but I expected them to be much stronger yesterday. In the final climb, Froome was a bit alone," he said.

Froome may be wondering if he has what it takes to drop Quintana like he used to and he remains in the Colombian's range of fire.

"If Froome unbeatable at the moment? I feel Nairo is, too," said Quintana's team mate Alejandro Valverde. "There's still a long way to go in this Tour - you must attack when it's your real time. You never know when it comes," he warned.

Quintana and Froome now look set for a mouthwatering duel in the 12th stage on Thursday between Montpellier and the intimidating Mont Ventoux, where the Briton had beaten his rival by 29 seconds in 2013.— Reuters

AMIR'S CAREER SET TO COME FULL CIRCLE

LONDON: The floppy hair he had as a teenager may have been replaced by a shorter cut and the once clean-shaven face is now home to a goatee beard.

But there was no mistaking the whipper left-arm action as Mohammad Amir ran into bowl against Somerset at Taunton last week or the "airplane" celebration that greeted his three first-innings wickets.

It was a sight many fans would have been forgiven for thinking they would ever see again on an English field after Amir's career came to a dramatic and possibly terminal halt at Lord's in 2010.

During that year's Test against England, Amir and Pakistan new-ball partner Mohammad Asif bowled no-balls to order on the instructions of their captain Salman Butt as part of a sting operation carried out by a tabloid newspaper.

All three received five-year bans from cricket and, together with sports agent Mazhar Majeed, jail terms. There was a sense of shock and anger among cricket fans, although in Amir's case there was also an overwhelming sense of sadness that an 18-year-old should have become caught up in such a scandal.

Former West Indies fast bowler Michael Holding is not given to excessive displays of emotion in his work as a television commentator and pundit.

Yet he was in tears as he discussed Amir's plight live on air the morning after the night the story broke during the Lord's Test. For Amir was-and on the evidence of the Somerset match still is-a superbly skilled bowler, with the rare ability to make the ball swing late at sharp pace off a good length, one of the most difficult types of bowling for even the best batsmen to face.

It helped him earn him the Pakistan man of the series award against England after he had taken 19 wickets at under 19 apiece in four Tests.

Amir, Asif and Butt were all given five-year bans by the International Cricket Council and the trio were all jailed by an English court. Yet the talent Amir had

shown created a certain sympathy among cricket fans amid a widespread belief that he had been led astray by more experienced team-mates.

'SECOND CHANCE'

Nevertheless there were plenty of calls at the time and since for the three players to all be given life bans. Former England captain Nasser Hussain, speaking soon after the scandal broke, saw both points of view. "Part of me says you've got to make a statement, and say: 'Right, ban for life...But another part of me says, 'Should you give a person another chance?'" Amir who served three months in an English young offenders' institute, now has that chance.

He has only played limited overs internationals for Pakistan since his return, but his career could come full circle when the first of a four-Test series against England starts at Lord's on Thursday.

Interestingly, Amir himself is now in favour of life bans, telling AFP in an interview in Karachi last month: "If fixing is still happening then it's really alarming. I fully back that fixers should be banned for life."

With Amir's talent undimmed, Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq was in no doubt of his potential. "If you look at his bowling speed, swing and control-it's there," said Misbah ahead of the Somerset match. "He can still be the best bowler in the world." England captain Alastair Cook, who played in the 2010 match, suggested Amir might get a rough ride from the Lord's crowd. But there were no boos at Taunton and he could well get a polite reception at the "home of cricket."

"You don't see many 18-year-old's bowl like he did, he is an exceptional talent," said Cook at Lord's last week.

"It will be difficult for us." Meanwhile Amir is well aware of his good fortune.

"I still can't believe that this is happening," he said. "You call it a coincidence or whatever but for me it's a blessing that I am restarting (Tests) right at Lord's from where I stopped in 2010." — AFP



VIELHA VAL D'ARAN: France's Romain Bardet (L) and Kazakhstan's Alexey Lutsenko (R) ride during the 184.5 km ninth stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race on Sunday between Vielha Val d'Aran and Andorre Arcalis. — AFP

GERMANS DEMAND SAFETY CHANGES IN CYCLING

ANDORRA ARCALIS: A group of German riders led by Tony Martin and Marcel Kittel have published a paper demanding safety changes in cycling. But time-trial specialist Martin complained that organisers of major cycling events such as the Tour de France haven't taken the suggestions on board.

"I thought some of the suggestions would be implemented at the Criterium du Dauphine (in June) but I'm disappointed that they weren't," he told German newspaper Bild.

The Dauphine and Tour are organised by the same company, ASO. One of the main points of the German paper is a request to replace motorbikes that follow races with mopeds.

"There's a big difference between 300kg falling on you and 150kg," said Martin.

Belgian Antoine Demoinie died earlier this year following a crash with a motorbike during

March's Gent-Wevelgem one-day classic. Another suggestion is to signal traffic islands in the road with coloured balloons at a height of three metres.

Currently, a policeman holding a flag is positioned in front of the hazards. Martin and his colleagues want motorbikes to be banned from overtaking riders, instead being diverted off the course and taking another route in order to get around the bunch.

Kittel wants the neutralised zone at the end of sprint stages extended from 3km to 5km from the finish. The neutralised zone is the area in which a rider will not face a time penalty even if he's involved in a crash or suffers a mechanical problem. It means that he will get the same time as the group with which he reached the neutral zone, even if he rolls over the finish line some time later due to a problem. The theory is to keep non-sprinters and

the teams of non-sprinters out of the way so the fast men can challenge for victory unencumbered.

Kittel also wants only large boulevards to host sprint finishes with no downhills, no traffic islands and no tight streets. "All the time there are traffic islands in the last kilometre of the stage," he complained during the ongoing Tour de France. "It's impossible to take your sprint train with you. None of the five or six sprint teams can use their train until the finish line. "You're afraid, at one moment you think you have the chance to win and the next you're in the barriers and everything's over."

Kittel has won only one sprint finish so far at the Tour while his British rival Mark Cavendish has claimed three victories.

Many sprinters have complained the sprints were chaotic and even frightening, but they proved exciting for viewers. — AFP

CRICKET: 2010 SPOT-FIXING SCANDAL AND ITS AFTERMATH

LONDON: England and Pakistan are set to play their first Test on English soil since the 2010 spot-fixing scandal when they meet at Lord's on Thursday.

Below AFP Sport looks back at the scandal that shook cricket and the subsequent fall-out: 2010 Aug 28: Britain's now defunct News of the World tabloid alleges that teenage sensation Mohammad Amir, Pakistan new-ball partner Mohammad Asif and captain Salman Butt agreed to bowl no-balls in return for payment as part of a betting scam in the Lord's Test against England.

Sep 02: The three Pakistan players are provisionally suspended by the International Cricket Council.

Sep 19: A bitter one-day international series becomes even more acrimonious when Pakistan Cricket Board chairman Ijaz Butt accuses England of deliberately losing the third match at The Oval.

Sep 20: England batsman Jonathan Trott and Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz have any angry exchange in the Lord's nets before the start of the fourth ODI. Trott later apologise to the Pakistanis. England go on to win the series 3-2.

2011
Feb 02: Ijaz Butt retracts his remarks about England's defeat at The Oval

Feb 05: The ICC ban Salman Butt for 10 years (five suspended), Asif for seven years (two suspended) and Amir for five years.

Sep 16: Amir pleads guilty to accepting

corrupt payments and conspiracy to cheat.

Nov 01: Salman Butt and Asif are found guilty at London's Southwark Crown Court of conspiracy to cheat and conspiracy to obtain and accept corrupt payments.

Nov 03: Salman Butt is sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison, Asif to 12 months and Amir six months. Meanwhile their agent, Mazhar Majeed, is sentenced to two years and eight months.

2015:

September 13: Amir, Asif and Butt's bans all officially end, although Amir's suspension was relaxed in April.

2016:

Jan 15: Amir returns to international cricket, in a Twenty20 against New Zealand in Auckland. He takes one for 31 in his four overs and does not bat in a 16-run defeat before representing Pakistan at the World Twenty20 in India in March.

May 02: Amir is selected selection for the England tour, leaving him on course to make a Test return on July 14 at Lord's-the scene of his crime nearly six years earlier.

Jul 03-05: Amir plays his first first-class match back in England when he appears in Pakistan's tour opener against Somerset at Taunton. The left-arm quick bowls impressively in a first-innings return of three for 36. Earlier in the match, he is out for a second-ball duck-the first delivery he faces is, of all things, a no-ball from Josh Davey. The match ends in a draw. —AFP



BASSETTERRE: Indian cricketer Umesh Yadav (C) delivers a ball during the second day of a two-day tour match between India and WICB President's XI squad at the Warner Park stadium in Basseterre, Saint Kitts, on Sunday. — AFP

16-YEAR-OLD McLAUGHLIN EARNS SPOT AT RIO

EUGENE: Fast fact: Teenager Sydney McLaughlin can juggle on a unicycle. That's nothing compared to this: The 16-year-old is headed to Rio, and will be the youngest to compete for the US Olympic track team since 1972, according to USA Track and Field.

And to think, the 400-meter hurdles phenom had a panic attack before the start of the trials. She thought the stage might be a tad too big for her. It wasn't. McLaughlin, a soon-to-be senior at Union Catholic in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, finished third on Sunday, behind winner Dalilah Muhammad and Ashley Spencer.

"Sometimes, I just forget that I'm 16," said McLaughlin, who learned to juggle in fifth grade and has worked with kids at a juggling camp. "There's not as much expectation. You know, I don't get paid for this. I'm here just for fun." Once she got to work, she certainly had a ball. She planned to celebrate by going out for dinner. On her menu - a cheeseburger, maybe some sweet potato fries, and possibly topped off with a slice of cheesecake. "I want to be like her when I grow up," the 23-year-old Spencer said. "At 16 years old, I wasn't doing anything. I was running track, but it was like, meh? She's an Olympian."

It has always taken a bit of coaxing to get McLaughlin to the starting line - both as a kid, when her father bribed her with a chocolate bar with almonds to keep her running at 6, and just before the trials.

But her high school coach, Mike McCabe, has a counseling degree that he put to good use. He told her it was only nerves and everyone gets them. "I think it was more self-doubt," he explained. "It was the big stage, I don't know if I can do this, I don't know if I belong here."

"We shared with her that everybody has this. It's not just her because she's so young. The elites have it, and they've been doing it for years."

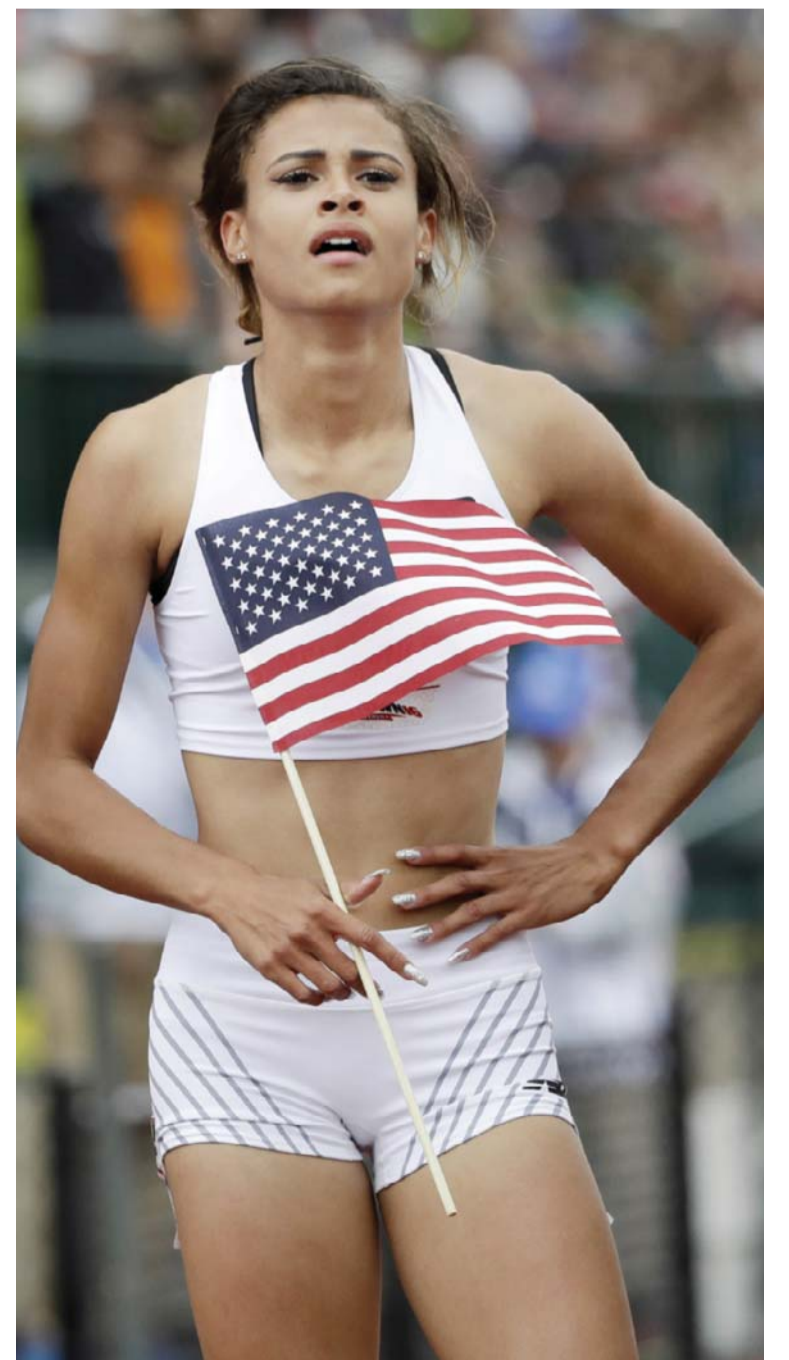
The pep talk hit the mark. Although, the world and American junior record holder isn't exactly used to trailing like this. She finished in a world junior-record time of 54.15 seconds, which was still 1.27 behind Muhammad. She also was able to hold off fourth-place finisher Kori Carter.

"She's a beast," Carter said. "She's the truth. I was in every single heat with her and she carries herself like a pro. I know she's going to represent the U.S. amazingly."

McLaughlin grew up idolizing Allyson Felix, who finished fourth in the 200 meters and missed out on making the US squad in the event. But that's why McLaughlin appreciates Felix - those kinds of setbacks don't get her down. Felix still has the 400, an event she won last weekend, and will focus on that. "You realize that sometimes you have to lose in order to get better," said McLaughlin, who still plans to compete at world juniors later this month in Poland. "That's a big thing."

McLaughlin, who turns 17 on Aug. 7, tried to find humor in just about everything. After winning her heat in the semifinals during a steady drizzle, she said, "The rain messed up my hair, but that's OK."

Just Sydney being Sydney. "She's super-consistent as a racer," McCabe said. "You don't see many bad days. You come to a meet like this and you have to be on at the right time. She doesn't take herself too seriously. Running isn't her life. Running chose her. She just happens to be real good at it." — AP



OREGON: Sydney McLaughlin reacts to her third place finish in the finals of the women's 400-meter hurdles at the US Olympic Track and Field Trials, Sunday, in Eugene Ore. — AP



SAN JOSE: Christina Desiderio competes on the balance beam during the women's US Olympic gymnastics trials in San Jose, Calif., Sunday. — AP

TROUBLED RIO PUTS FINAL TOUCHES ON OLYMPICS

RIO DE JANEIRO: Rio de Janeiro hosts the Olympic Games in less than four weeks, but crime and economic crisis mean the party-loving Brazilian city is glum and struggling to find its vibe. Stadiums are just about ready and local businesses, hammered by Brazil's deep recession, look forward to the arrival of an estimated 500,000 tourists.

For an already sports-mad city, the Games—the first ever held in South America—will be a delight. Some 10,500 athletes will compete over 19 days in 42 disciplines, with Brazil targeting a top 10 place in the medal count. The setting for the globe's most watched event will be breathtaking:

sailors dueling below Sugarloaf Mountain, sprinters battling under the gaze of the Christ the Redeemer statue, and beach volleyball players scrambling on the sands of Copacabana.

Given Rio's brilliance at annual carnival week, the opening ceremony in the famed Maracana Stadium on August 5 is likely to be

spectacular. But violent crime, 11 percent unemployment, fears about the mosquito-borne Zika virus, and embarrassing stumbles during infrastructure preparations have many Brazilians grumbling that the Olympics are little more than a costly distraction. "The Olympics soak up the money that could be used on improving the life of people in Rio, rather than making cosmetic changes," said Felipe, a 32-year-old lifeguard on Copacabana beach, who did not want to give his last name. "They've sanitized everything, without the poor, and made it nice for foreigners."

READY TO ROLL?

Rio has defied doomsayers to open all the sporting facilities on time. But there have been worrying hiccups.

Construction of the velodrome was so delayed, following bankruptcy of the main contractor, that authorities had to scrap a full-scale test event—the dry run at the facility.

A much-touted coastal cycle path, part of

the city's Olympic-legacy beautification, collapsed when it was hit by an Atlantic wave, killing two people, and there are already potholes in a new road along the spectacular shoreline.

Guanabara Bay, where sailing and windsurfing events will take place, is literally a giant cesspool, filling daily with the raw sewage of half the city. Sailors are concerned about infections from what Brazilian researchers say is a drug-resistant super bacteria.

There is also concern over the extension of the metro to link the Olympic Village to the city center. Held up by funding problems, the vital project will only open on August 1, a mere four days before the Games.

BAD NEWS DAY

The Olympics were meant to celebrate Brazil's rise but instead the run-up has been plagued by bad news. Even the nationwide Olympic torch relay hasn't been without controversy: A rare, captive jaguar—the same ani-

mal as Brazil's team mascot—was shot dead after getting loose at a ceremony.

When Brazil was awarded the Games in 2009, it was one of the world's booming economies, headed by the charismatic and hugely popular leftist president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva. Today Brazil is on the economic ropes, Lula is one of dozens of politicians facing corruption charges, and his successor Dilma Rousseff could be turfed out of office in an impeachment vote days after the Games end. That instability is adding to tensions already stoked by joblessness and inflation. Political protests are near certain, although no one knows yet whether they'll be big enough to disrupt the Games.

ZIKA AND CRIME

Internationally the biggest concern is over the Zika virus, which can cause serious birth defects if pregnant mothers are infected, as well as possibly the devastating Guillain-Barre syndrome. Several athletes, notably golfers

like Rory McIlroy, have pulled out. Brazilian officials insist that the threat is near zero in a season with few mosquitoes about.

As at any mega event, the possibility of terror attacks is a big fear, even if Brazil's lack of enemies and geographical distance from jihadist strongholds make the country less vulnerable than Belgium or Turkey, which were recently targeted by the Islamic State group.

Soaring crime could be the bigger danger. Spanish sailing team members were mugged at gunpoint in May and Australian Paralympians were robbed while biking. Murder numbers are well up on last year.

The authorities say deployment of 85,000 military personnel and police—double the number of security at the 2012 London Games—will ensure total safety. But the discovery of human body parts on the sand next to the beach volleyball stadium and high-profile incidents like the hijacking of a truck carrying nearly \$500,000 worth of television equipment mean many remain nervous. — AFP



Andy Murray

FATHERHOOD BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO MURRAY'S CAREER

LONDON: Rather than being distracted by the sleepless nights or the regular nappy changing duties that have fallen his way, the arrival of baby daughter Sophia in February has breathed new life into Andy Murray's career. Whereas top players used to once put off having families till their careers were in decline or over so that they did not lose focus, on Sunday, Murray joined the likes of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic by becoming the latest father to win a grand slam title when he beat Milos Raonic 6-4 7-6(3) 7-6(2) to capture a second Wimbledon title.

"Having a child has given me a little bit of extra motivation to work hard, train hard, and do all of the right things to give myself a chance to win these events," the 29-year-old Scot said after ending a three-year barren run at the slams.

"A lot of people have said, like, when Roger had kids, he started playing some of his best tennis. Novak, the same thing. But the reality is you still have to put the work in. You still have to have the drive and the dedication to train hard. "I feel more motivated than ever just now." Following the birth of his son Stefan in October 2014, Djokovic turned into an indestructible force, winning five of the next seven grand slam events.

That winning mentality also seems to have rubbed off on Murray as he has now contested the final of his last five tournaments, winning in Rome and Queen's Club before landing the one that really counted at the All England Club. "The last three months have been some of the best I've played in terms of consistency," said Murray, who celebrated Sunday's triumph by hugging the pineapple-topped Challenge Cup while taking a dip in an ice bath in the players' locker room. "I made the finals of the last five tournaments, here, Queen's, French (Open), Madrid and Rome. I don't think I'd done that before in my career.

"I had my best claycourt season. I was

fairly close there," added Murray, whose hopes of becoming the first British man to win the Roland Garros title since Fred Perry in 1935 were thwarted by Djokovic.

"The last few months have been some of the best in my career, for sure."

NO FEAR OF FAILURE

The reason he is able to put himself into these situations is because he no longer fears failure. Whereas in 2010 and 2011 his form and results went into freefall after he lost the Australian Open finals to Roger Federer and Djokovic respectively, he now knows how to compartmentalise these disappointments so that he is able to switch focus to the next target more quickly. "I don't mind failing. Failing's okay, providing that you've given your best and put everything into it," said Murray, who was also beaten by Djokovic in January's Australian Open final. "Failing's not terrible. I put myself in a position all of the time in these events to win them. I've lost a lot of close ones against great players most of the time. "I'm not afraid of failing. I'm learning from all of my losses." Playing in an era when Djokovic, Federer and Rafael Nadal have captured 43 grand slam titles between them, three-times major winner Murray knows that he has his work cut out if he wants to add to his haul.

Before Sunday, every one of Murray's previous 10 slam finals had been against Federer or Djokovic. While this fortnight's Wimbledon offered him a rare reprieve as Nadal was out injured, Djokovic was knocked out in the third round and Federer fell by the wayside in the semis, Murray knows that such occurrences are not likely to occur too often. "If I want to add to three slams, I'm going to have to find ways to win against them," said Murray. "It's very rare that you get through a slam without playing Novak, Roger or Rafa. But I still feel like my best tennis is ahead of me, that I have an opportunity to win more." — Reuters

OKSANA CHUSOVITINA PREPARES FOR SEVENTH OLYMPICS AT 41

BERGISCHE-GLADBACH: In the retro-looking gym that serves as the talent-honing center for Germany's potential Olympian gymnasts, girls aged six and seven in leotards execute their somersaults and back flips under watchful trainers. From a distance, it is difficult to distinguish Oksana Chusovitina from the kids. However, she has a son who is about three times the age of the young aspiring gymnasts.

Only when she approaches, do features on her small frame reveal differences: The muscles hardened by years of top-level competition, and the lines around the face tell of experience.

Chusovitina will compete at her seventh Olympics when she goes to Rio de Janeiro, becoming the oldest Olympic female gymnast in history at age 41. "I am feeling good," she said, speaking German in an interview with The Associated Press. "On the podium, everyone is the same whether you are 40 or 16. You have to go out and do your routine and your jumps.

"But it's a pity there are no points for age," she added, breaking into an easy smile. Chusovitina, back representing her native Uzbekistan, is an anachronism in an age when gymnasts enter major competitions at 16, and most are teenagers. A legal limit was imposed to prevent ever younger girls coming to competitions.

LONGEVITY

Her dedication and love of the sport keep her going, she said. "I have no pain, no problems. The toughest for me is to wait until the next training," Chusovitina said. As the Olympics approach, she trains two, three hours a day, or as she puts it, "not so much."

About 1.50-meters (five-feet) tall and weighing about 43 kilograms (95 pounds), Chusovitina looks very fit. She cannot really pinpoint the reason for her competitive longevity.

"I don't know how I stay fit, I think you have to ask my mother," she said, suggesting good genes. "I love this sport, I love training, I am always eager to train," Chusovitina said. Chusovitina's best chance for a medal in Rio is the vault, in which she won a silver medal at the 2008 Beijing Games, then competing for Germany. She has 10 medals in the vault at world championships, plus one in the floor.

But she is reluctant to speak about a podium finish in Rio. "I don't want to talk about the podium or the medals. I first want to prepare in the time before the games, fly to Brazil, and be healthy," she said.

Speaking of which, Chusovitina said she was not worried about the Zika virus even though some top male golfers, notably, have pulled out of the Olympics because of fears of getting infected. "I am not flying to Brazil to get pregnant," she said, laughing loudly.

As she jumped onto the beam for a few moves, her son Alisher walked to the gym to wait for her to finish training. Alisher is the reason Chusovitina mostly lives and trains in Germany. She is married to Uzbekistan's Olympic wrestler, Bakhodir Kuranov, and their son was born in 1999.

In 2002, Alisher was diagnosed with leukemia. Unable to get treatment for her son or to pay for it, Chusovitina came to Germany at the invitation of a club in Cologne. A fundraising campaign and money she earned in competitions paid for Alisher's treatment, and he is fully recovered. Approaching his 17th birthday,



BEIJING: In this Aug. 17, 2008 file photo Germany's gymnast Oksana Chusovitina poses after winning the silver medal during the women's vault apparatus finals at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing. Chusovitina will compete at her seventh Olympics when she goes to Rio de Janeiro, becoming the oldest Olympic female gymnast in history at age 41. — AP

Alisher is more interested in basketball than in gymnastics. During Alisher's treatment, Chusovitina competed for Germany, winning silver in the vault in Beijing and a pair of world championship medals. Her international career began for the Soviet Union with gold medals in the team event and the floor, and silver in the vault, at the 1991 worlds in Indianapolis.

The next year, she earned a team gold at the Barcelona Olympics, now for the Unified Team, one of the successor teams of the Soviet Union.

Her German manager, Michael Fabig, thinks Chusovitina may not be through with the Olympics after Rio. "I don't think she'll ever retire," he said with an I-give-up shrug of his shoulders. — AP

RAONIC LATEST TO BE PUZZLED BY 'BIG FOUR'

LONDON: Milos Raonic became the latest man to be foiled by the Grand Slam stranglehold of the 'Big Four' when he ran up against the Wimbledon brick wall of Andy Murray and, like others before him, was left scrambling to find hope in the wreckage.

The 25-year-old insisted he will "leave no stone unturned" in his bid to return to a major final and become the first Canadian Grand Slam title winner. However, recent history makes brutal reading for Raonic as well as the likes of other hopefuls such as Kei Nishikori, Dominic Thiem, Nick Kyrgios and the badly fading Grigor Dimitrov. Since Roger Federer won the first of his 17 Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon in 2003, 45 of the following 52 majors have been claimed by the sport's pre-eminent forces—Murray, Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal. Three of those to break the pattern are long retired—Andy Roddick (US Open 2003), Gaston Gaudio (Roland Garros 2004) and Marat Safin (Australian Open 2005).

Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 US Open winner, has undergone four wrist injuries which pushed him to the brink of retirement

while Marin Cilic has come nowhere near to adding to his 2014 win in New York. Stan Wawrinka, the 2014 Australian Open and 2015 French Open winner, is still a serious contender at world number five but he is 31. "I'm going to work on everything. I'm not going to leave any stone unturned," said Raonic after his 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 7-6 (7/2) defeat on Sunday. "I'm going to try to get myself back in this position, try to be better in this position."

"I'm going to try to get fitter, stronger. I'm going to try to improve my return game, improve my serve. Improve my efficiency coming forward." The last man outside of Murray, Federer, Djokovic and Nadal to triumph at the All England Club was Lleyton Hewitt back in 2002. Raonic had gone into his maiden final at the majors having fired 137 aces in the tournament.

However, on Sunday, Murray restricted him to just eight. Even firing the fastest serve of the tournament of 147mph in the ninth game of the second set brought no reward.

It came back to him with interest and the Scot won the point.—AFP

WHAT NOW FOR FRANCE'S 'GRIEZMANN GENERATION'?

PARIS: Tipped to emulate France's 1984 European champions and 1998 World Cup winners, the 'Griezmann Generation's' bitter Euro 2016 final defeat by Portugal will take some getting over. After sweeping past world champions Germany in the semi-finals, the stage was set for Antoine Griezmann and his team-mates to lead France to a third major tournament triumph on home soil.

But despite losing Cristiano Ronaldo to a first-half knee injury, Portugal prevailed 1-0 courtesy of Eder's extra-time strike at Stade de France on Sunday, bringing Didier Deschamps's side to their knees. "This squad has a big future, but we should have won this Euro and we didn't," said Griezmann, who finished as the tournament's top scorer with six goals. "We are very sad, a bit annoyed, but that's football. Sometimes it gives,

sometimes it takes away. We have to come back stronger and be ready for the World Cup qualifiers."

While France's defeat crushed the dreams of a nation, it at least had the merit not to be accompanied by the player controversies that have plagued the team in tournaments past.

France notoriously went on strike at the 2010 World Cup in protest at the expulsion of striker Nicolas Anelka for insulting coach Raymond Domenech, while several players were punished for bad behaviour at Euro 2012. But Deschamps, who succeeded Laurent Blanc in 2012, has succeeded in repairing the team's image and since overturning a 2-0 deficit to beat Ukraine in a qualifying play-off ahead of the 2014 World Cup, they have enjoyed a high level of popularity in France.

"You obviously have regrets when

you lose a final, but there's pride as well," said midfielder Blaise Matuidi.

"It was good to have brought together the French people, to see the excitement around the team, the joy and the happiness from people who love football and people who fell in love with it thanks to our work." Deschamps and the French Football Federation made a bold pre-tournament decision to drop Karim Benzema after he was charged over a plot to blackmail international team-mate Mathieu Valbuena over a sextape.

'HARD TO BE OPTIMISTIC'

It was a move that was vindicated as France, spearheaded by Griezmann, romped to the final, only to fall short at the last. Griezmann, 25, has now lost two major finals in two months, having been on the losing side as Atletico Madrid fell to Real Madrid in May's

Champions League decider, but he was the tournament's unquestionable poster boy. Other young players to catch the eye included 22-year-old Samuel Umtiti, the Barcelona new recruit who took Adil Rami's place at centre-back, and 20-year-old Bayern Munich winger Kingsley Coman, who made a lively cameo in the final. Moussa Sissoko, the Newcastle United midfielder, and West Ham United's Dimitri Payet also staked strong claims for permanent roles in the starting XI, the former producing a stirring display in the final. But Juventus star Paul Pogba squandered an opportunity to confirm his status as the game's pre-eminent midfielder player, conspicuously failing to stamp his name on the tournament. Manchester United forward Anthony Martial, meanwhile, played for only the last 10 minutes of the final after being hauled off at half-

time of France's second game against Albania.

With Patrice Evra now 35 and Bacary Sagna 33, there is likely to be turnover in the full-back areas sooner rather than later. But Deschamps will welcome back several strong characters during World Cup qualifying, including three centre-backs-Raphael Varane, Mamadou Sakho and Jeremy Mathieu-who all missed the tournament. "Two years ago we got to a (World Cup) quarter-final, today we are finalists. The young players have progressed," said Deschamps, whose contract expires in 2018.

"We got to the final, but we didn't get our reward. We've had 50 days together since the beginning (mid-May), with an extraordinary group. It's hard to be optimistic tonight, but it augurs well for the future and hopefully it will be exciting." —AFP

MLB results/standings

Toronto 6, Detroit 1; Miami 7, Cincinnati 3; NY Yankees 11, Cleveland 7; Washington 3, NY Mets 2; Chicago Cubs 6, Pittsburgh 5; Baltimore 4, LA Angels 2; Boston 4, Tampa Bay 0; Atlanta 2, Chicago White Sox 0; Houston 2, Oakland 1 (10 innings); St. Louis 5, Milwaukee 1; Seattle 8, Kansas City 5; Minnesota 15, Texas 5; Philadelphia 10, Colorado 3; LA Dodgers 3, San Diego 1; San Francisco 4, Arizona 0.

American League

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	51	36	.586	-
Boston	49	38	.563	2
Toronto	51	40	.560	2
NY Yankees	44	44	.500	7.5
Tampa Bay	34	54	.386	17.5

Central Division

Cleveland	52	36	.591	-
Detroit	46	43	.517	6.5
Chicago White Sox	45	43	.511	7
Kansas City	45	43	.511	7
Minnesota	32	56	.364	20

Western Division

Texas	54	36	.600	-
Houston	48	41	.539	5.5
Seattle	45	44	.506	8.5
Oakland	38	51	.427	15.5
LA Angels	37	52	.416	16.5

National League

Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Washington	54	36	.600	-
Miami	47	41	.534	6
NY Mets	47	41	.534	6
Philadelphia	42	48	.467	12
Atlanta	31	58	.348	22.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	53	35	.602	-
St. Louis	46	42	.523	7
Pittsburgh	46	43	.517	7.5
Milwaukee	38	49	.437	14.5
Cincinnati	32	57	.360	21.5

Western Division

San Francisco	57	33	.633	-
LA Dodgers	51	40	.560	6.5
Colorado	40	48	.455	16
San Diego	38	51	.427	18.5
Arizona	38	52	.422	19



LOS ANGELES: Kenta Maeda #18 of the Los Angeles Dodgers strikes out in the fourth inning against the San Diego Padres at Dodger Stadium on Sunday in Los Angeles, California.—AFP

MAEDA STRIKES OUT CAREER-HIGH 13, DODGERS BEAT PADRES

LOS ANGELES: Japanese ace Kenta Maeda struck out a career-high 13 batters in seven innings to lead the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 3-1 win over the San Diego Padres in Major League Baseball on Sunday. Maeda (8-6) allowed a run on Derek Norris' homer in the fifth and two hits. He retired 14 of the first 15 batters he faced and struck out six straight near the end of his outing. Adrian Gonzalez homered for Los Angeles, and Howie Kendrick had three hits. Kenley Jansen pitched a scoreless ninth for his 27th save. Christian Friedrich (4-5) lost for the fourth time in five starts, giving up three runs and seven hits over five innings. The Padres fell to 18-18 since June 1.

YANKEES 11, INDIANS 7

The Yankees overcame a shaky outing by Japanese pitcher Masahiro Tanaka, with Jacoby Ellsbury hitting a three-run homer to secure the win. New York scored four runs in the second and six in the fifth, moving to .500 (44-44) going into the All-Star break. The Yankees won three of four from the AL Central-leading Indians. Tanaka took an 11-1 lead into the fifth, but was charged with seven runs (three earned) and fell one out short of qualifying for his seventh win. Nathan Eovaldi (7-6), demoted to the bullpen last week, allowed one hit over the final 4 1/3 innings for his first career win in relief. Carlos Carrasco (5-3) allowed five runs - one earned - in 3 2/3 innings. Cleveland, which is 3-6 since a franchise-record, 14-game winning streak, committed three errors, leading to eight unearned runs.

GIANTS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 0

Madison Bumgarner allowed Arizona's only hit with one out in the eighth inning and matched a career high with 14 strikeouts to lead the San Francisco Giants over the Diamondbacks. Bumgarner (10-4) retired 25 of the 28 batters he faced, including two double plays, and walked one while going the distance for the third time this season. Jake Lamb broke up Bumgarner's bid with a single. Lamb also reached on an error in the fifth when right fielder Gregor

Blanco dropped a flyball. Beyond that, San Francisco's four-time All-Star was nearly untouchable while notching his fourth career one-hitter. Archie Bradley (3-5) allowed two runs over six innings.

NATIONALS 3, METS 2

Daniel Murphy kept answering the Citi Field boos with booms, hitting his seventh home run this year against the team that let him go last winter and leading the Washington Nationals over the New York Mets 3-2 Sunday. Murphy tops the majors with a .348 batting average at the All-Star break, boosted by the damage he has done to the Mets. He homered three times and drove in 10 runs as the NL East leaders took three of four in this series, opening a six-game edge over New York. Murphy lined a two-run drive off the facing of the upper deck in the first inning. Overall, he is 22 for 52 (.423) with 21 RBIs against his old club. Jose Reyes hit two home runs for the Mets, including a leadoff shot in the first inning. Steven Matz (7-5) fell to 0-4 in his last eight starts. Gio Gonzalez (5-8) pitched into the sixth as the Nationals beat the Mets for the ninth time in 13 matchups this year.

CUBS 6, PIRATES 5

Kris Bryant hit an RBI single in the eighth inning, sending the faltering Cubs to a sorely needed victory. Pinch hitter Matt Szczur doubled to left field with one out against Tony Watson (1-3). Bryant, who had three hits and reached four times, followed with his tiebreaking hit. NL Central-leading Chicago stopped a five-game losing streak. Pittsburgh lost for just the second time in 11 games heading to the All-Star break. Pedro Strop (2-2) got the win and Hector Rondon pitched the ninth for his 14th save.

RED SOX 4, RAYS 0

David Price pitched eight innings in his best start with the Red Sox, and David Ortiz hit a two-run homer. The victory completed a three-game sweep for the Red Sox and handed Tampa Bay its 22nd loss in 25 games. Price (9-6) struck out 10, allowed

four hits, walked one and hit two batters in snapping a personal two-game losing streak. Brad Ziegler, acquired from Arizona after Friday night's games, finished the four-hitter in his Red Sox debut. Jake Odorizzi (3-5) got the loss, allowing four runs in five innings.

BLUE JAYS 6, TIGERS 1

All-Star Josh Donaldson hit a three-run homer for Toronto, and R.A. Dickey won back-to-back starts for the first time in a month. Donaldson is the sixth player in American League history to hit at least 20 home runs and score 80 runs or more before the All-Star break. Dickey (7-9) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings to win consecutive starts for the first time since victories at Boston on June 3 and at Detroit on June 8. Anibal Sanchez (5-10) lost his second straight start, allowing five runs and eight hits in four innings.

MARINERS 8, ROYALS 5

Robinson Cano and Adam Lind homered during Seattle's five-run seventh inning. Cano's two-run shot to deep right field for his 21st homer extended the Mariners' lead to 5-0. Lind hit a three-run shot a few batters later. The Royals scored five runs over the final three innings, pulling within three on Alex Gordon's homer leading off the ninth. Seattle's Mike Montgomery (3-3) pitched 6 1/3 strong innings, giving up one run and five hits, in his first start of the season. Dillion Gee (3-3) picked up the loss for the Royals, giving up three runs and five hits in 3 2/3 innings.

ORIOLES 4, ANGELS 2

Chris Tillman pitched seven innings of three-hit ball, Chris Davis and J.J. Hardy homered and the Orioles beat Tim Lincecum and the Angels. Adam Jones and Pedro Alvarez had three hits apiece for the Orioles, who improved to 33-14 at home and reached the All-Star break in first place in the AL East with a 51-36 record. Tillman (12-2) issued a season-high five walks and struck out five. Zach Britton got three outs

for his 27th save in 27 opportunities. Lincecum (1-3) gave up three runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings.

TWINS 15, RANGERS 5

Max Kepler hit Minnesota's first grand slam this season, one of four homers for the Twins. Minnesota won three of four at Texas after taking the last two games of its home series against the Rangers the previous weekend. Kepler's slam came with two outs in the fifth off A.J. Griffin (3-1), putting the Twins up 6-0. Kennys Vargas, Eduardo Escobar and Brian Dozier also connected for the Twins, who have won seven of their last nine games but still have the American League's worst record at 32-56. Minnesota's Tommy Milone (2-2) allowed two runs and five hits in five-plus innings. Despite losing nine of their last 12 games, the Rangers still have the AL's best record at 54-36.

CARDINALS 5, BREWERS 1

St Louis right-hander Mike Leake struck out a season-high 10 over seven innings, and Matt Adams and Randal Grichuk homered. Aledmys Diaz scored from first on a single in the fifth to snap a tie, and the Cardinals entered the All-Star break having cut a 12-game deficit to the NL Central-leading Cubs to seven. Adams snapped an 0-for-27 skid with a leadoff drive in the second. That ended a 16 1/3-inning scoreless streak for rookie Junior Guerra (6-2). Leake (6-7) allowed six hits in his first win since June 12.

BRAVES 2, WHITE SOX 0

Mike Foltyniewicz struck out a career-high 10 in seven innings, leading Atlanta to the victory. Foltyniewicz (3-3), who grew up in the far southwest suburbs of Chicago, allowed five hits and walked none. He struck out the side in the seventh on 12 pitches. Jeff Francoeur and Jace Peterson homered for Atlanta, which finished with six hits. Jim Johnson worked the ninth for his second save. White Sox starter James Shields (4-10) allowed six hits, including both homers, in 7 2/3 innings. Jose Abreu

had three of Chicago's six hits.

ASTROS 2, ATHLETICS 1, 10 INNINGS

Jake Marisnick scored the winning run on an errant throw in the 10th inning, helping the Astros rally for the win. Marisnick led off the 10th with a single off Liam Hendricks (0-2). He stole second on George Springer's strikeout before reaching third on a groundout by Marwin Gonzalez. After Jose Altuve was intentionally walked, Marisnick scored on Carlos Correa's chopper to third that Danny Valencia threw up the line to first as Yonder Alonso's attempted tag missed Correa. It was the A's fourth error of the game. Will Harris (1-1) pitched a perfect 10th for the win.

MARLINS 7, REDS 3

Giancarlo Stanton's 20th homer helped the Marlins complete their first series sweep of Cincinnati since 2003. Stanton, who will compete Monday in the All-Star Home Run Derby, was batting .193 on June 15, but he goes into the break with an average of .233 and 50 RBIs. His two-run homer in the fifth gave Miami a 4-3 lead. Thanks to three consecutive wins over last-place Cincinnati, the Marlins (47-41) have their best record at the All-Star break since 1997. The Reds were swept in Miami for the first time since 1996. Miami's Mike Dunn (1-1) pitched a perfect fifth to break the franchise record for career pitching appearances with his 369th. Cincinnati rookie Cody Reed (0-4) allowed three earned runs in 4 2/3 innings to remain winless in five career starts.

PHILLIES 10, ROCKIES 3

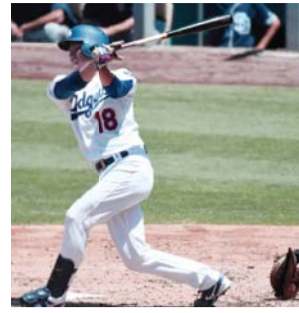
Maikel Franco and Cameron Rupp hit long home runs for Philadelphia, and rookie Zach Eflin got his second big league win. The Phillies have won 10 of 13 games. Rupp tied his career high with four RBIs, including a two-run homer that traveled 465 feet in the seventh inning. Franco added a three-run shot in the eighth that went 471 feet. Eflin (2-2) allowed two runs in six innings. Colorado's Tyler Chatwood (8-5) gave up four runs in five innings.—AP

Sports

Spurs star Tim Duncan retires after 19 seasons



Maeda strikes out career-high 13, Dodgers beat Padres



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LISBON: Portugal's forward Cristiano Ronaldo (C) along with his teammates on a stage at Alameda square in Lisbon yesterday where thousands of supporters welcome them with scarfs and flags to celebrate their victory over France in their Euro 2016 final played yesterday. The Portuguese football team returned home to a heroes' welcome today after their upset 1-0 win triumph over France in the Euro 2016 final. — AFP

PORTUGAL UNLEASHES CELEBRATIONS FOR EURO HEROES

LISBON: After a night of rowdy celebrations Portugal's European champions led by Cristiano Ronaldo returned home to a heroes' welcome yesterday and a country overjoyed by their upset win over France. Tens of thousands of fans took over the streets of Lisbon waving red and green national flags to mark the historic victory set up by substitute Eder's extra-time goal that stunned the hosts on Sunday night in the Euro 2016 final at the Stade de France.

Real Madrid superstar Ronaldo, who was stretched off injured and crying early, hugged the trophy on the special flight that took the Portuguese team home. Two fire trucks sprayed jets of water in green and red over the plane as it taxied to the airport terminal.

"We haven't slept much, this is our first victory, we had to be here," said one fan, 21-year-old student Antonio Ribeiro de Magalhaes. With man-of-the-match defender Pepe carrying the prize down the steps the 23-man squad boarded an open-top bus marked 'Champions' for a victory parade. "We've entered into the history of Portugal, thank you for everything," triple world footballer of the year Ronaldo shouted to fans. "This triumph doesn't solve our problems but at least it's making us happy," Lucia Antunes, a 41-year-old unemployed woman, told AFP, alluding to Portugal's struggle

with an economic crisis and austerity. "This is something that only happens once in a lifetime," he added. The team were received by President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, with Ronaldo brandishing the trophy from the balcony of the presidential palace. "You are the best in Europe!" the head of state told the victorious team, decorating them with Commander of Order of Merit medals. "You have given an example by winning courtesy of your courage, determination and humility," he added.

A disconsolate France also went to meet their country's leader. In stark contrast, President Francois Hollande could only offer commiseration at a sombre official lunch. An open-top bus planned for a Paris victory parade was sent back to the depot as French football chiefs started a what-went-wrong inquiry.

'PRIDE OF PORTUGAL'

Neither country could barely believe the result. Portugal's dreams of lifting the Henri Delaunay Trophy looked to have taken a shattering blow when Ronaldo, their captain and talisman, fell to the ground in agony in the eighth minute following a clattering challenge from Dimitri Payet. After twice going off for treatment and trying to come back, Ronaldo was definitively carried off, covering his face as the tears welled up. "It was not the

final I wanted but I am very happy. It is a trophy for all Portuguese, for all immigrants, all the people who believed in us, so I am very happy and very proud," Ronaldo said. The victory marks a healing of sorts for Portugal after their shock defeat in the Euro 2004 final when they lost 1-0 to unfancied Greece on home turf. Portugal's sports press hailed the team with headlines including "Epic", "Eternal" and "Pride of Portugal".

Portugal's coach Fernando Santos and the other players paid tribute to Ronaldo's role in urging the team not to give up. Ronaldo returned from treatment, his knee heavily strapped and limping, at the end of 90 minutes to give pep talks to his team-mates-earning ridicule on Twitter from observers who said he was trying to be the coach. Eder, who plays for French side Lille and only went on in the 79th minute, was having none of it: "He told me I was going to score the winning goal. He gave me strength and positive energy."

TEARS OF PAIN AND JOY

Ronaldo's tears of pain and anguish as he was carried off turned to tears of joy at the final whistle. Portugal defended doggedly and threatened occasionally without their inspirational skipper. With 109 minutes gone, Eder beat off a Laurent Koscielny challenge to fire a shot

from outside the penalty area that French captain and goalkeeper Hugo Lloris could not get a hand to.

The tournament, expanded to 24 teams for the first time, produced a few memorable upsets but little in the way of classic football. And Lloris was the latest to raise questions about the manner of Portugal's wins. He described France's luck as "cruel" and added "one can always argue about the way they play, but they are efficient and you must congratulate them". France started the match as strong favourites after beating Germany 2-0 in the semi-final. Antoine Griezmann scored twice in that game to take his tournament tally to six-enough to win the Golden Boot award and best player of the tournament.

The country had been looking for a win as part of what Hollande called the healing process after the November 13 attacks in Paris that left 130 dead. "The disappointment is there and it's immense," French coach Didier Deschamps said after the game. "We've let a big chance to be champions pass us by."

France spent 450 million euros (\$500 million) preparing 10 stadiums for Euro 2016, which could be the last hosted in one country. Euro 2020, the 16th tournament, will be held in 13 cities in 13 different countries from Azerbaijan to Wales. — AFP

PORTUGAL PROVE THEY CAN FLOURISH WITHOUT RONALDO

PARIS: Portugal proved they can flourish without their talismanic forward Cristiano Ronaldo, at least on the pitch, in beating France to win Euro 2016. Coach Fernando Santos has been trying to reduce their dependency on Ronaldo and his team's ability to live without their all-time leading scorer and captain faced its ultimate test when he went off injured after 25 minutes of Sunday's final.

They passed with flying colours. Relieved of any obligation to pass to Ronaldo every time he was free or allow him to take free kicks, Portugal's players appeared less inhibited without him on the pitch.

Raphael Guerreiro, barred from taking free kicks when Ronaldo is playing, showed his abilities when he curled a sublime effort against the crossbar in extra-time, shortly before Eder scored Portugal's winner. The left back had also scored from a free kick in the pre-tournament friendly against Norway, a game which Ronaldo missed. Ronaldo, who has said he will continue to play for Portugal until at least the 2018 World Cup, has a remarkable record for his country, scoring in seven major tournaments in a row—the last three World Cups and last four European championships.

He almost single-handedly took Portugal to the last World Cup with a hat-trick in a playoff match against Sweden and Santos has repeatedly praised his team spirit and motivational qualities. Yet, his presence sometimes seems to overwhelm his younger team mates. He has taken more than 40 free kicks at major tournaments without converting and television pictures often show him remonstrating angrily when the ball does not reach him.

However, Ronaldo spent much of Sunday's match alongside Santos in the technical area giving the sort of encouragement to his team mates which is often lacking when he is playing.

"His presence in the changing room was really important thanks to the way in which he supported me and he said it was our day ... he believed as much as I did that it was our day," Santos said after the match. Right back Cedric Soares said "unbelievable" motivational words from Ronaldo at half time had helped spur Portugal to victory.

"It was a very tough moment," said Cedric of Ronaldo's injury. "Everybody was a little bit in shock, but at half time, Cristiano had fantastic words with us.

"He gave us a lot of confidence and said 'lis-

ten people, I am sure we will win this Euro, so stay together and fight for it.' He was fantastic, his attitude was unbelievable."

When Santos was appointed in September 2014, Portugal had suffered a dismal World Cup and lost their opening Euro 2016 qualifier at home to Albania. Their team had barely changed since Euro 2012 and younger players were finding the door firmly shut as predecessor Paulo Bento pledged loyalty to the old guard. Santos immediately began renewing the team, fielding more than 50 players in two years and Ronaldo himself was quick to appreciate the influence of his remarkably down-to-earth coach.

"Fernando Santos was the most important person at the European championship," he said. "He said that he would return to Lisbon on July 11 and be welcomed with a party. A lot of people made fun of his words and that left a strong impression on me."

Young players such as Joao Mario (23), Danilo (24), William Carvalho (24), Andre Gomes (22) and Renato Sanches (18) all became key figures in Portugal's campaign although Santos said he only found his ideal formation during the tournament. — Reuters



LISBON: Portugal's president Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa (L) and Portugal's coach Fernando Santos hold the trophy on the balcony of the Belem Palace as they celebrate their victory yesterday after their Euro 2016 final football win over France. — AFP

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

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INDIA WANTS FOREIGN INVESTMENT PACTS TO MAKE LIMITED LAWSUITS



AHMADABAD: In this Thursday, March 25, 2010, file photo, commuters go past hoardings of Bharti Airtel on a street in Ahmadabad. — AP

SURVEY: INDIAN FIRMS BEST IN TRANSPARENCY CHINESE FIRMS DEEMED THE MOST OPAQUE

HONG KONG: India has the most transparent companies while Chinese firms are the most opaque, according to a global watchdog's survey released yesterday that assesses the efforts of companies in emerging markets to fight corruption. Transparency International said the report's findings were "pathetic" and highlighted the urgent need for big multinational companies to do more to fight corruption.

The report covered 100 companies in 15 emerging-market countries that also included Brazil, Mexico and Russia. The overall score slipped since the last Transparency International Corporate Reporting survey in 2013, falling a fraction to 3.4 out of 10, with three quarters of companies scoring less than half. The Berlin-based watchdog warned that the failure of a vast

majority of companies surveyed to operate transparently risks creating an environment for corruption to thrive both in their businesses and the countries where they operate.

Fighting global corruption

The weak scores are a big concern for global corruption fighting efforts, said Susan Cote-Freeman, Transparency's head of business integrity. "All these companies including the Chinese ones are expanding in other geographies and they really have to raise the bar on their anticorruption and disclosure practices if we're going to have a level playing field and if we're going to really tackle this problem of corruption." Companies were scored on three measures: anticorruption

programs, the amount of information disclosed about subsidiaries, joint ventures and other holdings, and financial data released for operations in each country where it has business.

Thirty-seven Chinese companies were evaluated, making them the survey's biggest group, but they had the weakest overall performance. The three companies that scored zero out of 10 were all Chinese: automaker Chery, appliance maker Galanz and auto parts maker Wanxiang Group. The list's bottom 25 spots were also dominated by Chinese companies. "The very weak Chinese results stem from weak or non-existent anticorruption policies and procedures, or a clear failure to disclose them in line with international practice," Transparency International said in a news release accompany-

ing its report. Spokespersons for Chery and Wanxiang did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the report. Galanz representatives could not be reached for comment. Indian firms, on the other hand, dominated the top spots. Telecom Company Bharti Airtel took first place with a score of 7.3 out of 10, followed by six units of conglomerate Tata and technology company Wipro.

One reason Indian companies came out on top is strict government requirements for financial disclosures, including operations in different countries. Another is that older companies such as Tata have been focusing on anticorruption efforts for "quite a long time," said Cote-Freeman. Only one Chinese company, telecom gear maker ZTE, placed in the top 25. — AP

EU SAYS CHINA NEEDS TO GIVE EU COMPANIES FAIR MARKET ACCESS

BEIJING: The EU trade commissioner said yesterday that China has to give European companies the same kind of market access that Chinese companies enjoy in Europe before discussions can start on a bilateral free trade agreement. Cecilia Malmstrom said market access and other issues need to be ironed out first in an investment agreement, which is currently being negotiated, to establish "a more level playing field."

In a speech at a university in Beijing, Malmstrom said the 28-member EU supported Beijing's path toward a more market-oriented economy promised in 2013, but hadn't seen "much progress." Recently established free-trade zones in China have made "relatively limited progress or been abandoned and there are still concerns about the enforcement of intellectual property rights, (and) discrimination against EU businesses remains a fact," she said.

She also said China had made steps backward with laws concerning national security and non-governmental organizations, and in the field of cybersecurity. Concerns remain "about the predictability and transparency of the legal and regulatory systems." In the past year, Chinese authorities have launched an unprecedented crackdown on lawyers and human rights defenders, passed a law that they said would help NGOs but that subjects them to police supervision, and enacted a national security law that particularly targets online activity.

"Moving China to the next phase of development requires that rule of law be part of that," Malmstrom said. She criticized limitations on lawyers and restrictions on online freedom. "Barriers to that, whether it's banning social platforms or by requiring storage of content locally, impinge China's economic progress as much as freedom of expression," she said. The EU is China's

biggest trading partner, and China is the EU's second-largest trading partner, after the United States.

High-profile purchases

Malmstrom said people ask why can Chinese firms make high-profile purchases of European companies, including tire manufacturer Pirelli and Volvo Car Corp. "when European investors face major barriers, including equity gaps, forced technology transfer or licensing restrictions" in various sectors in China.

"Why do European steelmakers have to lay off workers when they are competing with Chinese

firms who benefit from European subsidies? Why do Chinese firms competing in Europe get impartial treatment from independent regulators when the same treatment is not available in China?" Malmstrom said. "Keeping the EU market open is a benefit for us and for China but it requires us to address these questions of reciprocal openness," the trade commissioner said.

Chinese officials have previously tried to reassure foreign companies they are welcome in its economy. In March, Xu Shaoshi, chairman of the Cabinet's National Reform and Development Commission, pledged to "promote two-way opening up and liberalization" before an audience that included executives of top global companies. Malmstrom said that the EU's long-term goal is a free trade agreement with China, "but we need to get this investment agreement first." "This is to establish a more level playing field in investment, and until we have that it will be very difficult to enter into the specific free trade negotiations," she said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a daily briefing that China hoped to reach "a mutually beneficial investment agreement with the EU as soon as possible." "Particularly given the sluggish world economy, we believe that if China and the EU, as two major world economies, can reach such an agreement, it will benefit not only the two sides but also the prosperity, recovery and growth of the world economy," Lu said.

Malmstrom spoke and answered questions from students at the University of International Business and Economics, ahead of a China-EU summit Tuesday and Wednesday. Malmstrom also said that she hoped to conclude an EU-US free trade agreement, which has been under discussion for three years, before the end of President Barack Obama's administration. — AP



BEIJING: EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom speaks at the University of International Business and Economics. — AP



EVERETT: In this Nov 4, 2015 file photo, a Boeing 787 airplane purchased by Qatar Airways is shown during a delivery ceremony. — AP

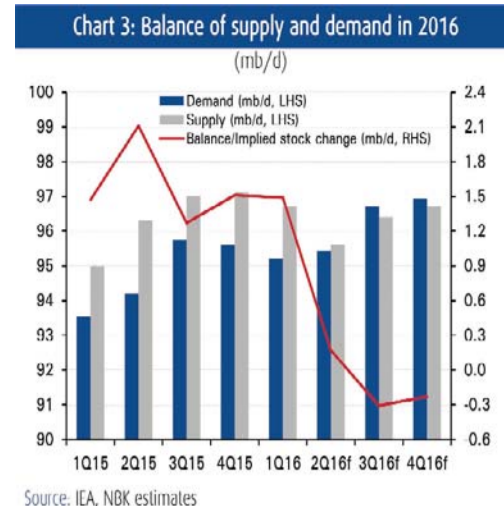
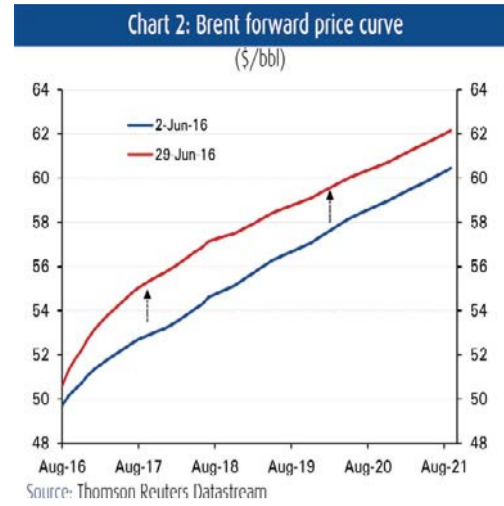
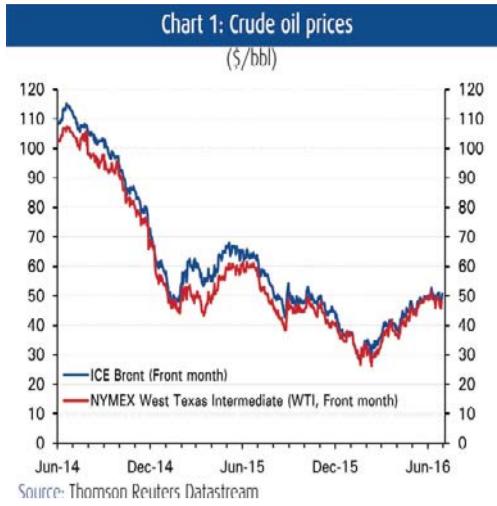
QATAR AIRWAYS PROFITS, 2016 REVENUE UP WITH NEW ROUTES

DUBAI: One of the Middle East's biggest carriers, Qatar Airways, announced yesterday net profits of \$445 million in 2016, up from \$103 million the previous year. The airline's revenue rose from \$9.3 billion in 2015 to \$9.6 billion for the fiscal year ending March 31. Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al-Baker said in a statement it was the 19-year-old airline's best fiscal year to date.

The airline added 13 new destinations this year to fly to more than 150 cities worldwide. It also launched direct flights from its base in Doha to Atlanta, home to the world's busiest international airport. Qatar Airways operates a fleet of 186 aircraft, including the new Airbus A350 XWB, out of its hub in the vast new Hamad

International Airport in Doha, which is preparing to host soccer's World Cup in 2022.

Qatar Airways is one of the region's three biggest carriers, alongside the Middle East's biggest carrier, the Dubai-based Emirates Airline, and the Abu-Dhabi based Etihad Airways. The three have increasingly challenged Western airlines in long-haul flights. US carriers - including American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines - have criticized the three major Gulf carriers, saying they are aggressively expanding services to the United States while receiving unfair subsidies from their governments. They have pressed Washington to renegotiate treaties that allow Gulf airlines to fly to the US. — AP



PRICES HOLD \$45-50 RANGE DESPITE BREXIT

NBK Oil Market Update

As June closed, oil prices posted their sixth consecutive monthly increase. As of June 30, ICE Brent, the international benchmark, was trading at slightly below \$50 per barrel (bbl), while NYMEX West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the US crude marker, was ranging just under at \$49.8/bbl. (Charts 1 & 2.) Brent finished the month at \$49.5 pb, and averaged \$49.9 pb.

The uptick in prices comes as welcome relief to markets battered by the fallout from the UK's decision to exit the European Union on 23 June. In the days that followed the Brexit referendum, Brent fell by as much as 7.5% to \$47.16-its lowest level since 10 May. Oil, like other commodities and international equities, had been caught up in the 'flight from risk' that followed the results of the referendum. Investors, worried that Brexit would not only push the UK into recession but lead to a slowdown in global growth, have sought refuge in perceived safe haven assets, especially gold and US treasuries. The resulting rise in the US dollar also put pressure on oil prices. However, markets seemed to regain composure within days.

Oil demand catches up with supply

Nevertheless, it would seem that markets have reverted back to fundamentals, and here the story is very much one of demand catching up with the supply. A spate of supply outages in Nigeria, Venezuela and Canada, the latter due to wildfires, coupled with continuing declines in US shale output have accelerated the unwinding of the 2-year old supply glut.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that non-OPEC supply, of which the US has been the largest source of growth in recent years, is expected to contract by -0.9 mb/d in

2016. This is a significant fall from last year's increase of 1.5 mb/d. (Charts 3 & 4.) US oil production is down -10% year-on-year (y/y) at 8.62 mb/d, according to weekly data provided by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Oil demand has also firmed, led by rising gasoline usage in the US and strong gasoil/diesel demand in India. The IEA has just revised its forecast for global oil demand growth this year upwards by 100,000 b/d to 1.3 mb/d to reflect the improvement in demand.

Supply outages push OPEC output lower

OPEC production fell marginally in May, by 104,000 b/d to 32.4 mb/d, according to OPEC secondary source data. (Chart 7.) This was the sixth month in a row that output topped 32 mb/d. OPEC output was driven lower by declines in Libya, Iraq, Venezuela and Nigeria which offset gains in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the UAE.

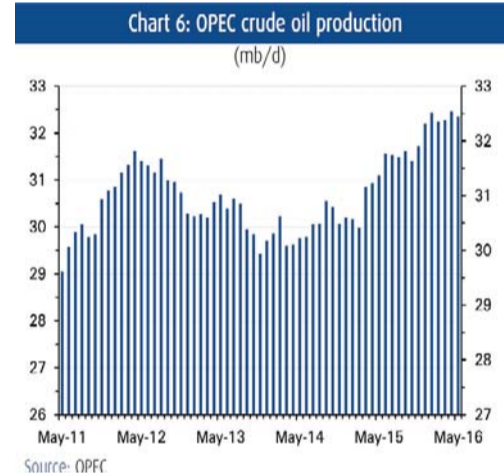
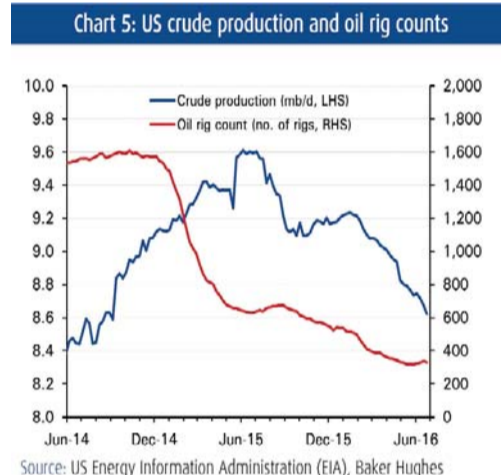
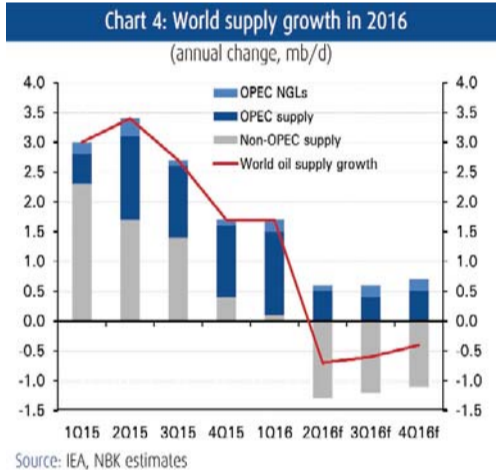
Nigeria's oil production of 1.4 mb/d is at its lowest in nearly thirty years, falling by a sizeable 251,000 b/d in May, as militants stepped up their attacks on the country's oil wells and pipelines, sparking "force majeure" on four key export streams and disrupting production for the third straight month. (Chart 8.) With the economy on the brink of recession and attacks by the militant group the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) growing more sophisticated, the Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has been forced to pacify the rebels with extensions of an amnesty offered to them in 2009 and demilitarization of the Delta area. The rebels, for their part, are demanding a greater share of Nigeria's oil wealth.

In Iraq, power outages at the southern Basra

terminal brought down oil production by 61,000 b/d to 4.3 mb/d. Iraq was OPEC's largest source of growth in 2015, with an average increase of 673,000 b/d, but payment delays to international oil companies amid the costly war against the so called Islamic State (IS) threatens to cap, if not reduce, the country's output in 2017.

In contrast, May saw Kuwaiti output rebound following the strike by oil workers the previous month. Production increased by 93,000 b/d to 2.7 mb/d. In the UAE, output rose by 73,000 b/d to 2.8 mb/d after maintenance work was completed on the Murban complex. Saudi Arabian production edged up by 84,000 b/d in response to higher domestic demand; further gains in Saudi crude production are expected with the onset of the summer season, when energy consumption reaches its annual peak.

Iran, meanwhile, continued to ramp up its oil output in a bid to reclaim lost market share. Production reached 3.5 mb/d in May, a rise of 89,000 b/d on April and a cumulative 675,000 b/d since the start of the year, when international sanctions were lifted. While it is clear that the oil market is in the process of rebalancing, it should not be forgotten that at some point the crude that has been shut-in, in places like Nigeria and Libya, will be free to flow back on to international markets. Furthermore, judging by the return of twenty, previously idle, US shale drilling rigs in June, it would seem that, with oil prices in the \$45-50/bbl range, a price point has been reached at which production in certain US shale plays has become more cost effective. Additional crude volumes are therefore expected to put the brakes on future oil price surges or at least slow their recent advance.



CHINA CAR SALES RISE ON STRONG SUV DEMAND

HONG KONG: China's car sales expanded at a faster pace in the first half of the year, boosted by strong demand for sport utility vehicles in the world's largest auto market, an industry group said yesterday. About 11 million passenger vehicles were sold in the January-June period, according to data released by the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. That's 9.2 percent more than the same period last year. Total vehicle sales, including trucks and buses, rose 8.1 percent to 12.8 million, the group said.

The surging popularity of SUVs among Chinese drivers has helped prop up industry sales growth after a slump last year. Cheaper Chinese-made SUVs have also helped domestic brands claw back market share from foreign auto brands that have long dominated the country's auto market. For June, total passenger vehicle sales jumped 17.7 percent from the year before to 1.8 million. SUV sales surged 41 percent to 632,000. —AP

IRAQ HALTS BASRA CRUDE OIL LOADING AFTER PIPELINE LEAK

SINGAPORE: Iraq has suspended Basra Light crude oil loading at two export terminals in the country's south after a pipeline leak, four shipping and trade sources said yesterday. One of the sources said the suspension at the Basra Oil Terminal and the smaller Khor al-Amaya terminal took place on Sunday and there were 15 Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) and Suezmax tankers in the queue. A VLCC can load up to 2 million barrels and a Suezmax has capacity of 1 million barrels.

The outage could lengthen the waiting time for ships to load at the two terminals, including Iraq's main oil export port, after the country sold more oil than it can export from the south. There was around an 11-day delay to load Basrah Light crude before

the outage, data from port agents showed. It remained unclear how long the pipeline repair would take, the sources said.

"It's a small leakage and they're working on it," a second source said. VLCC and Suezmax tankers that had suspended oil loading include New Frontier, Jiaolong Spirit, Ioanna and 17 February, according to a trade source and Thomson Reuters Eikon data. Iraq was expected to export 3.64 million barrels per day (bpd) of Basra Light and Heavy in June, but actual loadings were only 3.175 million bpd. This month the producer is expected to load 2.155 million bpd of Basra Light. The loading of another Iraqi export grade, Basra Heavy, was unaffected, sources said. —Reuters

BEWARE OF BREXIT HEADLINES CONVINCING YOU TO BUY GOLD

NEW YORK: If you thought the Brexit vote was scary, check out the full page newspaper ad that recently appeared in The New York Times recounting all the horrors in the present tense, as if they were still unfolding: The vote "topples" the British government, "crushes" the pound and "wipes away" billions in stock market wealth. Then came the purpose behind all the panicked prose. "Buy Gold Now!"

Investors have done just that, pushing up the price of the metal to a two-year high. But before joining the rush, experts warn, beware that assets marketed as conservative and safe bought in a panic can sometimes wallop investors with losses they were trying to avoid. The ad was from a company selling gold coins that is run by is Philip Diehl, a coin expert with an impressive pedigree. He was the staff director of the Senate Finance committee, chief of staff at the Treasury Department, then head of the US Mint, the government agency that stamps out dimes and quarters and other coins.

The company he heads, US Money Reserve, may sound like US Mint, but it is an unrelated, private company, as readers can see in the fine print at the bottom of the ad. "Phones have been ringing off the hook," said Diehl of the reaction to Brexit. Gold is "a way of protecting wealth. It's like auto insurance or house insurance." Barbara Roper, a director of investor protection for the Consumer Federation of America, has no opinion on gold itself, but urges caution. She notes that investments sold as "safe" to investors are often anything but.

'World income funds'

A quarter of a century ago, money poured into "world income funds" that bet on seemingly conservative short-term government debt. A decade ago, investors clamored for "auction rate securities" because they were told they were just as secure as cash in the bank. And after the 2008 financial crisis, index annuities were pitched as a way of betting on stock indexes with no risk of loss, a big draw after the US market had lost half its value in a little over a year. All these seemingly safe products slammed investors with high fees or kept them from accessing their money or socked them with outright losses. "Fear is a good thing," said Roper. "Fear mongering is not."

Gold is not some newfangled financial product, of course. It has been a trusted storehouse of wealth and means of exchange for centuries, but lately it's been jumping around like a risky biotechnology stock. It soared during the financial crisis, fell in the four years through the end of last year, then began climbing sharply in recent months.

Yesterday, gold hit \$1,366 an ounce, up 28 percent since the start of the year. Diehl thinks it will continue to rise because of all the turmoil in the world. He's worried about a "hard landing" in China in which the world's second biggest economy slows further, taking many countries down with it. He's worried about another financial collapse like in the 2008 financial crisis. And he's worried politicians in the US will be too gripped by fear of high public debt, and the ones in Europe too wedded to "austerity" policies, to vote for a burst of public spending to jolt their economies back to life should things fall apart again.

Investors seem to agree. In the five trading days after the Brexit vote, \$2.7 billion rushed into gold funds, according to EPFR, a research firm. That is more than 10 times the typical

weekly investment in the last bull market for gold in 2011. The total \$121 billion in gold funds is less than 1 percent of the money in stock funds, but it is rising fast - up 60 percent in just a year. For all the popularity of the funds, gold bulls worried about a sort of financial Armageddon argue you're only really safe owning the metal itself, something like what Diehl sells, a coin you can hold in your hand and use to trade and survive.

"If you have gold coins, you get food, you can barter," said Monty Guild, a respected money manager who personally has 10 percent of his assets tied up in gold coins. With the funds, "if they close the stock exchange, you can't get your money." Regulators have long warned of shady sales practices in the business of selling physical metal, though. In April, securities regulators shut down two gold and silver sellers operating out of Boca Raton, Florida, for assuring customers of 30 percent returns before losing all their money. In 2012, the state court in California ordered a precious metals dealer made popular by TV commentator Glenn Beck - Goldline International - to pay \$5 million to customers misled by price markups and false claims.

Misleading customers

Diehl's firm, US Money Reserve, has gotten into trouble, too. The Texas attorney general accused its sales staff of misleading customers responding to TV ads about its regular bullion coins, convincing them to buy more expensive commemorative coins instead by making false claims about how those would rise in value faster. The company denied it ever misled customers in a settlement in 2011, but agreed to change its sales practices and pay \$5 million. Diehl said the company hired him as president two years later because of his reputation for turning operations around.

The popular embrace of gold started with the plunge in dot-com stocks in 2000, gained strength with the advent of the SPDR Gold Trust, a low-fee exchange traded fund that allows ordinary people looking for a quick buck to invest, then peaked following the Federal Reserve's unprecedented moves to pump money into the economy to save it from collapse after the financial crisis. Spooked investors convinced that inflation would take off bought up the metal. Gold hit a high of \$1,923.70 in September 2011, up six fold from a decade earlier. Diehl's ad highlights that remarkable rise, and suggests history might repeat. "If you would have taken \$150,000 of your money and bought physical gold in 2001, then that initial purchase would have been worth over \$1 million in 2011," the ad says. It adds, "Imagine if this happens again..."

The danger with gold is that it doesn't pay interest like a bond or represent a share of a company like a stock. It's got no intrinsic value. It is only worth what people believe it's worth. And even after the recent surge, they believe it's worth less than what they thought it was worth five years ago. That hypothetical \$150,000 invested at the peak gold price in September 2011 would have left you with just \$106,000 today, down 29 percent. Asked whether the ad pushes things too far, Diehl responded: "We do not promise a positive return. I make statements about the direction that gold will go, but we're very cautious not to make statements about how the investment is going to perform." —AP



AUSTIN: In this July 1, 2016, photo, Philip Diehl holds a 1-ounce gold coin at his office. —AP

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.		
CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.968	
Indian Rupees	4.507	
Pakistani Rupees	2.890	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.091	
Nepali Rupees	2.824	
Singapore Dollar	225.220	
Hongkong Dollar	39.020	
Bangladesh Taka	3.859	
Philippine Peso	6.440	
Thai Baht	8.655	
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	2.0158	
Morocco Dirham	31.531	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	302.700	
Euro	335.390	

Sterling Pound	393.510	
Canadian dollar	232.490	
Turkish lira	105.100	
Swiss Franc	309.190	
Australian Dollar	229.750	
US Dollar Buying	301.500	
GOLD		
20 Gram	274.680	
10 Gram	140.260	
5 Gram	70.970	
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 Franc	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
British Pound	0.385478	0.400478
Czech Korune	0.004343	0.016343
Danish Krone	0.040831	0.045831
Euro	0.0328594	0.0337594
Norwegian Krone	0.031472	0.036672
Romanian Leu	0.073969	0.0736969
Slovakia	0.009018	0.019018
Swedish Krona	0.031200	0.036200
Swiss Franc	0.301078	0.312078
Turkish Lira	0.099777	0.110077
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.220455	0.232455
New Zealand Dollar	0.213608	0.223108
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.226592	0.235592
Georgia 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	0.036923	0.039673

Indian Rupee	0.004320	0.004730
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002899	0.003079
Kenyan Shilling	0.002984	0.002984
Korean Won	0.000253	0.000268
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072250	0.078250
Nepalese Rupee	0.002854	0.003024
Pakistani Rupee	0.002744	0.003034
Philippine Peso	0.006398	0.006698
Sierra Leone	0.000052	0.000058
Singapore Dollar	0.219231	0.229231
South African Rand	0.014732	0.023232
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001672	0.002252
Taiwan	0.009270	0.009450
Thai Baht	0.008281	0.008831
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	0.000150	0.000250
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	0.099777	0.110077
UAE Dirhams	0.080975	0.082675
Yemeni Riyal	0.001368	0.001448

POLAND'S DISAPPEARING LAKES FUEL BATTLE OVER COAL MINING

WILCZYN: In early summer, the Wielkopolska region in western Poland looks like a scene from "The Hobbit" with intense green fields and lakes surrounded by dense forest and pretty cottages.

Drought and climate change, however, are feared to not be the only culprits, with mining of lignite, or brown coal, sapping underground waters and pitting residents against major energy company ZE PAK's proposal for another new mine.

Wetlands disappearing

Wilczynskies and four other nearby lakes are part of Pojezierze Gnienieskie, a nature reserve protected under the European Union's Natura 2000 network designed to offer a haven to valuable and threatened species such as the area's oak trees.

ZE PAK, controlled by billionaire Zygmunt Solorz-Zak since 2012, operates four power plants in Wielkopolska which are fuelled by lignite, the second most important source of energy in Poland after hard coal, and argues a new mine is needed to supply fuel for these plants.

Water drops not us: Company

KWB Konin said the water drops are not the company's fault while acknowl-

edging that the mines siphon groundwater from surrounding land before excavation can start in the open pits. Grzegorz Frockowiak, KWB Konin director of investments, said regional authorities are preparing to finance a plan to replenish waters to Lake Wilczynskie, proving the company is not responsible or it would have to pay for this.

Pointing to a map showing the company's other mines, he said the company had worked the region for 70 years and "those lakes continue to be here." "There is no question that in our activity we drain water and then throw it out .. but if you sit on the edge of any of our mines and look around, you see green lands and farming taking place right next to the pit." Requests for an interview with ZE PAK did not receive a reply.

Farmers losing livelihood

Local farmers and environmental NGOs have warned of water losses for more than 10 years but made a first, formal complaint to the European Commission in 2008. In 2010, a 'non compliance' statement was issued against Poland for allowing a new KWB Konin mine, Tomisawice, in the eastern

part of Wielkopolska. According to the Commission, mining at Tomisawice has had an adverse impact on the area with farmers reporting crops affected.

"Less water means my income has been reduced to half since the mine is here. We are becoming poor," said farmer Jzef Imborski, who lives a few kilometers from Tomisawice. He said neighbors called him "the green frog" as he was the first, lone voice to complain about the mine.

"Surface waters are gone now .. so we have to rely on rain for farming, but that's not enough because it has been so dry with the climate changing," said Muzykiewicz. KWB's Frockowiak said the mines "certainly have an impact on farming land and its productivity" but stressed that the company abides by the requirements of Polish law.

and able to hire experts to show the link between mining and losses.

From farms to industry

In January this year, the Polish Ministry of Agriculture rejected a request by KWB Konin to turn farming land into industrial land in three areas, including Wilczyn where the company wants to open a new open pit mine.

The Wilczyn Mayor, Grzegorz Skowrowski, said he believed a new pit would "kill off" Lake Wilczynskie. Pawel Kaczorowski, a specialist with the Miradzkie forest service, an area also part of the Pojezierze Gnienieskie Natura 2000 site, said a new mine just seven kms from the forest would have "devastating consequences".



LONDON: Pro-European Union supporters and pro-Brexit supporters hold up placards during a demonstration against Brexit in Green Park. —AFP

AIRBUS TAKES FIRST BIG WIN AT FARNBOROUGH AIR SHOW

BREXIT CAUSING MUCH GLOBAL TURBULENCE

LONDON: European aerospace giant Airbus scored the first big win at the Farnborough Air Show, which opened yesterday facing global economic headwinds triggered by Brexit.

For its part, Boeing revealed that China's state-owned Xiamen Airlines had indicated its interest in 30 of its single-aisle twin engine 737 MAX 200 planes worth a total of \$3.39 billion.

The announcement is also a vote of confidence in Airbus operations in Britain after Britain voted June 23 to exit the European Union.

Farnborough as it looks to challenge the dominance of Airbus and Boeing in medium-range, single-aisle aircraft.

Sector forecasts

"I think, like everybody else, that this is going to evolve over time," Cromer told AFP, when asked about the Brexit impact. "The one statistic I would point to, in terms of aviation, is the passenger growth long term.

short-term growth issues-but long-term passenger demand is fuelling the orders that you see today and that we expect to come. "So I wouldn't expect it (Brexit) to have an impact on us-medium term or long term." Bombardier's wide-seated C Series jet-whose first customer Suisse flies commercially for the first time on Friday between Zurich and Paris-is gaining momentum after winning major orders from Air Canada and Delta Airlines in the first half of this year.

Boeing meanwhile forecast yesterday that passenger traffic would grow by an average 4.8 percent over

the next 20 years, while Airbus put the figure at 4.5 percent. The global aerospace industry is 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.

HOW THE REFERENDUM SHOCK IS AFFECTING UK'S ECONOMY

LONDON: Britain looks set for an economic slowdown and possibly a recession after voters decided to leave the European Union in a referendum on June 23. Official data showing how the decision is affecting the economy will not be published until mid-August but there have already been some early signs of the impact.

porarily prevented investors taking money out of commercial real estate funds while others have slashed the value of the funds. The Bank of England said the slump in transactions in the commercial real estate sector could tighten credit conditions for UK businesses because many companies use their real estate as collateral for loans.

ECONOMY Confidence

The business outlook darkened by the most in four years, according to a survey published on July 11 when there were also fresh signs of a fall in consumer spending and a slowing of economic activity in London.

Car registrations

New car registrations fell in June for only the second time in more than four years, and the number of shoppers on the country's high streets dropped 3.4 percent in the days following the shock vote to leave the EU.

The retail sales

The number of people visiting British shops fell 3.4 percent in the 10 days following the referendum, according to retail data company Springboard. It said the initial shock of the Brexit vote had put people off shopping.

Jobs market

The online job site CV-Library said average salaries fell by 1.9 percent in June from the same month a year ago. However, it said advertised jobs jumped by 14.1 percent. A survey from the Recruitment and Employment Confederation showed the number of permanent staff hired via recruitment firms in June fell for the first time since December 2012 - around the last time Britain's economy flirted with recession.

RETAILERS Sports Direct

The retailer said political uncertainty was likely to drag on consumer confidence. The firm looks set to take a hit when making stock purchases because it was not hedged against the sharp fall in the value of sterling against the dollar for this financial year or beyond.

Marks & Spencer

M&S said consumer confidence weakened before the vote. It reported weaker-than-expected sales in the three months to July 2 but said it was too early to quantify the Brexit effect. It kept its guidance for the 2016-17 financial year.

Amazon

Amazon said it has not seen a sales dip in Britain since the referendum and its plans for the UK had not changed. It announced 1,000 new jobs.

FINANCIAL FIRMS

Major investment banks including Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan said they would work to help London remain a top centre for international finance, and a big source of tax revenue for the government. Banks and other financial firms employ more than 2 million people across Britain.

PROPERTY DEVELOPERS AND HOUSEBUILDERS

Several major investment firms have tem-



FARNBOROUGH: Virgin boss Richard Branson with Virgin Atlantic staff after they arrive aboard a new Airbus A350 at the Farnborough International Airshow. —AP

VENEZUELANAS ARE CROSSING INTO COLOMBIA TO SEARCH FOR FOOD

CUCUTA/SAN ANTONIO DEL TACHIRA: Thousands of Venezuelans poured across the border into Colombia on Sunday to buy essential goods during a brief opening of the border that's been closed for nearly a year.

Economically ravaged Venezuela has suffered food and medicine shortages for months, a ripple effect from the falling price of oil, the country's primary export. Critics also blame grave mishandling of the state-led economy. Some 500 desperate Venezuelans illegally stormed the border earlier this week in search of basic goods.

'Serious humanitarian situation'

"Thank God!" was the motto of the day as Venezuelans stocked up on flour, oil, toilet paper and shampoo. "Thank you for this welcome, the people of Venezuela are experiencing a serious humanitarian situation," said Jose Gregorio Sanchez, a resident of the border town of Ureua.

in oil prices, a devastating blow to a South American country whose oil and gas reserves account for 96 percent of its exports. Colombia deployed 300 police officers to Cucuta to monitor two of the city's largest supermarkets following reports of shoving early Sunday. Many arrived by car after crossing into Colombia, but some were transported from the border in security vehicles sent out for the occasion.

Maduro, an elected socialist, has blamed an "economic

war" caused by "right-wing bosses" for the mass shortages. In a sign of Maduro's concern at mounting social unrest, the president on Thursday replaced the head of the National Guard. The Venezuelan opposition launched its efforts to remove the president after winning control of the legislature in January. But Maduro has challenged his rivals through the Supreme Court, which they accuse him of controlling.



SAN ANTONIO DEL TACHIRA, Venezuela: Venezuelans prepare to cross the Simon Bolivar bridge from San Antonio del Tachira, Venezuela to Cucuta, Colombia next to a sign reading "Venezuela promotes peace" on July 10, 2016. —AFP

EU WEIGHS BREXIT AMID 'LITTLE BRITAIN' WARNING

BRUSSELS: Eurozone finance ministers assessed yesterday the impact of the British decision to leave the EU, warning that the country risked becoming "Little Britain" in the aftermath. At their first talks on Brexit since the June 23 referendum, ministers from the 19 countries that use the euro urged swift action on an issue that they said was causing problems across the European economy.

avoid "uncertainty" in the markets. Schelling also warned of the effect on Britain from its vote to end 40 years of membership of the European project. "I think probably there will be a 'Brexit-light', so Scotland will not leave (the EU), probably Northern Ireland will stay in the union, and probably Great Britain becomes Little Britain," he told reporters. Jeroen Dijsselbloem, the Dutch finance minister who heads the Eurogroup of his 19 counterparts, made a similar call for haste after May looked set to replace Prime Minister David Cameron imminently. —AFP

STOCKS CLIMB FOR THIRD DAY, CHINA DATA AWAITS

LONDON: Emerging market stocks were up for a third straight day and near three-month highs yesterday, as global stimulus hopes and a boost to sentiment from bumper US jobs data extended an already 6 percent post-Brexit rally in the asset class.

They were helped as the dollar found traction against the zloty, lira and the rand and rouble as they dipped between 0.10 to 0.3 percent in European trading, the latter as oil prices also sagged back to \$46 a barrel. It had been a more mixed picture in Asia. Indonesia's rupiah hit a near three-month high as its markets played catch-up after a week-long holiday.

tries have central bank meetings this week with traders looking for any hints about potential rate cuts. China's yuan slid again though ahead of a packed week of data which ranges from second quarter GDP to credit growth numbers and June property and industrial production figures.

Concerted move

The yuan has dropped 3 percent against the dollar this year and almost 6 percent against a broader 'trade-weighted' basket of currencies and analysts are sensing a concerted move by the country's authorities. "China is definitely the key thing this week and the market is going to look for signs of how the protracted and intense the slowdown of the economy could be," said UBS economist Manik Narain.

"Obviously we would want to see some evidence that the economy is holding up reasonably well. If we see some signs that property momentum has started to stabilize again for example, that would give some positive impulse." Societe Generale said it was revising down its peak dollar/yuan forecast for over the next year to 7.10 yuan per dollar from 6.80. "Similar to immediately following the August devaluation, consensus is too complacent on the ability and willingness of policymakers to arrest the nearly three-year-old depreciation trend," its strategists said.

In eastern Europe, government bond yields continued to inch lower on bets rates both there and in the euro zone could drop again especially if the Bank of England cuts its rates this week in a bid to ward off a Brexit hit to UK economy.

Poland's 10-year papers traded at 2.84 percent with Hungary's corresponding yield at 2.88 percent. The region's yields have fallen by about 50 basis points since the June 23 Brexit vote that triggered widespread easing expectations in Europe. — Reuters



TOKYO: A man uses a mobile phone in front of an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm. — AP

STARBUCKS TO INCREASE BASE PAY OF WORKERS IN OCTOBER

NEW YORK: Starbucks is boosting the base pay of all employees and store managers at US company-run stores by 5 percent or more. In a letter sent to workers yesterday, CEO Howard Schultz said that the amount of the raise - which will occur in October - will be determined by geographic and market factors.

Starbucks is facing increasing pressure to make schedules for their workers more predictable and reliable.

Last month, a Starbucks employee in southern California launched a petition on Coworker.org, saying the coffee chain was cutting work hours to save on labor costs. The petition said employees are finding it nearly impossible to secure more than 25 hours a week, and that the labor cuts were hurting morale and damaging customer service. Jaime Prater, who launched the petition, said that he spoke with Schultz by phone, who told him the company needed to make it right. In his letter to workers on Monday, Schultz said that Starbucks will work with employees to make sure that they have the hours they need. Schultz said the company was committed to helping workers meet their specific scheduling needs, especially when it comes to ensuring benefits eligibility.

Starbucks Corp also said that it's doubling the annual award for its stock program for hourly workers with two years of continuous employment. The Seattle company is also implementing "go shop" employee health care coverage starting next week, allowing them to pick and choose from a number of options. — AP

Starbucks has approximately 7,600 company-run stores across the country. Pay for entry-level jobs has become a hot political topic ahead of the presidential election. Over the weekend a draft of the Democratic Party's policy positions was being pieced together. It includes a call for a \$15 federal minimum wage over time. Republican Donald Trump favors leaving the wage decision to the states.

Tension over pay has been rising for major US corporations that employ thousands of entry-level workers. Workers at McDonald's Corp. have picketed across the country outside of restaurants for starting pay of \$15 an hour. Last month Macy's Inc. struck a tentative deal with some of its workers, in which an employee union negotiated higher wages and more affordable health care. And as with other companies, Starbucks



SEATTLE: In this Wednesday, March 23, 2016, file photo, Starbucks workers prepare coffee using siphon vacuum coffee makers at a station in the lobby of the coffee company's annual shareholders meeting. — AP

S&P 500 STRIKES RECORD HIGH AS GLOBAL EQUITIES SURGE

LONDON: The S&P roared to an all-time high as stock markets surged higher around the world yesterday, building on sharp gains won before the weekend thanks to a strong US jobs report. The S&P 500 shot to an intraday record in opening deals as Wall Street shrugged off worries over slow global growth and markets which have been whipsawed by post-Brexit volatility.

much-needed optimism back to the market after the recent hammering to stocks caused by Britain's vote to leave the European Union, Asian markets surged higher yesterday. Tokyo led the wave higher, soaring 4.0 percent by the close, following the landslide election victory at the weekend for Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling party.

Round of stimulus

"Investors are basically welcoming the victory of Abe's ruling coalition," Daisuke Uno, chief market strategist of Sumitomo Mitsui Banking, told AFP. "But the question is whether or not stock prices can keep up this pace." The yen slumped however, halting a four-day rally, as the win fuelled speculation for a fresh round of stimulus, reportedly worth as much as 20 trillion yen (\$120 billion), to kickstart the stumbling Japanese economy.

"The goodwill gained from last Friday's US non-farms jobs report has carried through... lifting the European indices back to week-highs," said Spreadex analyst Connor Campbell. "Crossing the 6,600 (points) mark once again, and tickling 11-

month highs in the process, the FTSE is continuing to prove its post-Brexit resilience, boosted by a wave of multinationals ostensibly excited by the cheaper pound."

Around 1330 GMT, London's benchmark FTSE 100 index was up 0.9 percent compared with Friday's close. In the eurozone, Frankfurt's DAX 30 jumped 1.6 percent and the Paris CAC 40 advanced 1.5 percent. Eyes were also expected to be on the Bank of England this week, which is forecast to possibly cut its key interest rate and announce more stimulus Thursday in the wake of Brexit, a decision which would likely further weigh on the pound. "There are broad gains for the FTSE this morning amid speculation the Bank of England is preparing to unleash more stimulus this week," said Neil Wilson, markets analyst at traders ETX Capital. "The prospect of looser monetary policy will help equities but it's another nail in sterling's coffin." The pound slumped to 31-year lows against the dollar and tumbled versus other currencies after Britain last month voted to exit the European Union. The pound drifted up against the dollar in Monday trading, nearing \$1.30. — AFP

Table with multiple sections: National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report, Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Global Bond Yields, and Commodities. Each section contains a table with columns for Index, Previous Close, Last Price, Change, Daily Performance, and Yearly Performance.

STERLING'S PLUNGE COULD BATTER UK'S FISH & CHIPS

LONDON: Prices of salmon and squid have soared as disease and weather hurt global supplies, and British fish sellers say the Brexit-related drop in its currency may be the next scourge. The British pound has fallen to a 31-year low on fears about the effect of the June 23 vote to leave the European Union, leaving it 13 percent weaker against the dollar. That may make imports pricier, including the cod and haddock used by roughly 10,500 fish and chip shops in the 380 million meals they serve up each year.

salmon fillet prices "months" ago, and Tesco followed suit recently, increasing the price of 2 fillets to 3.50 pounds from 3 pounds. Martyn Boyers, chief executive of the fish market in the northern port town of Grimsby, says the pound's weakness, which is also down about 10 percent against the Norwegian crown, could reduce Britain's lure as a market, even for cod and haddock. "In the end, if the Icelandics and Norwegians who send white fish don't think the price they're getting is good enough, it won't come here at all," Boyers said.

Large retailers like Tesco and Asda have long-term supply contracts and hedges that shield them from near-term volatility. But independent players-which also include roughly 950 fishmongers, according to estimates by research firm Seafish-are more exposed. "We tried to buy some shellfish this morning ... and our suppliers advised us to buy now because the price is going to go up," Gary Hooper, owner of GCH Fishmongers in Bedford, England, said. "If I had a big freezer I'd buy it now."

Hooper spends at least 3,000 pounds a week on fish, including bass and bream from Turkey and Greece, tuna from Sri Lanka and swordfish from Brazil. He reckons shellfish costs could rise 20 percent, but knows he would lose customers if he tried to pass that on. "What we have to try and do is switch the consumer into local fish," he said. The vast majority of the fish Britons eat is imported, mostly from Norway and Iceland, while much of the domestic catch is exported. Many UK fishermen hoped a Brexit would free them from EU fishing quotas, but the impact on the sector, which has a large showing in pro-EU Scotland, is unclear.

Foreign fish

Norway, the world's top salmon exporter, is benefiting from salmon prices that are 60 percent higher than a year ago, due to disease and a prevalence of sea lice in south America. Supermarket chain Wm Morrisons raised its

Britain is Norway's third-biggest market for seafood, worth seven percent of total sales in 2015, with a value of about 5 billion Norwegian crowns (\$591.90 million). Norway sells mostly salmon to Britain (3.4 billion crowns), followed by cod (600 million crowns) and haddock (450 million crowns). "Those selling on the spot market will likely not see the current pound value as attractive and look for other alternatives," said Jack-Robert Moeller, director in Britain for the Norwegian Seafood Council. "But regardless of whether you sell on the spot market or with long-term contracts, a weakening pound will lead to higher import costs." Fluctuating costs are par for the course at London's bustling and wet Billingsgate Market in the shadows of Canary Wharf's skyscrapers. Sellers there said fresh fish prices move every day based on supply, which is heavily reliant on weather.

One merchant who imports more exotic fish like tilapia and cuttlefish, said he moved prices in line with currency, while another said he hadn't yet seen much change, as most frozen stock had arrived before the big drop and was priced in euros. Prices for squid were a notable outlier, nearly doubling in the last couple months as El Nino weather conditions reduced South American catches. "Customers grumble for a while, but then get on with it," said Paul Harris of Seahawk Marine Foods. "You still have to eat." —Reuters



IKOMA: This picture taken on July 4, 2016 shows bamboo whisks, used in traditional tea ceremonies, made by Chikumeido, during an interview at Sabun Kubo's studio. — AFP

JAPAN MAKER OF BAMBOO WHISKS EYES BREXIT RISKS

NARA: Britain might be a world away, but the future of a 500-year-old family company in rural Japan could rest on the UK's decision to quit the European Union. Chikumeido, a speciality maker of delicate bamboo whisks used in traditional tea ceremonies, started selling the niche products in the United Kingdom last year, its first major push overseas. Sabun Kubo, its 71-year-old president, hoped the gamble would pay off by setting up his little company for a launch into the potentially lucrative European market, and counter years of falling sales.

Things got off to a good start for the company, which has been run by 24 generations of Kubo's family-and then Britain voted to quit the EU. "We just started exporting to London last year as our sales base in Europe," said the septuagenarian craftsman. "This was part of our efforts to take a chance on doing business overseas. I thought our products would be well received in Europe, and especially in Britain where there is a tea culture. But then, all of a sudden, Brexit happened. It was a shock." Since the June 23 vote, firms in Japan and across Asia have been scrambling to get a read on how they'll be impacted by Brexit, and what to do about it. Japan Inc has also been hit as worries over the vote sparked a sharp rally in the yen. The currency is seen as a safe investment in tumultuous times, but its rise hurts Japanese exporters' profitability. The threat to Kubo's minnow firm illustrates how the break-away vote will not just affect multinational giants like Toyota and Hitachi, which have major operations in England.

Frothy formalities

More than 1,000 Japanese companies do business in Britain, employing some 140,000 local people, and Japan's direct investment in the country has topped 10 trillion yen (\$99 billion) to date. "The main problem for Japanese companies is that the single (EU) markets are very small and diverse with different languages and business cultures and often different standards," said Martin Schulz, senior research fellow at the Fujitsu Research Institute in Tokyo. "They really need a position from where they can serve the overall market. That has been London." For Kubo, Brexit rekindles worries about the 100 full and part-time employees working for the company near temple-dotted Nara, one of Japan's ancient capitals. The firm is known nationwide for being one of the only manufacturers able to produce as many as 120 different types of the lightweight whisks, called chasen. — AFP

INDIA WANTS FOREIGN INVESTMENT PACTS TO MAKE LIMITED LAWSUITS

INDIA HAS TRIGGERED THE ESCAPE CLAUSE

NEW DELHI: India has triggered the escape clause on dozens of bilateral investment treaties, aiming to renegotiate toward securing better protection from foreign litigation. The notifications, issued earlier this year, effectively let governments know they have 12 months to broker new treaties before the old ones expire. The changes India seeks could make it harder for foreign investors to legally challenge government decisions that negatively affect their businesses in India.

But observers say the move could potentially backfire by spooking investors and ultimately jeopardizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's top priority - bringing in new business from abroad. Already some have voiced concern. In a letter to India's commerce and finance ministers, the European commissioner for trade warned that India's notifying "a significant number" of European Union nations could "have serious consequences" if Brussels cannot negotiate a replacement by next April.

Discourage enterprises

"It would create a gap in investment protection and consequently discourage EU enterprises from further investing in India," Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom said in the letter, dated May 25. Some investors "may perceive the investment climate as deteriorating," while some may be unable to secure financing without treaty protections in place. "Such an outcome would run contrary to the efforts of attracting more investment to India," the letter said. "I truly hope that India will not opt for such a radical policy shift with regard to investment from the EU."

Investment protection treaties have long been considered a prerequisite to doing business abroad. More than 3,400 such treaties have been brokered worldwide since the first US investment treaties in the 1980s, according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development. These treaties generally lay out rules protecting foreign investment and assets. They codify how disputes should be handled, and often guarantee that a government will offer investors the best possible deal. India may have surprised its investment partners in seeking to revise business relationships, but it is not the first to do so - and it is not alone.

Since 2012, according to UNCTAD, at least 60 countries have begun revising investment agreements, including South Africa, Brazil and Indonesia - all large, developing economies like India. "Foreign investors are always coming from advanced economies, so they already have the upper hand," said economist and trade expert Biswajit Dhar, a professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. "The countries that need more investment are the ones worried about giving too much away."

The trend among developing countries stems from a growing feeling that investment treaties, as initially designed by Western nations, give too much protection to investors without safeguarding a country's ability to manage policy or regulations. That puts countries like India - still working out how to exploit natural resources or farm out telecom licenses - at a disadvantage in working out their policies, analysts say. Failing to negotiate replacements before old treaties expire wouldn't necessarily affect all business; existing investments would be covered by the old treaty for a period of about 10-15 years. But new investments would not be protected, and for a job-hungry nation like India, that could be a problem.

Aggressive courting

India has been aggressively courting foreign investment and manufacturing to boost its economy. Since taking office in 2014, Prime Minister Modi has spent much of his time visiting foreign capitals and touting his "Make in India" campaign showcasing the country as a manufacturing destination - with its large labor force, young population and investor-friendly tax regimes. Yet, India remains at the low end of the World Bank's

ing about 12 percent of the work force.

India entered into its first bilateral investment treaties as it was liberalizing its markets and courting foreign investment in the 1990s. Its first bilateral investment treaty, with Britain, went into effect in 1995, and was followed by more than 80 others. The idea for renegotiating quickly took hold about five years ago, as it was hit by a series of lawsuits. In 2011, India lost the first case in international arbitration to Australia's White Industries, a manufacturer of metal components that argued that the cancellation of a contract with Coal India violated the terms of Australia's 2000 bilateral investment treaty with India.

Since then, more than a dozen cases have been filed against India, over issues such as retroactive taxation or canceled licenses. Britain-based Vodafone has a case pending with the International Court of Justice for arbitration over a bill for \$2.5 billion that India's tax authorities say the company owes for a 2007 asset purchase, based on legislation passed only in 2012. And last month, an arbitration panel based in The Hague began adjudicating a similar dispute over retroactive taxation imposed on Cairn Energy, an oil and gas exploration company based in Scotland.



TANZANIA: In this July 10, 2016, file photo, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets Tanzanians during an official welcome ceremony. — AP

ease of doing business ranking, currently placing 130th out of 189 countries surveyed. While foreign investment shot up to more than \$44 billion in 2015 - a 65 percent jump from when Modi took office - the manufacturing drive so far has had lackluster results. The sector accounts for about 15 percent of India's gross domestic product, while employ-

"India is understandably worried about being held hostage by investors," said Dhar, the New Delhi professor. "It is very bad publicity to get caught up in disputes where the government looks helpless."

Renegotiate treaties

Still, India's sudden move to renegotiate

47 treaties, by some reports, was jarring. "It's a huge number," Dhar said. "I'm worried about how it's going to play out in the next year." Modi's government had signaled its plans to renegotiate the treaties in 2015, when it adopted a new "model" pact by which it said all future bilateral investment treaties should be drafted. "Our Cabinet has approved a bilateral model - the new terms," Finance Minister Arun Jaitley told The Associated Press recently in Beijing. "We are entitled to ask for a renegotiation, in terms of the new terms, of the changed agreement that we have drafted. And these will all be subject to negotiation with our foreign partners."

But in notifying dozens of governments this year, India's timing couldn't be worse. With the world economy reeling after Britain's vote to exit the European Union, governments may decide that negotiating new investment treaties with India is not a priority, analysts said. Jaitley assured that the "structural changes" would not hurt business prospects. "These remain investor friendly," he said. The changes were being sought from "some governments," he said, but declined to say which or how many. But the changes India seeks could mean negotiations take longer than India expects. India's treaty template deviates from others worldwide in a number of ways that will give investors pause, including removing the possibility of international arbitration over disputes relating to taxation or licensing.

Even in non-tax cases, under the new model treaty terms, foreign investors would have to exhaust all Indian judicial avenues for resolving a dispute before appealing for international arbitration. Given the notorious backlog in Indian courts, with some cases languishing for decades, this could prove an obstacle for investment. It also does not include a most favored nation clause - a standard provision designed to ensure that investors are being given the best terms available.

Still, the new terms may not matter to investors if they can still envision profits through investing abroad. "Some of these changes are inevitable, and this is not just India," said Sachin Chaturvedi, head of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries think tank in New Delhi. "What governments are doing are insulating the system from any kind of legal tangle they may end up in. And once the rules and regulations are streamlined, there will be more predictability for investors. Even if India does manage to reach dozens of new bilateral investment agreements within a few months, analysts say it may do damage just by renegotiating on past agreements and forcing new negotiations with little time to spare. — AP

JAPAN'S ABE ORDERS STIMULUS PACKAGE AFTER ELECTION WIN

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ordered a new round of fiscal stimulus spending after a crushing election victory over the weekend as evidence mounted the corporate sector is floundering due to weak demand. Abe did not give details on the size of the package, but Japanese stocks jumped nearly 4 percent and the yen weakened over perceptions a landslide victory in upper house elections now gives him a free hand to draft economic policy. An unexpected decline in machinery orders shows the economy needs something to overcome consistently weak corporate investment. Economists worry, however, that Abe's focus on public works spending will not tackle the structural issues around a declining population and workforce.



TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister and leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Shinzo Abe, points to a reporter for questions during a press conference. — AP

More public works also increases pressure on the Bank of Japan to keep interest rates low and the yen weak to make sure stimulus spending will gain traction. The government was ready to spend more than 10 trillion yen (\$100 billion), ruling party sources told Reuters before the election. "We are going to make bold investment into seeds of future growth," Abe told a news conference yesterday at the headquarters for his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Japan's ruling coalition rang up a stronger-than-expected victory in Upper House elections, as voters chose stability despite concerns about Abe's economic policies and plans to revise the post-war pacifist constitution for the first time.

Agriculture exports

Abe said he wanted to strengthen agriculture exports from rural areas and improve infrastructure, such as trains and ports, to welcome more tourists and cruise ships from overseas. "We have

promised through this election campaign that we will sell the world the agricultural products and tourism resources each region is proud of," he said. He reiterated a campaign pledge to improve access to child care and elderly care. He will also consider providing grants to students struggling with college debt. The prime minister said he wanted to take advantage of the Bank of Japan's zero-interest-rate-policy and issue bonds for public-private partnerships.

The government will also sell construction bonds, which are earmarked for public works projects, for the first time in four years to fund part of the stimulus package, the Nikkei newspaper reported, without citing sources. The emphasis on the tourism industry in the package is about making a long-term investment, said Hiroshi Miyazaki, senior economist at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities. "But the recent success in tourism has been due to the relaxing of visa requirements and a weakening yen. Now that the yen is rising, the BOJ's (Bank of Japan) monetary easing needs to accompany this plan for it to work," Miyazaki said.

Machinery orders fall

Some economists say public spending on infrastructure is needed to compensate for the private sector's reluctance to invest in plants and equipment. Machinery orders fell unexpectedly in May as a strong yen and weak demand eroded corporate profits and spending plans, data yesterday showed, another sign the economy is struggling to attract the investment it needs to sustain growth. The Cabinet Office said machinery orders are "stalling", a downgrade from April's assessment that said orders were showing signs of "pickup".

Other economists have argued the main reason Abe's policies have disappointed after more than three years in office are a lack of bold steps to liberalize the labor market and reverse a population decline. These kinds of structural reforms are known as the "third arrow" in the prime minister's economic program, dubbed "Abenomics". The other two arrows are fiscal packages, such as the one announced yesterday, and monetary stimulus from the BOJ. The BOJ has kept monetary policy steady since January, when it decided to add negative rates to its massive asset-buying program in a fresh attempt to accelerate inflation.

However, some economists think the BOJ may take some further action when it updates the Bank's forecasts at a policy meeting ending July 29. The Nikkei share average ended at 15,708.82 points, a one-week closing high, after earlier touching its highest intraday level since June 24. The yen fell to 102 versus the dollar following Abe's resounding election win and announcement of the stimulus package. — Reuters

BITTER LEGACY OF RIVAL KAESONG EXPERIMENT

SEOUL: Five months after Seoul shut down a jointly run industrial park in North Korea, South Korean factory owners are still waging a defiant campaign to reopen what was the last major symbol of inter-Korean cooperation. The shock closure of the Kaesong complex in early February forced businessmen behind the 124 South Korean plants operating there to abandon everything. What has remained is a bitter resentment towards the South Korean government over its handling of the affair, and a feeling among the owners that they and their businesses were sacrificed to political point-scoring. "For years, the government kept praising us for working on the frontier of inter-Korea cooperation and promised our business would be protected regardless of politics," said Jeong Gi-Seob, CEO of a Seoul clothing firm, S&G. "Was that just an empty promise?" said Jeong, who heads an association of the former Kaesong-based companies.

The Seoul-funded zone, born out of the "sunshine" reconciliation policy of the late 1990s, was opened in 2004 just north of the border. At its peak, Kaesong was home to 124 South Korean plants employing 53,000 North Korean workers who churned out products from watches to clothes. For more than a decade it managed to ride the highly volatile swings in North-South relations, but that all came crashing down in February when Seoul announced the shutdown in response to the North's fourth nuclear test a month earlier. The next day, an angry Pyongyang ordered the immediate expulsion of all South Korean managers and the seizure of their assets-including the plants, raw materials and finished goods worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

Court challenge

In early June, the owners demanded that Seoul green-light a trip to Kaesong, to allow them to check on the state of their factories before the rainy season begins. The Unification Ministry turned down the request with spokesman Jeong Joon-Hee saying it would be "inappropriate" at a time when the international community is stepping up sanctions on the North to denuclearize.

At the time of the pullout, North Korea said it was placing the complex under military control, and since then there has been something of an information blackout. "It's hard for us to figure out exactly what is happening inside Kaesong because there is no inter-Korea communication about that," said a government official who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity surrounding the issue. "We don't see any particular movement there,

except for a small number of people coming in and out, perhaps to maintain the facilities," the official said.

The owners, meanwhile, have grown increasingly impatient with what they see as government indifference to their plight. In May, a group of businessmen representing 100 Kaesong plants filed a complaint with the Constitutional Court, challenging the legality of the closure on the grounds that it had violated their property rights.

Protest campaign

And Jeong's association is currently planning an "all-out campaign", including street rallies and protests, to push for Kaesong to be reopened and proper compensation paid.



PAJU: A file photo taken on February 11, 2016 shows a man securing cargo recovered from the closure of the Kaesong joint industrial area atop a truck on a roadside near a checkpoint of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating North and South Korea. — AFP

Seoul has offered financial assistance worth 520 billion won (\$440 million), but the owners say their losses are twice that amount. Jeong noted that he had moved his firm's entire production to Kaesong last year, investing over 10 billion won (\$8.6 million) to expand an existing factory.

"They are saying we need to move on, because the government changed its policy direction ... but we can't accept that," Jeong said. "We haven't given up on Kaesong," he added. But some government official argue that the owners' complaints are exaggerated. "Investment involves risk, and the Kaesong companies must have been fully aware of the risk of doing business in the North," said a

Choco Pie market

One small capitalist breakthrough, was the black market Kaesong spawned for Choco Pies-South Korean snacks that were handed out as a bonus to North Korean workers. They proved so popular that, according to some estimates, up to 2.5 million Choco Pies were being traded in North Korean private markets every month. Kim Young-Jin spent five years delivering Choco Pies to Kaesong and, now unemployed, deeply regrets its closure. "I still can't believe that they just shut it down, with no consideration for so many people whose lives depended on it," Kim said. "Maybe for them, we are just chips to be moved around on their political chess set." — AFP

THIS EID, CELEBRATE A NEW DIMENSION OF LUXURY 2016 ATS



Cadillac

CELEBRATE A NEW DIMENSION OF LUXURY WITH CADILLAC

In celebration of Eid Al-Fitr, Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the sole distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, is proud to unveil an amazing offer on selected vehicles that includes the exuberantly elegant, Cadillac ATS, the unbelievably powerful, Cadillac CTS, and the outstandingly luxurious, Cadillac Escalade. This generous promotion truly makes buying a new Cadillac this Eid an exceptionally joyous occasion. It's a one-of-a-kind opportunity that should not be missed for luxury fans. Customers who purchase the new ATS and CTS will benefit from 0% interest for 5 years with zero down payments.

All terrain excellence

If you are looking for a luxury drive that performs excellently on all terrains, look no further than the 2016 Cadillac ATS. Now priced at an attractive price of only KD 10,999, the Cadillac ATS compact luxury sports sedan challenges the world's best premium cars with an acclaimed balance of performance and refinement, effectively wrapped in a progressive expression of Cadillac's Art & Science design philosophy. With one of the lowest curb weights in the segment - less than 1,542 kg - the ATS's driving dynamics are rooted in mass efficiency, which helps make it Cadillac's lightest and most agile sedan. Cadillac proprietary computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis techniques were used to develop an all-new combustion system with a higher compression ratio, which also helps boost efficiency. The award-winning 3.6L V-6 collection is rated at 321 horsepower and 373 Nm of torque, and comes equipped with Magnetic Ride Control, Brembo(r) Brakes and Cadillac's advanced crash-avoidance systems that can pre-fill and automatically apply braking in response to potential hazards.

The Cadillac 2.0L Turbo returns in the CTS for 2016, adding the fuel-saving Stop/Start feature. It also is matched with the new 8L45 eight-speed automatic transmission and an unbelievable starting attractive price of KD 13,699 only. Also new for 2016 is an 18-inch polished wheel design and three premium exterior colors: Cocoa Bronze Metallic, Moonstone Metallic and Stellar Black Metallic. Inside, a Surround Vision 360 degree camera provides a "bird's eye" view of the entire vehicle, Cadillac CUE is enhanced and includes phone integration capability - including Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility (Android Auto to be offered later in the 2016 model year) - and several interior color/trim options

enhance the ambience of the design. Linear elements, including an uninterrupted feature line that runs from the headlamps to the taillamps, emphasize the CTS's long, lean proportion and contribute three-dimensional qualities to its surface.

The sense of flow over the CTS sedan is furthered, too, with a "trapped" hood design - surrounded completely by sheet metal - that eliminates the forward cut lines between the grille and headlamps. Cadillac's signature bold vertical lighting elements - including LED front signature lighting details - evolve with headlamps that flow up and with the hood line. The headlamp housings incorporate crystalline LED light guides in the upper and lower forward corners, bringing uniform white illumination without hot spots and serving as the daytime running lamps.

Benchmark of luxurious craftsmanship

Last but not least is the 2016 Cadillac Escalade, the benchmark of luxurious craftsmanship. Designed to provide passengers with unsurpassed comfort and convenience, the new Escalade is equipped with Heated and cooled 18-way power front seats and include a massaging function on the driver's seat and a pair of seven-inch LCD screens embedded in the front head rests. In addition, the new Escalade comes with a powerful 6.2L V8 with Active Fuel Management, Spark Ignition Direct Injection (SIDI) and Variable Valve Timing (VVT), which also includes aluminum block construction. Customers who purchase the new Escalade will benefit a full comprehensive insurance for 1 year, thus securing their safety and peace of mind.

Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive furthered Cadillac's superiority by showcasing the company's commitment to enhance customers' unique Cadillac experience by offering customers peace of mind with a comprehensive insurance program. In addition, all Cadillac owners will enjoy service and maintenance for four years or 100,000 km, warranty for 4 years or 100,000 km, 24-hour roadside assistance anywhere in the Middle East for four years (unlimited miles) plus a courtesy transportation and a replacement vehicle upon availability. Customers are invited to visit the Cadillac showroom at Safat Alghanim in Al Rai throughout the month of July, and enjoy an engaging test-drive for any Cadillac vehicle of their choice, as well as to hurry and take advantage of this limited offer before it ends.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS OFFICIAL AIRLINE SPONSOR OF WORLDSKILLS ABU DHABI 2017

Etihad Airways has been announced as the official airline sponsor of WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017 - the biggest vocational education and skills excellence event in the world. The event will bring more than 3,000 competitors and industry experts from up to 75 countries to the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC) from 14 to 17 October 2017.

The 44th edition of the competition will represent the first time that the event has been held in the Middle East and will be the largest and most complex event to be hosted at the ADNEC in the lead up to Expo 2020 Dubai.

WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017, which will be hosted by the Abu Dhabi Center for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (ACTVET), aims to increase the prestige of vocational careers by challenging young people to become the best in the skill of their choice. The competition is a major coup for Abu Dhabi as the emirate continues to transition into a diversified knowledge-based economy in line with the Abu Dhabi Economic Vision 2030.

His Excellency Mubarak Saeed Al Shamsi, Director General of ACTVET and official delegate of the UAE to WorldSkills, said: "We are extremely proud to welcome the world's greatest skills excellence competition to the Middle East for the first time. WorldSkills Abu Dhabi 2017 represents our strong commitment to vocational and technological education and training for the young people of the UAE today, helping them build a thriving and diverse economy for the generations of tomorrow. We look forward to working with Etihad Airways to ensure the competition is a resounding success."

The WorldSkills participants represent the best of their peers and are selected from skill competitions in member countries and regions across the globe. Almost 2,300 participants and experts took part in the 2015 edition of the competition which was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil,



whilst thousands more visited the six-day event. Other host cities in recent years have included Leipzig, London and Calgary.

Peter Baumgartner, Etihad Airways' Chief Executive Officer, said: "It is a great honour to be named as an official partner of such a prestigious competition. Abu Dhabi is a thoroughly modern city which is fast becoming one of the world's most exciting commercial and tourism hubs. The event will provide the perfect opportunity for those attending to experience the very best of Arabian hospitality whilst enjoying state of the art facilities and modern infrastructure in a thriving and cosmopolitan city."

Hala Abu Dhabi, the destination management division of Etihad Airways, has been named as the competition's Customer Service Management. Hala will develop and deliver packages for all those attending the event as

well as offer on-ground customer services including staffing, transport and excursions.

Mohammed Al Bulooki, Etihad Airways' Vice President - UAE Commercial, said: "The competition will provide a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase everything that Abu Dhabi has to offer to leisure and business travelers alike. Abu Dhabi, as a city dedicated to continued investment in the workforce of tomorrow, is the perfect location for the renowned competition: Hala Abu Dhabi looks forward to welcoming participants from across the world to our home city and working with ACTVET and WorldSkills to ensure that the event is a resounding success." WorldSkills covers a wide range of industries including construction, creative arts and fashion, information and communication technology, manufacturing and engineering, social and personal services and transport.

KFIC REPORT OF THE GLOBAL AND GCC FINANCIAL MARKETS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance and Investment Company (KFIC) clarified in its financial report for June; that global equities remained in neutral territory during the quarter as the MSCI World Index closed flat at +0.31%. The markets were impacted by the Brexit decision, which wiped approximately USD 2trn off global markets as Moody's lowered UK's credit rating outlook from AA+ to AA. The British pound also witnessed its steepest one-day sell-off in recent history, depreciating by -10.5% after Brexit was announced. In the U.S., S&P 500 increased by +1.90%, closing at 2,089.9, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 17,930, or +1.38% higher. The US central bank announced that the range of its benchmark interest rate would remain unchanged due to Brexit.

Eurozone equities plunged post-Brexit, with Germany's DAX falling -2.86% lower to close at 9,680.1, France's CAC 40 falling -3.37% to close at 4,237.5 while UK's FTSE 100 gained +5.33% to close at 6,504.3. According to the EU, Brexit's damage to UK economy would be felt until at least 2020 with the economy expected to be 6%, or USD 141bn smaller than it would have had it stayed in the EU. China's Shanghai Composite fell -2.47% to close at 2,929.6, despite an improvement in business confidence which showed that China's exports increased the most within a year as declines in imports were shrinking, coupled with an improving manufacturing sentiment. Japan's Nikkei 225 fell -7.06% to close at 15,575.9, as the yen has continued to strengthen against the dollar, igniting speculation that Japan is likely to propose further economic stimulus package, which would include assistance for small businesses. Commodities rallied as WTI Crude increased +16.85% to close at USD 48.3/bbl and Brent Crude gained +19.09%, closing at USD 49.7/bbl, despite WTI Crude and Brent Crude falling -2.42% and -1.15% MTD respectively.



The OPEC meeting in Doha ended with no agreements to an output freeze, but unexpected supply disruptions by the labor union strike by Kuwait oil workers, and other disruptions in Nigeria and Venezuela prompted the oil prices to climb. Gold increased by +7.26% and Silver rallied +21.23% to close at USD 1,322.2/oz and USD 18.7/oz respectively, due to the prolonged weakness of the US dollar and the impact of Brexit which has depreciated the British pound significantly, with investors flocking to Gold and Silver as a safe-haven.

GCC Economic Saudi 2030 vision

Saudi Arabia is preparing for the future to diversify away from oil reliance by initiating the world's largest sovereign wealth fund for the kingdom's most valuable assets. The 2030 vision, which has been outlined by Prince Mohammed bin Salman, entitled that Aramco would be listed

as an IPO by 2018 and the proceeds would go towards PIF. Qatar has sold USD 9bn of Eurobonds, marking the biggest-ever bond issue from the GCC where governments are tapping international investors to finance budget deficits left by declining oil and gas revenues, bringing total year-to-date (YTD) GCC international capital market sales to almost USD 30bn. In Kuwait, thousands of Kuwait oil workers went on strike to protest against the government plans to reduce wages and benefits. The open-ended strikes reduced oil production in Kuwait by approximately 60% which resulted in a sudden spike in oil prices.

Kuwait's Finance minister also stated that the economic reform plan excludes the privatization of oil, education, and health services. In UAE, The Emirates NBD Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 54.0 in May from 52.8 in April, the second highest reading so far this year.

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES NAMES OF WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT DRAW

KUWAIT: Borgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Bader Saadi Motlagh Al Shammary
2. Sheikh Khalifa Abdulla Al Jaber Al Sabah

In addition to the daily draw, Borgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one

chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws.

Borgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Borgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Borgan Bank's www.borgan.com for further information.

FLYDUBAI ANNOUNCES DOUBLE DAILY FLIGHTS TO BANGKOK

KUWAIT: Dubai-based airline, flydubai, yesterday announced the launch of a double daily service to Thailand's capital city, Bangkok, which is set to launch on 29 November 2016. Bangkok is one of the world's most popular tourist destinations, offering holidaymakers a variety of attractions and experiences, including adventure, sport tourism and health & wellness retreats.

Commenting on the announcement of the new route, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief

flydubai

Executive Officer at flydubai, said: "Bangkok is an extremely popular destination and the launch of double daily flights reflects the increasing maturity of the flydubai network and operation. This route launch is an important milestone for flydubai, offering business and leisure travelers from both Dubai and Bangkok increased choice and flexibility across our network."

flydubai will operate its services between Dubai International's Terminal 2 (DXB) and Bangkok International Airport (BKK). Business Class return fares to Bangkok will start at AED 3,999 while Economy Class return fares will start at AED 1,499, including taxes. The new route will

allow for alternative travel options into neighboring cities that all lie within easy reach of Bangkok as well as connecting routes for those looking to use Dubai as a hub into Russia and Europe.

Passengers will also have the option of a Business Class experience, benefiting from a dedicated 24-hour Business Team to assist with bookings and enquiries throughout the journey, as well as priority check-in service, comfortable spacious seats and a range of in-flight entertainment and dining options. Passengers travelling in Economy Class on the new Bangkok route will have access to interactive audio and video seat back entertainment systems with more than 2,000 hours of films, television and music.

Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice President, Commercial (GCC, Subcontinent and Africa) for flydubai, said: "Since its launch, flydubai has developed a network of more than 85 destinations. With the launch of our double daily Bangkok route, we will be further expanding travel opportunities for passengers looking to use Dubai as a hub for connecting routes from the GCC to Russia and Europe." Flights can be purchased from 11 July on flydubai's website (flydubai.com), the Contact Centre (+971 600 54 44 45), flydubai travel shops or through travel partners. Further information and details of the carrier's car rental and travel insurance services can also be found on flydubai.com.

now... "Yawmi" account offers

125,000 quarterly
5,000 daily

"Yawmi"... changed my day



ahli united bank



AHLI UNITED BANK ANNOUNCES AL HASAD GRAND PRIZE DRAW WINNER

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank conducted its quarterly prize draw (Lifetime Salary) on the 29th of June, which is provided through the bank's Al Hasad Islamic Savings Account. The lucky winner was Eyad Mustafa Asaad who won KD 250,000 as a lifetime salary across 250 months. He said that winning was a pleasant surprise, especially that it is in line with the arrival of Eid holidays.

The winner also expressed his commitment and loyalty to Ahli United Bank's Al Hasad's account, and is keen on increasing his deposits. He is proud of his association with the bank, which provides integrated and comprehensive Islamic banking solutions as well as an exceptional customer service.

Ahli United Bank would like to congratulate all of its customers on their continued trust and confidence in the Bank's capabilities, placing more emphasis on the bank to drive its commitment to provide more innovative banking products and services to citizens as well as residents of Kuwait. The aim is for people to leverage and benefit from a wide range of exclusive benefits such as the Al Hasad Islamic Savings Account, which provides higher benefits and prizes that amount to KD 3.4 million per annum as well as providing 26 weekly prizes - providing the largest number of winners on a weekly basis.

CHATS, GAMES POPULAR AMONG KIDS IN THE MIDEAST

DUBAI: Internet penetration in the Middle East has been on a constant rise giving children access to content that is otherwise controlled on ground. Although the internet is an important tool for learning and understanding different cultures, parents should guide their youngsters and teach them how to surf the internet responsibly. Kaspersky Lab's latest report shows that children in the Middle East spend most of their time online using communication tools such as social networks, email, chats, etc. (accounting for 73% of online activity). Gaming portals (5%) and websites containing information about alcohol, narcotics and tobacco (3%) came second and third, respectively. At the same time, there is a noticeable

difference between children's interests in different countries. The report, covering 12 months, shows anonymized statistics from Kaspersky Lab solutions for Windows PCs and Macs with the Parental Control module switched on, and presents the share of visits or attempted visits to websites with potentially harmful content that fall under one of the 14 preset categories*. The statistics show that during the reporting period, children cut back on visits to communication media and adult-themed websites. This trend can be explained by children moving most of their sensitive activities to mobile devices, which were not covered in the report.

The "Internet communication media" category was most popular in Mexico

(86%), Russia, Brazil and Italy (all slightly more than 70%). The least communicated during this period were children in China (30%), Germany (31%) and the UK (32%). Interestingly, the less popular this category was in a country, the more popular the "Computer games" category was. Children in the UK (28%), Germany (26%) and Australia (21%) are most likely to play online, while children from Mexico (4%), Italy (6%) and Japan (7%) do so less frequently. When it comes to watching videos, listening to music and downloading software, kids in Japan are the clear leaders (12% of all Parental Control notifications). They are also more likely to shop online (17%), as are children and teenagers in China (20%).

"The popularity of certain types of websites among children in different countries can be linked to each country's cultural traits and economic conditions. We see that children are becoming more self-reliant online: they choose what music to listen to, what movies and cartoons to watch, and what software to install. This independence is great, but on the Web, as well as in real life, it is necessary to guide youngsters and teach them how to behave wisely, safely and responsibly. We at Kaspersky Lab believe that to prevent encounters with harmful content, parents need to combine a comprehensive security solution with constant communication. Conversations educate young users about online threats and

help to build trusting relationships in families, while security solutions provide a basis for such conversations and a safe environment for all the family," says Anna Larkina, Senior Web Content Analyst at Kaspersky Lab.

The Kaspersky Total Security - multi-device and Kaspersky Internet Security - multi-device consumer solutions include a Parental Control module to help adults protect their children against online threats and block any sites or apps with inappropriate content. Kaspersky Lab also offers the Safe Kids solution that allows parents to monitor what their children do, see or search for online across all devices, and to show them what is dangerous or inappropriate online.



SEVILLE: Andre Borschberg, a pilot of the Solar Impulse project, foreground, greets Bertrand Piccard who piloted the solar-powered plane Solar Impulse 2 shortly after its landing at San Pablo airport. —AP

SOLAR-POWERED PLANE LEAVES SPAIN FOR EGYPT

MADRID: An experimental solar-powered airplane has left Spain for Egypt in the penultimate leg of its globe-circling voyage. Organizers said the Solar Impulse 2 flew out of Seville airport Monday and was heading for Cairo. The flight, piloted by Swiss man Andre Borschberg, is expected to last 50 hours and 30 minutes. The around-the-world voyage began in March 2015 in Abu

Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates and is due to finish there too. The plane arrived in Seville on June 23 after an unprecedented three-day flight across the Atlantic. The wings of Solar Impulse 2, which stretch wider than those of a Boeing 747, are equipped with 17,000 solar cells that power propellers and charge batteries. The plane runs on stored energy at night. —AP

FAMILIES SUE FACEBOOK OVER PALESTINIAN ATTACKS

JERUSALEM: Israeli and American families of victims of Palestinian attacks filed a \$1 billion lawsuit against Facebook, claiming the social network is providing a platform for militants to spread incitement and violence, their lawyers said yesterday. Shurat Hadin, an Israeli legal advocacy group, filed the suit on behalf of the five families in a New York court late Sunday, alleging that Facebook is violating the US Anti-Terrorism Act by providing a service to militant groups that assists them in "recruiting, radicalizing, and instructing terrorists, raising funds, creating fear and carrying out attacks." The lawsuit focuses on the Islamic militant group Hamas, which runs the Gaza Strip and which has fought three wars against Israel since the Palestinian group overran the coastal territory in 2007. The five families in the lawsuit lost relatives in attacks over the last two years. Four were dual Israeli-American citizens while one victim was an American tourist.

"Facebook can't sit in its stone tower in Palo Alto while blood is being spilled here on the streets of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. It has a social responsibility. It can't serve as a social network for Hamas," said Nitsana Darshan-Leitner, the Israeli lawyer who is representing the families. She compared Facebook to a bank, saying just as money may be transferred as a service for terror groups, so can content. There was no immediate comment from Facebook. The suit comes amid a 10-month outburst of Israeli-Palestinian violence that has seen scores of Palestinian attacks targeting Israeli civilians and troops.

Killed in clashes

Israel says the violence is being fueled by a Palestinian campaign of incitement on social media while the Palestinians see it as the result of frustrations over nearly 50 years of Israeli occupation and a lack of hope for their own state. Since mid-September, 34 Israelis and two American tourists have been killed in Palestinian attacks. More than 200 Palestinians have been killed during the same time. The majority of the

Palestinians are said by Israel to have been attackers. The rest were killed in clashes with Israeli troops.

Among the plaintiffs in the lawsuit is the family of Taylor Force, a 28-year-old U.S. veteran who was visiting Israel in March when he was stabbed to death by a Palestinian. Other plaintiffs include the family of Richard Lakin, an educator and coexistence advocate who was shot on a Jerusalem bus last October, and relatives of Naftali Fraenkel, an Israeli teenager who was kidnapped and killed while hitchhiking in the West Bank two years ago.

It is not clear whether the lawsuit will succeed. For one, under U.S. law, internet companies are generally exempt from liability for the material users post on their networks. Also, the court may rule freedom of expression precedes anti-terror laws. Facebook has its own code of conduct and often removes content deemed objectionable. Moreover, while the attackers in the five incidents had links to Hamas, the militant group has stopped short of claiming responsibility for the attacks, suggesting the assailants acted on their own.

The suit comes as Israel is considering how to contain what it sees as rampant Palestinian incitement on social media. Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan is preparing a bill meant to rein in content seen as incitement on social media and earlier this month, he said Facebook had become "a monster," adding that the company had "some of the victims' blood" on its hands. Shurat Hadin has challenged Facebook in courts in the past. Last year, it demanded an injunction to have Facebook remove and block incitement to violence. A decision is pending. Such lawsuits are not unprecedented. The father of a young woman killed in the Paris massacre last November is suing Google, Facebook and Twitter, claiming that the companies provided "material support" to extremists in violation of the law. A similar case was brought against Twitter in January by the widow of a contractor killed in an attack on a police training center in Jordan. —AP

ISRAEL ULTRA-ORTHODOX WOMEN GOING HI-TECH

HAREDI WOMEN BECOMING INCREASINGLY QUALIFIED

HOLON: Bright and airy, the workspace at Comax is much like other Israeli hi-tech firms, except that a rabbi has carefully vetted its design to allow ultra-Orthodox Jewish women to work there. The company in Holon near Tel Aviv employs 20 ultra-Orthodox women, one of several to do so as increasingly more female breadwinners from Israel's religious community join the secular work force.

Graduates of programming schools in the overwhelmingly ultra-Orthodox community of Bnei Brak, about 10 kilometers away, the Comax women produce most of the firm's computer programmes for large supermarkets in the vicinity. The ultra-Orthodox-known in Hebrew as haredi, or God-fearing, make up an estimated 11 percent of the Israeli population.

They abide by a strictly religious and traditional lifestyle, and men often study religion instead of working. With a tradition of large families and low participation in the work force, they have historically made up a disproportionate number of the country's poorest citizens. But since 2000, haredi women's participation in the labor market has climbed by 30 percent. Seventy-five percent of them now have jobs, in line with the country's overall female population.

Evolving roles

According to a survey last year by the Israel Democracy Institute think-tank, haredi women are becoming increasingly qualified and their role inside their communities is evolving. Meirav, 27, who preferred not to give her surname, is head of customer relations at Comax and has two young children, aged four years and nine months. She wears the wig customary among ultra-Orthodox wives, who are forbidden to display their own hair in public, but she also lives the life of a modern working woman.

"My husband helps me a lot," she said. "He takes care of the children, he does the cooking. He takes the kids to childcare and the nursery school so I can get to work on time." Her spouse, like many haredi men, is in full-time religious study and Meirav is happy to be the family breadwinner "for as long as possible." Sociology professor Menachem Friedman, a specialist on haredi society, said that in "an abnormal division" of family roles, women there have always

worked and simultaneously cared for many children to allow their husbands to devote themselves solely to religious study. In recent years, traditional areas of employment for haredi women such as childcare, education and administrators in religious institutions have become saturated, he said, leading job-seekers to turn to firms in the secular marketplace.

Providing a suitable workplace

That is bound to have a cultural impact, Friedman said. "Even if they

men, but that does not mean they actually subscribe to this narrative," Friedman said. "Especially when they work in a non-religious environment and are aware of the abnormality of division of household tasks."

A significant number of hi-tech companies have chosen to hire haredi hands, encouraged by generous state subsidies as an incentive for ultra-Orthodox to join the labour force and not rely on welfare. In addition, haredi workers are prepared to accept lower-than-average

glass so that men and women could not be alone together," said his partner Moti Frenkel. With the high haredi birthrate, Comax needed to take on enough employees to allow for frequent maternity leave, hiring five women to fill two to three full-time posts. "They are very accommodating, which... allows me to work," said Talia, 27, her hair covered by a headscarf.

The company understands the intricacies of religious dietary law, observance of holy days and the



HOLON: Ultra-Orthodox Jewish women work on computers at their desks in the Comax software company office. —AFP

claim otherwise, it is not possible that women working in a non-religious environment will not sooner or later be influenced." Women in the haredi world observe strict "modesty" rules, which stipulate long sleeves and skirts and muted colors.

They are forbidden from being alone with a man who is not their husband or a close relative. They are considered to be the pillar of the family, tasked with raising the children, keeping house and also providing an income. "They defend the ideal imposed by their community of Torah (Jewish scripture) study by

wages as a tradeoff for being given working conditions suited to their lifestyle. At Comax, where the ultra-Orthodox make up nearly a third of the workforce and 90 percent of its computer programmers, senior management has had to make changes to the workplace. It helped that joint CEO Yitzhak Bier is an Orthodox Jew-albeit not haredi-and is familiar with religious laws.

Frequent maternity leave

"When we opened up, a rabbi came to inspect everything, checking in particular that all doors were

demands of family, she added. "When we need time for the children, they understand that too." Bier said his haredi employees have a sense of confidence in him. He cited the case of one who ahead of the solemn Jewish day of atonement-Yom Kippur-asked by email for him to forgive her mistakes of the past year. "I understood exactly what she wanted because I myself am religious," he said. "I replied, according to the conventions of the ultra-Orthodox world, forgiving her three times, and the case was closed." —AFP

TESLA CEO SAYS HE'S WORKING ON NEW SECRET 'MASTERPLAN'

WASHINGTON: Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk, under pressure after a fatal crash involving one of his electric cars, went on Twitter Sunday to say he's working on another "Top Secret Tesla Masterplan." He said he hoped to publish details this week. The tantalizing message echoes an August 2006 blog post, titled "The Secret Tesla Motors Master Plan (just between you and me)," in which Musk unveiled the cars that became the Tesla Model S four-door family car and the Tesla 3 sports sedan. Tesla and Musk have been hit with a recent string of bad news. Federal officials are investigating a May 7 crash in Florida that killed a man after his Model S's cameras failed to detect a turning tractor-trailer and did not automatically activate the brakes. Tesla also said last week that shipments to customers fell in the past three months, making it unlikely the California-based firm would meet expectations for delivering 80,000 to 90,000 vehicles this year. Musk ran into criticism for Tesla's bid of up to \$2.5 billion last month for the financially troubled firm SolarCity, which installs solar panels and is run by Musk's cousin, Lyndon Rive. Tesla stock is down nearly 15 percent since late April. —AP



PARIS: In this Wednesday, Dec 2, 2015, file photo, Tesla Motors Inc CEO Elon Musk delivers a speech at the Paris Pantheon Sorbonne University. —AP



PHILADELPHIA: This Dec 3, 2009 file photo shows the Comcast headquarters building. —AP

COMCAST ADDS CHICAGO TO THOSE UNDER DATA CAPS

NEW YORK: Comcast is increasing the number of home internet customers who will face limits on how much data they can use before getting hit with extra charges. The company is adding the Chicago region and says that caps will now cover 23 percent of customers, from 14 percent before. Caps already apply in Atlanta, Miami, Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee, and other regions. AT&T and some smaller providers also meter home internet.

Data limits, which are already common with cellphone plans, have drawn complaints from customers and some public-interest groups because they can make it more expensive to watch Netflix and other streaming video services that compete

with cable. Philadelphia-based Comcast, one of the country's largest TV and internet providers, says it listened to customers' concerns and has raised caps from 300 gigabytes a month to 1 terabyte. It says that allows for streaming 700 hours of high-definition video - around the clock for almost the entire month or playing 12,000 hours of online games. Large households with several devices might reach the limit quickly, but Comcast says less than 1 percent of customers exceed 1 terabyte. Affected Comcast customers get charged \$10 for every 50 gigabytes they exceed the monthly limit, or they can pay an extra \$50 a month for an unlimited plan. —AP

AUSTRALIA DECLARES AIDS NO LONGER PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

SYDNEY: Australia declared yesterday the AIDS epidemic is no longer a public health issue there, a month after the United Nations adopted an ambitious target to eliminate the threat globally by 2030. The government-backed Australian Federation of AIDS Organizations (AFAO) and top scientists said the number of people being diagnosed with AIDS in Australia was now so small it was no longer reported. AIDS cases in Australia peaked in 1994, at 953 cases, according

to the Kirby Institute for infection and immunity in society. Since then, following the introduction of antiretroviral treatment, that prevent AIDS developing in people who are infected with the HIV virus, and awareness campaigns, AIDS diagnoses have declined sharply.

"Australia is incredibly fortunate to be in the position and its because of far-sighted government policy," said Darryl O'Donnell, chief executive AFAO. "We had community organizations of gay men,

sex workers and drug users doing outreach campaigns that were extraordinarily effective," O'Donnell said. A spokeswoman for the Federal Department of Health said while it was tremendous that AIDS was "not the automatic death sentence that it once was", approximately 1,100 cases of HIV are detected each year. "We must not let down our guard." Worldwide there are 36.7 million people living with HIV, according to the World Health Organization, with 180,000 peo-

ple dying from AIDS-related illness in the Asia-Pacific region last year.

The United Nations agreed a new declaration on ending the AIDS epidemic at a meeting in New York last month. The UNAIDS Fast-Track approach to ending the AIDS epidemic has a set of time-bound targets, including reducing the number of people newly infected with HIV from 2.1 million in 2015 to fewer than 500,000 in 2020, reducing the number of people dying from AIDS-related ill-

nesses from 1.1 million in 2015 to fewer than 500,000 in 2020 and eliminating HIV-related discrimination. Andrew Grulich, head of the HIV Epidemiology and Prevention Program at the Kirby Institute, said other countries could learn from Australia. "The thing that has characterized Australia is a partnership between all sectors involved," he said. "Community, research and the government - and having bipartisan political support." —Reuters

ORGAN TRANSPLANTS HAVE COME A LONG WAY BUT HURDLES REMAIN

‘I JUST WISH WE COULD SEE MORE DONORS COMING OUT’

WASHINGTON: Brenda Hudson recalls weeks spent in a glass-enclosed isolation room after her first kidney transplant, her family allowed to visit only when suited up against germs. That transplant lasted a remarkable four decades - and now Hudson's recovery from a second one, this time faster and surrounded by germ visitors, showcases how far organ transplants have come and the hurdles that still await. "I'm ready to be well again," Hudson exclaimed before being wheeled into an operating room at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital last month, far more confident than back at age 17 when she

was that hospital's first recipient of a living-donor kidney.

Transplants still require courage, but medical advances haven't just helped patients. Hudson's initial donor, her older sister, has a scar stretching from belly to side where doctors cut into her rib cage. This time Hudson's husband donated, and went home two days after surgeons squeezed his kidney through a roughly 3-inch incision. Hudson's own lupus-damaged kidneys were removed about a month before her first transplant. That's hardly ever done anymore - nonworking kidneys shrink to make room. Back then, finding a

donor was pretty miraculous. It still is.

And with more than 120,000 people on the national waiting list for a kidney or other donated organ - but only about 30,000 transplants performed each year - new moves are getting underway to try to ease the critical shortage.

Another kidney

Efforts range from smartphone apps letting would-be donors register with a few clicks, to helping transplant centers use some organs that today would be discarded for fear they're not good enough. "I really didn't think about getting another kidney. How

could I be that fortunate?" said Hudson, 57, of Owings, Maryland, who this time went home five days after surgery. Her thoughts strayed to friends on dialysis: "I just wish we could see more donors coming out."

The average kidney from a deceased donor lasts 10 years, while one from a living donor averages about 15 years, said Dr David Klassen of UNOS, the United Network for Organ Sharing, which oversees the nation's transplant system. Doctors can't explain why occasionally people like Hudson beat those odds by a lot. Dana Hudson knew his wife wouldn't ask for another kidney so when her first deteriorated badly enough to require dialysis, he volunteered.

Dr Matthew Cooper, Georgetown's kidney and pancreas transplant director, examined the fist-sized organ and proclaimed it "a beauty." Sewing it into its new owner, however, would prove nerve-wracking. More than 6,000 people died last year waiting for a new kidney, liver, lung or other organ, according to UNOS. Last month, the White House issued a call to reduce the wait, and highlighted \$160 million in regenerative research that one day might offer alternative therapies. Kidneys are most in demand, with nearly 100,000 people on the national transplant list awaiting one. "Without a transplant, we lose way too many people," said Georgetown's Cooper. "It's just an organ supply problem."

To try boosting that supply:

* Apple says its upcoming software update will let iPhone users register as an organ donor through its health app, linking to Donate Life America's national registry. Georgetown also is developing an app for smartphones and tablets that will allow a click for donor registration.

• Studies are underway to preserve donated organs longer by pumping them with oxygenated fluids, and to spur use of higher-risk organs that work despite not being in optimal condition, Klassen said.

• And the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and Donate Life launched a new Facebook page to educate the public about the need for living donors; fewer than 6,000 every year give a kidney or part of their liver. It's hard to ask, and there are some disincentives. A living donor's surgery is covered by the recipient's insurance but not related costs such as lost wages. Dana Hudson expects to be away from his truck-driving job for about four weeks but said, "The most important thing is that she gets better."

Back at Georgetown, where about a third of kidney transplants now are from living donors, Dana Hudson underwent a battery of tests to be sure he was healthy enough to live with one kidney. The "keyhole" surgery used for living donation today is easier on patients but trickier for surgeons. Guided by a miniature camera, Dr Seyed Ghasemian inserted long-handled probes through tiny abdominal incisions and painstakingly snipped the kidney free from surrounding tissue. It was producing plenty of urine and had great blood vessels, Ghasemian reported.

But he paused before severing that blood supply, the point of no return. Across the hall, Cooper had found a problem with Brenda Hudson. Hunched tensely over the operating table, Cooper was uncovering arteries hardened by high blood pressure and Type 2 diabetes - no good for sewing on her husband's kidney. Finally the surgeons devised a way for blood vessels to feed the incoming organ. "This was not an easy case," Cooper said. "You have to have a Plan B." Back across the hall again, Ghasemian made the last cut to Dana Hudson's kidney and tugged it through a slit in the abdomen.

Taking the kidney, Cooper flushed out the donor's blood, cleaned away some yellowish fat and carefully carried it to Brenda Hudson - with one brief stop. Using high-tech imaging, researchers scanned the kidney's filtering tubules as part of a study to better determine which donated organs will have the best outcome. Soon after being stitched into place, Brenda Hudson's new kidney started to work. Two days later, she softly told her husband: "It's pretty amazing what you did for me, honey." —AP



LEBANON: Stephanie Moyer poses for a photograph in Lebanon.

ADVOCATES FEAR MORE HEROIN WITHDRAWAL DEATHS IN JAILS

LEBANON, Pennsylvania: In the days following her 18-year-old daughter's first arrest on heroin charges, Stephanie Moyer took solace thinking the nearby jail in central Pennsylvania would be a safe place for her to stay until she could get her into a treatment program. However, Victoria "Tori" Herr sounded disoriented on a call home three days later. "I just want something to drink. I want lemonade. They won't give me lemonade," she told her mother, who asked what was wrong. "I don't know, but I'm seeing people die. I'm going to die."

"I said, 'Well, maybe you're going through withdrawal,'" Moyer recalled last week, more than a year after Herr collapsed following days of severe vomiting and diarrhea at the Lebanon County Correctional Facility. Herr, who had told intake officers she'd been using 10 bags of heroin a day, never regained consciousness and was taken off life support at a hospital five days later. "This is a woman who died because she was detoxing," said Moyer's lawyer, Jonathan Feinberg, who filed a federal civil rights lawsuit yesterday in Philadelphia. "Had Tori Herr's withdrawal been treated ... she almost certainly would be alive today."

Her case is one of at least a half-dozen deaths nationwide involving jail heroin withdrawal during the last two years. Advocates fear the number will grow given the nation's heroin crisis. They find the deaths particularly troubling because opioid withdrawal, while miserable, is rarely life-threatening if medication, monitoring and, in severe cases, intravenous fluids are available. "Obviously, this is an emerging, growing problem and it's hitting communities all over the country. That's exponentially so in jails," said civil rights lawyer Emma Freudenberger, a co-counsel on the lawsuit. She believes that jails have a fundamental duty to care for their inmates, but wonders if some lack concern for people struggling with addiction.

Call for help

Officials in Lebanon County, including the warden, the jail medical director and a lawyer for the county, did not return calls for comment about Herr's case Friday. Other lawsuits and news reports around the country detail similarly harrowing withdrawal deaths. In Oregon, Madeline Pitkin, 26, wrote increasingly dire notes to jail staff before she died inside an Oregon jail in 2014, according to an investigation by The Oregonian published in April. "This is a third or fourth call for help. I haven't been able to keep food, liquids, meds down in six days. ... I feel like I am very close to death. Can't hear, seeing lights, hearing voices. Please help me," Pitkin wrote before she died two years ago.

In Detroit, David Stojceviski lost 50 pounds during a one-month stay over a \$774 careless driving fine as he struggled to withdraw from methadone, opioids and the anti-anxiety drug benzodiazepine. A jail video shows him lying naked on a stone floor during what his family called his excruciatingly slow, painful death last year. In Colorado, 25-year-old Tyler Tabor of Thornton died last year after he was prescribed a mixture of drugs to treat his withdrawal symptoms, but never received them, according to his family's lawsuit. "Opioids is one of the safer withdrawals," said Dr Eke Kalu, general medical director for the Philadelphia Prison System, which is run by the prison medical contractor Corizon. The city screens inmates using the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale to assess their need for



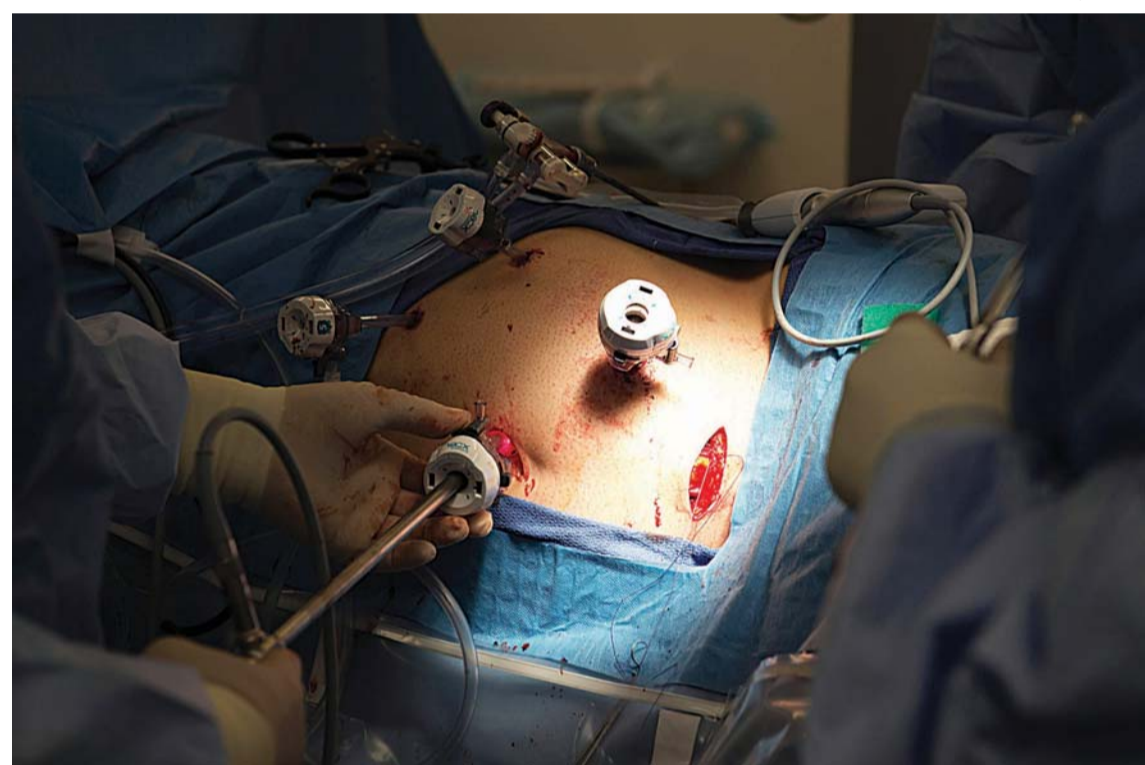
LEBANON, Pennsylvania: A photo provided by Stephanie Moyer shows Moyer's daughter Victoria Tori Herr. —AP photos

medication or IV fluids. Officials could not remember an opiate withdrawal death during that time.

Vomiting and diarrhea

Detainees at Rikers Island, in New York, also can get methadone maintenance, which some experts believe lowers the chance of relapsing upon release. But smaller jails may lack in-house medical units or sufficient monitoring. Prison advocates believe the lapses can amount to cruel and unusual punishment. Herr was staggering by the time she was taken to the medical unit the last night at the jail, according to Moyer's lawsuit. She was given water and Ensure, but resumed vomiting when she returned to her cell, the suit says. Severe dehydration brought on by constant vomiting and diarrhea can lead to delirium, an electrolyte imbalance and cardiac damage. Herr also went some time without oxygen after she collapsed, causing irreversible brain damage, the suit said.

"I'm not a professional, but as a mother - Day 1 - I would have taken her to the hospital if I would have seen her vomiting or not keeping things down," said Moyer, a graphic artist who raised her son and daughter on a quiet lane amid bucolic fields of corn and hay in Lebanon. Warden Robert Kames later told Moyer that his staff followed "all operational protocols" in treating her daughter, the lawsuit said. Herr, a talented artist, graduated from high school in 2014 despite using heroin in the final months, something her mother attributes to her long struggle with anxiety. Moyer last saw her the day before her arrest, when she went to the apartment her daughter shared with a boyfriend to discuss an inpatient treatment program she had found. "I told her that her name was Victoria and that's close to 'victorious,' and I promised her she would be victorious in getting through it," Moyer said. "She smiled and said, 'That means a lot to me, Mama.'" Freudenberger doesn't expect jails to offer similar rehabilitation programs. "But they had to do everything they could to keep her alive. If they couldn't do that, they had to send her somewhere else. They couldn't just let her die," she said. —AP



WASHINGTON: Dr. Seyed Ghasemian begins surgery to remove the kidney of Dana Hudson, being donated to his wife as part of a living donor kidney transplant at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital in Washington. —AP photos



WASHINGTON: Brenda Hudson watches as her husband and kidney donor Dana, right, is taken to the operating room to undergo a living donor kidney transplant at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital.



WASHINGTON: Brenda Hudson talks to surgeon Dr. Matthew Cooper as her husband and kidney donor Dana Hudson watches at left, prior to undergoing a kidney transplant at MedStar Georgetown University Hospital.

AUSSIE WHO BIT OFF RAT'S HEAD BANNED FROM OWNING PETS

SYDNEY: An Australian man who filmed himself biting the head off a live rat and posting the video on Facebook was banned yesterday from owning pets for three years and ordered to do community service. Matthew Maloney, known as "Mad Matt," was charged following a raid by RSPCA investigators after the bizarre stunt in January, which attracted hundreds of thousands of online views. The 25-year-old admitted one count of animal cruelty in Brisbane Magistrates Court and was ordered to complete 100 hours of community service, while being slapped with the pet ban.

Magistrate Suzette Coates described him as a "narcissist" and he expressed remorse, although he told reporters out-

side court that his actions "weren't that bad," according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. The video shows Maloney storming into a room, biting off the rat's head and washing it down with three shots of vodka. He then gets punched in the face and has a chair broken over his back before saying "beat that." The clip was reportedly an attempt to create a disturbing new social-media challenge.

He was unrepentant at the time after a string of comments branding him disgusting. "All your comments are cracking me up and not one person out there will be able to say anything that will make me feel bad or make me regret what I did," he wrote on Facebook. "It's mother nature and mans gotta eat!" —AFP

FALSE HOPE? CHINA'S MILITARY HOSPITALS OFFER ILLEGAL EXPERIMENTAL CURES

SHANGHAI: For student Wei Zexi, the lure of a miracle cure was hard to resist: He was dying from a rare cancer and a well-known Beijing hospital was offering treatment with an 80 percent chance of success and no side effects. It was, the hospital said, the ideal choice. There was a problem: The military-run hospital did not have regulatory approval to offer the immunotherapy course it sold to Wei at a steep fee. The treatment itself - while promising - is widely considered by global cancer specialists to be at the experimental stage.

Wei died at the age of 21, and the outcry his case provoked has thrown a spotlight on hundreds of hospitals run by branches of China's armed forces. Reuters' interviews with patients, doctors and lawyers show that military-run medical facilities across the country regularly provide - and advertise - treatments that are not approved by the Chinese Health Ministry. Among a sample of around two dozen of the hundreds of military hospitals around China, Reuters found roughly four-fifths offered some kind of immunotherapy on their websites. Some of them said they had used it to treat thousands of patients. The ready availability of unapproved treatments at major hospitals around China underlines serious regulatory blind spots in a healthcare system treating 1.4 billion people and which is the world's second largest drugs market behind the United States.

Military authorities have acknowledged fault at the Second Hospital of Beijing Armed Police Corps, where Wei was treated. They would not comment on practices at other facilities. The hospital itself did not respond to requests for comment. China's health ministry said that, while immunotherapy had great potential, there were still question marks around safety and effectiveness. It has never

been approved for commercial clinical use in China, the ministry said in a statement to Reuters. Immunotherapy is classed as a category three treatment, meaning it is "ethically problematic", "high risk" or "still in need of clinical verification".

However, China's health ministry has little oversight over military hospitals because its jurisdiction largely concerns the civilian health system. The military facilities come under the control of the armed forces. Lawyers involved in the healthcare sector say the combination of military oversight and the frequent civilian use create grey areas about whether national laws apply and how they should be enforced. The health ministry would not comment on the wider issue of regulation of military hospitals. The defense ministry referred Reuters to a statement made at a regular news briefing in May in which it acknowledged the hospital in the Wei case had acted illegally. It said oversight of such hospitals would be improved, but did not say how.

The Reuters review also showed that many of the hospitals surveyed offered patients stem cell therapy, a treatment which is only approved in China for clinical trials. The health ministry said in August last year research into stem cells to treat or prevent diseases was developing fast, but it was concerned some hospitals were violating government regulations to offer such treatments to boost profits. Shanghai-based Yuan Liming, a partner at law firm Jones Day, said there is another problem: military hospitals often allow third-parties to operate clinics within the hospital grounds. The health ministry told Reuters it was illegal for hospitals to sub-contract certain therapies to private clinics and that it would investigate any public hospitals doing so. "It clearly violates Chinese law, but it's common," said Yuan.

Best facilities

Some military hospitals are regarded, alongside university hospitals, as among the country's best medical facilities. They are overseen by military bodies such as the People's Armed Police, a paramilitary force that answers to the powerful Central Military Commission headed by President Xi Jinping. "Military hospitals, generally speaking, are not subject to administration and monitoring by the health ministry, but are subject to supervision by the Central Military Commission," said Yuan.

There is no indication any of the military hospitals contacted by Reuters had special exemption to offer immunotherapy treatment. The Second Hospital of Beijing Armed Police Corps was not approved. Another hospital, the General Hospital of Shenyang Army, said on its website it treated more than 1,600 people with a number of immunotherapy treatments. No one at the hospital was willing to comment.

Others, including the 302 Military Hospital of China in Beijing, the 101st People's Liberation Army in Wuxi, the Nanjing General Hospital and People's Liberation Army No. 202 Hospital said on their websites they had used immunotherapy treatment. Repeated calls to the Nanjing hospital and the No. 202 hospital went unanswered. The 302 Military hospital and the 101st PLA hospital said they had stopped offering the therapy and declined to comment further.

Gong Xiaoming, a senior Beijing-based gynaecologist and former physician at the prestigious Peking Union Medical College Hospital, said the main problem was the small private clinics used by military hospitals. Without tighter regulation the illegal provision of immunotherapy and other banned treatments would likely continue, he said. Such clinics, though separate businesses, often operate on a

hospital's premises and under its licence, putting them in another regulatory grey area, say lawyers and doctors. "It's like guerrilla warfare," said Gong. "Every few years they change location or change name and emerge once more."

Cost complaints

In Wei's case the hospital had contracted Shanghai-based private immunotherapy technology company Shanghai Claion. Claion was not available for comment and a guard who answered the phone said everyone had "gone on holiday". Other patients complain of being given pricey and unnecessary treatments by military hospitals. A receptionist at a steel trading company, who asked to be identified only by her family name Xu, went to the People's Liberation Army (PLA) 411 Hospital in Shanghai in 2014 seeking treatment for ovarian cysts, a common condition.

The doctor suggested infra-red therapy and she underwent three days of treatment at 700 yuan (\$105) per session, eventually spending a total of 8,000 yuan. Concerned with the ongoing treatment, she went to another doctor and was told she had only needed a small surgical procedure costing 500 yuan. That treatment was successful, she said. "Everyone trusts doctors," Xu, 25, told Reuters. "With this infrared therapy, they make you do it every day, and every day they charge you hundreds of yuan. It's all about making money." The PLA 411 Hospital said it was not aware of the case and hadn't heard of any other patient complaints.

Serious problems

Before he died, Wei accused the Second Hospital of Beijing Armed Police Corps, and the search engine Baidu Inc that he had used to find it, of misleading advertising and disseminating false medical information. China's

health ministry said an investigation after Wei's death revealed "serious problems" at the hospital. It was found to have been illegally working with a private healthcare partner, unlawfully advertising services and using unauthorized clinical technology, the ministry said. The hospital did not respond to repeated calls seeking comment.

China's cyberspace regulator has since imposed limits on healthcare adverts carried by Baidu, which controls 80 percent of the Chinese search market, and the company's CEO has called on employees to put values before profit. Baidu, which has since cut its revenue forecast, has said it accepted the regulator's decision and it would implement the requirements placed on it following the investigation. As with other forms of immunotherapy the treatment given to Wei, known as "DC-CIK", uses the patient's own immune system to fight disease.

Archived articles and posts on the official website of the hospital that treated Wei, currently blocked, describe the treatment as well-proven. One, dated Aug. 12, 2013, said the success rate was more than 80 percent. In another article, dated Sept 26, 2015, it wrote that immunotherapy treatment had saved a late-stage cancer patient who had been given six months to live. Another patient with kidney cancer was completely cured.

Doctors questioned by Reuters, however, said the claims made by Wei's hospital overstated the potential effects. "Response rates to DC-CIK which are not approved - and in fact to all current immunotherapy - are modest," said Andrew Furness, an immunotherapy expert at University College London. "Patients coming towards the end of their life or having exhausted all treatment options should not be given false hope," he said. —Reuters

WHAT'S IN CIGARETTE SMOKE? MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW

NEW YORK: Many people in a recent study said they'd tried to find out what chemicals are in tobacco products or smoke, but most were not familiar with components other than nicotine. Surveyed by phone, more than half the respondents said they'd like to see this information on cigarette packs and a quarter would like to have access to it online.

Of the 7,000 constituents of cigarette smoke, 93 in particular are quite toxic, said Dr Kurt M. Ribisl of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. "It's pretty surprising how relatively few people have heard of these yet many were interested in hearing more about them," Ribisl told Reuters Health by phone.

The most simple and effective messaging may be to list the chemicals and, briefly, their health effects, he said. For example, cigarette smoke contains arsenic, which causes heart damage, and formaldehyde, which causes throat cancer. Ribisl and colleagues surveyed nearly 5,000 US adults by phone, targeting high smoking/low income areas and cell phone numbers.

Almost a quarter of respondents reported being smokers, most saying they had smoked every day for the past month. The researchers chose 24 harmful chemicals in tobacco and divided them into six groups of four. Each participant answered questions about one group of four chemicals, selected at random.

"Smoke components" More than a quarter of respondents said they had looked for information on the constituents of tobacco smoke, most commonly young adults and smokers. More than half said they would most prefer to see this information on cigarette packs.

Only eight percent of respondents knew that at least three of the four chemicals they were asked about are present in cigarette smoke, the researchers reported in BMC Public Health.

"Many people seek information on smoke components but not many find it," said Dr Reinskje Talhout of the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment at the Center for Health Protection in The Netherlands. "Here they also seek it but in general don't understand it very well, so we developed fact sheets for the general public," Talhout told Reuters Health by phone.

Having this information may help smokers make an informed decision, but there is no evidence yet on how it may change smoking behavior, Talhout said. "If people hear about these components they are quite shocked," she said. The US Food and Drug Administration has a list of harmful and potentially harmful tobacco components available to consumers and tobacco manufacturers are obliged to send this list and amounts in their products to the FDA, Talhout said.

It's still not clear how providing this information on packs might change behavior, Ribisl noted, and it is possible that listing amounts of chemicals will simply lead consumers to "comparison shop" and choose a brand with marginally lower amounts of the same dangerous chemicals, rather than quitting altogether. "Both the Centers for Disease Control and FDA are very credible sources about this information," he said. "One of the things I would like the FDA and others to think about is what they can put on the side of the cigarette pack, what kind of message can we put there to help create informed smokers," he said.—REUTERS

BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM EXPANDS PRESENCE IN KUWAIT IN COLLABORATION WITH YIACO MEDICAL COMPANY

YIACO AIMS TO FURTHER ENHANCE COMMUNITY WELLBEING

KUWAIT: Boehringer Ingelheim, one of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, recently opened its new office in the State of Kuwait, in partnership with YIACO Medical Company (YIACO). The opening ceremony was held in YIACO's headquarters, in Salmiya, and where senior representatives from both companies were present.

YIACO's management team included Dr Bader Altrajji, Chief Executive Officer; Dr Mohamed Barham, Chief Operational Officer; Dr Fawaz Al-Omi, Chief Communications Officer and Dr Abdulla Al-Bader, Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Manager. Representing Boehringer Ingelheim were Mazen Bachir, Country Manager - Gulf and Iran and the company's wider team in Kuwait. Dr Bader Al-Trajji, Chief Executive Officer of YIACO said, "The continued growth of Kuwait's population and rise in conditions such as diabetes and obesity has prompted more demands for a stronger healthcare offering. We are proud to partner with Boehringer Ingelheim to expand their presence across the country with an underlying objective of further enhancing community wellbeing."

During the opening ceremony, Mazen Bachir also said, "Kuwait is an important market for Boehringer Ingelheim in the region. We are proud to partner with our agent, YIACO, to deliver patient focused solutions for the Kuwaiti community. Our commitment to excellence and comprehensive understanding of patient needs in Kuwait makes us confident to deliver value across a number of therapeutic areas including



diabetes, respiratory, cardiovascular diseases as well as lung cancer.

"Our aim is to continue growing our presence in Kuwait to reach a team of 25-30 employees while increasing our overall business in the coming few

years," added Bachir. Boehringer Ingelheim is committed to research into patient populations to improve the overall understanding of their conditions and patient experiences.

ANCIENT SHIP GRAVEYARD FOUND OFF GREEK ISLAND

ATHENS: Forty-five shipwrecks, many dating back to ancient times, have been discovered off a Greek archipelago that is one of the Mediterranean's richest underwater archaeological sites, authorities said yesterday. In addition to the wrecks found off the Fourni islands in the Aegean Sea over

the last two years, researchers also spotted anchors and hundreds of ceramic objects, Greece's ministry of culture said in a statement. Some 23 sunken vessels were found in 2016, with another 22 uncovered last year, including wrecks from the Roman era as well as the Archaic period which is some

800-480 BC. The Fourni archipelago, home to about 1,000 residents, "is one of the richest (shipwreck sites) in the Mediterranean," the statement said. The ceramic objects and anchors are "evidence of navigation and trade off the archipelago that includes natural ports and kilometers of coast," the

statement said. It "was a commercial maritime crossroads." Interesting wrecks found in 2016 include one from the Roman epoch which carried amphora and comes from the Black Sea, while another dates to the third to fourth centuries and is from Roman colonies in North Africa.—AFP

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SACGC WINS AWARD FOR BEST ELECTRONIC CONTENT



Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC), has made yet a new achievement in the International Award for the Electronic Content, through the participation of Engineers Ahmad Al-Saleh and Nasser Al-Khaldi with their technical project on teaching compact techniques systems to control public education during the World Summit Award in cooperation with the United Nations, for the best electronic content in the educational field. This came after strong competition with more than 500 projects from 160 countries.

The winners dedicated their achievement to HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and to Kuwait people, and all science centers that supported the project, particularly the Education Ministry.



NSH HONOURS WINNERS IN NON - ALCOHOLISM EVENT

NSH Global Village Harmony (NSH GVH) would support any extreme level for fulfilling its dream of making a positive change in the community, said Sabu, President of this committed association while honoring the winners of the week long contests held under the theme "keep away from alcohol" in connection with UN International Day against Drug Abuse.

The slogan writing, picture drawing and thematic singing contests were held in different languages - English, Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Punjabi, Bhojpuri and Nepali; and the indoor games such as

Carrom, Chess and Table Tennis. The enthusiastic community members were divided into several teams. Corporate HR Manager Pani J Anthony delivered the introductory speech. The Indian Embassy official Ashok Kumar Sahoo and Sabu presented the overall champion trophy for scoring the highest points to PV Santhosh, leader of the MAA team. Sahoo appreciated the winners and NSH GVH for taking such efforts to create the awareness among the community members, and advised them to have a peaceful and comfortable life in Kuwait. The awarding ceremony was followed by the special dinner.



OVER 18,000 VISITORS VISIT SCIENTIFIC CENTRE

Marketing and Public Relations Director at the Scientific Center said the number of visitors of the Nawaf Adel Al-Rudaini Center during Eid Al-Fitr holiday was over 18,000. He said the numbers were expected due to the centers status in Kuwait. The Science Center launched its new movie the humpback whale on the first day of Eid in 3D.

Al-Roudaini said registration for the summer camp is still open at the information office of the Scientific Center during operating hours, while each camp lasts for one week Sunday to Thursday, while the first week will start on Sunday 24th.



VISITORS TO 360 MALL WITNESS MAGICAL WINTER WONDERLAND



Marking the auspicious Eid Al Fitr celebrations, 360 MALL, Kuwait's iconic mall by the Tamdeen Group, hosted a three-day grand winter event. With the presence of an overwhelming crowd, the mystically transformed Main Atrium presented a series of entertainment, activities and chances to win prizes sponsored by

the mall's partners. The scintillating event brought together bright colors, non-stop revelry and sheer exuberance for a vast crowd absorbed in the grand celebrations. With all its gaiety, visitors were spell-bound by the existing atmosphere of the evening. From an animatronic polar bear to

enchancing mechanical ballet, illuminated stilt walkers and ice contact jugglers to remarkable tricks by the 'chillusionist', the dramatized evening was stitched together by the popular TV personality and celebrity - Karen Der Kaloustian. Children enjoyed her positive energy as she introduced the performances.

Claudia Lopusinska, Marketing Manager, 360 MALL, said: "Our customers are at the core of all our offerings. This is the reason why we bring in the best of unique performers and international artistes from around the world so mall visitors can enjoy the festive seasons in Kuwait. "This year we presented a bigger and

better platform through the magical winter wonderland created exclusively for our patrons and visitors. We also thank our partners, including Cinescape, Make Meaning, The Bowl Room, Infinity, Gap, Toys R Us, Taf, Nike, Shoe Box New York and Crocs, who made this effort even better by surprising our guests with attractive prizes."



ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER AWARDED AS 'GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2014-2015'

American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) - Kuwait Chapter, within a short span of establishment in Kuwait, it has become one of the largest Chapters outside USA with more than 400 members.

ASSE - Kuwait chapter has won the prestigious award from ASSE - USA - "The GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER Award" for the performance during the year 2014-2015. The then President of the Chapter Mohammad RiazShareef on this occasion, congratulated all and narrated that the beneficiaries of this award is our Chapter Members and our Profession as a whole. He stated "It is an amazing feeling when you get rewarded for what you do, not just because of the recognition, but because we have had an impact on the Chapter Members and our Profession. With this achievement, we have become model for other Chapters and kept Kuwait flag high among the Global chapters outside USA".

During the Safety-2016 Conference at Atlanta, USA, ASSE Kuwait Chapter was recognized with this prestigious award "The GOLD LEVEL CHAPTER Award". The ASSE delegates from Kuwait Chapter Sampath Reddy, Chapter President (2015-16), Vasudevan Chapter past President, Sunil N. Sadanandan Head of the Technical Events, and Srikanth received this award from Ashok Garlapati, ASSE Global Region Vice President, during the Chapter Recognition Luncheon on 26th June 2016.

As a part of professional development opportunities for its members to recognize their voluntary efforts, Vasudevan Chapter past President, Sunil N. Sadanandan, Head of the Technical Events, were sent as delegates and represented

Kuwait chapter at the annual Safety Conference "Safety-2016" held from 27th June - 29th June 2016, Atlanta, USA.

On this memorable event, Sampath Reddy, while receiving the award on behalf of the president 2014-15, said that "People with Goals, succeed because they know where they are going. "Selection of ASSE-Kuwait Chapter for this prestigious award was due to chapter diversified activities, member's active role and its active involvement in contributing towards meeting its objectives in protecting People, Property and the Environment. This recognition will enhance the ASSE Kuwait Chapter performance continuously and in keeping the Chapter in high profile and hope ASSE - Kuwait Chapter will come up with many more honors in the years to come".

Speaking on this occasion Fadhel Al-Ali, Chairman ASSE KC mentioned it as a proud moment for the chapter and he congratulated the members and the executive committee of 2014-15 for their efforts. He also said that these recognitions are joyous moment for the chapter as well as recognition for State of Kuwait for its continuous efforts towards enhancement of HSE culture in the industry and society.

These awards and honor will definitely boost up the morale of its members and enhance its energy level in carrying out its activities with more enthusiasm and passion. Executive Committee 2015-16 of ASSE Kuwait Chapter congratulated its members and conveyed thanks to Executive Council of ASSE US, Global Regional Vice President and well-wishers for their active support, cooperation and encouragement.



VOLUNTEERS PARTICIPATED WITH KFH IN DISTRIBUTING IFTAR MEALS

Kuwait Finance House (KFH) recognized the volunteers of Nayef palace and Iftar Cannon who took part in distributing breakfast meals during Ramadan in the framework of KFH's "Feeding a Fasting Person" campaign that had been launched as part of its Ramadan program and charity activities during the holy month.

The honoring comes on the heels of the bank's Feeding a Fasting Person program that encompassed several crowded places, mosques in industrial areas, gathering places in addition to Nayef palace.

KFH's recognition initiative reflects its Islamic identity and firm belief in its commitment to assume social and humanitarian responsibility.

KFH's efforts in Ramadan reinforced its keenness to contribute in easing the suffering of low-income segments, while shouldering the social responsibility in all its categories, be it educational, environmental or health in an attempt to consolidate the concept of social responsibility and boost the status and position of the society.





03:25 Wildest Africa
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
06:12 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
08:40 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:25 Too Cute! Pint-Sized
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
13:15 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Wildest Africa
17:25 River Monsters: Top Ten
18:20 Restoration Wild
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Wildest Africa
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 Restoration Wild
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters: Top Ten

08:40 How It's Made
09:05 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 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
17:50 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Lost & Found With Mike & Jesse
22:00 Guinness World Records Smashed UK
22:50 Guinness World Records Smashed UK



03:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
03:48 Nowhere To Hide
04:36 Nowhere To Hide
05:24 Nowhere To Hide
06:12 Nowhere To Hide
07:00 Tabloid
07:50 Tabloid
08:40 Tabloid
09:30 Tabloid
10:20 Love The Way You Lie
11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Jones
12:00 Nowhere To Hide
12:50 Nowhere To Hide
13:40 Nowhere To Hide
14:30 Nowhere To Hide
15:20 Love The Way You Lie
16:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
17:00 Murder Comes To Town
17:50 Murder Comes To Town
18:40 Murder Comes To Town
19:30 Murder Comes To Town
20:20 Love The Way You Lie
21:10 California Investigator
21:35 California Investigator
22:00 Vanity Fair Confidential
22:50 Murder Among Friends
23:40 Disappeared
00:30 Redrum
01:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
02:10 Murder Among Friends



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A

23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipper
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
13:55 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
19:50 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 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero



03:20 Bedlam
04:15 Casualty
05:05 Doctor Who
06:00 Eastenders
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Doctors
07:50 Casualty
08:40 Father Brown
09:25 Upstairs Downstairs
10:20 Doctor Who
11:15 Casualty
12:05 Father Brown
12:50 Upstairs Downstairs
13:45 Doctor Who
14:40 Casualty
15:30 Father Brown
16:15 Upstairs Downstairs
17:10 Doctor Who
18:15 Doctors
18:45 Doctors
19:15 Father Brown
20:00 Silent Witness
21:00 Silent Witness
21:55 Ripper Street
22:50 Bedlam
23:45 Doctors
00:20 Doctors
00:50 Silent Witness
01:40 Silent Witness
02:40 Ripper Street

Based on the bestselling book by Nick Hornby, the writer of 'High Fidelity' & 'About A Boy'



A LONG WAY DOWN ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA

13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples
15:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:30 Code Of A Killer
17:25 It's Not Rocket Science
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Eggheads
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
20:30 Code Of A Killer
21:25 It's Not Rocket Science
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 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
04:30 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped



03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
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



03:01 Paw Patrol
03:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:35 Dora The Explorer
03:59 Max & Ruby
04:07 Bubble Guppies
04:29 Little Charmers
04:41 Shimmer And Shine
05:05 Dora And Friends
05:27 Zack & Quack
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Paw Patrol
06:13 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
06:36 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Wanda And The Alien
07:11 Zack & Quack
07:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
07:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:10 Paw Patrol
08:35 Shimmer And Shine
08:58 Dora The Explorer
09:22 Little Charmers
09:32 Paw Patrol
09:57 Bubble Guppies
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Roary The Racing Car
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Louie
11:22 Louie
11:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
11:53 Olive The Ostrich
11:58 Olive The Ostrich
12:03 Max & Ruby
12:26 Wanda And The Alien
12:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:45 Zack & Quack
13:55 Zack & Quack
14:05 Team Umizoomi
14:28 Louie
14:35 Louie
14:40 Olive The Ostrich
14:44 Olive The Ostrich
14:49 Paw Patrol
15:01 Paw Patrol
15:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
15:59 Max & Ruby
16:07 Bubble Guppies
16:29 Little Charmers
16:41 Shimmer And Shine
17:05 Dora And Friends
17:27 Zack & Quack
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Paw Patrol
18:13 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
18:36 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Wanda And The Alien
19:11 Zack & Quack
19:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
19:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:10 Paw Patrol
20:35 Shimmer And Shine
20:58 Dora The Explorer
21:22 Little Charmers
21:32 Paw Patrol
21:57 Bubble Guppies
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Roary The Racing Car
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Louie
23:22 Louie
23:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
23:53 Olive The Ostrich
23:58 Olive The Ostrich
00:03 Max & Ruby



ROBOT overlords ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



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 Gold Divers
11:25 Pacific Warriors
12:15 Outback Truckers
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 Diamond River Hunters
18:30 Deadliest Job Interview
19:20 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
20:10 Storage Wars Canada
20:35 Storage Hunters UK
21:00 Diamond River Hunters
21:50 Venom Hunters
22:40 Dive Wars Australia
23:30 Fast N' Loud: Demolition Theater
00:20 Junkyard Empire
01:10 Diamond River Hunters
02:00 Venom Hunters
02:50 Dive Wars Australia

Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipper
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mook
06:00 Hank Zipper
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Gravity Falls
07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:45 Backstage
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Jessie
09:00 Jessie
09:25 Liv And Maddie
09:50 Liv And Maddie
10:00 Dog With A Blog
10:40 Dog With A Blog
11:30 Girl Meets World
11:55 Girl Meets World
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Shake It Up
13:10 Shake It Up
13:35 Jessie
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Austin & Ally
14:50 Austin & Ally
15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:20 Gravity Falls
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 Alex & Co.
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Liv And Maddie
18:40 Best Friends Whenever
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Bunk'd
19:55 Jessie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipper

01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo
02:45 Art Attack



06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
09:30 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:30 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
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 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 Andy Bates American Street Feasts
20:30 Andy Bates American Street Feasts
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man v Food
22:30 Man v Food
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man v Food
02:30 Man v Food

06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
09:30 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:30 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
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 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 Andy Bates American Street Feasts
20:30 Andy Bates American Street Feasts
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man v Food
22:30 Man v Food
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man v Food
02:30 Man v Food



03:25 Together
03:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
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 Together
08:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
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



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
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants

03:00 Better Call Saul
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
07:00 Rosewood
08:00 The Whispers
09:00 Code Black
10:00 Stitchers
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
18:00 The Blacklist
19:00 Supergirl
20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
21:00 Castle
22:00 Lucifer
23:00 Better Call Saul
00:00 Rosewood
01:00 Castle
02:00 Lucifer



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
13:30 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 Suburgatory
19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Dr. Ken
21:30 Modern Family
22:00 Ballers
22:30 Bordertown
23:00 Life In Pieces
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Dr. Ken
01:00 Modern Family
01:30 Ballers
02:00 Bordertown
02:30 Life In Pieces

04:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
06:00 Robot Overlords
08:00 The Fugitive
10:15 Armageddon
13:15 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
15:15 The Fugitive
17:45 Biker Boyz
19:45 Deja Vu
22:00 Cradle 2 The Grave
00:00 Naked Soldier
02:00 Age Of Ice

04:00 Bubble Boy
06:00 Green Card
08:00 Bottle Rocket
10:00 Bubble Boy
12:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
14:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
16:00 Bottle Rocket
18:00 500 Days Of Summer
20:00 St. Vincent
22:00 American Reunion
00:00 A Long Way Down
02:00 500 Days Of Summer



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
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04:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
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15:15 The Fugitive
17:45 Biker Boyz
19:45 Deja Vu
22:00 Cradle 2 The Grave
00:00 Naked Soldier
02:00 Age Of Ice



03:00 The Night Of
04:30 How To Make It In America
05:00 Introducing Dorothy Dandridge
07:00 Hello Ladies: The Movie
08:30 Public Speaking
10:00 Bette Midler: The Showgirl Must Go On
11:30 An American Girl: Chrissa Stands Strong
13:00 When Trumpets Fade
14:45 Sometimes In April
17:15 An American Girl: Chrissa Stands Strong
19:00 The Wire
20:00 John Adams
21:00 True Blood
22:00 Preacher
23:00 Entourage
23:30 Entourage
00:00 The Wire
01:00 John Adams
02:00 True Blood

03:00 Breathe In
05:00 The Mirror Has Two Faces
07:00 United Passions
09:00 Walking On Sunshine
10:45 The Citizen
12:30 The Horse Whisperer
15:15 Prefontaine
17:15 Walking On Sunshine
19:00 A Civil Action
21:00 Listen To Me Marlon
23:00 Reds
02:15 Walking On Sunshine

03:30 From Up On Poppy Hill
05:15 Paddington
07:00 Night At The Museum: Secret Of The Tomb
09:00 Love & Mercy
11:00 The Longest Ride
13:15 The Imitation Game
15:15 5 Fights Up
17:00 Survivor
19:00 The Perfect Guy
21:00 She's Funny That Way
23:00 Focus
01:00 Curve



SURVIVOR ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS

Kuwait Times
 Now you can browse
www.kuwaittimes.net
 e-mail: info@kuwaittimes.net



Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Airlines	Arrival Flights on Tuesday 12/7/2016	Time	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
MSC	415	00:10	CCE	345	Sohag	17:35	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:45
THY	772	00:10	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
JZR	239	00:20	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50	KAC	101	London/New York	10:00
FDB	267	00:30	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
DLH	069	00:55	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
QTR	1086	01:00	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30	IRA	674	Lar	10:40
JZR	539	01:15	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
MSC	403	01:20	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	1802	01:30	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
PGT	858	01:30	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
RJA	642	01:40	KAC	618	Doha	18:55	KAC	165	Rome/Paris	11:25
ETH	620	01:45	KAC	542	Istanbul	18:55	KAC	679	Muscat	11:35
AXB	395	01:50	KAC	104	London	19:00	GFA	214	Bahrain	12:00
THY	1464	01:50	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:05	MEA	405	Beirut	12:05
KKK	6506	02:05	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05	KAC	541	Cairo	12:10
GFA	211	02:15	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05	UAE	874	Dubai	12:10
KAC	418	02:15	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10	RBG	554	Alexandria	12:10
UAE	853	02:25	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10	JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
THY	768	02:25	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15	KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
ETD	305	02:50	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35	FDB	076	Dubai	13:10
OMA	643	03:05	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45	JZR	176	Dubai	13:10
RJA	644	03:10	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50	MSC	402	Alexandria	13:30
FDB	067	03:15	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05	SAW	702	Damascus	13:35
MSR	612	03:15	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15	FEQ	934	Sohag	13:55
QTR	1076	03:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20	MSR	611	Cairo	14:00
KAC	860	03:30	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
KAC	544	03:40	MSR	618	Doha	20:30	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
LMU	5101	03:40	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35	PAL	669	Dubai/Manila	14:45
RBG	551	04:00	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55	CLX	713	Bangkok	14:55
JZR	555	04:05	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
THY	1414	04:15	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
THY	6376	05:05	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
DHX	170	05:10	KLM	415	Amsterdam	21:25	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
THY	770	05:15	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30	KAC	673	Dubai	15:10
JZR	529	06:00	KAC	172	Frankfurt	21:50	FBA	832	Al Najaf	15:10
PAL	668	06:25	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55	AXB	394	Kozhikode	15:10
KAC	412	06:25	GFA	219	Doha	22:00	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
BAW	157	06:30	NIA	151	Bahrain	22:10	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
JZR	563	06:40	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
JZR	1541	06:40	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15	SVA	501	Jeddah	15:45
FDB	5061	06:55	AIC	987	Chennai/Hyderabad	22:25	JZR	189	Dubai	15:50
KAC	382	07:10	PIA	239	Sialkot	22:35	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
KAC	346	07:15	JZR	802	Taif	22:40	BON	102	Sarajevo	16:05
KAC	206	07:30	KAC	782	Jeddah	22:50	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
KAC	302	07:40	JZR	859	Dubai	07:35	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
SVA	512	07:50	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
FDB	053	07:50	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
KAC	354	08:00	MSR	614	Cairo	23:30	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
KAC	332	08:15	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
KAC	362	08:20	JAD	301	Amman	23:45	FDB	052	Dubai	17:25
KAC	352	08:25					QTR	1073	Doha	17:30
UAE	855	08:25					KAC	781	Jeddah	17:30
KAC	784	08:50					UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
ETD	301	09:00					UAE	801	Taif	17:45
KAC	284	09:00					SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
ABY	125	09:05					GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
QTR	1070	09:20					JZR	184	Dubai	18:30
FDB	055	09:40					JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
IRA	675	09:40					CCE	342	Alexandria	18:35
CCE	341	09:40					JZR	238	Amman	18:45
UAE	873	10:00					QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
GFA	213	10:40					JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
MEA	404	10:40					MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
JZR	561	11:25					KAC	285	Dhaka	19:40
RBG	553	11:30					GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
FDB	165	11:50					FDB	064	Sharjah	19:50
JZR	075	12:25					ABY	124	Colombo	19:55
MSC	401	12:30					KAC	361	Dubai	19:55
JZR	241	12:30					FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
SAW	701	12:35					UAE	876	Mumbai	20:35
UAE	871	12:45					JAI	571	Trivandrum	20:45
FEQ	961	12:55					KAC	331	Doha	20:50
MSR	610	13:00					DLH	634	Doha	20:50
KAC	620	13:10					KAC	353	Chennai	20:55
THY	766	13:10					KAC	543	Kochi	21:00
CLX	784	13:30					KAC	351	Beirut	21:05
KAC	514	13:45					MEA	403	Muscat	21:15
BON	101	13:55					OMA	648	Alexandria	21:15
FBA	831	14:00					JZR	554	Dubai	21:30
QTR	1078	14:05					MSR	607	Doha	21:45
KAC	672	14:10					QTR	1089	Doha	21:50
AXB	393	14:15					DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
MSR	575	14:15					FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
KAC	178	14:15					ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
GFA	221	14:20					ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
FDB	057	14:20					UAE	860	Dammam/Amsterdam	22:25
SVA	500	14:30					KLM	415	AYT	22:25
KAC	788	15:00					THY	1403	Delhi	22:25
OMA	645	15:10					KAC	381	Mumbai	22:30
ETD	303	15:10					KAC	301	Ahmedabad	22:55
ABY	127	15:35					KAC	345	Bahrain	23:00
UAE	857	15:45					GFA	220	Islamabad	23:00
NIA	251	15:50					KAC	205	Abu Dhabi	23:05
RJA	640	16:00					ETD	310	Cairo	23:10
FDB	051	16:10					NIA	152	Istanbul	23:15
QTR	1072	16:15					KAC	155	Asyut	23:15
JZR	535	16:20					JZR	528	Doha	23:20
JZR	257	16:25					QTR	1083	Bangkok/Manila	23:25
KAC	680	16:55					KAC	411	Sialkot	23:35
KAC	562	16:55					PIA	240	Lahore	23:40
SVA	510	17:15					KAC	203		

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

NOTICE
 July 4, 2016

Mr. Krishnan Kavirajan son of Mr. Thamarasseril Damodaran Kavirajan, resident of Chithira, Chathanadu, Avalookunnu P.O., Alappuzha, Kerala and Miss Shoma Manoj daughter of Mr. Manoj Sundaresan, resident of Sreebhadra, Pathiyoor P.O., Kayamkulam, Alappuzha, Kerala, both Indian nationals, presently residing in Kuwait, have given notice of intended marriage between them under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1969. If anyone has any objection to the proposed marriage, he/she may file the same with the undersigned according to the procedure laid down under the Act/Rule within thirty days from the date of publication of this notice.

(Krishnan Kumar Pahal)
 First Secretary (Consular) and Marriage Officer
 Embassy of India, Kuwait.
 Ph.00965-22533315

FOR SALE

Nissan Altima 2013 black run only 34000 KM for sale, used by a senior manager Only genuine buyers call 51355170

Fully furnished flat in Farwainiya block 6 street 3, for sale, including 42 inch LG LED TV and cardio bicycle, fridge, washing machine etc for sale, call 51355170
 11-7-2016

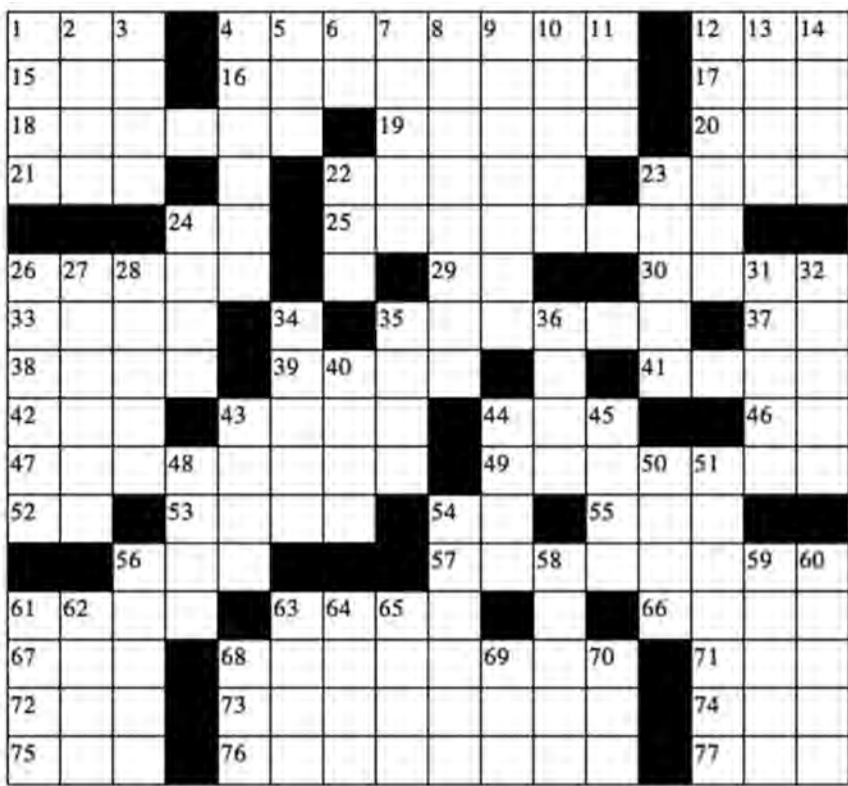
PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:23
Shorook: 04:57
Duhr: 11:53
Asr: 15:28
Maghrib: 18:50
Isha: 20:21

INTERNATIONAL CALLS

Afghanistan	0093	El Salvador	00503
Albania	00355	England (UK)	0044
Algeria	00213	Equatorial Guinea	00240
Andorra	00376	Eritrea	00291
Angola	00244	Estonia	00372
Anguilla	001264	Ethiopia	00251
Antigua	001268	Falkland Islands	00500
Argentina	0054	Faroe Islands	00298
Armenia	00374	Fiji	00679
Australia	0061	Finland	00358
Austria	0043	France	0033
Azerbaijan	00994	French Guiana	00594
Bahamas	001242	French Polynesia	00689
Bahrain	00973	Gabon	00241
Bangladesh	00880	Gambia	00220
Barbados	001246	Georgia	00995
Belarus	00375	Germany	0049
Belgium	0032	Ghana	00233
Belize	00501	Gibraltar	00350
Benin	00229	Greece	0030
Bermuda	001441	Greenland	00299
Bhutan	00975	Grenada	001473
Bolivia	00591	Guadeloupe	00590
Bosnia	00387	Guam	001671
Botswana	00267	Guatemala	00502
Brazil	0055	Guinea	00224
Brunei	00673	Guyana	00592
Bulgaria	00359	Haiti	00509
Burkina	00226	Holland (Netherlands)	0031
Burundi	00257	Honduras	0050

CROSSWORD 1309



ACROSS

1. A reptile genus of Iguanidae.
4. Devoted to a cause or party.
12. A tight-fitting headdress.
15. Someone (especially a woman) who annoys people by constantly finding fault.
16. (medicine) Relating to a technique in which the body is entered by puncture or incision.
17. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
18. A person who has received a degree from a school (high school or college or university).
19. Having bones especially many or prominent bones.
20. The cry made by sheep.
21. Fiddler crabs.
25. Act of working jointly.
26. With rapid movements.
29. A brittle silver-white metalloid element that is related to selenium and sulfur.
30. A island in the Netherlands Antilles that is the top of an extinct volcano.
33. A mountainous landlocked communist state in southeastern Asia.
37. A state in northwestern North America.
38. An antidepressant drug that acts by blocking the reuptake of serotonin so that more serotonin is available to act on receptors in the brain.
39. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
41. A communist state in the Caribbean on the island of Cuba.
42. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
46. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
47. (Judaism) An eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem.
49. A member of the Caddo people who formerly lived in the Dakotas west of the Missouri river.
52. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
53. A feeling of strong eagerness (usually in favor of a person or cause).
55. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
57. A port city in northeastern Greece on an inlet of the Aegean Sea.
61. A small cake leavened with yeast.
66. Having a toe or toes of a specified kind.
67. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
71. A master's degree in business.
72. An affirmative.
73. Cassava with long tuberous edible roots and soft brittle stems.
74. An adult male person (as opposed to a woman).
75. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
76. Marked by quiet and caution and secrecy.
77. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. Relatively small fast-moving sloth.
2. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
3. Largest known toad species.
4. The finger farthest from the thumb.
5. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
6. A motorized wheeled vehicle used for camping or other recreational activities.
7. Excluded from use or mention.
8. Not close together in time.
9. A cephalosporin that can be given parenterally (trade name Zinacef) or orally by tablets (trade name Cefitin).
10. Prevent the occurrence of.
11. French marshal in the Napoleonic Wars (1769-1815).
12. A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
13. An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
14. Small beads made from polished shells and formerly used as money by native Americans.
22. One millionth of a gram.
23. Ratio of the hypotenuse to the opposite side.
24. Interface consisting of a standard port between a computer and its peripherals that is used in some computers.
27. An archaic name for Easter or Passover.
28. The large trunk artery that carries blood from the left ventricle of the heart to branch arteries.
31. An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
32. Jordan's port.
34. Port city on southern Honshu on Osaka Bay.
35. Distinctive and stylish elegance.
36. The sixth month of the civil year.
40. Group of people related by blood or marriage.
43. Sterile offspring of a male donkey and a female horse.
44. Avatar of Vishnu.
45. 10 jiao equal 1 yuan.
48. Type genus of the Nepidae.
50. Having the slant of a bevel.
51. A genus of Stromateidae.
54. Attack someone physically or emotionally.
56. Lower in esteem.
58. The process of leaching.
59. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
60. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
62. Advanced in years.
63. A space reserved for sitting (as in a theater or on a train or airplane).
64. Bulky grayish-brown eagle with a short wedge-shaped white tail.
65. The capital and chief port of Qatar.
68. A syndrome that occurs in many women from 2 to 14 days before the onset of menstruation.
69. Negation of a word or group of words.
70. Concerning those not members of the clergy.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have high ideals and a vision of unity and togetherness that allows you to become long-suffering and put up with a lot. You tend to be self-sacrificing, understanding and always interested in whatever is psychological, mystical, etc. You may feel passionate about some issue and your ideas may help others to understand a truth behind some common frustration . . . So . . . Express yourself. This could be political but more than likely will be the uncovering of some secret tradition. Romance becomes an end in itself as a new cycle begins now. This marks a time when love, creativity and self-expression satisfy a deep yearning to be appreciated and needed. Talking with your loved one about any particular subject will gain you a better viewpoint.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Your friends, partners and relationships mean a lot to you. They are your primary source of strength and you always look to them for support and encouragement. You may be visiting out-of-town family this weekend and enjoying all sorts of fun times together. You are indeed a social being and you enjoy weaving this fact into your lifestyle. You are very responsive yourself and value this in others. You do not play favorites and are quite impersonal when it comes to your responsibilities. You never forsake your ideals when it comes to relationships of any kind. Your imagination is at its best when you are being social or relating to others. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a bigger part in your life now. Misunderstandings can be healed today.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Real estate plays a bigger part in your life goals as well as plans to invest for your future. You are very gifted, having great magnetism and warmth as well as having a keen and powerful mind. A bizarre news report turns your thoughts to writing and you may think you could create an interesting story around the personality that has come to your attention. You might consider taking a class in creative writing. There is a flashy, flirty, stylish splash of color and warmth today. Being appreciated and admired for your gifts and talents are powerful needs. Taking chances can bring big rewards. Home and family matters can play a big part in this: relatives take on greater importance than before. You have decided to decorate or paint a room.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are highly motivated to interact with family and friends this day. You tend to be the one in the group that holds the group together. There is an urge to see unity in everything. Your practical skills are linked to your almost mystical inner vision. You manifest your ideals and dreams in an organized and clearheaded manner. You would be great at giving the public a sense of the ideal via films, advertising and spiritual work. This is also a lucky day. Romance becomes an end in itself as a new cycle begins for you. This marks a time when love, creativity and self-expression satisfy a deep yearning to be appreciated, admired and needed. Your evening is a flashy, flirty type of evening. There is a lot of laughter tonight.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

There is an emphasis on close relationships and a preoccupation with ideas. You are concerned with issues of freedom and independence far beyond the average person. There could be long discussions with your friends about inventions and electronics. You adjust your ideals often and struggle not to become carried away with each new vision. The world of your imagination is a major focus of change just now. You are independent, confident and more than likely a little self-centered. You love attention and somehow manage to gravitate to the center of almost any group or happening. You enjoy a little independence this evening: there is time to clean and sort through clothes, etc. You have a story in mind and it is growing into a novelette.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You may be able to enjoy and value your private time today. Neighbors or relatives, brothers or sisters in particular, can be subjects for concern. If there are difficulties in your relationships with them, now is the time to improve situations. It will take some effort and patience on your part to keep things on an even keel. There may be a tendency to be out of touch or uncommunicative; work at developing your communication skills. You are very out-front and candid, probably not known for your great sense of diplomacy or tact. You are driven to penetrate the superficial and get at the essential. Be aware of the tendency to see yourself as unfairly treated. Your support system becomes more secure now. A fun surprise comes in a small package today.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

The key to understanding your personality and the circumstances in which you find yourself can be found in the environment or support system that surrounds you. You are very much the creature of habit and home, the encircling network of friends and relationships which are crucial to your success or lack thereof. There are opportunities to network this afternoon. You appear perhaps more charming and refined than usual. Now is the time to make yourself known. 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. Romance is possible this evening. This is a time when love, creativity and self-expression are satisfying.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Taking care of business is a major theme where your emotional orientation is concerned. This could mean your personal financial affairs as well as your professional accounts. This may be a great time to work with family relations and improvements. Health and work goals take on a great deal of importance for you and your plans for less stress and more relaxation may be in order. This could be a time of good fortune but you are wise in determining how your finances are channeled. Perhaps a budget is in order so that you will know how and where you are motivated to spend your earnings. You will make career gains with your ability to choose well. Opportunities proliferate and you may find yourself wanting to do almost everything.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

This could be an action-filled day when time seems to slow down as you encounter some of your more sensitive areas. This kind of intensity and vulnerability points to inner change and growth. Communication with authority figures or older members of your family is enhanced. If needed, a surplus of insights and solutions is available. The evening brings opportunities for whatever your heart desires: quiet, romance, adventure, education or whatever else you can think up is yours for the asking. It is time to do something different for a change. This is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having fun. You appreciate your particular situation and enjoy support from those around you.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

There is a burning zeal for humanitarian goals, what is best for the many, the community. You may find yourself in a volunteer service today. With little patience for red tape and superficialities, you insist on getting right to the heart of any question. You have a knack for putting the feelings of a group into words and may serve as a teacher or spokesperson. Communication is one area where you can always get support and backing from friends and co-workers. Historical ideas, articles or books may be of interest to you today. It would be excellent if you could somehow make your living in these areas. An instinctive urge to get serious about taking care of yourself at many levels is emphasized now.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Instant gratification is one of the temptations to which you are subject now: you want things and you want them this instant. This is a practical and materialistic kind of focus and may indicate the making and spending of money. Learning what really counts is an important lesson that could come about as a difficult lesson. This is a good day, one that should just flow along quite well. In particular, you will do well in activities that include children, young people and your home and surroundings. You could feel real support and harmony for circumstances and those around you. Be wise in your choice of relaxation. You could lose yourself in the social world and neglect your ability to present yourself as a separate, unique individual.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You have unusual relationships, perhaps a number of them, and not always of long duration. You are creative when it comes to partnerships; you seem to establish unusual and different relationships in the partnership area. Be aware that you may at times take on the role of mother instead of partner, whether you are male or female. It is natural for you to be very compassionate and attentive to the needs of others. If you are having trouble in the relationship area, you will find improvement soon. New paths to world or personal unity are a major interest to you and you have a very practical sense of how to make your dreams real. You will soon become involved with community service and this becomes very helpful in all of your relationships.

WORD SEARCH

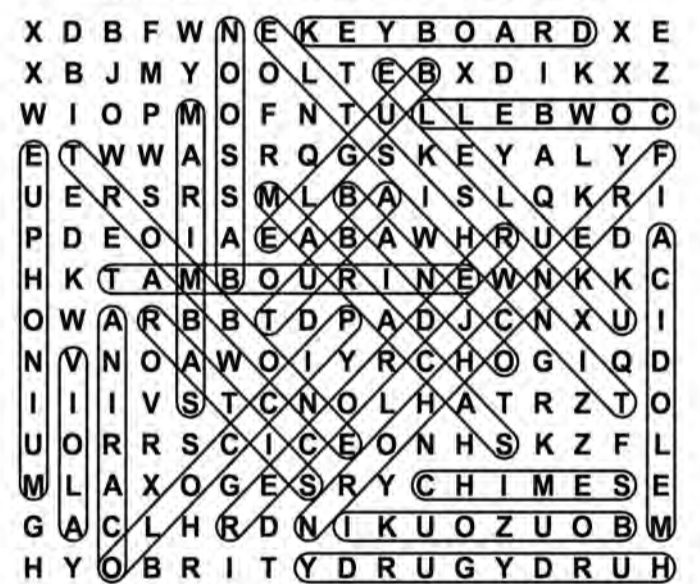
Musical Instruments 2 - Word Search
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- | | | |
|------------|------------|---------------|
| BALALAIKA | DIDGERIDOO | MIZMAR |
| BODHRAN | DRUM | OBOE |
| BONGOS | DULCIMER | PIANO |
| CABASAS | FLUTE | SLIDE WHISTLE |
| CITTERN | GUITAR | TRIANGLE |
| CLARINET | HARMONIUM | VIBRAPHONE |
| CONCERTINA | HARP | XYLOPHONE |
| CONGA | MANDOLA | |

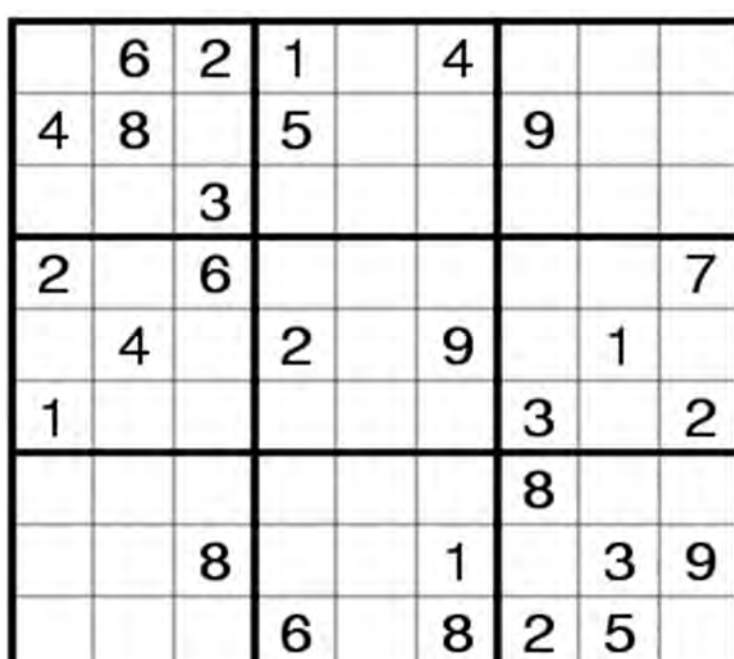
Yesterday Solution

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
Musical Instruments 1 - Solution



- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 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



Yesterday's Solution





Did you know?

- The first human carrying flight technology was the hot air balloon.
- While unmanned balloons have been around in some form for thousands of years, the first untethered flight with people on board was in 1782.
- The large balloon on top is called an 'envelope'. It holds hot air created by a heat source known as a burner.
- The burner creates an open flame by burning a mix of liquid propane and air.
- Hot air balloons are buoyant because the hot air inside the envelope has a lower density than the colder air outside.
- Passengers typically stand in a wicker basket beneath the envelope.
- While most envelopes have a standard balloon shape, others are designed to look like animals, cartoon characters and other fun objects.
- The top of the balloon usually has a vent which allows the pilot to control the speed of ascent/descent (along with the burner).
- Hot air balloons can fly to amazing heights, the world record is over 21,000 meters. It's tough to breathe up there so oxygen is needed from around 5,000 meters.
- The temperature inside a hot air balloon is usually kept below 120 degrees Celsius.
- A typical envelope is made from nylon with a melting point around 230 degrees Celsius.
- Hot air balloon flights and festivals are popular in various destinations around the world. Well known locations include Cappadocia (Turkey), Albuquerque (New Mexico, USA), Luxor (Egypt) and the Serengeti (Tanzania).



Color me!



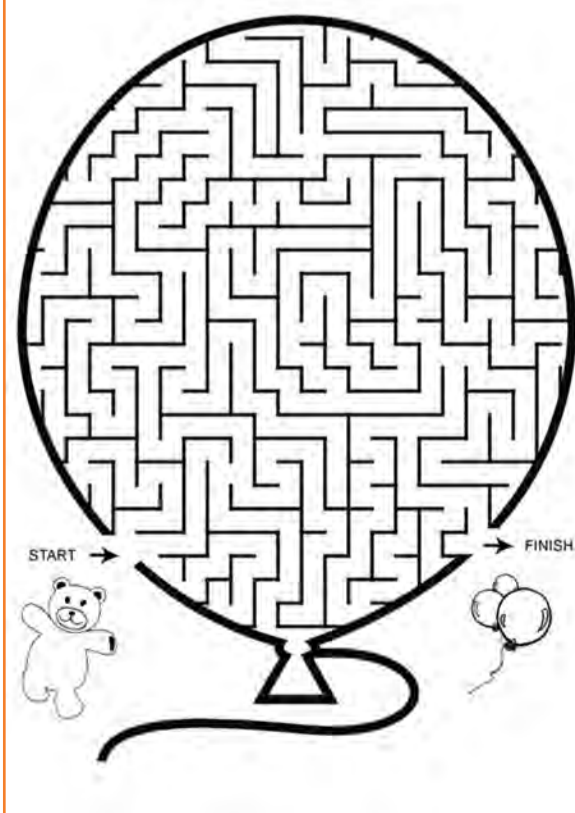
SUDOKU

2	4	6			8		1
3				9			2
	9			4	6		8
4		9	1	2	3		
	6					8	
1	7			6			4
6	7					9	
	1	3	9				7
			3	4			

Solution

9	8	1	7	4	3	5	2	6
7	4	5	2	9	6	3	1	8
3	2	6	5	1	8	7	4	9
4	6	2	9	8	5	7	3	1
1	3	8	6	7	4	2	9	5
5	9	7	3	2	1	6	8	4
8	5	9	4	3	2	1	6	7
2	7	4	1	6	9	8	5	3
6	1	3	8	5	7	4	6	2

Show Benny the bear the way to his balloon



Word Search

Pet Words

INSTRUCTIONS:

FIND AND CIRCLE THE PET WORDS IN THIS PUZZLE. WORDS MAY BE FOUND ACROSS, DOWN AND DIAGONALLY.

PET TIP:

PETS CAN BE WONDERFUL FRIENDS IF YOU RESPECT THEM AND GIVE THEM LOTS OF PROPER CARE. BE GOOD TO YOUR PETS AND HAVE FUN WITH THIS PET PUZZLE!



T	K	U	B	P	K	B	Z	F	K	W	G	P	E	W
U	S	V	I	Z	U	I	E	R	O	I	A	B	J	K
L	G	S	R	M	E	P	P	D	A	T	T	T	L	I
I	K	Y	D	Z	K	I	P	V	D	B	C	T	E	T
Z	G	E	R	B	I	L	F	Y	F	I	B	A	E	R
A	S	P	C	A	V	U	T	K	F	O	N	I	T	N
R	M	G	R	A	L	E	A	S	H	Z	O	G	T	Z
D	O	B	W	J	R	O	K	K	V	K	P	D	H	E
W	U	G	U	W	G	E	A	T	Q	D	Z	I	A	X
F	S	Z	H	N	D	O	G	F	U	I	G	T	M	E
E	E	F	R	K	N	C	L	Q	H	V	F	R	S	R
R	N	L	I	A	P	Y	P	A	R	R	O	T	T	C
R	F	E	V	S	T	R	A	I	N	I	N	G	E	I
E	Q	P	R	T	H	T	R	E	A	T	S	A	R	S
T	K	N	T	T	C	O	L	L	A	R	H	C	S	E

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. DOG | 7. HAMSTER | 13. COLLAR | 19. BIRD |
| 2. PUPPY | 8. GERBIL | 14. TREATS | 20. FISH |
| 3. CAT | 9. FERRET | 15. BEDDING | 21. EXERCISE |
| 4. KITTEN | 10. RAT | 16. WATER | 22. CARE |
| 5. BUNNY | 11. MOUSE | 17. FOOD | 23. TRAINING |
| 6. RABBIT | 12. LEASH | 18. PARROT | 24. LIZARD |

RECIPES FOR KIDS



Baked Potatoes With Broccoli and Sour Cream

Ingredients:

- * 4 medium russet potatoes
- * 116-ounce package frozen broccoli
- * 2 tablespoons butter
- * Kosher salt and black pepper
- * 1/4 cup sour cream

Directions:

- Prick the potatoes several times with a fork. Microwave on high until tender and a fork easily slides into the center, 12 to 15 minutes. Transfer the potatoes to a bowl and cover with a plate or foil to keep warm.
- In a medium microwave-proof bowl, combine the broccoli, butter, 1/2 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Microwave on high for 3 minutes, stir once, then microwave until hot, 3 to 4 minutes more.
- Split the potatoes (be careful of the steam). Top with the broccoli mixture and sour cream and sprinkle with 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Place in a 2 quart baking dish.
- Melt butter in a small saucepan, and remove from heat. Stir in crumbled crackers, and remove from heat. Stir in crumbled crackers. Top casserole with the buttery crackers.
- Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for about 30 minutes, until heated through and browned on top.

Simple sew monster

What you need

- Felt - colored (for body) and white (for teeth)
- Scissors
- Googly eyes
- Needle and thread
- Craft glue (or hot glue gun and glue)
- Stuffing
- Paper and pen

Activity

- Draw the shape you want your monster to be. Keep it simple and a bit smaller than your pieces of felt.

- Use the monster shape as a pattern, cutting out two pieces of felt to the shape you have drawn.
- Cut some teeth out too.
- Glue on eyes. Sew on a mouth.
- Then with needle and thread sew a simple stitch about 1/2cm in from the edge all along the outline, leaving a 5cm space to fill with stuffing. You can use a sewing machine for this step, if you prefer.
- Once stuffed, sew close the 5cm opening.
- Hug your monster!

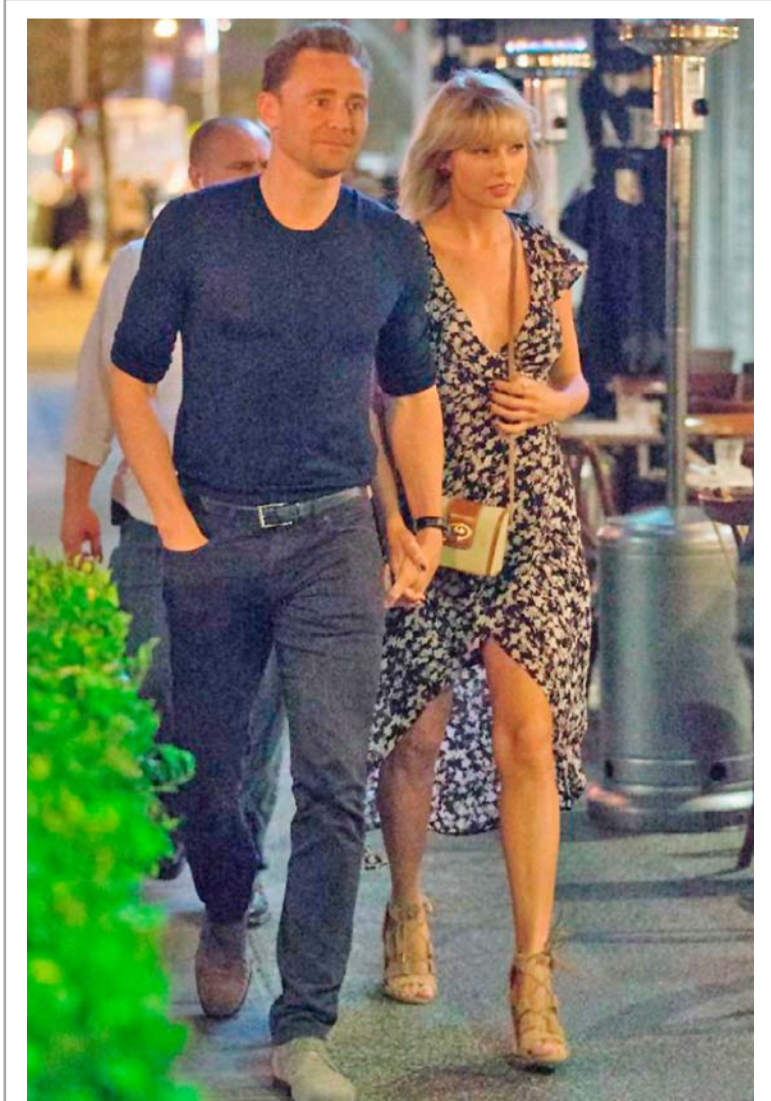




Kim Kardashian West upsets Kanye West

Kim Kardashian West was "heartbroken" when she upset Kanye West by missing his video shoot. The 35-year-old beauty and her sister Kourtney Kardashian had flown out to Iceland to be with her rapper husband - with whom she has children North, three, and Saint, seven months - but failed to be there when he was filming his latest music video for 'Highlights' as her sightseeing trip for her sibling's birthday overran. Instead, Kim arrived at the remote location after shooting had wrapped. Speaking on 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians', Kim said: "When we get to the glacier, Kanye is already done shooting and I'm like heartbroken. He's being nice and kissed me and it's all good, but like I just know he's more probably disap-

pointed in me. "I feel so bad, and so guilty ... the one thing I was out here to do and I missed it. "I usually have my s**t together, but I am disappointed in myself. I don't know what the right thing to do is." To make up for her poor timekeeping, Kim left the group during a trip to see the Northern Lights in order to spend time with her husband in the studio. Elsewhere on the show, Kim spoke of her concerns about the rapper's desire to have another child, admitting she is reluctant because she would "never be the same down there". She said: "Kanye has said it every single day for, like, the last week. And I was like, 'I don't think I can carry another one. I just feel like I'll never be the same down there.' Kanye says it, like, feels the same."



Hiddleston brushes off Swift questions

Tom Hiddleston wouldn't say if Taylor Swift was "the one" when asked about his feelings for her by an Australian TV reporter. The 'Avengers' star was jogging along Broadbeach on Australia's Gold Coast when Channel Nine journalist Hayley Webb approached him to ask him some impromptu questions about his pop star girlfriend. Tom, 35, seemed embarrassed when the news hound asked "is Taylor Swift the one?" and laughed nervously before replying: "I'd rather just talk about my work if that's alright." The British heartthrob was then asked by the reporter how Taylor was enjoying her time in Australia, to which he responded: "I'm not going to answer that if that's alright." Tom is Down Under to start shooting 'Thor: Ragnarok' - in which he reprises his role as Loki - and has been joined in Queensland by Taylor, 26. The couple have wasted no time in getting out and seeing what the Australian state has to offer and

were recently seen enjoying a romantic meal at Italian restaurant Gemelli on the Gold Coast. A source said: "They had dinner at Gemelli Italian restaurant. Taylor told the staff that Italian is her favorite food and she was very excited to try the food." Taylor and Tom walked in hand-in-hand and left the same way. They spent several hours at dinner before returning to their hotel in a chauffeured car. Although Tom wouldn't be drawn on saying whether or not Taylor was "the one" for him, Taylor has been telling her friends she thinks she is "in love" with the actor. Another source spilled: "She is having a blast travelling with him. He is very romantic and attentive towards her. He is extremely charming. He also makes sure she feels safe wherever they go together." "She is on cloud nine and really enjoying this quality time they are spending. She texted her close friends and said, 'I think I am in love and I never felt this way before!'"

Kylie show off her new diamond ring on Snapchat

Kylie Jenner has shown off what appears to be a huge engagement ring on Snapchat. The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star recently reunited with Tyga and their relationship could be going to the next level as she posted a clip fea-



ture her left hand resting on her leg, with a huge diamond sparkler visible on her ring finger. She captioned the post: "bae spoils". On Friday, Kylie, 18, posted a picture on Instagram in which a ring could be spotted on her left

hand, but the Snapchat posting shows it in much more clear detail. Last week, she sparked speculation she and Tyga had got married in secret as she posted, then quickly deleted, an image of them together that was captioned "Mr & Mrs". However, an insider insisted the pair are not planning to tie the knot just yet. A source said recently: "Kylie has brought up marriage with Tyga to her friends lately, both jokingly and seriously. "It wouldn't happen now but she's been thinking about it more and wants a future with him." It was recently claimed the couple "can't resist" one another and are hoping their rocky history can only make them stronger. An insider shared: "Kylie and Tyga are giving things another shot. They are taking things a lot slower this time around, though, and are using their former arguments and fights as a learning curve and as a reference point for a healthier future. "She can't resist him and he can't resist her. They are still so in love, so getting back together was relatively inevitable. They both knew that but needed their space to decompress and regroup and grow." During their relationship hiatus, the 26-year-old rapper - who has a three-year-old son, King Cairo, with ex-girlfriend Blac Chyna - admitted he still loved Kylie. Tyga was asked if the difference in age played a factor in their break-up, and he said: "Um, uh, I think, you know, we're both just focusing on our lives, our individual lives right now, you know? Sometimes things don't work out. But, you know, I love her."

Caitlyn Jenner is 'so excited' her son is a father

The 'I Am Cait' star - who was previously known as Bruce Jenner - has shared a picture of herself with oldest child Burt Jenner and his partner Valerie Pitalo's new baby boy Bodhi Burton, and couldn't be happier with the latest addition to their family. She captioned the Instagram picture: "So excited for Burt and Valerie. They named their adorable first child Bodhi. The first Jenner boy!! the name moves on :) (sic)" Burt couldn't be happier to be a father but has vowed not to share too many pictures of the tot online. Alongside a picture of them both taking a nap, he wrote: "Past few days have been extremely gratifying :) #IpromiseNoMoreBabyPics (sic)" Burt revealed last December he and Valerie were expecting their first child, a boy, and was relieved everything was "healthy" and progressing well. Sharing an ultrasound photo, he posted: "I promised to wait until we had the 'all healthy' update, and we got it yesterday. "My Lil boy, just chillin... So happy I can't see straight, he can't get here fast enough... Who wants to fab me a stroller with @kingshocks and @gladiatortires like you see at the 1000 every year? #HesSponsoredAndHeDontEvenKnowit. (sic)" Burt has recently spoken of how since his father transitioned from Bruce to Caitlyn Jenner, they had bonded "more now than ever" and he thinks the 'I Am Cait' star is a "better person" since undergoing a gender reassignment. He said: "There's been some trade-offs, I'll admit that. But she is a better person. Honesty is always the building block for any relationship, and at least we have that now." Caitlyn will become a grandparent again later this year as her daughter Cassandra - who she also had with Chrystie - is expecting her third



child, a boy, with husband Mark. The 66-year-old reality TV star also has sons Brody, 32 and Brandon, 35, with second wife Linda Thompson, who she was married to from 1981 to 1986, and daughters Kendall and Kylie who are aged 20 and 18 years old respectively, from her third marriage to Kris Jenner, which ended in 2014.

The 32-year-old model has revealed she will take the role as creative director for her label ALEXACHUNG, and will unveil her debut collection for the eponymous clothing line, which will feature ready-to-wear designs from denim pieces to daywear, eveningwear, shoes and jewellery, without a "crazy high" price range, in May 2017. Speaking to Business of Fashion website about her upcoming venture, the style muse - who recently teamed up with the longstanding retail store Marks and Spencer to launch her Archive by Alexa Chung capsule - said: "I feel as though I'm kind of prepared to do it now. If it had been any time sooner than this, I either wouldn't be responsible enough or have been able to take on this kind of feat. "I just wanted the freedom to sort of make my own world, without someone else's brand's brief to stick to ... but there are certain boundaries that come with doing something on behalf of someone else, [you] kind of have to keep within their design remit. "How we present is going to be something we need to really think about. I know how the fashion indus-

try stands today and how it's changing very rapidly. I want to make sure that we are offering something that is exciting and unique and new, but also the point of this brand is that it connects to everyone. "I'm not making something that has got a crazy high price point. I want to make sure it's something that is speaking to just everyone on the street." The brunette beauty - who has graced campaigns for DKNY Jeans, Superga and Lacoste - has revealed she felt she had to start the fashion house whilst she was young. She explained: "I feel like I need to get it up and running whilst I'm still young enough to have the energy and still be in touch with pop culture enough to make something that is actually relevant to the audience today." And Alexa - who was crowned contributing Editor at British Vogue in 2009 - predicts her brand will be successful for many years to come. She said: "I see this being the culmination of a lot of hard work for a decade and this being the resting place for all of those ideas and to continue kind of developing and growing that, just in this one home base space."

Chung is set to launch her own clothing line



Paris pays tribute to late father Michael with hand tattoo



Paris Jackson has had another tattoo tribute to her late father Michael Jackson. The 18-year-old aspiring actress - who already has an ink replica of her dad's 'Dangerous' album cover which features Michael's eyes, a crown, elephants, monkeys and a peacock, as well as an etching on her left wrist, which reads 'Queen of My Heart' in the late King of Pop's handwriting - got the word 'Bad', in the same red font used by the 'Thriller' hitmaker on his album of the same name etched on her right hand, along with a number of other musical tributes. Her hand also features the late Prince's iconic 'Love' symbol - the unpronounceable sign which he changed his name to in the 1990s - a lightning bolt to represent the late David Bowie, and Van Halen's logo. Paris already has more than 20 tattoos and seems to be planning more. After tattoo artist Justin Lewis shared a picture of himself with her

and her 19-year-old brother - who had got a tattoo in support of his martial arts institute, the Gracie Academy Beverly Hills - on Instagram, Paris wrote: "you're the greatest! we love you! and we'll keep coming back till we're both fully covered ink (sic)" Meanwhile, Prince spoke of how "honored" he feels to be a student of the Gracie Academy. Showing off a close-up picture of his new tattoo, he said: "@dermagraphics did a great job of this logo from @gracieacademybh it's truly an honor and a privilege to call myself their student they've taught me so much about not only the sport but also life (sic)" Paris - who was just 11 years old when Michael died from acute Propofol intoxication in June 2009 - had long spoken of her desire to have a tattoo tribute to her father, who was born on August 29, 1958. Back in 2011, she tweeted: "I kinda want to get August XXIX tattooed on my back (sic)."

DeGeneres' 'best discovery' is Portia de Rossi

The 'Finding Dory' star - who married the 43-year-old actress in 2008 after four years together - couldn't be happier to have "true love" in her life. She said: "My best discovery? [Portia]. I would say discovering true love." Ellen reprises her 'Finding Nemo' voice role as forgetful fish Dory in Pixar's latest movie and thinks there is a lot people can learn from her lovable character. She told Independent.ie: "I think the main thing about Dory is she doesn't have any judgment. If somebody else is in a bad mood, it doesn't affect her. She doesn't take it personally. She doesn't make assumptions, she's an optimistic character and I think we can all take something away from that." The 58-year-old talk show host is now hopeful there will be a third movie in the series. She said: "It's hilarious, it's touching. It really is good, you'll love it. Of course I'd like there to be a third one and I think when you see this, everyone will know what

the third one should be." And for Portia, the best thing about 'Finding Dory' is her wife. She gushed: "She's amazing in it. She's wonderful in it, by the way. "I'm not just saying that because I'm her wife. She's incredible. The performance is amazing." Ellen recently admitted she and Portia had discussed having children but decided against it. She said: "We talked about it for a minute, about four years into the relationship, but we just decided we like our conversations not being interrupted and our furniture without sticky grape juice on it." And Ellen doesn't think it is always fair to raise children in the spotlight. She added: "Also, I think in this profession it can be really tough for children. It's hard for them to have to share their parents with the world."





Lohan threw her fiancé's phone into the sea after a fight

Lindsay Lohan threw her fiancé's phone into the sea, sparking a huge row. The 'Mean Girls' actress was reportedly infuriated after reading a text message on Egor Tarabosov's mobile device and stunned their friends and family - including the businessman's mother Elena - at Chinawhite on Rakkon Beach in Mykonos with her explosive reaction. And Egor quickly retaliated, throwing a drink over the 30-year-old star. The pair then argued before security stepped in to calm the situation. An onlooker told The Sun newspaper: "Everything was fine between them before something on Egor's phone upset Lindsay. They then started shouting and screaming at each other. Lindsay threw his phone into the sea, she looked absolutely furious. The security at the beach club had to pull them apart and Lindsay left in her car while Egor went back to the party." Egor's mother was left unimpressed by the incident, as she

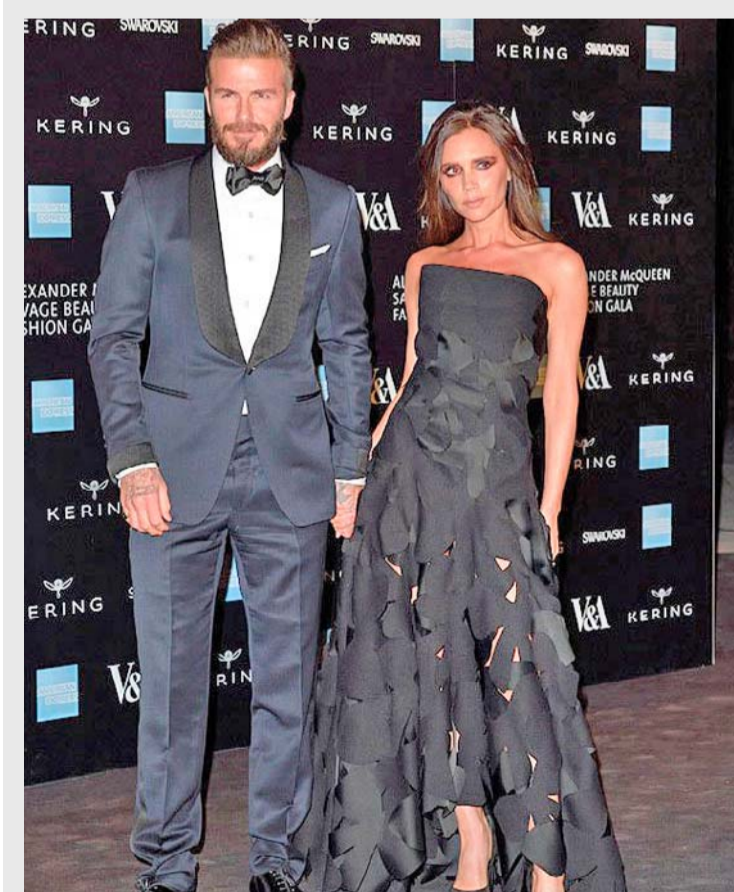


was overheard urging her son to end their volatile romance. While representatives for the actress claimed the row was "all in jest", Lindsay appeared to reference the situation on her Instagram account. She wrote: "Falling in love is exhausting Especially when you're the older woman and have already seen it all #love is the most important thing at the end of the day #serenity (sic)" But hours later, the 'Machete' star - who got engaged to Egor earlier this year after eight months of dating - shared a picture of herself and Egor with a string of love heart emojis, proving their romance is back on track. Lindsay recently revealed she wants to have children but is determined to get her movie career back on track first. She revealed her upcoming plans as: "Making more films, writing my book, starting my charity, working with children a lot. Maybe having some of my own soon - after I get some movies done, first."

Cyrus inks tattoo of Hemsworth's favorite food

Miley Cyrus has got Liam Hemsworth's favorite food tattooed on her arm. The 23-year-old singer has just rekindled her romance with 'The Dressmaker' actor and it seems she's keen to prove her love for the hunk by getting an etching of Vegemite - a condiment native to Australia - pressed on to her left tricep. Famed tattoo artist Dr Woo - known for inking the likes of Ellie Goulding, Zoe Kravitz and Cara Delevingne - uploaded a photograph of Miley's new tattoo on his Instagram account over the weekend after completing the sweet art work. He accompanied the black-and-white shot, which shows the beauty gazing into the lens, with the caption: "@miley Cyrus don't play when it comes to #vegemite #halfneedle (sic)." Miley's new addition is just

one in a long list of tattoos she has as she previously got a moon, a planet and an avocado on her arm as well as 'Rolling stone' inked on her feet. Meanwhile, Liam - who was born Melbourne, Victoria - has made no secret of the fact he loves nothing more than spreading Vegemite - a thick brown paste - on his toast. He said previously: "After-school Milo [a chocolate and malt beverage] and Vegemite on toast. I lived on it." The couple are rumored to be tying the knot later this year on an Australian beach after rekindling their romance late last year - two years after they went their separate ways. The 'Wrecking Ball' hitmaker began dating the 26-year-old hunk in 2009 after meeting on the set of 'Last Song', they got engaged in 2012 before splitting a year later.



David and Victoria Beckham celebrate daughter Harper's fifth birthday

David Beckham shared a sweet picture of his daughter Harper on her fifth birthday. The 41-year-old retired soccer star posted an adorable black and white photo of Harper - who turned five on Sunday - kissing him on the cheek and wished his "pretty lady" a happy birthday while saying how "lucky" he and his wife Victoria, 42, are to have their daughter in their life. Alongside the picture, he wrote: "Happy birthday to my Pretty Lady. In 5 years baby Harper has brought so much love into our family Such a special girl in so many different ways we are so lucky to spend each day with such a beautiful soul. We adore you baby girl happy birthday love Daddy. (sic)" Meanwhile, Victoria - who also has Brooklyn, 17,

Romeo, 13, and Cruz, 11 with David - also shared a picture of Harper kissing her and captioned the picture: "Happy Birthday baby girl We all love you so much X @davidbeckham @brooklynbeckham kisses from mummy X (sic)" The family are currently on holiday in Reykjavik, Iceland and are staying as guests of Icelandic business entrepreneur Bj?rg?lfur Thor Bj?rg?lfsson. David previously admitted he has "no power" when it comes to Harper as he's a push-over and is a lot "stricter" with his boys. He said: "I have no power with that little girl - no power whatsoever. I love all my children, of course, equally but I'm definitely stricter with the boys than I am Harper, which gets me in trouble with my wife of course."

Chaka Khan and sister enter rehab over prescription drug

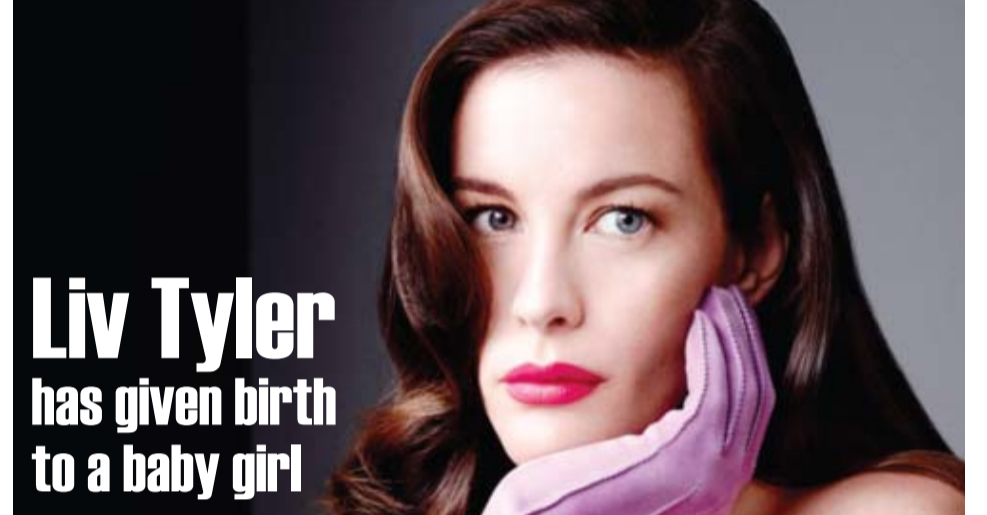
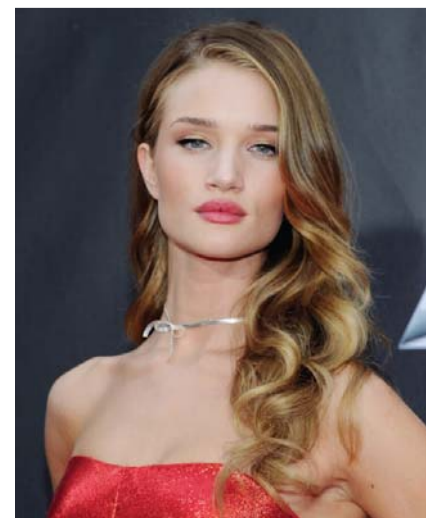


Chaka Khan has checked herself into rehab for a prescription drug addiction. The 'Ain't Nobody' hitmaker has decided to get professional help to deal with her fentanyl addiction and cites Prince's death as her motivation. In a statement, she said: "Unfortunately, I will miss concert appearances over the summer. However, it's vital that I put my health and well-being first. I know that I am disappointing some of my fans, but I also know they would want me to recover and be well and healthy. "We [her and her sister Yvonne Stevens, who has also entered rehab] agreed we would take this journey together and support each other through the recovery. The tragic death of Prince has had us both rethinking and reevaluating our lives and priorities. We knew it was time to take action to save our lives. My sister and I would like to thank everyone for their support, love and prayers." Meanwhile, it was previously revealed Prince died in April after a self-administered fentanyl overdose. The death was ruled as an accident caused by fentanyl toxicity, according to a report released by the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office, who carried out an autopsy on the star the day after he died. A note on the report says that "the decedent self-administered fentanyl", which led to his untimely death. He was found unresponsive in an elevator at his Paisley Park home in Chanhassen, Minnesota. Fentanyl is an opioid with a high risk for addiction and dependence and is used to treat severe pain.

Rosie Huntington-Whiteley only wears four colors in Los Angeles

The 29-year-old model - who is in a relationship with Jason Statham - is a frequent traveller and finds she always overpacks, so recently "challenged" herself to pare down the contents of her suitcase, and has managed to achieve her plan by being regimented about what she wears. She explained: "Recently, I've challenged myself - because I come back and forth from LA so frequently - to pack less. The last few times I've thought, 'Ok, this is crazy, I pack so much, I don't wear any of it, I need to get more organized.' So I said to myself, 'I'm only going to pack four colours: navy blue, white, grey and black.' The same with shoes, the same with accessories, the same with all my clothes." And Rosie couldn't be happier with her decision as, although it may mean leaving behind some favorite pieces, she is confident everything she chooses goes well with the rest of her travelling wardrobe. She added to Vogue.co.uk: "It was amazing because basically it meant that everything worked together. The white shirt worked with the black jeans; and then the black jeans worked with the grey sweater; and the grey sweater worked with the white pants, so everything was interchangeable and versatile - like taking a uniform as opposed to just lots of different things." Rosie recently revealed she has regular fashion "clear outs" of her belongings and is always ruthless with herself. She said: "I clear out all the time, and get rid of

stuff by asking myself, 'Have I worn it? When was the last time I wore it?' " However, the British beauty does admit to having certain "really special pieces" or garments she has spent a lot of money on that she won't be getting rid of even if she doesn't wear them. She said: "I mean, there are obviously really special pieces that designers have given me, or things that I've spent a lot of money on, and although I probably know I won't wear it again, I would keep them."



Liv Tyler has given birth to a baby girl

The 'Leftovers' star has shared the first picture of her third child, Lula Rose, who she welcomed into the world with her partner Dave Gardner. Captioning a photo of the little girl, she wrote on Instagram: "Hello!!!! our beautiful baby girl is here !!!! Lula Rose Gardner, we are soooooo happy, heart exploding with love !!!! @davidgardner (sic)" Whilst David captioned the same picture: "Our gorgeous baby girl has arrived "Lula Rose Gardner" unbelievably beautiful, healthy and thank goodness she looks like her Momma !!!! Truly blessed. Daddies girl...Now the real work starts training her big brothers to all become Ninja's, Martial Arts Experts & 24-7 Body Guards !!! @misslivalittle (sic)" Meanwhile, the 39-year-old actress - who also has Milo, 11, from her previous marriage to Royston

Langdon and 16-month-old Sailor with Dave - is no doubt thrilled to have given birth to little Lula as she previously revealed she feels like she's been pregnant "forever". She said: "I have been pregnant for two years straight. It feels like forever." And the couple are planning to spend more time in the UK next year as they are currently going "back and forth" a lot and think it would benefit the kids - including Dave's eight-year son Gray - if they are all together in one place. She shared: "We are back and forth. I am still mostly in New York but spending a lot of time here. David's son is here and also his job. It's hard. It's beautiful. It is what it is. It's what we signed up for. It's an evolving thing. "Next year we are going to be here for sure, for school, so the children can all be under one roof for at least the school year."

Calvin Harris was "hurt" by Taylor Swift's relationship with Tom Hiddleston. The Scottish DJ - who ended their 15-month romance last month - is "not happy" his ex-girlfriend has embarked on a new love affair so soon after the pair split and is now concerned parts of their own relationship was "orchestrated" by the 'Shake It Off' hitmaker's team after witnessing Taylor and Tom's frequent public displays of affection. A source told the New York Post newspaper's Page Six column: "He's not happy about their relationship. He was hurt. Looking back, some friends do feel like Taylor's team manipulated and orchestrated part of [her] relationship [with Calvin] after seeing how public she is with her new guy. It makes sense." And the insider claims it is "obvious" the 26-year-old singer's relationship with the 35-year-old actor is not a genuine romance, and has been consciously orchestrated by the blonde beauty. Speaking about the authenticity of the 'Bad Blood' hitmaker's love life, the source explained: "I wouldn't put it past her. That's what they do. It's obvious [it's a stunt]." Although Calvin has previously claimed the break-up was "amicable", he has since deleted all pictures of Taylor from his social media accounts after her romance with Tom was revealed. Meanwhile, the 'This Is What You Came For' musician's new

Harris 'hurt' by Swift's quick rebound



track 'Ole', seemingly refers to Taylor cheating on him. Lyrics include: "I see online that you begun to be a good girl and take trips with your boyfriend. Being attentive, continue to pretend ... "You've hidden my name in your phone so you can call me to tell me you've been going through hell. Left him alone and you booked in a hotel." The song also seems to reference Tom's 'Avengers' character Loki with the words: "Low key you won't tell none of your friends about me."

Hudson and Bellamy reunite to celebrate their son's birthday

Kate Hudson and Matt Bellamy reunited on Saturday to celebrate their son's birthday. The 37-year-old actress was joined by her former fiancé and her eldest son Ryder, 12, - who she had with ex-husband Chris Robinson - as they celebrated their son Bingham's fifth birthday with a trip to see 'Harry Potter and The Cursed Child' in London. The 38-year-old Muse frontman shared a picture of the four of them posing in front of a poster for the play and tagged the blonde beauty in the post. Alongside the photo, he wrote: "Happy Bday Bing!!! #harrypotterandthecursedchild @katehudson xxx (sic)" And the 'Bride Wars' star shared Matt's picture and added: "Bday time #Repost @mattbellamy (sic)" Kate and Matt first met in 2010 and became engaged a year later before having their son in the July of 2011. Despite splitting up in 2014, the pair remained close friends and Kate insists that the "painful" reason behind their relationship coming to an end was that they both had "different visions" of how they wanted



to live their lives. In an interview not long after they ended their four-year relationship, Kate admitted: "Relationships ending are painful, and you can choose to carry that or you can choose to reframe it. If Matt and I had a great relationship, we would still be together, but we chose to move on because we had different visions of how we wanted to live our lives." — Bang Showbiz

MUSIC & MOVIES



Lebanese singer Fares Karam performs in Soho Square area during a concert in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on July 9, 2016. — AFP

Stevie Wonder tells fans to 'choose love' at BST concert

Stevie Wonder urged his fans to "choose love" as he spoke out in support of the Black Lives Matter campaign at his Barclaycard presents British Summer Time Hyde Park concert in London on Sunday night. The 66-year-old music legend opened his show by speaking out about the need for the world for come together in peace in the wake of the police shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile and the subsequent murders of five America police officers at a protest in Dallas last Thursday. Stevie told the 65,000 capacity crowd that "black lives matter because we are the original people" and as he prepared to play his classic 1976 LP 'Songs in the Key of Life' in its entirety he admitted it "hurt his heart" that society had still not solved many of the issues he tackles on the record such as social justice for the poor and the call for love and respect between all people.



In this file photo, Stevie Wonder performs 'Take Me With U' during a tribute to Prince at the BET Awards at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. — AP

Love over hate

He said: "Before I start the concert I'd like to say to all of you a few simple things. In this troubled time I want to say to all of you that I love you all. And I love you because I was blessed to be blind, it was a gift so that I could show those of you who have everything you have the blessing you have to use them all. That every day is to please God and to use the gift of song that he has given me to encourage you to move forward. "In one sense I'm very happy that (tracks on) 'Songs in the Key of Life' are still significant almost 40 years later. In another sense I'm not happy about that. The reason is that the songs and the words that we talk about, those conditions still exist in the world and that hurts my heart."

Then urging his fans to spread love throughout the world, he added: "What I'm hopeful about is that we can make a difference. And if you too feel that we can make a difference, I encourage you to choose love over hate. It's just that simple. Choose love over hate, right over wrong, kind over meanness. Hope over no hope at all. Which brings me to another point, yes, all life does matter, but the reason that I say black lives matter is because we are the original people of this world."

Heart-wrenching version

So in essence, everyone here has some black in you! You've all got some soul in you so stop denying your culture. So love yourselves and all your family. That's what I say." Stevie then sat at his keyboard to play a poignant version of 'Love's in Need of Love Today', the first track from the LP which kicked off a mammoth four-hour set. Highlights from 'Songs in the Key of Life' included 'Sir Duke' - which prompted fans to sing along to the famous horn section of the track - 'Knocks Me Off My Feet', 'Pastime Paradise', 'Isn't She Lovely' and 'As'.

As well as playing the whole album in full, Stevie also added in four extra tracks from the album's EP and special moments included him being reduced to tears as he sang a heart-wrenching version of 'Joy Inside My Tears' and a Latin-funk playback of 'Another Star' - the closing track on the LP - which prompted some fans to conga around Hyde Park. Then, calling himself "DJ Tick Tick Boom", Stevie played recordings of 'Kiss' and 'When Doves Cry' in tribute to his late friend Prince. He closed his phenomenal show with a greatest hits medley of 'Part Time Lover', 'Signed, Sealed, Delivered' and 'Superstition'. As he left the stage to rapturous applause, Stevie spoke to his adoring fans one more time, saying: "I love you. Maybe next year, we'll do it again. Are you with me on that?" — Bang Showbiz

Aerosmith guitarist Perry stable in hospital after collapsing on stage

Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry collapsed on stage while performing in New York on Sunday and was hospitalized, according to reports. Perry, 65, was playing in Coney Island in Brooklyn with his band the Hollywood Vampires, along with rocker Alice Cooper, when he staggered off-stage and collapsed, media reports said. Cooper said on Twitter hours later that Perry "is stable right now, with family & is under the best care." A Facebook account quoted Cooper as saying from stage "If you notice one of our brothers is not onstage with us, he was very sick before the show," Billboard magazine reported. Perry himself posted on Twitter just hours before being taken ill: "Warming up with Tommy, #HollywoodVampires @ Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk," along with a link to photo of the pair playing. — Reuters



In this file photo, lead guitarist Joe Perry, of American rock band Aerosmith, performs in Singapore during the inaugural Social Star Awards concert. — AP

M.I.A. hints she will leak new album

The rapper M.I.A. said yesterday she was ready to leak her new album, which will delve into refugee rights, saying other artists were taking her ideas. The British-Sri Lankan hip-hop innovator announced the album almost exactly a year ago and followed up with videos but has suggested that her record label is throwing roadblocks. "So on the verge of leaking this LP-especially when I am told to 'fight your own battle,' not your mule, refugees got their platform etc," she wrote on Twitter.

"I hate it when big American artists take from me and my work and refugee sentiments from my work before it's released - survivor !!!" she tweeted without specifying names. M.I.A., releasing her track "Swords" in July 2015, said that the upcoming album - her first since 2013 — would have a concept "broader than a border." "Swords" is full of Hindu imagery including scenes from a temple and also features a fast-paced dancer in a tutu from Ivory Coast, whom M.I.A. said she discovered on YouTube and tracked down.

Another track from the upcoming album, "Borders," directly tackles Europe's refugee crisis with imagery of migrants climbing fences and packed into boats.

The Paris Saint Germain soccer team filed a lawsuit against her as she appeared in the video wearing a T-shirt of the club with the slogan "Fly Emirates," a reference to sponsor airline Emirates, changed to "Fly Pirates." The drama surrounding the upcoming album is not new for M.I.A. The release of her 2005 debut album, "Arular," was repeatedly delayed due to apparent legal issues on rights to the samples. The album won widespread critical acclaim as M.I.A. was credited with bringing a punk edge, reggaeton beat and activism from the developing world into dance music. The London-born daughter of Tamil Tiger rebels, the artist whose real name is Mathangi Arulpragasam is also a fashion designer and photographer. — AFP



Rapper M.I.A.



US performer Madonna visits the paediatric surgery and Malawi's first ever intensive care unit at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in the southern city of Blantyre. — AP photos

Madonna visits Malawi hospital her charity is funding

Pop star Madonna paid a visit to a hospital project funded by her charity in Blantyre, Malawi at the weekend, inspecting progress on the construction of a paediatric surgery and intensive care unit. Madonna, whose Raising Malawi charity says the children's unit in Queen Elizabeth Central hospital will open in early 2017, arrived with her two children adopted from Malawi, David and Mercy.

"We certainly have the support of the government, morally, but in terms of funding and fundraising I am not going to do it by myself," Madonna said of the project on Sunday. "I am gonna have lots of fundraising events and we have other donors and we're gonna continue to do fundraising." — Reuters



Madonna's adopted child David James speaks during a visit to the paediatric surgery under construction with his mother.



Madonna's adopted children David and Mercy, foreground visit the paediatric surgery under construction.



This file photo shows Curtis Jackson, also known as 50 Cent, makes an appearance at bankruptcy court on March 9, 2016 in Hartford, Connecticut. — AFP

50 Cent, rapper gone broke, settles debts

Rapper 50 Cent, whose once-extravagant lifestyle crumbled after a failed business deal and a lawsuit over a sex tape, received court approval to get out of bankruptcy. A Connecticut court gave the green light to a proposal submitted by 50 Cent, who was celebrating his 41st birthday, to pay some \$23.4 million to creditors over five years. The plan approved by Judge Ann Nevins said creditors who accounted for 99.5 percent of claims against the rapper accepted his arrangement.

Best known for his album and movie "Get Rich or Die Tryin'" the rapper filed for bankruptcy protection last year soon after losing a lawsuit over a sex tape. 50 Cent, whose real name is Curtis James Jackson III, had appeared in a wig and spoke in an artificially high voice as he narrated a video that depicted sex acts by Florida woman Lastonia Leviston. He had been seeking to mock fellow rapper Rick Ross, who was formerly in a relationship with Leviston. After she sued, 50 Cent was ordered to pay \$7 million in damages.

Under the bankruptcy deal, 50 Cent will instead pay her \$6 million, a court document showed. The biggest claim against

the rapper was from investors in Sleek Audio, a failed head-phone venture. He agreed to pay them more than \$17.5 million under the deal. In the settlement, 50 Cent said he was putting forward \$7.4 million to his creditors immediately in cash and would generate nearly all the additional money by selling his home, a Connecticut mansion once owned by boxer Mike Tyson.

When he filed for bankruptcy protection, 50 Cent had told the court that his lavish lifestyle was all a show and that he even borrowed expensive jewelry that he returned after wearing it in public. He did not appear chastened by the bankruptcy settlement, however. He posted pictures on Instagram of himself flying in a helicopter and, shortly after the judge approved the plan, wrote: "Oh now I remember where I put that money." 50 Cent had earned an estimated \$100 million in 2007 when he sold a stake in enhanced water drink VitaminWater. — AFP

In Philadelphia, spin the giant dial, find life guidance

Candy Chang's public art pieces more than please the eye. They demand dialogue and encourage conversations. Her best-known project, "Before I die," was duplicated in 1,000 cities in 70 countries as thousands of people chalked their hopes and dreams on walls and fences. Her latest work, unveiled in Philadelphia, is an interactive mural that invites people to think of their biggest challenges and then use the mural to find guidance to move forward.

The work features a 6-foot dial that visitors are encouraged to twirl while thinking of their challenges. The spinner will stop at a number corresponding with one of the stories on either side of the dial that represent lessons from the I Ching, one of the world's oldest books of wisdom. A guide to the symbols in another part of the mural allows people to then interpret the wheel's message as they desire. "I'm interested in how public space can provide value to people and help them make sense of the beauty and tragedy of life," said Chang, who lives in New Orleans. "Creating emotional spaces where people can be honest and vulnerable can lead to trust and understanding. Making better places can help us become our best selves."

James Johnson, 43, out on a lunch break, was one of the first to give the wheel a try. He was directed to story #14, "The Lucky Ones," which says in part, "Our greatest fortune is the virtue of our actions and the depth of our relationships." Johnson said the message did apply

to his question, which he didn't disclose. "This is like fortune cookies or a fortune teller. It's just a good way to get you to think differently," said Johnson, who said he would recommend friends try the wheel "not necessarily for the advice. It's just cool."

Tatiana DiSanti, 24, wanted guidance as she considers buying a house in a neighborhood real estate agents would describe as "up and coming." Story #5, "The Rain," noted: "Waiting is necessary for reaching any goal, and it is an art. Be present and face your difficulties without wishful thinking." The words gave DiSanti pause: Was that telling her to hold off on her purchase or was it advising her to face her challenges? She decided she'd bring her father, who was coming to visit to discuss the home purchase, to the wheel when he arrived. "It's a way to find answers to questions all on your own," she said.

'Before I die'

The mural, on busy South Street in downtown Philadelphia, is titled "The Atlas of Tomorrow: A Device for Philosophical Reflections." It was completed in conjunction with the Porch Light Program, a partnership between the city's Department of Behavioral Health and Disability Services and the Mural Arts Program. Volunteers joined Chang in finger-painting the black and white piece, making one black dot at a time, about 200,000 total. "Candy thinks a lot about emotional well-being and public spaces. The connection



In this Wednesday, July 6, 2016, photo, cyclists move past a Philadelphia Mural Arts Program piece by New Orleans artist Candy Chang called "The Atlas of Tomorrow: A Device for Philosophical Reflections," in Philadelphia. — AP

between those worlds may seem distant, but they're not," said Jane Golden, executive director of the Mural Arts Program, which has produced more than 3,000 murals on buildings across the city. Chang's work, Golden said, "reimagines what a mural can do."

Chang's own struggles have inspired her work. After a friend's death in 2011, she found herself thinking more about what she wanted to accomplish before her own last breath.

"Before I die" was a result of Chang deciding to pose the question to others, as well. Her Philadelphia mural was also in part inspired by the death of someone close to her. As she often does, Chang found comfort after the tragedy from the guidance and practical insight offered in the I Ching. She wondered if others were suffering in silence and could use some help. "I've gone through depression and when everything and everyone around you

seems so happy, it makes you feel even more alone. I want to help people see they're not alone and that suffering is a natural part of being a human being," Chang said. "Emotional wellness is often neglected and taboo to discuss. I wanted to improve our public health by embedding it in the city fabric." — AP



Photo shows pilgrims walking the Camino de Santiago among poppy-covered fields just past the town of Castrojeriz, in Spain's vast meseta. — AP photos



Photo shows pilgrims from Brazil, New Zealand and the US taking pictures of a shell-shaped Camino de Santiago route marker about a day's walk from the medieval town of Estella.



Photo shows pilgrims walking a stretch of the Camino de Santiago across La Rioja farmland in Spain.



Photo shows a late-afternoon thunderstorm over a stretch of the Camino de Santiago along Spain's vast meseta.



Photo shows men pulling on ropes to swing the massive incense burner called "botafumeiro" at a pilgrims' Mass inside the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Crossing Spain on an ancient pilgrimage route

About three hours into the day's hike, having just cleared the highest mountain point of the Camino de Santiago, I looked down into the valleys pockmarked with yellow and purple spring blossoms, and froze. Surely that faraway black office tower, seemingly no bigger than the trail stones making my scarred feet scream, could not be where I was planning to arrive that same night. Guidebook check: It was.

Dejected, I struggled downhill into the next hamlet, El Acebo. I was barely past the first of its slate-roofed stone houses when my name - "Giovanna" - rang out in the lilting Rio de Janeiro accent of a fellow pilgrim. And that was my camino experience: 31 days of physical endurance through awe-inspiring landscapes, of contemplation punctuated by deep connections. It was a combination that reset my Type-A internal clock so that stopping to pick a poppy or a bunch of grapes, or to compare blisters with hikers from Seoul or Hawaii or Naples, became not only permissible but also imperative.

The "camino frances," or French way, is an 800-kilometer (500 miles) medieval pilgrimage route that crosses Spain from the Pyrenees at the French border to the purported burial site of the Apostle James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Of several historical routes to Santiago, this is the most popular.

It's no wilderness hike: The longest stretch without crossing a village is 10 miles (17 kilometers) through farmland. How much solitude you get depends on when and where you start. In 2015, 172,243 people walked or rode bikes or horses along the camino frances, according to the Pilgrims' Office in Santiago. More than 67,000 started in Sarria, about four days from Santiago, the end of the trail. The busiest months are May-September, with more than 20,000 pilgrims each, dropping to fewer than 900 in January. Over the last decade, yearly numbers have mostly risen, but 2010 saw the most pilgrims, likely because it was a Catholic "holy year."

I walked the entire camino twice, in May-June 2014 and September-October 2015, averaging 26 kilometers (16 miles) daily, often for hours without seeing another pilgrim - though I got stuck for a day among hundreds of yellow-hatted German confirmation students. With the

universal greeting of "buen camino," I met bikers from Taiwan, retirees from New Zealand, school groups from Minnesota and southern Spain, couples who started at 4 a.m. to ensure solitude and singles who got a lively party scene going most nights. The only kind of person I did not meet was one not deeply affected by the experience. Not everyone can devote four to five weeks to go the full way, however. Here are my favorite four-day stretches:

Roncesvalles to Estella

After the first pilgrims' blessing in half-a-dozen languages at the ancient stone church in Roncesvalles, a two-day downhill trek through mountain woods where Charlemagne fought and Hemingway fished takes you to Pamplona, one of four major cities the camino crosses. Refueled with Basque txistorra sausage, you're off through rolling hills carpeted in wheat and vines, topped by castles and crisscrossed by Roman roads and medieval bridges until Estella, whose fortress-like medieval churches and palaces huddle in a gorge.

Burgos to Carrion De Los Condes

Burgos is the kind of city where, after plodding for half a day through suburbs, you still take 1.5-hour walking tours of the 13th-century cathedral or the main monastery, then limber along the river promenade to restaurants specializing in lechazo, roasted lamb. Beyond is the emptiness of the meseta (plains). Its shades of green and gold are interrupted by jewels like Castrojeriz, Fromista and Carrion de los Condes, with intact Romanesque churches.

Astorga to O Cebreiro

The camino's longest climbs start just past the Gaudi-designed bishop's palace and buzzing main square of Astorga. Through fragrant brush and below snow-covered peaks, you clamber up hamlets like Rabanal, with its mesmerizing chanted vesper prayers, then down into vineyards around pretty, riverside Villafranca del Bierzo. From there it's uphill to O Cebreiro's thatched-roof stone houses and Galicia's moss-draped, cow-clogged paths.

After two more bucolic days, the last 100 kilometers (62 miles) are crowded with the "clean-shod," as we pilgrims hobbling on muddy boots called those who start here. That takes nothing away, however, from arriving in Santiago, with its incense-filled cathedral covered with stern medieval statues and swirling Baroque cherubs standing tall among homes, monasteries and student pubs. Before going back to email and schedules, there's a stairway to climb to embrace the statue of St. James at the cathedral's altar, and one last chance to hug fellow pilgrims. Perhaps you exchange Facebook connections, perhaps nothing but a whispered "good luck," because you both know that the real tough "camino" starts now.-AP

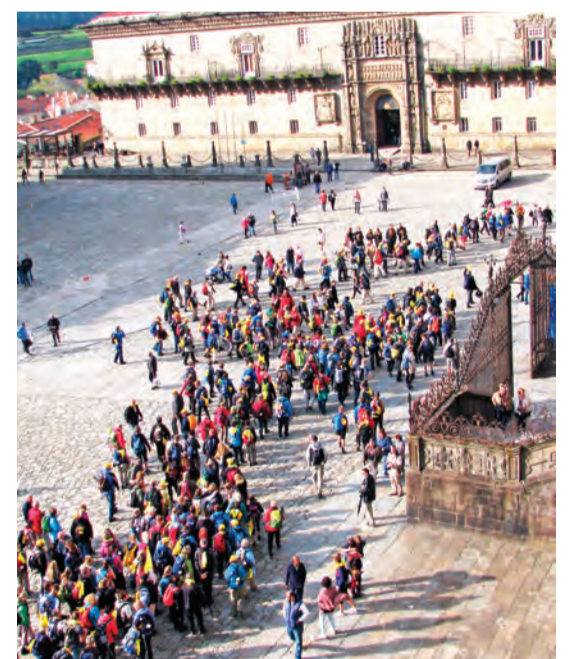


Photo shows a large group of German pilgrims arriving in the cathedral square of Santiago de Compostela.

Top Iran sculptor says accused of 'disturbing public peace'

Prominent Iranian sculptor Parviz Tanavoli said Sunday he stood accused of disturbing the public peace, the ILNA news agency reported, after he was prevented from leaving the country last week. "I learnt this morning in court that the police had accused me of publishing false information and disturbing the public peace," he told ILNA, after visiting Iran's special court for culture and media. "They told me my sculptures are examples of disturbing the public peace," the 79-year-old said, although the police did not immediately confirm this.

The authorities confiscated Tanavoli's passport last week as he attempted to fly to London for the launch of his new book, "European Women in Persian Houses". The book, a study of images from Iran's Safavid and Qajar eras, contains some nudes-the display of which is banned in the Islamic

republic. "I have worked for 50 years and so far none of my works have had any problems," Tanavoli said, adding that the accusations came after his works had been on display at several venues around Tehran. Iran's ultra-conservatives criticize Tanavoli because he had ties to the Pahlavi monarchy before it was overthrown in the 1979 Islamic revolution. Tanavoli is one of Iran's most expensive artists and his art is in major museums worldwide including the British Museum, as well as New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and Museum of Modern Art. — AFP

This file photo taken on November 9, 2009 shows Iranian artist Parviz Tanavoli standing next to his sculptures during an exhibition in the Gulf emirate of Dubai. — AFP



Nazi-seized Degas drawing sells for 462,500 euros

A drawing by Edgar Degas that was seized by Nazi Germany in 1940 and returned to its rightful owner in May fetched 462,500 euros (\$511,000) at auction yesterday, organizers said. An Italian collector purchased the 1898 drawing, titled "Trois Danseuses en Buste" by telephone, according to the Osenat auction house in Fontainebleau near Paris. The work had been valued at between 350,000 and 450,000 euros. The drawing was confiscated in August 1940 from the Paris home of Maurice Dreyfus, a doctor. It was found in 1951 in a closet of the former German embassy in Paris, and given to the Louvre Museum before it was identified as the property of the Dreyfus family. "We received a gift from heaven when we learned that they found the Degas drawing," Dreyfus's daughter Viviane told AFP. "It's as if my father gave us a gift from beyond the grave. We are very moved." — AFP



ROME: Models present creations by Fendi during a fashion show at the Trevi Fountain to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the fashion house. — AP

Thailand, Japan share mutual affection that is rare in Asia



Thailand is smitten by Japan: Sushi restaurants fill the malls, Issey Miyake's luxury "Bao Bao" bags are all the rage and Thai tourists are flocking to Japan in record numbers to visit a country many view as a role model. "I love Japan. They really put their heart into whatever they do," says Aunyawee Sahachalermphat, 26, who has traveled to Japan more than a dozen times since studying there five years ago and owns at least 10 Comme des Garçons shirts, another popular brand that sounds French but is actually Japanese.

Like many Thais, she loves Japanese food and admires the quality of its products and its advanced, orderly economy that retains a respect for tradition. "We look up to them," she says. Japan, too, has a soft spot for Thailand, although it doesn't loom nearly as large in the public mind. It's seen more as a warm, easy-going tourist spot - a welcome break from Japan's often onerous social codes - and a vital production and export hub for more than 4,500 Japanese companies, including behemoths such as Toyota, Honda and Canon.

All this has resulted in a mutual affection between these two nations that's rare in Asia, where historical, political and territorial tensions often complicate ties. Typical of many in her generation, Aunyawee traces her positive feelings to watching Japanese cartoons such as "Doraemon" and "Sailor Moon" as a child. As an adult, she instinctively trusts anything "Made in Japan" and admires the courteous, subdued manners of many Japanese - widespread sentiments among Thais.

Proper etiquette

Economic and bureaucratic changes have helped foster these ties. Three years ago, Japan waived visas for Thais for up to 15 days, prompting tourist numbers to surge to nearly 800,000 last year, up five-fold from 2011. As Thai incomes have grown and budget carriers such as AirAsia have intensified competition, trips to Japan have become more affordable. Likewise, Japanese tourists can now fly from Tokyo to Bangkok for about the same price as to Okinawa, in southern Japan. There seems to be a cultural affinity between these two peoples - a gentleness, an aversion to conflict and an emphasis on proper etiquette - that creates a sense of familiarity and safety.

Yet there are still enough intriguing differences to make the other culture appealing in a non-threatening way. Buddhism, for example, has influenced both countries, although in Thailand it plays a more overt role and it is epitomized by brilliantly colored temples and monks in orange robes, while in Japan it takes on a more subdued form. Both countries have royal families, although the Thai king holds greater sway over society than the emperor does in Japan.

"There's a kindred feeling" with Thais, more so than with other Asians, said Mariko Uehara, an English instructor from Chigasaki, southwest of Tokyo, who recently visited Thailand for a second time since 2012. "We have something in common that makes us feel secure." Some 1.38 million Japanese tourists came to Thailand last year, a similar level to previous years. Japan and Thailand aren't encumbered by historical baggage that has strained ties with their respective neighbors.

Tokyo's ties with China and South Korea are tainted by territorial disputes and lingering resentment over Japan's aggression before and during World War II. After briefly resisting Japanese troops, Thailand formally became an ally of Tokyo during most of the war and served as a supply base and so suffered less. Japan's infamous "Death Railway" in western Thailand was built by British, US and Australian POWs and thousands of other Asians.

Authentic Japanese food

Japan's rosy image here has been partly shaped by popular books, TV dramas and movies. "Khu Kam," a novel that has been made into movies many times - titled "Sunset on the Chaophraya" in English - depicts a wartime romance between a Japanese naval officer and a Thai woman in the resistance. He manages to win her over before being killed. Japanese food, once considered a delicacy in Thailand, has become more affordable and popular as more

than 2,300 Japanese restaurants have opened up across the country, tripling since 2008.

Now a top reason Thais want to go to Japan is to eat authentic Japanese food - in Japan. Chaitree Tandhanskul, a 29-year-old manager in his family's chemical business, says he makes bookings at restaurants in Japan weeks ahead of time, and bases his itinerary around those reservations. "I've traveled many times to Japan just for the culinary experience," he said. Japan is more popular than previous favorites Hong Kong or Singapore because "it's much more exotic" and less "robotic," said Chaitree, who also roams the country taking pictures.

Taking their cues from Thai fashion magazines and websites that highlight the latest Japanese styles, Thai women line up in Tokyo to buy Issey Miyake's "Bao Bao" brand bags, which can cost several hundred dollars and have become a staple of Bangkok's fashion elite. Shiseido cosmetics, Kenzo shoes and Casio G-Shock watches are also hot.

The two countries are doing feasibility studies on three high-speed railway lines that would cross the country, the ambassador said.

Bangkok has a large Japanese community, many of whom live clustered in an area that resembles parts of Tokyo, with Japanese eateries and yakitori shops lining side streets and Thai hostesses calling out in Japanese. There are at least a couple streets of go-go bars devoted to Japanese customers. Each country offers something appealingly different to the other.

Social pressures

The very discipline and proper etiquette that Thais admire about Japanese culture can become an enormous burden to some Japanese who find Thailand's easygoing, accepting ways a welcome refuge. Kazue Takenaga moved with her three children to Bangkok two years ago to escape the growing educational and social pressures facing her family, especially her 11-year-old



Shoppers pose for a photo with sumo wrestler statues on a Japanese themed floor of a major shopping mall in central Bangkok, Thailand.



Cars cross the Thai-Japanese friendship bridge in Bangkok, Thailand.

Same boat

Many Thais also like Japan because it is safe and they believe they won't get cheated by shopkeepers or taxi drivers, said Kavi Chongkittavorn, a senior fellow at Chulalongkorn University's Institute of Security and International Studies. The two countries' economies have become increasingly intertwined. Thailand's importance to Japanese manufacturers was made plain when severe flooding here in 2011 swamped many factories and suppliers, disrupting markets as far away as Chicago and London, Japanese Ambassador Shiro Sadoshima said in an interview.

"We need to think in terms of being in the same boat as they are - that whatever Thailand is doing well is good for Japan, too," said Sadoshima, who was surprised to find a big "Ippudo" restaurant in Bangkok serving ramen noodles native to his home island of Kyushu. "It's bigger and grander than the main shop in Japan," he said. Japan's official development aid to Thailand shows up prominently in places like the "Thai-Japanese Bridge" sign - with national flags - on a flyover at a major Bangkok intersection. Assistance from Tokyo helped build 14 of the 21 bridges across the Chao Phraya River that runs through the capital. Officials from

daughter. Her husband had car parts factories in Thailand, so she decided to move here and enroll her children in an international school because the country and environment seemed more accepting and diverse than Japan, and yet also familiar.

"It's so good that we came to Thailand," she said. "Our family's overall health is much better. The lifestyle is much easier here. The thought of returning to Japan is daunting." Thais, meanwhile, want to see and experience things in Japan they can't at home, like snow, cherry blossoms and colored autumn leaves - without traveling all the way to Europe or North America, said Tanong Prakuptanon, who runs a "Japanthaifanclub" Facebook page, which has tips for travelers and more than 230,000 followers. "It's different, but not too foreign," he said. "It's a dream destination." — AP