

Banking system in Kuwait remains sound, stable: Hashel



Sanders finally endorses Clinton at joint campaign rally



Hidden angel mosaic at Bethlehem shrine sees the light



Olympic withdrawal was 'hardest decision' for Spieth



MP CALLS FOR ADDING HEZB, DAWA TO ANTI-TERROR BILL

SPEEDY IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW SPORTS LAW SOUGHT



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AIRPORT CLEANERS STRIKE OVER UNPAID WAGES

By Faten Omar and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Cleaners at Kuwait International Airport went on strike yesterday in protest against not being paid their salaries since May. The cleaners also demanded to receive a minimum salary of KD 60 as stipulated in their contracts, as they do not have any other source of income. The workers' cleaning company declined to issue a statement to Kuwait Times, but confirmed that it will pay the workers two months' salary within days, after it is approved by the management.

Acting Director of MPA Ahmad Al-Moussa said the Manpower Public Authority summoned the owner of the cleaning company, and will take legal action against the company if it does not meet its commitments towards the workers, especially with regards to monthly salaries. He said all labor strikes that took place lately are due to nonpayment of monthly salaries. He said MPA punished violating companies by suspending their files, and will not be lax in taking necessary legal action against any violating company.

An airport source said that the delay in payment of salaries is not the first, as it has happened before with security workers. The source added that the cleaners also went on strike last month due to the same reason, and this is because of the inability of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor to adopt an effective law to ensure that companies pay the salaries of their workers on time.



KUWAIT: Cleaners gather during a strike in protest over unpaid salaries at the airport yesterday.

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: MP Abdullah Al-Maayouf said yesterday that a draft law proposed by fellow lawmaker Saleh Ashour to counter terrorist groups should have included Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iraq's Dawa Party besides the Islamic State group. A few days ago, Ashour submitted a draft law calling to consider the Islamic State as a terrorist group and also stipulating a jail term of between 10 and 20 years for those convicted of establishing or promoting terrorist groups.

Maayouf said the Hezbollah and Dawa groups should have been included in the new bill away from any sectarian considerations. Kuwaiti courts have passed rulings against dozens of members, sympathizers and financiers of the Islamic State for being associated with an outlawed organization because Kuwaiti law does not specifically consider the Islamic State as a terrorist group. The law will be studied by the National Assembly after the summer recess in October, but the Assembly's panels are expected to review the bill during the summer recess.

Maayouf also strongly criticized the head of the Kuwait Football Association Sheikh Talal Al-Fahd, claiming he is trying to survive in his post after a new sports law became effective yesterday after its publication in the official gazette Kuwait Al-Youm. He charged that Sheikh Talal has been trying to seek help from outside the country, totally ignoring Kuwaiti domestic laws.

In a related development, MP Abdullah Al-Turajji yesterday called on the Minister of Information and Youth Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah to follow up the implementation of the new sports law, especially after

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20 KILLED IN ITALY TRAIN CRASH

News

in brief

Trial in Makkah crane collapse to begin soon

RIYADH: Charges and a trial are expected soon in Saudi Arabia over last year's crane collapse in Makkah that killed 111 pilgrims and injured nearly 240 people just days before the start of the annual hajj pilgrimage, according to a report published yesterday. The state-linked Al-Riyadh newspaper said the Bureau of Investigation and Prosecution in Makkah has handed over its findings to Makkah's criminal court for judicial review. The crane collapsed amid unusually strong winds on Sept 11, piercing through parts of the roof of the Grand Mosque that houses the Kaaba and bringing down slabs of concrete on worshippers below.

Qatar to build Hadid flower-shaped hotel

DOHA: Qatar will construct two buildings designed by late Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid, including a tower shaped like a desert flower close to the site of the 2022 soccer World Cup final, a member of its ruling family said yesterday. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al-Thani, the brother of Qatar's Emir, commissioned Hadid in 2013 to create the structures, one a 38-story hotel in the form of a hyacinth and featuring a nine-pointed base to shield visitors from the searing Gulf sun. Sheikh Mohammed's Al Alfia Holding said in a statement it would construct the tower "designed in response to current and future environmental challenges" by 2020 in the city of Lusail, 23 km north of the capital Doha.

ROME: At least 20 people were killed yesterday in a head-on collision between two passenger trains in the southern Italian region of Puglia, in one of the country's worst rail accidents in recent years. Emergency services raced to extract people from the wreckage of smashed carriages thrown across a single track into olive groves near the town of Andria, in what one witness described as an "apocalyptic scene". Coffins were taken to the site near the city of Bari to carry away the first of the dead as 200 rescue workers sifted through the wreckage in temperatures

reaching 40 degrees Celsius. "I saw dead people, others who were begging for help, people crying. The worst scene of my life," one policeman told journalists. Vito Montanaro, director general of the Bari health authority, said 20 people had died and 35 were injured, 18 of them critically. "It was an enormous accident, a very violent crash," said Transport Minister Graziano Delrio, who arrived on at the scene along with two ministry inspectors to aid the investigation.

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Two smashed carriages are thrown across the tracks after a head-on collision between two trains between Ruvo and Corato in the southern Italian region of Puglia yesterday. — AFP



MANILA: An activist wearing a hat representing the Philippine navy boat "Sierra Madre", now half-submerged at the Second Thomas shoal of the Spratly islands, sits with protesters during a demonstration in front of the Chinese consulate yesterday. — AFP

TRIBUNAL REJECTS CHINA'S SOUTH CHINA SEA CLAIMS

THE HAGUE: An international tribunal ruled yesterday against China's claims it had "historical rights" in the South China Sea in a bitter dispute that risks further stoking regional tensions. Manila - which had lodged the suit against Beijing - welcomed the decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration but Beijing reacted furiously, saying it "neither accepts nor recognizes" the ruling. Beijing claims most of the South China Sea, even waters approaching neighboring countries, as its

sovereign territory, basing its arguments on Chinese maps dating back to the 1940s marked with a so-called nine-dash line.

"The tribunal concluded that there was no legal basis for China to claim historic rights within the sea areas falling within the 'nine-dash line,'" the Hague-based PCA said in its hard-hitting ruling. It said Beijing had no historic rights to resources in South China Sea waters and that such rights were "extinguished" as being incompatible

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NEW YORK: Medical students Jag Chilana (left) and Scott Kobner play Pokemon Go on their smartphones at Union Square on Monday. — AFP (See Page 27)

POKEMON GO DRIVES PLAYERS INTO FRENZY

SAN FRANCISCO: Pokemon Go mania has quickly swept the US as players armed with smartphones hunt streets, parks, rivers and elsewhere to capture monsters and gather supplies in the hit game. The free application based on a Nintendo title that debuted 20 years ago has been adapted to the mobile internet age by Niantic Labs, a company spun out of Google last year after breaking ground with Ingress, a game that merged mapping capabilities with play. By Monday, Pokemon Go had been downloaded millions of times, topping rankings at official online shops for applications tailored for smartphones powered by Apple or Google-backed Android software.

According to the research firm SimilarWeb, the game was downloaded in more than five percent of Android phones in the first two days of release and had outpaced the dating app Tinder. The game uses GPS and mapping

capabilities in mobile phones to let players roam the real world to find "PokeStops" stocked with supplies and hunt cartoon character monsters to capture and train for battles. PokeStops can also dispense monster eggs, which players incubate by racking up walking distances.

Players can also visit "gyms", where captured cartoon creatures can be conditioned as combatants to seize such training facilities. "It's cool to actually play as a Pokemon trainer in real life," said Lucas Garcia, a 17-year-old California boy who has been a fan for more than a decade. "It is nice to have a video game that makes you actually walk around instead of sitting in front of a TV screen holding a controller."

People who played Ingress will recognize PokeStops and gyms, many being monuments, signs, businesses or other real world spots that served as "portals" that could be captured in the earlier Niantic game. "We have helped

users all around the world have fun, socialize, and get more fit as they play and explore," Niantic chief executive John Hanke said in a blog post when Pokemon Go was released last week in the US, Australia and New Zealand.

A tidal wave of interest in the game has bogged down servers hosting the software, frustrating some players and delaying plans to launch Pokemon Go in more countries. "I downloaded it because everyone that I know has liked Pokemon since before fifth grade," said California teenager Owen Fairchild, who is now in college. "Now that I have it, I get it. I never really walked around, but a couple of days ago, I walked across the island... and I hatched two five-kilometer eggs."

A young woman playing Pokemon Go came upon a dead body in a Wyoming river while hunting a water monster in the game, according to US news reports.

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KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday the ambassadors of Cyprus, Greece, and Austria to Kuwait on the occasion of the end of their tenure. During the meeting, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled praised their efforts in boosting bilateral relations with Kuwait. — KUNA

INFO MINISTER, AMBASSADORS DISCUSS REGIONAL, INT'L ISSUES

SHEIKH SALMAN EXTOLS YOUNG KUWAITI FEMALE INVENTOR



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with inventor Abeer Al-Naimi.

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah met yesterday with the ambassadors of several brotherly and friendly countries in Kuwait.

Sheikh Salman Sabah, who also doubles as Acting Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, discussed with the ambassadors of Azerbaijan, Japan, Tunisia and Romania bilateral cooperative relations and a number of regional and international issues, the Ministry of Information said in a press release. During the meeting, the ambassadors hailed relations and cooperation between Kuwait and these countries as being developed in various fields, mainly in the fields of youth and culture, it added.

US patent

Separately, Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud praised yesterday a young Kuwaiti employee of the Ministry of Information for attaining a US patent for an invention of hers. The praise came in a statement issued by the ministry of Information following Sheikh Salman's meeting in his office with the inventor Abeer Al-Naimi. The inventor, who works for Kuwait TV's Channel One got US patent office's approval for the design of a toilet commode that can be used in a car by people with special needs.

The minister voiced pride of the ministry of Information in one of its creative employees who, with her patented invention, represents the innovative spirit of young Kuwaitis. He said Naimi's invention is further testimony to the creative minds and talents of Kuwaiti youth seeking personal expression and distinctiveness in so many ways. The young inventor thanked the ministry for harnessing the talents of the youth and for encouraging them to excel in their fields of interest. — KUNA



Kuwaiti Ambassador to Australia Najib Al-Bader (right).

KUWAIT PARTAKES IN ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT FORUM'S SUMMIT

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Ambassador to Australia Najib Al-Bader took part in the leaders' summit of the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF), an event held in Honiara the capital of the Solomon Islands, said a statement by the embassy yesterday.

Ambassador Bader, who is representing His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, said that it was important for Kuwait to participate in such gatherings which will surely help solidify ties between Kuwait and countries in the

Pacific region. This is the fourth Kuwaiti participation in the forum since 2013, said the ambassador, adding that Kuwait was considered as one of the PIDF's valuable partners.

Established in 2013, PIDF was created as a space for catalyzing, mobilizing, and mainstreaming action in support of sustainable development through a green economy in Pacific Island countries. The summit's main theme for this year is "stewardship for healthy oceans and healthy nations." The event will last till July 13th. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with the ambassador of Azerbaijan. — KUNA



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with the ambassador of Japan.



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with the ambassador of Tunisia.



Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with the ambassador of Romania.



KUWAIT PARTICIPATES IN WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

ANKARA: Kuwait's permanent delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Dr Meshal Hayat acknowledged the importance of protecting and preserving world's historical sites and monuments. He said on the sidelines of the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee on Tuesday that Kuwait have donated USD 100,000 to repair damages in Arab heritage sites in Iraq, Syria, and Libya.

Dr Hayat also confirmed that Kuwait had meet representatives of other states on the sideline of the session to discuss efforts in restoring historical sites affected by natural

disasters, floods, and wars. On the session, the Kuwaiti official said that the meeting will nominate several locations in Sudan, Iran, Turkey, India, and other regions to the list of UNESCO World heritage sites.

Several states sought assistance from Kuwait in the matter lifting their sites from the list of hazardous locations, said Dr Hayat, affirming that Kuwait will do its best on this matter. The World Heritage Committee was formed in 1972. It is responsible for implementing the World Heritage Convention, outlining the use of the World Heritage Funds, and allocating different financial assistance. — KUNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem met with head of the Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's trade union Khaled Al-Ajmi, and members of the union. The meeting discussed means of giving support and securing safety of firefighters while carrying out their duties. The meeting was attended by MPs Mubarak Al-Herai, Humoud Al-Hamdan and Asker Al-Enezi. — KUNA

APDSC LIFTS SUSPENSION ON KUWAITI CLUB FOR DEAF

KUWAIT: The Kuwaiti Sports Club for the Deaf announced yesterday the lifting of the suspension imposed by the Asia-Pacific Deaf Sports Confederation (APDSC). Executive at the club, Jaber Al-Kandri said that he was handed the official decision on lifting the suspension which was imposed in 2008.

The decision came after the club paid off a portion of a fine, said Kandri, adding that around \$75,000 were left

in the fine. The sanction imposed by APDSC on the club included suspending Kuwait's membership, a ban on participation in any championships organized by the Confederation, in addition to a prohibition from attending any conferences or meetings. This sanction imposed due Kuwait's failure to host the Asia-Pacific Deaf Games which was scheduled in Kuwait in 2008. — KUNA

KUWAIT'S APRIL EXPORTS AT KD 19 MILLION: REPORT

KUWAIT: Kuwait's exports have totaled about KD 19 million last April, with 75 percent (KD 14 million) to Arab states and 25 percent for the rest of the world, according to a report by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Iraq had the most share of Kuwaiti Arab exports with 81 percent (KD 12 million), while Italy was the top on international level with 29 percent (KD 1.4 million), said the ministry in a report published yesterday.

Exported items for Arab World included paper bags, plastic cans, dairy products, oils, sweets and others, while insecticides, polyethylene, and other substances were exported on an international level. Meanwhile, the report also mentioned statistics on general import licenses issued by the ministry, metal stamping, and Kuwait's economy status, and trade permits. — KUNA

KRCS OFFERS RELIEF AID TO SYRIAN FAMILIES IN LEBANON

BEIRUT: The Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday announced distributing relief aid among 250 Syrian refugee families in Dhar Al-Ahmar town, West Bekaa, East Lebanon. Each family was offered food packages and cleaning materials enough for five people for a whole month, head of the KRCS field team Yusuf Al-Najjar said. He

hoped that the aid would help alleviate the sufferings of the refugees engulfed by harsh conditions. Najjar reiterated KRCS's commitment to carrying on with support to the refugees. Lebanon hosts more than a million Syrian refugees staying in makeshift camps in different parts of the country, with the majority in the Bekaa. — KUNA



KUWAIT: National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem and Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday visited firefighter Fahad Mansour Al-Feraih, who was injured while he was performing a mission.



KUWAIT: This handout photo shows debris at the site of the collapse reported yesterday at a college in Ardhiya.



A vehicle damaged in the collapse.

COLLEGE'S PARKING ROOF COLLAPSES, NO INJURIES

'PHOTOGRAPH-RECORD-MOVE' TRAFFIC ACCIDENT PROJECT SOON

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Education Minister Bader Al-Essa said preliminary indicators about a roof's collapse at the parking lot of the basic education college point to a fault by the contracting company, adding that there were no injuries. He said an investigation committee will be formed to discuss the reasons for the accident. Official spokeswoman of the authority Fatima Al-Azmi said the collapse was at the college's car parking in Ardhiya in the area designated for the teaching faculty. She said no injuries were reported. Some vehicles were damaged, however. The college is affiliated to the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

50+ C degrees

Kuwait will be hit with a heat wave during which temperatures will exceed 50 degree C in some areas due to seasonal weather changes, a veteran meteorologist said yesterday, adding that the extremely hot temperatures are expected to start Friday and will continue to Monday. The Indian seasonal low depression is expected to extend north-west of the Arab peninsula, which will cause the movement of very hot winds from the middle and south of the peninsula, Meteorologist Essa Ramadhan said. The winds' temperature will be increased by the temperature of north-westerly winds descending from the mountains of the Iranian hill and passing through the hot plains in southern Iraq towards Kuwait and eastern provinces of Saudi Arabia, he explained.

Reporting accidents

Secretary General of the Supreme Planning and Development Council Khalid Mahdi said advanced stages of the new traffic strategy project related to traffic safety were completed, and it will reduce the documentary cycle in dealing with traffic accidents. Mahdi said the project is included in the development plan projects and is being executed within the framework of the national document signed between the council's secretariat general and UNDP. Mahdi said the traffic strategy

aims at improving services of the traffic department in the field of dealing with traffic accidents and reducing the time to issue reports, as the report can be issued using modern technologies, using smartphones and the geographic information system (GIS), as the policeman can photograph the incident and send it to the concerned department through a project called 'photograph-record-move' without the need to go to the police station or obstruct traffic. Mahdi said there is coordination with the information technology systems center and investigations department at the interior ministry, adding that large number of traffic officers have been trained at US universities and advanced cameras have been imported for this project, while the GIS system has been upgraded to determine accident locations besides seeking to implement the instant payment of traffic fines, which is scheduled to start at the start of next year.

Absconding reports

The Manpower Public Authority (MPA) said the work of the absconding reports committee in cooperation with concerned authorities at the Interior Ministry resulted in resolving 1,588 complaints during last year and until May this year. It said that it was agreed, through coordination between MPA and interior ministry authorities, to cancel the absconding complaints for some cases including holders of Palestinian travel documents, children of Kuwaiti women, wives of expat workers who work in the private sector, first degree relatives of Kuwaitis and partners in a company's founding contract. It mentioned the importance of the absconding complaints resolving committee and the reasons for reforming it, as it is responsible for receiving the complaint from the employer, then summoning the employee to discuss the reason why he absconded, then try to settle the dispute in a friendly manner when possible. The authority said if this is not possible, the committee will take legal action against the absconding worker in coordination with the interior ministry to deport him.



Education Minister Bader Al-Essa

Treatment overseas

The Health Ministry suspended work at the overseas treatment higher committee until further notice. This measure aims at organizing the work mechanism at the committee, besides preparing plans that guarantee the flow of work correctly.

Carcinogen chocolate report refuted

The public relations and information department at the Public Authority for Food and Nutrition said reports on social media regarding a chocolate product containing carcinogens are not correct. Chairperson of the higher committee on food safety Amal Al-Rashdan said after consulting international and regional organizations, it was found there is nothing to prove the authenticity of this story.

Embezzlement

The misdemeanors court sentenced a Kuwaiti engineer who embezzled KD 12 million from citizens and escaped to Iran to two months in jail. Lawyer of several citizens who were swindled said this is the first sentence and must be implemented, and she cannot appeal unless she is physically present. He said there are many more cases waiting for her.



A firefighter tackles flames at a building in Hawally yesterday.



Firefighters take rest during the operation.

TWO INJURED IN 7-FLOOR HAWALLY BUILDING FIRE

DEALER ARRESTED WITH 5KG HEROIN

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Two residents of a Hawally building sustained burns during a fire reported yesterday. Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) received a call about a fire in a seven-storey building, so Hawally, Salmiya and rescue centers responded. The fire started in leftovers in the staircase on the seventh floor, investigations later revealed. The flames reached rest of the area of the residential apartments. Teams were formed to evacuate residents, while others fought the blaze. Firemen rescued two persons, Asian and Arab nationals, and both were taken to Mubarak hospital. Meanwhile, a member of KFSD's public relations department was injured and also taken to hospital.

Drug dealer apprehended

The Drugs Control General Department

arrested a drug dealer with possession of a large quantity of drugs before he was able to sell them. Tips were received about an Indian man dealing in drugs, so legal procedures were taken. An undercover agent asked to buy 50 grams of heroin from the suspect. The suspect was arrested during the exchange. He told police there were more drugs in his Fahaheel home, where five kilograms of heroin and 250 grams of shabu were found. The drugs' estimated street value is KD 350,000. The suspect was sent to concerned authorities.

Traffic campaign

The traffic department carried out several campaigns in all governorates last week, resulting in issuing 26,372 citations, impounding 1,032 cars, detaining 31 persons and deporting three expats for driving without a license.

Fatal crash

A Saudi man was killed and a woman was injured when his car hit a stray camel on what is now commonly known as Salmiya's "Road of Death", bearing in mind this is not the first time this has happened.

Suspects caught

A police patrol in Mahboula suspected a car with two men and a girl in it. When they were asked for their IDs, the two men were found to be Saudis, but the girl did not have any ID. The two claimed she was their sister, but she gave different names, then appealed to police to free her from them. The driver then drove off in the wrong direction and was chased on the coastal road. They collided with a car and escaped, but when the car's information was published, the suspects were found with the girl.



KUWAIT: Ministry of Finance's Undersecretary Khalifa Hamadah (left) and Zak's chairman Jaber Al-Kathemi sign the agreement. — KUNA

KUWAIT'S INVESTMENTS IN UK NOT AFFECTED BY BREXIT: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Kuwait Investment Authority's (KIA) diverse and numerous investments in the UK will not be affected by the UK's decision to pull out of the EU, also known as Brexit, Ministry of Finance's Undersecretary Khalifa Hamadah said yesterday.

Hamadah told the press that other financial matters were touched upon after signing a geoinformatics contract with local and international entities. He pointed out that the Finance Ministry will constantly reconsider all monetary backing especially those concerning gasoline. He added that the Ministry has a strategy to deal with the country's budget deficit of the fiscal year 2016/2017; the two-faceted strategy entails getting a KD 2 billion loan from local markets and a KD 3 billion loan from international markets. He concluded by saying that privatization is an economic and financial reform tool that was approved by the Cabinet back in March.

The Ministry of Finance signed yesterday

an agreement with a consortium of firms to allow the consortium to develop IT approaches at identifying and codifying all real estate owned by the state of Kuwait.

The agreement helps the state of Kuwait survey and tabulate all pertinent information regarding state-owned properties and land and store this information in a high-tech electronic fashion easily accessible to those seeking it, Hamadah said in a statement he made at the signing of the agreement. He added that the agreement calls for the consortium to complete its work in four years at a cost of KD 6.8 million. The consortium is made up of the local Kuwait firm of Zak Solutions, the American company known as Excella Consulting, and a German consulting company. Zak's chairman Jaber Al-Kathemi said the consortium will prepare a geographical data base of land information based on satellite photography of the whole country using digital technology. — KUNA

HAMAD AL-MATAR ANNOUNCED WINNER OF BURGAN BANK'S THURAYA QUARTERLY DRAW

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank recently announced its Thuraya Account winner of the Audi R8 sports car. The winner Hamad Ghazi Mohammad Al-Matar expressed his excitement for being the new winner of the Audi R8 with Al-Thuraya Salary Account from Burgan Bank.

Al-Thuraya Account is the only salary account in Kuwait that provides its customers with the chance to win Audi R8

Cars on a quarterly basis. The account aims at raising the frequency of customers winning one of the world's most admired sports cars.

Opening an Al-Thuraya account is simple; customers are required to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and obtain all the necessary details, or simply call the bank's Call Center 1804080. For further information, customers can visit the bank's website on www.burgan.com.

NBK EXTENDS \$280 MILLION CREDIT FACILITY TO KUWAIT STYRENE COMPANY

'DEMONSTRATES LEADING ROLE AS SUPPORTERS OF NATIONAL ENTERPRISE'

KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) has concluded a financing agreement with The Kuwait Styrene Company (TKSC), giving the latter access to US \$280 million in credit facilities. The loan, secured with NBK acting as sole underwriter, will be used for general corporate purpose spending at TKSC.

The agreement was signed on behalf of NBK by CEO - Kuwait Salah Al-Fulaij, along with his TKSC counterpart Adel Yousuf Al-Saad Al-Munifi. Also present at the signing were TKSC's Chief Financial Officer, Ghadeer Abdullah Al-Ajami, and NBK's Pradeep Handa, General Manager of the bank's Foreign Corporate, Oil and Trade Finance Group.

EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, provided technical and financial support to TKSC, which contributed to expediting this loan with NBK. EQUATE is the single operator of Greater EQUATE, which includes The Kuwait Styrene Company (TKSC), Kuwait Paraxylene Production Company (KPPC) and The Kuwait Olefins Company (TKOC) under one fully integrated operational umbrella at Kuwait's Shuaiba Industrial Area.

The financing deal is "yet another demonstration of NBK's leading role as facilitator of economic development in Kuwait," said Fulaij. "It demonstrates once again how committed we are to fostering the spirit of national enterprise in Kuwait." "While NBK is proud to offer operational and financial support, we take equal pride in our ability to provide additional services to our corporate customers," he added.

In addition to banking, NBK provides corporate customers with advisory services and consultancy aimed at facilitating the development of the Kuwaiti economy and spurring its continued growth, said the bank's CEO - Kuwait. With a long track-record of securing large-scale funding, NBK has earned the trust of large corporations and national companies across Kuwait, Fulaij added. The bank's long history of local, regional and global successes has earned it a reputation as a development-savvy partner able to play a pivotal role in the economy, he said. "I am proud to say that NBK has become the go-to bank for major entities in the Kuwaiti corporate sector."

Speaking at the signing ceremony, TKSC CEO Munifi said his company was proud to have this partnership with NBK "for access to \$280m for the company's general corporate purposes," he said. "The very fact that we were able to secure credit facilities on such a scale speaks volumes of TKSC's competitive status, and says a great deal about our solid financial standing."

According to Munifi, TKSC will use the credit facilities for general corporate purposes. "Part of the funds will be directed to reinforcing activities that enhance our competitive edge," he explained. Munifi lauded NBK for its continued commitment to providing credit facilities, which support the industrial sector as a whole and the petrochemical field in specific. As Kuwait's first and only producer of Styrene Monomer, The Kuwait Styrene Company (TKSC) was established in 2004 as an international joint venture between The Kuwait Aromatics Company (KARO) and The Dow Chemical Company (Dow).



KIB SUPPORTS GROUP OF KUWAITI JOCKEYS TO PARTICIPATE IN EQUESTRIAN TOURNAMENTS

KUWAIT: Kuwait International Bank (KIB) announced its full support and sponsorship of the Kuwaiti horseracing jockeys: Ghazi Al Juraei, Ahmad Al-Mudaheka, Abdullah Hamadah and Ahmad Al-Ansari to give them the chance to participate in the upcoming equestrian championships as a team representing KIB. The sponsorship of the phenomenal jockeys stems from the bank's leading social responsibility program that aims at supporting various initiatives; be it sports, social, humanitarian, cultural and many others.

On this occasion, the Head of Corporate Communications at KIB, Nawaf Najia, said that this support translates the bank's constant strive to interact with all society segments, especially the youth, in addition to supporting various sports activities and Kuwaiti athletes who take

part in local or international tournaments. He added that KIB has lately intensified its efforts to support sports initiatives, which achieve great response from this segment.

Najia mentioned that KIB, as a leading Islamic banking institution, strongly believes in its responsibility to serve the community at all levels. That's why the bank is planning and launching various initiatives and programs that serve all sectors; be it social, economic, cultural or related to healthcare. Najia concluded by stressing on the bank's attempt to deploy all its efforts and resources to strengthen the bonds with all society segments, and wishing the Kuwaiti jockeys all the best and success to score high in the upcoming championships and raise Kuwait's flag high in the region and the world.



Ramadan Quiz 2016

الإتقاد ETIHAD AIRWAYS ABU DHABI

Lulu HYPERMARKET

Ruby Tuesday

seba med pH 5.5

WINNERS

First Winner: IBRAHIM HUSAM

- Two Business Class tickets Kuwait-London-Kuwait on Etihad Airways (NOT INCLUDING TAXES)
- Two vouchers from Ruby Tuesday worth KD 20
- Men's and women's watches
- Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 40
- Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 25
- Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabeyah voucher worth KD 25

Second Winner: SHAIK ANWAR

- One Economy Class ticket Kuwait-Madrid-Kuwait on Etihad Airways (NOT INCLUDING TAXES)
- Men's and women's watches
- Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 40
- Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 50

Third Winner: KAWTHER HASSAN

- One Economy Class ticket Kuwait-Abu Dhabi-Kuwait on Etihad Airways (NOT INCLUDING TAXES)
- Men's and women's watches
- Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 40
- Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 50

Fourth Winner: FARAH ALAE ALDEEN

- Smart Viora mobile
- Men's and women's watches
- Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 40
- Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 50

Fifth Winner: REHAB MOHAMMED

- Canon camera
- Men's and women's watches
- Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 20
- Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 50

Sixth Winner: TASIN SHEKHANI

- Tap lot Dual skim

Seventh Winner: MOHAMMED IRFAN

- Tap lot Dual skim
- Men's and women's watches
- Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 20
- Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 25
- Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabeyah voucher worth KD 25

Eighth Winner: SHIKH JUWAMIKH

- Tap lot Dual skim
- Men's and women's watches
- Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 20
- Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 25
- Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabeyah voucher worth KD 25

Ninth Winner: K HASSAN

- Tap lot Dual skim
- Men's and women's watches
- Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 20
- Lulu Hypermarket voucher worth KD 25
- Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabeyah voucher worth KD 25

Tenth Winner: PREMNATH

- Tap lot Dual skim
- Men's and women's watches
- Ruby Tuesday voucher worth KD 20
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Ramadan Quiz 2016

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BANKING SYSTEM IN KUWAIT REMAINS SOUND, STABLE DURING 2015: HASHEL

KUWAIT: The banking system in Kuwait remained sound and stable during 2015, where domestic credit posted a healthy growth, Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel announced yesterday.

Banks non-performing loan ratio continued its steady decline to reach a historically low level, coverage ratio climbed to a new high, capital adequacy levels stayed robust and net income grew positively, albeit at a much slower pace than in 2014, Hashel said during the publication of the CBK Financial Stability Report (FSR) for 2015.

According to the report and after two years of double-digit growth, the banking system posted a much slower expansion when viewed on a consolidated basis; assets grew by a muted 2.6 percent during 2015.

Domestic assets

Growth in domestic assets was much healthier at 5.7 percent on the back of strong growth in domestic credit which was up by 8.5 percent compared to 6.3 percent in 2014. As for growth in banks' consolidated deposits slowed down to 3 percent compared to 7.8 percent in 2014, Domestic deposits grew only a tad better, posting 3.3 percent increase in 2015. However, the banking system continued to enjoy a stable funding base with 63 percent of the total deposits placed in the time deposit category. Moreover the asset quality of the banking system has visibly improved over the last few years, exhibited by a steady decline in both the gross and net non-performing loan ratio, the gross on a consolidated basis, has dropped to a historically low level of 2.4 percent (1.9 percent on domestic, Kuwait-only basis) as of December 2015, well below 3.8 percent last observed in 2007 before the global financial crisis struck.

The Banks' net income, on consolidated basis, grew by a modest 7 percent to reach KD 705 million in 2015, at a much slower pace compared to 26.5 percent in 2014. Both return on assets as well as equity experienced a marginal improvement as growth in net income outpaced the growth in assets and equity.

As for Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR) of the banking sector, it further improved to reach 17.5 percent, well above the CBK's 12.5 percent requirement for 2015. Though the improvement in CAR was largely driven by conventional banks in 2015.

Adding that the Islamic banks continued to maintain capital adequacy ratios above their conventional counterparts, which in part also explains their lower efficiency ratios. The

banks' overall leverage ratio was 9.7 percent in 2015, well above 3 percent benchmark proposed by the Basel Committee, indicating banks' capacity to extend credit without the risk of breaching the leverage ratio.

Discount rate

CBK, in lockstep with the Federal Reserve, raised its discount rate by 25 bps in December 2015. Domestic inter-bank rates were on ascent few months in advance of CBK's move, largely in anticipation of an impending lift-off by the Federal Reserve. Both the scale of liquidity absorptions as well as interbank rates indicate that liquidity in the banking sector,



Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) Dr Mohammad Al-Hashel

while still healthy, has slightly tightened; accordingly, absorption both in terms of interventions and Tawaruq for shorter maturities visibly tapered by the close of 2015.

CBK's mop up exercise relied, almost entirely, on the use of one-week instruments, further reducing the share of one-month arrangements. In the foreign exchange market, KD depreciated against USD by 3.6 percent in 2015 while appreciating against EURO and GBP by 6.7 percent and 0.9 percent respectively; diverging growth trajectories and monetary policies across major economies influenced the exchange rates.

Kuwait Stock Exchange, moving in lockstep with the protracted decline in oil prices, closed the year down in double digits (14.1 percent) as

the absence of a domestic catalyst left the market more attuned to global developments; large cap stocks retreated by 15 percent (Kuwait-15 index) despite banks' healthy profits.

Kuwait's real estate market also markedly slowed down both in terms of number and sales value of the deals, after enjoying positive growth for five consecutive years (with a particularly robust expansion in 2014).

The retreat was broad based as all three segments (residential, investments and commercial) contracted significantly as steady fall in oil prices weighed on investors' sentiments. Yet the real estate prices seemingly held up well, averting any serious correction; this suggests the presence of genuine demand as well as investors' preference to stay put.

However, materialization of an extreme tail event like a sharp correction in the real estate prices, though highly unlikely, could test the resilience of the banking sector, given banks' significant exposure to the real estate market, both in terms of loans and collaterals. Both retail and large-scale payment systems in Kuwait have been steadily growing, exhibiting the increasing role of modern payment systems in facilitating a myriad of transactions on a daily basis. During 2015, value of ATMs and point of sale (POS) based transactions posted growth of 5.2 percent and 13.2 percent respectively. These growth trends are similar to the ones observed in 2014 and underscore the resilience of household consumption in Kuwait despite a challenging economic environment. There are, however, signs of a slowing trend in the sales of consumer durables.

E-banking

To facilitate the increasing use of e-banking, necessary infrastructure in Kuwait has also been expanding; the number of ATMs and POS machines grew by 4.7 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively reaching 1,708 and 43,322 machines by December 2015. Moreover, branch network also continued to expand (particularly for Islamic banks), bringing total bank branches in Kuwait to 422.

The Governor indicated that growth in private sector credit is likely to remain healthy amid ongoing emphasis on capital spending. Moreover, oil market is heading towards a more balanced position. The Kuwaiti banking sector, which has remained unscathed so far, is likely to benefit further from this relatively improved outlook on domestic front. And the banking sector is well placed to remain resilient in the near term, though the capacity to withstand various shocks does vary across banks. — KUNA



The Central Bank of Kuwait's head office.

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Al-Anbaa

THE MINISTER AND THE RIGHT OPINION

By Adel Al-Ibrahim

Honesty in professional performance is a responsibility that is not limited to one employee or the other - rather it basically starts with the minister, not for anything other than him giving the oath of office to perform his duties in front of His Highness the Amir with all honesty. Also, a member of the legislative authority takes the oath of office before assuming his legislative duties, but for the rest of the employees, there is no oath except in the military and some professions, because they are supposed to perform their duties according to the law and rules and any violations by them will lead to investigations.

This was a necessary introduction for what was published on social media on the letter of the education minister, which was urgent and confidential, which included the referral of the grievance of an applicant for the job of a teaching faculty member and similar cases to the higher appointments committee after being rejected by the department of education and training faculty members affairs because their academic qualifications do not match, besides the fact that the specialty is not required, along with five similar cases.

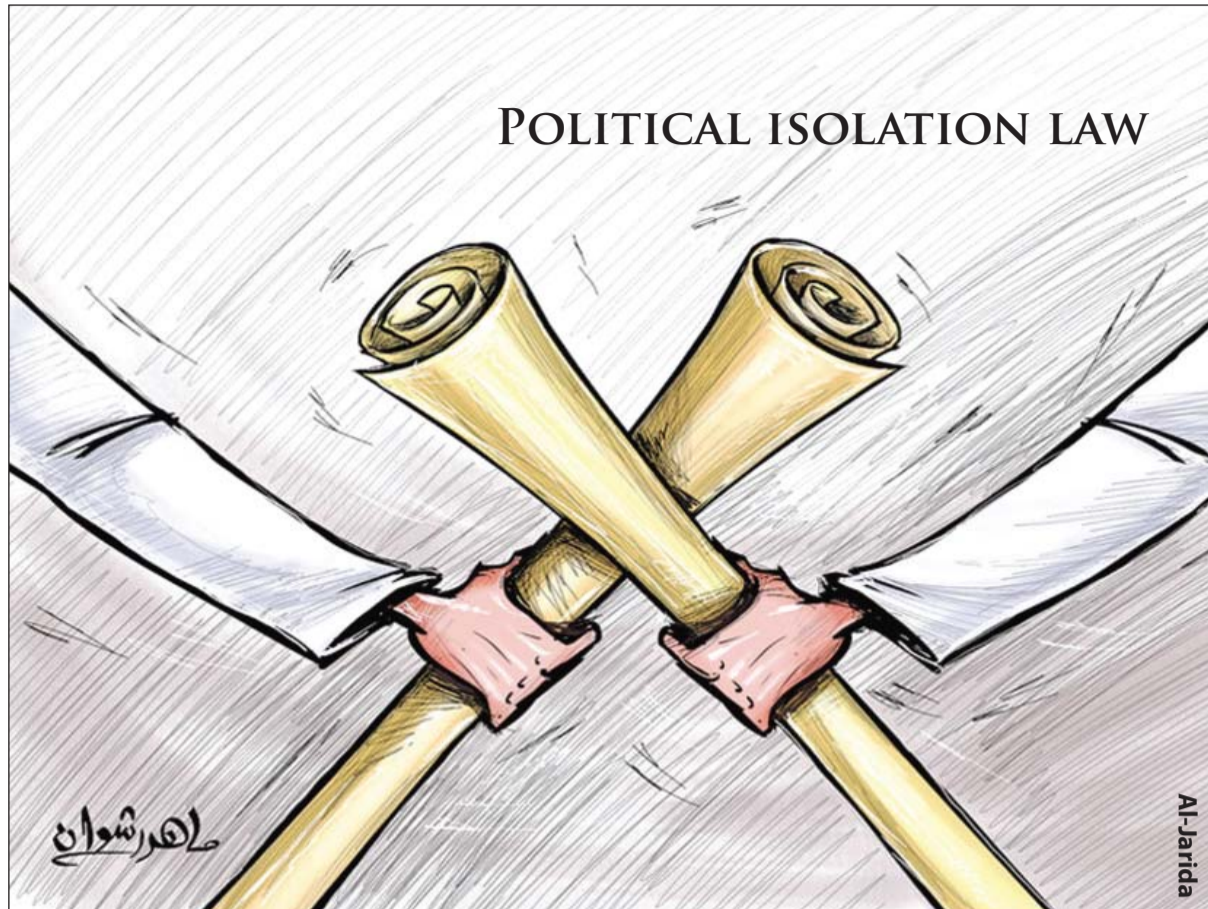
We have the following comments on this: First: If the minister's opinion, according to what was published, that the papers presented by the applicant are matching, then this means there is a clear defect at the appointments department, and its work is carried out according to personal liking and not according to rules and regulations, which compels the education minister to fulfill professional honesty and hold them to account and refer them for investigation to ensure justice. There may be previous cases that were served injustice and were not appointed and could not reach you.

Second: If the decision of the teaching faculty members affairs department in rejecting the applicant's application and his grievance was according to rules and regulations and required conditions, and the affected person should refer to court. Then its opinion must be respected without interference by the minister in its work, because it is not in his authority to violate the law, or for appointments to be means to gain parliamentary approval, especially that he took the oath of office to perform his duties with all honesty.

Third: If the minister violated rules and regulations, then I find he violated his duties as a minister and reneged against the oath, which means he is not qualified for his post, and we have the right to ask what is good in the existence of committees and conditions if the minister cancels them and makes individual decisions?

Yes, everyone talks about implementing the law, but who does not have wasta is the one concerned with the law despite what is published that the law is for everyone, and this is the reason of our educational and economic backwardness, with regret. I hope the teaching faculty committee, if it was right with its decision that the applicant did not meet conditions, submits its resignation because of the minister's interference in its work, so that everyone knows that justice is something that cannot be sidestepped, and that every official's responsibilities and duties has limits.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



MARIAM AL-KHAMEES WINS NEW CADILLAC SRX IN GULF BANK'S RED, SALARY ACCOUNT QUARTERLY DRAW

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank welcomed Mariam Adel Fahad Al-Khamees, the second quarterly Red and Salary Account draw winner of 2016, at the Cadillac showroom in Al-Rai Area. Yaser Sulaiman, Executive Manager, Consumer Banking at Gulf Bank congratulated her on winning the Cadillac SRX car.

New Red Account or Salary Account customers who open an account and transfer their student allowance or

salary will also be eligible to enter the monthly cash draws for a chance to also win up to KD 1,000 each. In addition, the quarterly car draw will be for 1 lucky winner who will have a chance to win a new Cadillac SRX. For further information about Gulf Bank's red account and other prize draws, visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805, or go online at www.e-gulfbank.com.



Crime

Report

Man assaults dentist, patient

KUWAIT: Adan detectives are looking for a citizen who beat a dentist and a female Lebanese patient who was being treated in Adan specialized medical center. The citizen who was waiting his turn stormed into the clinic and found the patient being treated, so he insulted and beat both the doctor and the patient in front of other patients before escaping. The doctor lodged a complaint at Adan hospital, while the Lebanese woman submitted a medical report of injuries she received. Adan detectives are looking for the suspect.

Fake cops rob pedestrian

KUWAIT: An Egyptian man lodged a complaint at Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh police station, saying that two persons who claimed to be detectives beat him up and robbed KD 530 from him. He told officers that while he was walking, the two approached him after they pulled over their SUV, and said that they were detectives. They then started beating him and took the money before escaping, he said, adding that he was unable to note down the vehicle's license plate number. Detectives are working on the case.

DUI

Police stopped a woman who was driving erratically and was discovered to be drunk. She was also found wanted for murder threat and misuse of a telephone, in a case filed by her ex-husband's sister at Bayan police station. The woman was taken to Salmiya police station and charged for driving under the influence of alcohol and drunkenness, and added to the earlier charges.

Suspects caught

Ahmadi police arrested two citizens for kidnapping and attempt rape of a minor. Both were also found wanted on felony cases. The arrests were made during a routine check. The suspects were taken to the proper authorities for further action.

State security case

Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Sueliman Al-Fahad ordered a citizen to be sent to state security. The man attempted to climb over the Interior Ministry's fence to tell about some people who deal with the Daesh terrorist group, according to investigations. Surveillance systems spotted the man while climbing the external fence of the ministry and he was arrested. When asked about his action, he said he was not allowed to meet a senior official and has important information about people connected to Daesh. The man's psychological state is unknown.

Suicide avoided

Jahra security men persuaded a woman to change her mind about setting herself on fire in front of the central prison. The woman reportedly wanted to commit suicide because of threats she said she receives regularly from a prisoner. Police received a call from a citizen saying her daughter is threatening to set herself alight in front of the central prison gate, while screaming hysterically. Police found the girl holding a bottle full of fuel and a lighter, so they negotiated with her for hours before they were able to put her under control. She was sent to Sulaiybiya police station for questioning. — Al-Rai

Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A traditional grocery store in Kuwait. — KUNA photo



Pentagon chief seeks better use of US forces in Afghanistan

WHAT TO EXPECT AS MAY STARTS UNTANGLING THE UK FROM THE EU



LONDON: Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron is pictured during a visit to Reach Academy Feltham yesterday. —AP

CAMERON CHAIRS HIS FINAL CABINET MEETING

PM TO DEPART OFFICE TODAY

LONDON: British Prime Minister David Cameron chaired a farewell Cabinet meeting yesterday, a day before handing over power to his successor following the historic vote to leave the European Union.

Ministers gathered for the final session a day after Home Secretary Theresa May was confirmed as the new Conservative leader and prime minister-in-waiting - and as a moving van arrived in Downing St. ahead of Cameron's departure today.

Culture Secretary John Whittingdale said there had been a "touch of sadness" to the meeting, which saw May and Treasury chief George Osborne led tributes to Cameron. Cameron resigned after Britons voted June 23 - against his advice - to leave the EU. May will have to deal with the political fallout and

oversee the complex process of separating from the bloc.

She will spend the day considering the makeup of her own Cabinet before she moves into 10 Downing St. on Wednesday. British media have focused on whether Osborne will keep his job in charge of the economy. With the pound in crisis and fears over the economy, some argue that May could opt for continuity and keep Osborne in place, particularly as he has the confidence of many in the banks and markets.

But others say that the key position should go to someone who favored leaving the European Union. May supported remaining in the EU, but has promised to give prominent "leave" campaigners key Cabinet roles in a bid to heal the party's longstanding split over Europe.

Brexiteers

Two of the leading Brexiteers, former London Mayor Boris Johnson and Justice Secretary Michael Gove, were briefly Conservative leadership contenders, and May could show magnanimity by putting them in her Cabinet.

She has also said she will appoint a "Brexit minister" to oversee negotiations with the EU. May is already facing pressure from the 27 remaining EU countries to invoke Article 50 of the bloc's constitution, which sets the clock ticking on two years of formal exit talks. She has not said when she plans to do it.

She is also facing calls from opposition politicians to call an early election, before the next scheduled vote in 2020. May might be tempted to go to the polls to confirm her own mandate, and because the main opposition Labor Party is

in the midst of a leadership struggle that puts it in a weak position.

Leader Jeremy Corbyn has lost the support of most Labor members of Parliament and is facing a challenge from legislator Angela Eagle. The party's governing National Executive Committee is met yesterday to rule on whether Corbyn should automatically be on the ballot in a leadership contest, or whether he needs to gather nominations from 51 lawmakers - something he would struggle to do. Corbyn is likely to mount a legal challenge if the decision goes against him. Left-winger Corbyn has a strong base of support among grassroots Labor members and some trade union leaders.

Len McCluskey, general-secretary of the Unite union, called Eagle's challenge a "coup" and said it would be a "sordid little fix" to exclude Corbyn

from the ballot paper. The leadership battle has turned bitter, and risks splitting the century-old party in two. Police said Tuesday they were investigating reports that a brick had been thrown through the window of Eagle's constituency office in northwest England.

Corbyn said the attack on Eagle's office and abuse directed at other lawmakers was "extremely concerning." Last month Labor legislator Jo Cox was shot and stabbed to death in her northern England constituency, the first lawmaker to be killed in a quarter of a century.

"As someone who has also received death threats this week and previously, I am calling on all Labor Party members and supporters to act with calm and treat each other with respect and dignity, even where there is disagreement," Corbyn said. —AP

RIGHTS GROUP DECRIES 'FORCED ANAL EXAMS'

KAMPALA, UGANDA: Human Rights Watch is urging an end to "forced anal examinations" with a report documenting them in eight countries, mostly in Africa, saying the practice is based on flawed ideas about supposedly proving homosexual conduct.

In a report released yesterday, the advocacy group calls the examinations "a form of cruel, degrading and inhuman treatment" that amounts to sexual assault, violates international conventions and could rise to the level of torture.

The report draws on interviews with 32 men and transgender women subjected to the exams in eight countries that ban same-sex conduct: Cameroon, Egypt, Kenya, Lebanon, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda and Zambia.

The report says the exams are rooted in "discredited 19th century theories" that homosexuals can be identified by characteristics of the anus. A Kenyan court recently upheld the use of anal examinations to determine a suspect's sexual orientation, dismissing the argument that the procedure amounts to torture and degrading treatment.

A group of homosexuals in Uganda will soon launch a court case against the procedure because it violates the country's bill of rights, said Frank Mugisha, a gay leader who said he was aware of many such incidents. "It's very degrading," he said.

Although some cases involve rape, many involve consenting adults targeted by the police, some of whom try to extort cash from suspects, Mugisha said. The subject of homosexuality is taboo in many African countries. In 2009, a Ugandan lawmaker introduced a bill that prescribed the death penalty for some homosexual acts. A less severe version passed by lawmakers was rejected by a court as unconstitutional, amid international pressure.

Many homosexuals live secret lives, afraid of beatings and other acts of violence if they are outed. —AP



KENYA: Kenyan gays and lesbians and others supporting their cause wear masks to preserve their anonymity as they stage a rare protest. —AP

STORMS TEAR UP COMMUNITIES IN MINNESOTA, WISCONSIN

LITCHFIELD, MINNESOTA: Storms carrying tornadoes, torrential rain and powerful winds damaged homes, deposited a snow plow in a tree and flooded highways in north-central Minnesota and northern Wisconsin.

Audrey Schoenberg took shelter at a restaurant in Litchfield, Minnesota, after a tornado Monday flipped her home off its foundation. "I'm numb. I'm numb. I don't know really what I do feel right now. It's quite a shock to see that everything is gone," she said.

Authorities said the tornado damaged up to 20 homes in the area. Keith Johnson, the mayor of Litchfield about 70 miles west of Minneapolis, said there was serious damage, but that no one was injured.

"I've lived in this town 52 years and I've never seen a storm like this in our community," Johnson said. Diane Kelbing told KARE-TV that she and her husband raced to their mobile home park shelter when they heard the tornado warning siren. "Well, the garage is gone, the shed is gone, the snowmobile trailer is gone. We've got a snow plow in the tree," Kelbing said.

Fifty residents were removed from the Hilltop Health Care Center in nearby Watkins after the home lost part of its roof. The American Red Cross said it is assisting the evacuees. Law enforce-

ment also reported a tornado touchdown around 6:30 p.m. Monday three miles east of Rockville, in Stearns County, Minnesota, according to the National Weather Service.

The storms also washed out sections of highways in northern Wisconsin and closed other roads. The Ashland County Sheriff's Office urged against travel in the county because many local roads were flooded. Sections of US Highway 2 and state Highway 13 south of Highbridge were closed yesterday.

The National Weather Service said more flooding was likely in northern Wisconsin, where rivers and creeks will continue to rise over the next two days. Areas around Danbury to Minong, Hayward, Ashland and Hurley are expected to experience the most significant flooding.

In Minnesota, the storms also generated a deluge of heavy rain causing the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office to advise against travel late Monday because of flooding. In St. Cloud, powerful rain flooded street and left some motorists stranded in high water. In a Baxter industrial park, a foot of water covered the roadways. The National Weather Service reported 11 inches of rain fell in the east-central Minnesota city of Sturgeon Lake. —AP

Technician- Building Maintenance - Australian College of Kuwait - Kuwait

You will be responsible for keeping weekly reports on the water consumption of ACK and maintaining the water meter installed by the local authority in good order and operational at all times, attending maintenance and emergency calls when and as required and performing stand-by duty if necessary after duty hours.

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You will be responsible for assisting with the maintenance of the hotels appearance, equipment and system, performing Electrical, plumbing, HVAC, preventative, maintenance work orders, and assisting the supervision of outside contractors performing work on the hotel premises

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You will be responsible for assisting employees both EXPAT and Foreign Nationals in daily Administrative and Personnel issues, maintaining leave request/leave control log as well as absence log, greeting new employees at the housing, briefing, assists new employees with their immediate needs, and answers questions concerning housing maintenance procedures.

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PR & Social Media Executive - Harvey Nichols - M.H. Alshaya Co - Kuwait

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Arab Sales Associate - Female D & H International Company W.L.L - Kuwait

You will be responsible for establishing own leads and build professional relationships with potential clients, achieving sales targets and providing support to others, testing and recommending new ways to increase Market Share, leading negotiations with clients, business associates, and business contracts.

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Architect ECEC - KSA

You will be responsible for discussing the ideas, objectives, requirements and budget of a project and in some cases help to select a site, consulting with other professionals about design, assessing the needs of the building, and its users and advising the client on the practicality of their project

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You will be responsible for implementing solutions by writing clear, self-documenting code, accomplishing engineering and organization missions by completing related projects as needed, and updating job knowledge by studying programming techniques by participating in educational opportunities

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Junior Accountant City University College of Ajman - UAE

You will be responsible for ensuring assigned work activities are carried out as per company policies and procedures, ensuring Cash Handling is as per company policy, and cash balance at assigned till is accurately tallied and appropriately handled as instructed by management

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You will be responsible for establishing new accounts by visiting or calling potential clients, building and maintaining positive and professional relationship with key pharmacists and customers including those who have significant influence in the purchasing decisions.

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Sales Executive Diwaneyeh Group - UAE

You will be responsible for listening to customer requirements and presenting appropriately to make a sale, maintaining and developing relationships with existing customers in person and via telephone calls and emails, negotiating the terms of an agreement and closing sales

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Medical Device Sales Executive - MenaMark - UAE

You will be responsible for managing both your area and brands efficiently and effectively, enhancing liquidation and stock turn, conducting sales support meetings and negotiating win to win deals, contacting potential customers at hospitals, clinics, doctors' offices, and nursing to sell medical devices.

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Project Manager Alliance | Qatar Airways | Doha Qatar Airways - Qatar

You will be responsible for managing and developing Qatar Airways bilateral airline partnerships in order to drive maximum short term and long term value for the airline, preparing annual budgets and deliver within the budgets, planning, organizing, directing, coordinating and supervising functions in a fast-paced in a changing facility environment

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Business Development Coordinator BPO+ - Qatar

You will be responsible for identifying Tender Opportunities and registrations, creating, qualifying, wish list/prospect list, targeting and mapping key/business opportunities, creating a prospect list, initiating first level of communication (verbal and email) and sharing Corporate presentation.

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Maintenance Supervisor Vectrus - Qatar

You will be responsible for maintaining Section planning and scheduling maintenance workloads to optimize use of resources including personnel, time, tools, equipment and facilities, preparing, analyzing and briefing reports on maintenance schedules, production, performance and trends across the departments

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You will be responsible for acting as single point of responsibility for all aspects in your assigned capital projects, developing, managing, monitoring and controlling diverse range of multi-disciplinary capital projects executed in accordance with the appropriate engineering, safety, quality and environments standards.

Apply Now [JB50126149](#)

ONE YEAR ON, US OBSTACLES BLUNT HOPES FROM IRAN DEAL

TEHRAN: A year ago, a landmark nuclear deal with world powers led jubilant Iranians to dream of an end to isolation and economic hardship, but critics say US obstacles have soured those hopes. Despite many sanctions being lifted, the international banking system is still too nervous to work with Iran. At the same time, President Hassan Rouhani faces criticism for over-hyping the economic benefits of the accord as well as fierce opposition from hardliners who reject closer ties with the West.

Many in the Islamic republic and beyond trace the problems back to Washington. "Iran has done its part. The blockage comes from the Americans - the Europeans should put more pressure on them," said a European diplomat in Tehran, speaking on condition of anonymity. "There are political leaders in the United States who make Iran out to be the devil and have not understood the goal of this accord," he added. The deal reached on July 14, 2015 saw the US, Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia agree to lift some international sanctions in exchange for guarantees that Iran would not pursue nuclear weapons.

But even after it took effect in January, the US maintained primary sanctions linked to Iran's human rights record and ballistic missile testing - blocking Tehran from dollar transactions and leaving banks worried they could still be prosecuted for doing business with the country, despite repeated assurances from Washington that they will not. Oil production has soared back almost to pre-sanctions levels, but Rouhani's hopes of attracting \$30-\$50 billion in foreign investment each year increasingly look like wishful thinking.

'Intense Fight for Power'

Aside from a €400-million (\$441-million) joint venture announced last month between France's Peugeot-Citroen and its old partner Iran Khodro, investments have been slow to materialize despite a rush of business delegations. Planned sales of hundreds of Airbus and Boeing planes are stalled, with Republicans in Washington doing their utmost to derail the deals. "The accord opened up the possibility (of working in Iran), but it's still complicated to

get concrete results due to financing problems," said Romain Keraval, head of Business France's Tehran office.

Hardliners are having a field day with the meagre results, using the media to press home a narrative that the nuclear deal will not benefit ordinary citizens. Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who supported the deal in order to end sanctions, continues to emphasize a "resistance economy" aimed at boosting domestic production and warns against Western "infiltration" through the agreement.

"There is a very intense fight for power happening," said the European diplomat. "The hardliners are doing everything they can to impede Rouhani's efforts to improve relations with the world. They see it as leading to more foreigners coming to Iran and 'spoiling' the country from within."

Many see the continued US sanctions as proof that Washington never wanted a real reset in relations, and only saw the nuclear deal as another way to manipulate Iran. "The US used this deal to put more pressure on us, trying to make us change our behavior in the Middle East or give up our ties with (Lebanese group) Hezbollah," said Amir Mohebbian, a Tehran-based political analyst with ties to politicians of all hues. "History has taught us we should not trust the United States."

Conservatives are at least taking heart from the chaos engulfing Western politics - from the divisive rise of Donald Trump in the US to Britain's dramatic decision to leave the EU. "They won't be able to gather together against us as they did in the past, especially when we are showing them a new face of flexibility," said Mohebbian.

'A Lot of Work to Do'

Rouhani faces a tough re-election bid next year, and with 11 percent of Iranians out of work, his advisors have been pleading for patience. "Sanctions had become a very big obstacle in the path of Iran's economy, but removing them was not by itself going to be the sole engine of economic growth," said Said Leylaz, an analyst close to the president. "We have a lot of work to do." — AFP



Two tourist sit along the sea wall in the Casco Viejo neighborhood of Panama City on Monday. Casco Viejo is the old colonial district of Panama City, with cobblestone streets and distinct colonial buildings.— AP

MP CALLS FOR ADDING HEZB, DAWA...

Continued from Page 1

its publication in the official gazette. Turajji urged the minister to speed up the implementation of the law, adding that the new legislation provides the minister with powers necessary to deal with the incorrect situation in the sports sector and for holding to account those responsible for the deterioration of sports in Kuwait.

The lawmaker said that those who contributed to the

suspension of Kuwaiti sports should be aware that they will not escape punishment. He said the new law will respond to demands by the Kuwaiti people to reform the situation in the sports sector.

Meanwhile, MP Ahmad Al-Qudhaibi vowed yesterday that he will hold the government to account in the next term over the delay in issuing the bylaws of the anti-corruption law. He said that the law, which was published in February, states that its bylaws should be issued within two months after its publication in the gazette.

20 KILLED IN ITALY TRAIN CRASH

Continued from Page 1

The collision happened on a bend in the track in open countryside and flung the front carriages of both trains into olive groves bordering the line, slinging bits of metal from the wreckage. "It's an apocalyptic scene, it was hard not to vomit on first sight," said local journalist Lucia Olivieri who works for Andria Live.it, adding that rescue workers feared people may still be trapped.

Riccardo Zingaro, head of traffic police in Andria, said the yellow and blue carriages of the commuter trains were "utterly crumpled". Local hospitals issued a request on social networks for blood donors to come forward to help the injured. Paramedics set up an impromptu medical center among the olive trees, with three helicopters airlifting out the most seriously hurt victims, including one young boy. There were also psychologists on hand to help survivors.

Many of the passengers on one of the trains had been students heading to lessons at the University of

Bari and travellers on their way to Bari international airport. Relatives had arrived at the scene looking for news of their loved ones. Investigators said at least one of the trains had been travelling very fast, and it was possible the collision was caused by human error. One of the four-carriage trains was supposed to have waited at a station for a green light before heading down the single track between the towns of Corato and Andria.

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi interrupted a speech in Milan to say the country would "not stop until we know what happened". "This is a moment for tears in which we need to work to recover the victims and wounded," he added. Renzi said he was returning immediately to Rome following the collision. The trains were operated by private railway company Ferrovie del Gargano rather than the national railway operator Trenitalia. Italy's last major transport incident in 2013 left 38 people dead after a coach ran off the road and plunged into a viaduct. In 2009, 29 people died after a train carrying gas derailed, sparking an explosion. — AFP

TRIBUNAL REJECTS CHINA'S SOUTH CHINA SEA...

Continued from Page 1

with exclusive economic zones provided for in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), to which both countries are signatories.

"China had violated the Philippines' sovereign rights in the exclusive economic zone by interfering with Philippine fishing and petroleum exploration, by constructing artificial islands and failing to prevent Chinese fishermen from fishing in the zone," the PCA added. The tribunal further ruled that the disputed Spratly islands "cannot generate maritime zones collectively as a unit" as claimed by China.

Yesterday's judgement comes against the backdrop of frequent military brushes between China and its Asian neighbors the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, which ring the waters believed to hold untapped oil and gas reserves. The tensions have also alarmed the United States which has key defense treaties with many regional allies, and in a show of strength last week sent warships to patrol close to some of the reefs and islands claimed by China.

All eyes were watching for any possible reaction on the ground or in the water from the Asian political and military powerhouse after the foreign ministry swiftly denounced the decision. "The award is null and void and has no binding force," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement after the ruling. "China neither accepts nor recognizes it." Beijing has repeatedly denied the tribunal's authority to rule on the dispute over the strategically vital region, and it refused the opportunity to defend its position in The Hague.

To bolster its position it has rapidly turned reefs into artificial islands capable of hosting military planes. Beijing has held naval drills between the Paracels and the southern Chinese island of Hainan in recent days. Richard Heydarian, a political analyst at De La Salle University in Manila, said the judgement was a "clean sweep" for the Philippines, with the court deciding that China had "vio-

lated prevailing international law on multiple levels". "China has been branded as an outlaw in unequivocal terms. US, Japan and other major powers should now focus on enforcing this binding verdict if China fails to comply," he said.

The Philippines, which had lodged the suit in 2013, welcomed the "milestone decision". Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay said experts were studying the decision. "In the meantime, we call on all those concerned to exercise restraint and sobriety." The Philippine embassy in China has warned its citizens to beware of personal "threats" and avoid political debates. Nationalist demonstrations are not rare in China, sometimes apparently with the tacit backing of authorities. More than 20 Chinese police were positioned outside the embassy, with more in vans nearby - a significantly larger presence than usual - along with two lorries loaded with crowd control barriers, a possible indication that authorities expected protests.

Ahead of the decision, new Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte had signaled he did not want to antagonize China, saying he would not "taunt or flaunt" a favorable ruling and would seek a "soft landing" with China. But Chinese President Xi Jinping said earlier this month that Beijing would never compromise on sovereignty, adding: "We are not afraid of trouble." China had sought diplomatic support around the world, and foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said its latest backers in the case included Angola, Madagascar and Papua New Guinea.

One of the key issues was whether the land features in the area are islands capable of supporting human habitation - which under UNCLOS are entitled to territorial waters and an exclusive economic zone - or rocks, which only have territorial waters, or low-tide elevations, which get neither. "The ruling can reduce the scope of the South China Sea disputes, but will not solve them," said analysts Yanmei Xie and Tim Johnston of the International Crisis Group in a report ahead of the decision. The ruling was likely to "escalate the war of words", they said, but added: "Escalation to military standoffs is not inevitable." — AFP

POKEMON GO DRIVES PLAYERS INTO FRENZY

Continued from Page 1

Pokemon Go comes with warnings to players to remain aware of their surroundings. Fairchild told of being so engrossed in the game that he has walked into things on sidewalks. Some US authorities are advising players to avoid breaking the law by trespassing in places that aren't open to the public in the search for cartoon creatures, and saying that some players have been targeted by criminals.

"If you use this app (or other similar apps) or have children that do, we ask you to please use caution," the O'Fallon, Missouri Police Department said on its Facebook page. The department also warned that robbers were preying on players drawn to rich troves of Pokemon monsters in parking lots or other places where victims might be vulnerable. Pokemon monsters can be seen through smartphone cameras, with charac-

ters appearing in whatever real settings are in view. They are caught by hitting them with virtual balls tossed by swiping across touch screens.

"I'll walk up to a PokeStop and see all of these people standing around flicking their fingers across their phones," Garcia said. "It's comforting to know there are a lot of us nerdy types out there." Pokemon Go is not just heavily downloaded, it is being kept by players and, in the majority of cases, played daily on a scale that already rivals the use of Twitter, according to industry trackers. People are also spending money to buy virtual items. "I have always liked the idea of going around the real world to collect and catch Pokemon; it has been a dream of mine," Garcia said. Nintendo, Google and Pokemon Company all invested in Niantic after it spun off from the California-based Internet company. Nintendo has a stake in the Pokemon Company joint venture that holds the Pokemon copyright. — AFP



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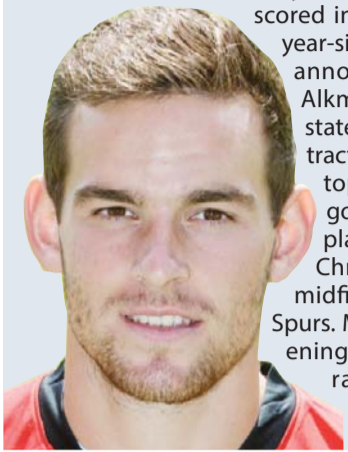
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SPURS SIGN HOTSHOT DUTCH STRIKER JANSSEN

LONDON: Prolific Dutch international striker Vincent Janssen signed for English Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur yesterday from AZ Alkmaar for a reported fee of £17 million (\$22.3m, 20.1m euros), the buying club announced.



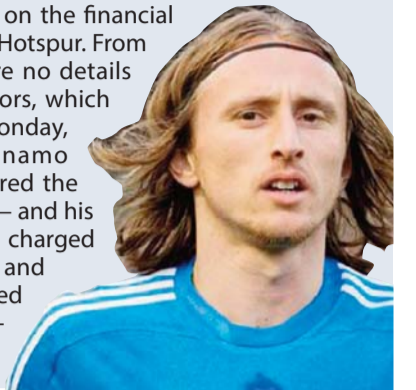
The 22-year-old well known to English football fans having scored in a 2-1 friendly win over England in March this year signed a four-year contract. "We are delighted to announce the signing of Vincent Janssen from AZ Alkmaar, subject to international clearance," read a statement from Spurs. "The striker has signed a contract with the club until 2020." Janssen, who finished top scorer in the Dutch league last term with 27 goals and won the Johan Cruyff trophy for young player of the year which future Spurs team-mate Christian Eriksen won when at Ajax, joins Kenyan midfielder Victor Wanyama as fresh faces at Spurs. Manager Mauricio Pochettino has been strengthening the squad for the twin challenges of the title race—having finished third last term—and the Champions League. — AFP

BERTRAND SIGNS NEW FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT

LONDON: England defender Ryan Bertrand has signed a contract extension that will keep him at Southampton until 2021, the Premier League club said yesterday. The 26-year-old, who was in his country's squad for Euro 2016, initially joined the club on a season-long loan in July 2014, but completed a permanent move from Chelsea in February the following year. But now he has signed a new five-year deal as the club continues to tie up key players on long-term contracts. "I'm very pleased. It's been a fantastic move for me since the day I came to this club and I look forward to many more successful years and really pushing forward," Bertrand told the club's website (www.saintsfc.co.uk). "I've enjoyed my football here. I've really enjoyed the club, and the fans have been fantastic with me personally as well, so I couldn't think of any better place to play football and to keep on developing. Bertrand, who had a frustrating spell with Chelsea, made 32 league appearances last season to lead Southampton to a sixth-place finish in the table and a place in the Europa League group stages. — Reuters

MODRIC QUESTIONED IN DINAMO ZAGREB GRAFT CASE

ZAGREB: Real Madrid midfielder star Luka Modric has been questioned by Croatian prosecutors over a multimillion-euro corruption case involving former high-ranking Dinamo Zagreb officials, a report said yesterday. Modric — who is not suspected of any wrongdoing — had already been questioned by anti-graft prosecutors (USKOK) in Zagreb in September 2015 and his testimony was considered key in the case. At the time local media reported Modric was questioned on the financial details of his 2008 transfer to Tottenham Hotspur. From there he joined Real Madrid. There were no details about the latest meeting with prosecutors, which took place in the Croatian capital on Monday, the Jutarnji list daily said. Former Dinamo Zagreb boss Zdravko Mamic — considered the most powerful man in Croatian football — and his brother Zoran, the club's ex-coach, were charged by USKOK in April with abuse of power and bribery. The Mamic brothers were charged along with one of the club's former directors and a tax inspector. — AFP



FROOME QUESTIONS QUINTANA'S TACTICS

ANDORRA LA VELLA: Chris Froome and his Sky manager Dave Brailsford have questioned the tactics of chief rival Nairo Quintana at the Tour de France. The defending champion led the Colombian by 23 seconds ahead of today's 10th stage from Andorra to Revel, back in France.

But over three Pyrenean mountain stages, Quintana failed to attack Froome, leaving the Briton and his team perplexed. "I would be interested to find out from him (why he didn't attack)," said Froome, 31.

"I was expecting an attack from him (on Sunday) and was keeping something in reserve, and in the back of my mind just waiting for his big move. But it never came."

There may be 12 stages left in the Tour but Froome's Sky have the yellow jersey and are set up to defend it. "It really is a good place to be at the moment, I'm really happy to have the yellow jersey on my shoulders," said Froome.

"Tactically, but also for morale and for the team. Tactically it puts the shoe on the other foot—it's up to other teams now to go out to try to gain back time they've lost already."

Quintana admits he could lose time to Froome in Friday's 13th stage time-trial but says he's happy with the position he finds himself in. "Froome is quite strong, his team is quite strong but I'm better than previous years," said the 26-year-old Colombian.

"I've got more maturity. I hope to get through the time-trial, that's where I'm weakest in relation to him. We'll see day by day, both me and the team. There's a long way to go in the Tour, a lot of mountains—you can't lay down your whole life on just one day."

"You have to take it slowly to see how your rivals are and where the possibility to attack will be."

'COMPACT RACE'

Brailsford said he's been surprised that other teams, not just Quintana's Movistar, have simply let Sky control the race, rather than trying to put them into difficulty. "We've seen Chris attack, we've seen a couple of other skirmishes if you like, but as of yet it's been a relatively compact race," he said. "At the end of the day there's only one team controlling this race, that's us."

"No other team has made any attempt to control the race. We controlled the race even when one of the big teams (BMC) was in the (yellow) jersey. "At some point in time, either the race gets taken on and (with) some of the other teams we have a battle with it, or we're going to continue to control the race until a couple of key showdowns."

Froome believes the race so far has shown he's simply got the strongest team-mates to fall back on. "With the team that I've got, I think they've shown themselves over the last few days, just in terms of numbers in the final, we do have the strongest team here," he said. "I'm confident the guys will be able to ride in that defensive way to help me. "When it comes to that final moment, even when other GC riders have only got one or two team-mates left, I'm sitting there with four or five and that's certainly going to work in my favour."

But Movistar manager Eusebio Unzué said his team are merely biding their time. "We're concentrating on effectiveness, there's no prize for the one who attacks the most," he said. "The compensation will come from being effective, either through attacking or through great defence." — AFP



REVEL: (From L) Australia's Richie Porte, Colombia's Nairo Quintana, Great Britain's Christopher Froome, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, Italy's Fabio Aru, Spain's Joaquim Rodriguez and France's Warren Barguil ride during the 197 km tenth stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Escaldes-Engordany and Revel. — AFP

NEW GENERATION IS TAKING OVER: BARDET

LA MASSANA: A new generation of professional riders is emerging intent on breaking with old habits in the peloton and doing things their own way, according to Frenchman Romain Bardet. Speaking to Reuters on the first rest day of the Tour de France, Bardet, sixth overall in the 2014 Tour and a potential podium finisher in Paris, said riders should not be seen as brainless pedal pushers. "We like to put a tag on cyclists—saying they're a bit thick, just good to push on the pedals, with their shaven legs and trademark tan, but it's not just that," the 25-year-old said.

"I hate this cliché. It's a simplistic approach, riders are profoundly human, with their sensibility, their political awareness."

After years of Lance Armstrong domination, a new generation of riders born in the 1990s is taking over, looking to bring a breath of fresh air into a sport long plagued by Omerta—the law of silence imposed by the disgraced American rider. The professional peloton has until recently been ruled by self-proclaimed leaders, such as Fabian Cancellara, whose influence in the pack is still being felt. "I have no link (with him). Cancellara has never spoken to me, I think he does not even know I'm a professional bike rider," said Bardet, a composed and articulate character who has a degree in management.

"There is a new generation coming that will have their own approach to riding although we mean no disrespect to the past. I was talking about Cancellara but Alberto Contador is a very respectful rival, who'll pat you on the back, like Alejandro Valverde."

"It's more open, there is no clear hierarchy, even if (world champion Peter) Sagan is a bit of a leader there will be no boss like before," he added.

Sagan, 26, has spoken up for riders' safety recently and is extremely popular in the peloton, unlike the 35-year-old Cancellara.

Just like Sagan, Bardet is concerned about safety and believes authorities have not been dealing

swiftly enough with the concern.

UNITY NEEDED

Riders need to unite but the nature of the sport makes it difficult. "In an environment that is so fiercely competitive, it's really hard to find unity," said Bardet. "It is absolutely necessary but it's hard to bring the riders together. We're not being consulted much by the (cycling) authorities. "It's a precarious world, riders have one or two-year contracts which means it is hard for them to commit for the sport in the long term." French riders, however, are quite united, a consequence of years of abuse by other riders when France was at the forefront of the fight against doping in the late 1990s. "Français de merde" (shitty Frenchman) is an insult that is still being heard in the peloton, Bardet confirmed, saying the fight against old habits is not over.

"You even hear that from riders who pretend they rule the peloton," he said. "So nothing is won yet. But it's changing with the new generation. I'm thinking of (Italian Fabio) Aru, (the 2015 Vuelta winner) who is not like that at all. It's more a question of generation than nationality."

Bardet, who was ninth on last year's Tour and now lies sixth after nine stages, 44 seconds behind overall leader Chris Froome, said he intends to keep a cautious approach in the rest of the race, reining in his attacking instincts. "It's not like in 1998 when it was 'open bar', when you could attack day after day," he said referring to the year of the Festina doping scandal when widespread use of the blood-boosting EPO was revealed. "We're human. I'm aware of my capacities, I know that if I go too deep into the red one day I'll pay for it the next day. "Attacking when you've got five Sky riders at the front of the peloton and ending up with a five-minute deficit just to show my face on telly, I'm not interested. That would be shooting myself in the foot twice." — Reuters

INJURED CONTADOR LIKELY TO MISS RIO OLYMPICS

MADRID: Spanish cyclist Alberto Contador said yesterday that he is almost certain to miss the Rio Olympics next month after the injuries that ruined his shot at a third Tour de France victory. The 33-year-old, a two-time Tour de France champion, quit cycling's most famous race on Sunday's ninth stage after crashing on both of the opening two stages, suffering injuries including down his right side. He finished fourth in the individual time trial at the 2008 Beijing Olympics, but missed the following Games in London after he was handed a two-year doping ban.

"Regarding the Olympics, it is practically impossible (for me to participate) because the question is not whether I have recovered but if I can participate in top condition," he told a press conference in Madrid after having medical tests.

"At first glance it looks like that will not be possible." Doctors said it would take about four weeks for Contador to recover from a range of injuries, which include muscle tears in his left thigh and bruising to his right shoulder.

Contador said missing the Olympics, which start on August 5, would deal "a big blow to morale because it is the second main objective of the year after the Tour." He is hoping to recover in time to ride in the Vuelta a España, which begins on August 20. "I think I can get there," he said of the Vuelta, a race he has won on three occasions. Contador insisted he had no regrets after persevering in this year's Tour despite the early crashes that eventually forced him into a premature exit. "I had to try it, I had to try to give it everything," he said. He dismissed any thoughts of retirement, just a day after compatriot Joaquim Rodriguez, 37, announced he would call time on his career at the end of the season.

"We're going to conclude an agreement in due course with a team for next year," said Contador, who acknowledged having made contact with various teams in the final year of his deal with Tinkoff. — AFP



MADRID: Tinkoff team's Spanish cyclist Alberto Contador gestures during a press conference at the CENTRO hospital in Madrid yesterday. Spanish cyclist Alberto Contador said yesterday that he is almost certain to miss the Rio Olympics next month after the injuries that ended his shot at the Tour de France. — AFP

RED BULL TO VOTE AGAINST 'HALO' SAFETY DEVICE

LONDON: Red Bull would oppose the introduction of a proposed 'halo' cockpit protection device in Formula One next season if it comes to a vote, team principal Christian Horner has said. Former champions Red Bull had the device installed on their car at the start of the sport's second in-season test at Silverstone yesterday, becoming the second team to try it out after Ferrari. The 'halo' concept, more like a wishbone with a central pillar supporting a protective loop above the driver's head, has been promoted by Ferrari and Mercedes, whereas Red Bull prefer their own 'aeroscreen'. The latter device, more attractive to some, did not perform as well in testing by the governing body and the halo is now the main focus. "Personally I'm not a big fan of the halo," Horner told reporters after

last weekend's British Grand Prix at Silverstone. "I think it's an inelegant solution to the problem that it's trying to deal with." "I'd prefer there to be more research time taken to do the job properly, rather than rushing something through that may have other consequences. So I'm not a big fan of the halo and the limitations that it has. "I certainly wouldn't vote in favour at the moment." The International Automobile Federation (FIA) is keen to introduce the halo next year but that would normally require a unanimous vote by top teams in the core Strategy Group, including Red Bull, as a change to the technical regulations.

The FIA could impose it on safety grounds, however, while approval for 2018 would acquire only a majority vote. — Reuters



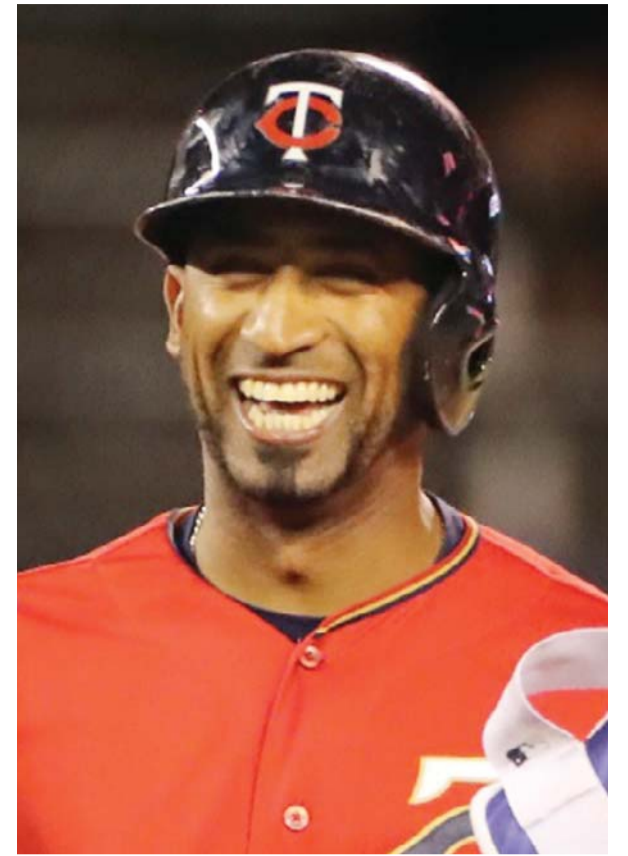
Adam Duval



Jay Bruce



Julio Teheran



Eduardo Nunez

ALL-STARS FROM CELLAR-DWELLERS GET RARE SPOTLIGHT

SAN DIEGO: For Adam Duval, Jay Bruce, Julio Teheran and Eduardo Nunez, the All-Star Game is as close to the spotlight as they're likely to get this season.

Their teams are far from contention, on track to lose 100 or more games. "Obviously it means a lot. But it would be better if we were winning or playing better as a team," said Duval, whose Cincinnati Reds are 32-57.

"But this is where we are in this stage of the

process. We are rebuilding, and Cincinnati has been very vocal about that. I think we have a lot of the pieces of the puzzle. We have a very good foundation and we are doing the things necessary to be successful in the future," he said. Bruce is also on the Reds, who haven't won a title since the 1990 Nasty Boys team and seem years from contending again. "I will consider myself a Red until I am no longer in uniform," he said. "Remember, I was traded last

year and it didn't happen and here I am an All-Star with the Reds. If the Reds think it is in the best interest of the organization, that they can maybe get better, they will do it."

Teheran's Atlanta Braves are 31-28, the worst record in the majors, a team that stripped down in preparation for next year's move to suburban SunTrust Park. "It's kind of been a hard year. We have been an up-and-down team," the pitcher said. "But it's some-

thing you don't think about it. You only control what you can control. I know I don't have a lot of wins but I'm going to keep doing what I do and that is to go out there and get people out. It doesn't matter if you have run support or not. You have to help your team win."

Nunez plays for the Minnesota Twins, who are 32-56 and far from the power that won titles in 1987 and 1991. "We are struggling, we know that. But we have to see the good side

and I'm here trying to represent my team and my fans in Minneapolis," he said. "Yes this is the highlight. I was very excited. I didn't expect it. I went from looking for more playing time to making the All-Star team is amazing."

The former Yankees infielder has 12 homers and 40 RBIs. "You can't control numbers. You work to get good numbers but you don't have any control. The opportunity was very big for me. It made a big difference," he said. —AP

MURRAY TARGETS TOP RANKING AFTER WIMBLEDON TRIUMPH

LONDON: World number two Andy Murray has set his sights on overtaking Novak Djokovic at the top of the rankings after capturing his second Wimbledon crown on Sunday. Murray, who reunited with coach Ivan Lendl last month, has reached the finals of his last five tournaments, winning in Rome and at Queen's Club before beating Milos Raonic in straight sets to end a 36-month hunt for a third grand slam title.

Murray's triumph and Djokovic's third-round loss means 4845 ATP ranking points now separate them.

"I would love to get to number one, for sure, and the way to do that is to show up every week and be focused on that event," Murray told British media.

"It's definitely a goal. It's something I

spoke to my team about, something I chatted to Ivan about. "This has been a great tournament for me but, if I want to win a few slams over the next few years, I am going to have to get better. I know that he (Djokovic) will come back strong from this because of the player he is."

Djokovic arrived in London as the holder of all four grand slams and the Serb had not been beaten on the big stage since losing to Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka in the 2015 French Open final.

"Novak is still clearly number one in the world right now. He is not just going to go away because he has had one bad tournament. You can't forget what he has done in the last 18 months or so-it has been incredible," Murray added. —Reuters

SHARAPOVA TO MISS OLYMPICS

NEW YORK: Maria Sharapova will miss next month's Rio Olympics after the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday decided to defer its decision on the Russian multiple grand slam champion's appeal against a two-year doping ban until September.

Sharapova was seeking to have her ban, which was imposed on her by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) in June, wiped out or reduced and a decision was initially expected to be announced by July 18. The postponement of the ruling

came as Sharapova and the ITF needed more time to "complete and respond to their respective evidentiary submissions", the CAS said in a statement. "A decision is expected to be issued by 19 September 2016," it added.

The 29-year-old former world number one was named in Russia's official entry list for the Olympics tennis tournament. Sharapova was banned last month following a positive test for the banned drug meldonium during January's Australian Open. —Reuters



Joe Root

ENGLAND'S ROOT READY FOR NUMBER THREE ROLE

LONDON: England batsman is confident he can cope with the added responsibility of batting at number three during the upcoming Test series against Pakistan.

Root has been promoted one place up the order following former number three Nick Compton's decision to take time out from cricket following a poor series against Sri Lanka. Although not true of Compton, number three has historically been the place occupied by a team's leading batsman. Root, who had a brief spell as an England opener, was persuaded to make the move by captain Alastair Cook and coach Trevor Bayliss. Now the 25-year-old Yorkshireman will slot in at number three for the first of a four-Test series against Pakistan starting at Lord's on Thursday. "We had a few discussions throughout the season that it could be a possibility moving forward," Root told a Lord's news conference on Tuesday. "I think the fact I had quite a long time to think about it and to chat it over with the selectors and Trevor and Cook, it probably made it a bit easier, rather than being thrown into the role," added Root, who has scored nearly 3,500 runs in his 42 Tests at an average of over 52 with nine hundreds. "The way they've dealt with it has been really good and it's given me time to get my head around it."

"I feel pretty comfortable going into the series and it's now just about trying to make sure that moving forward that's something I feel comfortable with and I can keep making big scores and contributing to winning Test matches." Root denied England's middle-order would be weakened by his promotion and the ongoing absence through injury of all-rounder Ben Stokes. "I think that's probably harsh," said Root. "Someone like Jonny

Bairstow would consider himself a middle-order batsman and he's taken his game to another level."

He added: "Guys like James Vince, who will really be looking forward to getting back out playing red-ball cricket again."

"He's got a little bit of experience under his

belt and will gain confidence from that."

Pakistan left-arm quick Mohammad Amir is set to make his return to Test cricket on Thursday at Lord's—the ground where he incurred a five-year ban for deliberately bowling no-balls against England in the 2010 "spot-fixing" row. —AFP

MLB SCRAPS PLANS TO PLAY IN LONDON IN 2017

SAN DIEGO: London is not calling for Major League Baseball next year. MLB has given up plans to play regular-season games in the British capital in 2017. Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in January that his staff was working hard at playing in London, and MLB officials looked at the renovated Olympic Stadium as a possible venue. The Red Sox likely would have been one of the teams involved.

"There was discussion about London early on," union head Tony Clark said Monday. "Unfortunately there were a number of moving pieces related to London that shortened our window in an effort to try to find common ground on that happening, and we weren't able to get it done in time."

Dan Halem, MLB's chief legal officer, said that ongoing collective bargaining negotiations and next spring's World Baseball Classic kept the league from pursuing a London series for next year.

"We did not have enough time to work out all the details to play in London in 2017," Halem said. "We continue to discuss interna-

tional play with the union, including playing games in London."

Clark also was non-committal about having players on 25-man active rosters made available for the 2020 Olympics, which will be held in Tokyo from July 24-Aug. 9. The International Olympic Committee executive board voted last month to support a six-nation tournament that year in both baseball and women's softball, and the full IOC is to vote in August.

Baseball became a medal sport for the 1992 Barcelona Olympics but was dropped for the 2012 London Games and won't be played this year in Rio de Janeiro. In 2008, only those not on 25-man big league rosters as of late June were allowed to compete - the US team included Jake Arrieta and Stephen Strasburg - both All-Stars this year. "Is there an appreciation for the value of having baseball in the Olympics? Yes, there is," Clark said. "Is there an appreciation for the season and how or if it could work with our active players? Yeah, there's a conversation, but we run into the same roadblocks we always have." —AP



Maria Sharapova

OLYMPIC SWIMMING CHAMP LE CLOS SAYS BOTH PARENTS HAVE CANCER

CAPE TOWN: South African Olympic swimming champion Chad le Clos, who beat Michael Phelps in one of the upsets of the 2012 London Games, announced Monday that both his parents are fighting cancer.

Le Clos said in a statement that his father Bert, who himself became a global celebrity for his exuberant celebrations and animated interviews in London, has prostate cancer and

underwent surgery last month.

His mother Geraldine has breast cancer, had a double mastectomy, and is undergoing chemotherapy, Le Clos said. Le Clos' mother had been in remission since 2010, but the cancer had returned, Le Clos said.

"It has not been an easy time but I am training hard for Rio," Le Clos said in his brief statement. "More than anything else I want them to win their

battles. I also hope that they will be in Rio." Le Clos asked for privacy for his family and said he would not be doing any interviews ahead of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, which open on Aug. 5. Le Clos, just 20 at the time, beat his childhood hero Phelps to win gold in the 200-meter butterfly in London, a big surprise that gained added attention because of his father's heartwarming and humorous

TV interviews. Admiring his son with a gold medal around his neck, Bert said in an interview with the BBC soon after the race: "Look at him! And he's beautiful! Look at this. What a beautiful boy!"

The father then asked if the interview was going out live. When told that it was, Bert apologized for being so excited. Fans loved Bert so much that the BBC asked him to return for a

second interview. Chad le Clos, now 24, is due to defend his 200 butterfly title in Rio, and also compete in the 100-meter butterfly, where he won silver in London just behind Phelps. He could come up against Phelps again in those two events. He could also swim in the 200 freestyle. Le Clos is also a three-time world champion and a six-time winner at the world short-course championships. —AP

AUSSIE WOMEN EYE US UPSET IN RIO

SYDNEY: Three-time Olympic medallist Suzy Batkovic was yesterday left out of Australia's women's basketball squad for the Olympic Games as the Opals look to make the podium for a sixth successive time in Rio de Janeiro.

The 35-year-old, a team regular for over a decade, was one of three players to miss the cut in coach Brendan Joyce's final roster alongside Tess Madgen and Rebecca Allen.

They were already without star centre Lauren Jackson, who retired in March because of injury after an almost 20-year international career. The world number two Australians have won either silver or bronze at every Olympics dating back to Atlanta in 1996, with the irrepressible US team their long-time nemesis.

Laura Hodges, Elizabeth Cabbage and Rachel Jarry return from the London 2012 line-up that won bronze, while Erin Phillips and Penny Taylor make their return to Olympic competition. They are joined by

Olympic debutants Marianna Tolo, Katie-Rae Ebzery, Natalie Burton, Tessa Lavey, Leilani Mitchell, Stephanie Talbot and Cayla George. Rio will be Taylor's third Games after missing London with injury, and she believes that the strength, determination and focus of the current side will give them every chance of upsetting the Americans. "Gold is always the goal at an Olympic Games but we know there is a long way to getting the chance to play for that gold medal," she said. "We have a strong team and a very similar team to what we had at the 2014 World Championships and I think Brendan has done a wonderful job implementing a system that we love being a part of."

"We play Brazil first up and playing the home side in the first game is always going to be a huge challenge in itself." The Opals wrap up a camp on Australia's Gold Coast shortly before heading to America for warm-up matches against the USA, Canada and France. —AFP

NSW OUT TO SALVAGE PRIDE IN ORIGIN DEAD RUBBER

SYDNEY: New South Wales are desperate to salvage some pride and send retiring captain Paul Gallen out in style in the third and final State of Origin match of this year's series today against Queensland.

The Maroons have already sealed their 10th rugby league series title in 11 years after a 26-16 win in Brisbane last month, which followed a 6-4 triumph in the opener in Sydney. After yet another failed campaign, New South Wales have added James Tedesco, Wade Graham and Josh Dugan to a freshened side as they look to avoid a series whitewash.

Tedesco replaces Matt Moylan at full-back, while Dugan returns from injury. Graham has received his Origin call-up at the expense of Greg Bird, after returning from suspension.

The long-serving Gallen will line-up for his 24th and last Origin match, with a special video tribute set to be aired immediately before the game at ANZ Stadium. Coach Laurie Daley said his captain would leave a legacy "of giving his best".

"I don't think anyone could ever question that. He goes out there and leaves nothing in the tank," Daley said.

"He's been a true warrior through difficult times but he's aimed up every time he's pulled on a sky blue jersey which I think the boys appreciate. "They know how much this game means to him personally and it'll be great for them to not only win for Gal but win for the state because it'll give

everyone a great deal of optimism."

But Queensland captain Cameron Smith is keen to spoil Gallen's party, adamant there will be no let up from his side with a 3-0 whitewash the aim to ensure New South Wales do not carry self belief into next year's series. "There is no lack of motivation. We spoke about our mindset towards this match and where it needs to be at and I don't see any issues," he said. "We can't afford not to put in a good performance because that can give them a bit of self belief and momentum into next series." Queensland have made two changes from the Brisbane match with Gavin Cooper set to make his Origin debut, while Nate Myles has recovered from injury, with Michael Morgan and Josh Papalii unavailable due to injuries.

Teams:

Queensland (from) - Darius Boyd, Gavin Cooper, Cooper Cronk, Dane Gagai, Matt Gillett, Aidan Guerra, Greg Inglis, Jacob Lillyman, Josh McGuire, Nate Myles, Corey Oates, Justin O'Neill, Corey Parker, Matt Scott, Cameron Smith (capt), Johnathan Thurston, Sam Thaiday.

New South Wales (from) - James Tedesco, Blake Ferguson, Michael Jennings, Josh Dugan, Josh Mansour, Jack Bird, James Maloney, Aaron Woods, Robbie Farah, Paul Gallen (capt), Wade Graham, Josh Jackson, Tyson Frizell, Matt Moylan, James Tamou, David Klemmer, Andrew Fifita. —AFP



Indian hockey team.

INDIA CHANGE SKIPPER AHEAD OF OLYMPICS

NEW DELHI: India's hockey coach Roelant Oltmans said yesterday that skipper Sardar Singh had been replaced as captain for the Olympics as he backed the sport's one-time giants to continue their recent revival in Rio.

After unveiling the 16-strong men and women's squads which will travel to Brazil, Oltmans said that goalkeeper Sreejesh Ravindran would lead the men's team under a new "rotational captaincy" programme. Singh, who has been captain of the team for the last few years, was picked in the squad and Oltmans insisted he remained a key player. But the move comes after he was accused in February of sexually harassing a woman who claims to have been his former girlfriend, accusations that Singh has strenuously denied.

"I have been here for a three and a half years now and what I observed is a fairly hierarchic structure and when there is only one captain for long then the players shy away from responsi-

bility," said Oltmans. "In a team, during a game, I need players who take responsibility. Changing the captaincy on the pitch gives far more responsibility. "Sardar is an important player but I am sure this (rotational captaincy) will help the team and it will help him as well," he added at a press conference in New Delhi.

India once dominated the men's game at the Olympics and has won a total of eight golds. However the last of these was in Moscow back in 1980 and they finished last at the London games four years ago. Although not one of the favourites at next month's Olympics in Brazil, there have been encouraging signs for India of late and they were runners-up in the recent Champions Trophy.

"You have seen in the last couple of years that we are getting better and better," said the 62-year-old Dutchman.

"If that's enough already to get medals at the Olympics that's something we have to prove.

India's strong showing at last month's Champions Trophy in London has seen it rise a couple of spots to fifth in the world rankings, still some way behind Australia at the top of the chart.

"It's clear from where we are, winning a couple of medals in FIH (International Hockey Federation) tournaments, look at the world rankings at the moment," said Oltmans.

"It is all signals of revival but nothing more than that. It is up to us to prove it during the Olympics that we are there for a longer time," added the coach, who is also the team's high performance director. The Indian men's team has been drawn in Group B alongside Argentina, Canada, Germany, Ireland and Netherlands.

The women's team, which is making its first appearance at an Olympics for 36 years, has been grouped with Argentina, Australia, Great Britain, Japan and the United States. —AFP

WARRIORS' STAR GREEN ARRESTED FOR ASSAULT

LOS ANGELES: Golden State Warriors star Draymond Green, who is expected to represent the United States in the Rio Olympics, has been arrested for an alleged misdemeanor assault. According to court documents obtained by ESPN, the 26-year-old Green was detained in the early morning hours on Sunday following an altercation at Conrad's Grill restaurant in East Lansing, Michigan where Green played four seasons of college basketball.

Police said that Green was arrested for misdemeanor assault and battery. Green has not been charged and police said no one was injured. He was released on a \$200 bond and is scheduled to be back in court on July 20. "It was basically an altercation between two guys," police told the US sports broadcaster on Monday. There were no injuries reported. If convicted, he could face a maximum \$500 fine and 93 days in jail. The Warriors said they are trying to learn more about the incident. "We are aware of the news involving Draymond Green in Michigan over the weekend. At this point, we are collecting information and will have no further comment until we have a better understanding of the situation," the Warriors said in a statement.

Green is among a dozen players who are expected to make up the US team for the Rio Summer Games and he is scheduled to attend the men's Olympic basketball camp in Las Vegas on July 18-21.

"We are still awaiting details. No comment at this time," USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo told ESPN.

He averaged 14.0 points, 9.5 rebounds and 7.4 assists per game last season in helping Golden State reach the National Basketball Association finals.

In the finals, the controversial Green got into a heated altercation with Cavaliers star LeBron James and missed game five of the championship series for an accumulation of flagrant fouls throughout the play-offs. The Cavaliers won the championship in game seven. — AFP



Draymond Green



Paul Gallen

TV MONEY LURES HENRY AWAY FROM BELOVED GUNNERS

LONDON: France and Arsenal legend Thierry Henry ended his association with the English Premier League club yesterday preferring to focus on his burgeoning media career.

The 38-year-old former striker-part of the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000 winning teams-could have coached the Gunners' under-18 side but declined the offer when Arsene Wenger told him he would have to give up his lucrative Sky Sports TV contract for which he is reportedly paid £4 million (\$5.2m, 4.7m euros) a year. Henry, Arsenal's all-time leading scorer with 174 goals in 254 appearances from 1999 to 2007, had

been working with Arsenal youth players as part of his UEFA A Licence course.

Another former Arsenal legend, Tony Adams, 49, will take the role with the under-18s. Adams's former central-defensive partner Steve Bould is Wenger's assistant manager while another ex-player, Freddie Ljungberg, will work with the under-16s.

Henry must now find a team to coach to complete his Pro Licence. Reviews of Henry's performances as a pundit for Sky have been largely critical, but critics agreed that he was far better on the BBC during Euro 2016.

Noted sports TV critic Giles Smith

said in The Times newspaper yesterday: "One puzzle we're nowhere nearer solving: how can the same Thierry Henry who is so open and engaging on the BBC be such a lump of wet wool on Sky Sports?" Meanwhile, Hull City boss Steve Bruce has said he is flattered to be linked with the vacant England manager's job, following the departure of Roy Hodgson.

Hodgson quit in the wake of England's humiliating exit from the European Championship at the hands of Iceland and Bruce is one of several managers who have been linked with the post by the British media.

"It's highly flattering and I'm honoured to be linked with it," Bruce, who led Hull back into the Premier League after one season in the Championship (second-tier), told the local media.

"Whether or not it goes any further than that... It's the pinnacle isn't it? To manage your country, there's no bigger job. It's all speculation. There's a lot of people who have written nice things and I'm grateful for that."

The names of United States manager Juergen Klinsmann and Sunderland boss Sam Allardyce are also doing the rounds for the job. Bruce said he had not been contacted by the English Football

Association and was focused on building a Hull squad capable of competing in the Premier League in the coming season. "With the players that we let go at the end of last season, and the two injuries we've subsequently picked up, we might now be looking at five or six new faces," he added. "We'd like to add to the squad quickly if we could, but when you have European Championships going on there hasn't been any really significant movement (in the transfer market) just yet. A lot of clubs are being patient and we have to do the same. "We have a good base of players here." — Agencies



SAINT-DENIS: This file photo taken on July 3, 2016 shows France's defender Samuel Umtiti controlling the ball during the Euro 2016 quarter-final football match between France and Iceland at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, near Paris, on July 3, 2016. Barcelona have agreed a 25-million-euro move for France defender Samuel Umtiti from Lyon, the Spanish giants announced yesterday. — AFP

BARCA COMPLETE DEAL FOR LYON'S UMTITI

BARCELONA: Barcelona have completed the signing of France defender Samuel Umtiti from Lyon in a deal worth 25 million euros (\$27.7 million), the Spanish champions announced yesterday. Umtiti, 22, will pen a five-year contract with Barcelona which includes a buy-out clause of 60 million euros, the club said in a statement. Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu confirmed last month that the two clubs had reached an agreement over the transfer while Umtiti was on international duty for France at Euro 2016.

The Cameroon-born centre-back made his France debut in the quarter-finals against Iceland and retained his place in the team for the next two matches, including Sunday's 1-0 defeat by Portugal in the final. Umtiti, who can also play at left-back, will be officially presented as a Barcelona player on Friday after undergoing a medical at the Camp Nou. He will compete for playing time with Gerard Pique, Javier Mascherano and France team-mate Jeremy Mathieu, whose injury prompted Didier Deschamps to call up Umtiti for the European Championship.

Umtiti, an under-20 World Cup winner in 2013, becomes Barca's second signing of the summer after the Catalan giants exercised a buy-back clause to re-sign midfielder Denis Suarez from Villarreal last week.

In Glasgow, Mark Warburton's success in steering Scottish giants Rangers back into the Premiership earned him a much improved three-year contract yesterday.

The 53-year-old Englishman-who took

over at Rangers last year after a successful stint at unfashionable English side Brentford-had his present contract, which had two years remaining on it, ripped up and replaced by a three-year deal. His assistant, former Rangers and Scotland defensive pillar, David Weir-who worked with him at Brentford-was also rewarded with a similarly improved offer.

"Our decision to reward Mark and David with significantly improved contracts was primarily driven by our recognition of their role in transforming the football department at all levels throughout the club and their desire to continue with that project in the seasons ahead," said Rangers managing director Stewart Robertson.

"We have sold more than 41,000 season tickets and, like everyone at the club, our supporters are looking forward to seeing the team compete in the top flight once again - both domestically and in Europe."

Warburton, who has forged a successful managerial career despite never playing in league football, said it was a privilege to be in such a prestigious job.

"I have said this many times since moving to Glasgow but it really is a huge honour and privilege to be manager of Rangers Football Club and I am thrilled to agree a new contract," said Warburton, who also guided Rangers to the Scottish Cup final last term after a sensational semi-final victory over bitter city rivals Celtic. "Our debut campaign in Scotland was certainly a positive one but we are all working tirelessly to deliver continued success for our fans." — Agencies

GERMANY'S LOEW TO STAY ON DESPITE EURO DISAPPOINTMENT

BERLIN: Germany's Joachim Loew said he would stay on to lead the World Cup winners to their title defence in Russia in 2018 despite an initial hesitation on whether to continue after a disappointing semi-final defeat to France last week at the Euro 2016.

Loew, who has coached Germany for 10 years and to five straight semi-final appearances at World Cups and Euros, said in a statement yesterday he planned to continue, ending some speculation that the 56-year-old might step down.

"Despite our disappointment, the team didn't disappoint," said Loew, who was Juergen Klinsmann's assistant coach for two years before taking over the reins in 2006.

"It was the youngest team in the tournament and I continue to see great potential," added Loew, referring to his team's average age of 25.4 years, which was next to England the youngest at the tournament. Italy had the oldest team with an average age of 29.4 years.

"I'm sure that they'll give us plenty of joy in the future and that's why I remain enthusiastic about continuing to work with these players and accompany their developments going to the 2018 World Cup in Russia."

Loew had triggered speculation that he might step down right after Germany lost to France 2-0 in the semi-final when he was asked about his future.

"I don't know," he told ZDF television just minutes after the final whistle. "It'll take a while (to make a decision)." Those non-committal comments prompted a wave of support for Loew and an opinion poll by the Emnid polling institute for Bild am Sonntag newspaper showed that 84 percent of Germans wanted the man they call "Jogi" (pronounced 'Yogi') to continue.

Also known as the "Bundestrainer", Loew has led his team to at least the semi-finals in every tournament they have played in since he took over after the 2006 World Cup, where Germany



AUGSBURG: This file photo taken on May 29, 2016 shows Germany's head coach Joachim Loew prior to the friendly football match between Germany and Slovakia in Augsburg, southern Germany. Loew confirmed yesterday that he will perform his contract with the German Football Federation (DFB) and stay as coach of the German national football team until the end of the Football World Cup to take place in the year 2018. — AFP

under Klinsmann also reached the semi-final before losing to Italy.

Loew also led Germany to the 2014 World Cup title-the country's fourth after 1954, 1974 and 1990. Loew's record stands at 137 matches with 90 wins and 23 defeats.

Germany's World Cup defence starts on

September 4 with a qualifying match against Norway. Loew is one of the longest-serving national team coaches anywhere but ranks only third in Germany after 10 years at the helm. Sepp Herberger coached the national side for 20 years and Helmut Schoen served in the role for 12 years. — Reuters

WEST HAM PIN £50M PRICE TAG ON PAYET

MARSEILLE: Dimitri Payet is worth not a penny less than 50 million pounds (\$65.3 million), West Ham United co-chairman David Gold has said, but even that might not be enough to prise the France midfielder away from the London club. Payet, who joined West Ham from Marseille in June last year, scored 12 goals in all competitions in his debut season in England and was instrumental in helping France reach the European Championship final, scoring three times. His performances for club and country have prompted speculation about a possible move to Chelsea, Manchester City or Paris St Germain, but Gold said West Ham would be reluctant sellers even if someone matched the huge fee.

"We wouldn't even listen to any offer under 50 million pounds and even then we need to keep our best players so we just don't welcome any offers at all for Dimitri," Gold told the BBC. "He's instrumental, he's important to us, the team is built round him and he's not for sale. He's settled in London with this family, the fans adore him and we're going to the Olympic Stadium."

"We've done everything we possibly could do. I'm hoping that will be enough (to keep him)."

Meanwhile, Paul Pogba may stay put at Juventus despite talks about the French midfielder's possible move to England or Spain, his agent Mino Raiola has said.

The 23-year-old Pogba, who played a pivotal role in France's run to the Euro 2016 final, has been strongly linked with a return to English Premier League club Manchester United with Champions League winners Real Madrid also eyeing him.

However, a fee touted to be around a world record 100 million pounds (\$130.65 million) could see Real priced out of a move for Pogba, according to British media reports.

"There is a lot of talk about Paul's future, but maybe he will not leave Juventus," Raiola told The Times.

"He is in no rush to leave, and Juventus do not want him to go. They want him to renew his contract. Paul is not desperate to move. We are very happy at Juventus and they are a club that want to keep their star players."

Pogba's contract at Juventus runs until 2019, while Raiola has worked closely with United during the close season as he wrapped up deals for his clients, midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan and striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic. — Reuters

ANCELOTTI PLANS TO BUILD ON GUARDIOLA'S FOUNDATIONS

MUNICH: New Bayern Munich manager Carlo Ancelotti has no plans to rip up the foundations laid by predecessor Pep Guardiola and says he will look to continue the club's tradition of attacking football when the season kicks off in August. The Italian has large boots to fill as Guardiola, who switched to English Premier League side Manchester City this month, won three straight Bundesliga titles during his tenure at the Allianz Arena. "I know very well that the style of Bayern Munich is to play attacking football and we want to play attacking football. I love to play attacking football," Ancelotti told reporters on Monday.

"I'm not here to make a revolution because the job that Guardiola did here was fantastic and I would like to follow his style. I don't think our style is going to change a lot compared to last year. The system will be more or less the same."

Despite the domestic dominance, Guardiola's three-year spell at Bayern was not deemed entirely successful having missed out on the Champions League title.

Ancelotti said it was impossible to predict whether he would do any better. "Of course everybody wants to win the Champions League, but only one team wins it," added Ancelotti, who is the only manager to have won the Champions League three times.

"I know that Bayern have a fantastic history in the Bundesliga and in the Champions League. The only thing that we cannot control is the result-if I could control that too I would be a magician, but I'm only a manager."

Having managed AC Milan, Paris St-Germain, Chelsea, Juventus and Real Madrid, Ancelotti said he had become accustomed to the pressure that comes with taking up a job with clubs targeting Champions League success.

"A lot of people ask about the pressure-I am used to it. I had the luck in my career of coaching top teams-all top teams who want to win, but honestly I don't feel the pressure because I'm used to it," the 57-year-old said.

Bayern kick off their title defence against Werder Bremen on Aug. 26. — Reuters



SEVILLA: New Sevilla's Argentinian midfielders Matias Kranevitter (R) and Joaquin Correa play with balls as they pose on the pitch during their official presentation at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Sevilla yesterday. — AFP

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TROON: Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland, right, hits his tee shot off the 9th tee during a practice round for the British Open Golf Championships at the Royal Troon Golf Club in Troon, Scotland, yesterday. — AP

PULLING OUT OF OLYMPICS HARDEST CHOICE: SPIETH

TROON: Jordan Spieth said pulling out of the Olympics was the hardest decision he's ever made, and that it likely will haunt him as he's watching golfers compete for a gold medal in Rio de Janeiro for the first time in 112 years.

Spieth cited "health concerns" as his reason for withdrawing, though he said the Zika virus was only part of it. Asked what kept him out of the Olympics, the 22-year-old Texan would only say that it was personal and anyone in his shoes would have made the same choice.

"Why was it so hard? Because I'm a huge believer in Olympic golf," Spieth said Tuesday during a news conference that touched only briefly on his bid for the third leg of the career Grand Slam at the British Open.

"This year I just had to try and weigh a risk that doesn't present itself every year," he said. "And just at the time that I had to make the decision, I just felt this was the right move for me. Not everybody's going to understand. Nobody's going to understand what it's like in my shoes. ... Mine came down to just a very personal decision that, again, I don't expect anybody to understand, but trust that I believe I'm making the right decision for myself, for my future and for those around me."

Spieth's stock has risen sharply in the last year after he won the Masters and US Open and made a spirited run at the Grand Slam. With 18 other players having withdrawn, he was looked upon as someone whose commitment might ease the backlash against golf for its perceived indifference about the sport returning to the Olympics.

That didn't stop him from following his instincts. Spieth said he didn't make up his mind until Monday morning, and the decision was his alone.

DECISION

"Everybody's entitled to their own opinion," Spieth said. "I'm not worrying about anybody else except myself, and again, I don't expect people to fully understand it. They don't know what I know about myself and my future and my goals. Therefore, there's nothing I can do about it except go on and try to again focus on this

week." Spieth's decision means none of the top four in the world ranking - they have won six of the last eight majors - will be in Rio when golf is part of the Olympic program for the first time since St. Louis in 1904.

Jason Day, Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy previously pulled out, all citing Zika and their plans to start a family or have more children. The mosquito-borne Zika virus has been linked to severe birth defects and possible neurological disorders in adults. International Golf Federation President Peter Dawson said Monday he thought there was an overreaction to Zika and that none of the workers on the new golf course have been affected. Spieth is staying with Rickie Fowler this week in Troon, and he said he was standing next to him when Fowler tweeted Sunday night that he would be playing. Spieth had planned to room with Fowler in Rio, and he said he texted Fowler after informing the IGF that he wasn't going to play.

"He said, 'No worries. I know you had to make it just for you. You're just going to be jealous when I get that gold,'" Spieth said. "That's what he said. So that's how it went." Either way, Spieth said he would be watching. He is the defending champion at the John Deere Classic, which was moved to the week of the Olympics when the PGA Tour adjusted its schedule for the Rio Games. Even though he's out of the Olympics, Spieth said he won't go to the John Deere.

"I don't think it would be an appropriate move to play that week, so I will not be playing that week," he said. "I don't think it would be appropriate given our decision on the Olympics. ... We've won two out of the last three years. So I will be going back there, I just don't think it's appropriate this year."

Spieth joked after an introduction to his close call at St. Andrews last year that it would be the easiest question he received. And when it was over, as he pushed back from the table, he said quietly with a smile, "Do we have a tournament this week?"

He was ready to move on from Olympics to a claret jug. But even Spieth knows that won't happen. He said he would carry the decision with him through the



TROON: Jordan Spieth of the US walks into a press conference ahead of the British Open Golf Championship at the Royal Troon Golf Club in Troon, Scotland, yesterday. — AP

Olympics and for a while. "It will loom over me throughout the Olympic games, for sure," he said. "I will be, I'm sure, at times pretty upset that I'm not down there. I thought about all this ahead of time. When I watch the opening ceremonies, that's going to be a big bummer.

Then when I watch these guys competing on the golf course. I'll be texting with Rickie, obviously, throughout as a good friend of mine. I thought about all of this ahead of time and still made the decision I did because it was the right move for me." — AP



Laila Ali

LAILA ALI WELCOMES TRIBUTE TO DAD AT HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

LOS ANGELES: Laila Ali returns as host of the Sports Humanitarian of the Year awards, which plan to honor her father Muhammad Ali in a tribute she eagerly awaits.

The show yesterday at the Conga Room in downtown Los Angeles features awards for individual, team, league and corporate humanitarians. Ali's father died in June at age 74 after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. The worldwide tributes were appreciated by his daughter, a former pro boxer herself who retired undefeated.

"I'm happy that my father is no longer suffering. Moving on is sort of a celebration to me. I hope people never forget," she said recently. "There's a new generation of kids that maybe haven't heard. I invite people to learn about him and be inspired by him."

Ali is using the show as a teaching moment for her own kids, 7-year-old Curtis Jr. and 5-year-old Sydney. She is married to former USC and NFL star Curtis Conway.

"They can watch the show and watch all the winners on the stage, so when they see Chris Paul or Brent Burns or Tina Charles, I can say, 'Look what they do when they're off the court,'" she said. "They're never too young to start learning. I learned that through my father, not only him telling me but showing me." Burns of the San Jose Sharks, Charles of the New York Liberty, Carlos Dunlap of the Cincinnati Bengals and Paul of the Los Angeles Clippers are finalists for sports humanitarian of the year.

"A lot of times you see athletes in the news for things they said or do for negative things,

it's nice to highlight the positive things they're doing," Ali said. "There's so many people out there who are doing good and demonstrating leadership and having a positive impact on their communities."

The team finalists are the Detroit Pistons, LA Galaxy, San Francisco 49ers and San Francisco Giants. Tennis great Billie Jean King, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and the 2015 Missouri football team will be recognized as Stuart Scott Inspire Award winners, named for the late ESPN "SportsCenter" anchor. Net proceeds of the event benefit the Stuart Scott Memorial Cancer Research Fund at The V Foundation. ESPN will grant nearly \$800,000 to the charities of the nominees and winners. Highlights of the show air July 15 on ESPN. — AP

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TEHRAN: An Iranian man waits on his horse and carriage for customers outside Tehran's ancient Grand Bazaar. — AFP

TEHRAN BAZAAR BLENDS HOPE, CAUTION AFTER NUKE DEAL 'THE EUROPEANS PUSHED US TOWARD CHINA'

TEHRAN: As a tailor in Tehran's famed Grand Bazaar for over 60 years, Mostafa Javedan has lived through coups, wars, a revolution-and now the ups and downs of international sanctions. His little store in the shade of the bazaar's high stone arches, established by his grandfather in the days of the 19th century Qajar dynasty, has weathered all these storms and remained firmly tied to global trends even when Iran was at its most isolated. "The chicest and the best-dressed in the world are the French and then it's the Iranians, but the English produced the best fabrics," the 80-year-old told AFP, looking snappy in a pair of shades and blue slacks.

Times have changed

These days, Mostafa sits back and lets his son Saeed do the work, and most of the fabrics come from China-one effect of the international sanctions slapped on Iran in 2012 over its nuclear program. "The Europeans pushed us toward China. Ten years ago we never bought fabrics from China, but their quality has been improving," said Saeed. "I think sanctions were a boost for the Chinese economy." The bazaar is still the main centre for business in Tehran, packed with shoppers browsing everything from centuries-old carpets to the latest mobile phones.

When Iran's nuclear deal with world powers struck in July 2015 led to many of the sanctions being lifted in January, small family-run stores in general saw little obvious change. They had already been forced to adapt, and in keeping with Iran's long history as a central point of East-West trade, many of its merchants had simply shifted their focus towards Asia. In one of the many kitchenware stores, most of the pots and pans are marked "Made in China." "We have some goods from Italy and the United States, but very few," said Ali Masoumi, 30, whose father set up shop in the 1950s.

He said the real changes had to come from within, and was skeptical the nuclear deal would make much difference. "If there is going to be any change it must be from inside Iran. The government should have a will for change. That will doesn't exist," he said. The moderate government of President Hassan Rouhani that came to power in 2013 has stabilized the runaway inflation and currency collapse of previous years. Rouhani hopes the end of sanctions will help Iran attract \$30 to \$50 billion in annual investment needed to hit his target of eight-percent growth. But a raft of US sanctions are still in place, related to Iran's human rights record and missile testing, leaving shoppers as well as businesses cautious. "People still don't want to risk investing and spending. They want to be sure there won't be any more drastic changes in the dollar rate, banking, housing and everything else," said Masoumi.

Optimism and obstacles

Still, others say the positive atmosphere created by the nuclear deal is already paying dividends. Esmail Ivazi, 35, was shopping for a carpet in the bazaar, on the back of a healthy few months for the toy factory he owns. He said exports to neighboring countries-including Iraq, Uzbekistan, Georgia, Armenia and Tajikistan-had risen sharply since January. "Our relations with foreign companies have become better after the nuclear agreement, as they trust us more now," said Ivazi. "I'm optimistic that the situation will continue to improve. People have hope for the future, and I believe that is driving people and markets to improve." But he admitted that obstacles remain, particularly while international banks remain wary of doing business with Iran over the threat of remaining sanctions. "We have banking problems. We want to sell to Russia, but we have money transfer issues," he said. "They can't travel here each time they want to buy something." — AFP



TEHRAN: Iranians shop in Tehran's ancient Grand Bazaar. — AFP

FRANCE ENERGY GIANT BUYS CHINESE WIND ENERGY FIRM

PARIS: Seeking to place itself as the main European player in a burgeoning Chinese market, state-owned French energy giant EDF said yesterday it had taken a controlling stake in Hong Kong-based UPC Asia Wind Management (AWM). EDF, which did not reveal what it had paid for the 80 percent stake in AWM, the local arm of wind farm operator UPC China, already has nuclear activities in China, as well as a growing presence in thermal and hydraulic power. US investment fund Global Environment Fund (GEF) will retain a 20 percent share of AWM, said EDF, which last year dubbed China the centre of gravity of the global energy industry.

The French firm, which highlighted its view of China as a priority growth market, is present in a swathe of Chinese cities, notably with a stake in a nuclear plant at Taishan in the south. "Our goal is to accelerate our low-carbon gen-

eration, with a diversified energy mix where nuclear and renewable energy balance each other," said EDF's chief executive Jean-Bernard Levy in a statement. "Our development in high-potential markets, such as China is a full part of this dynamic process. This country where we have been present for more than 30 years, is providing to the Group significant growth opportunities and we are delighted to boost our presence in renewable energy sources."

With the deal, "we are the premier European operator to set up in China, an what is an extremely promising market," said Antoine Cahuzac, director general of EDF's renewable energy division EDF EN. Economic growth has seen China's energy consumption rise exponentially in recent years and carbon currently has a 70 percent share in the mix. However, Beijing's "ambition is to reach 200 gigawatts of installed wind power capacity by

2020 - a rise of 15 GW per year," said EDF. By the end of 2014, China already had surpassed the United States as the country with the world's largest installed base of wind power at 100 GW and last year attracted around half of global wind power development.

China's current total installed capacity is 145 GW. Explaining some of the detailed rationale behind the UPC AWM deal, Bruno Fyot, EDF EN director general delegate, told reporters: "We are taking over 174 megawatts of operational projects and 130 megawatts of projects under construction ... and a little over one gigawatt of projects under development." Fyot added EDF was additionally very open to solar power opportunities which may present themselves in China. EDF EN is targeting annual construction of between 200 and 300 MW to reach two gigawatts within five years-about double current installed wind power capacity in France. — AFP

OPEC SEES TIGHTER OIL MARKET IN 2017

LONDON: OPEC yesterday was upbeat on the oil market outlook for 2017, saying global demand for its crude would be higher than its current production and excess oil inventories would be whittled down. However, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in a monthly report also cut its forecast for world economic growth this year, citing increased uncertainty following Britain's vote to leave the EU and said the pace of oil demand growth would slow slightly next year, in its first 2017 forecast.

"After the UK's referendum to leave the EU, economic uncertainty has increased," OPEC said in the report. "Potential negative effects have led to a downward revision of global economic growth in 2016 to 3.0 percent from 3.1 percent." Other forecasters including the International Monetary Fund have cut economic growth outlooks following the UK referendum. Concern about the economic impact of Brexit has weighed on oil prices, which at

\$47 a barrel have fallen from a 2016 high close to \$53 in early June.

World oil demand will rise by 1.15 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2017, OPEC said, its first forecast for next year in the monthly report. That marks a slight slowdown from growth of 1.19 million bpd expected in 2016. Oil prices have halved from two years ago in a drop that deepened after OPEC refused in late 2014 to cut output to support prices, hoping that cheaper oil would curb higher-cost rival supply such as US shale.

Despite Brexit, OPEC's 2017 market outlook suggests the strategy is working as it expects supply outside the group to fall further and demand for its own crude to rise, tipping the global market into a slight deficit. "The contraction seen this year in non-OPEC supply is expected to continue in 2017 but at a slower pace," OPEC said. "Market conditions will help remove overall excess oil stocks in 2017." — Reuters

STOCKS, STERLING RALLY ON STIMULUS HOPES
ITALIAN BANKS RALLY ON HOPES OF DEAL ON BAD LOANS

LONDON: European shares were on track for a fourth straight day of gains and the yen broke below its post-Brexit low yesterday as easing political tensions in Britain, stimulus hopes and a record high close for US stocks boosted risk appetite. S&P 500 index futures, up 0.5 percent, pointed to further gains on Wall Street yesterday. Europe's STOXX 600 rose 1 percent, helped by strong gains in Daimler and Unicredit, while sterling jumped 1.3 percent against the dollar, pulling further away from a 31-year low hit last

week. In Britain, interior minister Theresa May was set to become prime minister on Wednesday, offering some relief from the political uncertainty that has dogged the market since the country voted to leave the European Union last month. Second-quarter earnings season, for which investor expectations are low, got off to a bright start in the US with aluminum producer Alcoa beating estimates overnight. In Europe, shares in Daimler jumped 5 percent after the German automaker posted encourag-

ing results and reiterated its full-year outlook, allaying some concerns about the impact of Brexit.

Italian banks, a focus of investor concerns in Europe, got a boost yesterday with Unicredit jumping nearly 7 percent after the bank took steps to strengthen its capital position by selling a stake in an online broker. Italian government borrowing costs edged lower yesterday, narrowing the gap with benchmark Germany, as Rome moved closer to a deal to safeguard the coun-

try's struggling banks. "If there is some way in which Italy's banks can offload their inventory of bad loans then that would be seen as very positive for the economy and, in turn, allow government spreads to tighten further," Mizuho strategist Peter Chatwell said.

Risk appetite returns

Earlier, Asian shares extended gains, partly on expectations of more policy stimulus, particularly in Japan. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe signaled a fresh round of fiscal stimulus after a victory for his ruling coalition in upper house elections, sending the yen lower and stocks higher. Traders in London said former US Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke's presence in Tokyo had boosted expectations of more monetary easing too.

The BOJ is still far from achieving its inflation target despite adopting negative rates earlier this year in addition to its asset buy-

ing program. "The market is now priced for more than 10 trillion yen (of extra stimulus), but it will be more about the fiscal-monetary coordination that is driving markets," said Hans Redeker, head of currency strategy at Morgan Stanley, suggesting that figure would rise in light of Abe's comments.

The dollar rose 1 percent to 103.92 yen, its highest level since June 24, when the British referendum result roiled global markets. The euro jumped more than 1 percent to 115 yen. In commodities, oil prices recovered from two-month lows as a brief halt in Iraqi crude loadings threatened to tighten supplies. Brent crude was at \$47.72 per barrel, up more than 3 percent from its last close. US West Texas Intermediate crude was up \$1.30 at \$46.05 a barrel. Prices of basic metals including zinc, aluminum and nickel got a boost after Goldman Sachs lifted its forecasts on expectations of tighter supplies in the second half of the year. —Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report
Tuesday 12 July 2016
Index: Price Index, Weighted Index, KSEI 15
Trades: Security, High, Low, Volume, Value (KD), Trades, Last, Change
Market Summary: Total Volume, Value (KWD), Number of Trades



TOKYO: A man looks at a quotation board flashing share prices and the Nikkei key index of the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) in front of a securities company in Tokyo yesterday. — AFP

OIL BOUNCES BACK
HEDGE FUNDS CUT BULLISH OIL BETS

LONDON: Crude futures bounced back from two-month lows yesterday, helped by a weaker dollar, but an oil stocks overhang and a drop in bullish bets by investors weighed on prices. Brent crude was at \$47.36 per barrel at 1022 GMT, up \$1.11 or 2.3 percent. US West Texas Intermediate crude was up 87 cents at \$45.63 a barrel. Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said yesterday the oil industry needed a price above \$50 per barrel to sustain investments but added that downward pressure would prevail because of an inventory glut.

in Iraq and conflicting reports of new attacks in Nigeria also bolstered prices. On the downside, a Reuters poll showed that China's economic growth likely cooled to a seven-year low in the second quarter as the industrial sector lost steam and a boost from financial services faded. China's top oil firm CNPC said it saw the country's oil consumption rising to 670 million tons by 2027 from 520 million in 2014, implying annual growth of just 2 percent.

Hedge funds cutting their exposure to oil prices have also contributed to bearish sentiment, resulting in a 12 percent fall in Brent prices from their June peak above \$52 per barrel. "Oil prices could rally each time macro sentiment recovers on expectations of yet another round of quantitative easing, but for now the path of least resistance seems to be lower in the near term," analyst Virendra Chauhan of Energy Aspects told the Reuters Global Oil Forum. Energy Aspects cut its third-quarter Brent forecast to \$52 from \$55 a barrel. Physical markets were weak, with Asian refiners processing less crude as they grapple with margins that plunged to five-year lows as refined products flooded the region. — Reuters

A brief suspension of tanker loading

GOLD EDGES LOWER

LONDON: Gold edged lower yesterday as global equities rallied on easing political uncertainty in Britain and hopes for more economic stimulus measures, which in turn curbed demand for assets perceived as a haven. Spot gold was down 0.2 percent at \$1,352.06 an ounce by 0940 GMT after falling nearly one percent on Monday, which was its biggest decline in almost two weeks, US gold was down 0.1 percent at \$1,355.30 an ounce.

The latest US jobs data has boosted the prospects for an interest rate increase by the US Federal Reserve. Gold came under pressure after strong US non-farm payrolls data on Friday boosted some expectations for a US rate rise.

"Tensions in Britain are easing for now, as the country will soon have a new prime minister," ActivTrades chief analyst Carlo Alberto de Casa said. "With the British pound gaining some ground, demand for gold and other safe havens is also decreasing," De Casa said, adding that the next support level for gold was around \$1,340 an ounce. Gold has gained about \$100 an ounce since the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, as worried investors piled their cash into safe-haven assets.

Kansas City Federal Reserve President Esther George said on Monday that US interest rates were too low and signaled she could be ready to resume her push within the Fed's rate-setting committee for rate increases. Lower rates tend to boost gold prices because they cut the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion while weighing on prospects of higher stock prices, but not this time around; investors are thinking that the spate of monetary easing is likely to persist for some time to come, keeping both gold and equities fairly well supported," INTL FCStone said in a note.

The European Central Bank will not ease monetary policy any further at its meeting next week, according to an overwhelming majority of respondents in a Reuters poll of euro money market traders. Silver was up 0.6 pct at \$20.41 an ounce. Platinum, which rose to a 13-month high of \$1,104.10 on Monday, fell for the first time in two weeks, down 0.1 percent at \$1,099 an ounce. Palladium was up 0.6 percent at \$623.92 per ounce. — Reuters

For more information, call Global Investment House on 1 80 42 42, www.globalinv.net

Cadillac XT5 Initiates New Series of Cadillac Luxury Crossovers



KUWAIT — Yusuf A. Alghanim & Sons Automotive, the exclusive distributor of Cadillac vehicles in Kuwait, proudly unveiled the first-ever 2017 Crossover Touring 5 (XT5,) a comprehensively upgraded luxury crossover and the cornerstone of a new series of crossovers in the brand's ongoing expansion. The XT5 ushers the next chapter in elevating the Cadillac brand: it is bold, distinctive, sophisticated with superb driving dynamics. This new crossover perfectly reflects Cadillac's positioning in the luxury automotive marketplace, particularly in Kuwait.

The Cadillac XT5 is completely new, residing on a unique chassis and structure, embodying the company's expertise for lightweight and agile driving dynamics. The new XT5 is 278 pounds (126 kg) lighter than the current SRX, featuring rear-seat legroom increase of 3.2 in. (8.1 cm) as well. Additionally, the rear seat reclines and slides fore and aft. This was achieved using many of the techniques applied on the Cadillac CTS and ATS sport sedans – the lightest cars in their respective segments. This includes the use of laser welding, ultra high-strength steel and advanced analytics that ensure a stronger structure, and excellent crash performance with less overall bulk.

The XT5 also brings a new level of sophistication to showcase Cadillac's evolving design language, sporting a strong visual presence with propor-



tions that convey the driving experience and the lightweight construction underneath the surface. There is a lean, taut, liquid quality to the surfaces with flowing, uninterrupted lines separated by crisp edges. The XT5's interior is based on a philosophy of clean, modern elegance and craftsmanship, evident by the interior surfaces inside the XT5, which are wider and more horizontal in orientation, emphasizing efficient use of space. Like all Cadillac models, the interior is assembled with cut-and-sewn wrapped panels, rather than molded surfaces typical of mainstream vehicles.

Meanwhile, advanced powertrains add to efficiency and dynamics; with SAE-certified peak output of 310-horsepower and 271 lb-ft of torque, the new V6 uses variable valve timing for strong response and smooth power delivery. Cadillac's new Stop/Start technology automatically stop and start the engine when the vehicle is at rest in

traffic stops, saving fuel and reducing emissions, while enhancing the quietness expected of a luxury vehicle. A new 8-speed automatic transmission is standard for the XT5, which also debuts Electronic Precision Shift – the first electronically controlled transmission shifter for a Cadillac, which reduces noise and vibration, and allows further use of the cabin space with a storage space beneath the center console. In



addition, the advanced "twin clutch" all-wheel drive system continuously and automatically delivers excellent traction across a variety of conditions, such as providing enhanced stability in dry weather.

The first-ever XT5 proudly includes Cadillac's latest production systems for connectivity and safety. Featuring Cadillac's patented new industry-leading Rear Camera Mirror system, which enhances the driver's rear vision by 300 percent, using a video display applied over the conventional inside rearview mirror. A high dynamic range camera records wider images behind the car, streams the image to video processing software which "removes" obstacles such as the roof, rear pillars and rear seat passengers, projecting an unobstructed view to a Liquid Crystal Display. In addition, XT5 features Cadillac's Driver Awareness and Driver Assist packages to aid vision and

collision avoidance. These include automatic front and rear braking for low-speed conditions, Lane Keeping Assist, Rear Cross Traffic Alert, Side Blind Zone Alert, full-speed range Adaptive Cruise Control and Automatic Parking Assist.

The Cadillac CUE system for connectivity and control is upgraded for the XT5. A faster and more powerful processor provides best-ever response and accuracy. The XT5 features an integrated wireless charger for mobile devices, with a slot designed into the center console. Like all Cadillac models in 2016, XT5 features 4G-wireless connectivity with a standard integrated Wi-Fi hotspot and standard Apple CarPlay and Android Auto for simpler in-car phone integration. An optional color reconfigurable Heads-Up Display is available. Cadillac's signature LED light pipes are standard inside and out, while full LED headlamps are optional. A Surround Vision feature enables a "bird's eye" view of the perimeter around the car to assist in parking.

Premium Care Program

Yusuf Ahmed Alghanim & Sons Automotive furthers 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 discover and enjoy an engaging test-drive experience of the first-ever Cadillac XT5 by visiting the Cadillac showroom at Safat Alghanim in Al Rai today.





NEW YORK: A group of friends play Pokemon Go on their smartphones at Union Square, in New York City. — AFP

POKEMON GO CRAZE CRASHES AUSSIE SERVERS, DRAWS POLICE WARNINGS

SYDNEY: High demand for the mobile augmented-reality game Pokemon Go crashed the app's servers in Australia yesterday, while attracting safety and trespassing warnings from police. The game has been a huge hit with players since it was rolled out in Australia, New Zealand and the United States late last week, with more than five million downloads on the Android Google Play app store. It has also topped Apple's app charts.

A Pokemon "walk" in Sydney on Sunday saw thousands of gamers descend on the iconic harbor, chasing virtual cartoon character monsters around the Opera House and Botanical Gardens with their mobile phones. "(Western Australia) Police have received numerous reports of Pokemon around the state. Rest assured - we're gonna catch 'em all!" quipped the police force on Facebook, using the game's tagline.

Pokestop

But they warned that "I was collecting Pokemon" is not a legal defense against a charge of trespass, so be sure that you have permission to enter an area or building. Officers in the northern city of Darwin also took to the social media website to advise users that while their police station featured as a "Pokestop"-locations where players can pick up supplies-gamers did not have to

enter it to get the items. In Sydney and Melbourne, where "Pokemon" has been trending high on Twitter, users complained about crashed servers, with one posting: "Twitter = moral support group for when #pokemongo server goes down".

"Finally the world has found something to unite about. Our collective trauma of the #PokemonGo server being down," another user wrote. Guy Blomberg, who arranged the Sydney "walk", said he hoped to organize larger get-togethers at the Oz Comic-Con and PAX Australia video game conventions, which he helps run, later this year. "Even on the train this morning, there were other people playing, so I leant over and went, 'What have you caught today?'" he told AFP. "It's a great conversation starter."

The app's popularity has sent shares in Nintendo, which has invested in the game's developer Niantic after it was spun off from tech giant Google, soaring by more than 40 percent over three trading sessions in Japan. "It is a truly incredible offering," chief market strategist at IG Chris Weston wrote in a note yesterday. "Still, as someone who missed the original Pokemon craze, I am finding the idea of millennial's transfixed on their phones through the streets of Melbourne like a scene from 'The Walking Dead' quite concerning." — AFP



SAN FRANCISCO: A sign outside of Kawika Ocean Beach Deli advertises Pokemon Go related activities to passersby in San Francisco. — AP

POKEMON GO SMARTPHONE GAME LEADS WOMAN TO BODY IN RIVER

RIVERTON, Wyoming: Authorities in central Wyoming are investigating after a woman playing the popular smartphone game Pokemon Go found a man's body in a river. Shayla Wiggins told the Riverton Ranger newspaper that she spotted the body in the Wind River near the city of Riverton on Friday while playing the new game. It sends players to real-world locations to capture virtual creatures.

Fremont County Undersheriff Ryan Lee says the death appears to be accidental and possibly a drowning. He says evidence indicates the man went into the water where he was found. The victim hasn't been identified pending an autopsy. Lee says the FBI is helping in the investigation. It comes as police in Missouri say four teens used Pokemon Go to lure victims to a location and rob them. — AP

JAPAN MESSAGING APP LINE SET FOR YEAR'S TOP TECH IPO

TOKYO: Japan-based messaging app Line said Monday it could raise more than \$1.0 billion in one of the year's biggest share sales, as it makes its market debut this week. The company, looking to expand on booming popularity among smartphone users in Asia, priced its shares at a top-of-the-range 3,300 yen (\$32), suggesting strong demand for the sale. Based on that price, the initial public offering will raise 115.5 billion (\$1.14 billion) through the sale of 35 million shares. An option to sell more shares could put the IPO on course to raise a total of \$1.3 billion.

Line, owned by South Korea's Naver, starts trading in New York on Thursday and in Tokyo Friday. The sale, valuing the firm at about \$6.9 billion, is the biggest technology IPO this year, Bloomberg News reported, and the largest so far in Tokyo. The popular app lets users make free calls, send instant messages, and post photos or short videos, along with a host of other paid services. It combines attributes from Facebook, Skype and WhatsApp, with games and a mobile

payment service also on offer. Line's messaging service launched in 2011 after the quake-tsunami tragedy damaged Japan's telecoms infrastructure nationwide, forcing people to use online resources to communicate. It is best known for letting users send each other cute cartoon "stickers", and is hugely popular in Japan, particularly among teenagers. The app has a strong presence in Asian markets such as Thailand, Taiwan and Indonesia, as well as some Spanish-speaking nations, including Spain and Mexico.

Line said it would use proceeds from the stock offering to help it expand in Asia, and tap the US and European markets where it's not a major player. The sale comes two years after the firm initially announced plans to list that were later shelved, reportedly because of disagreements over the sale between Line and its South Korean owner. Line's offering would be the biggest in Tokyo since Japan Post made its long-awaited trading debut in November with a share sale that topped \$11.5 billion. — AFP

NEW DATA-SHARING RULES FOR EU AND US ADOPTED

NEW PRIVACY SHIELD IMPOSES STRICTER OBLIGATIONS

BRUSSELS: New rules governing trans-Atlantic data transfers were formally approved yesterday, months after Europe's top court ruled against the previous arrangements amid concerns over the surveillance activities of US intelligence agencies. The European Union and the US say the new Privacy Shield imposes stricter obligations on American companies, including the likes of Facebook and Apple, to safeguard the personal data of individuals, from health matters through to social media activities.

Critics argue that the new framework doesn't go far enough, that the consumer protections are not strong enough and that the possibility of blanket surveillance from US agencies remains. As part of the deal, the US government has assured that any access on national security grounds by public authorities to personal data transferred under the new arrangements will be subject to "clear conditions, limitations, oversight and preventing generalized access."

The two sides say that includes stronger monitoring and enforcement by the US Department of Commerce and Federal Trade Commission including increased cooperation with European authorities. Under the terms of the new deal, there will be an annual joint review of the pact and those who think their data has been misused has a route for complaint. And the US will appoint a new official - an ombudsman based at the State Department - responsible for following up on European complaints.

Milestone for privacy

"The approval of the Privacy Shield is a milestone for privacy at a time when the sharing of data is driving growth in every sector, from advanced manufacturing to advertising," US Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker said in Brussels at the launch of the data-sharing pact. "For businesses, the free flow of data makes it possible for a startup in Silicon Valley to hire programmers in the Czech Republic, or a manufacturer in Germany to collaborate with a research lab in Tennessee," she added.

The deal potentially brings an end to a period of uncertainty for businesses following last October's decision by the European Court of Justice that the previous Safe Harbor pact was invalid because it did not adequately protect consumers when their data



BRUSSELS: EU Justice Commissioner Vera Jourova listens to a question during a news conference in the Commission Berlaymont building in Brussels, Belgium. — AP photos



BRUSSELS: US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker speaks during a news conference in the Commission Berlaymont building in Brussels, Belgium. — AP photos

was stored in the US. The pact, which had been used by around 4,500 companies, had allowed the easy transfer of data from the EU by having US companies promise to provide privacy protections equivalent to those in the EU.

The EU court's ruling that the pact was invalid opened up the possibility that data privacy officers across the 28-country EU might be inundated by complaints by consumers worried about their privacy. "The adoption of Privacy Shield will enhance legal certainty for thousands of businesses on both sides of the Atlantic while providing an adequate level of protection for citizens' data," Markus J Beyer, the director general of lobby group Business Europe. "Trans-Atlantic data flows are fundamental to the success of the European economy and today's decision will support job creation across industry."

Robust new system

Concerns over the privacy of data transfers had been stoked by the spying revelations made by Edward Snowden, a former contractor at the US National Security Agency. Snowden's revelations had prompted the complaint to the court from Max Schrems, an Austrian law student. Schrems said yes-

terday that the new arrangements don't go far enough and argued that the requirements on the US authorities are not equivalent to those that exist in the EU.

"It is little more than a little upgrade to Safe Harbor," he said. "It is very likely to fail again ... This deal is bad for users, which will not enjoy proper privacy protections and bad for businesses, which have to deal with a legally unstable solution." Schrems' view was echoed by Jan Philipp Albrecht, the home affairs and data protection spokesman for the Greens in the European Parliament, who said the European Commission "signed a blank cheque for the transfer of personal data of EU citizens to the US, without delivering equivalent data protection rights."

Both Pritzker and Vera Jourova, the European Commissioner for Justice, said they are confident that the new deal will stand up to any court challenge. "The EU-US Privacy Shield is a robust new system to protect the personal data of Europeans and ensure legal certainty for business," Jourova said. "It brings stronger data protection standards that are better enforced, safeguards on government access, and easier redress for individuals in case of complaints." — AP

APPLE'S MAC NO LONGER BUCKING PC INDUSTRY'S SALES SLIDE

SAN FRANCISCO: After defying industry trends in recent years, Apple is feeling the slowdown in global purchases of laptop and desktop computers. Apple shipped 4 to 8 percent fewer Mac computers during the second quarter of 2016, compared with a year earlier, according to new estimates from two research firms - even while some of its bigger rivals managed to find growth in the PC business.

Apple enjoyed steady increases in Mac sales for most of 2014 and 2015, while the rest of the PC market was in a slump. Although the leading PC-makers sell more units, Apple's Macs tend to command both higher prices and consumer loyalty. But Apple Inc has been reporting a dip in Mac unit sales since the end of last year, and estimates released Monday suggest that trend is continuing.

Overall business

Analysts estimate Apple shipped 4.4 million to 4.6 million Macs in the quarter ending June 30. PC sales overall have been declining for the last four years, as more consumers and businesses turn to smartphones and other gadgets. Global PC shipments fell to 62.4 million in the last quarter, down 4.5 percent from a year earlier, according to researchers at International Data Corp. Analysts at a second firm, Gartner, estimated that drop at 5.2 percent.

Lenovo, the world's biggest PC-maker, saw shipments fall more than 2 percent around the world, to 13.2 million, despite a strong showing in the United States. But HP, Dell and ASUS all increased their shipments during the last quarter, according to both research firms. Analysts said those companies benefited from a healthy US market, consumer interest in new laptops running Google's Chrome software, and seasonal purchases by public agencies.

Microsoft's new Windows 10 software hasn't given PC sales much of a boost. Analysts say that could change in coming months, as the end of a promotional offer means consumers will no longer be able to upgrade older Windows machines for free. Some Apple fans say an update for the popular MacBook Pro laptop is overdue, while the Cupertino, California, company has been promoting its iPad Pro tablet, which works with a detachable keyboard.

Apple enjoyed eight consecutive quarters of year-on-year Mac sales increases before posting a 4 percent drop in units sold during the last three months of 2015. That was followed by a 12 percent drop in the first quarter of this year. Macs are a small part of Apple's overall business, however, since the company makes most of its money from iPhones. Apple will report second-quarter sales on July 26. — AP



DETROIT, Michigan: This file photo shows General Motors President Dan Ammann speaking on the eve of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan. — AP

GM SEES SELF-DRIVING CARS AS GRADUAL ROLLOUT

WASHINGTON: General Motors believes in autonomous vehicles as a safer mode of transport, and expects the technology to come more quickly than most people think, a top executive said Monday. "There isn't going to be a particular moment or day when we see it-it will unfold in a gradual way, but it will be a lot faster than people are expecting," said GM president Dan Ammann at the Fortune Brainstorm Tech conference in Colorado.

Amman declined to comment on the fatal accident involving a Tesla electric car in semi-autonomous driving mode but said GM believes the technology will lead to safer roads. "It's our fundamental belief that autonomous technology will lead to lower fatalities," Ammann said. Amman, appearing on stage with Lyft co-founder John Zimmer, said the auto giant's strategy on autonomous cars is linked with the ride-sharing startup in which GM has invested some \$500 million. "We think ridesharing is interesting and we think autonomous vehicles are interesting and we think we can put the two together" with Lyft, he said.

Zimmer said autonomous driving technology is a key element in Lyft's long-term vision of changing the model of car ownership. He said that in the United States alone, spending on car ownership amounts to some \$2 trillion annually "so we believe in cities that the majority of that spend will transform to transportation as a service." Earlier Monday, GM and Lyft announced an expansion of their deal allowing Lyft drivers to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Denver. The companies said Lyft drivers would also be able to use the soon-to-be-launched Chevrolet Bolt electric vehicle. — AFP

CBS, TWITTER ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP FOR CONVENTION

NEW YORK: Twitter says it will live-stream CBS News' online coverage of the Republican and Democratic conventions later this month, a first for the social media outlet. People will be able to watch video of the conventions on mobile devices and desktops alongside a feed of political tweets, the company said on Monday. The GOP convention in Cleveland begins on July 18, with the Democrats in Philadelphia the following week.



Besides being the latest example of Twitter's foray into video, the announcement is a major shot of exposure for CBSN, which is CBS News' two-year-old live online stream. "It makes us first among equals if you're looking for convention video," said David Rhodes, CBS News president. NBC News also announced Monday that the broadcast network will offer one hour of prime-time news coverage on each of the four nights of the conventions, identical to ABC's plans divulged last week. CBS hasn't announced its plans, but is likely to do the same.

That in itself is a reflection of increased interest. In 2012, ABC, CBS and NBC had convention coverage on three of the four nights of each convention. CBSN's Josh Elliott, Elaine Quijano and Vladimir Duthiers will

anchor the coverage on Twitter. Other CBS News anchors and reporters also will appear on the stream during hours the network is not in news coverage. CBSN does not simulcast CBS News' television broadcast. Although CBS does not say how many people watch its live stream, it claims steady growth. The Twitter exposure should attract viewers much like channel surfing does on television, Rhodes said.

Since Twitter said that some of the early primary debates attracted some 4 million tweets apiece, there should be an audience available. Twitter experimented with video during the recent Wimbledon tennis tournament and has announced plans to beam some NFL games this fall. Political news has driven big ratings for cable news network's this year, which will likely offer near-nonstop convention coverage. With delegates opposed to Republican Donald Trump still talking about objecting to his nomination, and the long candidacy of Democrat Bernie Sanders, the conventions offer less predictability than in the recent past.

It's somewhat unusual for the networks to be announcing their coverage plans so late, and there's a reason for that. Rhodes said the parties, particularly the Republicans, have been less forthcoming about their own schedules than in recent election cycles. "We don't want anybody just to assume that we're going to flip a switch and they're going to be able to program to millions of people without any filter," he said. Rhodes said delaying an announcement of the network plans gives broadcasters some leverage in getting information about convention planning from the parties. — AP

PREGNANCY MULTIVITAMINS 'UNNECESSARY EXPENSE' FOR MOST: EXPERTS

PARIS: Multivitamins and mineral supplements in pregnancy are an "unnecessary expense" with no proven benefits for most well-nourished women or their babies, said a review of science data yesterday. Sold at about 18 Euros (\$20) per month, these supplements are heavily marketed to women in all stages of pregnancy as a means of warding off health problems, said the analysis.

Pregnant women are a soft target for products which promise to give their baby the best start in life "regardless of cost", said the authors. And while daily doses of a B vitamin called folic acid, and vitamin D to a lesser degree, are known to be beneficial, there is no evidence that cocktails stuffed full

of other vitamins are protective. Some may even be harmful, said the paper: high doses of vitamin A can harm a developing fetus.

Relatively inexpensive

Multivitamin and mineral supplements typically contain 20 or more active ingredients. "We found no evidence to recommend that all pregnant women should take prenatal multi-nutrient supplements beyond the nationally (British) advised folic acid and vitamin D supplements, generic versions of which can be purchased relatively inexpensively," said the review authors. The analysis was published in the Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin, which

informs British doctors and pharmacists about treatment and disease management.

The focus, said the paper, should be on promoting a healthy diet and boosting access to folic acid supplements for lower income women. "For most women who are planning to become pregnant or who are pregnant, complex multivitamin and mineral preparations promoted for use during pregnancy are unlikely to be needed and are an unnecessary expense," the authors wrote.

The team had reviewed published research on folic acid, vitamin D, iron, vitamins C, E and A, and multivitamin supplements in a review of official British guidelines for pregnant women. The guide-

lines recommend 400 micrograms of folic acid daily until 12 weeks of pregnancy, and 10 micrograms of vitamin D throughout pregnancy and breastfeeding.

Much of the evidence on which marketing claims are based, come from studies in low-income countries where pregnant women are more likely to be malnourished, said the authors. Folic acid, a synthetic version of folate, is used to fortify flour and bread to reduce birth defects of the brain, spine or spinal cord-called neural tube defects. Vitamin D is found in some foods and can be synthesized by the body when the skin is exposed to ultraviolet light. It has been linked to a healthy heart and bones. — AFP

THUMB SUCKERS LESS PRONE TO ALLERGIES: NZ STUDY

WELLINGTON: Infants who suck their thumbs or bite their nails appear less prone to allergies as adults, New Zealand researchers have found. Their findings support the theory that early-life exposure to microbial organisms reduces the risk of developing allergies, Otago University scientists concluded. A study, published this week in the US journal Pediatrics, recorded the thumb-sucking and nail-biting habits of 1,037 children when they were aged five, seven, nine and 11 years old.

Researchers then followed up by giving them allergy skin prick tests when they were aged 13 and 32. They found 49 percent of 13-year-olds who did not suck their thumb or bite their nails tested positive to at least one allergy, compared to 38 percent who practiced one of the habits. The allergy level fell to 31 percent for children who did both. The findings remained the

same when participants were 32-years-old, regardless of factors such as parental history of allergies, pet ownership or being breast fed.

"It suggests that being exposed to microbes as a child reduces your risk of developing allergies," lead researcher Bob Hancox said. However, despite the laboratory skin-test results, the researchers said there was no evidence the habits reduced the risk of "real world" diseases linked to allergies.

"Although thumb-suckers and nail-biters had fewer allergies on skin testing, we found no difference in their risk for developing allergic diseases such as asthma or hay fever," they said. They added: "We do not suggest that children should be encouraged to take up these habits, because it is unclear if there is a true health benefit." — AFP



KAZIRANGA: In this photograph, an Indian one-horned rhino crosses a path in Kaziranga National Park, some 250kms east of Guwahati. — AFP

RARE INDIAN RHINOS FACE THREAT FROM POACHERS

THE POACHING NETWORK HAS BECOME MORE SYSTEMATIC, STRONGER, MORE EFFICIENT

KAZIRANGA: As night falls over the lush plains of India's Kaziranga national park, a small group of lightly armed forest guards sets out on foot to protect the world's largest population of one-horned rhinos. These men with their ageing rifles and small plastic torches are on the front line of the battle against increasingly sophisticated international poaching networks that prey on the rare animals, entering the park under cover of darkness to kill them for their horns.

A decade ago, India had all but declared victory over poaching in Kaziranga, a 430-square-kilometre protected area of forest in the northeastern state of Assam that is home to around 2,500 rhinos. But recent years have seen an alarming upsurge in the slaughter of the animals, whose horn is highly prized in neighboring China and in Vietnam. At least a dozen rhinos have been poached in Kaziranga in the first six months of this year, more than twice the number killed in the whole of 2006.

"The poaching network has become more systematic, stronger, more efficient," said Amit Sharma, senior coordinator for rhino conservation at WWF India, who blames a surge in demand that has seen prices top \$100,000 per kilo for the final product. "The value of a horn has shot up like anything, that is why people are ready to risk their lives," he added. Park rangers say they are woefully under-equipped to deal with the modern, sophisticated weapons used by the poachers, including AK47s and night-vision goggles.

Many of the myriad insurgent groups operating in India's restive northeast are involved in the trade, which passes through the neighboring state of Nagaland into Myanmar before being smuggled to China. The issue is hugely emotive in Assam, where the rhino is both a source of pride and a big tourist draw. It hit global headlines in April, when a rhino was poached on the very day that Britain's Prince William and his wife Kate visited the national park.

"Many years ago you would see rhinos everywhere around here," said local villager Damayanti Chhetri. "The poachers have no heart." Local people are a vital source of information for the park rangers, providing tip-offs about upcoming poaching raids. But some are also in the pay of the poachers, who rely on their knowledge of the local terrain, according to one senior forest official. "Locals know every corner of the park. Huge money is involved. It is a risky job, and still they do it," said the official.

Shoot on sight

The risks are high. Kaziranga's forest guards have the right to shoot suspected poachers on sight, and dozens have been killed over the last decade. The policy is controversial, but they argue it is justified as no one is allowed to enter the park without permission. "If we see someone, without any enquiry we can shoot. We will presume that he is a poacher," said one guard who had killed a suspected poacher.

Two years ago Dipen Sawra, a 35-year-old father of two, failed to return home after a forest guard

offered him work cutting firewood. He was later found dead with a bullet wound to the head. "They were good friends, he (the guard) used to come and drink tea with us here," his father Vikari Sawra told AFP at the family's small mud and straw home. "We never thought something like this would happen," he said.

The family say they never received a death certificate or the results of the post-mortem. The guard was arrested on a murder charge, but was later released, and his case is still pending. "I'm old, I can't work, and I have no money for lawyers," said Vikari Sawra. "I lost my most precious thing and I have no money to fight a case."

Cover-up

Assam's new forests minister Pramila Rani Brahma told AFP in Guwahati that local poverty was fuelling the trade in rhino horn. But she has also ordered an investigation into forest officials suspected of collusion with the poachers. Last month she suspended Kaziranga's director after he failed to inform her a rhino had been killed while she visited the park.

A few weeks earlier, police arrested two forest guards on suspicion of covering up poaching after the corpse of a rhino was found buried in the park, its horn removed. WWF India's Sharma does not believe park authorities are complicit in the trade, but says the pressure they are under may be leading them to cover up incidents of poaching. — AFP

NO SILVER LINING IN CLIMATE STUDY

PARIS: Clouds, which act as thermal regulators for Earth, have altered in character and global distribution due to climate change, and could in turn make warming worse, a study said Monday. A trawl of satellite images has revealed reduced cloudiness in Earth's temperate mid-latitude zones, which lie between the poles and subtropics in both hemispheres, accompanied by a poleward expansion of the subtropical dry zones.

The tops of clouds everywhere rose higher, according to data that stretched over more than two decades from the early 1980s. "These cloud changes enhance absorption of solar radiation by the Earth and reduce emission of thermal radiation to space," said a statement from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California San Diego, which took part in the study.

Changes in cloud distribution

"This exacerbates global warming caused by increasing greenhouse gas concentration." Clouds regulate Earth's temperature by reflecting some solar radiation back into space before it can hit the ground, while also acting as a blanket to limit heat loss from the planet at night. How they are affected by climate change, and how they influence global warming in return, "has been one of the biggest areas of uncertainty for scientists attempting to understand current climate and forecast future trends,"

said Scripps. Satellites originally designed to monitor Earth's weather are not stable enough to reliably track cloud changes over decades. But the team figured out a way to "correct" the data by removing confounding factors such as satellite orbit, instrument calibration and the degradation of sensors. The record revealed clear changes in cloud distribution, which the team then compared to a history of Earth-warming greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere.

"They concluded that the behavior of clouds they observed is consistent with a human-caused increase in greenhouse gas concentrations," said the statement. There was no similar correlation with other potential influences such as ozone levels, human-created aerosols, or natural changes in solar radiation. Another factor on clouds was two major volcanic eruptions—the 1982 El Chichon eruption in Mexico and the 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines, which would have had a net cooling effect on the planet for a few years at a time.

Volcanoes spew out sunlight-reflecting ash and dust which have a short-term cooling effect on the planet. "Barring another volcanic event of this sort, the scientists expect the cloud trends to continue in the future as the planet continues to warm due to increasing greenhouse gas concentrations," said the statement. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
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GULF PROGRAMMING CONTEST TAKES PLACE IN KUWAIT FOR THE FIRST TIME

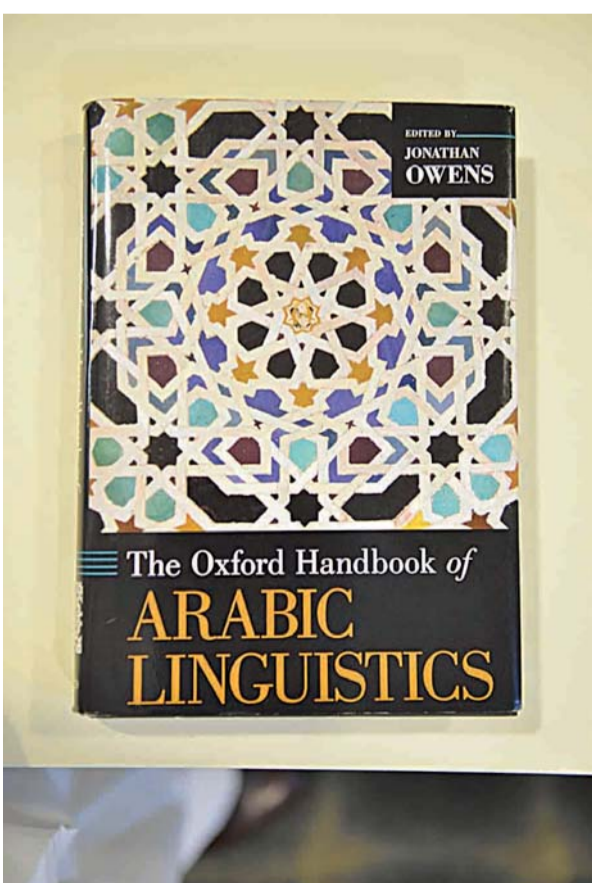
Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) hosted the Sixth Gulf Programming Contest which took place on March 23rd and 24th on its campus. The competition, which was sponsored by Boubyan Bank and Zain and organized by the Computer Science Department at GUST, took place in Kuwait for the first time.

GPC 2016 is an opportunity for university students from around the region majoring in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Management Information Systems, or any IT related subjects to display their abilities in programming and problem solving. The teams were given ten programming problems to solve using one PC only during a five hour period.

The team Travelling Salesmen from Khalifa

University of UAE was selected to represent their university at the ACM regional and world programming contests in 2017. This competition is considered the world's largest global competitive, educative, and scientific in computer programming that attracts a growing number of the best IT students from around the world.

Dr Tahir Ali, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and coach of the GUST team, said "I am so proud of our students for participating in such a high profile and competitive event. I also commend them for their hospitality and sportsmanship, and hope that they do better next year." GPC 2016 in Kuwait hosted 31 teams from 11 universities from across the Gulf Region. Next year's competition is expected to take place at the same time at March 2017.



GUST HOLDS LECTURE ON ARABIC LINGUISTICS

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) held a lecture on Tuesday, April 26th titled "Linguistic Principles: Why Should We Study Arab Grammarians?". The lecture was given by Dr Jonathan Owens from the University of Bayreuth in Germany, and was organized

by Dr Talal Al-Jassar, a Lecturer in Arabic Language and Linguistic at the College of Arts of Kuwait University.

The lecture aimed to inform students on the interest of the western studies about Arabic grammar; the speaker explored the Arabic linguistic traditions by explaining

the methodology of famous Arab linguists, such as Ibn Al-Sarraj, Ibn Al-Anbari and Sibawaih, and compared it to similar ideas from contemporary western linguistic logic. Following his lecture, Dr Owens presented a copy of his book, "The Handbook of Arabic Linguistics", to Library Director

Shobhita Kohli.

Dr Jonathan Owens is a renowned Professor and a widely published author in the field of Arabic Linguistics. His past experience includes working with the Center for Advanced Study of Language as a Senior Research Scientist at the

University of Maryland in the United States. As well as teaching in numerous Arabic speaking countries and Sub-Saharan Africa, such as Libya, Jordan and Nigeria. Dr Owens is currently the President of Arab Studies at the University of Bayreuth in Germany.



EQUATE SHARES THE JOY OF EID WITH CHILDREN

EQUATE Petrochemical Company, Kuwait's first international joint-venture in this industry, shared the joy of Eid Al-Fitr with several children throughout Kuwait. For the third consecutive year, EQUATE presented a number of giveaways to children at the Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH), as well as members of Children's Home which includes orphans under the care of the Ministry of Social Affairs & Labor.

EQUATE Senior Executive for Corporate Communications & Government Affairs Abeer Al-Omar said, "Our partnerships with KACCH and the Children's Home are part of ongoing initiatives by EQUATE Sustainability Program.

Investing in the future of children, as part of the human capital, is a cornerstone for sustainability in Kuwait and beyond." Al-Omar, who also heads EQUATE Sustainability Committee, added, "Such partnerships are an expression of our commitment to all stakeholders for the benefit of the society as a whole. This is simply one of the pillars for 'Partners in Success.' The activities were conducted with the participation of EQUATE Sustainability Committee Members Shirin Kamshad and Asrar Mohammad.

On her part, Asrar Mohammad said, "Sharing the joy of Eid is an extension of our continuous efforts to support the society.

Throughout the years, because of its belief in future generations, EQUATE has launched a number of initiatives aimed at children to ensure overall sustainability through direct interaction." During 2012, EQUATE and KACCH launched Painting Smiles (PS) campaign to create community awareness about children receiving medical care in hospitals. PS included an art exhibition for selling paintings by those children and Kuwaiti artists where all proceedings went to KACCH. In addition, since 2014, EQUATE's partnership with the Children Home has included a number of initiatives, including visits and giveaway distribution.



THE 10TH POETRY SLAM CONTEST

The 10th Poetry Slam Contest will be held on Saturday on 16th July, 2016 in Fintas. Doors will be opened at 7pm. For more information and reservation please call 6657-6408. The contest begins by 8:30pm. All Poets must be registered no later than 15th July, 2016. Poems must be approved for contest. Poetry Slam is a forum where artistic verbal creations compete. If you think you have what it takes to walk away with 1st place, then voice up - Poetry Slam Contest is open for Kuwaitis and expatriates.

WHAT'S ON - SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

All photos submitted for What's On should be minimum 200dpi. Articles must be in plain text and should include name and phone numbers. Articles and photos that fail to meet these requirements will not be published.

Please send them to news@kuwaittimes.net



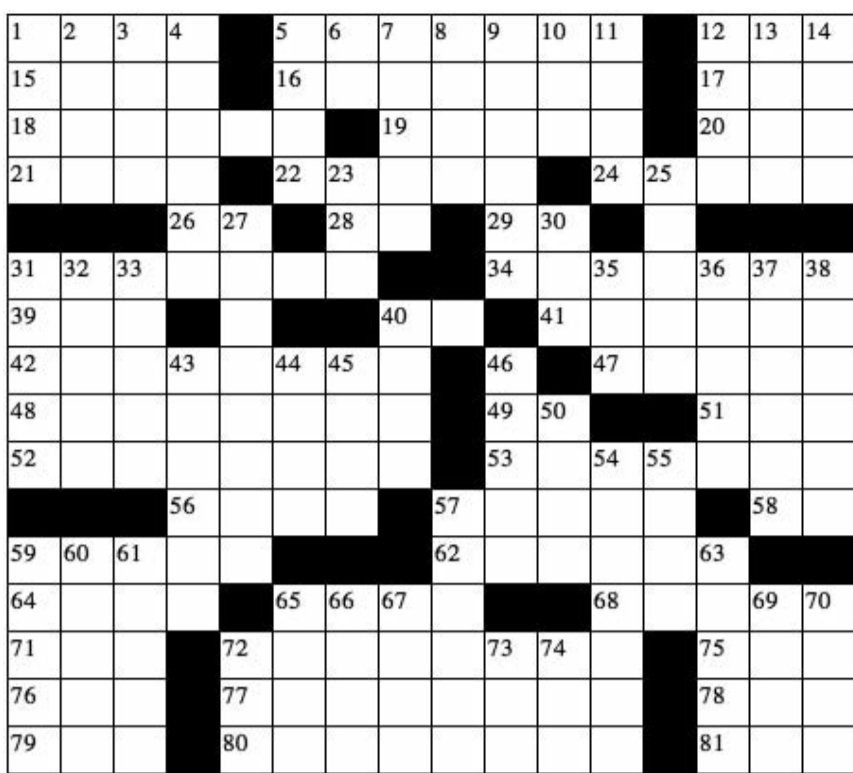
BIRTHDAY WISHES TO YASMIN SYED

Happy 11th birthday to our sweet daughter Yasmin Syed. Best Wishes from mom, dad, brother Syed Danial and sister Aisha Syed. We wish you, all the happiness and success in your life.



RIMAL RESORT CELEBRATED EID HOLIDAYS WITH CHILDREN

CROSSWORD 1310



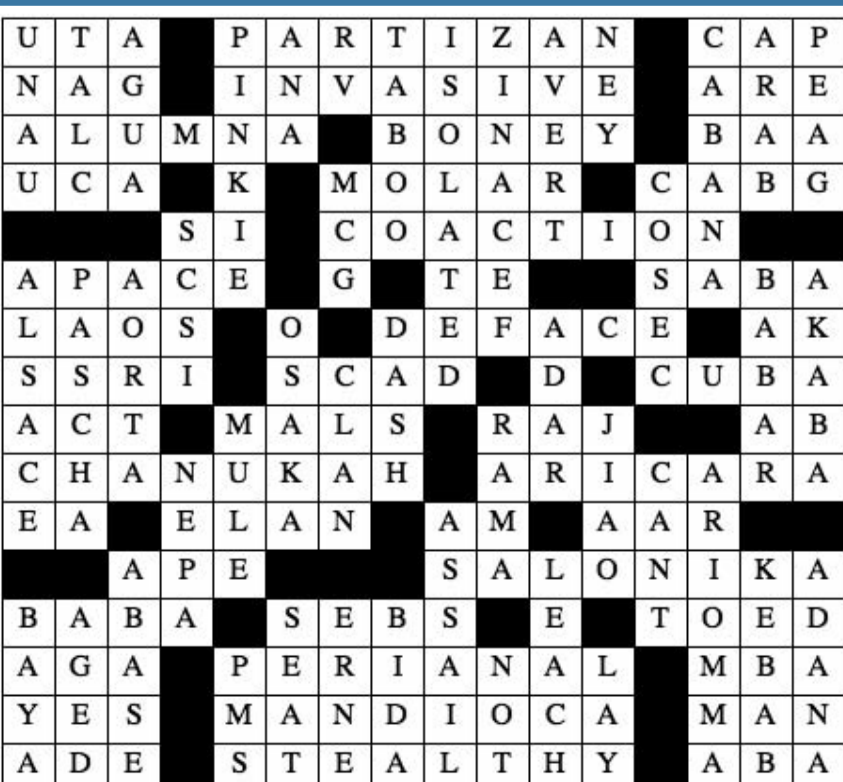
ACROSS

- 1. Either of two large muscles of the chest.
5. (Judaism) Not conforming to dietary laws.
12. The act of hauling something (as a vehicle) by means of a hitch or rope.
15. The content of cognition.
16. Any of various forms of aluminum oxide occurring naturally as corundum.
17. Any of various primates with short tails or no tail at all.
18. A landlocked mountainous republic in southeast central Asia north of Afghanistan.
19. Slanderous defamation.
20. The basic unit of money in Albania.
21. Type genus of the Amidae.
22. The univalent hydrocarbon radical C2H5 derived from ethane by the removal of one hydrogen atom.
24. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
26. Informal terms for a mother.
28. A Mid-Atlantic state.
29. 1/10 gram.
31. A cephalosporin that can be given parenterally (trade name Zinacef) or orally by tablets (trade name Ceftin).
34. A port town on the Atlantic coast of Portugal southeast of Lisbon.
39. A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
41. The capital of Lombardy in northern Italy.
42. Of or relating to or characteristic of death.
47. (of wine) Tainted in flavor by a cork containing excess tannin.
48. The act of invading.
49. An associate degree in nursing.
51. The cry made by sheep.
52. Robber flies.
53. United States film actress who appeared in many films with Spencer Tracy (born in 1909).
56. Divisible by two.
58. A soft white precious univalent metallic element having the highest electrical and thermal conductivity of any metal.
59. A feudal lord or baron in Scotland.
62. The cardinal number that is the sum of eight and one.
64. Having the slant of a bevel.
68. Bottle that has a narrow neck.
71. Ancient Hebrew unit of liquid measure = 1.5 gallons.
75. Aircraft landing in bad weather in which the pilot is talked down by ground control using precision approach radar.
76. A rapid bustling commotion.
77. A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (trade name Lodine).
78. A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.
79. Time for Earth to make a complete rotation on its axis.
80. Correspond in vowel sounds.
81. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- 1. (Middle East) Usually small round bread that can open into a pocket for filling.
2. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
3. The basic unit of money in Ghana.
4. A mountain peak in the Andes in Bolivia (21,391 feet high).
5. The income arising from land or other property.
6. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
7. Abounding in rushes.
8. An annual award for outstanding achievements in television.
9. United States comedian and film actor (1880-1946).
10. (Irish) Mother of the ancient Irish gods.
11. Not easy.
12. A fine grained mineral having a soft soapy feel and consisting of hydrated magnesium silicate.
13. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
14. Flightless New Zealand rail of thievish disposition having short wings each with a spur used in fighting.
23. A proinflammatory cytokine that is produced by white blood cells (monocytes and macrophages).
25. An artificial language intended for international use as an auxiliary language.
27. Containing or expressing accusation.
30. A crystalline rock that can be cut and polished for jewelry.
32. Metal shackles.
33. Italian architect who pioneered in the use of reinforced concrete (1891-1979).
35. A local and habitual twitching especially in the face.
36. Found along western Atlantic coast.
37. The capital of Turkey.
38. A city in east central China.
40. A unit of force equal to the force that imparts an acceleration of 1 cm/sec/sec to a mass of 1 gram.
43. Natural qualities or talents.
44. An officer who acts as military assistant to a more senior officer.
45. (used of especially horses) Having a brownish coat thickly sprinkled with white or gray.
46. United States naval officer and historian (1840-1914).
50. The compass point that is one point north of northeast.
54. A short introductory essay preceding the text of a book.
55. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
57. A period of the year marked by special events or activities in some field.
60. A member of a seafaring group of North American Indians who lived on the Pacific coast of British Columbia and southwestern Alaska.
61. Cause annoyance in.
63. (Irish) Chief god of the Tuatha De Danann.
65. Informal or slang terms for mentally irregular.
66. (Greek mythology) God of love.
67. Panel forming the lower part of an interior wall when it is finished differently from the rest.
69. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
70. God of love and erotic desire.
72. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
73. Leaf or strip from a leaf of the talipot palm used in India for writing paper.
74. Tastelessness by virtue of being cheap and vulgar.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

This is a very nice day, perhaps filled with some appreciation for all that is beautiful and fine. Perhaps you noticed the clouds or the sunrise coming into work this morning. You appreciate life! You have a sense of value that may find you lavishing affection on those near you—whether they are in the workplace or at home. You might feel love or value for an older person today. It may take a little research to find someone to share in this responsibility but be patient... Someone will be grateful you asked. It may be a phone call is all that is needed. This evening, you may enjoy getting away from routine and doing something completely different. You have great personal magnetism. You are never dull. You enjoy money, influence and politics, too.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

More important than an external discovery today is the inner discovery of a big improvement you have made recently. This could be your ability to rise above some circumstance in the workplace and create a better condition that will help you work more efficiently. You have managed to successfully stop an old habit; others notice. Today you can see real growth in many different areas of your life and you set an example for others to follow. Be proud of your hard work and keep up the good efforts. Refinement and relationships are the keys to emotional satisfaction and you enjoy every opportunity to develop those relationships. You find time this evening to call around and get ideas for the next great fun gathering.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Expect a change for the better in the workplace. Some long-term goal that you have been working toward now seems to be falling into place and taking shape. You can almost see the bank where you will deposit your money. Making your mind quiet, you are able to listen better than most. You could teach, perform meditations or express yourself in some creative way. You are in love with mystery, secrets and intrigue, anything but that which is open or superficial. You are never dull. Like a fish in water, when in the limelight or in a group, you have an innate social charm. This evening could be a time in which you and a loved one are able to make vacation plans, or get together with friends and enjoy their vacation stories. Learn from their mistakes.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You have such an outpouring of insights that having a conversation with you can be a real experience. Your mind works like lightning. Organizing and administering people and projects will make up most of your workday. Expect a change for the better in the workplace. You may have a little trouble concentrating if you are attending a lecture this afternoon so a recording device would not be a bad idea, if allowed. Also, keeping notes will help you when you return to the subject for study. A birthday celebration, with perhaps a backyard barbecue, may be the activity at the end of your day. It would be good to respond to any of your text or phone messages as soon as possible. Celebrate today!



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Everything totals to a value and brings out your remarkable and unusual qualities. Your problem-solving techniques are unique and you do well when you use your own special techniques to find the root of whatever went wrong and make the right corrections. You may find that someone close to you is supportive of your ideas. You have a history of finding and correcting with no repeats. You are a born charmer with an innate love and appreciation for other people, especially children. You could be called upon to give decorating suggestions to your friends as your own person, workspace and home quarters are always appealing. You will display your sense of color, music and art—you are a connoisseur of things bright and kind.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The key to understanding the circumstances in which you find yourself these days can be found in the environment or support system that surrounds you. You are very much the creature of habit and habitat. The encircling network of friends, relationships and whatnot is crucial to your happiness and success, or lack thereof. You are nourished in great measure by the atmosphere and conditions that you are able to create. Remember that you are in control of what surrounds you. You will enjoy being on the go, perhaps, running errands or making deliveries. This evening as you look around your home, think about how much power you have in creating your surroundings. Look for a compromise that will allow you more contribution and input.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

You are concerned with connections and communication of all kinds today—letters, wires, telephones, voice, thoughts, writing and mental processes in general. Appointments with people that are members of places like the chamber of commerce in your city may be important to your company as they go through some important changes. You have a fine understanding and sensitivity about the needs of others just now and are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society. You could be most persuasive with others and persuasive in speech and communication. Refinement and relationships are the keys to emotional satisfaction now. Harmony and beauty are deeply satisfying. You may find a romantic connection tonight.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

An important decision in the workplace requires some time for research or review—delay taking any sort of action for now. If your business does not have a good library, you may be near enough to a city library or law library to spend a little time in this search for answers. Fine-tuning your emotional attitude brings a great deal of positive growth. You are pleased as you look back on the recent changes. You like to visit or communicate with others and today you learn about a new writer that can continue to be helpful to your future growth. You and your many friends enjoy an evening together and you may find that before the evening is over you look over a calendar to make future plans—perhaps a regular get-together is in order.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 18)

You may feel left out or passed over this morning. This is of short duration. It may be more reasonable to move in the opposite direction than the direction that everyone else is going just now. After you have had a little snack and a bit of caffeine, you will be ready to tackle whatever is set before you this day. This is a time during which you may be able to break through and move ahead with your ambitions and general life's purpose. You could receive unexpected help from someone older or from authority figures. A man or teacher could appear. Your inner resources and emotions are accented and this evening there are opportunities to be with those you love. You are most original when concentrating on areas of work and family.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You are probably most happy in your profession, especially since you see that your work can benefit society as well as yourself. You do a lot to fulfill the popular stereotype of a genius—obviously some of the things you think and say are brilliant. However, instead of having others understand you today, there is a chance to understand those around you. This is a favorable time to weigh the pros and cons of any business venture or investment. Resist the temptation to live beyond your means and you will be pleased with the balance in your account at the end of each month. Your whole world may seem fanciful or dreamy as you work to create your own poetry and art. Movies or easy music may prove very enjoyable this evening.



Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

As you step back to take a look at where you are in your place of business and where you want to be in the future, new ideas may surface. Sometimes a change that is needed just stands out like a sore thumb. You have the eye for setting things in their right place or creating a better situation than was previously available. This may mean a better way to help customers or a clever way to check out product safety or any other number of improvements. Your management and directional abilities are in high focus. You can find new ways to relate and may also be innovative in marriage and social conventions. You are the ideal candidate to take care of some political project right now. Pool your talents with others in order to find some answers.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may be very forceful in what you say and think. With all of this emotional energy, you could speak or communicate very well. You have determined mental drive. There is a lot of liveliness behind what you think. You can make quick decisions. Today, you could speak before thinking. Communicate with your feelings and strength but do not forget compassion. You are always up front and manage to spend a lot of time in the spotlight in social situations. Since you are a natural teacher, others find it easy to learn from you. You are very animated and it is easy for you to convey your ideas or get them across to people of all ages. This is a good time to consider some form of story writing with the purpose of becoming a published writer.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Musical Instruments 3

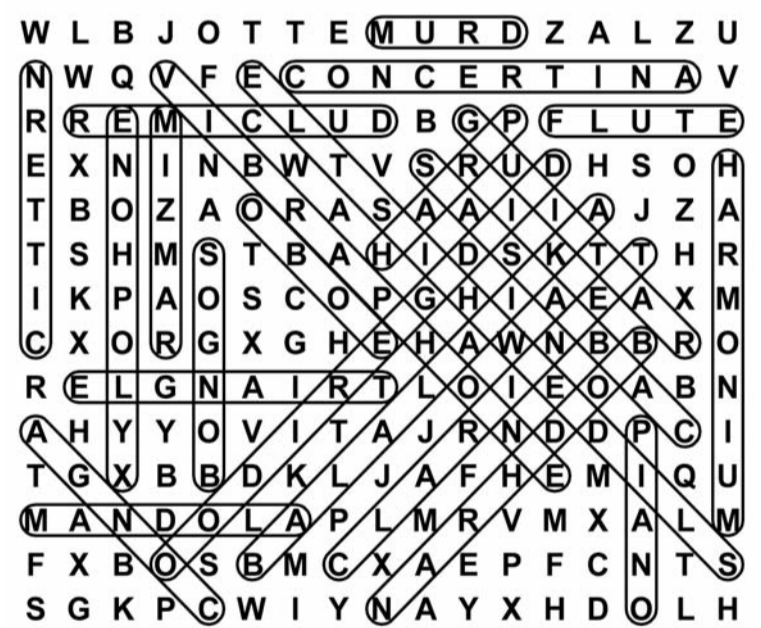
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- ACCORDION, FLUGELHORN, MOCENO, BALALAIKA, BODHRAN, DRUM, DIDGERIDOO, BAGPIPES, GONG, PENNY WHISTLE, BASS, HARMONICA, SAXOPHONE, CASTANETS, JEWS HARP, STRUMSTICK, CELLO, LAOUTA, TARKA, CORNET, LUTE, TRUMPET, CYMBAL, MANDOLIN, VIOLIN, FIFE, MELODEON

Yesterday's Solution

Musical Instruments 2 - Solution



- BALALAIKA, DIDGERIDOO, MIZMAR, BODHRAN, DRUM, OBOE, BONGOS, DULCIMER, PIANO, CABASAS, FLUTE, SLIDE WHISTLE, CITTERN, GUITAR, TRIANGLE, CLARINET, HARMONIUM, VIBRAPHONE, CONCERTINA, HARP, XYLOPHONE, CONGA, MANDOLA

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Color me!



DID YOU KNOW?



- Volcanoes are openings in the Earth's surface. When they are active they can let ash, gas and hot magma escape in sometimes violent and spectacular eruptions.
- The word volcano originally comes from the name of the Roman god of fire, Vulcan.
- Volcanoes are usually located where tectonic plates meet. This is especially true for the Pacific Ring of Fire, an area around the Pacific Ocean where over 75% of the volcanoes on Earth are found.
- While most volcanoes form near tectonic boundaries, they can also form in areas that contain abnormally hot rock inside the Earth. Known as mantle plumes, these hotspots are found at a number of locations around the globe with the most notable being in Hawaii.
- Hot liquid rock under the Earth's surface is known as magma, it is called lava after it comes out of a volcano.
- Some famous volcanic eruptions of modern times include Mount Krakatoa in 1883, Novarupta in 1912, Mount St Helens in 1980 and Mt Pinatubo in 1991.
- While we certainly have some big volcanoes here on Earth, the biggest known volcano in our solar system is actually on Mars. Its name is Olympus Mons and it measures a whopping 600km wide and 21 km high.
- The object with the most volcanic activity in our solar system is Io, one of Jupiter's moons. Covered in volcanoes, its surface is constantly changing to the large amount of volcanic activity.
- Most people think of volcanoes as large cone shaped mountains but that is just one type, others feature wide plateaus, fissure vents (cracks where lava emerges) and bulging dome shapes.
- There are also volcanoes found on the ocean floor and even under icecaps, such as those found in Iceland.
- Volcanoes can be active, dormant (recent historical activity but now quiet) or extinct (no activity in historical times and unlikely to erupt again). While these terms are useful, scientists are more likely to describe volcanoes by characteristics such as how they formed, how they erupt and what their shape is.
- Common volcanic gases include water vapor, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen chloride, hydrogen fluoride and hydrogen sulfide.
- Volcanic eruptions can send ash high into the air, over 30km above the Earth's surface.
- Large volcanic eruptions can reflect radiation from the Sun and drop average temperatures on Earth by around half a degree. There have been several examples of this over the last century.
- Pumice is a unique volcanic rock (igneous) that can float in water. It can also be used as an abrasive and is sometimes used in beauty salons for removing dry skin.

PEAR, COCONUT AND RASPBERRY SPELT MUFFINS

Ingredients:

- * 280g (2 cups) white spelt flour
- * 1 tablespoon baking powder
- * 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- * 35g (1/2 cup) shredded coconut
- * 140g (2/3 cup) raw sugar, plus 1 tablespoon extra
- * 2 eggs
- * 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- * 125ml (1/2 cup) milk
- * 80ml (1/3 cup) vegetable oil
- * 1 small firm ripe pear, cored, grated
- * 85g (2/3 cup) frozen raspberries



Method:

- Preheat oven to 180°C or 160°C fan forced. Line a 12 hole 80ml (1/3 cup) capacity muffin tin with paper cases. Sift the flour, baking powder and cinnamon into a large bowl. Add the coconut and sugar, stir to combine.
- Whisk the eggs, vanilla, milk and oil together. Add

the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients, stir until just combined. Stir through the pear and raspberries. 3. Divide mixture between prepared muffin holes. Sprinkle tops with a little extra raw sugar. Bake in pre-heated oven for 20 - 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Fennec Fox

The fennec fox or fennec is a small nocturnal fox found in the Sahara of North Africa. Its most distinctive feature is its unusually large ears, which also serve to dissipate heat. Its name comes from the Arabic word fanak, which means fox. The fennec is the smallest species of canid. Its coat, ears, and kidney functions have adapted to high-temperature, low-water, desert environments. In addition, its hearing is sensitive enough to hear prey moving underground. It mainly eats insects, small mammals, and birds.

The fennec has a life span of up to 14 years in captivity. Its main predators are the African varieties of eagle owl. Families of fennecs dig out dens in sand for habitation and protection, which can be as large as 120 m2 and adjoin the dens of other families. Precise population figures are not known but are estimated from the frequency of sightings; these indicate that the animal is currently not threatened by extinction. Knowledge of social interactions is limited to information gathered from captive animals. The species is usually assigned to the genus Vulpes; however, this is debated due to differences between the fennec fox and other fox species. The fennec's fur is prized by the indigenous peoples of North Africa, and in some parts of the world, the animal is considered an exotic pet.

Social behavior

Information on fennec fox social behavior is mainly based on captive animals. The basic social unit is thought to be a mated pair and their offspring, and the young of the previous year are believed to remain in the family even after a new litter is born. Playing behavior is common, including among adults of the species. Fennec foxes make a variety of sounds, including barking, a purring sound similar to that of a domestic cat, and a snarl if threatened.

Captive animals engage in highly social behavior, typically resting while in contact with each other. They have been seen to bury feces by pushing soil with their noses or hind feet when in captivity. Much remains unknown of their basic ecology and behavior in the wild, and a 2004 report by the International Union for Conservation of Nature stated that "in-depth study of the species, with particular emphasis on habitat use and population dynamics in the wild, is overdue."

Habitat

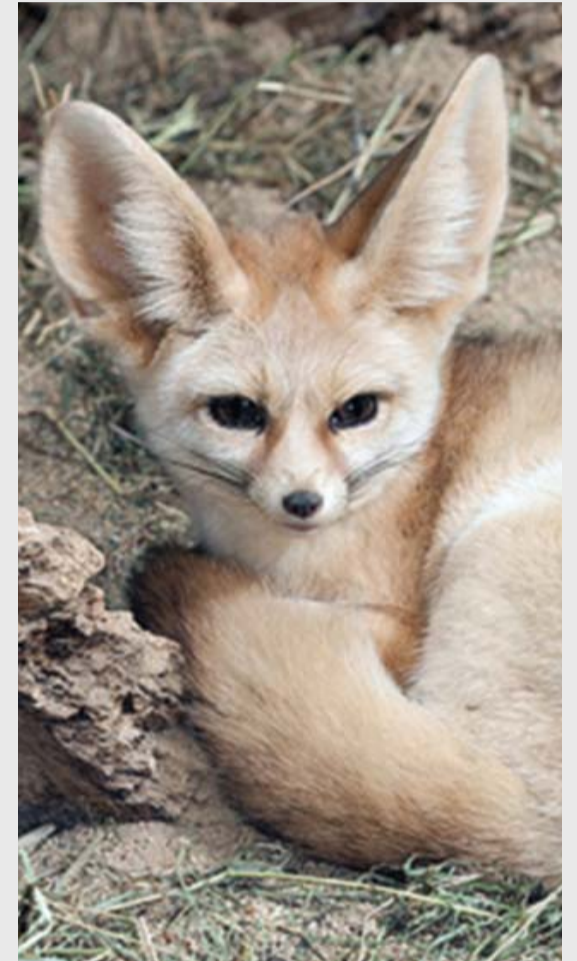
The species is found in North Africa and Asia. The range is from Morocco through to Egypt, as far south as northern Niger and as far east as the Sinai Peninsula and Kuwait. A fennec fox's typical den is dug in sand, either in open areas or places sheltered by plants with stable sand dunes considered to be their ideal habitat. In compacted soils, dens can be up to 120 square meters, with up to 15 different entrances. In some cases different families interconnect their dens, or locate them close together. In soft, looser sand, dens tend to be simpler with only one entrance leading to a single chamber.

Predators

The fennec fox's main predators are the various African varieties of eagle owl. Other possible predators include caracals, jackals, striped hyenas, and the

saluki, a greyhound-like domestic dog local to the area. However, fennec foxes are considered very difficult to capture, and reports of predators other than the eagle owl are considered to be anecdotal and questionable.

Fennec foxes are commonly trapped for sale to the pet trade and for fur by the human population of Northern Africa. In southern Morocco in particular, their meat is not eaten because it is considered to be foul smelling.



As pets

The fennec fox is bred commercially as an exotic house pet. Breeders tend to remove the young kits from the mother to hand-rear, as owners prefer tamer and more handle able foxes, thereby making them more expensive.

The species is classified a "small wild/exotic canid" by the United States Department of Agriculture, along with the coyote, dingo, jackal, and Arctic fox, and is considered the only species of fox, other than the domesticated silver fox, which can properly be kept as a pet. Although it cannot be considered domesticated, it can be kept in a domestic setting similar to dogs or cats. A breeders' registry has been set up in the United States to avoid any problems associated with inbreeding. The legality of owning a fennec fox varies by jurisdiction, as with many exotic pets.

JOKES

Q: Why was the computer cold?

A: It left its Windows open!

Q: Why was there a bug in the computer?

A: Because it was looking for a byte to eat!

Q: Why did the computer squeak?

A: Because someone stepped on its mouse!

Q: What do you get when you cross a computer

and a life guard?

A: A screensaver!

Q: Where do all the cool mice live?

A: In their mouse pads!

Q: What do you get when you cross a computer

with an elephant?

A: Lots of memory!

ACTIVITY

SPOOKY BAT DECORATION

What you need:

- * 1 x bat printable template
- * Pencils or crayons
- * 1 x a4 sheet of black card
- * 2 x googly craft eyes

Activity:

- Once you've printed out the spooky bat template, you can make your own fun!
- Color the template in with pencils or crayons
- Trace it onto black card and make a black bat
- Make a slightly more detailed bat by adding googly craft eyes and white fangs.
- For best effect, make lots of bats and then string them from your front porch on halloween.
- To add a hanging string, just staple a piece of wool or string to the bat's head.



SUDOKU

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| 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 2 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 |
| 3 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 |



'Putin tours' retrace Russian leader's life in Saint Petersburg



A picture shows people walking outside the Spaso-Preobrazhensky (Transfiguration) Cathedral, where Vladimir Putin was baptized, in central Saint Petersburg. — AFP photos



Photo shows a woman as she crosses the courtyard of a building where Vladimir Putin lived in central Saint Petersburg.

Rounding a corner in central Saint Petersburg with a group in tow, Georgy Rusanov stops in front of the grey building of the city's oldest maternity hospital—the first attraction on his Vladimir Putin walking tour. "This is where Vladimir Putin was born on October 7, 1952," he announces to the small crowd, a mix of curious Russians and a Russian-American couple. "Volodya was not a model child," Rusanov continues using the diminutive version of Vladimir, to giggles from his audience, as he walks along Baskov Street, the stomping ground of the Russian president in his early years.

Saint Petersburg is known for its White Nights when the sun never fully sets, gilded

palaces and elegant parks, but the 63-year-old Russian leader and native of Russia's second largest city has created a market of his own. Putin was born and lived in the city previously named Leningrad for some 40 years, excluding his time as a KGB officer in East Germany, before moving to Moscow in the mid-1990s. Rusanov launched his Putin tour several years ago. Since then he has seen more foreigners turn up, he says, while colleagues are planning Putin tours of their own.

"It is popular, especially with foreign tourists," he says. His tour promises to show a courtyard where the president "chased rats" as a boy and another where he had his "first date" with his

now ex-wife Lyudmila. Rusanov insists the tour has no political affiliation but paints an unequivocally positive picture of Putin, whose ratings have soared above 80 percent since Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. "This is the local headquarters of the FSB, the former KGB, where Vladimir Putin was recruited in 1975 after being one of the best students at the Saint Petersburg University law faculty," Rusanov says at the foot of the imposing building. Putin decided to become an agent after watching a spy film as a boy, he says.

'Enigmatic' Putin

In his 16 years in power, Putin has remark-

ably managed to keep his private life a tightly-guarded secret, despite allegations of high-level nepotism and corruption. Publications that dared to investigate the activities of his two daughters, Yekaterina and Maria, or his love life, have been shut down or seen major staff shakeups, though the Kremlin always denies any meddling. Putin's impenetrable secrecy is part of the allure that keeps Rusanov's business going. "The tour lets people see a more human side of him, beyond official business," he says. "Putin is an enigmatic person," said Sam Roberts, a 45-year-old American who came on the tour with his Russian wife Galina to better understand the Russian leader and his politics,

which often leave the West guessing.

"He interests me a lot, and he interests the United States, where we don't know much about him," he said. A surge in interest from foreign tourists is encouraging other guides to launch Putin tours of their own. "I want to try leading these tours for Chinese tourists, I'm sure this will be a hit," said Ilya Ivannikov, 28, who came on Rusanov's walk to gain experience in Putin geography. Russian visitors to the city also said they enjoyed the walk. "My friend and I are fans of our president," said Anna Kuznetsova, a visitor from the town of Kaluga southwest of Moscow. "I share many of his views," she added. — AFP

Airbnb event to feature Paltrow, Kutcher



In this file photo, actor Ashton Kutcher attends the Museum of the Moving Image's 2016 Industry Tribute in New York. — AP photos

Gwyneth Paltrow, Ashton Kutcher and "Eat Pray Love" author Elizabeth Gilbert are scheduled to speak in November at a three-day event sponsored by Airbnb in Los Angeles. Last year, the Airbnb Open drew 5,000 Airbnb hosts from 110 countries. The event, scheduled Nov 17-19, will be the company's third annual gathering. The company says it's expanding the scope of the Open to welcome hosts and guests who use Airbnb as well as locals from Los Angeles. The forum is designed to explore the future of travel and hospitality, including topics like making connections and tips for successful hosting.

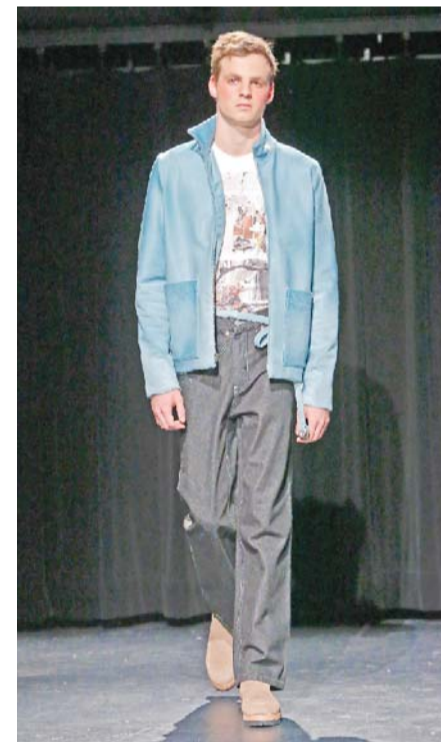
Other speakers include film producer Brian Grazer, who won an Oscar for "A Beautiful Mind"; Toms shoes founder Blake Mycoskie; and restaurateur Danny Meyer, along with Airbnb's founders. Kutcher is an investor in Airbnb and a number of other tech startups. Paltrow has stayed in glamorous high-end Airbnbs while traveling. The Open will also include a closing event with live music and a market, with limited tickets for the public to attend.

Details of the event were announced as Airbnb has come under fire in cities ranging from New Orleans to Chicago to New York. Critics say short-term vacation rental sites like Airbnb are helping to drive up housing costs because landlords can make more money renting by the night than renting long-term residential housing. Airbnb insists that most of its hosts are individuals making ends meet by occasionally renting out a room or their homes. Some critics also complain that tourists hurt the quality of life in residential neighborhoods by throwing rowdy parties and taking up parking spots. Anaheim, California, home to Disneyland, recently decided to ban short-term rentals like those on Airbnb. — AP



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow poses for photographers before Chanel's Spring-Summer 2016 Haute Couture fashion collection in Paris.

Men's fashion week kicks off third season in New York



Men's fashion week in New York kicked off its third season Monday with a presentation by Perry Ellis, whose athletic, casual take is expected to mark a number of spring-summer 2017 collections. Dozens of designers from Michael Kors to Tommy Hilfger will present creations over the course of around 60 catwalk shows and presentations, which are expected to conjure a minimalist, relaxed and utilitarian look. Not all designers will be participating, however. Steven Cox and Daniel Silver, the creative duo behind

Duckie Brown, will be sitting out the season, after presenting a mere six-look collection in February.

"I think it's great that New York can have its own fashion week for men's, or men's and women's together," Silver told The New York Times. "But we did two shows a year



for 13 years... we just decided this is maybe a moment for us not to do a show," he said, lamenting that during fashion week, "we nurture business, we don't nurture creativity." Below are some of the week's expected presentations and shows: Tuesday: Joseph Abboud, Tim Coppens, Garciavelez, Stampd, Michael Kors, Loris Diran, Robert Geller, Carlos Campos, Cadet, Gypsy Sport, Brett Johnson and Ovidia & Sons.

Wednesday: Passavant and Lee, Nick Graham, Kenneth Ning, John Elliott, Nautica, Assembly New York, Rochambeau and Tommy Hilfger. Thursday: Todd Snyder, Palmiers du Mal, Katama, Timo Weiland and John Varvatos. — AFP

Fashion from the Linder 2016 collection is modeled during Men's Fashion Week in New York. — AP photos



This combination of file photos shows singer Taylor Swift (Top) in the press room at the 58th Grammy Awards and (Bottom from left to right) Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson, Niall Horan, and Harry Styles of One Direction at the 2015 American Music Awards. — AFP

Jennifer Lopez, Miranda release Orlando tribute

US pop diva Jennifer Lopez and Broadway superstar Lin-Manuel Miranda on Monday put out a musical tribute to victims of the Orlando nightclub attack, with proceeds going to charity. "Love Make the World Go Round" is tinged with an uptempo synthpop beat and resilient messages, such as when Lopez sings, "Those who hate us and fear us cannot keep us down." Lopez and Miranda, who had teased the song a week ago, performed it on NBC's "Today" show on a brilliant New York summer day to fans outside Rockefeller Center.

The pair, who will also play on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" on Tuesday night, put the song on sale over iTunes. The title of "Love Make the World Go Round" comes from a Tony Awards acceptance speech by Miranda, who has created one of Broadway's biggest hits in years with "Hamilton." Miranda acted for the last time in the trailblazing hip-hop musical on Saturday, with the cast's final performance attended by celebrities ranging from Lopez to filmmaker Spike Lee to US Secretary of State John Kerry.

Lopez and Miranda are both of Puerto Rican origin. Many of the victims of the June 12 attack were also Hispanic. Forty-nine people were killed and another 53 injured when gunman Omar Mateen attacked the Pulse nightclub in Orlando. The mass shooting was the deadliest in modern US history. Proceeds from the song will go to the Hispanic Foundation's Somos Orlando fund, which will provide mental health services to survivors. Lopez also took part in a more mournful charity song, "Hands," which came out last week and features a range of stars including Gwen Stefani, Britney Spears, Mary J Blige and Imagine Dragons. — AFP



'Hamilton' creator and star Lin-Manuel Miranda and Jennifer Lopez perform 'Love Will Make the World Go Round,' their tribute to the victims of the 11 June gun attack at the Orlando. — AFP

Taylor Swift tops Forbes highest paid celebrity list

Singer Taylor Swift has topped this year's Forbes list of the world's 100 highest paid celebrities, earning \$170 million mainly thanks to her hugely successful "1989" world tour. The "Shake It Off" singer, 26, came ahead of boy band One Direction, currently on a break, who took second place with \$110 million. "The pop superstar smashed the Rolling Stones' North American touring record, grossing \$200 million on the continent en route to a quarter-billion dollars in total for her 1989 World Tour," Forbes said in a statement. With earnings of \$95 million, American

author James Patterson came in third. US television personality Dr Phil McGraw and Real Madrid soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo were tied fourth with earnings of \$88 million, the magazine said. The other top 10 spots were held by American comedian Kevin Hart, British singer Adele and Barcelona footballer Lionel Messi alongside US radio hosts Howard Stern and Rush Limbaugh. "The world's 100 highest-paid celebrities pulled in \$5.1 billion pretax over the past 12 months, more than the GDP of Belize, Gambia and Bhutan combined," Forbes said. — Reuters



Transgender pop band and dancers shake up India's prejudices

Transgender people in India have traditionally been an invisible minority in India, seen only at traffic lights begging for alms or blessing newlyweds and newborn babies. But a pop band of transgender women is on the soundtrack of the latest Bollywood blockbuster, showing that two years after a landmark judgment gave transgender people equal rights, they are more widely accepted, even as jobs are scarce and biases remain.

A song by 6 Pack Band, comprising six transgender women, features in the Salman Khan-starrer "Sultan" released last week. Their other songs, released earlier in the year, have also featured Bollywood stars and had millions of views on YouTube.

"Transgender people are worse off than other minorities in the country - they are not even on the radar," said Ashish Patil, head of Y-Films, an arm of Bollywood production house Yash Raj Films, that put the band together. "This was an effort to get the community front and centre, and get people talking. I decided, why not do it with song and dance, which are so integral to their tradition," he said. India has about 2 million transgender people. In 2014, the country's Supreme Court ruled that they had equal rights under the law, and granted legal status to the third gender.

Alongside the right to marry and inherit property, they are also eligible for quotas in jobs and educational institutions. Transgender women, known as hijras, have long been considered auspicious, and their blessings are sought at weddings and births. Yet abuse and exploitation are common. Often thrown out of their homes by their families, many lack a for-

mal education and are denied jobs. So they are forced into sex work, begging, or dancing at weddings to make ends meet.

To address gender and sexuality in a more accessible manner, Abhina Aher, a transgender rights activist, founded the Dancing Queens in Mumbai a few years ago. The group of transgender and gay people uses dance for advocacy, as well as to earn a living. The Dancing Queens - "because we're called queens, and we dance", Aher said - perform at weddings and corporate events. "Since we began performing, there has been greater acknowledgment, greater visibility and greater respect for us, for the community," said Aher, a trained kathak dancer. "While the law was very welcome, there is still a gap between the rights on paper and what happens on the street. There is still violence, there still aren't enough job opportunities," Aher said.

Social welfare

The eastern state of Odisha last month became the first in the country to give transgender people social welfare benefits such as pension and housing. India is also revising its rehabilitation scheme for forced or bonded labourers to include transgender people. There have been other efforts to integrate them. In Thane, near Mumbai, more than 1,000 transgender people have been trained by the police and designated as Friends of the Police to help with traffic control and crowd management. But it is the 6 Pack Band that has had the most glamorous outing yet. Their first song, Hum Hain Happy, a cover of the Pharrell Williams hit Happy, was released in January this year. — Reuters

Cranston goes undercover in drug war drama



In this image released by Broad Green Pictures, Diane Kruger, left, and Bryan Cranston appear in a scene from, "The Infiltrator." — AP

There's no shortage of drug trade dramas on the big and small screens, and Bryan Cranston has the unique misfortune of having been in one of the best. It makes his decision to go anywhere near that genre again a curious choice. "The Infiltrator," starring Cranston as an undercover agent who loses track of himself in the glamour of the lie, is not "Breaking Bad," nor is it trying to be. Yet the shadow of that defining, once-in-a-lifetime role continues to follow the actor as he reaches beyond Walter White. The film is actually based on a true story - that of federal agent Bob Mazur (Cranston), who in the mid-1980s collected evidence around the money laundering practices of the bigwigs in the drug trade for a number of years by posing as Bob Musella, a fancy business man with mob ties.

He followed the money in the most literal sense, befriending those in the drug business and the crooked bankers embroiled in the operation of shuffling the dirty money around legitimate institutions. The years-long operation led to the arrest and indictment of 85 big time criminals. But for such an extraordinary story, "The Infiltrator," from director Brad Furman, feels very by the books. That's not necessarily a bad thing for those looking for a straightforward crime drama. But passable is not enough to stand out in this already overcrowded genre. It's framed as a "one last job" for Mazur, a family man who dabbles in undercover work that has been getting a little dangerous.

'The Big Short'

He's skeptical of his partner Emir (John Leguizamo, who was in Furman's "The Lincoln Lawyer" with Cranston), a fellow undercover agent in it for the thrills, but it's his job and he's going to see it through. And whaddaya know, Mazur finds out he kind of likes living the high life as Musella - the expensive clothes and cars, the marbled mansions, the all-night parties and the power of being a trusted insider in the high-stakes hustle. He indulges in nearly everything except for women, which gets him in a bit of trouble when he declines a paid-for prostitute because he says he's engaged. His boss (Amy Ryan) then has to back up his lie by assigning a green agent, Kathy Ertz (Diane Kruger), to pose as Musella's fiancée.

Kruger's Kathy is frustratingly underused. She's little more than eye candy in Bob's game and then Furman expects us to care when the film inserts a scene between her and Mazur's real wife Evelyn (Juliet Aubrey) where Kathy has to pick up Mazur's real wedding tux for his fake wedding as Musella. I wish there had been a narrative break here like they used in "The Big Short" to tell the audience that yes, this preposterous encounter really did happen. Because the clumsy way in which it's executed not only doesn't achieve the emotional depth it thinks it does, but is a glaring and borderline offensive contrivance rooted in some retrograde assumptions about women.

Feels underdeveloped

"The Infiltrator" might have done well to take a page from "Argo," which knew to let the characters service the story, instead of using the story to service the character. Cranston is good and fearsome as Mazur, but he still feels underdeveloped. Also, "The Infiltrator" often feels more manipulative than informative, like the late-in-the-game entry of Pablo Escobar confidant Roberto Alcaino (Benjamin Bratt) and his loving family which sparks a crisis of conscience in Mazur as the clock ticks down to the big bust.

Defaulting to "big and movie-like" just makes everything feel cliched, when interesting and true would have been more than sufficient. "The Infiltrator," a Broad Green Pictures release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong violence, language throughout, some sexual content and drug material." Running time: 127 minutes. Two stars out of four. — AP

Javier Bardem eyed for Frankenstein role in Universal's monster Universe

Having already filled its upcoming monster universe with A-list talent including Tom Cruise, Johnny Depp and Russell Crowe, Universal is now eyeing another star to revive a famous character. Sources tell Variety that Javier Bardem is in talks to star as Frankenstein in Universal's classic monster movie series. It's currently unknown which monster feature Bardem would first appear in. Cruise and Crowe's "The Mummy," the first film in the monster series, is nearly done with filming.



Javier Bardem

Universal is also developing a "Bride of Frankenstein" feature, but sources indicate that Bardem's Frankenstein would likely appear in another monster pic first with the

possibility of getting a spin-off down the road. Related Universal Dates Third Monster Movie for 2019 Last summer, the studio tapped Alex Kurtzman ("Star Trek") and Chris Morgan to help develop the monster pics as connected universe.

Ironically, Bardem had been approached about playing the Dr. Jekyll role opposite Cruise in "The Mummy," but ultimately passed on the part, which opened the door for Crowe. Bardem was most recently seen in Sean Penn's "The Last Face" and is currently filming Darren Aronofsky's untitled film opposite Jennifer Lawrence. He also has "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales," which bows next summer. — Reuters



In this image released by Universal Pictures, from left, characters Max, voiced by Louis CK, Duke, voiced by Eric Stonestreet, and Katie, voiced by Ellie Kemper, appear in a scene from, "The Secret Lives of Pets." — AP

'Pets' fetches big earnings, sinking Dory



In this image released by Universal Pictures, Gidget, voiced by Jenny Slate, left, and Max, voiced by Louis CK, appear in a scene from, "The Secret Lives of Pets." — AP

After a three-week reign, the beloved fish Dory's top box office spot has gone to the dogs-literally. "The Secret Life of Pets" racked up an impressive \$103.2 million in its debut weekend, according to industry tracker Exhibitor Relations, raking in five times the earnings of its closest competition to nab first place. It's the third-biggest premiere for an animated film, behind "Finding Dory" and "Minions."

The Illumination-produced comedy centers on the misadventures of two canines unleashed on the streets of New York, featuring the voices of comedian Louis CK and Eric Stonestreet. "The Legend of Tarzan," starring Alexander Skarsgard and Margot Robbie, clung to number two for the second straight week, making \$21.6 million. After floating on top of the charts since its record-breaking June 8 premiere, "Finding Dory" sank to third

place with \$20.3 million. The sequel to the 2003 hit "Finding Nemo" earned \$135.1 million its debut weekend, and experts project the comedy will hit \$1 billion this summer. "Max and Dave Need Wedding Dates" about hard-partying brothers searching online for plus-ones opened at \$16.6 million, taking fourth place. Fifth with \$11.7 million was "The Purge: Election Year", a dystopian thriller in which the government has sanctioned an annual night of lawlessness, violence and murder. Rounding out the top 10 films of the weekend were: "Central Intelligence" (\$8.1 million) "Independence Day: Resurgence" (\$7.7 million) "The BFG" (\$7.6 million) "The Shallows" (\$4.8 million) "Sultan" (\$2.2 million) —AFP



This photo provided by HGTV.com shows a boy's bathroom designed by Brian Patrick Flynn featuring framed children's art on the walls, perfect for displaying all the newest kids artwork coming in. — AP photos



This photo shows a home work space designed by Tamara Eaton featuring an oversized pin-board extending all the way to the ceiling, perfect for displaying all the newest kids artwork coming in.

Four ideas for hanging on to school-year memories and artwork

On crisp September afternoons, kids often come home from school bearing armfuls of classroom art. The evenings often bring comments about their day's events and sometimes hilarious descriptions of their world. Parents are sure they'll save and remember all those paper creations and memorable words. But the pace of life soon takes over, and even organized moms and dads can end up inundated.

It's worth creating a system to manage the flow because school artwork can quickly pile up, says Laura Russell, founder of the craft blog makelifelovely.com and a mother of four. With just a bit of creative effort, you can also find ways to hold onto all those funny comments you'll want to remember years from now. As a new school year begins, here are four easy projects to help do that:

1. Follow them with photos

You can build on the trend of snapping and posting "first day of school" photos by adding written notes in your kids' own handwriting, says Kayla Kitts, special projects editor at HGTV.com. Take a photo on that first day, and that evening have kids write out a page listing their current dreams and favorites. Include five or 10 questions about anything you'd like: the career they'd love to have someday, their favorite school lunch, best friend, favorite class. Have them write it out in their own handwriting to preserve that too, says Kitts. Then scan or photograph the page.

Do the same on the day before their December holiday break, and again during the final week of school. Then supplement those three photos and images of their written surveys with other photos from school events or candid shots with

friends, or scans of their school artwork. Lay it all out in a photo book you can order online. "It's a really cool book to give grandparents," Kitts says, and is a keepsake your child will enjoy in the future. At the end of elementary school, you can easily create a book that includes these photos and written comments as a gift to a special teacher.

2. Winnow their work

Russell begins each year by setting aside a big file-folder box for each child. She labels one hanging folder for each month, with some spares in case files fill up before a month ends. If that level of organization sounds too ambitious, keep a large plastic bin handy. "Stuff all the art in there," Russell says, and go through it periodically, asking each child which pieces are their favorites.

Once you've pared things down to their favorites and yours, Russell suggests slipping the art into plastic sleeves in a three-ring binder. Her kids love thumbing through their binders from past school years.

"While I'm in charge of the books now and don't let the kids pull them out unless I'm sitting with them, I plan on giving them their books when they're older," she says. Another suggestion for storing and celebrating art: "Scan the favorite pieces as they come home. From those scans you can make a slideshow for each year of school," Russell says. "Life is short, and the artwork that comes home right now can be a wonderful way to tie generations together."

3. Save their sayings

Buy a paper date book for each child (it can be for the current calendar year or for the 18 months that begin in July and

run through the end of next year). Make sure the book offers writing space for each day - ideally half a page. Keep the book in a high-traffic spot at home with a pen attached. When one of the kids says something that you'll want to remember, write it on that day's page. Then, during the weekends, ask your child to describe the previous week at school. If they wish, they can also draw pictures. It's a wonderfully analog way to preserve a school year in our digital world.

A twist on that: Kitts suggests keeping a few glass jars around the house, along with slips of blank paper and a pen. When your child thinks of something they want to preserve, have them jot it down, write the date on it and put it in a jar. You can do the same. Whether it's a jar, book or even a note typed into your phone, "just write down those precious memories now," Russell says. "We think we'll never forget those precious words and how old our kids were when they said them, but the fact is that we do forget."

4. Have a rotating display of their art in their rooms

Kitts suggests hanging a few empty frames in various sizes filled with a thin sheet of cork on your child's bedroom wall. Place pushpins in the corners of each frame. When your child brings home art they're excited about, pin it into a frame. The pins make it easy to rotate artwork in and out.

If the walls are already full, try hanging a length of twine and use clothespins to hang a rotating selection of school artwork. Useful move as the year wears on: Each time you reach into the bin of creations to select something new to display, choose a few items to discard. — AP

Ask a Designer: Snazzy staircases

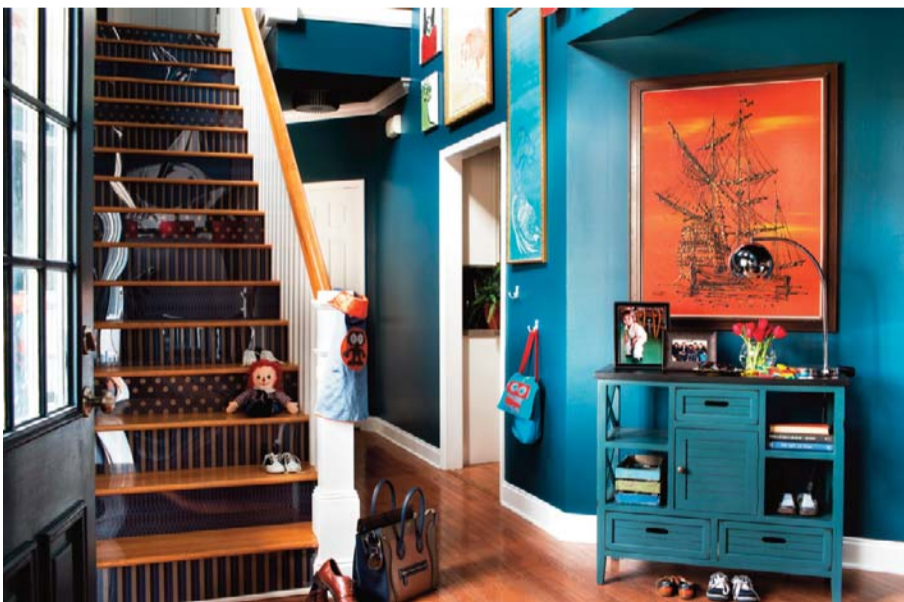


Photo provided by Brian Patrick Flynn shows a staircase designed by Flynn for HGTV.com. In this entryway the stair risers are wallpapered in contrasting patterns, bringing a dose of style and personality to a space that is often overlooked in many homes. — AP photos

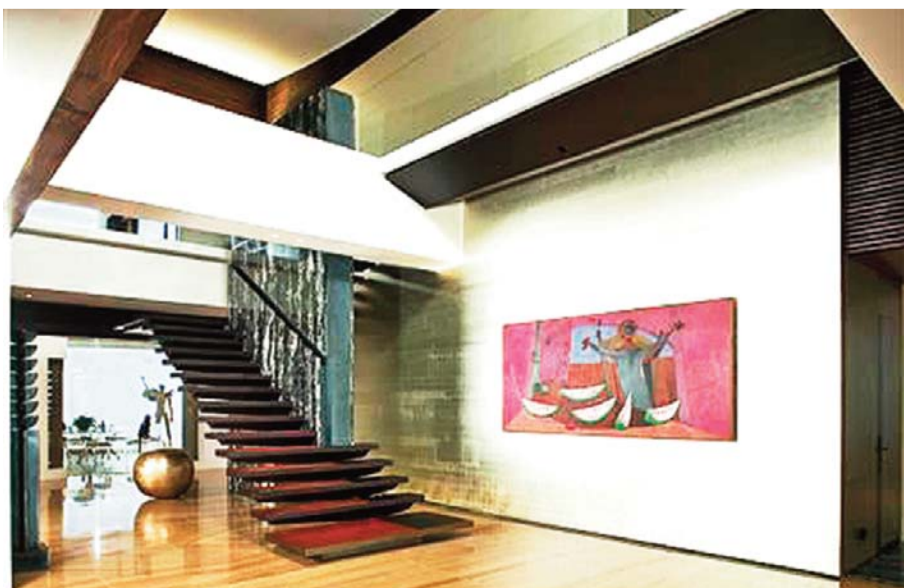


Photo provided by Bradfield and Tobin, shows a striking staircase designed by the New York-based design firm Bradfield and Tobin which has leather treads on the stairs rather than traditional carpet.

We give lots of thoughts to decorating rooms but often overlook the staircase, despite the fact that in many homes it's the first thing people see when they walk in the door. Staircase areas can be "a great spot to introduce your personal style," says Brian Patrick Flynn, who designed HGTV's "Dream Home 2016," the design network's annual house giveaway.

A bold paint color that might be overpowering in a large living room can be perfect used on the tiny risers between steps. And a rug pattern that "might seem kind of wild in a room" can add a nice pop of style when used as a slender runner down the center of a staircase, says Bethany Willard, lead designer and founder at the Pittsburgh-based interior design firm Studio 1049. "The simplicity of a staircase allows for a bit of fun," she says. Here, Flynn, Willard and designer Roric Tobin of the New York design firm B&T Global share advice on creating an inviting, stylish staircase that blends with the rest of a home's decor.

Assess the banister

It doesn't have to be expensive to replace a boring banister with something snappier. "If it's something historical that has beauty, there's no sense in ripping it out," Tobin says. But if it doesn't serve the space, change it. Or consider painting or otherwise updating the banister. "Just putting some thought into that detail, Willard says, "can really personalize the space."

Showcase your favorites

"Stairwells, often considered dead space, are ideal for showcasing collections," says Flynn. "I prefer to mix different frames in a variety of wood finishes and metals, and then throw in three-dimensional objects as well to break up the rigid lines. "When all else fails, I say stick with black-and-white photos, and if you're using art, pay close attention to how palettes play between each piece. If you have 11 pieces and eight of them have similar palettes, maybe use the other three in a different room."

For an entrance stairway, Tobin suggests aiming for a look that's appealing but not overpowering. Perhaps three or four prints by the same artist, he says, that form "a cohesive, pared-down collection ... not too distracting."

Embrace bold patterns and color

Tobin recommends using bold, large-scale print wall coverings to "really draw your eye up the staircase." Homeowners often assume that small-print patterns will look best, he says, but they can be boring. One option he likes is a flocked wall covering with some metallic sheen, which offers warmth and classic style but can also look contemporary if the print is modern.

Bold patterns are also great for stair risers (the portion of the stairway perpendicular to the steps). You can stencil a pattern on the risers with paint, which can easily be painted over if you decide the pattern isn't for you. Or paint them one or several rich colors.

Willard has a client who chose to paint her risers in various shades of green - lightest at the top and darkest at the bottom, in a sort of ombre effect. Flynn is a fan of wallpapering risers, then covering each one with a sheet of clear acrylic for durability. And if you're sure that patterned risers are for you, go for an even more permanent approach by adding ceramic tile work in a pattern you love.

Blend style and function

Runners and stair treads are another place to add color or pattern. "Stairwell runners in masculine prints are becoming popular in all sorts of homes," says Flynn. And they serve a practical purpose: Bare wood can look good but be noisy and slippery. Most of Tobin's clients opt for stair runners or treads to eliminate noise. These are traditionally made of carpet, but Tobin suggests considering other materials. For a client in Mexico City, he added leather stair treads.

Finishing touches

Make sure lighting fixtures are right for your staircase and that the light is flattering, Willard suggests. "That can be such an inexpensive change and an update that makes a lot of difference," she says. And you don't have to wait for the winter holidays to add decorations. As summer ends, consider "adding a touch of fall with baskets at the end of the stairs in autumnal tones," says Flynn, "then keeping sweaters and knit caps out as accessories." — AP

Paris: An obstacle course for wheelchair users

Damien Birambeau has spent most of his life in a wheelchair-and for most of that time he has had trouble getting around Paris, his home town. Despite being one of the world's top tourist destinations, the French capital is a veritable obstacle course for people in wheelchairs-tourists and residents alike. Compared to London, where one in four Underground stations have step-free access, Paris lags far behind in efforts to accommodate people with reduced mobility. "Some people just abandon the idea of going out," said the 43-year-old Birambeau, who suffers from muscular dystrophy.

Tucked away on a side street in eastern Paris are the offices of J'Accede, Birambeau's startup that helps people locate accessible sites and businesses in and around the capital. "When I was six, we knew something was wrong with me. At age 10, I was in a wheelchair," said Birambeau, whose spacious ground-floor office doubles as his home. Of the city's 16 Metro lines, only line 14 — the newest one, opened in 1998 — is completely accessible with lifts and step-free access for wheelchair-bound people. The city's transport authority RATP says that while stairs make most Metro stations off limits to the disabled, the situation is better with buses and commuter trains. "All of the buses in Paris are accessible, meaning 70 percent of their stops are accessible for people in a wheelchair," Marie Christine Raoult, RATP's accessibility specialist, told AFP.

'Invisible'

Many businesses are not adapted for wheelchair users in a city where steps abound, notably at entrances, and Paris's many old historic buildings pose daunting architectural challenges to efforts to render them accessible. Birambeau's own family was forced to move to an apartment building with a lift when he was a child. And the accessibility issue prevented him from attending the same school as his brother. "I was the only one in a wheelchair," he said. "At the time, people weren't used to handicapped people. We were invisible in a way."

Since the 1970s, people like Birambeau have become more "visible" and the government has taken note. In February 2005, it passed a law guaranteeing rights for the disabled, who today make up nearly one-fifth of France's 65 million residents. The new legislation was hailed as a turning point, notably for the two to three percent disabled who are wheelchair-bound-about 400,000 people.

And while the situation has improved with specially adapted public toilets, handicapped parking places and an official, multilingual website listing parks, theatres, cinemas, stores, swimming pools and other accessible city facilities-progress has been slow. The 2005 law led to requirements for businesses to make their premises more accessible, said Paris-based disability lawyer Alexandra Grevin. Firms were given 10 years-until 2015 — to submit their accessibility plans, he said, and then another three years to implement them, installing ramps and other physical adaptations.

'A vicious cycle'

Yet still, "nine out of 10 shops are not accessible," said Charlotte de Vilmorin, founder of Wheeliz, a Paris-based organization that helps people find adapted vehicles around France. "Paris is one of the most difficult places to live in a wheelchair," said the 26-year-old, who has been in one all her life. While many want to make their shops more accessible, she said, the stringent requirements for access ramps, handle bars and other details are not easy to meet during an economic slump. "Wheelchair users just can't go out, so people do not see wheelchair users."

Because they do not see them, they do not see the need for accessibility," she said. Sometimes, "when I call a shop to ask if it is accessible they don't know, because they don't even know what accessible means." Both Vilmorin and Birambeau are clearly filling a niche as their businesses thrive. Launched in May 2015, Wheeliz now has 2,700 subscribers and in January it won a 50,000 euro (\$56,000) social innovation prize from the European Commission. "It's a universal need-to be able to go wherever you want," Vilmorin said. — AFP



This file photo shows a disabled man in a wheelchair distributing flyers at the top of a metro station stairs in Paris. — AFP

FEATURES



A shaggy throw rug made from recycled sheet scraps. —AP photos



This undated photo provided by Sadie Seasongoods shows a silverware organizer made into a jewelry holder.



This undated photo provided by Fiskars shows cupcake holders which look like flowers, being used as a great way to customize standard string lights.



Photo provided by Target shows a door storage device.



Recycled old magazine pages used to frame a cork board.



Photo shows Room Essentials XL twin sheets that have a handy built-in pocket to stash phones, notepads, etc for students who draw the lofted bed in the dorm room, the feature saves climbing up and down to reach a nightstand.

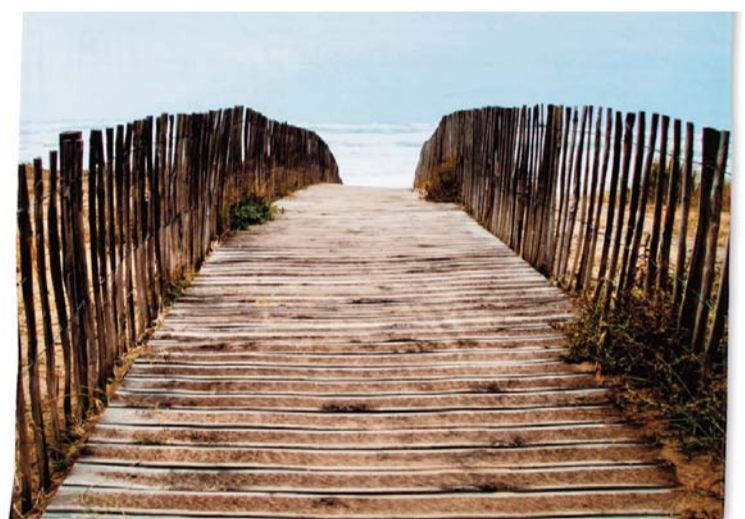


Photo provided by Target shows a scenic tapestry.

Dorm Decor Hacks: Fun ideas to add flair to the basic box

Moving into a dorm is one of college life's most exciting milestones; it's the first time many kids are living away from the comfy confines of home. But the thrill can wane when the dormitory door opens. Most dorm rooms are pretty basic, with plain furniture and institutional floors and walls. So how do you take a room from spartan to snazzy when most of the budget is going to meal plans and books? "No matter how small and cramped your dorm room may be, you can still find cute ways to store all your stuff - without spending a ton on organizers and decor," says Seventeen magazine editor Kristin Koch.

She and stylist Sarah Newell suggest creating a floating shelf out of a magazine file box, and turning clear plastic paint cans into storage for hair accessories or school supplies. Repurposing and rethinking are the keys to good hacks. Tikva Morrow is editor in chief at Hometalk.com, a New York-based do-it-yourself home and garden website. She says it's tempting to load up on kitschy decor, but that's a budget sucker.

Colorful tape

"DIY some pretty embellishments of your own instead," she suggests. "Bring along a few rolls of washable tape for wall decor and picture displays, and make a few large prints for walls." Decorative tape and fabric can also be used to jazz up shelving and built-ins. Is that your roommate's laptop charger, or yours? Identify the cords and accessories by wrapping them with colorful tape, advises stylist and HGTV.com contributor Michelle Edgemont. She also suggests adding the tape to a plain Jane table, or closet door. Look online for instructions on how to make no-sew or simple-sew pillows with old T-shirts or sweaters.

"Cute throw pillows are easy to make, and even a headboard can be DIY-ed using a large piece of cardboard, some fabric and a hot glue gun," Morrow says. Shower stall caddies can be hung on a door or wall to corral loose items, says Gurl.com's Jessica Booth. And organization blogger Laura Wittman of Alberta, Canada, says shower-curtain rings can turn ordinary hangers into scarf and belt organizers. Or use the rings to hang fabric or curtains over existing dorm blinds, personalizing your windows. Dorm floors are pretty institutional, but students don't want to spend on nice rugs that will get lots of wear and tear. On Hometalk.com, Brooke Bock of Tyrone, Pennsylvania, shares how she made a shaggy throw rug using a piece of non-slip rug matting and

recycled sheet scraps. On the same site, Sarah Ramberg of Simpsonville, South Carolina, contributed the idea of turning a silverware tray into a jewelry holder using paint, stencils and cup hooks.

they're almost impossible to nail or screw into, plus you don't want to get in trouble for marking them up," Ma says. Consider a colorful tapestry or a mural photo-printed with a "view": a city at night, a scene from some far-



A custom faux flower bouquet made out of Post-it Notes, and can be used to pretty up a drab dorm space.



Photo provided by Zest It Up shows painted rocks that resemble cacti.

Extra sticky notepads

A silverware tray tucked into a drawer makes good hideaway storage for keys, ID cards, sunglasses and electronics. Design duo Zest It Up in Atascadero, California, suggests creating an artsy, no-maintenance indoor garden by painting smooth rocks and planting them as faux cacti in a cool pot. In many dorms, beds are on lofts over desks or storage areas, says Target stylist (and recent UCLA graduate) Tiffany Ma. She recommends using Target's Room Essentials Micro Fiber Sheets with side pockets: "It's like having your own floating nightstand to hold your phone, tablet, book or glasses. You can get your exercise walking to class, instead of climbing up and down from your bunk."

The retailer's also got an over-the-door, full-length mirror with built-in organizer. "There's nothing more boring than the typical cinder-block dorm-room wall -

away land, a serene nature-scape. Attach the cloth with non-marking adhesive strips.

When you're doing the school-supply run, grab some extra sticky notepads. Pinterest is full of ideas for wall art made with the sticky notes. And instructions for crafting decorative flowers are at www.post-it.com. Or create a framed corkboard or mirror using rolled-up magazine pages and Mod Podge. Using a paper punch, turn metallic or paper cupcake holders into frilly foils for string lights; Los Angeles designer Emma Jeffery shows you how at www.fiskars.com. — AP



Photos provided by The New York Botanical Garden shows kids take part in gardening inside the Family Garden at The New York Botanical Garden in New York. — AP



When summer ends, kids' ties to nature don't have to

The start of the school year doesn't have to mean the end of time outdoors. Many parents, teachers and schools are finding ways to keep kids connected to nature all year. "It may be even more important for kids to be connected to nature during the school year than just in the summer," says Richard Louv, author of the new "Vitamin N: The Essential Guide to a Nature-Rich Life" (Algonquin Books) and the best-selling "Last Child in the Woods" (Algonquin, 2008). "Amid all the focus on technology, we've been missing something quite elemental," Louv says. Just a walk through an urban park, he says, can help kids' performance in school. "I can't tell you how many times teachers who bring their classes into natural settings say that the troublemaker in class is the very one that turns out to have leadership qualities in the woods," he says.

Sarah Milligan-Toffler, executive director of the Children and Nature Network, a Minneapolis-based non-profit, says that getting kids connected to nature doesn't have to mean a major outing. "There is something about natural environ-

ments that is really stress-reducing," she says, "even if it's just 10 minutes a day in a neighborhood park or planting a pollinator garden." Many botanical gardens, parks and nature centers offer after-school and weekend programs, and are helping schools bring environmental awareness into the classroom, too.

Regional identity

Schools in Mamaroneck, New York, for example, have worked with a local nature preserve in the last few years to get kids from preschool to high school outside for science, says the district's assistant superintendent for curriculum, Annie Ward. "I know we're in a time of standards, and so forth, but how do we help kids grow up with a sense of place, of regional identity?" she says. "Especially now, with all these issues being talked about - the rise of technology, of kids being hyper-scheduled - there's particular power in being outside, in being close, careful observers of the natural world. There's a

sense of calm and a sense of being unplugged."

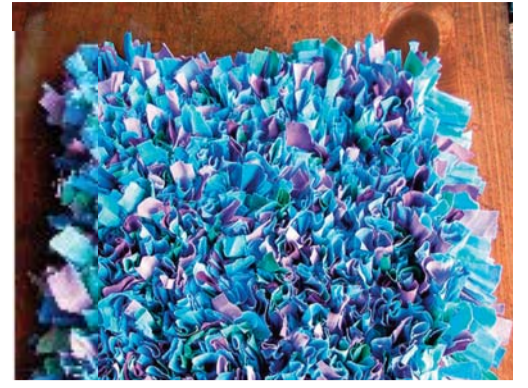
Naturalists come to school and prepare kids and teachers for field trips, Ward says. Third-graders go to a nearby Long Island Sound beach to learn about tidal ecosystems. Fifth graders take pond samples to study under microscopes. High school students in an advanced placement environment class helped to remove invasive plants from a meadow at the preserve. Nationally, a federal program, Every Kid in the Park, offers free admission to national parks and other public lands to the families of all fourth graders. And many schools are beginning to realize the value of green schoolyards or gardens. "Schools are public lands accessible to children, and too often the yards consist of a blacktop that's locked up at night," says Milligan-Toffler.

An aquarium or terrarium

Louv's latest book outlines ways that families can advocate for more green space in schools and form networks of families

interested in getting outdoors. Particularly for older kids, he notes, outings are more enticing if their peers go too. For parents looking for places to go as a family, Nature Rocks, a program of the Nature Conservancy, has a website where you plug in your location and the weather, and it will list ideas. The Children and Nature Network also lists on its website groups interested in getting outdoors.

Louv notes that kids don't need to come inside just because of cold or rain; they just need to dress accordingly. In winter, he suggests, carry a fold-up magnifying glass to examine snowflakes; build igloos or snow forts; or go sledding or snowshoeing. And even when kids are stuck indoors, they can start a windowsill garden, or put together an aquarium or terrarium. "It isn't about going back to nature, but forward," he says. — AP



Spanish matador Alberto Lopez Simon performs a pass to a Jandilla's bull during the fifth corrida of the San Fermin Festival in Pamplona. The festival is a symbol of the Spanish culture that attracts thousands of tourists to watch the bull runs despite heavy condemnation from animal rights groups.—AFP

Van Gogh's 'suicide gun' on display at Amsterdam museum

Amsterdam's renowned Van Gogh Museum unveiled a new exhibition yesterday focusing on Vincent's final 18 months of mental anguish before he shot himself in 1890, including the suspected gun he used in his suicide. Called "On the Verge of Insanity", the exhibition seeks to answer questions like why Van Gogh cut off his ear, and the precise nature of his mental illness that ultimately led to his death in Auvers-sur-Oise near Paris at the age of 37.

One of the most interesting exhibition pieces is the small-calibre revolver believed to have been the actual weapon Van Gogh used to shoot himself in the chest. "The small, badly corroded revolver from a private collection and being

shown for the first time, might be the weapon with which Van Gogh sought to end his life," the Van Gogh Museum said. Vincent shot himself on July 29, 1890 and managed to stumble back to the inn where he was staying before succumbing to his wound 30 hours later. At the time the suicide weapon was not found.

Around 1960 an Auvers farmer working on his land discovered the rusty gun, a 7.0 mm pocket revolver of the "Lefaucheu a broche" type in the fields where Van Gogh shot himself. "The degree of corrosion suggested that the weapon lay in the ground for 50-60 years," the museum said in a statement. "Its limited firepower offers a possible explanation

why the bullet fired at close range glanced off Van Gogh's rib," it added. "The bullet was deflected downwards and was lodged too deep to be removed without danger, as a result of which Van Gogh died of his wound some 30 hours later."

Another fascinating exhibition piece is a recently-discovered letter from doctor Felix Rey, the physician who treated Van Gogh in hospital after he cut off his left ear while living in the southern French town of Arles. "Rey's letter includes drawings showing that Van Gogh cut off the whole of his left ear and not, as was long believed, just part of it," the museum said. "The discovery brings to an end a long-standing biographical

question," it added. Van Gogh's portrait of Rey is also on display for the first time at the museum, as well as a raft of previously unexhibited documents about his illness. "On the Verge of Insanity" however shows that Van Gogh's art "ought not to be viewed as a product of his illness, but arose in spite of his condition," the museum said. The exhibition runs from July 15 to September 25. — AFP

Hidden angel mosaic at Bethlehem shrine sees the light

It was hidden for decades at the church on the site where Jesus Christ is believed to have been born until conservationists uncovered it—an ancient mosaic of an angel. Since 2013, Italian restorationists have been working with the Palestinian government in a mammoth effort to restore the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank—hailed by Christians as built on the site where Jesus was born.

The roof and windows have been restored and mosaics that had become barely visible over centuries have been painstakingly brought back to full color, one tiny tile at a time. In the course of the work they were surprised to uncover an angel that had been hidden under plaster for decades. With thermal cameras, similar to those used by

the military at night, they scanned the walls to see if there was anything behind them, said Giammarco Piacenti, CEO of the Piacenti restoration company which is leading the work. "In that part it was completely different, you could see the angel. We said 'what is this? It can't be an angel,'" he told AFP.

After peeling back the plaster they uncovered the mosaic, bringing the number of angels in the church to seven. Its outstretched hand is pointing in the direction of the cave where Jesus is believed to have been born. And the discovery has already spawned a myth after the excavator who discovered it, who happened to be Piacenti's niece, became pregnant shortly afterwards. "All the family speak about how the angel (blessed her)," he laughed.

The church, which sees more than two million visitors on good years, was originally built in 339 AD but rebuilt in the sixth century after being destroyed in a fire. Infighting between the three churches involved in running the site had prevented redevelopment, with the last renovations taking place in 1478, according to Piacenti.

Limited funding

"From a historical, artistic and spiritual point of view, it is everything," said Piacenti. "The centre of the world—this is everything." Issa Hazboun, a Christian Palestinian engineer and a member of the project construction management team, says the redevelopment of the site is a source of "pride" not just for him but for Christians across the Middle East. Christians have been targeted in Syria, Iraq and other parts of the region in recent years, with millions fleeing their homes.

Palestinian Christians, too, complain of ill treatment by Israel, and Israeli forces recently began extending a separation wall through the West Bank in the area near Bethlehem. "Of course (Christians across the region) will be very happy—the birthplace of the Messiah is being renovated," Hazboun told AFP. "We are happy they are going to see how the work is going."

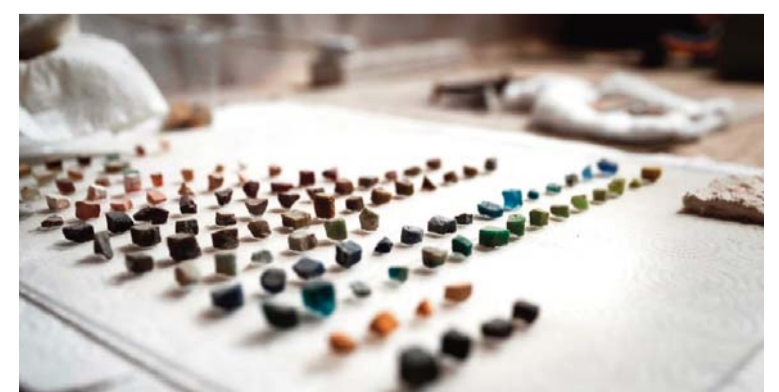
The ongoing restoration, however, is threatened by limited funding, with the Palestinian authorities looking for a further 7.5 million euros (\$8.3 million) on top of the nearly 10 million euros (\$11 million) already received. There are 50 sixth-century columns to be restored, most of which have barely visible paintings of crusader figures, with wealthy donors being asked to "adopt a column", Piacenti said. Ida Molinaro, a restorer, is painstakingly bringing back the color to one column. Each costs 50,000 euros (\$55,000) to restore. Because of the religious importance of the site, it has not been closed down during the work, so renovators have to work around throngs of tourists and monks, a situation she admits can be tough. "Living in a restoration site 24 hours per day in contact with tourists and priests of different religions is challenging, both psychologically and in terms of work, but at the end it gives you a lot," Molinaro said. If the necessary funding is found, the renovations are due to be completed in 2018. — AFP



An ancient mosaic on a wall in the upper part of the Church of the Nativity, which was uncovered during restoration works by Italian experts at the site, in the biblical West Bank town of Bethlehem. — AFP photos



Giammarco Piacenti, CEO of the Piacenti restoration company, inspects a renovated mosaic wall inside the Church of the Nativity.



A close up shot shows mosaic cubes used to renovate the antique walls inside the Church of the Nativity.



An Italian expert renovates an old painting on one of the major columns inside the Church of the Nativity.



An ancient angel mosaic on a wall in the upper part of the Church of the Nativity.