

**Labor attache:
Minimum salary
for Filipino
helpers still \$400**



**Three US police
officers dead,
several injured
in shooting**



**Pakistani star's
brother 'not
embarrassed'
by killing her**



**Wilder stops
Arreola to retain
WBC heavyweight
world title**



US REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR KUWAIT'S SECURITY

UN-BACKED YEMEN PEACE TALKS RESUME



Min 31°
Max 47°
High Tide 09:57
Low Tide 04:10 & 17:48



150 FILS
NO: 16935
40 PAGES

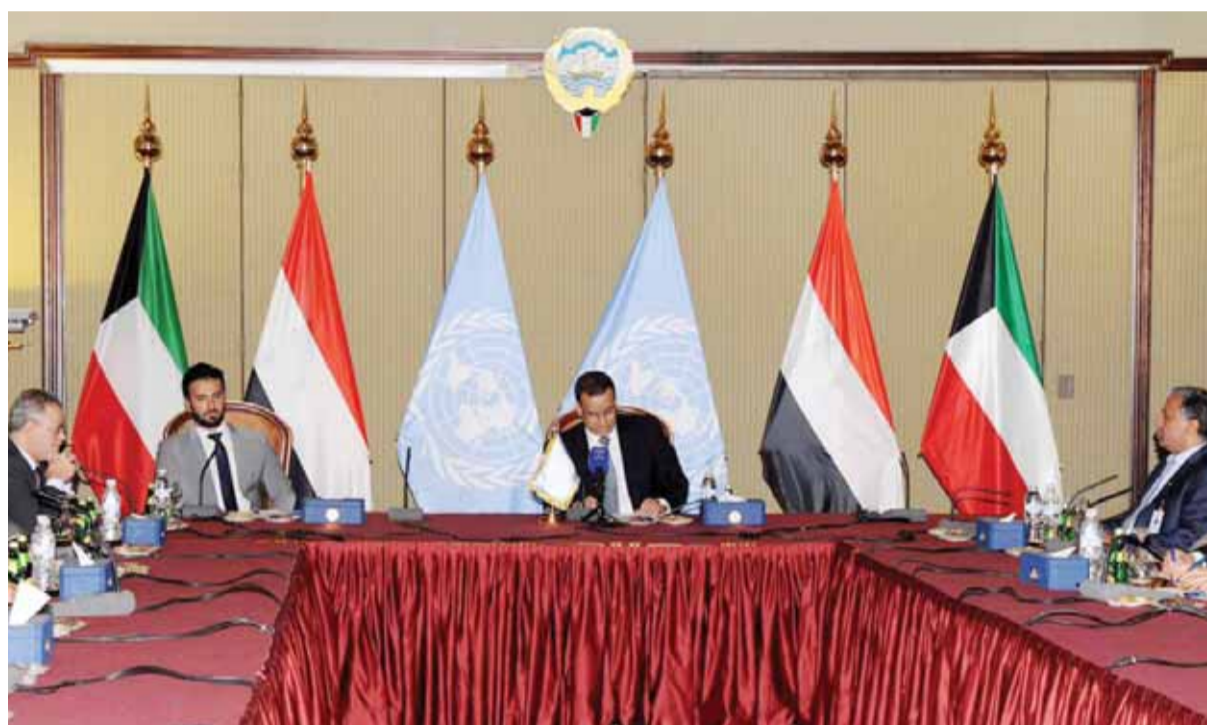
NISF: TREATMENT ABROAD USED FOR SUMMER TOURISM

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: Liberal MP Rakan Al-Nisf charged yesterday that many cases of state-funded overseas medical treatment are being used for summer tourism, slamming the failure to halt wide-ranging corruption in this field. Nisf cited a detailed report published in the Arabic press yesterday about hundreds of millions of dinars spent by the government on thousands of cases who are sent for medical treatment abroad, alleging that many of the cases are fake and arranged through corruption.

Nisf slammed a 'cover-up' of those squandering public funds for what he described as "tourism medication". The lawmaker said that all recent reports from the Audit Bureau and the National Assembly budgets committee clearly indicate to squandering of public funds and corruption in the procedures of overseas treatment.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: UN special envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed (center) speaks with delegations during a meeting of the Yemeni peace talks. — AFP

KUWAIT: The United States of America has reaffirmed support for Kuwait's security and stability. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement yesterday that acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received a written message from US Secretary of State John Kerry renewing Washington's support for safeguarding Kuwait's security and stability. The message also dealt with the strong bilateral relations between the two friendly countries and means of boosting ties in various domains, in addition to joint coordination regarding various developments on the regional and international arenas.

Separately, the UN special envoy for Yemen yesterday urged the country's warring parties to make "decisions that will prove your true intentions", as peace talks resumed in Kuwait after government delegates abandoned a boycott threat. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said the negotiations, back on after a 15-day suspension, would last for two weeks and warned that they may be Yemen's last chance for peace. "It's time for decisive decisions that will prove your true intentions and national responsibilities to Yemenis," he told a meeting of the two delegations late Saturday.

The envoy said the discussions between Yemen's Houthi rebels and the government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi would focus on strengthening a ceasefire that came into effect on April 11 but has been repeatedly violated.

Continued on Page 13



ALEPPO: A Syrian civil defense worker carries the body of a child following air strikes yesterday in the rebel-controlled neighborhood of Maysar in this northern Syrian city. — AFP

TURKEY ROUNDS UP 6,000 PLOTTERS

ERDOGAN WEEPS AT FUNERAL • MOP-UP CONTINUES

BAHRAIN DISSOLVES OPPOSITION GROUP

DUBAI: A court yesterday ordered the dissolution of Bahrain's main opposition group Al-Wefaq, accusing it of helping to foster violence and terrorism. The administrative court in Manama also ordered the funds of the group to be seized by the government, said the justice ministry. The ruling can still be appealed.

Al-Wefaq was the largest group in parliament before its lawmakers resigned en masse in protest at the crushing of demonstrations in 2011 calling for an elected government. The court said Al-Wefaq incited violence and encouraged demonstrations and sit-ins which threatened to spark "sectarian strife". It said the bloc had "criticized the performance of the state authorities - executive, judicial, and legislative".

On June 28, Al-Wefaq's defense lawyers withdrew from court proceedings in protest at the government's push to accelerate the process, which had initially been set for Oct 6. The court had already suspended all of Al-Wefaq's activities on June 14, ordering its offices closed and assets frozen. But Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa insisted "there will be no backtracking on the measures taken to preserve the nation's security and stability". "There are hands that sought to become tools used by foreign regimes which want no good for Bahrain and its people. Their attempts have failed," he said in remarks published on the official BNA news agency.

Continued on Page 13

ISTANBUL: Turkish authorities pressed yesterday with a ruthless crackdown against suspects in the failed coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, with 6,000 people detained as he vowed to stamp out the "virus" of the putschists. World leaders including US President Barack Obama have strongly condemned Friday's attempted takeover but also urged Turkey to respect the rule of law in its aftermath, especially after pictures

emerged showing the rough treatment of some arrested coup plotters.

Justice Minister Bekir Bozdog said yesterday around 6,000 people had been detained in "clean-up operations" and that the number would rise. They include senior army commanders, judges, prosecutors and a military aide to Erdogan, Ali Yazici, who had only been working for the president since August last year, state-run news

Continued on Page 13



ISTANBUL: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (right) and former Turkish President Abdullah Gul carry the coffin of Erdogan's friend Erol Olcak yesterday. — AFP

SYRIA REGIME BESIEGES REBEL PARTS OF ALEPPO

ALEPPO: Opposition-controlled parts of Syria's battered northern city Aleppo came under total siege yesterday, after government forces severed the last route out of the east. An estimated 300,000 civilians live in rebel-held neighborhoods of Syria's second city, the UN says, and there are fears that they could face starvation. The rebels have failed to thwart a major Russian-backed army offensive around Aleppo, which has been devastat-

ed by Syria's five-year conflict.

Yesterday, regime fighters descended on the Castello Road and fully cut it, said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. "The eastern neighborhoods are now completely besieged," he told AFP. The Observatory also reported that six civilians, including a child, were killed yesterday in regime air strikes on the

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: A huge fire broke out in an under-construction 18-storey building in Salmiya yesterday at noon. The fire was on the top floor, and winds helped the fire to spread to another building, also under construction. Twelve firemen suffered heat exhaustion, two of whom were sent to hospital, while two workers onsite were slightly injured. — By Hanan Al-Saoudn



News

in brief

Grenade blast kills 2 Israeli soldiers

JERUSALEM: A grenade explosion killed two Israeli soldiers and wounded three others yesterday near a military outpost in the Golan Heights, the army said in a statement. The incident occurred at Mount Hermon near the demarcation line with Syria. Details on how the Israeli grenade went off were being investigated. The two soldiers killed were identified as Staff Sergeant Hussam Tafesh, a 24-year-old Druze, and Sergeant Shlomo Rindenow, 20 and originally from the United States. Israeli media reported that one of the soldiers exited an army vehicle holding the grenade and approached another soldier standing outside the outpost when it exploded.

Fire engulfs Makkah hotel

RIYADH: A fire ripped through an uninhabited hotel in the Saudi holy city of Makkah yesterday without causing casualties, the civil defense spokesman said. Firefighters put out the blaze at the 10-floor hotel, the spokesman said in statements carried by the official Saudi Press Agency. The fire had spread from palm trees facing a facade of the hotel and gutted all 10 floors of the building which comprises two towers.



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



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah.



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

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES STATE OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received National Assembly Speaker, Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness also received acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and Acting Minister of Defense Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah, and the Minister of State for Housing Affairs Yasser Abul. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Passengers arrive at Kuwait International Airport yesterday, coming from Turkey on charter flights provided by Kuwait Airways. — Photos by Fouad Al-Shaikh



730 KUWAITIS RETURNED HOME FROM TURKEY ONBOARD OF NATIONAL CARRIER

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti charter flights brought back home 730 Kuwaitis from Istanbul Saturday and yesterday, in light of turbulent events that prevailed in Turkey, Kuwait Airways announced. Another flight will be operated to carry those who will be willing to be onboard of an out-bound flight to Kuwait, Kuwait Airways deputy

CEO Kamel Al-Awadi told the press. The national carrier has been following the political and security situations in Turkey as they unfold and has been in constant contact with the Foreign Ministry to secure a safe return for Kuwaitis vacationing in Turkey, he said. Flights to Turkey are being operated as

long as it is required, he pointed out. It is its utmost duty, being the national carrier, to serve Kuwaitis wherever they might be, he stressed. Last Friday, Kuwait Airways announced suspending all flights to Istanbul until further notice due to disturbances in Turkey. —KUNA



KUWAIT REITERATES SOLIDARITY WITH ANKARA

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah reiterated yesterday Kuwait's stand in solidarity with the Turkish Government, in aftermath of the futile bid to bring it down.

The Acting premier Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled renewed Kuwait's supportive stance on Ankara's side during a meeting with the Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Murad Tameer, where he hailed the Kuwaiti-Turkish relations and affirmed Kuwait's backing for all decisions made by Ankara to enhance stability and protect all of its legitimate institutions in the country.

The ambassador handed Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled a letter from the Turkish Prime Minister, addressed to His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah concerning bilateral relations and ways to enhance them, and also discussing issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Acting Deputy Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Dr Rashed Al-Adwani and a number of the ministry's officials.

People's stand

On Saturday, Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah praised Turkish people's support and stand by its leadership, and keenness on preserving Turkey's constitutional and democratic interests in the wake of recent political tension in the country.

"We have closely monitored the recent

developments in Turkey, and the events that followed afterwards, which His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah described, in his cable to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, as "painful," Al-Jarallah stated. "The Turkish people were able to support its leadership and overcome the crisis," he said, expressing his congratulations to the Turkish leadership and people for "overcoming the ordeal and preventing bloodshed."

Earlier, His Highness the Amir sent a cable to President Erdogan congratulating him on restoring the legitimacy and democracy of the Turkish government in the wake of the upheaval in that country. His Highness the Amir applauded President Erdogan for safeguarding the nation's constitutional achievements that were instrumental in the recent turmoil in averting the Turkish people much agony and bloodshed.

Normalcy restoration

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) had meanwhile welcomed restoration of normal conditions in Turkey, under leadership of Erdogan and his elected government. GCC General Secretary Dr Abdulatif Al-Zayani affirmed in a statement the GCC keenness on security and stability of the Turkish republic, prosperity of the brotherly Turkish people and cementing the historic relations with Ankara in various spheres. Turkey witnessed late on Friday a foiled coup attempt, staged by army generals. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Turkish Ambassador to Kuwait Murad Tameer. — KUNA

DEPUTY FM HEADS TO BRUSSELS FOR GCC-EU MINISTERIAL MEETING

KUWAIT/BRUSSELS: Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah departed Kuwait yesterday to Brussels where he would head the State of Kuwait delegation taking part in the 25th GCC-European session and hold talks with senior European leaders.

The Deputy Minister's delegation includes the Assistant Foreign Minister for European Affairs Ambassador Walid Al-Khubeezi, Assistant Foreign Minister for GCC Affairs Ambassador Nasser Al-Mzain and Assistant Foreign Minister for the Deputy Minister's Bureau Affairs, Ambassador Ayham Abdulatif Al-Omar.

The GCC-EU Ministerial Meeting which takes place in Brussels today will help bolster ties between the two prominent regional bodies, Ambassador of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) to the European Union (EU), Amal Al-Hamad said.

Political solutions

This meeting will contribute to the promotion and exchange of views and consultation on ways to reach political and diplomatic solutions to put an end to wars, destruction and bloodshed and the displacement of millions of citizens, Hamad said.

She noted that the foreign ministers of the 6-member GCC and the 28-member EU sides will discuss many issues of common interests, including the situation in Yemen, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, the peace process in the Middle East, Iran, and the fight against terrorism.

She pointed out that the GCC has played an important and active political role, in coordination and cooperation with the EU countries, to find a political

solution for example to the crisis in Syria through the "Group of Friends of the Syrian people," as the two sides made a huge humanitarian aid to help the Syrian people, where humanitarian and financial assistance to the Syrian people provided by the GCC countries reached to about \$3 billion.

Amal pointed out to the cooperation between the two regional blocs to resolve the crisis in Yemen, through the establishment of "Friends of Yemen" group in 2010 to provide political, financial and international support and to help all parties, and through consultations between the Yemeni parties that was held in Kuwait which resumed on Saturday.

Trade partner

She stressed that the EU is an important trade partner of the GCC, where the trade exchange between the two groups amounted to about \$180 billion in 2015. The GCC is currently ranked fourth largest trading market of the European Union. Joint cooperation agreement between the EU and GCC entered into force in 1988. Under this agreement, the two sides hold annual ministerial meetings, as well as Joint Cooperation Committee and political dialogue meetings, technical meetings that bring relevant experts from both sides of the various fields. The last EU-GCC ministerial meeting was held in Doha, Qatar, in May 2015.

She said EU-GCC cooperation includes broad areas such as trade, industry and investment, particularly in the framework of joint workshops in this area and the project of the Gulf-Europe to facilitate business and trade cooperation.

She stressed that cooperation between the two sides has witnessed in this area a quantum leap with the first business forum between businessmen of the two sides held in Brussels in May 2016. This, in addition to other priority for both sides, such as energy, transport and the fight against terrorism, and scientific and technical education, environment and research sectors.

In parallel, the two sides signed an agreement in 2011 for the establishment of diplomatic program, where five groups from the GCC General Secretariat joined the program of the European external service, EEA.

Building bridges

Amal Al-Hamad said at a time when the two sides were able to achieve many of the achievements and relations have seen positive developments and have contributed to the promotion of cooperation at all levels and in building bridges between the two regions, "but it has not been up to the strategic relationship level that we aspire." She urged the intensification of efforts to achieve a qualitative surge in the joint EU-GCC cooperation, and through the expansion of work and deepen cooperation on the level of experts.

"This expansion is based on common interests in the light of the current common challenges, taking advantage of opportunities and possibilities available to us," added the GCC ambassador. The GCC side at Monday's meeting will be led by Saudi foreign minister Adel Al-Jubeir whose country chairs the current GCC Presidency and the EU side by High Representative Federica Mogherini. — KUNA



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah



Ambassador of the Gulf Cooperation Council to the European Union Amal Al-Hamad

Legalese

SEXUAL HARASSMENT TOWARDS WOMEN

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

It might seem absurd that in 2016 we still have to talk about legal equality between males and females. But to bring things in perspective, there is still a huge gap in legal rights between women and men around the world, even in the most progressive countries, putting equality on top of the United Nations' agenda.

Let us focus on Kuwait though, were women were only granted the right to vote in 2005. It has only been a decade for political equal rights and it is still very difficult for women to enter the political scene. But are there other rights or freedoms that women lack in Kuwaiti law? I will refrain from answering this question theoretically and instead just answer a major concern for my female writers - harassment.

'Harassment' by definition is any aggressive pressure or intimidation, regardless of whether it is sexual or not, but today I will talk about sexual harassment from men towards women specifically.

Strict law

Question: I was out for coffee with three of my female friends - we parked across the street from the coffee shop and walked. At night we had to walk back and there were no lights or security, so a few men started following us and cornered us in the parking lot and started touching us. It was very uncomfortable, and now we do not know what to do. I heard men get away with things and therefore it would be a waste of our time to complain to the police. Is this true?

Fajer: No, Kuwaiti law is very strict towards men that abuse or sexually harass women - in fact too strict compared to other legislations in the region and around the world. The punishment depends on the situation and the relationship between the victim and offender, and those who harass (not rape) can get punished up to 10 years, 15 years or life imprisonment, as explained in the two articles below:

Article 191 of the Kuwait penal code states:

Any person that sexually harasses another through hate, threatening or deceiving shall be punished with up to 15 years of imprisonment

If the victim is related to the harasser, or is under his/her upbringing (example uncle, aunt, teacher, domestic worker so on) then he/she shall be punished with life imprisonment

If the victim is under the legal age, not mentally stable, unable to know the nature of the act, then the harasser shall be punished with life imprisonment

Article 192 of Kuwait penal code states:

Any person that sexually harasses another without hate, threatening or deceiving shall be punished up to 10 years of imprisonment

If the victim is related to the harasser, or is under his/her upbringing (example uncle, aunt, teacher, domestic worker so on) then he/she shall be punished up to 15 years of imprisonment

So now that we know what the punishment is, what can you do about it?

Please talk to someone and do not keep it to yourself. It is very important to reach out, even if it is just to a friend. It is also important to report the person to the police. As a female myself, I know how annoying and difficult it is to deal with harassment, but the police are here to help. You can also always email me.

Private matters

Question: Recently my boss has been asking me to work through text messages, which I am fine with, but as time went on, he kept discussing more private matters. Two days ago, he told me that if I let him in bed with me, he will give me a promotion. It is absurd, so of course I refused, but now I am afraid it will affect my job. What can I do?

Fajer: If you work for a large company and you have an HR department, I suggest you speak to them as they may be able to make changes internally. If you would like to go legal and take it a step further, then you can file a complaint at the nearest police station from where the incident happened.

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

MINIMUM SALARY FOR FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPERS STAYS AT \$400: LABOR ATTACHE

POLICY UNCHANGED AFTER KUWAIT ADOPTS KD 60 MINIMUM WAGE

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: The minimum salary for Filipino domestic helpers remains at \$400 (about KD 120) and the policy has not changed even after the Kuwaiti government set a KD 60 minimum salary for domestic helpers in the country. "The new rules set by the government are clear - employers cannot pay a salary lower than KD 60. The minimum wage was only KD 45 earlier," Philippine Labor Attache to Kuwait Cesar Chavez clarified to Kuwait Times. "For Filipino household service workers, we have set the minimum salary as KD 110 to KD 120. If you want a Filipino household worker, you must pay the salary set by the Philippines government - which we implement not just in Kuwait but world-

wide - or you are free to get a helper from elsewhere," he explained.

Kuwait set a minimum wage for its hundreds of thousands of mostly Asian domestic workers in a first for Gulf states, which have come under widespread accusations of abuse. The decree was issued by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah which set the minimum wage at KD 60 (\$200) a month and also granted domestic staff a raft of other rights. The Philippine Embassy shelter houses around 300 runaway housemaids who suffered various forms of mistreatment and abuse, ranging from verbal and physical abuse to rape and murder attempts by employers.

"We are not violating any laws in Kuwait, because what is pegged in the

decree is the minimum and not the maximum wage amount. This is what we want for our workers. Employers who need our workers from the Philippines are advised to heed our minimum salary condition, or they can hire other nationals who accept a KD 60 salary," Chavez said. Kuwait Times asked Chavez whether some employers will not pay the right amount to Filipino housemaids after this decree. "At the embassy, we can stop verifying contracts if they insist on paying our maids less than KD 110. We do not want to beg employers to hire our housemaids. Kuwait is an open market," he reiterated. There are an estimated 600,000 domestic helpers in Kuwait, of which about 140,000 are from the Philippines, out of the 220,000 Filipino population in Kuwait.



Philippine Labor Attache to Kuwait Cesar Chavez

GOVT, JUDICIARY WILL MEET TO DISCUSS LAWS

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Informed sources said a government meeting with the judiciary council will take place in August in an attempt to reach an agreement on the state council law, as well as solving differences on the judiciary independence law, which was deferred by the National Assembly until the next term due to start at the end of October. Sources said the judiciary council does not want a larger authority for the Fatwa and Legislation Department that brings it close to the public prosecution, and the same for the Interior Ministry's investigations department. They said the judiciary council agrees on it joining the state council, prosecution and courts, provided the government has no supervision over it, and it should be under the supreme judiciary council away from the justice ministry.

Kuwait Airways dues

As several government departments are not paying their dues to Kuwait Airways, the finance ministry issued a new circular asking them to pay their debts based on a Cabinet decision.

Strokes' prevention

The health ministry will launch a national program for prevention of strokes. A press conference will be held during the week to explain its goals and activities. The ministry said it is keen on executing several programs that guarantee best services for citizens and expats, adding that heart attacks are widespread and affect three persons out of 1,000 annually, and it is considered the third leading cause of death worldwide.

Mutlaa City

Informed sources at the Public Authority for Housing Welfare expected the second contract for Mutlaa residential city will be signed soon, adding that this is considered a most important contract for the city because it determines the land plots and all services for the area. Relating to the first contract that was signed by the authority, sources said 40 chalets were booked for company workers who won the contract at Slayel Al-Jahra Resort, adding that the Italian team will arrive next week.

60 WORKERS PROTEST UNPAID SALARIES

12 MILLION TIRES TO BE REMOVED IN 18 MONTHS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Sulaibiya police station received a call about a gathering at the residence of a construction company, and a patrol went there. The head of the police station also went as 60 workers were protesting for not receiving their salaries for three months. A company official was summoned, who said 550 persons had gone to the Social Affairs Ministry to complain, adding that the salaries will be paid today, so the crowd dispersed.

Worker injured

Firemen rushed to a building under construction in Nuzha after a person fell from the third floor. Shuhada and technical rescue responded and handed the injured man to paramedics.

Used tires

Informed sources at the

Municipality said 12 million damaged tires at the landfill in Rehaya desert area will be removed with in 18 months through recycling, and the site will be free of tires completely. Sources said a team headed by Director General of the Environment Public Authority and Chairman Sheikh Abdullah Ahmad Al-Humoud Al-Sabah and other EPA official visited the site to check on the developments, which obstructs the contraction of the infrastructure of South Saad Al-Abdullah housing project.

Camping insurance

Kuwait Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said there is a proposal to increase the deposit money collected as insurance from campers during the camping season. He added that the proposal will be discussed with the higher planning committee. If approved, it will be presented to the municipal

council for its technical opinion. He said the municipality has not decided on the new amount of the deposit, which is a refundable KD 300 currently, and KD 50 for municipal services for each licensed camp.

Shrimping

Chairman of Kuwait Fishermen Association Taheer Al-Suwayan said it is important that shrimping in international waters be opened on time on August 1, just like previous years and as in neighboring countries, adding the association will not accept any delays. He said delaying it until Aug 15 harms fishermen who are ready for the season's opening based on the approval of the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR). He said it is unfair to deprive Kuwaiti fisherman from their share in the international waters, that reached more than 320 tons last year.

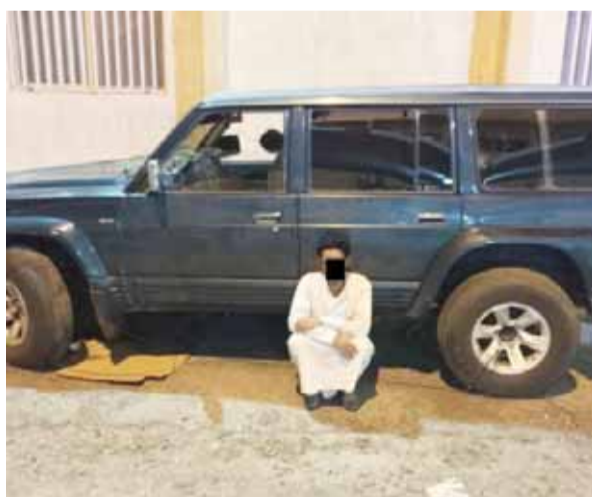
MAN ARRESTED AFTER CUTTING POWER POST

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Jahra detectives arrested a person who was cutting down a power post, and as soon as he saw the patrol approaching, he attempted to drive away from the scene. But detectives stopped the car, which had two persons in it, who ran on foot and disappeared in a farm. The farm was searched but the two were nowhere to be found. Authorities identified one of the suspects as Salem Jaryo, a Saudi man born in 1987, who was later arrested in Sulaibikhat.

Thieves caught

A security source said criminal detectives arrested two citizens, one of whom is a former policeman, and they are looking for another. The source said the arrest was made after two car thefts, the first from the vehicle's owner and the second from the impoundment parking lot at Salmiya police station. Taima detectives were able to identify the thief who told police that he, along with a Syrian and two other citizens, had formed a gang. He led police to the area the gang used to store stolen material, where they found four cars and 30 power generators.



KUWAIT: This handout photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows a man arrested for cutting down a power post, and the vehicle he used to flee from the scene.



KUWAIT: Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa yesterday inspected the scene where a roof recently collapsed at a multistorey car park, affiliated to the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's Primary Education College in Ardiya.—KUNA

CONDOLENCES

Kuwait Times Editor-in-Chief, management and staff convey their deepest condolences to the family of



Dr Narayanan Nampoory

Consultant Nephrologist
 Founder President IDF
 (22-01-1949 to 14-07-2016)

on his sad demise

May God Almighty Rest His Soul in Peace

In Brief

KUWAIT'S 2ND PR AWARD LAUNCHED

KUWAIT: Kuwait Public Relations Association (KPRA) announced yesterday the launch of Kuwait's 2nd Public Relations (PR) Award competition. Chairman of KPRA Jamal Al-Nasrallah said that the organizing committees for the competition are formed by specialized people where they are responsible for setting the standards and rules for the competition and following up on all related issues to the event. Nasrallah added that the exhibition for the competition will be held in the beginning of next year where the award winners will be announced also later that year. — KUNA



KUWAITIS PARTICIPATE IN 'SMART BRAIN' COMPETITION

KUWAIT: A group of four talented Kuwaiti students will take part in the 'Smart Brain' international competition in Thailand which started yesterday with the participation of 800 students from various countries around the world, Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity said. Head of the Kuwaiti delegation Abdullah Al-Oweyis said that the participating students are divided into 40 groups. He added that the participants should be able to execute different math equations with big numbers and faster than a calculator. The participating Kuwaiti team includes Latifa Al-Khezaim, Alalia Al-Sabah, Hadil Shanouf and Ibrahim Al-Khashti. — KUNA



KRCS DELIVERS AID TO REFUGEE FAMILIES

BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) yesterday distributed aid to nearly 250 Syrian refugee families in eastern Lebanon. The aid consists of food packages in addition to hygiene equipment, said KRCS field team chief Abdullah Al-Zaid, adding that the aid would hopefully help mitigate the adversity that these refugees are living in. Since the Syrian conflict erupted some five years ago, KRCS has provided incessant aid to Syrian refugees, including nutritive to medical assistance. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A young man slides down a water slide at a local water park in Kuwait. Kuwait is expected to enter the 'hottest phase' of the summer next week with temperatures exceeding 50 C degrees, according to local meteorologists' forecasts. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



KUWAIT: These file photos show young men participate in the 'Habab and Shouna' event ahead of the 27th Pearl Diving Trip held last year. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KRCS' NEWLY LAUNCHED CLUB AIMS TO INSTILL VOLUNTEERISM IN CHILDREN

KUWAIT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society's (KRCS) newly launched club will be instrumental in instilling the virtues of giving and volunteerism in children, KRCS Secretary General Maha Al-Barjas said yesterday. Barjas made those remarks in a press statement to initiate the club, christened 'The Little Volunteer', which provides a slew of activities and programs germane to first aid. Moreover, the KRCS Secretary General noted

that such endeavors aim to instill emotions of bliss in youngsters, providing them with opportunities to contribute to society. In addition, she also highlighted that such projects are designed to hone children's skills while consolidating their social values.

"Volunteerism is such a crucial virtue," Barjas added, describing the trait as an "emblem of prosperity and human development."

Similarly, head of KRCS's youth department Dr Msaad Al-Enezi underscored that this new club is more than a recreational project, but a tool to inject a sense of cooperation into children. Meanwhile, a KRCS volunteer, Lulwa Al-Khalidi, noted that the club comprises more than 50 children and aims to create a child who is capable of coping with crises through the use of first aid. — KUNA



Kids' activities held during the ceremony.

PEARL DIVING TRIP KICKS OFF WITH 'HABAB AND SHOUNA'

KUWAIT: The Sea Heritage Committee at the Kuwait Sea Sports Club (KSSC) continues preparations for the 28th Pearl Diving Trip, which will be organized between July 24 and August 4, 2016, under the patron-

age of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Chairman of the Heritage Committee Ali Al-Qabandi said the committee will today hold the 'Habab and Shouna' event, in which ships will be cleaned and prepared for the trip. The event will be held under the supervision of seasoned skipper Khalifa Al-Rashid, and General Supervision Hamid Al-Sayyar.

This stage is considered one of the most important stages to prepare the ships and lace them with oil; also known as the 'Habab.' After that, the bottom of the ship is painted with 'noora', which is the material that keeps water from leaking inside the ship. This process is called the 'Shouna' stage. These stages will be held at the KSSC in Salmiya. Divers are being trained on physical fitness and adapting them to the difficult atmosphere of the diving trip and the hot temperature, Qabandi said.



Ali Al-Qabandi





KUWAIT: Tariq Al-Kandari, students' training supervisor at the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) and Dr Fatima Al-Hashem, Ibtikar Al-Kuwait Initiative's director.

MGRP, IBTIKAR INITIATIVE HOLD STUDENTS TRAINING PROGRAM

KUWAIT: A students training program organized by the Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) kicked off yesterday at the headquarters of the Ibtikar Al-Kuwait Initiative, which is affiliated to the Saad Foundation. On this occasion, Dr Fatima Al-Hashem, the initiative's director, said that fruitful cooperation coupled with utilizing young people's energy within the initiative reflects positively on students and the society alike.

The initiative trains students on management, media and educational works, Dr Hashem said, adding that all motivational tools will be provided to achieve the program's desired goals throughout the upcoming five weeks.

She further indicated that the program goes in parallel with a training course for girls to be held through the 'Sheyoukha' summer

club, which includes interactive activities and trips for primary and middle school female students.

Meanwhile, Tariq Al-Kandari, students' training supervisor at MGRP acknowledged the key role that the Ibtikar Al-Kuwait Initiative and the Saad Foundation play in containing and empowering students through summer programs organized for high school and university students. "This project embodies cooperation between MGRP, one of the state's most important institutions, and the Saad Foundation," Kandari said, adding that this partnership boosts the social collective responsibility towards empowering the Kuwaiti youth. The program is one of the successful joint projects between MGRP and the Ibtikar Al-Kuwait Initiative, and is held for the 11th consecutive year.

GOLD DOWN TO \$1.327 AS US DOLLAR RISES

KUWAIT: Global gold prices have been down by \$29 to \$1,327 per ounce, for the first time in six weeks due to the rise of the US dollar, a report said yesterday. The US dollar was up following positive data on the US stocks and the profits realized by the US firms and banks during the first half of the year, said the latest weekly report by the Sabayik AlKuwait Company. Profit-taking and corrections dominated the gold trade at the start of the week when it fell from \$1,360 per ounce to its lowest at \$1,320 on Tuesday, it said.

According to Sabayik, investors had expected gold prices to fall to about \$1,300

per ounce, but it noted that the Bank of England maintained the Sterling interest rate unchanged which kept the euro and the Pound down, and in the meantime pushed the US dollar higher. Gold prices were again up on Friday in the wake of the events in Turkey, as the ounce increased by \$10 dollar.

Sabayik expected gold prices to hit \$1,375 in August, awaiting the outcome of meetings by the Bank of England and the European Central Bank which will discuss financial policies for the coming period. Gold could hit \$1,400 per ounce in case the world capital markets carry on with their current trend, the report said. — KUNA

OAPEEC OIL EXPORTS HIT \$50.4 BLN IN Q1

KUWAIT: Crude oil exports of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) amounted to \$50.04 billion in the first quarter of 2016, down \$24.5 billion over the same period of 2015. The OAPEC member states are locked in several economic challenges due to dwindling oil prices that have led to a drop in oil earnings, thus negatively affecting their public budgets, the organization said in its monthly bulletin.

The fall in international oil prices have resulted in the cancellation or postponement of capital projects in some member states which heavily rely upon oil as a main source of income and revenues, it said.

The negative impacts of uncontrollably falling oil prices have reached non-oil sectors and, thence, consumer spending and investment levels, it indicated.

However, member states' governments have resorted to adopting a package of economic measures in order to redress budget deficits, including withdrawal of foreign-exchange reserves, reduction of public spending, especially capital expenditure, while keeping current spending like salaries intact, it added.

Despite member states' efforts to tackle economic challenges triggered off by dwindling prices, more resilient and effective economic solutions have become more ineluctable than



ever, with all economic sectors participating, it noted. They are also seeking to gain additional earnings and to ease out governments' utility management burdens by means of launching privatization programs, according to the OAPEC's monthly bulletin.

In addition, sovereign funds are deemed effective economic tools used by some member states to seize available investment opportunities at international markets, it said, adding that the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait and Qatar enjoy reputable sovereign funds. — KUNA



KUWAIT: A general view for participants at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training's press conference. — KUNA

PAAET ORGANIZES DERRICK WORKERS' TRAINING COURSE

KUWAIT: The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) yesterday opened registration for a training course to qualify for a derrick worker. The course, open for Kuwaitis holders of the General Secondary Schools Certificate, scientific section, will be organized in cooperation with the Kuwait Oil

Company Kuwait Oil Company (KOC).

The year-long program aims to secure jobs for Kuwaiti students as part of 'Kuwaitization' in the field. Head of the team of Kuwaitis contract-workers in the oil sector Mohammad Al-Jaffar told a press conference yesterday. Registration ends on August 3.

Senior contract specialists at KOC Dr Osama Al-Jauhaim said the course includes technical training on oil and gas drilling, industrial safety, oil education and English. A trainee students will receive KD 150 monthly during theoretical learning and KD 300 during field training, in addition to a bonus by the PAAET. — KUNA

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التقريب

Al-Qabas

SEARCHING IN THE WRONG PLACE

By Ahmad Al-Sarraf

Half the nation is busy looking for the one financing and arming Daesh, while the other half has given in to conspiracy theories. Even intellectuals of Torky Al-Hamad's caliber said it is important to know who stands behind Daesh, as this will make it easier to eradicate it.

This is the case with the majority, and in both cases it is not important whether they are right or wrong, because the issue is not about who stands behind Daesh, or about facing one conspiracy after the other to shred our social fabric. Rather, the issue is much simpler, as Daesh is not a satanic product and is not a unique historic case. It was preceded by similar cases that disappeared for one reason or another, only for Daesh to complete the experience, because the ideology that stands behind it still exists and is being taught in our schools.

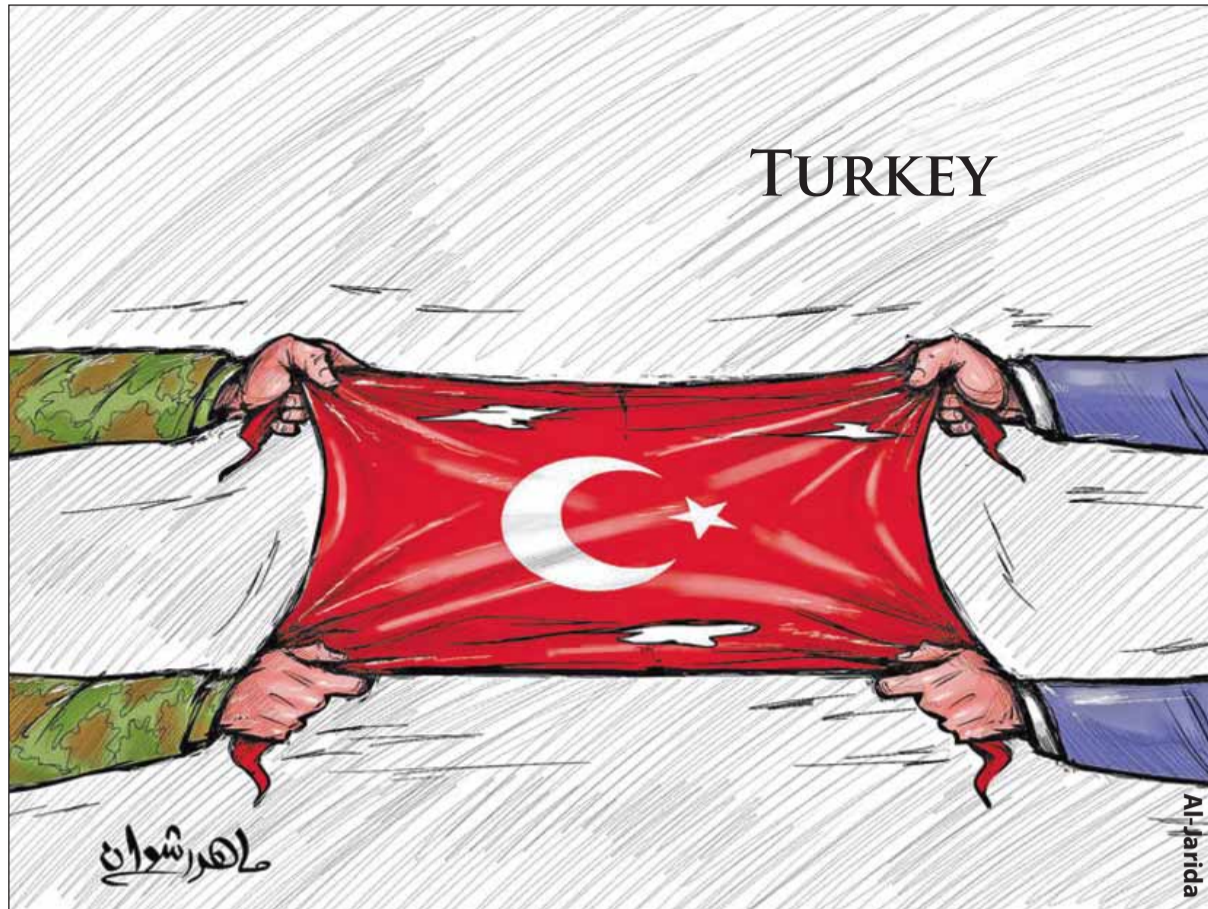
If we suppose that Iran, Turkey, Israel, US or any state is standing behind Daesh, will this reduce Daesh's brutality and its suicide attacks? Of course not. So, the problem is not in who stands behind Daesh and feeds its criminality, despite the relative importance of the matter - rather the ideology that lures thousands in joining it. The fuel of Daesh is

The fuel of Daesh is human beings, not money and equipment

human beings, not money and equipment, - those who are motivated with a certain ideology that makes death beautiful. Also, all their actions are taken from religion. The two Saudi brothers who killed their mother and attempted to kill their brother misunderstood what they studied in school, mosque and Quran centers, and not out of influence of Iran, America or Israel.

The true enemy is in our school curriculum, which is the weapon lurking in the darkest and brutal places that no one wants to face. Al-Azhar's timid attempt remains a drop in the ocean, because there remain higher opinions that stand by most religious scholars that accept or do not condemn Daesh actions, even if they do not support them. No religious entity of significance has had the courage to expose Daesh, because it would blow up the religious educational systems in many Muslim countries. To know the reason behind the appearance of Daesh and its brutality, look into Al-Azhar's curriculum and Gulf schools and universities, and you will find it for sure.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



ZAIN ORGANIZES INTERNAL BLOOD DRIVE CAMPAIGN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CENTRAL BLOOD BANK

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, recently conducted an internal blood drive campaign for its employees. The initiative, held at the company's main headquarters in Shuwaikh, was organized throughout two days and was aimed at encouraging employees to donate blood and save lives.

This internal campaign, which Zain organizes several times a year, comes in partnership with the Central Blood Bank and falls under the company's Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility umbrella with the aim of raising awareness and goodwill amongst employees of the importance of donating life-giving blood.

Zain's support of blood drive campaigns shows its keenness in having a productive role in social and health activities, especially those that contribute with saving people that are in urgent need of blood, particularly people with rare blood types. Zain strives to contribute to its community through its numerous corporate social responsibility

initiatives and is pleased with the success this particular activity has achieved.

The company is keen to organize internal blood drive campaigns for employees in collaboration with the Central Blood Bank to encourage employees to donate blood and save lives. Zain affirmed that its contribution to organizing internal blood drives falls

under its CSSR and sustainability strategies. Zain's solid Corporate Sustainability and Social Responsibility strategies primarily focus on the wellbeing of the entire nation. For this reason, the company has maintained its support of numerous initiatives that spread awareness and help make a difference to people's everyday circumstances.



Crime

Report

Bootleggers busted after fight

KUWAIT: A fight between two Indian men in Jleeb Al-Shuyukh led police to discover liquor with them that they were selling. The fight was over a financial dispute. Interior ministry operations received a call about a fight between two persons, who were injured. Police went to the scene, broke up the fight, and found one of them in an abnormal condition. The two had 48 locally-made liquor bottles they were trying to sell. They were sent to concerned authorities for further action.

Suspicious posters

Daesh' appeared once again in Kuwait, this time through posters for Al-Qaeda pasted on the walls of a mall in Fahaheel that were removed by the ministry of commerce, while state security is investigating the incident. A police patrol in Fahaheel noticed Daesh posters on the walls of a mall, so they informed authorities. State security detectives rushed there and found the posters have been there since six years and belong to Al-Qaeda, and were removed at the time, and what were left are traces. State security summoned two Syrians who worked in a popular market, but they said they are not aware of such posters, but investigations continue.

Reckless driver caught

A Hawally patrol noticed a car driving erratically, so they stopped it. The driver was a citizen in an abnormal condition. The citizen was searched and a hashish piece and a joint were found. He was sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

Shopper stabbed

A citizen was stabbed in a Jahra mall and had to be taken to hospital. A mall patron called police and told them two men stabbed a third, so police and paramedics went there and found the injured citizen, who was transferred to hospital. Preliminary investigations revealed that the suspects saw the citizen by accident and attacked him due to previous disputes. The victim lodged a complaint at Jahra police station.

Sheep stolen

A thief walked away with 12 sheep from the farm of a citizen in Salmy. The citizen went to his farm and when he counted his sheep, he discovered 12 were missing, so he informed police. Several policemen from Waha went to the farm and discovered there were no guards there, so a case of break-in was registered and referred to concerned authorities. — Al-Rai



KFAS, CAMBRIDGE BUSINESS SCHOOL CONCLUDE BUSINESS INNOVATION EDUCATION PROGRAM 'KFAS INNOVATION CHALLENGE 2016'

CAMBRIDGE/KUWAIT: The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) and University of Cambridge Judge Business School Executive Education announced today the completion of the KFAS Innovation Challenge 2016, an applied executive education program for Kuwaiti private sector companies.

The Innovation Challenge 2016, which began in Kuwait in November 2015 and concluded in May 2016 in Cambridge, bringing transformative impact to nine participating companies through a focus on innovation and enhanced skills that deliver sustained business growth. This provided an opportunity to develop their innovation capabilities. The project teams embarked on a "real-life" innovation journey that embedded innovation learning through practical application and resulted in innovation initiatives that can add real value and impact to their companies. The companies that completed the program were Agility, Axis Solutions, Boubayan Bank, ITS, Kuwait Finance House, Kuwait Energy, Tabco Food Company, M H Alshaya and Warba Bank.

The areas covered in the program on Innovation were regarding the architecture and culture of innovative organizations, key

tools for measuring the impact of innovation initiatives, working collaboratively on the innovation agenda and skills in preparing and presenting innovative business cases.

Key activities

The six-month program included a two-day Ideation Workshop module in Kuwait 25-26 November 2015 and a further five-day module in Kuwait 13-17 December 2015 entitled The Fundamentals of Innovation, followed by a four-month period to plan and implement an innovation project in their respective companies with mentoring support from Cambridge Judge Business School on a bi-weekly basis. For the final module, was held between 23-27 May 2016 where the teams that successfully complete the program requirements travelled to Cambridge UK where they attended a workshop "Making it Happen" and go on site visits to innovative companies. Throughout the five-day workshop the participating teams were able to take a deeper dive into innovation and see what global companies are doing. The program commencement was held in the second week of June where the teams presented their projects to KFAS and their management and shared their learning insights.

World-class

In a statement about the program Dr Mohammed Salman Director of the Innovation and Enterprise Directorate said "KFAS has partnered with world-class academic institutions to bring advanced executive education to Kuwait's private sector with the objective to develop its capabilities through provision of programs carefully designed based on latest advancements and world-class experiences that respond to the changing needs of businesses."

Participation in this unique program was open to all Kuwaiti private sector companies through nomination of a company team with a size ranging from two to four members. Each team was to be assessed based on their combined capabilities and potential to achieve the program objectives. Ten teams with the highest potential were then chosen to participate in the program.

Dr Salman also added "Innovation is vital to the success of private-sector companies in today's global and local economies, so we are delighted to have partnered with KFAS to develop and deliver this unique program." KFAS organizes the Innovation Challenge annually and is open to teams from the private sector companies.





MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016

2 MORE ARREST IN NICE TRUCK ATTACK; IS CLAIM IS STUDIED

NICE: French authorities detained two more people yesterday in the investigation into the Bastille Day truck attack on the Mediterranean city of Nice that killed at least 84 people, as authorities try to determine whether the slain attacker was a religious extremist or just a very angry man.

Hundreds were injured in the Thursday night attack, and about 85 people remained hospitalized yesterday, Health Minister Marisol Touraine said on a visit to the southern French city. Of those, 18 are in life-threatening condition - including one child, she said.

A man and a woman were detained yesterday morning in Nice, according to an official with the Paris prosecutor's office, which oversees national terrorism investigations. The official provided no details on their identities, and said five people detained previously remain in custody. Neighbors told The Associated Press the attacker's estranged wife was among them.

Investigators are hunting for possible accomplices to truck driver Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, a 31-year-old Tunisian who had lived in Nice for years. He was killed by police after ramming his truck through crowds on Nice's famed seafont after a holiday fireworks display Thursday night. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but it's unclear whether Bouhlel had concrete links to the group. The IS said he was following their calls to target citizens of countries fighting the extremists.

Neighbors described the attacker as volatile, prone to drinking and womanizing and in the process of getting a divorce. His father, in Tunisia, said his son did not pray or fast for Ramadan, the Muslim holy month.

But French authorities believe that may have changed. Prime Minister Manuel Valls told the Journal du dimanche newspaper that authorities "now know that the killer radicalized very quickly." (IS) is encouraging individuals

unknown to our services to stage attacks ... that is without a doubt the case in the Nice attack," he said yesterday.

A special church service was being held at a Nice cathedral Sunday in honor of the victims. Touraine, the health minister, urged any survivors to seek counselling offered by the government.

Nice's famous Promenade des Anglais, the site of the slaughter, is gradually reopening and becoming a shrine to the dead. Memorials have been set up on the west-bound lane of the road where victims were struck, some still identifiable by bloodstains.

Joggers, bikers and sunbathers on Sunday cruised down the pedestrian walkway along the glistening Mediterranean Sea, where well-wishers placed flowers, French flags, stuffed animals and candles.

The site is also becoming a platform for anger at the attacker. Pained and outraged epitaphs have been written in blue marker on stones placed where police shot him dead. A woman asked if she could put a yellow potted plant there, unaware of the significance of the spot. A man standing nearby said "Never here."

An argument ensued, with other passers-by saying that his family deserved respect. "Are you defending him?" the man said, incredulously. Many families are angry that they couldn't find information about missing loved ones. Many are also angry at French police and authorities for not preventing the deadly attack, even though France was under a state of emergency imposed after Islamic State attacks last year in Paris. Valls, in the newspaper interview, defended the government's actions but warned that more lives will be lost to this kind of violence. "Terrorism will be part of our daily lives for a long time," he said. — AP



NICE: A police officer watches people gathering around a floral tribute for the victims killed during a deadly attack, on the famed Boulevard des Anglais yesterday. — AP

ISRAEL FIRES MISSILES AT DRONE FROM SYRIA

JERUSALEM: Israel's military yesterday fired two Patriot missiles at a drone that "infiltrated" from war-ravaged neighboring Syria, it said.

The missiles missed the drone which "returned to Syria" after the incident in the central Golan Heights, where the demarcation line between the two countries is located, the military said. "Moments ago two Patriot air defense missiles were fired towards a drone which infiltrated Israeli airspace from Syria," the military said in a statement yesterday evening.

Sirens sounded in the area. While Israel has sought to avoid being dragged into Syria's five-year civil war, it has attacked Syrian military targets when fire from the conflict spills over into its territory. Earlier this month, the Israeli army attacked two Syrian military targets on the Golan after stray fire damaged the security fence along the line.

In September 2014, Israel used a Patriot missile to shoot down a Syrian warplane it said had crossed the UN-patrolled ceasefire line on the Golan which it regards as its international border.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also acknowledged in April that Israel had attacked dozens of convoys transporting weapons in Syria destined for its enemy Hezbollah, the Lebanese Shiite militia. Israel seized 1,200 square kilometers of the Golan Heights from Syria in the Six-Day War of 1967 and later annexed it in a move never recognized by the international community.— AFP



BATON ROUGE: Authorities talk to the driver of a car near an area where several officers were shot while on duty less than a mile from police headquarters yesterday. — AP

3 OFFICERS DEAD IN BATON ROUGE

BATON ROUGE: Three officers are confirmed dead and seven others wounded after a shooting in Baton Rouge, a sheriff's office spokeswoman said yesterday. One suspect is dead and law enforcement officials believe two others are still at large, the spokeswoman said.

Casey Rayborn Hicks, a spokeswoman for the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, said in a statement that the public should call 911 immediately if they see anything suspicious. The shooting - which happened just before 9 a.m., less than 1 mile from police headquarters - comes amid spiraling tensions across the city - and the country - between the black community and police. The races of the suspect or suspects and the officers were not immediately known.

Baton Rouge Police Sgt. Don Coppola told The Associated Press earlier that the officers were rushed to a local hospital. Coppola said authorities are asking people to stay away from the area.

Multiple police units were stationed at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center, where stricken officers were believed to be undergoing treatment at a trauma center. A police officer with a long gun was blocking the parking lot at the emergency room.

Officers and deputies from the Baton Rouge Police Department and East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office were involved, according to Hicks.

An Associated Press reporter on the scene saw police vehicles with lights flashing massed about a half mile from the police headquarters on Airline Highway. Police armed with long guns on the road stopped at least two vehicles driving away from the scene and checked their trunks and vehicles before allowing them to drive away.

Police-community relations in Baton Rouge have been especially tense since the killing of 37-year-old Alton Sterling, a black man killed by white officers earlier this month after a scuffle at a convenience store. The killing was captured on cellphone video and circulated widely on the internet. — AP

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EGYPT BLOCKS UN TEXT BACKING TURKISH GOVERNMENT

UNITED NATIONS: Egypt on Saturday blocked a United Nations Security Council resolution backed by the United States condemning the attempted coup in Turkey, diplomats said, though Cairo denied the move.

The United States, following consultations with officials from key NATO ally Turkey, had proposed a draft statement calling on "all parties in Turkey to respect the democratically elected government of Turkey." But Egypt, currently a non-permanent member of the Security Council, objected, according to diplomats. An Egyptian diplomatic source, however,

denied that Cairo had blocked the resolution.

"This is a process that requires consensus," he said, adding that Egypt agreed to the "overall objective of the statement" that condemned the violence and called for restraint. "We proposed to call on all parties to respect the democratic and constitutional principles and rule of law," he said, rather than the initial wording calling for respect for the "democratically elected government."

Egypt's relations with the government of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have been particularly tense. Erdogan supports the Muslim Brotherhood of former

Egyptian president Mohamed Morsi, who was deposed by the Egyptian army in 2013.

The Turkish leader has denounced that move as a "coup d'etat," drawing the wrath of the Egyptian general behind the ouster, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who is now president. During the UN debate, Egypt argued that it was "not for the Security Council to decide whether the government is democratically elected," and it demanded that the relevant language be deleted, a diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Despite US insistence, Egypt would not budge.

Turkey and several Security Council members including the United States worried the statement would have been too weak without wording explicitly supporting the Turkish government.

"So there won't be any statement," the diplomat said. Such Security Council resolutions require unanimous approval from the 15-member group. The brief draft statement had "condemned the violence and unrest in Turkey and stressed the urgent need for an end to the current crisis and return to the rule of law."

It called on all parties to "show restraint and avoid any violence or bloodshed." — AFP



JUBA: A row of numbered body bags with the remains of victims of the past days' violence waiting to be collected by a South Sudanese team of the ICRC. — AFP

SOUTH SUDAN: WHAT HOPE FOR PEACE?

MANY FEAR A RETURN TO CONFLICT

JUBA: Corpses are still being collected around burned out tanks in South Sudan's capital Juba, a week after intense battles left hundreds dead and a peace deal in tatters.

The latest clashes in a war that broke out in December 2013 pitted soldiers loyal to President Salva Kiir against troops backing his long time rival Vice-President Riek Machar, who technically ended his rebellion to forge a unity government in April.

A shaky ceasefire has held since late Monday, when Machar's men were forced to flee after government troops in tanks and helicopter gunships pounded their positions with overwhelming firepower.

But what's next for South Sudan? And is there any remaining hope of peace? Is the peace deal dead? Nearly. Juba is mostly calm but many fear a return to conflict. A string of peace deals signed since the start of the war failed to stop the fighting, and critics point out that placing two rival armies in the same city was a recipe for disaster.

Building trust between rival forces, and reining militias back in will be tricky, while governance in the country will remain in limbo until new political and military deals are struck. Even getting Machar and Kiir to talk face-to-face will be tough, and striking another deal daunting. What can international pressure do? Not much.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon wants the

Security Council to take three key steps: impose an arms embargo, place more targeted sanctions on leaders and bolster the 12,000-strong UN peacekeeping force.

Critics say talk of an arms embargo is too little too late in a country awash with weapons, while UN sanctions already slapped on top commanders from both sides did nothing to stem the violence.

More peacekeepers may not make the UN mission any more effective. The UN has been widely criticised for failing to intervene between the two sides, instead hunkering down inside its bases, where over half of the peacekeepers are tied up guarding 160,000 civilians sheltering behind razor wire.

Will a regional military force be deployed? No. Regional bloc IGAD raised the possibility of deploying an "intervention brigade" with a more aggressive mandate, but Kiir is not having it. "We will not accept even a single soldier," he said. Ban said he backs proposals for regional nations-Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda-to instead send additional troops to join the UN mission.

Will Machar return? Possibly. Machar has not been seen in public since the July 8 shootout at the presidential palace on the eve of South Sudan's fifth anniversary of independence. His spokesmen say he left Juba, while

he himself told the BBC he remains in the city. Kiir, who says he has spoken to Machar, has called for a meeting to salvage peace.

Machar lost some of his most loyal troops in the battle-those who survived are reported to have fled the city-and his authority over his generals and troops is also in question. In Machar's absence from Juba some top opposition leaders, such as Taban Deng Gai, have said they can negotiate without him, raising the possibility of further splits.

Will the humanitarian crisis worsen? Most likely.

With over 55 aid workers killed since December 2013, the recent violence in Juba-which included deliberate attacks on international compounds-may prove the last straw for some agencies, leaving huge gaps in lifesaving services.

Over a third of South Sudan's population are expected to face severe food shortages over the coming months, and there is a real risk of what the UN has termed a "hunger catastrophe."

The UN as well as several aid agencies and embassies have pulled out "non-critical" staff. The economy is in ruins, inflation has eroded savings and salaries, and without another round of massive international support there is little cash to rebuild. But there is not much appetite among donors to add to the billions already poured into failed development projects. — AFP

TURKEY'S MEDIA REELS AFTER 'NIGHTMARE' OF COUP

ANKARA: Forced at gunpoint to read a statement by coup plotters and raided by rebel military forces, Turkey's media organizations were bruised by the drama of a coup but also played a role in ensuring it did not succeed.

A presenter with state-run TRT television had to read a statement late Friday from a group called "the Council for Peace in the Homeland," which claimed to have superseded the regular Turkish armed forces and to have taken control in the country.

Another private channel was raided by rebel soldiers and forced to temporarily cut its broadcasts. But television channels also played a role in facing down the coup, broadcasting messages from President Recep Tayyip Erdogan urging his supporters to go out on to the streets and providing sometimes impressive coverage of the events as they unfolded.

"I read the statement (of coup plotters) under gun threat," TRT's female anchor Tijen Karas said, recounting her ordeal while she was live on state television. "They tied our hands from behind and told us not to ask any questions. They took us to a closed room except for three or five people who were to make the broadcast," she said in televised remarks.

"They ordered us to read the statement after taking us out of the locked room... You must have realised the fear in my eyes and my lips were trembling. These were hours that loomed over like a nightmare."

Hours after the TRT broadcast, a group of armed soldiers stormed the Istanbul premises of one of Turkey's largest media conglomerates, Dogan Media Group, which owns the CNN Turk channel as well as the Hurriyet daily and its English-language sister paper Hurriyet Daily News.

CNN Turk was forced to stop its live broadcast.

'Never forget this night'

It was CNN Turk which communicated Erdogan's first messages to the public as TRT was raided by rebel soldiers. Erdogan, who joined the private television via a smart phone, urged people to take to streets in a show of protest against the coup attempt.

Subsequently, their studios were raided by the rebel soldiers. CNN's woman anchor Basak Sengul, who appeared calm and professional, said: "I heard their voices, they entered the building, and I also heard they spoke with our colleagues to stop the broadcast."

The television for a while showed an empty screen, punctuated from time to time with the sound of gunfire and brawls. Hurriyet editor-in-chief Sedat Ergin said at the time: "At this moment we cannot print our newspaper." He later said: "There are bullet marks in the walls of the building. Maybe it's better to keep them not to forget the night of July 15." There were similar scenes at the headquarters of digital and cable TV provider Digiturk. Pro-government Yeni Safak photographer Mustafa Cambaz was gunned down by rebel soldiers after calling for protests on social media against the coup attempt.

'Stop treating journalists as traitors'

Erdogan has often come under fire for cracking down on dissenting journalists and Turkey's press freedom record has deteriorated under his 13-year rule as prime minister and then president. Media rights activists said the authorities should take note and treat media with more respect after their role in the drama. "Like the rest of Turkish society, the leading news media demonstrated their commitment to democratic principles during the past night," Reporters Without Borders secretary general Christophe Deloire said. "It is time for the authorities to take note and to stop treating critical journalists as traitors and terrorists. Reinforcing national cohesion requires respect for basic freedoms including media freedom."

Erdogan, who is himself critical of social networks and once threatened to "wipe out" Twitter, used social media to communicate his appeal to people for resistance and remain on the streets. Some journalists were also physically attacked by furious opponents of the coup. A video showed CNN Turk reporter in Ankara, Kenan Sener, fleeing from a furious crowd of people-apparently government supporters suspicious of secular media outlets. — AFP



ANKARA: A woman hugs her husband as they wait for the funeral of their relative in front of the Ankara Adli Tip Kurumu Hospital yesterday. — AFP

SAUDIS CARRY OUT FIRST EXECUTION SINCE RAMADAN

RIYADH: Saudi authorities executed a murderer in the holy city of Makkah yesterday, the first death sentence to be carried out since before the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

Fahd al-Hasni, a Saudi, was put to death after being convicted of stabbing dead a fellow citizen, the interior ministry said in a statement published on the official SPA news agency. Most people executed in Saudi Arabia are beheaded with a sword. It was the 96th execution of the year in the ultra-conservative Muslim

kingdom, which imposes the death penalty for offences including murder, drug trafficking, armed robbery, rape and apostasy. The last execution in the Gulf country took place on May 29, more than a week before Ramadan began.

There were no beheadings during the

fasting month and the following Eid al-Fitr feast. Rights group Amnesty International says the kingdom carried out at least 158 death sentences last year, making it the third most prolific executioner after Iran and Pakistan. Its figures do not include secretive China.

The London-based watchdog has said that the rate of executions this year is "higher than at the same point last year". Murder and drug trafficking cases account for the majority of Saudi executions, although 47 people were put to death for "terrorism" offences on a single day in January.

They included prominent Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr, whose execution prompted Iranian protesters to torch Saudi diplomatic missions triggering the severing of relations between the Middle East's leading Sunni and Shiite powers. — AFP

SOUTH SUDAN VIOLENCE TOPS AFRICAN UNION SUMMIT AGENDA

KIGALI: Renewed fighting in South Sudan that has claimed more than 300 lives dominated discussions at an African Union summit that opened yesterday in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

A shaky ceasefire has held since late Monday following the fighting that raged for four days in Juba, leaving hundreds dead and forcing 40,000 to flee their homes. The violence in the South Sudan capital echoed the fighting that triggered the civil war and marks a fresh blow to last year's deal to end the bitter conflict that began when President Salva Kiir

accused ex-rebel and now Vice President Riek Machar of plotting a coup.

The unrest has also plunged into doubt a peace deal struck in August 2015 between the two sides. After meeting with the UN Secretary-General on Saturday night leaders of the regional bloc IGAD supported Ban Ki-moon's calls for an arms embargo, targeted sanctions and a strengthened peacekeeping mission and called for "the deployment of a regional protection force to separate the warring parties".

AU Commission chair Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma praised IGAD for acting "swiftly" in holding a meeting on South Sudan's crisis. "We shall not be indifferent and shall act in the belief that, when the power of love for fellow Africans overcomes the love of power there shall be peace within our lands," she said in an opening address.

Numerous crises

South Sudan is just the most recent crisis on the continent that African leaders will address during the summit. The AU will also seek to hammer out a solution to the crisis engulfing Burundi where a spate of killings have rocked the country since President Pierre Nkurunziza's announced in April 2015 that he would seek a third term.

Also on the agenda is the ongoing fight against the Boko Haram jihadist group that has its roots in northern Nigeria but has carried out attacks across the Lake Chad region. Recent violent incidents in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo are also expected to feature in the talks.

Efforts to secure peace in South Sudan and elsewhere, however, will be complicated by divisions over who should succeed Dlamini-Zuma, ex-wife of South African President Jacob Zuma, to become the AU's new commission chair. Several countries on the continent have indicated that they do not back any of the leading candidates for the job, arguing that they "lack stature".

Now all three of the leading candidates look like they may fail to get a majority of votes from the African Union's 54 members. If that happens the vote could be abandoned and re-run at the next AU summit in Addis Ababa in January 2017. — AFP

PALESTINIAN CARRYING EXPLOSIVES ARRESTED AT JERUSALEM RAIL STATION

JERUSALEM: A Palestinian man carrying pipe bombs and knives in his bag was arrested at a light railway station in Jerusalem during the morning rush hour yesterday, Israeli police said. "The plan was apparently to attack the light railway," Jerusalem police chief Yoram Halevi said in a statement.

An armed station security officer became suspicious of the man, a resident of the occupied West Bank aged in his 20s. He stopped the Palestinian at gunpoint and searched his bag on a busy central Jerusalem street at the start

of the Israeli work week.

Police explosives experts found three pipe bombs, detonator wires, a cell phone and several knives in his bag, a police spokeswoman said. Two main streets were closed off while police defused the devices.

Since October, Palestinian street attacks have killed at least 33 Israelis and two visiting Americans. Israel has killed at least 202 Palestinians, 137 of whom it said were assailants. Others were killed during clashes and protests. — Reuters



KIGALI: Sudan's President Omar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir arrives for the 27th African Union (AU) summit at the Kigali International Airport on Saturday. — AFP

PENCE HAS LONG CONSERVATIVE RECORD ON IMMIGRATION



NEW YORK: Indiana Gov. Mike Pence speaks during an interview with FOX News Channel's Sean Hannity after Donald Trump selected him for running mate on the Republican presidential ticket on Friday. — AP

WASHINGTON: Indiana Gov. Mike Pence's conservative track record on immigration dates to his earliest days in the US House and echoes the hard-line stance of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who chose Pence as his running mate.

During his dozen years in the House, Pence lent his support to numerous bills aimed at overhauling the immigration system, including a limit on the number of visas issued to each country and efforts to allow individual states to stand up border-patrol militias and to define English as the country's official language. And he supported building a border fence nearly a decade before Trump made such a pledge a cornerstone of his campaign for the White House.

In 2005, Pence joined efforts to pass a sweeping immigration bill that was among the first to propose hundreds of miles of fencing along the Mexican border. It also proposed a \$3,000 fine for immigrants living in the country illegally

who agreed to leave and then stayed. It created punishments for aiding an immigrant living in the country illegally. The proposal was approved by the House, but failed in the Senate.

A year later he supported the successful Secure Fence Act of 2006, a narrower bill focused on border security that ultimately led to the construction of nearly 700 miles of border fencing. Pence said on Wednesday that he supports Trump's "vision for the country" when asked about Trump's proposal to build a wall at the Mexican border.

"I think as President Ronald Reagan said, a nation without borders is not a nation," Pence said. "I think it's absolutely essential that we have border security and I have strongly supported that throughout my career. We have to get the border under control and I support Donald Trump. I think he's got the right vision for this country."

Pence co-sponsored the Good Fences Make Good Neighbors Act of 2006, a bill

to let border states use federal grant money to build "a physical barrier" near the Mexican and Canadian borders to stop illegal immigration.

A year earlier he supported a proposal to let border states launch militias whose members could make arrests. Pence has also signaled support for a changes to immigration law that would redefine which children born in the United States would automatically become citizens.

He supported a bill in 2007 and again in 2009 that would have limited automatic citizenship to children who have at least one parent who is a US citizen, legal permanent resident or is serving on active duty in the military.

A 2005 version of the bill that he supported called for automatic citizenship for children whose parents were married, so long as one of the parents was a citizen or legal resident. In cases of unmarried parents, the child's mother had to be a citizen or legal resident. — AP

CLEVELAND, A FRACTURED CITY, AN APT PLACE FOR GOP CONVENTION

CLEVELAND: Donald Trump's effort to unite a splintered Republican Party around his candidacy is about to take center stage in a city that is itself deeply fractured.

Once an industrial powerhouse, Cleveland is one of the poorest and most segregated big cities in America. Two out of 5 people live below the poverty line, second only to Detroit. Infant mortality rates in its bleakest neighborhoods are worse than in some Third World countries.

The city's mostly blighted east side is almost entirely black, the slightly more prosperous west side more mixed. And there's deep distrust between the black community and police, in part because of police shootings such as the killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice and a US Justice Department report that found a pattern of excessive force and civil rights violations by the department.

Yet there are also islands of prosperity, created in part by a wave of college-educated young people moving into downtown neighborhoods, a trend that has reshaped the city's image and helped attract the Republican National Convention, which will be held July 18-21. "It's a city full of neighborhoods and a city full of divides," said John Grabowski, a local historian. This is the place that in the 1970s - when the city was in default and a quarter of its population was moving out - embraced the slogan "Cleveland: You Gotta Be Tough."

Tough is a good way to describe Cleveland's east side, where blacks from the South filled industrial jobs and settled during and after World War II. It's now marked by high crime and abandoned factories. Over half the children live in poverty.

Clevelander's opinions

Chris Brown, a 41-year-old black man and lifelong Clevelander, admits he was part of the problem in his younger days. "I was a thug, almost. On a highway going nowhere fast," he said. Caught selling drugs, he went to prison

for three years. Afterward, getting by was a struggle until he started working at a commercial laundry four years ago.

Funded by civic leaders, foundations and local institutions, the laundry is part of a wider mission to stabilize east side neighborhoods by creating jobs. Built inside a former torpedo factory, it employs about 40 people, most of whom have done time in prison, and operates as a worker-owned cooperative. The employees can use their wages to buy a piece of the company and get a split of the profits.

Brown took advantage of its loan program to buy his first house on the east side, where 1 in 5 homes is vacant. "Where we come from, there ain't many guys like that," Brown said. Those behind the cooperative, which also operates a greenhouse and a renewable-energy business, aren't selling it as a solution to pervasive unemployment. But it's a bright spot in an area desperately needing something positive, said plant manager Claudia Oates. "It shows we work, we believe in work," she said.

The convention will mean more hotel sheets for the laundry to wash, but apart from that, Brown said, the money the event will bring into the city won't show up where he lives. "I don't know many black people who've got anything to do with convention," he said. "Nobody else I know is getting a job or money from the convention."

Downtown is where delegates will spend their money at souvenir shops and sidewalk cafes. It's also where millennials are moving into renovated warehouse apartments and new condominiums. Once a ghost town at night, it's now home to 14,000 people.

In the two years since the GOP awarded the convention, vacant downtown storefronts have been filled with new businesses, and the Public Square underwent a \$50 million renovation. Health care and high-tech jobs are drawing young people, stabilizing the city's population at about 388,000 after a peak of over 900,000 in the 1950s. — AP



ANNANDALE, VIRGINIA: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, accompanied by Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., right, speaks at a rally at Northern Virginia Community College on Thursday. — AP

CLINTON HOLDS DAY OF VP INTERVIEWS AT HER HOME

CLOSES IN ON HER PICK

WASHINGTON: Hillary Clinton summoned at least three contenders vying to become her running mate to her Washington home on Friday as she closes in on a pick for vice president.

Clinton met separately with Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julian Castro, according to a person familiar with the process. The person would speak only on condition of anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

Warren and Hickenlooper were seen in separate cars departing the former secretary of state's home Friday afternoon. It was unclear if other potential vice presidential candidates met with Clinton during the day. The meetings came a day after the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee campaigned alongside another potential vice presidential choice, Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, in northern Virginia.

Clinton's meeting happened the same day Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump named Indiana Gov. Mike Pence to be on the GOP ticket. For Clinton, the Pence selection offered clarity on the composition of the Trump ticket and certainty of whom her eventual running mate will meet in a fall debate.

While the choice of a vice president has rarely

had a dramatic impact on the outcome of a presidential race, the decision is among the most consequential for a presidential nominee and offers a window into the candidate's priorities and values.

A small group of Clinton campaign confidants have reviewed publicly available information about the potential contenders for more than a month. The in-person meetings come less than two weeks before Clinton formally accepts her party's nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

"On Friday, Secretary Clinton held a series of campaign-related meetings at her Washington home, including several about her vice presidential selection process," spokesman Brian Fallon said in a statement. Campaign chair John Podesta and vice chair Huma Abedin were among the Clinton aides who spent the day at her home.

Who assisted?

Clinton has been assisted by veteran Democratic lawyer James Hamilton, who has overseen her selection process, along with longtime aide Cheryl Mills, who served as her chief of staff in the State Department.

Kaine, 58, a former mayor and governor from a key general-election battleground state, is consid-

ered to be a safe choice for Clinton, someone who could help her appeal to moderates who have been turned off by Trump's divisive rhetoric.

Warren, 67, spent about an hour at Clinton's home, her second visit in the past month. The senator is an economic populist and a favorite of liberals who would help Clinton connect with many of the progressives who backed Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders during the primaries. Warren would also help form an unprecedented all-female presidential ticket.

Hickenlooper, 64, is a relatively new name in the process and hails from another top battleground state. The second-term governor founded a brewpub in Denver in 1988 and later became the city's mayor and was instrumental in luring the 2008 Democratic National Convention to the Mile High City. He would bring a Western presence to the ticket and offer a small businessman's appeal to a candidate who frequently mentions her father's work as the owner of a small drapery business.

Castro is a 41-year-old former San Antonio mayor who delivered the keynote address at the 2012 Democratic National Convention. He was tapped by President Barack Obama two years later to lead the housing agency. If selected, he would be the first Latino on a presidential ticket. — AP



CLEVELAND: Chris Brown moves laundry at the Evergreen Cooperative Laundry. — AFP

HARLEM COULD SOON HAVE FIRST DOMINICAN-AMERICAN IN CONGRESS

NEW YORK: In an election year filled with debate over immigration, Adriano Espaillat hopes his personal story makes its own statement. After living at one point in the country without documentation, he could become the first Dominican-American in Congress.

After winning the Democratic primary in a strongly Democratic district that includes Harlem and parts of the Bronx, Espaillat is heavily favored in November's general election to succeed the long-serving Rep. Charles Rangel, who is retiring.

It would break new ground for the historically black district, which includes Harlem and has been represented by only two African-Americans, Rangel and Adam Clayton Powell Jr. before him, for more than 70 years even as Hispanics have been the majority in the district for at least the past several years.

As an immigrant, Espaillat sees his rise as a "strong message against the intolerance that's being spewed by the Trumps of the world." He was especially looking forward to seeing how his story could resonate in Congress, especially among those opposed to immigration reform. "How will they feel knowing that I have the same vote as they have on the floor of Congress?" he said. "I would love to see what the reaction is."

Espaillat's background

Espaillat, a 61-year-old state senator whose resume also includes the state Assembly and years

spent in community work, has come a long way from his introduction to the US as a 9-year-old on vacation in 1964.

That trip started out as a visit to grandparents, who were already in New York City, but continued past the expiration of his family's visa. His grandparents petitioned for the family to become citizens, but they lived in the country without legal authorization

for several months in Manhattan's Washington Heights neighborhood while waiting for paperwork.

His grandmother worried about immigration officials deporting them and often warned the young Espaillat and his brother to be careful when they went out. In the neighborhood, he said, "there was a level of fear ... that Immigration would come in, at any time." — AP



NEW YORK: Senator Adriano Espaillat arrives to his polling station on June 24, 2014. — AP

WOMAN BROUGHT TO US AS NANNY TREATED LIKE SLAVE

WOODBURY, MINNESOTA: A Minnesota woman is charged with beating and starving a woman she brought from China to work as a nanny, holding her in a state of "slavery or indentured servitude," a prosecutor said.

Lili Huang, 35, of Woodbury is charged in Washington County with five felony counts, including labor trafficking, false imprisonment and assault. Huang remains in jail after making her initial court appearance Friday, the Star Tribune reported.

The 58-year-old woman, who is not named in the complaint, arrived in the US on a visa in late March. According to the complaint, the nanny was forced to work up to 18 hours a day doing child care, cooking and cleaning. Police calculate her pay at about \$1.80 an hour, but she apparently did not receive any of it.

The woman recently was found wandering in the street, her eyes blackened. A hospital exam found she had many broken bones. She was rationed crackers for meals and her weight had dropped from 120 pounds when she arrived in the US to 88 pounds, the complaint said.

The woman was never allowed to leave the house, the complaint said. The nanny told a police investigator she eventually fled the house when Huang threatened to kill her with a knife. She told police she was looking for the airport so she could go home to



WASHINGTON COUNTY JAIL: Lili Huang, the Minnesota woman, of Woodbury, is charged in Washington County with five felony counts, including labor trafficking, false imprisonment and assault. — AP

China, the complaint said. Washington County prosecutor Pete Orput said the nanny was held in appalling conditions, the St. Paul Pioneer Press reported. Dan Le, a Minneapolis attorney for Huang, did not immediately respond to a phone message and email from The Associated Press on Saturday. — AP

GREECE CHARGES TURKISH COUP ASYLUM SEEKERS WITH ILLEGAL ENTRY

ALEXANDROUPOLI, GREECE: Eight Turkish military officers who fled to Greece by helicopter after a failed coup were charged yesterday by a prosecutor with illegal entry and violating Greek airspace, their lawyer said.

The men, who have sought asylum in Greece, arrived by military helicopter on Saturday after sending a distress signal to authorities at the airport in the northern city of Alexandroupolis. They were prosecuted for illegal entry into Greece, their lawyer, Iliia Marinaki said, adding that they will appear in court today.

She added that they remained under arrest and had not made contact with their families. The asylum seekers insist they took no part in the putsch and fled to Greece to save their lives "when policemen started shooting against them".

Marinaki added that the soldiers-all married and in their forties- feared for the safety of themselves and their families. Turkey's Foreign Minister

Mevlut Cavusoglu said Ankara had asked Athens to send the officers, including two majors, back following Friday night's challenge to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's rule by discontented soldiers in which more than 250 people died.

Erdogan spoke late on Saturday by phone with the Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras and thanked him for his stance during the failed uprising, according to Greek government sources. Tsipras had early Saturday expressed his "support for the democratically elected" Turkish government.

According to Athens News Agency, the Greek Prime Minister told Erdogan that the procedure for the Turkish asylum seekers will be swift but in line with international law and human rights treaties. Greek government sources estimate that the procedure will take up to two weeks.

Early yesterday, the Blackhawk helicopter the asylum seekers had used was flown back to Turkey. — AFP



ALEXANDROUPOLI, GREECE: Turkish officers escorted by Greek police officers leave the courthouse after appearing before a Greek prosecutor yesterday. — AFP



PARIS: French Prime minister Manuel Valls (R), French President Francois Hollande (C) and French Foreign minister Jean-Marc Ayrault visit the Interministerial Victim Support Unit (CIAV) at the Foreign Ministry on Saturday. — AFP

FAILED TURKEY COUP 'NOT BLANK CHEQUE' FOR ERDOGAN, FRANCE WARNS

PARIS: France's foreign minister warned Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday against using his country's failed coup as a "blank cheque" to silence his opponents.

"We want the rule of law to work properly in Turkey," Jean-Marc Ayrault told France 3 television, warning Turkey's government against "purges". His remarks came as Turkish authorities continued a crackdown over the coup, arresting over 6,000 people accused of

involvement in the putsch or of supporting the coup plotters.

Ayrault said the events of the past two days had raised questions about Turkey's "reliability" in the fight against Islamic State. Turkey is a member of the US-led coalition that has been carrying out airstrikes against the group in Syria. "There's (the question of) reliability on the one hand and, indeed, an element of suspicion on the other," he told France 3 television. — AFP

BREXIT MINISTER: SOME EU MIGRANTS MAY HAVE TO LEAVE UK

LONDON: Some European Union citizens may not be allowed to stay in Britain after the UK leaves the bloc, the UK minister in charge of negotiating the divorce has said. Brexit Secretary David Davis told the Mail newspaper yesterday that he wants "a generous settlement for EU migrants here now and a generous settlement for British citizens in the EU."

He dismissed suggestions the estimated 3 million EU nationals in Britain might have to leave, but said if there was a surge in arrivals before the deadline, the British government may have to set a cutoff date. "We may have to say that the right to indefinite leave to remain protection only applies before a certain date," he said. "But you have to make those judgments on reality, not speculation."

A desire to reduce immigration from other EU nations was a key reason many Britons voted last month to leave the EU. Under the bloc's rules, EU nationals can move freely among member states, and Britain has seen its population swelled by hundreds of thousands of new EU arrivals in recent years.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has been criticized for refusing to guarantee the right of EU citizens to remain in Britain after a British exit - something that is more than two years away. She says she needs to ensure that hundreds of thousands of Britons living in other EU countries get the same right.

Britain's vote to leave the EU has unleashed political and economic turmoil, as people and markets absorb the uncertainties about the country's economic future as it leaves the 28-nation single market of 500 million people.

Davis said he believes Britain will be able



LONDON: The then British lawmaker David Davies attends a press conference on Feb. 11, 2009. — AP

to retain access to the single market while opting out of the EU's right to free movement. EU leaders say that's impossible, that the free movement of people is a key right, but Davis said "everybody is taking starting positions." "Of course they are talking tough," he said. "If I was negotiating to buy your house or your car my first offer wouldn't be my final one, would it?"

Meanwhile, the government is seeking to reassure Britons that the UK can build strong and profitable trade ties outside the EU. May said she spoke Saturday to Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who expressed a desire for a free trade deal with Britain as soon as possible.

"It is very encouraging that one of our closest international partners is already seeking to establish just such a deal," May said - although Britain can't make any new arrangements until it actually leaves the EU. — AP

NICE ATTACKER RADICALIZED FAST, AS MORE VICTIMS FIGHT FOR LIFE PRIME MINISTER MANUEL VALLS COMMENTS

PARIS/NICE: The man who killed 84 Bastille Day revelers in the French city of Nice by driving a truck at a crowd had been radicalized recently and quickly, France's Prime Minister told a newspaper as a further 18 victims fought for their lives.

Thursday night's attack at peak holiday time on the Riviera plunged France into new grief and fear just eight months after jihadi gunmen killed 130 people in Paris. French Health Minister Marisol Touraine said the 18, including one child, were in a critical condition, while about 85 people in total were still hospitalized.

The attacks, along with one in Brussels four months ago, have shocked Western Europe, already anxious over security challenges from mass immigration, open borders and pockets of Islamist radicalism.

Authorities have yet to produce evidence that the 31 year-old delivery driver, Tunisian Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, shot dead by police, had any actual links to Islamic State. The Islamist militant group claimed the attack though, and Valls said there was no doubting the assailant's motives. "The investigation will establish the facts, but we know now that the killer was radicalized very quickly," Prime Minister Manuel Valls said in an interview with newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche.

As of yesterday no evidence had been produced to show how he underwent that rapid transformation from someone with no apparent interest in religion. Relatives and friends interviewed in Nice painted a picture of a man who at least until recently drank alcohol, smoked marijuana and according to French media even ate pork, behaviour that would be unlikely in a devout Muslim.

A report in the Nice Matin newspaper yesterday said investigators had found no radicalization material in his flat, although they were still looking at his telephone and his computer. Speaking from his home town in Tunisia, Bouhlel's sister told

Reuters he had been having psychological problems when he left for France in 2005 and had sought medical treatment.

As authorities were trying to better understand his motives, two more people, a man and a woman close to Bouhlel, were arrested in Nice early yesterday. Three others arrested previously were still being held, but Bouhlel's estranged wife was released without charges after being held since Friday.

The Amaq news agency affiliated with the militant Islamist group said on Saturday in claiming the attack that Bouhlel "was one of the soldiers of Islamic State". The group, which is under military pressure in its Iraq and Syria strongholds from forces opposed to it, considers France a key target given its military operations in the Middle East, and also because it is easier to strike than the United States, which is leading a coalition against it.

France is also home to Europe's biggest Muslim population, and has been criticized in some quarters for fostering racial, ethnic and religious disharmony through its strict adherence to a lay culture that allows no place for religion and ethnicity in schools and civic life.

Long and open borders with neighboring countries also make it an easy target for attackers who want to melt away afterwards.

Security failures?

Valls defended France's record on attacks, saying security services had prevented 16 over three years and said the group's modus operandi of cajoling unstable people into carrying out attacks with whatever means possible was difficult to combat.

"Daesh gives unstable individuals an ideological kit that allows them to make sense of their acts...this is probably what happened in Nice's case," Valls said, referring to the Arabic acronym for Islamic State.

Despite mounting criticism from the conservative

opposition and the far-right over how President Francois Hollande's Socialist government is handling security, Valls said there was no such thing as zero risk and that new attacks would occur. "I've always said the truth regarding terrorism: there is an ongoing war, there will be more attacks. It's a difficult thing to say, but other lives will be lost."

With presidential and parliamentary elections less than a year away, French opposition politicians are increasing pressure and seizing on what they described as security failings that made it possible for the truck to career 2 km (1.5 miles) through large crowds before it was finally halted.

After Thursday's attack, a state of emergency imposed across France after the November attacks in Paris was extended by three months and military and police reservists were to be called up. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve on Saturday called on "patriotic citizens" to become reservists to help relieve exhausted security forces.

But the measures appear to have done little to temper concerns. Highlighting the "serious deficiencies" in protecting French citizens, National Front leader Marine Le Pen demanded that Cazeneuve resign. "Anywhere else in the world a minister with such a terrible record - 250 deaths in 18 months - would have resigned a long time ago," she told reporters. Christian Estrosi, president of the wider Riviera region and a security hardliner, accused the government of failing completely in Nice.

"When the interior minister says there were enough police, it constitutes a blatant lie," he told i-Tele television. "He said there were 64 national policemen on duty. It's false and the investigation will show it."

Valls has said there were no failures, although Cazeneuve acknowledged on Saturday that the truck had avoided the police vehicles blocking the way to the promenade by mounting a kerb. — Reuters



VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis addresses the crowd from the window of the apostolic palace overlooking St. Peter's square during his Sunday Angelus prayer yesterday. — AFP



YEREVAN: Armenian police officers block the streets to Erebuni police station yesterday. — AFP

ARMENIA OPPOSITION GROUP TAKES HOSTAGES IN POLICE STATION RAID

YEREVAN: An armed Armenian group with links to a jailed opposition leader seized a police building in Yerevan yesterday, killing one policeman and taking several more hostages, including top officers.

One of the gunman said they were demanding the resignation of President Serzh Sargsian and the release of political prisoners but the country's security services dismissed rumors on social media that a coup was under way.

"A group of armed men entered the premises of a police regiment in Yerevan and is holding hostages under the threat of violence," Armenia's National Security Service said in a statement. "One policeman was killed and two others wounded. Two hostages were freed," it said.

One of the gunmen said on social media that the hostages in the police station in Yerevan's Erebuni district included the country's deputy police chief. Nikol Pashinyan, a lawmaker who met the hostage-takers, told journalists that the group had taken eight police hostage but released one

who was suffering from high blood pressure. "The Armenian state continues to operate normally, police carry out their duties to protect public order and security," the security service said, dismissing the coup rumours.

Media reports said the group was demanding the release of Zhirair Sefilyan, an opposition politician who was arrested last month for alleged possession of firearms. "We demand the release of Zhirair Sefilyan, we will only obey his orders. Sargsian must resign," one of the group members, Varuzhan Avetisyan, wrote on Facebook.

'Take to the streets'

He said two top police officers, Armenia's deputy police chief General Major Vardan Egizaryan and Yerevan deputy police chief Colonel Valeri Osipyan, were being held. One of the gunmen, named as Tatul Tamrazyan, has been seriously wounded, Avetisyan wrote. The group later released a video on Facebook, calling on Armenians to take to the

streets against the government.

The video showed several men in flak jackets and armed with Kalashnikovs as well as several hostages being held inside the police building. "We are doing this for you. People, take to the streets!" one of the gunmen, Areg Kuregyan said in the video. "We demand the release of all political prisoners."

"Join us! For now, we are holding the positions. We will stand as long as we can," another gunman said in the video statement.

Military and police cordons were blocking streets around the Erebuni station yesterday afternoon with vehicles including an armored personnel vehicle, an AFP photographer witnessed.

Sefilyan, the leader of a small opposition group, the New Armenia Public Salvation Front, and six of his supporters were arrested in June after the authorities said they were preparing a plot to seize several government buildings and telecommunication facilities in Yerevan. — AFP

BANGLADESH PROFESSOR ARRESTED FOR RENTING FLAT TO ATTACKERS

DHAKA: Police in Bangladesh have arrested a professor from an elite university alleging that he had rented a flat to gunmen who attacked a cafe in Dhaka earlier this month and killed 20 hostages.

In the first arrests police have made outside the cafe, Gias Uddin Ahsan of the private North South University was detained late Saturday along with two other people and is expected to appear in a court in the capital to face charges yesterday.

Police allege that in May he rented a flat he owns-without registering the tenants' information as required by law-to some of the gunmen responsible for the attack claimed by the Islamic

State group. The professor was arrested for "renting the house to the Gulshan (cafe) attackers and hiding information," police said in a statement, adding that the men had "gathered at the flat" prior to the attack.

Bangladesh authorities made submitting tenants' information to the nearest police station mandatory in recent years as part of efforts to curb crime and extremist activities. The other two people who were arrested included a nephew of the professor and the manager of the apartment building, police said.

Police seized sand-filled cartons from the flat,

which they suspect were used for storing grenades, the statement added. At the time of the cafe siege police said they had detained two people including a teenage kitchen assistant, who died in custody, which his family alleging torture.

Rights groups have also expressed concern for two attack survivors they say are being held by investigators, though police deny the two are in their custody. NSU, Bangladesh's leading private university which caters to children of the country's elite, has come under scrutiny before after its students were linked to extremist activities.

One student was detained in the United States

in 2012 and later got a lengthy prison sentence over an alleged plot to blow up the New York Federal Reserve bank. In December seven NSU students were convicted and sentenced for the 2013 murder of an atheist blogger, the first in a spate of such killings of secular activists and religious minorities.

Last week one of the university's former students was shot dead by police on the day of Eid festival after he and several other Islamist extremists attacked the country's largest prayer congregation with guns and explosives killing three. — AFP



KABUL, AFGHANISTAN: Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, right, speaks as US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter listens during a joint press conference at the Presidential Palace on July 12, 2016. — AP

COMMANDER: US SUPPORT OF AFGHANS COULD BE GAME-CHANGER

KABUL: President Barack Obama's decision to allow more aggressive US military action in support of Afghan combat operations against the Taliban could have a game-changing effect on the long war, Gen. John Nicholson, the top US commander in Afghanistan, said Saturday.

After prohibiting US forces from targeting the Taliban except in limited circumstances beginning in 2015, Obama shifted course last month and said Nicholson could use US airpower and other military assets against the Taliban if it supported offensive Afghan action as part of a strategic campaign plan.

What that amounts to, Nicholson said in an Associated Press interview at his military headquarters in Kabul, is encouragement for the Afghans to stay on the offense.

"Armies win on the offense," he said, alluding to longstanding US concerns that Afghan commanders have been too passive, defensive and lacking in aggressive strategies for pursuing the Taliban once the militants begin to lose ground.

"The ability to help the Afghan security forces when they are on the offense is really where we want to be, because when they have the initiative, when they are on the offense, when they are taking the fight to the enemy, that's how they're going to be successful," Nicholson said.

Nicholson said that the attempted coup in Turkey had no impact on the US-led campaign to support Afghanistan in its war against the Taliban.

He said the international coalition he leads includes more than 500 Turkish soldiers and he is pleased with what he called the professionalism of senior Turkish military officers who supported the government against the coup leaders. He said he believes the Turkish government is "going to be fine."

Obama officially ended the US combat role in Afghanistan in December 2014. He had intended to scale back the military presence to leave only a contingent at the US Embassy

in Kabul, but he recently announced that 8,400 US troops would remain when he leaves office in January. There currently are about 9,800 US troops in the country.

Nicholson said he expects in coming weeks to make increasing use of his wider latitude to support offensive Afghan operations, including as the Afghan security forces turn their attention this month to fighting the Taliban in the east of the country.

The general said this could include not only more use of US combat airpower but also US reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft and resupply planes. Other officials have said it may include the use of US air controllers on the ground to help pinpoint targets for airstrikes against the Taliban.

Ultimately, Nicholson said, this could generate enough Afghan offensive momentum to break the Taliban's belief that they can prevail and compel them to reconcile with Kabul. It's also true that US commanders in Afghanistan have been asserting for many years that enough military pressure can be put on the Taliban to bring them to the negotiating table, but that has never happened. As recently as 2011 the US had 100,000 troops in Afghanistan.

Also to be overcome is an escalating scale of battlefield casualties suffered by the Afghans. Nicholson said they had about 20,000 casualties last year, which others have said included 5,000-plus killed in action and 14,000-plus wounded. He said casualties in 2016 are running about 20 percent higher than last year.

Those losses, combined with other forms of attrition such as soldiers going AWOL or deserting, have kept the Afghan army under strength for an extended period. Command Sgt. Major Michael S. Clements, the senior enlisted adviser to the Afghan Defense and Interior ministries, said in a separate interview that the Army, which is supposed to have 195,000 soldiers, is listed by the government at about 175,000. — AP

PAKISTANI STAR'S BROTHER 'NOT EMBARRASSED' BY KILLING HER

FATHER REPORTED HIM TO POLICE

MULTAN: The brother of a murdered Pakistani celebrity said yesterday that he is "not embarrassed" to have killed her, as Qandeel Baloch's death reignited polarizing calls for action against the "epidemic" of honor killings.

The strangling of Baloch, judged by many in deeply conservative Muslim Pakistan as infamous for selfies and videos that by Western standards would appear tame, has prompted shock and revulsion.

"Yes of course, I strangled her," Baloch's brother Muhammad Wasim told reporters at a defiant press conference organized by police in the city of Multan early yesterday. "She was on the ground floor while our parents were asleep on the roof top," he continued. "It was around 10.45 pm when I gave her a tablet... and then killed her." Wasim said he acted alone.

"I am not embarrassed at all over what I did," he said. "Whatever was the case, it (his sister's behaviour) was completely intolerable." Baloch, believed to be in her twenties and whose real name was Fauzia Azeem, was killed on Friday night at her family's home near Multan.

Her brother, arrested a day later after her father filed a police complaint against him for the killing, appeared in court briefly yesterday ahead of another hearing set for Wednesday. Hundreds of women are murdered for "honor" every year in Pakistan. The killers overwhelmingly walk free because of a law that allows the family of the victim to forgive the murderer-who is often also a relative.

A vigil held late Saturday in Lahore was attended by dozens of mourners, while an online petition entitled "No Country for Bold Women" and demanding accountability over Baloch's death had gained more than 1,600 signatures yesterday.

A scathing editorial in Pakistan's biggest English-language newspaper Dawn said her murder must serve as "impetus" for anti-honor killing legislation. It lauded Baloch for "breezily" pushing the boundaries of what Pakistan considers "acceptable" behaviour for women, saying her determination to live on her own terms was "in itself an act of courage."

But many conservatives pushed back, with some echoing Wasim's statement by arguing that her family would have had "no choice". Baloch was buried early yesterday near her family home in southern Punjab.

Face of honor killings in Pakistan

Some of Baloch's more notorious acts included volunteering to perform a striptease for the Pakistani cricket team, and donning a plunging scarlet dress on Valentine's Day. She also posed for selfies with a high-profile mullah in an incident that saw him swiftly rebuked by the country's religious affairs ministry.

She told local media she had received death threats in the wake of the controversy, and that her requests for protection from authorities had been ignored.

Initially dismissed as a Kim Kardashian-like figure, she was seen by some as empowered in a country where women have fought for their rights for decades. In her final Facebook post on July 4 she wrote how she was trying to "change the typical orthodox mindset of people", and thanked her supporters for "understanding the message i (sic) try to



MULTAN: Wasim (R), the brother of slain social media celebrity Qandeel Baloch, is escorted by police following his arrest for Qandeel's death yesterday. — AFP

convey through my bold posts and videos."

"Qandeel was an extremely astute individual who knew that what she was doing was more than being the most loved bad girl of Pakistan," columnist and activist Aisha Sarawari told AFP.

Her killing "defines yet another setback for the women of our generation... This makes it harder for women. Period." Many in Pakistan have laid blame for her death on her bold and provocative public acts," noted Benazir Jatoi, who works with the Aurat Foundation, a local NGO working on women's legal and political empowerment.

"Qandeel has put a face to the countless ordinary Pakistani women that are murdered because society has given carte blanche to men," she added.

Filmmaker Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, whose documentary on honour killings won an Oscar earlier this year, slammed Baloch's murder as symptomatic of an "epidemic" of violence against women in Pakistan.

Obaid-Chinoy's film "A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness" was hailed by Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who in February vowed to push through anti-honor killing legislation.

No action has been taken since then. — AFP

INDIA STOPS KASHMIR NEWSPAPERS FROM PRINTING AMID UNREST

SRINAGAR, INDIA: Authorities in India's portion of Kashmir have shut down printing presses and temporarily banned newspapers from publishing in a sweeping information blackout after days of anti-India protests left dozens of people dead in the volatile region.

State government spokesman and Education Minister Nayeem Akhtar said the measures were aimed at saving lives and strengthening peace efforts. The government says 36 people - 35 civilians and a police officer - have been killed in clashes between protesters and security forces, while local human rights groups and newspapers say at least 40 have died.

A strict curfew was in effect in troubled areas for the ninth straight day yesterday, with hundreds of thousands of people trying to cope with shortages of food and other necessities. Tens of thousands of government troops patrolled mostly deserted streets in the region, where shops and businesses remained closed.

Kashmir, a predominantly Muslim region, is divided evenly between India and Pakistan, but both claim it in its entirety. Most people in India's portion resent the presence of Indian troops and want independence or a merger with Pakistan. Since 1989, more than 68,000 people have been killed in the uprising against Indian rule and the subsequent Indian military crackdown. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over control of Kashmir since British colonialists left the Indian sub-continent in 1947.

Unwilling to take any chances, Indian authorities appear to be persisting with their clampdown to avoid aggravating tensions in view of Pakistan's call for a "black day" on

Tuesday to protest India's handling of dissent in Kashmir.

On Friday, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed that his country would continue extending political, moral and diplomatic support to Kashmiris. He said he called for observing the "black day" to express solidarity with "Kashmiris who are facing atrocities at the hands of Indian forces."

The largest street protests in recent years in India's portion of Kashmir erupted last week after Indian troops killed the popular young leader of the largest rebel group fighting against Indian rule in the region.

Information has been thin, with most cellular and internet services, as well as landline phone access, not working in the troubled areas, except for Srinagar, the main city in

the Indian portion of Kashmir. Police began raiding newspaper offices and seizing tens of thousands of local newspapers on Saturday, imposing a ban on their printing until Monday. They also detained scores of printing press workers. Newspaper editors denounced the government action and termed it "gagging and enforcing emergency on media." — AP



SRINAGAR: A stray dog crosses through a barbed wire set up as a road blockade by Indian troops during the ninth straight day of curfew yesterday. — AP

3 SUFI MUSLIMS INJURED IN BANGLADESH MACHETE ATTACK

DHAKA: A group of machete-wielding men attacked members of a Sufi Muslim sect in western Bangladesh injuring three people, police said yesterday, the latest in a spate of attacks on religious minorities.

About eight men, armed with bamboo sticks and machetes, set upon the Sufis on Saturday night while they were asleep in a village in the border district of Chuadanga. "Three members of the group were beaten by the attackers. They include a 50-year-old woman who had suffered grievous injury with a sharp weapon," local police chief Humayun Kabir told AFP.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but Bangladesh is reeling from a wave of murders of secular and liberal activists and religious minorities by suspected Islamist extremists. Kabir said police suspect local hardline Muslims for the attack as the sect might have drawn the ire of the villagers due to their "unconventional and un-social" lifestyle.

"They are Muslim Fakirs, who don't observe the daily Islamic prayer rituals. They sing devotional songs and have their own rituals," local council chief Abdul Hannan told AFP, using another name for the sect.

In May a Sufi leader was hacked to death and earlier this month Bangladesh suffered a bloody terror attack when Islamist gunmen stormed a Dhaka cafe popular with foreigners and killed 20 people.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for that and several other attacks, but the Bangladesh government blames homegrown extremist groups. Sufi Islam is a mystical form of Islam popular in rural Bangladesh but considered deviant by many of the country's majority Sunni Muslims who denounce its followers as "infidels". — AFP

THAI SEX INDUSTRY UNDER FIRE FROM TOURISM MINISTER

BANGKOK: Thailand's infamous sex industry is under fire, with the tourism minister pushing to rid the country of its ubiquitous brothels and a spate of police raids in recent weeks on some of the largest establishments providing sex services in Bangkok.

Those who work in the industry say curbs on commercial sex services would hurt a flagging economy that has struggled to recover after political turmoil took the country to the brink of recession in 2014.

Thailand is predominantly Buddhist and deeply conservative, but is home to an extensive sex industry, largely catering to Thai men. Hordes of tourists also flock to the bright lights of go-go bars and massage parlours in Bangkok and main tourist towns.

Thailand's beaches and temples have been the poster child for Asian tourism for decades and the country expects a record number of arrivals in 2016.

Tourism Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul played down the role of the sex industry in drawing visitors. "Tourists don't come to Thailand for such a

thing. They come here for our beautiful culture," Kobkarn told Reuters. "We want Thailand to be about quality tourism. We want the sex industry gone," she said.

Prostitution is illegal in Thailand but the law is almost invariably ignored. Experts say it will be hard to rid Thailand of an industry that is so entrenched and that provides pay-offs to untold numbers of officials and policemen.

Those trying to promote the welfare of sex workers say Kobkarn's goal is unrealistic. Her push comes amid an attempt by the country's tourism authorities to transform Thailand into a luxury destination to attract moneyed tourists.

The military government is in denial about the proliferation of prostitution and its contribution to the economy and tourism, said Panomporn Utairi, country director of NightLight, a Christian non-profit group that helps women in the sex trade to find alternative work. "There's no denying this industry generates a lot of income," said Panomporn.

There are no government estimates of the value

of Thailand's sex industry, or how much of the income from tourism comes from sex tourists.

Lure of money

There are about 123,530 sex workers in Thailand, according to a 2014 UNAIDS report, compared with 37,000 sex workers in neighboring Cambodia. Last month, police raided dozens of brothels in major cities in what they said was a routine operation.

Police said they were looking to prosecute venues employing underage and illegal migrant workers, but only one of the venues raided was shut down.

There was no link between the tourism minister's aim to rid Thailand of its sex tourism industry and the raids, a police spokesman said. The tourism sector accounts for about 10 percent of gross domestic product and sex worker groups said the minister's vision of a prostitution-free Thailand would dent that.

"The police presence already drives off a number of clients who come to relax or drink at bars," said

Surang Janyam, director of Service Workers in Group (SWING), which provides sex workers with free medical care and vocational training. "Wiping out this industry is guaranteed to make Thailand lose visitors and income."

Many sex workers come from the impoverished northeast and see selling their bodies as a way out of poverty. One former sex worker from the northeastern province of Maha Sarakham, who declined to be identified, told Reuters she entered Bangkok's sex trade at the age of 19 and earned up to 5,000 baht (\$143.14) a night, nearly 20 times the minimum wage of 300 baht (\$8.59) per day. "No one wants to work in this business, but it's fast and easy money," she said.

NightLight and SWING said they would welcome the sex industry's closure if the government had a plan to ensure that sex workers could support themselves without falling back into the business. "If they want to close the sex industry, they must first have jobs ready to support sex workers," said Surang. — Reuters

MYANMAR'S SUU KYI HOLDS LANDMARK REBEL TALKS

TO SEAL A CEASEFIRE

YANGON: Myanmar's de facto premier Aung San Suu Kyi held landmark talks with senior rebel leaders yesterday, as she strives to seal a ceasefire with a patchwork of ethnic minority militias that have battled the national army for decades.

Suu Kyi has made peace a flagship policy of her newly installed civilian-led government which replaced decades of brutal junta rule earlier this year. It is a tall order in a country where the military, which is loathed and deeply distrusted by many ethnic rebel groups, still retains significant control.

A number of key rebel factions have yet to sign up to a national ceasefire agreement, something Suu Kyi's government hopes Sunday's talks might change. Zaw Htay, deputy director general of the president's office, told reporters the veteran democracy campaigner and her close associates were meeting with five leaders from the United Nationalities Federal Council.

"Meeting family"

The body represents both rebel groups that have signed up to the ceasefire agreement and those who have so far refused. "It will be like meeting family," he told reporters ahead of the meeting. Among those present was General N'Ban La, from the Kachin Independence Organization, the political wing of one of Myanmar's most powerful rebel factions, which has yet to sign a ceasefire.

"It's a confidence building meeting, there can be many questions and answers from both sides," Hla Maung Shwe, a government advisor on the peace process told AFP.

Media were ushered out after filming the initial greetings ahead of the meeting in the commercial capital Yangon. Myanmar has been scarred by ethnic conflicts ever since its independence in 1948, with minority groups battling for greater autonomy against a central government that they believed has long ignored and abused them.

Suu Kyi has vowed to overturn that painful legacy with plans to hold a major peace conference later this summer. However, conflicts continue to rage in several areas between ethnic minority armed groups and the army, which operates beyond the reaches of civilian government, particularly in northern Kachin and eastern Shan states.

Some 240,000 people are displaced due to



YANGON: Myanmar's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi attends a meeting with rebel leaders from the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) for landmark peace talks at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) yesterday. — AFP

unrest and communal conflict across the country.

More than a dozen rebel factions also plan to hold their own talks later this month in Kachin, with Sunday's meeting seen as a crucial stepping stone towards persuading the hold-out groups to embrace the peace process.

Both Myanmar's military and rebel groups have a long history of rights violations linked to decades of conflict, including the use of child

labor and drug trafficking.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy government has spoken out in favor of greater federalism for Myanmar's ethnic minorities. But her hands are partially tied.

Under Myanmar's junta-era constitution, the crucial interior, home and border ministries are still controlled by the army, giving the generals huge sway over whether the peace process is a success. — AFP

SOARING PRISON POPULATION PROMPTS THAILAND TO RE-THINK 'LOST' DRUG WAR

BANGKOK: Somsak Sreesomsong was 18 when he was jailed for selling illegal drugs. Now, turning 30, he is not yet half way through his 33-year sentence at Bangkok's high-security Klong Prem prison.

Somsak was "just a kid, not a big-time dealer", his older brother Panit told Reuters after a visit to the jail. "We're also serving time, waiting for him to get out so he can help the family." More than a decade after Thailand declared a "war on drugs", the country is admitting defeat. As the prison population soars, Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya told Reuters he was looking at changes to the country's draconian drug laws.

"I want to de-classify methamphetamine but Thailand is not ready yet," said Paiboon, meaning downgrading the drug, popularly known as "meth", from a Category 1 substance, which would reduce jail time for possession or dealing.

Use of methamphetamine is spiralling across Southeast Asia, and authorities are struggling to respond. In the Philippines, which has some of the highest rates of "meth" use, police killings of drug suspects have spiked since the swearing-in of President Rodrigo Duterte, elected on a platform of harsh measures to wipe out drug crime.

Myanmar, the source of much of the drugs flooding through the region, is bracing for an explosion in domestic use. Overall, drugs supply in Southeast Asia, especially of methamphetamine, is at a record level, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Harsh punishments

In common with much of the region, Thailand's criminal justice system treats drug offenders harshly. Producing and trading in Category 1 drugs, which also include heroin, MDMA - the main chemical for ecstasy pills - and LSD, is punishable by death or life imprisonment.

Klong Prem is home to 6,267 inmates serving sentences that range from 15 years to life, with 64 percent convicted of drug-related crimes. A typical cell measures 1.5 x 3 metres (5 x 10 feet) and sleeps five inmates, side-by-side on dark blue mattress on the floor. "Some of the men, especially the foreign prisoners, are pretty big, so it's a squeeze for them," said one prison guard.

Lengthy sentences for drug offences are part of the reason why Thai jails struggle with chronic overcrowding, according to both Justice Minister Paiboon and UN experts.

Thailand has approximately 40 percent of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations'

prison population, despite having only 10 percent of the bloc's total population, the UNODC says. Paiboon, an army general and senior member of the junta that seized power in a 2014 coup, said in an interview that Thailand would build more prisons, including 17 temporary jails for prisoners who have served at least a third of their sentence.

He added that his priority was to tackle drug trafficking and addiction - an ambitious plan in a country where a record number of people use methamphetamines, known in Thai as "ya ba" or "crazy medicine", according to a 2015 UN report.

A crackdown launched by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra in 2003 aimed at suppressing drug trafficking killed more than 2,800 people, according to an independent inquiry chaired by a former attorney general. But the country's growing number of drug users and bulging jails have forced policymakers to think again. "The world has lost the war on drugs, not only Thailand," said Paiboon. "We have clear numbers that drug use has increased over the past three years. Another indicator is there are more prisoners."

Crisis point

A 2015 report by the Institute for Criminal Policy Research shows Thailand has the fourth highest number of women imprisoned in the world, after the United States, China and Russia. "We know from meeting and interviewing prisoners, including female prisoners, in Thailand, that the impact is profoundly negative for families," said Jeremy Douglas, the UNODC's Asia-Pacific chief.

One former female inmate, who declined to be named because of the social stigma attached to drug offenders in Thailand, said she was jailed for three years after being caught with 20 methamphetamine pills. "My boyfriend was the dealer. I was carrying the pills for him. My son doesn't want anything to do with me now," she said.

The number of inmates jailed for drug convictions has almost doubled over the past decade, Thai Department of Corrections figures showed, a result of unsparring sentencing that puts even petty users behind bars. "We need to change sentencing and make a distinction between small and big time dealers," said Klong Prem prison commander Thawatthai Chaiyavat. "Thailand thinks prisons are a panacea for all crimes, including drug crimes." In the meantime, Thailand's jails grow ever more crowded. Corrections department figures for July showed a prison population of 321,347, with around 70 percent jailed for drugs offences. — Reuters



BANGKOK: An activist displays banned charter-related material during a protest against the military crackdown on discussion and debate around the new draft constitution, in front of the Bangkok Art and Cultural Center on Saturday. — AFP

QUAKE OF MAGNITUDE 5.0 HITS TOKYO AND EASTERN JAPAN, NO MAJOR DAMAGE

TOKYO: An earthquake with a magnitude of 5.0 struck eastern Japan yesterday and shook buildings in Tokyo, officials and witnesses said, but there was no danger of a tsunami and no immediate report of injuries or major damage.

The US Geological Survey (USGS) put the epicenter of the quake 44 km north-east of Tokyo at a depth of about 44 km. There were no immediate reports of damage. Broadcaster NHK reported that the Tokai No. 2 nuclear power station, which has been shut since 2011,

was checked for damage after the quake but none was found.

Earthquakes are common in Japan, one of the world's most seismically active areas, which accounts for a fifth of the world's earthquakes of magnitude 6 or larger. Japan's strongest quake on record was one of magnitude 9 that struck the northeast coast on March 11, 2011, unleashing a massive tsunami and killing nearly 20,000 people, besides setting off the world's worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl. — Reuters

VIETNAM DETAINS ACTIVISTS AFTER SOUTH CHINA SEA RULING

HANOI, VIETNAM: Scores of activists were detained in Vietnam's capital yesterday as they gathered to protest against China after it rejected a recent international ruling that dismissed its claims to much of the South China Sea.

Anti-Chinese sentiment runs deep in communist Vietnam but the country's authoritarian rulers move swiftly to tamp down expressions of public anger, fearful that allowing such protests might embolden criticism of their rule.

Activists had used social media to call for protests in Hanoi yesterday in the wake of this week's ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague which found there was no legal basis for Beijing's claims to vast swathes of the South China Sea.

The case was brought by the Philippines but the ruling has been a boon for other regional countries like Vietnam who also have competing claims to the strategic sea.

Authorities in the capital Hanoi were ready for protests yesterday. Plainclothes security forces were out in force, blanketing much of the city center and keeping a close eye on any crowds that might be gathering, an AFP reporter on the scene said.

Throughout the morning around 30 activists were swiftly bundled onto waiting buses and cars by security forces after they gathered to hold a protest near the city's famous Hoan Kiem lake, a common spot for demonstrations.

Some chanted "Down with China invasion!" as they were led away to detention. Later in the day a group of nine activists held a brief rally outside the Philippines embassy. One held aloft a banner that read: "Thank you Philippines. You have a brave government."

The group dispersed on motorbike before security forces arrived. Activists posted pictures on social media of similar flashmob rallies in southern Ho Chi Minh City with protesters riding

around the city on motorbikes holding banners criticizing China.

Beijing lays claim to virtually all of the South China Sea, putting it at odds with regional neighbors the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan, which also have partial claims. China boycotted the PCA hearings, saying the court had no jurisdiction, and has reacted furiously, vowing to ignore the ruling and arguing it misinterprets international law.

Vietnam and China frequently trade diplo-

matic barbs over the disputed Parcel island chain and waters in the South China Sea. China has encouraged patriotic citizens to visit the contested Parcels, which are known as Xisha in Chinese. Such acts have deepened already simmering anti-Chinese sentiment in Vietnam while domestic critics accuse Hanoi of being too meek towards its giant northern neighbor. At least three Chinese nationals were killed in 2014 when rioting broke out in Vietnam after Beijing sent an oil rig into contested waters. — AFP



HANOI, VIETNAM: A policeman (R) reacts as demonstrating activists hold anti-China banners yesterday. — AFP



A protester carrying a peace flag walks in downtown Cleveland yesterday, in preparation for the Republican National Convention that starts today. — AP

BAHRAIN DISSOLVES OPPOSITION GROUP

Continued from Page 1

That is an allusion to Iran which Bahrain, home to the US Fifth Fleet, accuses of fomenting unrest. The justice ministry, which sought Al-Wefaq's dissolution, had accused the bloc of providing a haven for "terrorism, radicalization and violence" and opening the way for "foreign interference" in the kingdom's affairs. In Oct 2014, the administrative court banned Al-Wefaq for three months for violating the law on associations. Political parties are banned in Bahrain, as in other Gulf Arab monarchies, so Al-Wefaq has the status of an

association.

Al-Wefaq, also known as the Islamic National Accord Association, is heir to the Bahrain Freedom Movement which played a key role in anti-government protests in the 1990s that sought the restoration of the elected parliament scrapped in 1975. Al-Wefaq's chief, cleric Ali Salman, is serving a nine-year jail term for inciting violence after a court in May more than doubled his sentence. Authorities have also stripped at least 261 people of their citizenship since 2012, according to the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights, including cleric Sheikh Isa Qassem. — AFP

NISF: TREATMENT ABROAD USED FOR SUMMER...

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Nisf claimed that the so-called medical tourism cases have increased to an unprecedented level, adding that this is the price paid from public funds and at the expense of "real" patients who need to be sent abroad for treatment. He said that the overseas treatment department is suffering massive overcrowding, which has become associated with the summer vacation, adding that it is illogical that the cases of patients rise mainly in summer.

Meanwhile, MP Saleh Ashour yesterday proposed an amendment to the housing welfare law, stipulating that children of Kuwaiti women from foreign spouses will have the right to inherit the house owned by their deceased mother. Under existing law, children of Kuwaiti women

from foreign husbands are not entitled to register real estate they inherit from their mothers in their names and are given a certain duration to sell it.

Ashour said he submitted the proposal on the basis of the Kuwaiti constitution which stipulates gender equality, and accordingly, this equality must be translated into Kuwaiti laws. Thousands of Kuwaiti women are married to non-Kuwaitis, and when they die, their children cannot inherit the property under their names and must sell it within a specific period of time.

MP Abdullah Al-Tameemi yesterday criticized calls by unidentified people calling to stage a gathering outside the National Assembly for Shiite Kuwaitis. The lawmaker described the calls as suspicious and urged authorities to stop it.

US REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR KUWAIT'S SECURITY

Continued from Page 1

They would also deal with "forming the military committees that will supervise the withdrawal and handover of weapons... and opening safe passages for humanitarian aid," he said.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed said that over the past two weeks he had held intensive talks in Sanaa, Riyadh and Muscat and met with many dignitaries who declared their support for a final settlement. "I hope that you will seize this opportunity which could be the last to win the trust of Yemeni people," the UN envoy added.

The talks resumed after Ould Cheikh Ahmed convinced the Yemen government to send its delegation to Kuwait after threatening to pull out of the peace talks which began on April 21. Earlier in the day, Yemen Foreign Minister Abdulmalek Al-Mikhlafi said the government had obtained a "written response to our demands sufficient for the political leadership to decide (on) sending the delegation back to Kuwait." A well-defined timetable has been agreed that is limited to "withdrawal, handover of arms, return of state institutions, release of prisoners and lifting siege on cities"

by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels and their allies, Mikhlafi said. The deal was struck after two days of talks with Ould Cheikh Ahmed in Riyadh, he said. It was also agreed that the talks' two-week duration will not be extended and no other issues will be debated, he added.

The rebel delegation of Houthis and representatives of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh's General People's Congress party arrived in Kuwait on Friday. More than two months of negotiations between President Hadi's Saudi-backed government and the rebels have failed to make any headway. The government is calling for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2216 which requires the rebels and their allies to withdraw from areas they have occupied since 2014, including the capital Sanaa, and hand over heavy weapons.

Hadi had previously warned that his government would boycott the talks if the UN envoy insisted on a roadmap stipulating a unity government that included the insurgents. His government wants to re-establish its authority across the entire country, much of which is rebel-controlled, and to restart a political transition interrupted when the Houthis seized Sanaa.— Agencies

SYRIA REGIME BESIEGES REBEL PARTS OF ALEPPO

Continued from Page 1

rebel-held neighborhood of Al-Maysar while 16 rebel fighters died in the regime advance on Aleppo.

The city is divided roughly between government control in the west and rebel control in the east. The Castello Road had been used by rebels but also by shopkeepers bringing in produce for residents and by villagers visiting relatives in the city. "Aleppo is now 100-percent besieged," one rebel from the Aleppo Revolutionaries group told AFP. He said the army had reached the road and was setting up sandbag barriers. Facebook pages run by Aleppo-based activists urged civilians to stay away from the route to avoid being arrested or wounded.

Sieges by both the regime and its opponents have had a devastating impact on other areas of Syria, including the town of Madaya where aid groups say dozens of people have died from starvation and malnutrition. The United Nations says that nearly 600,000 people are living under siege in Syria, most of them surrounded by government forces. Eastern Aleppo has not been designated by the UN as besieged, but residents complain of food shortages and shopkeepers have begun rationing their products.

A leading opposition group warned last week that hundreds of thousands of civilians in the city were at risk if the Castello Road was cut. Anas Al-Abdeh, head of the Istanbul-based opposition National Coalition, said his group feared "that if the Castello route is totally cut off, more than 300,000 civilians will starve". Fighters loyal to President Bashar Al-Assad have tried over the past two years to cut the strategic road as part of a campaign to

retake all of Aleppo. Armed forces pressed their campaign last week despite announcing several extensions to a fighting freeze marking Eid Al-Fitr, the end of the holy fasting month of Ramadan. Syria's state media made no mention of the developments yesterday, but pro-government websites such as Al Masdar News reported the advance. AFP's correspondent in one rebel-controlled neighborhood said at least six air strikes targeted the eastern opposition neighborhoods after the route was severed.

On Saturday, at least 28 civilians including children were killed in bombardment of the eastern districts, said the Observatory, which relies on a network of sources on the ground. Another four people died in rebel rocket fire on the western government-controlled neighborhoods, it said. Aleppo was once Syria's commercial powerhouse but has been ravaged by fighting since mid-2012, with several temporary truces failing to end the violence there.

On Friday, US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov said they had agreed on "concrete steps" to salvage the failing nationwide ceasefire but would not give details. Russia has demanded that non-jihadist rebel groups - particularly those in and around Aleppo - disassociate themselves from Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front in order to avoid being targeted in air raids. More than 280,000 people have been killed and millions have been forced to flee their homes since Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011. UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura has urged Russia and the United States to push for a resumption of peace talks next month.— AFP

TURKEY ROUNDS UP 6,000 PLOTTERS

Continued from Page 1

agency Anadolu reported. The suspects are being charged with membership of an "armed terrorist organization" and attempting to overthrow the government by force, the Hurriyet Daily News reported.

A resurgent Erdogan told a crowd of thousands at a funeral for the victims in Istanbul that there would be no let-up in the fight against his enemy Fethullah Gulen, the US-based Islamic preacher he accuses of running the "terrorist group" and masterminding the coup. "We will continue to clean the virus from all state bodies because this virus has spread.

Unfortunately like a cancer, this virus has enveloped the state," he said.

The president broke down in tears at another Istanbul funeral - that of his friend Erol Olcak and his 16-year-old son, shot dead on the Bosphorus bridge while protesting against the coup on Friday night. "Erol was an old friend of mine," Erdogan told mourners. Unable to control his tears, he said: "I cannot speak any further. Condolences to our nation."

Meanwhile, Turkish security forces and putschists briefly clashed at an air base in the central city of Konya yesterday, a Turkish official said. "We are able to confirm that there are clashes at the air base in Konya between the security forces and putschists resisting arrest," the source told AFP on condition of anonymity. The state-run news agency Anadolu later reported the fighting had come to an end and said six military personnel were arrested. The Turkish official also confirmed an incident at Istanbul's Sabiha Gokcen airport, where police fired warning shots at putschists who were resisting arrest. They eventually surrendered.

According to the government, 161 civilians and regular troops lost their lives in the bid by an army faction to overthrow Erdogan by seizing key strategic points in Istanbul and Ankara. A total of 104 coup plotters were also killed, the military says. Turkish authorities have made clear they will show no mercy in the wake of the coup, which sparked fears of chaos in the strategic NATO country of 80 million people.

It was the biggest challenge to Erdogan's rule in his 13 years as prime minister and president. The group behind the coup, which called itself the Council for Peace in the Homeland, said it was necessary to stop the increasingly authoritarian president from undermining Turkish democracy. But the 62-year-old leader successfully mobilized supporters into the streets to face down the plotters.

Thousands responded late Saturday to a new call by Erdogan to pour into the squares to celebrate the "victory of democracy", with mass rallies of flag-waving Turks in cities including Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir. "They may have tanks but we have our faith. We will not leave the squares... but we will continue defiantly," said Erdogan. Turkish television has shown images of captured sus-

pects forced to lie face down on the tarmac after their arrest while AFP photographers have seen suspects roughly led away, pursued by angry mobs. NTV television said 34 generals of various grades had been detained so far, including several senior army commanders. Air force brigadier general Bekir Ercan Van was also detained at the key Incirlik air base used by US forces for raids in Syria, along with a dozen other suspects.

Turkey shut down airspace around Incirlik as a security measure after the coup, forcing the US to halt its strikes in Syria. But Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook said yesterday that operations against the Islamic State group had resumed from the base. The putsch added to the turmoil in Turkey after a wave of deadly bomb attacks blamed on IS jihadists and Kurdish rebels.

Former chief of staff Ilker Basbug told Dogan news agency that Turkey should make a distinction between the coup planners and young soldiers "of 20 years old who may have been mistaken". But the crackdown is not restricted to the military, and Anadolu said warrants have been issued for 2,745 judges and prosecutors. Those arrested are suspected of belonging to Gulen's group, which Turkey dubs the Fethullahci Terror Organization (FETO). Gulen's supporters say their group, which they call Hizmet (Service), is entirely peaceful.

Erdogan accuses Gulen of running a "parallel state", and called on Obama to extradite the reclusive preacher from the United States to face justice. In an interview with Haberturk television, Labor Minister Suleyman Soyulu went even further, saying "the United States is behind the coup" and adding it had to hand over Gulen. The preacher has categorically denied any involvement in the plot and suggested it could have been staged by Erdogan himself. US Secretary of State John Kerry described public suggestions of a US role as "utterly false", and said yesterday that Washington had had no intelligence of the coup before it began.

Obama has meanwhile warned Turkey there is a "vital need" for all parties to "act within the rule of law" in the aftermath of the coup. French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault warned Erdogan against using the failed putsch as a "blank cheque" to silence his opponents. But there was no such concern from Russian President Vladimir Putin, who called Erdogan to wish for a "speedy restoration of strong constitutional order". Erdogan and Putin, who were feuding over the shooting down of a Russian jet until last month, will meet in the first week of August, Anadolu said. Turkey has also demanded the extradition of eight people thought to have been involved in the putsch who landed in a Black Hawk military helicopter in Greece. Authorities are seeking to get life back to normal, but the US on Saturday warned citizens against travel to Turkey due to uncertainty after the coup bid.— AFP



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GETTING AWAY
WITH MURDER
IN PAKISTAN

By Issam Ahmed

The strangling of Pakistani social media starlet Qandeel Baloch by her brother has once again cast a spotlight on the custom of "honor killings", which claims around a thousand lives in Pakistan every year.

What are honor killings?

So-called honor killings are understood to mean the murder of a relative by another for bringing the family dishonor. The pattern of crime has its roots in tribal social norms that remain prevalent across South Asia, and the victims are overwhelmingly women. There were 933 honor killing cases in 2015, according to Pakistan's Federal Ministry of Law, but these may only represent a fraction of the true number.

Why do people so often get away with it?

The apparent rise in killings in recent years is largely linked to Pakistan's criminal code, which is a mixture of British-inherited law and Islamic custom based on sharia introduced by military ruler Zia-ul-Haq. In 1990, two years after Zia's death, government introduced the *qisas* (blood money) and *diyat* (retribution) law, allowing murderers to avoid jail by seeking forgiveness from a victim's relatives - a convenient means of escape particularly in honor cases.

In his book, "The Application of Islamic Criminal Law in Pakistan: Sharia in Practice", legal scholar Tahir Wasti compared the decade 1981-1990, before the law, to 1991-2000. He found that the number of murder victims increased by more than a third in districts around the city of Multan, near where Baloch was killed - well above the population growth rate of around three percent in the area.

More startling still, the law "brought about a particularly visible change in the rate of cancellation of cases" - from six percent to 12 percent - as police encouraged parties to enter blood-money compromises. Wasti said the laws had a "disconcerting" effect on the number of killings within families, "especially the honor killings of women".

Why is Qandeel's case significant?

Baloch, whose real name was Fauzia Azeem, was from the conservative working class, making her decision to openly embrace her sexuality in defiance of the prevailing patriarchy all the more bold. She unapologetically tackled what she saw as religious hypocrisy, posing for selfies with a senior government cleric who she said had sought a meeting despite publicly criticizing her. "I thought I would expose him as he is in reality," she told AFP at the time.

In one of her last posts, she wrote: "As women we must stand up for ourselves... I LOVE THE WAY I AM." Activists told AFP that in a country where violence against women is all too common, she had put a "face" to honor killings, and progressives fear her death will embolden would-be murderers.

What is being done about it?

Pakistan amended its criminal code in 2005 to prevent men who kill female relatives pardoning themselves as an "heir" of the victim. But punishment is left to a judge's discretion when other relatives of the victim forgive the killer - a loophole which critics say remains exploited. In February, Prime Minister Sharif promised to amend the criminal code further, but no action has been taken since.

Opposition senator Sherry Rehman, a prominent women's rights activist, has been trying to amend the bill but requires the votes of Sharif's ruling party. "I think they are pandering to the religious parties," she told AFP last month, referring to Pakistan's influential Islamist opposition. In Baloch's case, at least, it seems unlikely the killers will go unpunished: Her brother Muhammad Wasim had admitted to the crime, is in police custody, and his parents appear to want him to face justice. — AFP

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EUROPE HOPES, FEARS AFTER TURKEY COUP BID

By Robin Emmott and Alastair Macdonald

European leaders greeted the defeat of Turkey's coup on Saturday with relief as it averts chaos and keeps alive a deal that has helped to stem the migration crisis threatening the continent. But while some hope a reminder of resistance to his personal grip on power may prompt President Tayyip Erdogan to heed European pleas for him to respect civil rights, many fear he is far more likely to step up his crackdown on opponents and so complicate European Union efforts to maintain the bargain.

The coming weeks, starting when EU foreign ministers meet in Brussels on Monday, will be crucial to the fate of a plan at the heart of the migrant deal: To have sceptical EU lawmakers approve after the summer an end to visa requirements for Turks. "Erdogan will be judged on his response," one EU official involved in the plan said, citing arrests of judges as an early sign that justified "deep concern that this will lead to a new trampling on rights of freedom of expression and demonstration".

Senior members of the European Parliament, where anger at the prickly Turkish leader's treatment of elected opponents could stymie the EU deal to reward Turkey for stopping refugees, were pessimistic about the outlook for Turkish democracy. "Erdogan will try to extend his position of power," foreign affairs committee chair Elmar Brok, an ally of the Turkey deal's architect German Chancellor Angela Merkel, told Die Welt daily. French President Francois Hollande expects "repression".

If Erdogan responds to public demands to restore the death penalty to execute putschists, or if Turkey moves to jail ethnic Kurdish parliamentarians whom it stripped of immunity in May, EU lawmakers may turn against the migrant deal, EU officials said. Turkish officials have warned that its collapse could see Ankara allow a resumption of traffic that last year saw a million people, many refugees from Syria and Iraq, cross to Greek islands and trek over open borders to Germany. That shook Europeans' support for the EU and, some argue, fuelled last month's devastating British vote to leave the bloc.

Nuanced Support - 'Not About Erdogan'

Official statements from the EU stressed backing for a democracy that many acknowledge Erdogan has himself abused. "The EU fully supports the democratically elected government," an early overnight statement read, taking care to add it also backed "the institutions of the country and the rule of law" - a nuanced distinction from Erdogan's personal power. With the plot seemingly already undone, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini followed up to urge "a swift return to Turkey's constitutional order with its checks and balances and ... fundamental freedoms". It seemed hardly a call to defeated soldiers dead or in jail, but rather to the victor.

"This is not about supporting Erdogan or not, it is

about supporting the rule of law and democracy," a second senior EU official involved in relations with Ankara told Reuters. EU officials have reminded Turkish counterparts that their past cooperation, in engaging Ankara in a decade of halting reforms to enhance its - distant - prospects of joining the bloc, has helped Erdogan and his Islamist-rooted party to curb the historic threat to civilian rule from Turkey's armed forces.

Now, closer ties with the economic bloc are at stake, the second official said, insisting Europe can use that "leverage," despite criticism from human rights groups that Merkel's deal with Erdogan to hold back migrants put Europe at his mercy. "This is not a blank cheque for Erdogan," he said of backing against the coup. "He has to be extremely careful not to overshoot the reaction."

Hope for Change? - 'Erdogan is Not Putin'

Many EU diplomats argue that Turkey, faced with conflict across its borders in Iraq and Syria that has fuelled internal strife with its Kurdish minority, and at odds with Russia and most Middle East powers, cannot afford to alienate

Europeans. And some dared to voice hope on Saturday that the coup bid might make Erdogan more willing to reach beyond his own voters: "Erdogan is not Putin - he is not that strong. We have to keep him on the democratic path," a third EU official said.

Expressing a hope that Europeans might now warm to Erdogan again as a lesser of two evils, less unappealing than chaos, or army rule, a fourth EU official referred to the president's call to unarmed supporters to face down the army: "If you win by saying democracy is stronger than tanks," he said, "then the democratically elected government should act for democracy."

A fifth EU official was pessimistic, however: "It would be nice if Erdogan saw this as a wake-up call" to respect civil rights, he said, but a crackdown seemed "almost inevitable". Senior diplomats dismissed suggestions, however, that the EU had hesitated to condemn the plotters in the early hours in the hope of change. However irksome many find Erdogan, they said, statements against the putsch came as quickly as possible. "Clearly Europe would have more reasons to worry if the coup had prevailed," one EU official said. — Reuters



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (center) and former Turkish president Abdullah Gul (center right) attend the funeral of a victim of the coup attempt in Istanbul yesterday. — AFP

WHAT DOES VP ROLLOUT TELL US ABOUT TRUMP?

By Julie Pace

In business and politics, Donald Trump likes to go with his gut. His selection of Indiana Gov Mike Pence as a running mate appears to be a lesson in what happens when he doesn't. Trump introduced Pence as his No. 2 on Saturday, passing over candidates with whom he has a more personal connection in favor of an experienced politician with solid conservative credentials. GOP leaders - many lukewarm at best about the outsider at the top of their ticket - were nearly unanimous in praise.

Yet getting to that moment of party unity was chaotic, with many of the twists and turns playing out in public - and not in a way the spotlight-seeking Trump prefers. On its own, the muddled lead-up to Saturday's announcement is unlikely to impact Trump's standing in his general election fight with Democrat Hillary Clinton. But it provides some of the clearest indications yet of how he might handle high-pressure decisions as president, where few choices are easy and his personal preferences are just one of many factors to consider.

"It does cause one to question how and what kind of process he would use if he were actually president and had to make some of the decisions," said Lanhee Chen, the policy director to Republican Mitt Romney's 2012 presidential campaign. Still, he said it was instructive that Trump "can be influenced against what his instincts tell him." By midday last Wednesday, Trump and his aides were signaling that he had decided to go with Pence. The campaign was making plans for a splashy Friday announcement aimed at dominating the weekend news cycle heading into the Republican convention.

Then came a hectic Thursday. Trump was in California for

fundraisers, thousands of miles from his closest advisers, including his oldest children. A voracious consumer of news, Trump fumed as he watched television reports declaring he had settled on Pence before he'd made a call to the governor. Two Republicans with knowledge of the process said he felt boxed in by advisers and other Republicans who preferred Pence over the two other finalists, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

A call from Trump Thursday afternoon prompted Pence to get on a plane to New York for an announcement the next day. But shortly after the governor touched down on the East Coast, Trump declared in a television interview that he had not made a "final, final" decision. He further clouded the process when he abruptly postponed his announcement event, citing the truck attack in Nice, France, that left more than 80 people dead.

Around midnight, Trump and his top advisers convened a conference call to discuss the frenzied day. That fueled speculation that Trump might be changing his mind. Only Trump knows exactly his level of certainty as he zeroed in on one of the most important decisions of his campaign. Top advisers vigorously deny he considered making a late change, with campaign chairman Paul Manafort saying he "never waffled once he made his decision." Notably, Manafort did not say when that decision was made. It was enough of a muddle for Hillary Clinton's campaign to leap into action and draw attention to what they cast as Trump's apparent wavering. Her campaign released a web video Saturday contrasting clips of the Republican touting his decisiveness with the timeline of the past few days. As the video ends, the words on the screen read, "Donald Trump. Always Divisive. Not so Decisive."

Indecision

Indeed, Trump's own actions - saying he'd not made a final decision even after Pence was summoned to New York, then delaying the announcement - left the distinct impression of doubt. So, too, did the actual announcement event on Saturday, at which Trump meandered for nearly a half hour on a variety of topics - including an update on the construction of his new hotel in Washington - before finally calling Pence to the stage, only to then immediately walk away. There were no "Trump-Pence" signs in the room, which appeared dark and somewhat subdued on television.

"With picking a VP, it just looks bad in the press," Pete Wehner, a former adviser to President George W Bush and a sharp critic of Trump, said of the whole process. "That's a lot different when you have the powers of the presidency." Indeed, Trump needs to look no further than the man he's hoping to succeed for a warning about how even a single instance of indecision can linger. In 2013, President Barack Obama was on the brink of launching airstrikes against Syria for using chemical weapons against civilians, something he'd said crossed a "red line". Then, Obama pulled back, saying he first wanted to get approval from Congress. A vote was never held and the strikes were never launched.

Obama has spent the past three years defending that decision. It put Middle East allies on edge over his commitment to the region's security, and even some of his advisers have said it was a mistake to stand down. A long and bruising campaign with Clinton stands between Trump and the possibility of that kind of high-stakes situation. Time for voters to weigh both his instincts and actions. — AP

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AREGAWI RIO HOPES DASHED AFTER SUSPENSION LIFTED

STOCKHOLM: Abeba Aregawi will not be selected for next month's Rio Olympics despite having her doping suspension lifted following a positive test for meldonium, the Swedish Athletics Association (SAA) said yesterday. Aregawi has not competed in 2016 due to her suspension, which was lifted on Thursday, but still hoped to be included in Sweden's Olympic team. SAA general secretary Stefan Olsson, however, said in a statement that uncertainty surrounding Aregawi's "medical and physical status and environment" would have to be clarified before she could be considered for selection. Team coach Karin Torneklikt added that the SAA committee's decision meant that the Ethiopian-born 26-year-old would not be nominated for Sweden's Olympic squad. Aregawi's doping suspension was lifted after the Swedish Sports Confederation said it had not been proven that she had taken meldonium after it was added to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) list of banned substances on Jan. 1. The former 1500m world champion was suspended by the SAA in February following a positive test for meldonium, from a sample taken in Addis Ababa on Jan. 12 this year.— Reuters



FINLAND SET TO RETURN TO MOTOGP CALENDAR

BONN: Finland is set to host a MotoGP round in 2018, the country's first appearance on the calendar since 1982, while Germany has agreed a contract extension until at least 2021, promoters Dorna said yesterday. Dorna said in a statement that agreement had been reached for Finland's KymiRing, a circuit under construction at Tillola near the city of Kouvola, to be approved in time for the 2018 season. Finland hosted motorcycle grands prix in Tampere and Imatra between 1962 and 1982. The late Jarno Saarinen, who died at Monza in Italy in 1973, is the only Finn to have won a motorcycle grand prix world championship, in 250cc in 1972. Dorna also announced, in a statement issued at the German Grand Prix at Sachsenring, a new five-year deal for Germany to remain on the calendar. "We and the ADAC (German Automobile Club) will be making a joint announcement in the next few weeks concerning the venue for the German MotoGP round," said Dorna chief executive Carmelo Ezpeleta. ADAC sports president Hermann Tomczyk said negotiations were ongoing for the Sachsenring to remain the venue.—Reuters

AUSTRALIA'S GERRANS, HEWITT OUT OF RIO

SYDNEY: Australia's Olympic hopes were dented yesterday as road cyclist Simon Gerrans withdrew from the Rio Games with an injury and Lleyton Hewitt was set to pull out as tennis coach. Gerrans, 36, was due to ride in his third Games, but was forced to quit the Tour de France on Thursday after breaking his collarbone in a crash. He later underwent surgery in Spain. "With my current injury my (Olympics) preparation would be seriously jeopardised, and so too my performance at the Games," Gerrans wrote in a letter to team officials. "For Australia to have the best chance to achieve the best result possible, I feel I should be replaced by one of the riders in the squad." Cycling Australia will select a replacement rider later this week, the Australian Olympic Committee (AOC) said. Also representing Australia's men road cycling team are London Games' track silver medalist Rohan Dennis and Richie Porte, a regular Grand Tour contender. A fourth rider has yet to be named. Meanwhile, Tennis Australia informed the AOC they would be applying to Olympic chiefs to replace coach and former world number one Hewitt with Mark Draper at the Games.—AFP



KUWAIT TAKES UNASSAILABLE LEAD OVER MALAYSIA IN DAVIS CUP

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait has taken a commanding lead and guaranteed its win over Malaysia, when doubles players Mohammad Al-Ghareeb and Abdallah Maqdis defeated Malaysia's Mohammad Marzouqi and Sayed Mohammad Najeeb in a marathon match that lasted 4.5 hours. The match did not start well for the Kuwaiti players who lost the first set with a score of 6/7 in a tie break, and then they won the second set 6/3, only for the Malaysian team to win the third set 3/6. The Kuwaiti players, who were under pressure, were able to win the fourth set 6/4 and the fifth set also ended 6/4, leaving the Malaysians in total shock. Kuwait had won its first two matches

and led by 2/0 before this important match. President of Kuwait and Arab Tennis Federations Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah congratulated Kuwait national team on their win in Kuwait and under the Kuwait flag. He said Kuwaiti players proved they deserve the win, so Kuwait is the only Arab country in the region the plays in the second group of Asia and Oceania within the Davis Cup tournament, and he wished Kuwaiti players more success in the future. Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah thanked the Public Authority for Sport headed by Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, and lauded the speed in which maintenance job was done on the main court of

Yarmouk Sports Club. He said PAS was able to prepare the court in record time and contributed to reflecting a good image of Kuwait. The matches were attended by deputy chairman of Kuwait Tennis Federation Abdelsamad Al-Aryan, Treasurer, Director of the event Faleh Al-Otaibi, Assistant Treasurer Ahmad Al-Qallaf, board member Ali Saleem Al-Daihani, Technical Director Abbas Al-Busairi. Meanwhile, Kuwait tennis player Mohammad Al-Ghareeb was honored in appreciation of his continued representation of his county in Davis Cup for 20 years. Al-Ghareeb played 65 individual and double matches winning most of them. Mohammad Al-Ghareeb is the first

Kuwaiti, Gulf and Arab player to receive this honor by the International Tennis Federation (ITF). In fact he is one of the few players in the world to receive this distinguished achievement. The ITF Award was presented by its representative, the general referee in this event Khalid Al-Serjani accompanied by Kuwait Tennis Federation Vice-president Abdelsamad Habeeb Al-Aryan. Mohammad Al-Ghareeb dedicated this win to HH the Amir, HH the Crown Prince and HH the Prime Minister. He also dedicated it to PAS head, and its Director General Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Sabah, and Kuwait Tennis Federation and its President Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah. He said this honoring is for Kuwait sports in general and tennis in particular.



SAN ANTONIO: Michael Phelps trains during the 2016 US Olympic Swimming Team Training Camp Media Day on Saturday in San Antonio, Texas. — AFP

STORM TAKE OVER TOP SPOT IN NRL

BRISBANE: The Melbourne Storm moved to the top of the Australian National Rugby League when they narrowly beat last-placed Newcastle Knights in Newcastle yesterday. The 20-16 win was enough to move the Storm ahead of the Cronulla Sharks on points for and against. The Sharks didn't play this weekend because of a split round due to the final State of Origin match played last Wednesday. The Storm had Queensland Origin stars Cooper Cronk and Cameron Smith backing up, while they also welcomed Cameron Munster and Will Chambers back from injury. But a lack of possession and some ill-discipline hampered the Storm and the Knights were unlucky not to end an 11-game losing streak. Storm's Fijian winger Marika Koroibete scored two tries as Melbourne eased home against the lowly Knights. Penrith ended Parramatta's slim finals hopes when they beat the Eels 22-18 in Penrith. The Eels were firmly in finals contention until they were docked 12 competition points for salary cap breaches. They needed to win every remaining game if they wanted to reach the playoffs but were unable to overcome the Panthers, who climb to ninth, one place out of the finals. Glamour club the Brisbane Broncos returned to form when they beat a woeful South Sydney 30-10 on Saturday night. Having struggled through the State of Origin period, Brisbane roared back to form on the back of a dominant backline performance as they scored five tries to two against the Rabbitohs. Fellow Queensland outfit the Gold Coast moved back into the top eight when they stunned St George Illawarra 32-12, while the Manly Sea Eagles upset the New Zealand Warriors 15-14. —AFP

HURRICANES EYE REDEMPTION AFTER EMERGING IN TOP SPOT

WELLINGTON: The Wellington Hurricanes chose a good time to play their best game of the season, their stunning win over the Canterbury Crusaders leaving them well placed for another shot at the Super Rugby title after the heart-breaking final loss last year. The record 35-10 victory at the Crusaders' Christchurch fortress not only set up a highly winnable quarter-final against Durban's eighth-ranked Sharks but deservedly secured home advantage all the way to the championship decider. The Hurricanes are now in pole position to right the

wrong of 2015, when they marched into the playoffs as the dominant team of the season but were upset in a home final by an inspired Otago Highlanders side. Ironically, the defending champions have played a decisive role in delivering the Hurricanes their redemption shot, by preventing the Waikato Chiefs from swiping back top spot in the New Zealand conference. The Highlanders' 25-15 win in a Dunedin thriller instead condemned the Chiefs to a taxing road-trip to Cape Town to meet the Stormers, while giving themselves a gentler path to

Canberra where few expect the misfiring ACT Brumbies to win. New Zealand has decried Super Rugby's controversial conference system as unfair, given it has rewarded the Brumbies and Stormers with home quarter-finals at the expense of the Highlanders, Chiefs and Crusaders, who all have superior winning records. Yet the system is still likely to deliver a New Zealand champion and the high possibility of all four Kiwi sides playing off in the semi-finals. Australian media, meanwhile, have lamented the nation's failure to qualify more than one team in the playoffs

while hard questions will also be asked in South Africa on Sunday. Lions' coach Johann Ackermann's gamble to leave 15 first-choice players at home to rest for the playoffs backfired with his side's 34-22 loss to the Jaguares in Buenos Aires. The Johannesburg team needed only a bonus point in a defeat by seven points or less to clinch top spot but now need the Hurricanes to trip up to host the final. The sprawling reach of the competition meant the Hurricanes boarded their plane back to Wellington on Sunday still awaiting the Lions result and confirmation of their quarter-

finals opponents. "We probably broke aeroplane protocol because some of us were watching the game on their phones until three minutes to go and we lost reception and at that stage they (Jaguares) were up by 12 points," Hurricanes coach Chris Boyd told local media after touching down. "That puts the icing on the cake for a pretty good weekend for the club." The Lions have their hands full just getting to the semi-finals, as they host an angry Crusaders team who tend to travel well and beat them at home 43-37 during the regular season. — Reuters

ASTROS SIGN CUBAN FREE AGENT INFIELDER GURRIEL

HOUSTON: The Houston Astros have signed highly touted Cuban free agent infielder Yulieski Gurriel to a multi-year deal and introduced him at a news conference on Saturday.

The Astros, second to inter-state rivals the Texas Rangers in the American League West, agreed to terms on a five-year contract worth \$47.5 million with

Gurriel on Friday, the Houston Chronicle reported. "I'm very content," Gurriel, 32, said through a translator. "I've waited a long time for this day." An Olympian in 2004, Gurriel played 15 professional seasons in Cuba, where he batted .335 and totaled 250 home runs and just over 1,000 RBIs. Gurriel, who defected from Cuba after the Caribbean Series in

February with his brother, 22-year-old Lourdes Gurriel Jr., a top outfield prospect, has been training in Miami. In addition to the Astros, he also had private workouts for the Dodgers, Giants, Mets, Padres and Yankees. Gurriel is headed to the minor leagues to tune up his swing before joining the Astros for their pennant run. Houston general

manager Jeff Luhnow said he was not sure how quickly Gurriel would be ready considering he also had to clear government red tape in getting a worker's visa. "But I will tell you something that I was impressed with when I went to Miami to work out Yulieski a few weeks ago .. he's in great baseball shape."

Gurriel also represented Cuba in all

three World Baseball Classic tournaments and was part of Cuban championship teams at the Pan American Games, Central American Games, World Baseball Championships, International Cup and Caribbean Series. The veteran infielder is accustomed to playing second base and third base but may also work out in the outfield for the Astros. —Reuters

MLB results/standings

Chicago Cubs 3, Texas 1; Boston 5, NY Yankees 2; Oakland 5, Toronto 4; Seattle 1, Houston 0; Baltimore 2, Tampa Bay 1; Philadelphia 4, NY Mets 2; Washington 6, Pittsburgh 0; Kansas City 8, Detroit 4; Minnesota 5, Cleveland 4 (11 innings); Colorado 4, Atlanta 3; Milwaukee 9, Cincinnati 1; St. Louis 5, Miami 0; Arizona 2, LA Dodgers 1 (12 innings); San Diego 7, San Francisco 6 (10 innings); LA Angels 1, Chicago White Sox 0.

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	53	36	.596	-
Boston	51	38	.573	2
Toronto	51	42	.548	4
NY Yankees	44	46	.489	9.5
Tampa Bay	34	56	.378	19.5

Central Division

Cleveland	53	37	.589	-
Detroit	47	44	.516	6.5
Kansas City	46	44	.511	7
Chicago White Sox	45	45	.500	8
Minnesota	33	57	.367	20

Western Division

Texas	54	38	.587	-
Houston	49	42	.538	4.5
Seattle	46	45	.505	7.5
Oakland	40	51	.440	13.5
LA Angels	39	52	.429	14.5

National League

Eastern Division

Washington	56	36	.609	-
NY Mets	48	42	.533	7
Miami	48	42	.533	7
Philadelphia	43	49	.467	13
Atlanta	31	60	.341	24.5

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	55	35	.611	-
St. Louis	47	43	.522	8
Pittsburgh	46	45	.505	9.5
Milwaukee	39	50	.438	15.5
Cincinnati	33	58	.363	22.5

Western Division

San Francisco	57	35	.620	-
LA Dodgers	52	41	.559	5.5
Colorado	42	48	.467	14
San Diego	40	51	.440	16.5
Arizona	39	53	.424	18



ANAHEIM: Melky Cabrera #53 of the Chicago White Sox singles as Jett Bandy #47 of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim looks on during the seventh inning of a baseball game at Angel Stadium of Anaheim on Saturday in Anaheim, California. — AFP

SHOEMAKER THROWS 6-HITTER, OUTDUELS SHIELDS IN ANGELS' WIN

ANAHEIM: Matt Shoemaker pitched a six-hitter and struck out a career-high 13 in his first complete game in the majors, and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Chicago White Sox 1-0 on Saturday night. James Shields threw a two-hitter but was pitched by Shoemaker, who walked none. Shoemaker (5-9) has allowed only four earned runs in his last five home starts. Adam Eaton doubled to lead off the ninth and Melky Cabrera singled with one out to put runners on the corners, but Shoemaker struck out Todd Frazier and Justin Morneau to end the game. Shields (4-11) allowed a leadoff triple to Yunel Escobar in the first inning but wouldn't allow another hit until the eighth. He walked two, struck out two and threw just 91 pitches.

CUBS 3, RANGERS 1

Anthony Rizzo's two-run double helped spoil Yu Darvish's return to the Rangers as Chicago beat Texas. In his first start since June 8 because of shoulder pain, Darvish (2-1) reached 98 mph and struck out nine while giving up two runs and two hits in 4 1/3 innings. The Japanese right-hander also walked four and was victimized by some shoddy defense.

Jason Hammel (8-5) struck out seven in six innings for the Cubs, who won their second straight in the interleague matchup of division leaders. Hector Rondon pitched a perfect ninth to complete the three-hitter for his 15th save. Darvish, a three-time All-Star, was making his fourth start since missing all of 2015 following Tommy John surgery. He was lifted after 90 pitches when second baseman Rougned Odor dropped what could have been an inning-ending double play.

ORIOLES 2, RAYS 1

Chris Tillman became the American League's second 13-game winner as J.J. Hardy's two-run homer to lead Baltimore past Tampa Bay. Tillman (13-2) gave up one run and four hits, walked three and struck out three in seven innings. Only Chris Sale of the Chicago White Sox has more wins (14) among AL pitchers. Brad Brach threw a perfect eighth and Zach Britton struck out two in the ninth for his 29th save, sealing the fourth straight win for the Orioles, who maintained a two-game lead over the Boston Red Sox in the AL East. Hardy's fourth home run of the season came off Matt Moore (5-7) after Matt Wieters' two-out double in the second.

CARDINALS 5, MARLINS 0

Adam Wainwright threw a three-hit shutout to keep rolling in July, and St. Louis snapped Miami's four-game winning streak. Jhonny Peralta homered and Stephen Piscotty had two hits, a walk and two RBIs. Wainwright (9-5) struck out five with two walks and didn't allow a hit until Adeiny Hechavarría doubled to open the sixth. The team's longtime ace received a standing ovation in the eighth before striking out for the fourth straight time, then retired the 2-3-4 hitters in order to end it. The 6-foot-7 right-hander is 3-0 in three starts this month, allowing one run in 22 innings. The shutout was the 10th of his career and first since Sept. 17, 2014, against the Brewers. Tom Koehler (6-8) lasted four innings for Miami, allowing four runs and seven hits.

MARINERS 1, ASTROS 0

Hisashi Iwakuma limited Houston to two

hits in seven innings, Robinson Cano provided the only scoring with a RBI single in the sixth and the Seattle Mariners beat the Astros. Iwakuma (10-6) won his fourth straight start to become the first Seattle pitcher to reach double digit wins. He struck out eight and walked one. In the sixth, Leonys Martin led off with a triple - his second extra-base hit of the game - and Cano followed with the single to left. Houston starter Lance McCullers (4-4) was strong through the first five innings, allowing two hits and striking out five before giving up the run in the sixth. He struck out eight and walked four in 5 1/3 innings. Steve Cishek pitched the ninth for his 22th save of the season.

RED SOX 5, YANKEES 2

Sandy Leon homered and drove in four runs, Eduardo Rodriguez again dominated the Yankees in his return from Triple-A and Boston won its season-high sixth straight. Leon hit his second homer this season and the third of his career in the sixth inning - a three-run shot off CC Sabathia for a 5-1 lead. The Venezuelan has 13 RBIs in 20 games this season after getting eight in 75 games for his career prior to that. Leon also helped Rodriguez (2-3), his Venezuelan countryman, hold New York to a run on four hits over seven innings after the Red Sox recalled the left-hander Friday. Rodriguez improved to 4-1 with a 2.01 ERA career against Boston's archrival. Koji Uehara closed for his sixth save. Sabathia (5-7) allowed five runs, four earned, in 5 1/3 innings, giving up five or more runs for the fifth straight start.

PADRES 7, GIANTS 6, 10 INNINGS

Adam Rosales singled in the tying run before Santiago Casilla balked home the winning run, and San Diego rallied to beat San Francisco. The Padres started the decisive rally when Alex Dickerson and Derek Norris singled to open the 10th against Casilla (1-3). Norris stole second before Rosales bounced a single past shortstop Brandon Crawford to tie the score. With Alexei Ramirez at the plate, Casilla stumbled during his delivery and a balk was called, bringing in Norris with the winning run.

Kevin Quackenbush (6-3) won despite giving up Buster Posey's go-ahead, opposite-field homer leading off the 10th, the Giants' fourth home run of the night.

DIAMONDBACKS 2, DODGERS 1, 12 INNINGS

Jake Lamb drove in the tying run with an RBI double in the ninth inning, and then scored the winner on Brandon Drury's single in the bottom of the 12th to snap Arizona's five-game losing streak. Lamb opened the 12th inning with a triple into the right-field corner. After two intentional walks loaded the bases, Drury laced a single through the drawn-in infield off Casey Fien (1-1). The Dodgers had the bases loaded with two outs in the top of the 12th, but Randall Delgado (2-1) retired Yasiel Puig on a groundout to end the threat. The Dodgers stranded 15 runners on base.

TWINNS 5, INDIANS 4, 11 INNINGS

Joe Mauer raced home with the winning run when Max Kepler's comebacker ricocheted off pitcher Joe Colon's glove in the 11th inning to give Minnesota a rain-delayed win. Colon (0-1) reached behind his back to try to glove the bouncer and knocked it down. His throw

home beat Mauer, but catcher Yan Gomes couldn't handle it and was charged with an error on the play. Brian Dozier drove in two runs for the Twins, and Trevor May (1-2) pitched the 11th to earn the win. Carlos Santana had three hits to extend his hitting streak to a career-high 13 games and drove in two runs for the Indians. The game was delayed by rain in the top of the 11th for 2 hours, 5 minutes.

ATHLETICS 5, BLUE JAYS 4

Khris Davis homered twice, Ryon Healy hit his first career home run, and Sonny Gray snapped a 12-game winless streak as Oakland beat Toronto. Davis was 2 for 4 in his ninth career multi-homer game, three of which came this season. The A's have homered six times in two games, three of them by Davis. Gray (4-8) ended a career-worst seven game skid. He was 0-7 with a 6.16 ERA over his previous 12 starts. He allowed three runs on six hits and four walks in six innings. The 24-year-old Healy, playing in his second game since being called up from Triple-A Sacramento for the first time on Friday, crushed a 66 mph pitch off R.A. Dickey (7-10) for his first major league hit. Dickey allowed five runs on five hits, including three homers, and three walks in six innings.

ROCKIES 4, BRAVES 3

Trevor Story led off the ninth inning with a single, advanced to third on two wild pitches and scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error as Colorado beat bumbling Atlanta. Braves starting pitcher Mike Foltynewicz began the eighth up 3-0, but let the first three batters reach and was chased by Nick Hundley's RBI single. Hunter Cervenka's wild pitch scored Mark Reynolds, and second baseman Gordon Beckham's throwing error scored Hundley for a 3-all tie. In the ninth, closer Jim Johnson (1-5) gave up a leadoff single to Story and threw wild pitches to two batters. Story scored when shortstop Erick Aybar bounced a throw on Reynolds' fielder's choice to A.J. Pierzynski, and ball bounced off the catcher's glove. Boone Logan (1-0) gave up one hit and one walk in the eighth. Carlos Estevez retired the side in order in the ninth to earn his fifth save in eight chances.

BREWERS 9, REDS 1

Jonathan Lucroy's two-run homer started Milwaukee's big third inning, and the Brewers rolled past Cincinnati. The bottom two teams in the NL Central have split the first two games of their series. Lucroy connected off left-hander John Lamb (1-7) as he continued taking advantage of the last-place Reds. The All-Star catcher is 14 for 31 (.452) against Cincinnati this season, with five of his 12 homers and 15 RBIs. Lamb and reliever Keyvius Sampson needed 53 pitches to get through the third as the Brewers sent 11 batters to the plate and piled up five hits, three walks and five runs for a 9-0 lead. Hernan Perez also hit a two-run homer off Lamb, who gave up nine runs and nine hits. Jimmy Nelson (6-7), who had a two-run single in the spurt, gave up six hits and a pair of walks in seven shutout innings.

ROYALS 8, TIGERS 4

Salvador Perez singled, doubled, scored a run and drew two of Kansas City's seven walks as the Royals eased past Detroit. Kansas City

scored four runs in the first inning off Mike Pelfrey, who didn't make it out of the second. Every hitter in the Royals' lineup scored exactly once except right fielder Paulo Orlando. Danny Duffy (5-1) allowed four runs and six hits in 6 1/3 innings for Kansas City. He struck out seven and walked one. Ian Kinsler homered for Detroit, but the Tigers were facing a significant deficit before they even came up to bat for the first time. Pelfrey (2-9) allowed five runs, four hits and four walks in 2 2/3 innings. Royals closer Wade Davis pitched a perfect ninth in a non-save situation. He'd been out since June 30 with a right forearm strain.

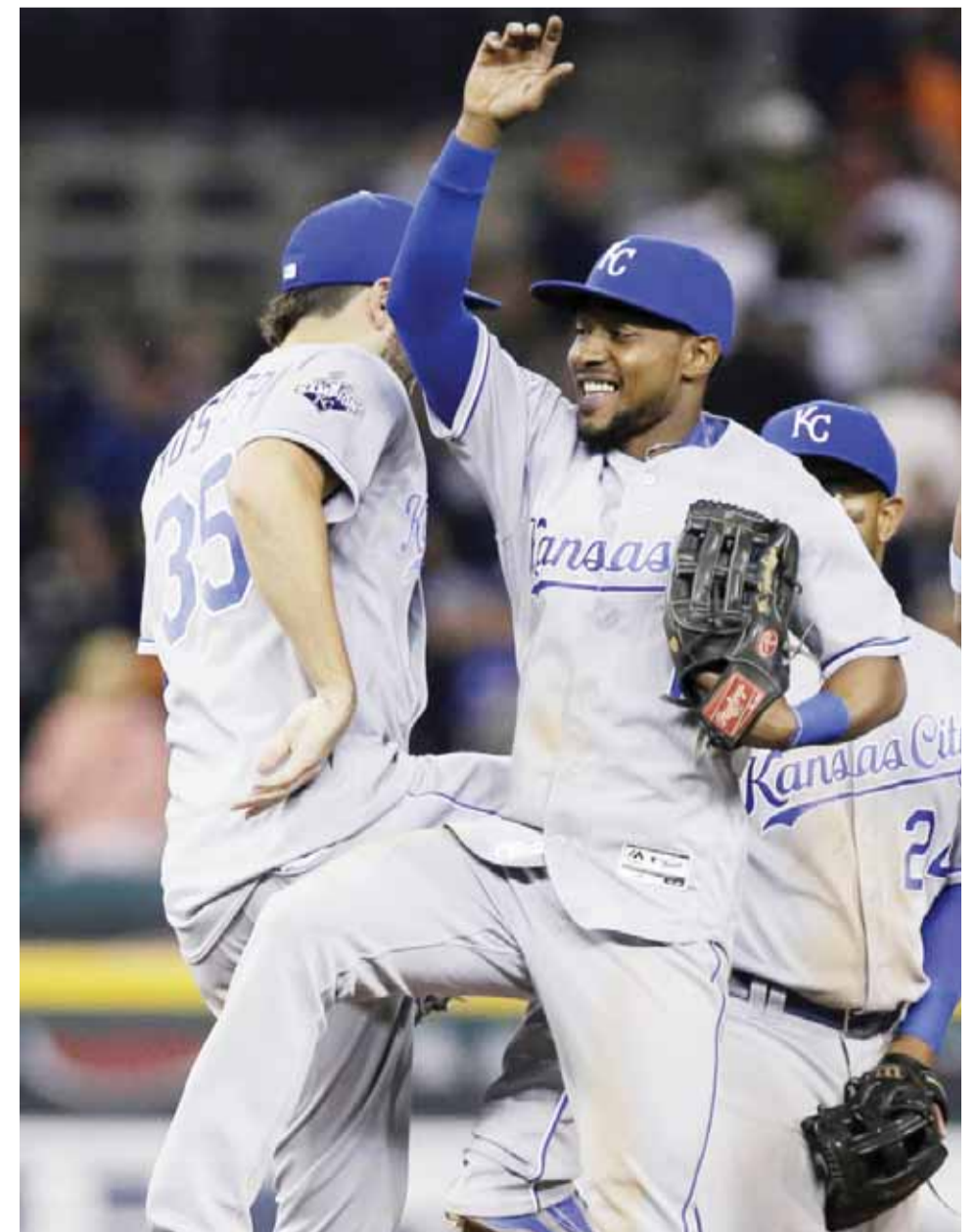
PHILLIES 4, METS 2

Ryan Howard homered and Maikel Franco singled home the tiebreaking run in the seventh inning to lead Philadelphia. Carlos Ruiz doubled and had two hits for the fourth-place Phillies, who have won 11 of 15. Jose Reyes and Travis d'Arnaud drove in runs for the Mets, who have dropped four of five since All-Star slugger Yoenis Cespedes was injured. Philadelphia capitalized on Cabrera's throwing

error at shortstop in the bottom of the seventh. Cabrera threw wide of first baseman James Loney, allowing speedy Peter Bourjos to reach with one out. Bourjos went to second on Asche's walk against Jerry Blevins (3-1) and scored on Franco's single to left. Edubray Ramos (1-0) worked a hitless inning for his first major league win. Jeanmar Gomez pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his 25th save in 27 chances.

NATIONALS 6, PIRATES 0

Tanner Roark pitched eight-plus innings of five-hit ball and had an RBI single during a three-run fourth as Washington won its fifth straight. Roark (9-5) allowed five singles with one walk and five strikeouts in his longest start of the season. He started the ninth but left after allowing a single and hitting a batter before the sellout crowd. Anthony Rendon homered and drove in two runs. Second baseman Stephen Drew had three doubles and one RBI in place of NL batting leader Daniel Murphy. Washington spoiled the return of Gerrit Cole (5-5) from the 15-day disabled list. The 2015 All-Star allowed five runs - four earned - and seven hits over four innings. — AP



DETROIT: Jarrod Dyson #1 of the Kansas City Royals celebrates with Eric Hosmer #35 of the Kansas City Royals after an 8-4 win over the Detroit Tigers at Comerica Park on Saturday in Detroit, Michigan. — AFP

HENAO AIMING TO DENY FRIEND QUINTANA TOUR GLORY

MONTPELLIER: When Sergio Henao arrived in Europe to pursue his professional cycling career, he shared a house with Nairo Quintana.

Now, the Colombian is helping his compatriot's main rival Chris Froome in the Briton's quest for a third Tour de France title. Henao was 24, with Quintana just 22, when the pair embarked in Pamplona, in the Basque Country, to start riding the European circuit. Quintana had joined Movistar, while Henao signed for Froome's Sky. "When we both arrived in Europe in 2012 we had the opportunity to live in Pamplona in the same house," Henao told AFP.

"We lived for two years—training together, riding the same races—in the

same place." Even back then, Henao noticed that Quintana had something special. "Already then you could see he was a very ambitious youngster with a lot of desire to be different and not just a normal Colombian rider in Europe," said Henao of his friend.

"He wanted to take chances—look where he is now, one of the best riders in the world." Despite his talent Henao admitted he wasn't sure Quintana would be able one day to fight for the sport's biggest prize—the Tour de France.

"You could see he had potential and already he demonstrated that," said Henao. "But even arriving in Europe and having such early success, gaining the confidence of a team like Movistar, I

don't know. "The truth is, the super-talented riders coming from his region of Boyaca, you get one like him only every 50 years."

TASTE OF HOME

Another Colombian, Rigoberto Uran, also came to stay in the apartment. He was already riding with Sky alongside Henao but would leave that team in 2013 in a bid to become a team leader rather than a domestique—riding for the benefit of the team—for the likes of Bradley Wiggins.

The apartment gave the riders a little taste of home. "Sometimes we would cook Colombian: frijolones (beans), arepa paisa (a type of bread), caldo boyacense

(broth from Quintana's region)... things like that," added Henao.

Even though Quintana was riding for a rival team to his two flat-mates, the three Colombians became very close. "We were like a family. We're like brothers. Everything went well in the house," said Quintana. "And in the races, we did what our teams told us. That's our job. "We separated work and friendship. In the house everything was great, like a family." With Quintana and Froome going head-to-head in Henao's first Tour participation, one might think that friendship would be put to the test.

But Henao insists it is as strong as ever. "He has his job and I have mine. He has the ambition of winning the Tour

and obviously he's been very close," added Henao of Quintana, twice runner-up to Froome at this race in 2013 and 2015. "All Colombians are dreaming of this (Quintana winning the Tour). You could say that my objective here is to prevent him from winning so Froome can do so, but each of us is doing his job very well." Whoever wins the Tour, Henao and Quintana will remain close friends. And next month they will even have the opportunity to ride together, on the same team, for their country at the Olympics in Rio.

The road race at the Games is hilly and with strong climbers like Quintana, Henao and Uran, Colombia will be among the favourites.—AFP

KEY RUSSIA FINDINGS COULD CAST SHADOW OVER RIO

PARIS: The Olympic movement faces division in a critical week ahead of the Rio Games with a report today to set out whether Russia manipulated doping samples, followed quickly by a sports tribunal verdict on 68 Russian athletes demanding to compete in Rio.

A World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) decision on whether to let the Rio doping laboratory reopen could also hamper International Olympic Committee preparations. "It's an incredibly important week that could crack the unity built up on doping," an international sports federation president who is also a senior IOC member told AFP. A report by Canadian lawyer Richard McLaren has caused divisions before it is even released in Toronto on Monday with the United States and Canada leading calls for a potential complete ban on Russia from the Rio Games which start on August 5. McLaren has carried out an independent investigation for WADA of allegations made by former Moscow doping laboratory director Grigory Rodchenkov that even Russian secret services took part in an operation to manipulate Russian doping samples at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

The Canadian investigator said in June that the early results of his work had found "credible and verifiable" evidence to back the allegations made to the New York Times by Rodchenkov who is now in hiding in the United States. He is wanted by the Russian authorities who have strongly denied any state role in doping.

CORRUPTION AND SUBVERSION

Paul Melia, president of the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, which carries out anti-doping efforts in Canada, said countries must be ready to ban Russia completely from Rio if the McLaren report confirms the Rodchenkov allegations.

Melia said in a blog that the report "could paint an unprecedented picture of state-supported corruption and subversion of the anti-doping system" in Russia.

"If Monday's report confirms the Rodchenkov allegations, then the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will

have no choice but to ban all Russian athletes from this summer's Olympic Summer Games in Rio," Melia wrote. "And it must be the same consequence for the Russian contingent at the Paralympics in September."

European Olympic Committees president Patrick Hickey said he was "shocked", however, by US and Canadian efforts to press for a ban before the McLaren report is even released.

Hickey said Beckie Scott, the Canadian chairman of the WADA athletes commission and an IOC member, had sent out an email appeal to back a letter from the US and Canadian anti-doping agencies to IOC president Thomas Bach.

"This letter calls upon the IOC to investigate a wholesale ban of the Russian Olympic Committee team in Rio 2016," according to Hickey.

'Interference'

"My concern is that there seems to have been an attempt to agree an outcome before any evidence has been presented," Hickey said.

"Such interference and calls ahead of the McLaren Report publication are totally against internationally recognised fair legal process and may have completely undermined the integrity and therefore the credibility of this important report.

"It is clear from the email and letter that both the independence and the confidentiality of the report have been compromised," he said. "Any proposal for a blanket Russian ban would cause a major split within the IOC," the international federation president commented to AFP on condition of anonymity.

Despite Hickey's comments, some European countries are known to support a ban. IOC president Thomas Bach only said last week that the Olympic movement would wait for the report before making a decision. Russia is already barred from international athletics by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF). But the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) could rule as early as Tuesday on an appeal by 68 Russian athletes who say they should be allowed to compete in Rio.—AFP



CULOUZ: (From L) Belgium's Thomas De Gendt, wearing the best climber's polka dot jersey, Slovakia's Peter Sagan, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, and Great Britain's Christopher Froome (R), wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, wait for the start of the 160 km fifteenth stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Bourg-en-Bresse and Culouz. — AFP

FROOME EXPECTING QUINTANA ATTACK ON GRAND COLOMBIER

BOURG-EN-BRESSE: Chris Froome will be on his guard for attacks from his rivals as the Tour de France returns to the mountains with two ascents of the Grand Colombier.

The mountain, whose peak offers stunning views of the Alps, will actually be climbed one and a half times, firstly up its usual route and then up the 'laces'.

The second ascent, which will peak at just under 900-metres before the descent to the finish at Culouz, is breathtakingly beautiful with a series of switchbacks known in France as 'laces'.

The 15th stage is relatively short at just 160km but there is barely a single metre of flat road, meaning it will be one of the toughest days yet on the Tour.

There are six categorised climbs and numerous uncategorised ones, but the toughest test will come at the end with the hors category ascent to the Grand Colombier summit at

1,500m, followed by a fast descent before the first category climb of the same mountain's laces. Although not offering an uphill finish, there will be a chance for time to be gained.

With a week to go before the race finale in Paris, Froome thinks this is where Quintana, currently fourth at 2min 59sec, will start to push for Tour glory.

"I have a little bit of breathing space now in the overall standings but it's a long way to go to Paris," the defending champion said "We've got all the stages in the Alps—they're very hard this year. "Quintana said he'll attack in the last week—I'm waiting for it." Despite clearly fearing the Colombian the most, Froome insisted his biggest challenge would come from Dutchman Bauke Mollema, who is second in the standings at 1:47.

"He's ridden extremely well," said Briton Froome. "He was there on Ventoux when I

attacked with Richie (Porte); he did a very good time-trial; I've got to consider him my biggest rival." Yet Mollema himself seems more interested in fighting for a podium finish and defending his position, rather than attacking Froome.

He may be in second, but the next four riders are within 1:32 of him. "(Sunday) is another very important day; it will be a day of focus to not lose any time," said Mollema.

Porte is a bit further back at 2:40 behind Mollema in eighth place, but the Australian has been happy with his climbing at this Tour and is eager to test his legs again.

The time he's lost so far came from a late puncture on the second stage that cost him 1:45 and a disappointing time-trial on Friday.

"It's nice to get back into the mountains (on Sunday) and we'll just see what happens," said the BMC rider. "It's a very hard stage so we'll see how everyone is after (Saturday)." — AFP



LOUDON: Crew members push the #1 Credit One/CreditCards.com Chevrolet, driven by Jamie McMurray (not pictured), through the garage area prior to the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series New Hampshire 301 at New Hampshire Motor Speedway yesterday in Loudon, New Hampshire. — AFP

KYLE BUSCH WINS XFINITY SERIES RACE

LOUDON: Kyle Busch had an expected result in his unexpected NASCAR start. Busch led all but a handful of laps and simply dominated in his latest Xfinity Series victory Saturday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway.

Busch raced to his sixth Xfinity victory of the season and record-extending 82nd of his career. The 2015 Sprint Cup champion also won the last race at Kentucky Speedway and his six wins have come in just 10 races.

Busch has 164 career wins across all three of NASCAR's national series, and is 36 wins shy of matching Richard Petty's total of 200. Petty, of course, won all 200 in the Cup series to go with seven championships and a spot in the Hall of Fame.

Busch topped the 17,000 laps-lead mark in his career and was never seriously challenged, pulling away off every restart and he eventually took his traditional victory bow. "I guess they're big numbers," Busch said. "Running in this series is something fun for me to do, cool for me to do and it also helps me out and gets me a little more experience."

Busch was not scheduled to drive this season at New Hampshire in the No. 18 Toyota. But he was pulled into duty when Joe Gibbs Racing developmental driver

Matt Tifft was forced out following surgery last month to have a tumor removed.

"He's going through some rehab right now, so can't wait to see him come back," Busch said. Erik Jones was second, followed by Brad Keselowski, Daniel Suarez and Austin Dillon. Jones, who clinched a spot in Xfinity's version of the Chase, said he bought a car with the \$100,000 earned in the series' "Dash 4 Cash" promotion for winning at Dover.

"I bought a car, but I can't talk about it," he said. Alex Bowman finished eighth, a day before he subs for Dale Earnhardt Jr. in the Cup race. Earnhardt will sit out because he suffers from symptoms of a concussion.

"Dale's probably sitting at home super bored, watching TV," Bowman said.

Hey, he wasn't the only one bored watching Busch rout the field and lead 190 of 200 laps. Busch continued to roll at New Hampshire, a track that served as one of his turning points last season. He crashed into a concrete wall the day before the Daytona 500 and broke his right leg and left foot. Busch rebounded from his injuries to win his first career Sprint Cup championship. But he had missed the first 11 races and was left needing a midsummer hot streak to even think about racing his way into the Chase.—AP

MARQUEZ PULLS CLEAR AFTER POWERING TO WIN

SACHSENING: Spain's Marc Marquez stretched his lead at the top of the MotoGP championship after the Honda rider roared back from a slow start off pole position to win the German Grand Prix yesterday. Second in testing conditions at the Sachsenring circuit, which was pounded with rain for much of the day, was Britain's Cal Crutchlow and third Andrea Dovizioso of Italy.

It was a miserable day though for Marquez's championship rivals with Jorge Lorenzo, the reigning champ, finishing down in a lowly 15th for just a single point and Valentino Rossi eighth.

Marquez, who celebrated wildly after the race, almost doubled his lead on Lorenzo as he closes in on a third title. He jumped up to 170 points overall, with his fellow Spaniard now lagging in second on 122 points.

Rossi, the Italian legend, is third on 111 points, with half the races in the season now gone. Marquez, for whom this was a seventh victory at Sachsenring, gambled with his tyres and it paid off handsomely in the end.

He was unable to match the pace of the leading riders as the race began in the wet and fell down to fifth and was struggling. He came off the track at Turn 8 but was able just about to stay upright and on lap 17 he entered the pits for slicks—it was a move that would take him to the race win.

With the track drying up, his lap times immediately surged to four seconds faster than those on wet tyres and with just six laps to go Marquez grabbed the lead before pulling away.

Earlier, Johann Zarco also pulled away at the top of the Moto2 championship when the Frenchman surged to victory in soaking conditions, as his nearest rivals crashed out.

The reigning world champion piped fellow Kalex rider and home hope Jonas Folger to the line, with the Spaniard Julian Simon third on the

podium, in the ninth race of the season.

Zarco's thrilling victory—he was just 0.059 seconds ahead of the German—was his fourth win this season and propelled him to 151 championship points. Second in the standings is Spain's Alex Rins, who suffered a heavy crash that ended his race with only three laps to go when riding in

third. He walked away from the smash.

In Moto3, the 17-year-old Malaysian Khairul Idham Pawi took victory at the main expense of Italians Andrea Locatelli and Enea Bastianini.

Pawi is 10th in the Moto3 standings, 105 points behind South African leader Brad Binder, only eighth in Germany. — AFP



HOHENSTEIN-ERNSTHAL: First placed MotoGP driver Marc Marquez, right, from Spain applauds as second placed MotoGP driver Cal Crutchlow, left, from Great Britain lifts a trophy during the award ceremony for the MotoGP race on the Sachsenring in Hohenstein-Ernstthal, Germany, yesterday. — AP

Soccer success helps Portugal plug the gap

LISBON: Portuguese Finance Minister Mario Centeno pinned his colours to the mast, donning a green and red scarf as his countrymen lifted the European Championship trophy. EU colleagues in Brussels congratulated him as he lauded the Selecao's final win over tournament hosts France in Paris.

But the Lisbon government had two reasons to celebrate—not just a maiden win at senior level but also one that will give tourism in the cash-strapped nation a much-needed shot in the arm.

Portugal is currently along with neighbouring Spain lobbying Brussels to spare both Iberian nations, hit amidships by the eurozone debt crisis, swingeing fines for overshooting official budget deficit targets. The European Commission, the EU's executive arm,

must decide on sanctions of up to 0.2 percent of GDP over the next fortnight after Lisbon and Madrid were found not to have taken "effective action" to bring deficits back under the bloc's limit of 3.0 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). In Portugal's case, the fine could top 360 million euros (\$400 million)—a tough ask in a country that racked up a budget deficit of around 8 billion euros last year.

That was 4.4 percent of GDP, down from the near 10 percent of GDP the deficit hit in 2010, the year before Portugal was forced to seek a 78-billion-euro international bailout.

Star player Cristiano Ronaldo—whose overall income Forbes put at \$88 million last season—and his teammates may not be able to turn the economic ship

around on their own.

But Portugal's triumph in Paris netted them not just \$25.5 million in UEFA prize money, but has also bolstered the national economy by boosting tourism, to say nothing of the feel-good factor.

"The Portugal brand has gained in stature, the name of the country has been mentioned countless times. The government could never have afforded such an advertising marketing campaign," Daniel Sa, director of the Portuguese Marketing Institute (IPAM), told AFP.

BOOST BUT NO MIRACLE

IPAM puts the potential boost to the economy on the back of footballing glory at 609 million euros.

Hotels, restaurants, cafes, travel

agents, advertisers, media, betting shops, supermarkets, sports boutiques—all have gained a slice of the action as business boomed.

"People eat, drink, move about—that's consumption which wouldn't have existed without the Euros," said Sa amid celebrations which made the 2011 bailout in order to stave off national bankruptcy seem like ancient history. "This is a turning point in our country's history," said Nuno Brito, a jobless 39-year-old who turned out to cheer the team on their arrival home. Sa cautioned that while the win will bolster investor confidence "it won't by any means resolve the country's problems."

Domingos Amaral, a sports business professor, said "the country is groaning under financial problems—there won't be

any economic miracle thanks to the football". The International Monetary Fund forecasts Portugal's economy will manage just 1.0 percent growth this year.

Economics professor Joao Cesar das Neves warned that after Greece won the Euros at Portugal's expense in 2004 that "Greece then suffered one of the worst financial disasters in history."

But success on the pitch is still good news—and not just for the 23 players who will each pocket a 300,000-euro bonus. Sports shops are doing a roaring trade, not least in 140-euro replica shirts which have sold out. Not everyone is happy, though. "I was ready to pay even more for a Portugal shirt—but they've all gone," said Ali Kabli, a Kuwaiti tourist visiting the Nike Store in the historic Lisbon district of Chiado.—AFP

Henin, Safin ushered into Hall of Fame

NEWPORT: Justine Henin, a shy, petite Belgian with a fierce desire to win, and big-serving Russian Marat Safin were honored as the new inductees into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island on Saturday. Seven-times grand slam singles winner Henin and twice grand slam champion Safin were joined in the festivities by France's Amelie Mauresmo, who won election last year but was unable to attend induction ceremonies due to the birth of her son. Henin, 34, the first Belgian elected to the shrine, said standing in the spotlight was difficult for her but very much appreciated as the culmination of a dream that began at age six. "Being the centre of the attention is not always the best for me," she told reporters. "Today is also quite emotional, not only get this honor, but also need to remember how hard was the way, but how beautiful was the way from the little girl of six years old that was not that big."

"Being part of the history of the game, it's much more than I could expect for as a little girl. I'm really proud, happy," Safin burst to prominence with a stunning straight-sets rout of Pete Sampras in the 2000 US Open final and added the 2005 Australian Open crown over Lleyton Hewitt in addition to helping Russia win two Davis Cup championships. The big Russian, known for taking his frustrations out on his rackets and tennis balls, said he felt like a kid in Disneyland in visiting the Hall of

Fame museum. "This is an amazing place. You feel the power, the energy. You can see what kind of people are living here before. You have a museum, a beautiful place," said Safin, 36, who turned to politics after retiring from tennis, winning election to Russia's parliament, the Duma, in 2011. "We had ups and downs, we cried, we broke the rackets, we shouted some words, we threw the balls out of the court, we insulted the referees, only sometimes," he continued to laughter, bringing back memories of his fiery on-court temperament.

"I'm just so pleased to be part of it. It's a huge honour to be inducted and be part of the history," Mauresmo, an Australian and Wimbledon champion and first French woman to reach world number one, said joining the Hall of Fame community was a thrill. "You feel part of a special family that have achieved special things," she said. "It's such a great honor, privilege." Henin, remembered for her all-round game and devastating one-handed backhand, said her fate was sealed at an early age. "At 10 years old I went to the French Open. It was the final between Steffi (Graf) and Monica (Seles)," recalled Henin. "I said to my mum, 'One day I will be on this court and I will win.'"

"I was getting to my bedroom, I was jumping like I was winning the French Open. For me, it was clear I was going to do that. French Open and number one," she added. "At 21 it became real." — Reuters



TRINEC: Captain Yannick Noah and players Pierre-Hugues Herbert, Nicolas Mahut, Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, Gilles Simon and Lucas Pouille of France, from left to right, celebrate after Tsonga beat Jiri Vesely of Czech Republic during their tennis Davis Cup quarterfinal match in Trinec, Czech Republic, yesterday. — AP

Halep takes Bucharest title in 47 minutes

BUCHAREST: World number five Simona Halep raced to the Bucharest clay court title in just 47 minutes yesterday with a 6-0, 6-0 blitz of Latvia's Anastasija Sevastova. It was a second title of the season for top seed Halep after the 24-year-old also triumphed on clay in Madrid and the 13th of her career. Victory came just two days after Halep pulled out of the Olympics because of fears over the Zika virus.

"I think I've never won 6-0, 6-0 in a WTA event," said Halep. "I knew she was a tough adversary and I never dreamt of winning this way. Today I think I was more solid, I fought for every ball, I was aggressive and I managed to finish the points very quick."

In Switzerland, Viktorija Golubic claimed a home victory at the Gstaad WTA tournament yesterday, the Zurich player fighting back for a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat of third seed Kiki Bertens. The world number 105 won the first title of her career in just over two hours as she overhauled her more experienced Dutch opponent. Golubic denied 26th-ranked Bertens a second title this season after Nurnberg as she claimed a tournament returning to the calendar after a three-decade absence.

Golubic lost the first set but won the second, which was littered with six breaks of serve. The 23-year-old Swiss

went down a break in the first game of the final set but immediately broke back. She concluded victory as she broke Bertens in the tenth game as the Dutch player sent a return out.

Bertens was plagued by six double-faults as an event which had been rained off for three mid-week days finished on schedule in bright sunshine over the Alps.

Bertens was unable to save any of the seven break points she faced as Golubic took command at key moments; the Swiss lost her own serve five times. "It's fantastic to win at home," said Golubic. "Kiki is always so tough to play. I was impressed with her play in Paris (where she beat Gstaad top seed Timea Bacsinszky in the quarter-finals)."

Bertens praised Golubic for an "unbelievable week". "We had a lot of trouble with the weather and scheduling, but she came through for the win. Viktorija played a great match today when it counted." Golubic showed much more skill through her tennis than with a traditional alpenhorn.

The three-metre long mountain wooden musical instrument is used as part of the trophy ceremony in this alpine village.

This was the first women's event staged in Switzerland since the last edition of the Zurich Indoors in 2008. — AFP



GSTAAD: Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic poses with the trophy after her victory 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 against Netherland's Kiki Bertens during the final tennis match at the WTA tennis tournament in Gstaad yesterday. — AFP

Britain, Argentina, France edge closer to Davis Cup semi-finals

PARIS: Defending champions Great Britain, Argentina and France gatecrashed their hosts' Davis Cup parties to edge closer to the semi-finals on Saturday.

Britain, playing without Wimbledon champion and world number two Andy Murray, took a 2-1 lead over 2010 winners Serbia in Belgrade. In the second singles rubber, rescheduled from Friday due to heavy rain, Dusan Lajovic defeated James Ward 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 to pull the hosts, who are missing world number one Novak Djokovic, level. But Jamie Murray and Dominic Inglot then beat Filip Krajinovic and Nenad Zimonjic 6-1, 6-7 (2/7), 6-3, 6-4 in the doubles to move Britain to within one win of the last four.

Krajinovic had replaced Janko Tipsarevic, who was easily defeated by Kyle Edmund 6-3, 6-4, 6-0 in the first singles rubber on Friday. Ward can win the tie in the first reverse singles on Sunday against Tipsarevic, but if the Serb veteran wins then it will come down to a deciding match between 67th-ranked Edmund and Lajovic, the two teams' highest-ranked players.

"Constant pressure is what makes the Davis Cup a great competition and I dealt with it pretty well," said Lajovic, the world number 81. "If I reproduce this kind of performance against Edmund, I think I have a good chance of winning." The winners will face either Argentina or Italy in the semi-finals.

Argentina are currently 2-1 in front in their last-eight tie in Pesaro. Fabio Fognini had pulled Italy level by beating Juan Monaco 6-1, 6-1, 7-5 in a singles held over from Friday because of rain. "I played my worst two sets of the year," admitted Monaco, back in the team after a two and a half year absence.

But Juan Martin Del Potro marked his first Davis Cup tie in four years by teaming with Guido Pella to beat Fognini and Paolo Lorenzi 6-1, 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 3-6, 6-4. France were also enjoying their hosts' hospitality by taking a 2-1 lead over 2012 and 2013 champions the Czech Republic in steel town Trinec. Wimbledon champions Nicolas Mahut and Pierre-Hugues Herbert, ranked first and second in the world, beat Radek Stepanek and Lukas Rosol 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4 in just over three hours. "We have been getting ready for this rubber for a week," said Mahut. "We left nothing to chance, we have been together all the time. We know each other by heart and that helps us." The winners of that tie will face either the 32-time champions United States or Croatia for a place in the final.

CROATIA CLAW ONE BACK

In Portland, Oregon, Croatia fended off elimination as Marin Cilic and Ivan Dodig teamed up to beat the formidable US doubles duo of Bob and Mike Bryan 6-2, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The home side were 2-0 up after Friday's singles. Jack Sock stormed back from two sets down to defeat former US Open champion Cilic 4-6, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 before world number 12 John Isner cruised to a 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 victory over Borna Coric.

The Bryans, owners of 16 Grand Slam doubles titles, were a good bet to finish off the tie, but with Cilic stepping in to partner Dodig in place of Marin Draganja the brothers couldn't get the job done. With Croatia still one match

away from elimination at 2-1, Cilic will try to level the score when he takes on Isner in the first reverse singles on Sunday. Cilic has won five prior encounters against Isner and was aiming to take advantage of the window he and Dodig had opened. "Whatever happened the last two days it's behind us," Cilic said. "It's going to be definitely a tough match against John, especially on this kind of court. I'm hoping I am going to be 100 percent and I can pull out a great match." —AFP

Bopanna steers India to 4-1 win over S Korea

NEW DELHI: Rohan Bopanna yesterday steered India to an emphatic 4-1 victory over South Korea in the Asia/Oceania Davis Cup Group 1 tie after winning his reverse singles match in Chandigarh. India, which had secured a world play-off berth on Saturday by taking a 3-0 lead, led 4-0 after Bopanna's triumph but South Korea managed a consolation win in the final match.

Bopanna, who took court in place of Saketh Myneni, was given a hard time by Hong Chung but prevailed 3-6 6-4 6-4 on the grass court of the Chandigarh Club. South

Korea's Yong-Kyu Lim then spoiled India's hopes of a clean sweep after serving past Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-3 5-7 7-6 in the fifth and final rubber. Earlier the doubles pair of Bopanna and Leander Paes had already sealed the tie on Saturday after the singles players had given India a 2-0 cushion on the opening day.

It was a great tune-up for Bopanna and Paes who have been made to team up for the men's doubles draw in the upcoming Rio Olympics by the Indian tennis association. — AFP



CHANDIGARH: India's Davis Cup team pose with the national flag after winning during the third day of the Davis Cup Asia Oceania group one, round two tie between India and South Korea in Chandigarh yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Marquez pulls clear after powering to win



Britain, Argentina, France edge closer to Davis Cup semi-finals



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KUWAIT TAKES UNASSAILABLE LEAD OVER MALAYSIA IN DAVIS CUP Page 16



BIRMINGHAM: Chris Arreola (L) is taken down by WBC World Heavyweight Champion Deontay Wilder (R) during a title fight at Legacy Arena at the BJCC on Saturday in Birmingham, Alabama. — AFP

WILDER RETAINS WBC HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

BIRMINGHAM: Despite fighting mostly one-armed for half the fight, Deontay Wilder remained in control in the ring before quickly heading to the hospital. Wilder retained his WBC heavyweight title with a technical knockout when Chris Arreola's corner stopped the fight after the eighth round Saturday night at Legacy Arena.

Arreola's left eye appeared swollen shut. An injured Wilder (37-0, 36 knockouts) knocked down Arreola in the fourth and peppered him with left jabs and hooks after landing hard rights early.

Promoter Lou DiBella said Wilder was taken to nearby UAB Hospital after a doctor confirmed he had a broken right hand and a probable distal tear in that biceps. Both injuries happened early in the fight.

Wilder showed reporters his injured biceps as he headed to the locker room and said he was already certain the hand was broken. He threw the right, his biggest weapon, sparingly after the fourth round.

Even hurting, Wilder didn't lose his bravado. Before

leaving the ring, he was talking about wanting to fight the winner of the upcoming Wladimir Klitschko-Tyson Fury fight or Anthony Joshua.

"My goal is to unify the division," said Wilder, who didn't hold a post-fight news conference.

"I'm one of the baddest, hardest-hitting heavyweights in the business. Right here from Alabama, baby. I came a long way. So whoever's got those belts, that's who I want. It don't matter if I got a broke hand, got a torn muscle, I'm going to fight like heavyweight champions do. I don't play boxing. Of course I want the Furys, of course I want the Joshuas but the question is, do they want me?" It was Wilder's fourth title defense and third in Birmingham, about an hour from his hometown of Tuscaloosa. Arreola (36-5-1) took the fight on short notice after Wilder's mandatory defense against Russian Alexander Povetkin was called off in May. Povetkin failed a drug test.

Wilder wobbled Arreola with a right hand then

knocked him down with a barrage late in the fourth. He had Arreola off-balance on the ropes when the round ended. With his right hand mostly out of commission, Wilder appeared to hurt Arreola again with a left in the final seconds of the seventh. Wilder also broke his right hand in winning the title against Bernard Stiverne in January 2015 and had surgery.

He had a wound on his right elbow going into the fight, and it was bleeding by the end in addition to his more serious injuries.

"I wanted to give you guys a knockout, but I broke my hand and I tore a muscle in my right hand," Wilder told the crowd of nearly 12,000. "I couldn't show it, because Chris is a tough, tough man. I had to fight like a champion, like a champion (does) and use my jab all night." Wilder connected on 152 of 346 punches (43.9 percent). Arreola landed only once in the first round and connected on 52 of 188 (27.7 percent).

Wilder had to go looking for another opponent after

his May fight with the WBC mandatory challenger Povetkin in Russia fell through. Povetkin tested positive for the banned substance meldonium.

Wilder has filed suit seeking at least \$5 million in damages after losing to Broad. Shah then had Woakes, who was given a five-year ban for his part in the 2010 spot-fixing scandal at Lord's-Pakistan's last Test at 'the home of cricket'-ended the match when he bowled last man Jake Ball. Victory prompted the whole Pakistan team to perform several press-ups in front of the Lord's Pavilion—a reference to their pre-tour military boot camp. England, set 283 for victory, were all out for 207.

Arreola, who made \$150,000 for the fight, had previously lost title shots to Vitali Klitschko and Stiverne. Wilder claimed Stiverne's title with a unanimous decision in January 2015, which remains his only professional fight to go the distance. Arreola's majority decision over Travis Kauffman in December was ruled a no-contest when he tested positive for marijuana. — AP

INDIA'S SINGH EDGES HOPE TO CLINCH ASIA-PACIFIC TITLE

NEW DELHI: Indian boxing star Vijender Singh was crowned the WBO Asia-Pacific Super Middleweight champion Saturday after edging out Australia's Kerry Hope by a unanimous decision in the country's maiden professional fight in New Delhi.

Singh, who became the first Indian to win a boxing medal by taking home bronze from the 2008 Olympics, kept his undefeated record alive in his seventh bout since turning pro last year.

Hailing from the next-door state of Haryana, the 30-year-old did not disappoint in front of a packed house at Delhi's Thyagaraj stadium which erupted with joy after the tenth and final round. Singh, who has won all his previous fights via knockout or TKO, scored 98-92, 98-92, 100-90 against the former WBC European champion. The 34-year-old Hope, who had a 23-7 record heading into the bout, leaned on his 12 years of professional experience to stay in the fight against the newcomer. But Singh appeared unstoppable.

Singh was looking to land a knockout punch from the opening bell but Hope's aggressive approach kept his tactics in check. Singh relied on right hooks, taking advantage of his six-foot frame and wider reach than his Welsh-born Australian opponent, who stood at 5 feet 10 inches.

"It's not about myself, it's about my nation, my country," Singh said after being crowned winner.

The local hero had a host of top athletes, celebrities and politicians outside the ring to celebrate his maiden pro title.

'SINGH IS KING'

Singh's British trainer Lee Beard lifted the champion up after the final bell to celebrate the victory before the three judges delivered their final decision.

"This comes after a lot of hard work put in by me, my trainer, my team. I thank my coach, my promoter and my team who have done a fantastic job. "I also thank all the fans, the celebrities and sportspersons who have come to watch my bout today," Singh said.

The bout also marked Singh's return to Delhi since winning a medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in the capital.

"I loved the atmosphere... I could hear people chanting my name and 'Singh is king,'" the pugilist told reporters after the fight. "This is a happy homecoming for me."

Singh went on to call Saturday's win a "great achievement" as it took him

into the top-15 of the WBO rankings and will pave his way for a tilt at the world title. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Indian boxer Vijender Singh reacts after winning WBO Asia-Pacific Super Middleweight title against Australia's Kerry Hope in New Delhi, India, Saturday. — AP

YASIR SHAH LEADS PAKISTAN TO LORD'S WIN OVER ENGLAND

LONDON: Yasir Shah marked his first Test outside of Asia and the United Arab Emirates by taking 10 wickets in the match as Pakistan beat England by 75 runs in their series opener at Lord's yesterday.

Leg-spinner Shah took 10 for 141, including a second-innings haul of four for 69 on Sunday's fourth day. His return, which surpassed Waqar Younis's previous Test-match best for Pakistan at Lord's of eight for 154, was central to the tourists going 1-0 up in this four-match series.

Mohammad Amir in his first Test appearance since he was given a five-year ban for his part in the 2010 spot-fixing scandal at Lord's-Pakistan's last Test at 'the home of cricket'-ended the match when he bowled last man Jake Ball. Victory prompted the whole Pakistan team to perform several press-ups in front of the Lord's Pavilion—a reference to their pre-tour military boot camp. England, set 283 for victory, were all out for 207.

They were holding firm at 195 for six thanks to a determined stand of 56 between Jonny Bairstow (48) and Chris Woakes (23). But Bairstow's three-and-a-half hour innings ended when he was bowled trying to whip a Shah leg-break.

England were soon 196 for eight when left-arm quick Amir bowled Stuart Broad. Shah then had Woakes, who took 11 wickets in the match, caught at slip before Amir ended the contest. It was Pakistan's unheralded left-arm quick Rahat Ali who removed England's top three to reduce the hosts to 47 for three. His back-off-a-length ball had England captain Alastair Cook (eight) edging through to wicket-keeper Sarfraz Ahmed.

Cook's opening partner Alex Hales (16) then carelessly chased a wide Rahat ball outside off stump, with Mohammad Hafeez holding a good catch at first slip.

Joe Root struck two superb cover-driven fours off Rahat but the star batsman fell into a hooking trap on nine when he paddled a Rahat short ball to Shah, set back at deep square leg. — AFP



ACE HARDWARE OPENS NEW STORE IN HAWALLY

NBK POSTS KD 150.6M PROFIT FOR 1H 2016

AL SAYER: PROFIT CONFIRM BANK'S STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION

KUWAIT: National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) reported net profit of KD 150.6 million (USD 499.1 million) for the period of 1H 2016 compared to KD 163.4 million (USD 541.5 million) for the same period in 2015. In 2015 net profits included KD 22.5 million (USD 74.7 million) of net gains resulting from the sale of NBK's share in the International Bank of Qatar (IBQ). However, upon excluding last year's exceptional gains, NBK's profits during the 1H 2016 grew by 6.9% compared to the same period last year. NBK's 2Q 2016 net profits reached KD 71.7 million (USD 237.6 million), compared to KD 66.9 million (USD 221.6 million) for the same period in 2015 recording an increase of 7.2% YoY.

As of end of June 2016, NBK's total assets grew by 4.9% on annual basis, to reach KD24.1 billion (USD79.8 billion), while total shareholders' equity increased by 6.8% to KD 2.8 billion (USD 9.4 billion). Total loans and customer advances, as of end of June 2016, have also grown by 7.8% compared to the same period of last year, to reach KD 13.7 billion (USD 45.4 billion) while customers' deposits grew by 4.5% to reach KD 12.6 billion (USD 41.6 billion). Non-performing Loans (NPLs) dropped to 1.40% as of end of June 2016 from 1.55% as of end of June 2015, while coverage ratio increased to 330% compared to 277% last year.

Current challenges

In light of the current challenges imposed by the drop in oil prices and the uncertainty in the global economic outlook, NBK continued to book relatively high provision charges during the 1H 2016, which were mostly precautionary in nature. In this context, NBK's Chairman



Isam Al Sager

Nasser MUSAED Al-Sayer, said: "The continuity of growth in NBK's profits during the 1H 2016 after excluding last year's gains from the sale of IBQ, is yet another evidence and confirmation of the strength and soundness of the Bank's financial position and its prudent operational vision and successful strategy which the Bank has consistently adopted."

Al-Sayer has also shed light on the continuing improvement of the quali-

ty of the Bank's assets in addition to the conservative policies which represent secure buffers against adverse regional developments and their impact on the general economic environment in the different markets that the Bank operates in.

Al-Sayer reiterated that NBK's results in the 1H 2016 reflect the solid growth of the real banking activities, indicating the increase in the net operating income by 4.9% YoY, after excluding last year's gains from the sale of IBQ, to reach KD 362.1 million (USD 1,200 million), which asserts the strong position of the bank in all its markets, capitalizing on emerging opportunities domestically, regionally and globally.

Al-Sayer highlighted that the Kuwaiti Government continued to show determination in proceeding with its development and expansionary plans despite the impact of falling oil prices and the uncertainties of global economic outlook. This confirms the limited impact of lower oil prices on the Kuwaiti economy compared to other economies in the region, which is a result of the huge reserves and the solid financial position that Kuwait possesses.



Nasser MUSAED Al-Sayer

Al-Sayer added that NBK continues to be a key player in financing the Government's ongoing infrastructure spending plan. This was strongly demonstrated in the recent success in concluding the first phase of the financing of the Clean Fuels Project, valued at KD 1.2 billion with the NBK's share amounting to KD 400 million. NBK's Group CEO, Isam Jasim Al-Sayer, highlighted that during the 2Q 2016, the bank concluded successful-

ly a 6.5% capital increase through a rights issues that attracted a 3-times oversubscription reflecting the shareholders' solid trust in the Bank's current operations and future prospects.

Al-Sager also stated that the 6.5% increase in the Bank's capital was derived by a strategic framework aimed at strengthening the Group's capital base to comply with the requirements of the Central Bank of Kuwait relating to capital requirements under the Basel-3 accord. Al-Sager stressed that the capital increase is for prudence purposes rather than merely a need. NBK's high capitalization reflects the significance of the Bank in the domestic economy and its capacity as the largest banking entity in Kuwait with a major role in financing large development projects. Capital adequacy ratio reached 17.2% as of end of June 2016 ahead of all regulatory requirements. Al-Sager also emphasized the position of NBK and its important role in leading huge multi-billion schemes and financing of large strategic projects, placing the Bank in a unique position to be the prime partner for companies' expansionary plans domestically, regionally and globally.

Continuous resourcefulness

In addition, Al-Sager praised the Bank's continuous resourcefulness in diversifying its sources of income and revenue streams, while enhancing its leading position domestically and regionally through developing business and services provided to customers. On a domestic level, NBK maintained its high market share achieving growth in the various business segments in Kuwait. NBK also continued to improve its earnings

from its ownership in Boubyan Bank whose performance is witnessing strong growth since NBK's acquisition of 58.4% of its shares in 2012.

On the regional and international fronts, Al-Sager confirmed that the external branches of NBK and its affiliated companies continued to deliver solid growth despite adverse circumstances and challenges in many regional markets. During the 1H 2016, NBK generated 30.4% of its net profits from its operations outside Kuwait, confirming its successful diversification strategy. Al-Sager also revealed that despite the distinguished existence and wide presence of NBK regionally, the Bank continues to strengthen its position in the markets it operates in and closely monitors new emerging opportunities that could add value.

NBK continues to enjoy collectively the highest ratings among all banks in the Middle East from the three international rating agencies Moody's, Fitch Ratings and Standard and Poor's. The Bank's ratings are supported by its high capitalization, prudent lending policies, and its disciplined approach to risk management, in addition to its highly recognized and very stable management team. NBK maintains its position among Global Finance's list of the 50 safest banks in the world for the tenth consecutive time. NBK enjoys the widest banking presence with a local and international network reaching 4 continents. NBK's international presence spans many of the world's leading financial centers including New York, Europe, GCC, Middle East, Singapore as well as China (Shanghai).

150.6

Million KD Net Profit for the 1st Half, 2016

30/06/2016

Net Profit

150.6
Million KD

Net Operating Income

362.1
Million KD

Shareholders' Equity

2.8
Billion KD

Total Assets

24.1
Billion KD

Moody's **Aa3** FitchRatings **AA-** Standard & Poor's **A+**

QUALITY STOCKS SHOULD DO WELL AGAIN

By Hayder Tawfik



Hayder Tawfik

In volatile and turbulent times human beings look for safety and security for their lives and their belongings. Home always the safest place to retreat to. However, quality and security are very important. This applies to investors who at present facing volatile financial markets and increase in economic and political uncertainties, literally all around the world.

Equity investors want to invest in quality companies that are safe bets. They want those companies that are conservatives in their business approach, have strong balance sheet, have been around for a long time, survived many economic cycles, have well known brand names and reasonably valued. At times of easy and free money, investors should stick with companies that are not only avoiding the temptation to borrow but rein in their debt.

Smart investors

Shrewd and smart investors tend to do opposite what they say in public. It is hard for investors to know what those smart ones are buying or selling till it is too late. Investors should keep this in mind when reading or listening to investment opinions or looking through researches that are published by equity analysis. Some of these researches tend to be out of date or late to reach investors. At present, it seems that most investors are changing their investment strategies and also changing their attitude towards companies with big debts. This is a big change from the past few years. This implies that smart investors believe that interest rates have bottomed and want companies to stop taking on more debts and rather them concentrate in growing top-line sales and bottom-line profits.

If this is the case then quality stocks - with steady earnings, low debt leverage and consistent profitability, would do well going forward. The big problem for investors is how to identify good quality companies. Investors can identify good quality companies by looking for the following features: consistently above average or high recurrent return on equity, growth that are funded internally from operating cash flows, well divided earnings that reward shareholders and reinvested in the business or kept for tough times. Also, businesses that are less cyclical or secular in its nature, longevity and competent management who are also friendly towards shareholder and finally have consistently moderate to no gearing at all. Investors can easily prove if quality companies outperform by comparing the performance of indices of companies with strong and poor financial health.

Quality companies

Conservative investors with long-term investment horizon should prefer quality companies because they are more likely to provide better returns. On top of so many other benefits that they offer investors, these quality stocks steadily grow in intrinsic value, issue higher dividends, are less likely to downgrade their earnings forecasts and are typically less volatile in the stock market than low-quality companies.

Some recent published evidence indicates that on general equity investors no longer believe that companies' balance sheets are underleveraged, and the proportion that wants companies to repay debt or top up their pension plans slightly exceeds the proportion wanting cash to be returned to shareholders, via buybacks, dividends or cash mergers. This is the first time this has been so since early in 2009.

Investing in good quality companies should be for the long term benefits that these companies offer investors and it should not be just at times of extreme volatility or economic and political uncertainties. For those who have to stay in equities, come what may, sheltering in quality appears a good idea. There have been signs that quality indices have started to outperform after a long period of mediocre or poor performance. This follows years of underperformance. In the present environment, investors need to do a lot of their own due diligence - perhaps an unusual feeling after years of stocks being driven by top-down factors.

EASING EXPECTATIONS BY CENTRAL BANKS STABILIZES MARKETS

NBK WEEKLY MONEY MARKET REPORT

Last week, the US Dollar dropped against most of its major counterparts as a rebound in oil prices combined with a rally in global equities continued to fuel the risk-on trade. Furthermore, sentiments were lifted amid signs of stability from the UK's political scene as Theresa May became the UK's new prime minister. The greenback came under pressure as markets are still unsure on the chance of another rate hike by the Fed in the near term. Fed fund futures are only pricing in around 38% chance of a hike in December. Moreover, Atlanta Fed president Dennis Lockhart said that "I still can imagine circumstances in which at least one policy move could take place and possibly two." But he insisted that the Fed should remain "cautious and patient" until the impacts of "Brexit" unfold. The Dollar index rallied sharply following the release of a stronger-than-expected US retail sales report, which pushed the chances for a December rate hike to 46% on Friday. Additionally, strong data from China lowered the appeal of traditional safe-havens such as the Yen, and pushed investors to seek riskier assets. The greenback closed the week higher at 96.680 The Euro opened the week at 1.1050 and reached a high of 1.1165. The single currency lost its momentum on Friday and closed the week at 1.1035 amid strength in the greenback.

Sterling rallied across the board last week as Theresa May appointment as the new British prime minister helped calm investors about "Brexit" uncertainty and political turmoil. However, the bigger boost came after the Bank of England opted to keep rates unchanged unexpectedly, which pushed cable up more than 2% to a two-week high of 1.3481. Similar to the Euro, the pound lost some of its gains and closed the week at 1.3192 after opening the week at 1.2954.

The Japanese Yen dropped across the board as the risk rally in global stock markets continued. The pair opened the week at 100.54 and surged to a high of 106.32 as Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling coalition increased its majority in the upper house in parliamentary elections on Sunday. The win for Abe's coalition fuelled hopes for a fresh package of stimulus measures to spur economic growth. Finally the pair closed the week at 104.88.

The Australian Dollar closed the week higher as GDP figures from Australia's major trading partner, China, came in better than expected. The currency managed to gain despite weak employment data released mid-week. The Aussie opened the week at 0.7569 reached a high of 0.7676. However, the strength in the US dollar overwhelmed the markets on Friday and pushed the Aussie lower to close at 0.7578.

On the commodities side, gold fell to a 2-week low as better GDP figures from China continued to push investors to abandon traditional safe-havens. Gold opened the week at 1,366.33 and fell to a low of 1,320.35. Finally the precious metal closed the week at 1,337.45. US Crude traded in a volatile manner initially rising above the \$46 a barrel amid a jump in risk appetite and a weaker dollar. However, the commodity seasawed between gains and losses throughout the week and managed to close at 46.28 after dropping to low of 44.42.

Jobless Claims at their lowest since Mid-April

The number of people who filed for unemployment assistance in the US held steady at a three-month low, underlining optimism over the health of the labor market. In a report, the US Department of Labor said that the number of individuals filing for initial jobless benefits in the week ending July 9 was unchanged at 254,000. Meanwhile, analysts expected jobless claims to increase by 11,000 to 265,000 last week. Continuing jobless claims in the week ended July 2 rose to 2.149 million from 2.117 million in the preceding week. Analysts had expected continuing claims to inch up to 2.128 million. The four-week moving average was 259,000, down 5,750

from the previous week. The monthly average is seen as a more accurate gauge of labor trends because it reduces volatility in the week-to-week data.

Producer Prices Rise more than expected in June

Producer price inflation in the US had risen more than expected in June. In parallel, core prices also posted a bigger advance. The Commerce Department said that producer prices rose by a seasonally adjusted 0.5% last month, above the forecast for a 0.3% advance and after a 0.4%

hike back on the table. After the release of the retail sales report, the Fed Funds futures contract showed investors had increased their bets for a US Federal Reserve rate hike later this year. The chances for a December rate hike rose to 46% on Friday, up from about 20% as seen in late June.

Empire State Manufacturing

The July 2016 Empire State Manufacturing Survey indicates that business activity flattened out for New York manufacturers. The headline general busi-



ness conditions index fell five points to 0.6. The new orders index and the shipments index both fell to levels not far from zero-a sign that orders and shipments were little changed.

Euro Zone Industrial output falls more than expected

Euro zone industrial production fell by more than expected in May, depressed mostly by a steep fall in energy output, the European Union statistics office said on Wednesday, suggesting the bloc's economy lost steam after strong output data in April. Industrial production in the single currency bloc dropped 1.2% on a monthly basis, and rose 0.5% year-on-year. Both figures are below the average forecast in by economists who predicted a 0.8% fall from last month and a 1.4% rise of output on a yearly basis. The fall in May nearly erased the increase in output recorded in April when production increased 1.4% monthly and 2.2% year-on-year. Meanwhile April figures were revised upward from previous estimates of a monthly rise of 1.1% and a yearly increase of 2.0%. Euro zone May monthly output decreased in all sectors, and recorded its sharpest fall for energy which was 4.3% down, the steepest drop this year, after two consecutive months of rising output.

Euro Zone Industrial output falls more than expected

Retail Sales higher

US retail sales rose 0.6% in June, soundly beating the 0.1% rise predicted by economists. It was the third straight monthly increase and lifted sales 2.7% from a year ago. The jump in retail sales was a positive indication for consumer demand, giving investors another reason to put a Fed rate

Euro Zone returns to inflation

The euro zone returned to inflation in June after four consecutive months of falling or stable prices, new data confirmed on Friday, although the modest 0.1% annual rate provides the European Central Bank with only limited comfort. Euro zone prices rose 0.1% year-on-year, Eurostat said, confirming its initial estimate of two weeks ago. Month-on-month, the increase was 0.2%. The ECB's Governing Council meets next Thursday to determine whether its monthly purchase of 80 billion euros of assets, along with zero interest rates and free loans offered to banks, are sufficient to prevent a deflationary spiral. The annual rate was at least positive in June, but is well short of the ECB's target of just below 2%. Prices had not risen in the 19 countries using the euro since January, with deflation in three of the subsequent four months and a zero reading for March.

Bank of England keeps rates unchanged

Sterling jumps broadly after BoE surprised the market by holding interest rate unchanged at 0.50%. The asset purchase target was also held at GBP 375b. There were speculations that the central bank announces a pre-emptive cut of 25bps to cushion the impact of Brexit to the economy. The rate decision was made by 9-1 vote with Gertjan Vlieghe being the only dissenter voting for a cut. Nonetheless, the statement noted that "most members of the committee expect monetary policy to be loosened in August." Also, "the committee discussed various easing options and combinations thereof. The exact extent of any additional stimulus measures will be based on the committee's updated forecast, and their composition will take account of any interactions with the financial system." Hence, BoE policymakers would like to wait for the next quarterly inflation report, to be published on August 4, before making a decision.

China's Economy grows at 6.7%

China's economy expanded 6.7% in the second quarter, matching Q1's year-over-year gain and just above views for a drop to 6.6%. The last two quarters show the weakest growth since the start of 2009, but they suggest that the gradual deceleration may be ending, easing concerns about global growth that could upset financial markets.

Meanwhile, China also reported key economic data for June. Industrial production rose 6.2% annually. Economists had expected 5.9% after May's 6% gain. Additionally, retail sales climbed by 10.6% on an annual basis, while analysts had forecast a 10% rise, unchanged from May's advance. New loans hit 1.38 trillion Yuan, far more than the 1 trillion Yuan expected. On the downside, fixed asset investment in urban areas rose 9%, below expectations for a 9.4% jump.

BOURSA KUWAIT OFFERS UPGRADED ONLINE FINANCIAL DATA SERVICES

KUWAIT CITY: Boursa Kuwait, the operator of the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) since April 2016, yesterday announced that it is now offering upgraded Financial Data Service on its website, in affiliation with Thomson Reuters, the world's leading source of news and information for professional markets.

In line with this affiliation and during the first phase, Boursa Kuwait will be providing Financial Data Service in relation to all listed companies. These types of data include income statements, balance sheets, cash flow statements and financial ratios which will be provided on a quarterly and annual basis, in addition some financial ratios will be updated on a daily basis according to the closing price. The data can be exported to a Microsoft Excel file easily and will be provided in

both Arabic and English languages. During Phase Two, Boursa Kuwait will be offering more enhancements to the Data Service such as charts and comparability capabilities. Commenting on this affiliation, Boursa Kuwait Vice Chairman and CEO Khaled Abdulrazzaq Al Khaled, stated that: "Boursa Kuwait is a mission-driven company that aims to progressively transition the Kuwait Stock Exchange to operate at world class standards. Through an ongoing partnership with experts, Boursa Kuwait will secure excellence in the services and products it provides to its stakeholders, on all levels, and Thomson Reuters is the expert in the financial data services field and we look forward to a long term mutual win-win partnership, for Boursa Kuwait, Thomson Reuters and our clients and

stakeholders". Nadim Najjar, Managing Director, Middle East and North Africa, Thomson Reuters said: "We are delighted to enable the Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) with leading edge information and tools. Our partnership confirms our role as a key contributor to the growth of local markets through enhancing transparency and offering quality content."

"Thomson Reuters offers deep and broad coverage of MENA markets across a wide spectrum of content sets and data types. Our commitment to the MENA region dates back to 1856 starting with news and expanding to comprehensive news and data coverage" he added. Boursa Kuwait is keen to adopt the latest services and products and works towards creating a more transparent and efficient Kuwait stock exchange.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES	
Japanese Yen	2.891
Indian Rupees	4.524
Pakistani Rupees	2.893
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.083
Nepali Rupees	2.830
Singapore Dollar	226.650
Hongkong Dollar	39.096
Bangladesh Taka	3.865
Philippine Peso	6.485
Thai Baht	8.693
GCC COUNTRIES	
Saudi Riyal	80.883
Qatari Riyal	83.317
ani Riyal	787.812
Bahraini Dinar	805.500
UAE Dirham	82.580
ARAB COUNTRIES	
Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.530
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.218
Tunisian Dinar	138.110
Jordanian Dinar	427.970
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.020
Syrian Lira	2.0162
Morocco Dirham	31.447
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES	
US Dollar Transfer	303.150
Euro	338.320
Sterling Pound	404.400
Canadian dollar	236.840
Turkish lira	105.700

Swiss Franc	311.880
Australian Dollar	232.670
US Dollar Buying	301.950

GOLD

20 Gram	270.090
10 Gram	137.960
5 Gram	69.830

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.400
Canadian Dollar	240.715
Sterling Pound	407.670
Euro	338.420
Swiss Frank	298.325
Bahrain Dinar	802.060
UAE Dirhams	82.835
Qatari Riyals	84.050
Saudi Riyals	81.630
Jordanian Dinar	427.734
Egyptian Pound	34.069
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.085
Indian Rupees	4.520
Pakistani Rupees	2.893
Bangladesh Taka	3.863
Philippines Pесо	6.463
Cyprus pound	159.890
Japanese Yen	3.965
Syrian Pound	2.400
Nepalese Rupees	3.820
Malaysian Ringgit	77.365
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.770
Thai Bhat	9.650
Turkish Lira	105.140

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
		Europe
British Pound	0.394529	0.409529
Czech Korune	0.004489	0.016489
Danish Krone	0.041337	0.046337
Euro	0.0329908	0.0338908
Norwegian Krone	0.032274	0.037474
Romanian Leu	0.086947	0.086947
Slovakia	0.009039	0.019039
Swedish Krona	0.031687	0.036687
Swiss Franc	0.303361	0.314361
Turkish Lira	0.100305	0.110605
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.222580	0.234580
New Zealand Dollar	0.210518	0.220018
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.228965	0.237965
Georgia Lari	0.136895	0.136895
US Dollars	0.299000	0.304000
US Dollars Mint	0.299500	0.304000
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003393	0.003977
Chinese Yuan	0.044020	0.047520
Hong Kong Dollar	0.036987	0.039737
Indian Rupee	0.004324	0.004734
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025

Japanese Yen	0.002828	0.003008
Kenyan Shilling	0.003116	0.003116
Korean Won	0.000254	0.0002698
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072230	0.078230
Nepalese Rupee	0.002857	0.003027
Pakistan Rupee	0.002724	0.003014
Philippine Peso	0.006359	0.006659
Sierra Leone	0.000657	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.219638	0.229638
South African Rand	0.015127	0.023627
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001674	0.002254
Taiwan	0.009295	0.009475
Thai Baht	0.008290	0.008840
Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.797012	0.805512
Egyptian Pound	0.027099	0.032217
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.423439	0.432439
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000146	0.000246
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019321	0.043321
Nigerian Naira	0.001250	0.001885
Omani Riyal	0.780463	0.786143
Qatar Riyal	0.082402	0.083852
Saudi Riyal	0.079700	0.081000
Syrian Pound	0.001284	0.001504
Tunisian Dinar	0.134931	0.142931
Turkish Lira	0.099882	0.110182
UAE Dirhams	0.081057	0.082757
Yemeni Riyal	0.001369	0.001449

BAD YEAR FOR WALL STREET'S GOLDEN BOY BILL ACKMAN

NEW YORK: For a Wall Street star once dubbed the "Baby Buffett," Bill Ackman is having a pretty bad year. Huge bets on companies like Valeant and Herbalife have delivered steep losses to the flamboyant billionaire's Pershing Square hedge fund. With some \$12 billion under management, Pershing lost around 20 percent in the first half this year, securities filings show.

And everything suggests that the second half won't be much better, after Ackman's crusade against nutritional supplement direct sales company Herbalife, which he shorted as he labeled it a pyramid fund, was rebuffed Friday. Agreeing with Ackman's longtime rival in Wall Street big-time activist investing, Carl Icahn, the Federal Trade Commission ruled the Herbalife is not a pyramid operation and, while forcing it to pay out \$200 million to injured distributors, said the company could stay in business.

Herbalife shares jumped 9.9 percent, generously benefiting Icahn, who holds 25 percent. It's not clear how Ackman, 50, fared financially at the apparent

end of his three-year siege of the company, in which Pershing took a large short position, betting Herbalife shares would sink. "This is a total victory for Herbalife shareholders and a total defeat for the short camp," said Timothy Ramey, an analyst at Pivotal Research Group.

Icahn, the doyen of Wall Street activists who famously squared off with Ackman in a long televised argument over Herbalife in 2013, declared victory, saying the younger Ackman had gotten his research on the company wrong. "A significant part of my investment success is directly tied to our in-depth investment research and understanding of often complex and unique issues facing companies," he wrote in a statement. "Unlike many of those that 'shorted' Herbalife, we did not rely on one or two research papers prepared by non-experts," he said.

Ackman did not concede, even if the market moved against him. He noted that the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) had ordered changes to the way Herbalife does business, and that eventually those will undermine the company's business model. "We

expect that once Herbalife's business restructuring is fully implemented, these fundamental structural changes will cause the pyramid to collapse," Pershing said in a statement.

Big bets go sour

The stylishly coiffed, Harvard grad golden boy of the exclusive New York hedge fund billionaires club, Ackman has a history of taking contrarian stakes and then going very public with them. After Pershing made a billion-dollar bet in 2012 that Herbalife's shares would tumble, he publicly labeled the company a Ponzi scheme, comparing it to Enron, the high-flying energy group that plunged into bankruptcy in 2001, and the Bernie Madoff fund collapse seven years later.

Putting his credibility on the line, Ackman inundated media and the internet with appearances and videos arguing his case that Herbalife would collapse. The Pershing short gambled on Herbalife shares falling from \$47. But they have traded well above that level since February and finished at

\$65.25 Friday. Ackman has admitted that carrying the short bet has cost the fund \$20 million a year.

Ackman's seeming emotional commitment to his positions was also apparent in his investment on Valeant. He took a huge position on the future of the Canadian drugmaker as it expanded via aggressive takeovers, only to see the shares plummet in scandals over Valeant's business model and accounting methods. After surging to a peak of over \$263 in the middle of 2015, Valeant's shares have plunged to below \$23, while Pershing has clung to its sizable stake in the debt-laden company.

Ackman's style and recent record has not impressed some on Wall Street. "We believe Ackman typifies the activist behaviors that destroy, rather than create, long-term shareholder value," David Trainer and Sam McBride from investment research house New Constructs said in a note. Joseph Fahmy, managing director at Zor Capital in New York, tweeted a similar view. "I don't feel bad for Ackman. I feel bad for the people who piggy-backed his trade without doing their own due diligence," he said. — AFP

BRITAIN EYE TRADE DEALS FOR BREXIT IN EARLY 2019

LONDON: The minister charged with securing new trade deals for Britain outside the EU said yesterday he was aiming for a Brexit date of January 1, 2019, as London made overtures towards Australia and Canada. "That's the date I'm working to, which could be brought forward if necessary," International Trade Secretary Liam Fox told the Sunday Times newspaper. This would involve triggering Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty, which would start a two-year clock running on Britain's exit from the bloc, by the end of this year.

Before taking office last week following the June 23 vote for Britain to leave the EU, Prime Minister Theresa May indicated she would invoke Article 50 early next year. Fox revealed that he had opened "very fruitful" trade talks with Canada on Friday, and was reported to be heading to the United States next week. May also discussed a trade agreement with Australia in a phone call with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Saturday, her Downing Street office said.

Turnbull had expressed his desire for a free trade deal as soon as possible, the statement said. May had campaigned for Britain to stay in the EU in the referendum

but says she will make Brexit "a success". "One of the ways we will do this is by embracing the opportunities to strike free trade deals with our partners across the globe," she said in the statement. "It is very encouraging that one of our closest international partners is already seeking to establish just such a deal."

Britain cannot sign trade deals until it legally leaves the EU, but Fox said he would line up agreements for the day Brexit comes into force. EU leaders are pressing for a quick divorce, but May has urged them to give her time. One point of delay may be Scotland, which voted to stay in the EU while England and Wales voted to leave, and is threatening independence as a way of staying in the bloc.

After talks on Friday with Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, the leader of the secessionist Scottish National Party, May said she wanted a common British position. "I won't be triggering Article 50 until I think that we have a UK approach and objectives," May told reporters. Sturgeon told the BBC yesterday that this "puts Scotland now in a very, very strong position" to influence events. — AFP



CANTON: In this April 6, 2016, photo, an assembly line of new 2016 Altimas await backseat installations at the Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant. — AP

US ECONOMY LOOKS RESILIENT AS RETAILERS, INDUSTRY SURGE

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION SHOOT UP 0.6 PERCENT

WASHINGTON: Americans spent more money at retailers and factories revved up production in June, offering encouraging signs of the US economy's resilience in the face of global headwinds. Industrial production shot up 0.6 percent, fueled by a big rebound in auto output. It was the best showing since last August. Meanwhile, retail sales also rose 0.6 percent last month, three times the gain in May, with demand strong in a number of areas. Inflation pressures remained modest, with consumer prices climbing 0.2 percent in June.

Prices are up just 1 percent from a year ago, still well below the Federal Reserve's 2 percent target. The new reports Friday came a week after the government's blockbuster jobs report, which showed the economy created 287,000 jobs in June. It marked a major bounce back after a dismal gain of just 11,000 jobs the previous month. May's result, coupled with a lackluster showing in April, had raised worries that the US jobs machine was starting to sputter.

Strong job growth

Analysts said the strong job growth in June and solid consumer spending should provide good momentum for the economy heading into the second half of the year. The economy grew at an anemic 1.1 percent rate in the first quarter, as measured by the gross domestic product, held back by a slowdown in consumer spending and troubles in manu-

facturing. Analysts are hopeful that GDP growth strengthened to 2 percent or better in the second quarter, and many are looking for further acceleration in the current quarter.

"It is beyond doubt that consumers have shaken off their winter blues," said Chris G. Christopher Jr., director of consumer economics at IHS Global Insight. "Despite rising gasoline prices, consumers are opening their wallets." Christopher said that consumer spending and housing would help bolster growth going forward. Chris Rupkey, chief financial economist at MUFJ Union Bank, said he believed GDP would be closer to 3 percent in the spring quarter, led by a surge in consumer spending.

"Economic growth is through the roof in the second quarter," Rupkey said. "There are a lot of dollars going through cash registers out there." Analysts were also encouraged by the latest improvement in industrial production, which followed a 0.3 percent decline in May. The key manufacturing sector showed a 0.4 percent increase, which reflected a jump in autos and auto parts. Utility output expanded 2.4 percent, stemming from higher electricity production as warmer weather boosted demand for air conditioning. Even the country's beleaguered energy sector recorded gains. Mining, which covers oil production, inched up 0.2 percent. It was the second small monthly increase after eighth straight monthly declines as this sector struggled with a plunge in oil prices.

Weakness in global markets

Manufacturing overall has struggled for more than a year amid weakness in global markets and a strong dollar, which has also hurt exports by making American products more expensive overseas. Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said she believed manufacturing was starting to show "upward momentum." Other economists, however, cautioned against reading too much into June's rebound, contending that obstacles remained in manufacturing.

"The bulk of manufacturing faces the same problems today that it faced a year ago - too much inventory in the system at home and too strong of a dollar ... in the world market," said Michael Montgomery, US economist at Global Insight. The report on consumer prices showed a 0.2 percent gain in core inflation, which excludes the volatile categories of food and energy. Over the past 12 months, core inflation has risen 2.3 percent.

The Fed, which meets July 26-27, wants to see evidence that inflation is ticking up before raising short-term US interest rates again. In December, it raised rates for the first time since 2006. But it has hesitated to follow up with more increases. The American job market looked weak in May before rebounding in June. And Britain's June 23 decision to leave the European Union has rattled financial markets and raised uncertainty about the global economy. — AP



LONDON: In this Wednesday July 13, 2016 file photo, new British Prime Minister Theresa May speaks to the media outside her official residence, 10 Downing Street. — AP

ZIMBABWE FINANCE MINISTER SAYS SANCTIONS BEHIND CASH CRUNCH

KIGALI: Zimbabwe's finance minister blamed international sanctions yesterday for a cash crunch that has forced the government to delay wages to soldiers and civil servants as President Robert Mugabe faces rare popular protests. Western countries imposed sanctions in 2001 on Mugabe's government over allegations of vote-rigging and human rights abuses, which he rejects, while lenders such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have frozen financial aid since Harare defaulted in 1999. Zimbabwe failed to pay the army on time for the second straight month, military sources said on Friday, and Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa said the sanctions were hurting the government's ability to meet its obligations.

"Sanctions crippled our capacity to own our international obligations (debt payment)," Chinamasa told Reuters when asked about the wage-payment delays during an African Union summit in Kigali, Rwanda. He did not say specifically

which international obligations had been affected. "Our industry sector collapsed, the formal corporate structure collapsed and it translated itself into informal sector. So we have now a situation where revenue collection from the informal sector is not easy. We need to come up with new policies," he added.

Anger is rising in Zimbabwe over high unemployment, corruption in government and shortages of money, which has seen people spending hours in bank queues to withdraw their money. Without balance of payment support and foreign credit, the government is seeking to clear \$1.8 billion arrears to the IMF, African Development Bank and World Bank in a bid to unlock new funding. The IMF said on Thursday it was still far from a financial program with Mugabe's government, which would need to resolve issues of governance, accountability, transparency and carry out economic reforms before receiving any cash. — Reuters

PROTESTS DELAY LIBYAN OIL SHIPMENTS: OFFICIAL

BENGHAZI: Guards protesting over pay shut the eastern Libyan oil terminal of Hariga yesterday, delaying two shipments of crude, a port official said. A unit of Libya's Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG) took the action because they said they had not been paid their salaries recently, the Hariga official said. He said the protest had delayed two tankers, one of which was already docked at the port, with the second scheduled to dock later on Sunday. Hariga has an export capacity of about 120,000 barrels per day (bpd).

Libya's oil output has been sharply depleted by industrial disputes, insecurity and political strife since the country slipped into turmoil following the uprising that toppled Muammar Gaddafi five years ago. Production has fallen to less than a quarter of a 2011 high of 1.6 million bpd. Several major eastern Libyan terminals

remain blockaded by the Petroleum Facilities Guard, a national force that is internally divided. Key units have shifted allegiances between different political factions.

Hariga has largely continued to operate smoothly, though the eastern branch of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) temporarily blocked exports there in May amid a dispute with the rival NOC based in Tripoli. The PFG group that shut down Hariga is normally based south of the eastern city of Derna but travelled to the terminal on Wednesday to stage their protest, said Mohamed el-Harari, NOC spokesman in Tripoli. There were "just a few people" among the protesters, he said. "The problem is that they put their hands on the terminal and they are stopping the loading. The authorities there are trying to resolve this." — Reuters

ANGOLA HITS TROUBLED TIMES AFTER HEADY POST-WAR BOOM

LUANDA: After the end of Angola's long civil war in 2002, the capital Luanda became an unlikely African version of Dubai as oil money poured in and a clutch of skyscrapers sprang up along the coast. But many new office blocks now stand empty or unfinished as the country suffers the painful aftermath of a boom that came crashing down with the fall in oil prices two years ago.

Last month, after the local kwanza currency plunged in value, Luanda lost its top spot as the world's most expensive city for expats as rated by Mercer's annual survey. The city still sits at number two, just below Hong Kong, thanks to the pumped-up price of everything from imported bottled water and restaurant seafood to renting modern apartments.

At the upmarket Candando supermarket in Talatona district, customers like Katia Carreta say the economy's rollercoaster ride has left even wealthier families uncertain of whether they have a future in the country. "Prices are far too high for the current level of wages," Carreta, 46, an Angolan whose husband works for a construction company, told AFP as she pushed her trolley out of the store. "Things simply cost too much for the lifestyle that we were hoping to have," said the mother of four.

Candando-slogan: "Everything will be better" - is a large, chic supermarket with brightly-lit aisles, fresh food displays, a coffee shop and prices to match. But its target audience is under strain. Even after the fall of the kwanza, six eggs cost the equivalent of \$3.50, as does a packet of imported cheese, while a large bag of rice or three salmon steaks cost \$30.

Slums and skyscrapers

Away from newly-developed Talatona, many of Luanda's residents still live in slums, with tin shacks spreading to the horizon. A deadly yellow fever outbreak has spread through the city since last year, while rubbish has piled up in the streets and many major roads need repair after municipal spending was slashed. Angola also has the world's second highest mortality rate for children under five years old, according to UNICEF.

The rarely-seen President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who has been in office since 1979, has vowed to diversify the economy away from oil to spread wealth and protect against fluctuating prices. But little has been done on the ground. Economic growth, which soared to over 20 percent in 2007, has collapsed to less than two percent, and about 40 percent of the population live below the poverty line. The former Portuguese colony is also rated among the most corrupt nations worldwide. — AFP



LUANDA: This file photo taken on June 5, 2016 shows a general view of Luanda's downtown. — AP

STOCKS END LITTLE CHANGED AFTER MIXED DAY

NEW YORK: Stocks ended more or less where they started on Friday as a five-day rally ran out of steam.

Retirement Plan Services. "Investors are taking gains." The Dow edged up 10.14 points, or 0.1 percent, to 18,516.55.

\$47.71 after the consumer banking giant reported a drop in second-quarter earnings. Earnings per share for the entire S&P 500 are expected to have dropped 5.3 percent last quarter compared to a year ago.

policies by central banks in the US, Europe and Japan than any improvement in fundamentals.

"The market isn't really trading on economic growth and earnings. It's being propped up by wildly accommodative monetary policy," he said.

rose a modest 1 percent in June from a year ago, suggesting that the Federal Reserve may take its time raising interest rates from the record lows that have helped push stocks higher.

"The market is taking a breather," said Anna Rathbun, research director at CBIZ

Earnings remained a focus for investors. Wells Fargo fell \$1.23, or 2.5 percent, to

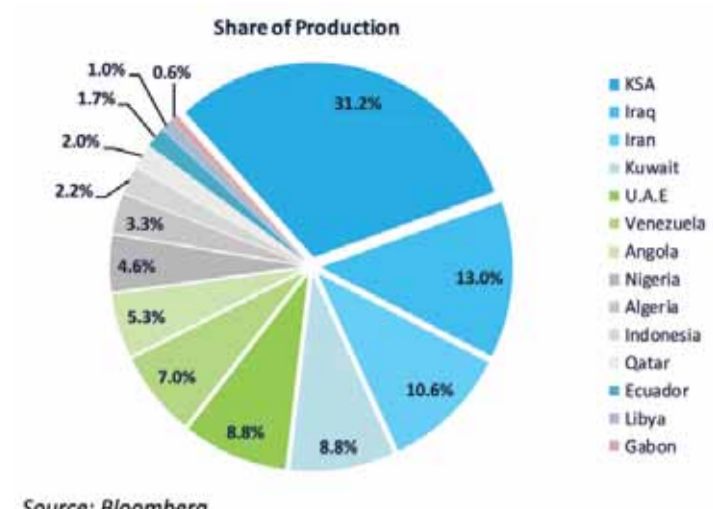
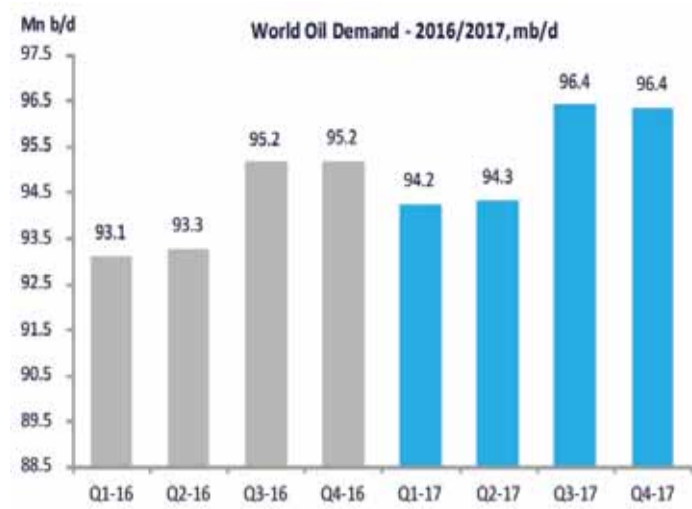
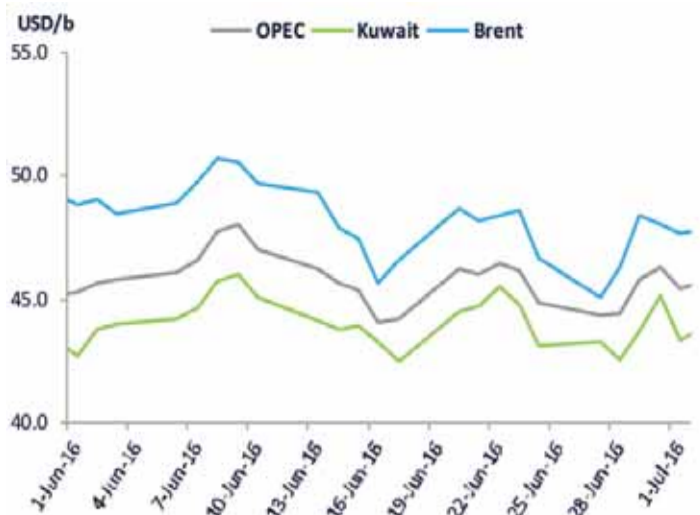
the gains have more to do with easy money

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report
Sunday 17 July 2016
Table with columns: Index, Change, Closing, Last Closing, High, Low, Volume, Value (KWD), Number of Trades. Includes sections for Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, and Commodities.

Benchmark US crude rose 27 cents to close at \$45.95 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, a standard for international oil prices, climbed 24 cents to \$47.61 a barrel.

Rising consumer prices
In economic news, the Labor Department reported consumer prices

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report
At 02:00 PM Previous Day
Global Stock Indices, MENA Stock Indices, Global Currencies Exchange Rate, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate, Global Interest Rates, Commodities.



OIL RALLY FACES STRONG RESISTANCE AT \$50/BARREL

KAMCO OIL MARKET MONTHLY REPORT

KUWAIT: After a positive start in June-16, the trend in oil price mostly remained downward as the market continued to gauge the oil demand supply balance. The surge in oil prices during April-16/May-16 that was primarily on the back of production disruptions was countered by announcements in June-16 by some oil majors to increase investment in drilling reacting to firm oil prices.

Oil price continued to decline during July-16 with OPEC crude declining by close to 10% mtd. The production disruption in Nigeria had minimal impact on oil prices as it was offset by an increase in supply of Canadian oil producers who recovered and restarted operations after the wildfire that crippled production for over two months.

On the economic front, data from Japan and China pointed to a slowdown in economic growth although vehicles sales in China continued to remain high. Moreover, concerns about a slowdown in global growth due to the impact of Brexit also pulled down oil prices by close to 5% intraday after the referendum vote in Britain. There were fears that Brexit could lead to recessionary pressure in overall Europe that could significantly affect oil demand from the region.

In its latest monthly oil report, OPEC released its initial oil market demand and supply forecast for 2017 in which it said that production outside the OPEC would continue to fall in 2017 as seen in 2016, but at a slower pace. According to the report, world oil demand is expected to grow by 1.2 mb/d to average at 95.3 mb/d in 2017 with a majority of this growth coming from non-OECD countries. On the other hand, non-OPEC oil supply in 2017 is expected to decline by 0.1 mb/d to average at 55.9 mb/d as growth in Brazil and Canada are expected to be offset by supply shrinkage from Mexico, the US, and Norway.

The IEA in its monthly oil report also reiterated that although the oil market is heading towards rebalancing, the trend in the price could be bumpy on the back of growth in demand in the US and China, sustainability of strong demand in Europe as seen in Q2-16, investment in oil infrastructure and the existing level of oil stock in the US and other major oil consumers globally. Meanwhile, in separate interviews, both the Saudi Arabian oil minister and his Kuwaiti counterpart reiterated that an oil price of above USD 50/barrel is required to achieve long term stability, whereas the current low oil price has led to a decline in investment. Kuwait's acting oil minister Anas Al Saleh said that an oil price of USD 50/barrel is satisfactory and oil expected to trade in the range of USD 50 - 60/barrel in 2017-2018 as the oil market continues to rebalance. Moreover, following Saudi

Arabia's announcement of the proposed privatization of Aramco, Kuwait is also reportedly considering selling 20%-30% stakes in IPOs of up to four state oil services units while keeping production units out of the picture. Nevertheless, no time frame was specified for the process.

Oil Prices

Oil prices continued to remain volatile but mostly had a downward trend during June-16 as concerns regarding economic growth overshadowed news of supply disruptions in some oil producing nations. On the demand side, there were concerns regarding a Brexit led economic slowdown in Europe that would affect an already fragile recovery in the region. In fact, lower oil price had minimal impact on oil demand in Europe with OPEC expected demand to inch up barely by 0.03 mb/d during 2016 (although Q2-16 demand was strong). Meanwhile, the economic restructuring going on in China and the ongoing slow-

down in the industrial sector and manufacturing activity is expected to affect demand for industrial fuel but with the positive vehicle sales, transportation fuel demand is expected to remain strong. Price pressure also came from USD that strengthened against most major currencies. In terms of supply, Canadian oil sand producers resumed production and flooded the ports as they recovered from the wildfires that caused disruptions for almost two months. Although this was partly offset by the new disruption in Nigeria, the overall impact on the oil sentiments was negative considering the situation in Libya is moving towards stability. Moreover, talks of a strike by oil workers in Norway and the ongoing problems in Venezuela provided temporary support to oil price during the past month. The developments on oil infrastructure investment also pointed to higher production with Baker Hughes reporting

an increase in oil rig count for the fifth week in the past six weeks, in addition to the announcement to invest USD 45 Bn in new drilling by oil majors Exxon, Chevron and BP. Average monthly OPEC oil prices grew at the slowest pace in the six months during June-16 with a growth of 6.1% to reach USD 45.84/b, the highest monthly average OPEC price since July-15. Average monthly Kuwait oil prices also surged by a slightly higher 7.1% to reach USD 44.1/b for the month, whereas average Brent crude prices increased at the slowest pace of 3.0% to USD 48.25/b to reach the highest monthly average since October-15. Price in July-15 started on a negative note after seeing three consecutive sessions of growth towards end of last month.

World Oil Demand

World oil demand growth for 2016 was kept broadly unchanged at 1.19 mb/d, resulting in a total demand of 94.18 mb/d. In the latest report, oil demand growth

considered for the higher demand include a faster global economic activity, higher road transportation fuel consumption due to the strong growth in vehicle sales in the US, China and India as well as demand for feedstocks from new petrochemical projects in US and China. These positive factors are expected to be partially offset by steadily increasing efficiency in the road transportation sector, commodity substitution primarily for electricity generation as well as subsidy reduction that would deter higher oil consumption.

The biggest growth is expected to come from China, with 0.2 mb/d increase in oil demand in 2017 as compared to 2016 followed by the US with an expected growth of 0.15 mb/d and India with an expected growth of 0.16 mb/d. OECD Europe and OECD Asia Pacific (Japan and South Korea) are expected to see year-on-year demand contraction of 0.02 mb/d and 0.08 mb/d during 2017, respectively. The overall OECD area is expected to see a demand growth of 0.1 mb/d, whereas developing countries will see a much higher growth of 0.72 mb/d as compared to 2016 on the back of higher demand in all of the individual regions. Meanwhile the expected demand contraction in Europe comes despite some countries expected to post higher economic growth due to high historical baseline, as well as fewer oil price effects on road transportation fuels.

World Oil Supply

World oil supply growth for 2016 was revised down by 0.14 mb/d to contract to a growth of 0.88 mb/d to average at 56.03 mb/d. The contraction in supply comes primarily on the back of lower production in Canada due to the wildfires, the US, Other OECD Europe (mainly Italy), Colombia, Australia and China, partially offset by higher-than-expected supply growth from Mexico, the UK, Brazil, Congo, Russia and Azerbaijan. According to the report, tight oil production in the US will decline at a faster pace in 2016 with declining number of active rigs and insufficient or delayed investment in upstream projects due to the low oil price environment. In terms of quarterly trend, non-OPEC supply is expected to contract sequentially in 2Q-16, see seasonal improvement in 3Q-16 and then again contract during the last quarter.

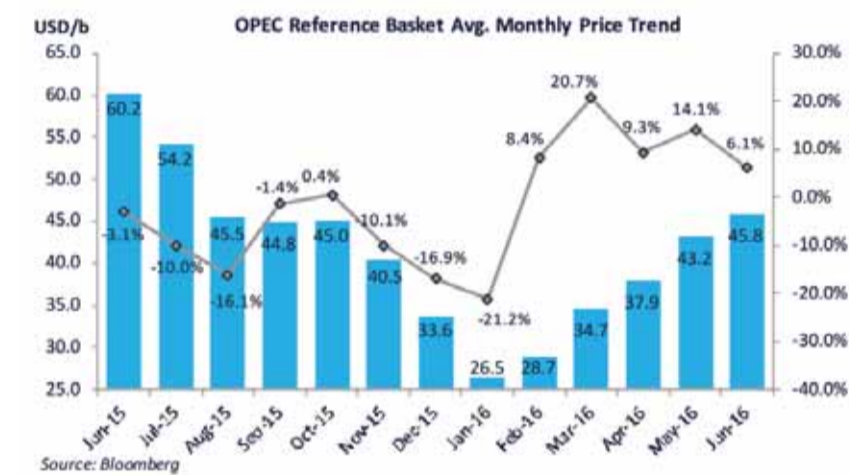
On the other hand, non-OPEC oil supply in 2017 is expected to decline by 0.1 mb/d to average at 55.9 mb/d as higher supplies from Brazil and Canada are expected to be offset by supply shrinkage from Mexico, the US, and Norway. A majority of the non-OPEC countries/regions are expected to see a decline in oil supply during 2017 with the biggest decline of 0.14 mb/d expected from the US. Supply from China is also

expected to decline by 60 tb/d, primarily due to announced expenditure cuts and output reductions. Meanwhile, supply growth expected in Brazil and Canada would come primarily from expansion of existing projects as well as investments in new fields.

OPEC Oil Production & Spare Capacity

OPEC oil production remained elevated during June-16 increasing by 0.7% to 33.1 mb/d, according to Bloomberg, as Saudi Arabia pumped oil at near-record pace in order to meet peak summer demand. During the month, Gabon was added as the 13th member of OPEC with an average production of 0.2 mb/d during 2015. The country produced at the rate of 214 tb/d during June-16, largely in line with its production during the previous month. Apart from Saudi Arabia, the increase in OPEC production during the month (adjusted for the addition of Gabon) was primarily on the back of higher production in Nigeria (+90 tb/d) as some of the disruptions that affected production in May-16 was restored. However, there were reports during July-16 that stated that exports from Nigeria's Trans-Niger pipeline that is used for exporting Bonny light crude with a capacity of 180 tb/d was once again shut down due to a leak.

Meanwhile, Kuwait and Libya also ramped up productions after the oil strike and disruptions, respectively, adding a total of 160 tb/d during the month. It is pertinent to note that the lifting of the political deadlock in Libya could boost the country's output by more than four folds to 1.6 mb/d. On the other hand, Kuwait is also seen going ahead with an ambitious plan to privatize oil services assets through an IPO of up to four units by selling 20%-30% stake in each of the companies and keeping a majority control over the assets. This comes in line with the announcement made by Saudi Arabia recently where the state maintains full control over production assets. Kuwait said it is taking this step keeping in mind the low oil price environment which is expected to last for the next five years. Furthermore, in what is seen as a softening of stance, Khalid Al-Falih, the new Saudi Arabia oil minister, reportedly said in an interview that an oil price higher than USD 50 a barrel is needed to achieve a balance in oil markets in the long term and that the optimum price of oil lies between USD 50 - USD 100 per barrel. Nevertheless, no official word was given that indicated any change in the Kingdom's oil production policy. On the other hand, another report by ClipperData said that Saudi Arabia has increased oil exports to Asia and that its inventories have contracted at a record rate over the past six months.



down in the industrial sector and manufacturing activity is expected to affect demand for industrial fuel but with the positive vehicle sales, transportation fuel demand is expected to remain strong. Price pressure also came from USD that strengthened against most major currencies. In terms of supply, Canadian oil sand producers resumed production and flooded the ports as they recovered from the wildfires that caused disruptions for almost two months. Although this was partly offset by the new disruption in Nigeria, the overall impact on the oil sentiments was negative considering the situation in Libya is moving towards stability. Moreover, talks of a strike by oil workers in Norway and the ongoing problems in Venezuela provided temporary support to oil price during the past month. The developments on oil infrastructure investment also pointed to higher production with Baker Hughes reporting

from OECD Europe was increased from 0.01 mb/d to 0.03 mb/d to average at 13.74 mb/d during 2016. In addition, demand growth from OECD Americas was also increased from 0.26 mb/d to 0.28 mb/d. Oil demand from OECD Americas during the first four months of 2016 was reported to be strong on the back of rising demand for gasoline (led by strong vehicle sales), jet/kerosene and fuel oil, partially offset by declining distillate fuel and propane/propylene requirements due to substitution effect.

OPEC also released its initial oil market demand and supply forecast for 2017 in which it said that production outside the OPEC would continue fall in 2017 as seen in 2016, but at a slower pace. According to the report, world oil demand is expected to grow by 1.2 mb/d to average at 95.3 mb/d in 2017 with a majority of this growth coming from non-OECD countries. Factors con-

SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION & PROJECT MANAGEMENT

By Jacob Zachariah Karuvellil

To know more about core banking system implementation and project management, we spoke with the expert at Path Solutions, the leading Islamic banking software provider. Jacob Zachariah Karuvellil, Executive Vice President at Path Solutions has been an integral part of the company since its inception. Jacob has more than 28 years of extensive hands-on experience in the fields of IT, Islamic Banking, Finance, Audit, Organization Development, Operations, Corporate Legal, Professional Services and Global Support. Donning the hat of department head, Jacob has played a key role in the development of the company, managing various departments. Jacob was the General Manager of Kuwait Head Office for several years as well. At the group level, Jacob currently heads the 'Global Professional Services, Global Support & Corporate Academy', ie providing end-to-end services to entire Path Solutions' clients worldwide.

1. Methods and structure is following for project implementation:

Path Solutions' Global Professional Services has developed a unique implementation and project management methodology based on industry best practices and the Project Management Institute (PMI) guidelines. All projects cover the 5 basic project management process groups: Initiation, Planning, Execution, Control, and Project Closure. A Project Management Plan along with other sub-project management plans like Risk Plan, Issue Management Plan are prepared and approved by the client before proceeding with the execution phase. These would be used and revised as needed throughout the life of the project.

We do implement our 'Model Bank' system using industry best standards with readily parameterized functions allowing any start-up or even an existing financial institution to quickly roll-out iMAL system. This type of implementations takes record time providing banks with a

quick ROI. As we value continual improvement, our methodologies are constantly evolving, aiming to reach a higher level of efficiency and effectiveness corresponding to the ever-growing market demands. Projects are monitored and controlled by internal and external auditing teams to ensure conformity to methodologies and procedures which are also compliant with ISO(r) and CMMI(r) standards.

2. How could this be beneficial to clients?

As Path Solutions has tried and tested its project management and implementation methodologies throughout the years, we are able today to manage new projects more efficiently. Planning properly and then progressively revising and developing the methodology across the project ensures we have full control of the project. This allows us to determine the exact needs and requirements of the client which in turn enables the system to be easily and properly implemented, in such a way that the end user could utilize and master the system in the shortest time possible.

We provide our clients with a professional experience so that they could face less downturns, and where the project will be implemented smoothly and in the most time efficient manner. Our clients thus get the most advanced system that complies with their complex business needs as well as adhering to the strictest industry rules and regulations.

Furthermore, because of the supportive and clear project documentation which in itself is handled as per the Communication Plan, our clients are brought up to date with all the project information needed for the proper internal management of the project.

The methodology focuses on setting up jointly with the client the critical success factors in advance, enabling to monitor and focus on such factors to ensure the success of the project. It also ensures a speedy implementation providing cost savings while still ensuring an appropriate quality. It provides a yardstick with which to measure project progress and success.

3. The Area Project Director, Project Manager and team should all be focused:

The Project Director (PD), Project Manager (PM) and team always need to interact seamlessly during all stages of the project. In the early phases, the PD and PM identify the stakeholders and also prepare the scope of work for the project in detail. The team to be assigned is identified and they utilize the input of the team to fine tune the project tasks, its duration and thus for-



mulate the project schedule. Also, they identify the risks and possible problems that might be faced, setting a risk management plan and other plans for quality management, issue management, etc. They also set the Communication Plan based on the expectations of stakeholders and ensure communication is managed smoothly which is most vital.

During execution, the PM will supervise the project team as well as make sure that the plan is being executed smoothly, with the highest quality standards and on time. We also aim to make sure that a proper documentation is always done. All these tasks are supervised and closely monitored and guided by the PD. Regular contact with the Project Steering Committee and the Project Sponsor are made to ensure the project objectives are achieved on time and within budget and also to escalate any project related issues. Internally at Path, if required, the respective Head of the

Department (HOD) do also collaborate and meet up to provide exceptional solutions as required.

4. How to mitigate project risks?

From our experience with the multitude of clients, we are able to identify the possible risks that the project could face during execution; the known risks. The identification of such risks which is done from the early beginnings of the project allow to set proper mitigation plans for each and this will be incorporated in the project plan. During execution, these risks and issues are monitored and if faced, will be controlled with it first being properly documented and communicated with the client (done on a weekly basis) along with proper mitigation actions. We follow the practice of explaining the criticality of the risk to key stakeholders of both parties and then agreeing on the risk mitigation plan mutually.

5. Key factors behind a successful project implementation

The most important factor is to have the right person with the right expertise to handle every aspect of the project. Another key factor is professionalism in dealing with the client. Some other imperative elements for ensuring success could be stated as:

- Having a clear, adequate and flexible plan is important.
- Daily control and quality assurance of project tasks ensure a Go Live with the highest quality level.
- Adopting the train-the-trainer approach allows to effectively transfer know-how to key client super users enabling them to be proficient in iMAL, and thus for them to become trainers to other end users.
- Effective resource management and coordination with client stakeholders always contributes to achieve overall success.
- Excellent coordination between the management of the client and Path Solutions in order to achieve collective goals.

6. Secrets behind Path Solutions' success rate and fast track implementation:

The vast experience we've got from various implementations across several countries allows us to manage any new project easily. Our iMAL system ranks number one worldwide and this has been achieved due to the system's agility, robustness, and being highly parametric. We are able to achieve successful implementations in record time due to our professional and experienced implementation team specialized in Islamic banking applications and having access to tremendous expertise built from projects executed at our clients who are over one hundred Islamic financial institutions worldwide.

7. As a banking expert, how will you evaluate the current financial crisis?

I would like to share the story of the "Eagle" with all your readers. The eagle has the longest life span among birds. It can live up to 70 years. But to reach this stage, the eagle must make a hard decision. In its 40s, its long and flexible talons (claws) can no longer grab prey which serves as food. Its long and sharp beak becomes bent. Its old aged heavy wings, due to thick feathers become stuck to its chest and make it difficult to fly. Then, the eagle is left with only two options: Die or go through a painful process of change which lasts 150 days. The process requires that the eagle flies to a mountain top and sit in its nest. There, the eagle knocks its beak against a rock until it plucks it out. After plucking it out, the eagle will wait for a new beak to grow back and then it will pluck out its talons. And after five months, the eagle takes its famous flight of rebirth and lives for another 30 years. Many-a-times in order to survive, we have to start a process of change. We sometimes need to get rid of some old memories, habits and other past traditions. Only through freedom from past burdens can we take advantage of the present. If each and every one of us and our organizations can do what the eagle is doing, we can overcome any crisis.



ACE HARDWARE OPENS NEW STORE IN HAWALLY

KUWAIT: Ace Hardware the world's local home improvement store on Wednesday 13th July has officially opened their third new store in Hawally expanding its presence to meet customer requirements in various provinces of the State Kuwait. The lavish new store openings was celebrated at an official ribbon cutting ceremony attended by sen-

ior officials of Alhasawi Group, Top management of Ace Hardware international and members of the press.

Under the ambitious expansion plans 'Ace Hardware' third store is located on Tunis Street in Hawally at Al Marzouk Tower. Ace Hardware's new store provides customers with a full range of tools and services with over

45,000 products under one roof that is spread over 13 specialized Departments and spans over 1,800 square meters spreading across two floors.

The departments include Paint & Cleaning, Tool, Hardware, Lawn & Garden, Plumbing, Sports & Outdoor, Electrical appliances, Pet products as well as Houseware

and Bed & Bath sectors.

Ace Hardware, has been in Kuwait since 1991 and is part of Al-Hasawi Group of Companies with three different stores spread across different areas in Kuwait. Al Rai Industrial Area, Egailah, Al Liwan Mall and now Hawally Tunis street Al Marzouk Tower.



OOREDOO ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF PREPAID CAMPAIGN

KUWAIT CITY: Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of the international Ooredoo Group, announced the eleventh weekly winners of its all new prepaid campaign "Every Recharge Wins" of the winners were presented with the Samsung Galaxy mobile and 1 winner with the iPad Mini 3. The winners of this week were:

Satya Prakash Samsung Galaxy
Ashraf Ahmed Hassan Abbas Samsung Galaxy
Jabid Meyah Samsung Galaxy
Grassy Acassiano Samsung Galaxy
Ram Sainy Samsung Galaxy
Rashid Nadeif Samsung Galaxy
Reda Mohammed Sherif Samsung Galaxy
Mohammad Saeed Ahmad iPad Mini 3
Ooredoo's "Every Recharge Wins" cam-

paign is the first of its kind, providing customers with chances to enter daily, weekly, and monthly draws, in addition to a grand draw for each 1 KD recharge. Customers can win smart phones, tablets, cash prizes and a grand prize, which is the 2016 Toyota Prado V6. The more customers recharge their lines, the more chances they get to win. In addition to the draws, customers will also be entitled to get free SMSs, internet, Nojoom points or minutes, instantly upon every recharge.

To take part in these draws and win one of the great prizes, customers merely need to recharge their prepaid lines. The more the customers recharge, the more chances they have to win. All winners will be contacted directly and an announcement with the winners' names will be made.

KFH FIRST IN MIDDLE EAST TO IMPLEMENT CRM SYSTEM

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced the full implementation of the most high-end and comprehensive system in the field of Customer Relation Management CRM as the first bank in Kuwait and the Middle East. KFH is committed to operate this system for better customer service and strong customer relationship. The Microsoft CRM Dynamics relies on linking and activating the customer service, sales and marketing operations, whilst offering an advanced environment for the customers' interactions in efforts to prioritize customer service and channeling all human and technical resources for the best interest of customers.

Fadi Al-Chalouhi, Group General Manager Retail Banking at KFH said that the Customer Relation Management CRM system is an unprecedented quantum leap in the efforts of boosting relationships between KFH and its clients. This system supports the exerted efforts to elevate customer service while making customers a top priority of KFH. The system is multi-functional and featured by standardization of communication through a unified processing language. The tools and mechanisms of provid-



Fadi Al-Chalouhi

ing services through the human resources or the technical platforms are compliant with the interests of each and every client since the service provider is aware of all the information of the customers.

Al-Chalouhi reiterated that customer relation management is a work strategy linked with the management philosophy and aims at strengthening ties with them. In light of the diversifications of service channels, efforts should revolve around gathering customers' data and organizing them in a step to establish integrated management, while achieving success of customers' operations.

Moreover, he illustrated that the system demonstrates all customers' transactions through 8 applications on all service centers at KFH. This provides comprehensive outlook on the customer to enable the bank to render services as per unified standards that achieve customers' satisfaction and boost their loyalty to KFH, yet to increase sales volumes and attract more segments of clients.

He added that by implementing this system, KFH aims at increasing profitability, cutting cost and increasing sales, indicating that the system offers all reports and information that help decision makers and service provider to further cooperate and coordinate for achieving the set targets.

TURKISH AIRLINES ANNOUNCEMENT TO OUR CUSTOMERS

KUWAIT: With the unflinching will of the people, Turkey has waken to a new day with a much stronger sense of democracy and freedom. Upon the call of our President HE Recep Tayyip Erdogan our operations at Istanbul Ataturk Airport is now back to normal and flights have begun. As of the 16th of July by 14:30 (EEST) all our flight operations will resume as planned. Grateful to our Dear Nation, we extend our thanks to our passengers for their understanding for the inconvenience.

Due to this situation, for individual and group

reservations, provided that:

- Flights operated by Turkish Airlines (including AnadoluJet trademark)
- Departing/arriving to Turkey (including domestic flights) and/or transit flights via Turkey
- Flights operated between 15 July 2016 - 17 July 2016 (inclusive)
- Ticketed on/before 15 July 2016
- Tickets are revalidated until 15 August 2016 (inclusive) disregarding of related fare rules
- 1) All Rebooking/ReRouting will be made without

any charge provided that new destination is same IATA region & same cabin class

- 2) Refund requests:
 - a) Unused tickets: refund will be made without any charge; or
 - b) For partially used tickets, when planned trip is not complete; the remaining flights will be refunded without any charge.
- 3) Extension of ticket validity: validity of ticket can be extended until 15 August 2016 (inclusive) without any fare difference or penalty.

ANALYSTS: ECB TO PAVE WAY FOR STIMULUS IN SEPTEMBER

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank, widely expected to hold fire on monetary policy next week, will likely prepare the ground for more stimulus measures in September as the economic fallout from the eurozone from Brexit becomes clearer, analysts predicted. The ECB's decision-making governing council is scheduled to hold its regular policy meeting on Thursday, a month after Britain voted to quit the European Union. While the initial market turmoil triggered by the shock outcome has abated, taking the heat off the ECB and other major central banks to charge to the rescue immediately, observers believe the true extent of the economic damage will only become discernible later.

Britain's new Prime Minister Theresa May has yet to decide when to trigger Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, formally notifying Brussels of Britain's exit and starting a two-year countdown on divorce from the EU. The full economic consequences of Brexit are only likely to become clear during the negotiations on the terms of its exit.

The Bank of England already held fire on an interest rate cut last week, although it flagged it will likely act at its next meeting in August. The ECB is similarly likely to bide its time, analysts said. "No further measures are expected at the meeting as the ECB was reported to be relieved about the markets' rather muted reaction to the Brexit vote," said Commerzbank economist Michael Schubert. "A monetary reaction appears unlikely to be considered by the council before September," the expert said.

So far this year, in a bid to kick-start recovery and drive inflation rates up to levels more compatible with healthy economic growth, the ECB has cut its main refinancing rate to zero, beefed up its asset purchase programme known as quantitative easing (QE) and launched a new scheme of ultra-cheap loans to banks. But eurozone inflation stood at just 0.1 percent in June, a long way off the ECB's target of close to but just under 2.0 percent.

'Outlook dismal'

"But the Brexit vote has increased what were already significant downside risks to the eurozone economy and the inflation outlook remains dismal," said Capital Economics economist Jennifer McKeown. "We therefore expect the ECB to at least pave the way for more policy support in September, probably involving an interest rate cut and bigger asset purchases." "In the post-Brexit vote world, even though financial markets have calmed somewhat in recent days, the ECB's concerns have increased," said ING DiBa economist Carsten Brzeski. "The economic recovery of

the eurozone is again at risk, inflation could be lower and, above all, the future of the entire eurozone has never been shakier and more unclear than at present."

The ECB is scheduled to publish its latest updated economic projections in September and those could give governing council members a better handle on what path to take. Ben May at Oxford Economics said he was certain "there will be a contingent who, if conditions do worsen, will be open to more policy action." Nevertheless, even if the ECB does move again in September, analysts were divided about the effectiveness of further rate cuts with borrowing costs already at all-time lows. One of the ECB's key interest rates, the deposit rate, is already in negative territory, meaning eurozone banks pay to park their cash overnight at the central bank. And taking it even lower could hurt banks' profitability even more.

Another potential headache for the ECB is the current drop in bond yields as investors flee to ultra-safe investments to escape the uncertain-

ties of falling stock markets or volatile commodities and currencies. The yield on Germany's benchmark 10-year government bond or "Bund" - regarded as one of the safest havens - is now negative, effectively disqualifying them from being purchased under the ECB's QE programme.

The ECB can only buy bonds with yields above its deposit rate and it must buy in proportion to each country's share of ECB capital. Commerzbank economist Schubert suggested the ECB might therefore revisit and even change its self-imposed QE rules. Worries about the Italian banking sector could also be weighing on the governing council's minds, ECB watchers suggested. Fears are rife on the financial markets that Italy could spark a new eurozone crisis if it does not address the 360 billion Euros (\$400 billion) in bad debt sitting in its national banks. Markets have turned sour on several Italian banks, most notably Italy's number-three lender and the world's oldest bank, Banca Monte Paschi. — AFP



AL TIJARI ANNOUNCES THE WINNERS OF AL NAJMA ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw on 17th July, 2016. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr Abdulaziz Ashkanani. The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are:-

Ali Ahmad Al Jaafar KD 7000/-
Raafat Ruoaf Masaood Bshay KD 7000/-
Masha Alla Ali AlHusari KD 7000/-
Khaled Mohammad Al Hasan Al Saraheen KD 7000/-

Meena Sameer Samuel Syedarous KD 7000/-

Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to reach KD 250,000. Daily draw to win KD 7000. Quarterly draws to win great prizes that would start from KD 100,000 to KD 250,000. With Al Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes

BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES THE LUCKY WINNERS OF YAWMI ACCOUNT

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced yesterday the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000.

The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Fadel Mohammed Naser Al Deferi
2. Ali Mohammad Ali Ismaeil
3. Katabjiwala Salma Saifuddin
4. Hind Ali Abdulwahab Al Braidi
5. Mohammad Abdullah Ali

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months.

The Yawmi Account offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account,

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

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

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

Amazing news from Al-Tijari...

Al-Najma account gives you the biggest daily prize in Kuwait!

'AHLI UNITED BANK' ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF WEEKLY DRAW

KUWAIT CITY: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on July 06, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfill the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 Million per year. This Program also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100. The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: Ahmmed Abdlsamad Abdalwahed.

The prize program of "Al Hassad Islamic

Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000/- in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner. In addition, prizes of Al Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4

ahli united bank

quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000/-.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks. For further information about "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" account, customers may call at any Ahli United Bank branch, or call: "Hayakom" service at Tel: 181 2000.

TESLA WORKING ON AUTOPILOT RADAR CHANGES AFTER CRASH

DETROIT: Tesla Motors is working on modifications to its Autopilot system after it failed to stop for a tractor-trailer rig in a Florida crash that killed the driver of a Model S sedan. CEO Elon Musk, in a Twitter post Thursday night, said Tesla is working on improvements to the radar system. Autopilot uses cameras, radar and computers to detect objects and automatically brake if a Tesla vehicle is about to hit something.

But in the May 7 crash that killed Joshua D Brown, 40, of Canton, Ohio, cameras in his Tesla Model S failed to distinguish the white side of a turning tractor-trailer from a brightly lit sky, and the car didn't automatically brake, the company has said. Signals from radar sensors also didn't stop the car, and Brown didn't take control either. Tesla wouldn't comment Friday on Musk's tweets or possible changes to Autopilot, which is being scrutinized by two US government agencies. Whatever changes are made have

broad implications for Tesla and other automakers, who either have similar technology in place or are about ready to put it on the road as they move toward fully autonomous driving within the next decade. Just after the crash was made public June 30, Musk gave an indication in a tweet that the radar was discounted in the Florida crash. His tweet, which since has been removed from Twitter, said that radar "tunes out" objects like an overhead road sign to avoid stopping the car for no reason.

Experts say this means that the radar likely overlooked the tractor-trailer in the Florida crash. Thursday, Musk tweeted that the company is working on changes that would "decouple" the Autopilot's radar from its cameras and allow the radar to spot objects with fewer data points. Car sensors produce so much data that computers can't process it all. So fewer data points are needed for self-driving systems to work.



GERMANY: In this file photo, a Tesla Model S is on display on the first press day of the Frankfurt Auto Show IAA in Frankfurt, Germany. — AP

Experts contacted by The Associated Press say it's clear that Musk is focusing on the radar so his cars spot tractor-trailers in similar circumstances. "It kind of strikes me that they're figuring out how to solve that problem," said Timothy Carone, an information technology and analytics professor at the University of Notre Dame business school.

Radar can see through bright sunlight, rain, snow and other things that can block the sight of cameras, so it makes sense that Tesla would try to emphasize radar more after the Florida crash, said Raj Rajkumar, a computer engineering professor at Carnegie Mellon University who leads its autonomous vehicle research. The cars' software would have to be updated so it considers the radar data and determines if obstacles are in the way, Rajkumar said. Tesla has said that it constantly updates the Autopilot system as the company takes in data from cars that are on the road. — AP



SAMSUNG GALAXY S7'S ALWAYS ON DISPLAY SHOWS RELEVANT INFORMATION

A recent report has revealed that 93 percent of consumers in emerging markets look at their phone within an hour or less of waking up. 76 per cent use their phones during business meetings and 14 per cent check their phones up to 100 times a day. While it might be far-fetched to call this an addiction, it can easily be circumvented by coaching our positive reinforcement hungry brains to reduce the number of times we reach out to pick the phones up, and also save battery life in the process.

In spite of new features and apps adding uses to our devices all the time, the reports indicate extremely high numbers—even if the phone might be stunningly beautiful. With 256001440 Super AMOLED displays, the 5.1 inch Galaxy S7 and 5.5 inch Galaxy S7 edge are constructed with 3D glass and is encased in beautifully finished aluminum.

Striking looks aside, it sports the Always On Display (AOD) that allows you to just glance at your phone at any time and see your latest notifications and other key information immediately without waking your screen, then for you to go back to your important tasks for the day.

It lets users see the time, calendar, status messages and notifications even when the phone is in standby mode, with the screen off. This is possible because the phones take advantage of the independently powered sub-pixels in the sAMOLED screen, therefore not using any power at all when black. Using very little of the battery—less than one percent per hour, the AOD constantly shows just your favorite information. The setting also comes handy in places like the cinema when you don't want to shine the full glow of your phone.

The AOD can be customized from the Settings menu and Quick Settings panel. There are clock modes, calendars and abstract patterns in a variety of styles to suit just about every taste, to keep an eye on missed calls and message alerts. To implement the AOD in the Galaxy S7 and Galaxy S7 edge, Samsung reduced power consumption in sleep mode to less than one-fifth of previous rates. Samsung has also applied Smart Power Saving, a new hardware algorithm, to further improve the

performance of the phones' display driver IC (DDI). Through this, the company was able to separate the power needed for the DDI in normal activity mode and that needed for the AOD at the hardware level.

That is to say, it is like how a car driver chooses 2-wheel drive or 4-wheel drive depending on road conditions in order to use the engine power in the most efficient way. Power consumption rates vary depending on the information users want to check via the AOD.

The display only uses eight colors when it displays simple information, including the time and date. If more images or colors are to be displayed on the screen, then bit depth is increased to 16 million colors, requiring a little more power.

This change happens automatically and seamlessly by AOD software and hardware in a harmonious way.

Compared to the phone's normal mode, the AOD uses fewer frames per second—the number of times the image on the screen is refreshed per second. It's because the AOD displays a relatively small amount of information compared with the phone's normal mode.

Nevertheless, Samsung determined an optimal number of frames to ensure that there was no compromise in display quality. The AOD feature ensures that users can check information at any time, but special proximity, RGB light and accelerometer sensors work to automatically disable the AOD in situations when users are unable to see the screen, such as when the phone is in a pocket or a bag.

Specifically for the Galaxy S7 edge, just as People Edge puts your most important contacts right into the curved edge screen for easy access, and Apps edge does the same for your favorite apps, Tasks edge lets you assign a shortcut for your most common tasks. Setting an alarm, composing a text message or creating an event can be assigned to the edge of the display, for fast, easy access, without having to access the main display.

The AOD and the Edge screen together allow users to spend the time on their phones smartly, with fewer visits to the charging station or the battery pack.

Hendrik Verbrugge, Marketing Director, Canon Middle East and Canon Central and North Africa, comments: "Businesses today are increasingly looking for operational efficiencies. The new models combine smart capabilities with affordability and Canon's renowned reliability to help businesses handle documents faster and focus on their business priorities."

For more demanding environments, the imageRUNNER2204N also adds new levels of easy connectivity with Ethernet and Wi-Fi as standard as well as support for mobile printing and scanning. The imageRUNNER2204 series will be available across Middle East and Africa from the June 2016.



A3 models. The new models are designed to handle the workloads of busy small workgroups with a 60,000 page duty cycle as well as fast and efficient black and white print, copy and colour scan at up to 22 ppm.

A new 8.89 cm touch screen and

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS EMPOWERING CITIZENS

'A NEW TECHNOLOGY PROMPTS CITIZENS TO CONTRIBUTE'

WASHINGTON: It may be inside a protest rally, in front of a deadly shooting. Smartphones, video and social media are empowering citizens to tell their stories like never before. This became clear with the live video earlier this month from Diamond Reynolds when she captured the aftermath of the shooting by a police officer of her boyfriend Philando Castile in Minnesota and streamed it live on Facebook.

The unprecedented live feed was just the latest in a series of events highlighting the power of citizen journalists to bring to light events and viewpoints that would otherwise not be part of mainstream media. Citizen journalism has been around for centuries, but each technological advance has made it easier to reach more people, said Valerie Belair-Gagnon, who heads the Yale University Information Society Project and is an incoming professor of journalism at the University of Minnesota.

Prominent examples from the past include the 1963 Zapruder film of the Kennedy assassination and the 1991 beating by Los Angeles police of Rodney King and the events of the Arab Spring. More recently, citizen videos offered immediate and intimate perspectives from Thursday's truck attack in the southern French city of Nice and the 2015 rampage in Paris, as well as dozens of citizen confrontations with police in the United States.

"In each case, a new technology prompted us to be aware that citizens can contribute journalism in certain ways," Belair-Gagnon said. "In the shift we are seeing since 2004, citizen media is becoming fully integrated to journalism." Belair-Gagnon said the rise of citizen journalism is not necessarily negative for the mainstream media. "For me, it's a positive story because journalists are not the only gatekeepers," she said. "The fact

that the public or citizens are able to gather information and distribute it to the public provides an opportunity for richer storytelling."

Democratizing media

Jeff Achen, executive editor of the Minnesota nonprofit group The UpTake, which trains citizen journalists, said the latest incidents show a "democratization" of the news media. "Media can't be everywhere, but there is something with a citizen telling their own story from their own perspective which can be very valuable," Achen, a former television and print reporter, said citizen journalism won't necessarily replace traditional media but may augment it.

"With the legacy media, some of the news can feel manufactured and manipulated. It can feel corporate sponsored," he said. Citizens can enhance journalism's traditional role of holding powerful institutions like the police accountable. Platforms such as Twitter's Periscope and Facebook Live, which allow anyone to broadcast an event, can create "excitement" in this effort, said Achen. "I think this will become more prevalent," he added. "Everyone is going to make it routine. They will take out their cell phones whenever a police officer pulls over and does something" to bear witness to the facts, Achen said. Ethan Zuckerman, director of the Center for Civic Media at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said the ability for citizens to reach the masses can help drive social change. "Powerful as these videos are for mobilizing activists, they may be more powerful in bringing new participants into the racial justice movement," he said in a blog post.

Change accelerating

Dan Gillmor, an Arizona State University pro-

fessor and author of a book on citizen journalism, said Reynolds "changed our perception of media" with the "shocking and heartbreaking real-time web video of the last minutes of Philando Castile's life." Gillmor said the Reynolds video was not necessarily something new but showed "the velocity of change is accelerating" in citizen news production. "Her video was a three-faceted act: witnessing, activism and journalism," Gillmor said in a blog post.

"Even though few people saw it in real time, she was saving it to the data cloud in real time, creating and-one hopes-preserving a record of what may or may not be judged eventually to have been a crime by a police officer. What Reynolds did was brave, and important for all kinds of reasons," Gillmor said Reynolds "taught the rest of us something vital: We all have an obligation to witness and record some things even if we are not directly part of what's happening."

These events also raise questions about how platforms such as Facebook respond to their role as conduits for citizen journalism. Facebook's role came into question when it briefly took down Reynolds video, before restoring it. Gillmor and others argue that the event underscores that Facebook is part of the news industry, despite its claim to be a neutral platform. "Facebook hasn't given a plausible explanation for its initial removal of Reynolds' video," Gillmor said. "The point is that the video remains visible because Facebook allows it to be visible."

Gillmor added that it is "enormously dangerous that an enormously powerful enterprise can decide what free speech will be. I don't want a few people's whims in Menlo Park overruling the First Amendment and other free speech guarantees"—AFP

TECHNOLOGY GIVES VOICES TO THOSE WHO CAN'T SPEAK

SPRINGFIELD, New Hampshire: Jessie Levine smiles and shakes her head when she hears the outgoing voicemail message on her iPhone. "I sound young! And fast!" she marvels. "That person never, ever expected to talk like this." The message was recorded before Levine was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease, or ALS, in early 2015, and before the progressive motor neuron disease caused her speech to become slow and slurred. But as her ability to talk deteriorates, she's exploring a new way to restore her voice via speech synthesis, or the artificial production of human speech.

The technology has been around for decades, but as devices shrink in size, efforts to customize them are expanding. Multiple companies and research groups are using speech synthesis engines to create voices from spoken samples, usually thousands of recorded sentences. For example, CereProc, based in Edinburgh, Scotland, created a voice for the late film critic Roger Ebert several years before his death in 2013 by mining commentary tracks he'd recorded for movies.

But VocaliD, a Belmont, Massachusetts, company, is taking a different approach by creating custom voices using just a small sample from the recipient, even if they can't speak. Starting with just a tiny snippet of someone's voice - a few seconds of saying "Ahhhh" - the company matches recipients with a "donor voice" - in Levine's case, maybe a relative - and then blends the two together. The result is a sound file that can be plugged into any text-to-speech device.

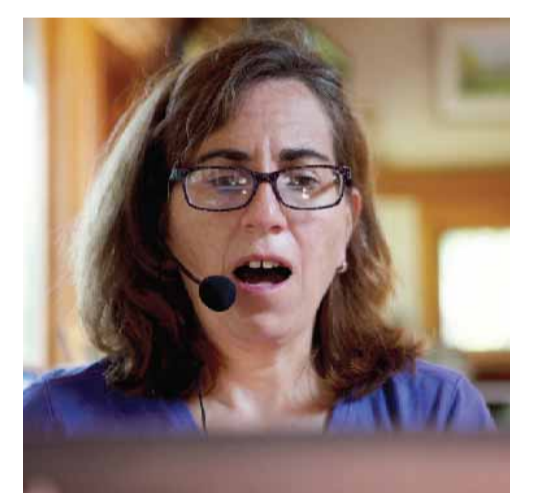
Melody of speech

"I have two sisters, one of whom has a lisp like I have, which I had before I had ALS. The other one, we all have this stuttiness to our speech," said Levine, 45, the manager of Sullivan County, New Hampshire. "It never occurred to me that I could use their voices, adapt it to me, and then be able to use that." Company founder and CEO Rupal Patel is a speech technology professor on leave from Northeastern University. Her research found that people with severe communication disorders preserve the ability to control aspects of their voices, such as pitch and loudness. Those characteristics - what Patel calls the "melody of speech" - are also important for speaker identity, she said.

"There is a level of empowerment that comes with having the freedom to be able to communicate in your own voice, and that's such an important thing, which I think has been overlooked," Patel said. No one would give a young girl a prosthetic leg meant for a grown man, she said,

and voices should be no different. The company delivered its first seven voices late last year and is working on about seven dozen more, which will cost \$1,249 each. More than 14,000 people worldwide have donated their voices so far in a process that involves about six hours and 3,500 sentences read aloud.

One of the first recipients was 17-year-old Delaney Supple, of Needham, Massachusetts, who was born with cerebral palsy. She had been using a generic computerized voice but didn't like it much; she makes a gagging gesture when her mother mentions it. Some voice devices are controlled by eye movement or head movement. Delaney Supple types out her words on a tablet touch screen and then taps it to play them back. Delaney likes her new voice. So does her mother, Erica Supple, who said it's a much better fit. "I love listening to it," she said, "and it's funny because when I first heard it ... it sounded a little bit like her brother's voice when he was younger." — AP



New Hampshire: In this photo, Jessie Levine records phrases on her computer in Springfield, New Hampshire. — AP

WINDOWS 10 TO TAKE LONGER TO REACH BILLION-DEVICE GOAL

SAN FRANCISCO: Microsoft said Friday it will take longer than initially expected for Windows 10 to reach a billion devices due to the lack of traction in its smartphone business. The company had set an ambitious goal of having a billion gadgets running on Windows 10 monthly when the latest generation operating software was released nearly a year ago. The US technology giant said Windows 10 is already powering more than 350 million devices monthly in what it described as "the hottest start in history."

"We're pleased with our progress to date, but due to the focusing of our phone hardware business, it will take longer than FY18 for us to reach our goal of 1 billion monthly active devices," a Microsoft statement read. The spread of Windows 10 in the year ahead was expected to be driven by use in businesses and in new devices. Microsoft has aggressively promoted upgrades from old versions of Windows, and has made Windows 10 available as a free upgrade until the operating system turns one year old on July 29.

After that, it will be available pre-installed on new devices or for purchase separately, with a home computer version priced at \$119, according to the Redmond, Washington-

based company. Microsoft provoked ire by pushing people to upgrade to Windows 10 by automating the process and, for a time, modifying the red "x" in a corner of an upgrade notice pop-up box to approve the action instead of simply closing the message.

Apple said this year it has one billion active devices running iOS software that powers the California-based companies iPhones, iPads and iPods. Microsoft will mark the one-year anniversary of Windows 10 with a major update to the software. "The Anniversary Update will help people be more productive, stay safer online and, of course, have fun," Windows and Devices Group corporate vice president Yusuf Mehdi said in a blog post. The Windows 10 update set for release on August 2 promised improved security and enhanced capabilities for the Microsoft Edge browser.

It also adds Microsoft Ink, which supports the use of digital pens for tasks such as writing, drawing or working on math problems. The new Windows 10 lets virtual assistant Cortana handle more commands, and opens the door to sync with Xbox One consoles to play video games. Windows 10 operating system is designed to work on laptops, desktops, smartphones, Xbox One consoles, HoloLens

BOOTLEG HOOCH DEATHS RISE TO 21 IN NORTHERN INDIA

NEW DELHI: Twenty-one laborers died after drinking toxic homemade liquor in northern India, police said yesterday, in the latest incident of alcohol poisoning in the country. Police in Uttar Pradesh state's Etah district said the victims started to vomit and fall sick, complaining of severe stomach aches and blurred vision after consuming the illicit moonshine late Friday.

Earlier the toll was reported at 17, with 12 people hospitalized. However four of those have since died, police said. "Four more people succumbed to the poisoning. The total deaths are 21 now," senior dis-

trict police officer, Visarjan Singh Yadav, told AFP by telephone, adding that others remain ill in hospital. A police officer told AFP that a local vendor was arrested late Saturday after police registered a formal case against him for culpable homicide. "The vendor obviously mixed some chemical in the last batch... police are investigating the matter," the officer, who requested anonymity, told without specifying the chemical used in this case.

Bootleggers are often found adding methanol—a highly toxic form of alcohol sometimes used as an anti-freeze or fuel—in their home-brew liquor to

increase the alcoholic content of the drink. If ingested, it can cause blindness and liver damage and can kill in larger concentrations. The Press Trust of India reported locals saying that six people had lost their eyesight after drinking the tainted alcohol.

The incident prompted state chief minister Akhilesh Yadav to suspend five district officials, including two police officers, for neglect of duty. He has offered 200,000 rupees (\$3,000) in compensation to the families of those killed. Hundreds of poor people die every year in India due to alcohol poisoning, mostly from consuming cheap hooch. Most of Friday

night's victims were daily wage laborers and farmers too poor to afford branded alcohol who would usually buy a cheap mix from bootleggers after work.

In April, eight people died including two soldiers after drinking tainted liquor in the western desert state of Rajasthan. More than 100 people died in Mumbai last year after drinking illegal homemade moonshine in a slum. Nearly three billion liters of legal liquor and an estimated two billion liters of hooch are consumed in India annually, according to the International Spirits and Wines Association.— AFP



MELBOURNE: US Vice President Joe Biden (C) speaks to guests with Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews (R), Health Minister Susan Ley (L), and Professor Jim Bishop (2nd R) after a tour of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

BIDEN ANNOUNCES 'UNPRECEDENTED' US AND AUSTRALIA CANCER DATABASE

'CANCER RESEARCH HAS NOT REALLY BEEN A TEAM SPORT'

SYDNEY: US Vice President Joe Biden yesterday unveiled a series of agreements between the US and Australia to create an "unprecedented" international research database of cancer patients as

he kicked off a three-day visit in Melbourne. Fighting cancer is a personal goal for Biden, who lost his son Beau Biden to brain cancer last year, with the opening of an Aus\$1 billion

(US\$760,000) medical facility his first event on his Australia tour, ahead of talks with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

"Cancer research has not really been a team sport the last 25 years," Biden, who heads up the White House's "moonshot" initiative to speed up research into the disease, said at the launch of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre. "But you're making it, as we say in the States, a team sport," he added, declaring that the world was on the verge of major breakthroughs in treatment. The collaboration would see an "unprecedented international dataset" of at least 8,000 US patients and 50,000 from Australia made available to cancer researchers and doctors by 2021, he said in a statement.

Biden's visit comes amid tensions in the region following a UN-backed tribunal's ruling against China's claims in the South China Sea. The US vice president, who warned that Beijing should abide by the same international rules as everyone else in comments to the Sydney Morning Herald Saturday, is expected to address Washington's military alliance with Canberra during his visit.

Yesterday, he joined Foreign Minister Julie Bishop at an Australian Rules game in Melbourne. He is due to meet Turnbull on Tuesday before making a "major policy speech" about US-Australia relations on Wednesday. Biden will also hold talks with New Zealand Prime Minister John Key in Auckland on Thursday. — AFP



MELBOURNE: US Vice President Joe Biden (C) with Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews (C, background) and Health Minister Susan Ley (R) are shown one of the research labs by Associate Professor Sherene Loi (L) during a tour of the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Melbourne yesterday. — AFP

PHILADELPHIA CONDUCTING CITYWIDE EXPERIMENT TO SAVE GUNSHOT VICTIMS

PHILADELPHIA: In all of last year, there were only 22 days when someone wasn't shot in Philadelphia. Nearly 1 in 5 victims died. Now, in a bold effort to stem the bloodshed, several Philadelphia hospitals are about to conduct a citywide experiment that will ask: When gunshot or stabbing victims are being rushed to the emergency room by ambulance, could paramedics do more to save them by doing less? It's a counterintuitive approach that could test long-held beliefs and change practices at trauma centers across the country.

And every resident or visitor to Philadelphia could become a study subject, though the biggest effect will probably be in the most violent neighborhoods - poor, mostly black sections where people are skeptical of essentially being experimented on. During the study, paramedics treating adults who have been shot or stabbed in the torso will, on a random basis, not insert a tube down a victim's throat or administer intravenous fluids - two traditional life-saving techniques some doctors say may actually harm such patients.

Normally, paramedics incubate patients to keep their airway open, and give IV fluids to counteract a drop in blood pressure. But supporters of the study say that for victims who are bleeding through an open wound, these procedures may cause an increase in blood pressure that can accelerate blood loss and death. Philadelphians who don't want to participate in the study if they are ever wounded can opt out by wearing wristbands indicating their wishes. They can obtain a wristband by filling out a form online or on paper.

Gambling with lives

The study is expected to start in the fall and last five years, or until doctors have about 1,000 patients, whichever comes first. It could end early if researchers are able to prove or disprove their theory sooner. It is being headed by Temple University Hospital's chief of surgery, Dr Amy Goldberg, who has treated thousands of shooting victims in the three decades she has worked in Philadelphia. "If this is not a public health crisis, I don't know what is," she said. Last year, there were 236 homicides in Philadelphia and more than 1,200 shootings, or one roughly every seven hours. Of those victims, nearly 700 were black men ages 18 to 34.

Temple has been working for five years to set up the study. As part of the process, Dr Zoe Maher, a Temple trauma surgeon, has been giving presentations at community forums. Maher, who is white, gave a 20-minute slideshow at a recent meeting in Hunting Park, a largely black and Hispanic neighborhood. Her audience was initially dubious. "You're using people to do this study," said Charles Lanier, head of a neighborhood revitalization group. "I hear what you're saying, but in the interim, you're still sacrificing somebody to prove which (method) is better."

Yanitza Gonzalez, a councilwoman's representative, chimed in: "It's almost like we're gambling with people's lives." Joann Taylor, a block captain, retorted: "We're already gambling with people's lives." The Temple surgeon patiently laid out her case, even as she acknowledged the selection process is "like the flip of a coin." Retrospective studies, she

said, have shown that gunshot and stabbing victims given basic life support - such as an oxygen mask, CPR or immobilization - had an 18 percentage-point survival advantage over those given advanced procedures, such as intubation, in an ambulance.

Scoop-and-run

The study, involving all six of Philadelphia's trauma hospitals, has been exempted from the Food and Drug Administration's informed-consent rules, which require research subjects to be told the risks and benefits and to give permission in advance - something not feasible with gravely wounded people. Organizers had to meet certain requirements before launching the study, including getting approval from city and hospital review boards that oversee research on humans, holding community meetings and informing a certain percentage of the public.

Karen Maschke, a scholar at the Hastings Center, a medical ethics think tank in suburban New York City, said the experiment appears ethically sound. "Getting to the emergency room, where equipment and experts are waiting, is a really critical window, especially for people with any kind of wound that involves bleeding," said Maschke, editor of the journal IRB: Ethics & Human Research. "Sometimes that's going to mean you can't stop and ask people if it's OK." A version of this experimental approach is already in place. For a generation, many Philadelphia police officers, instead of waiting for an ambulance, have been taking shooting and stabbing victims to the ER in their cruisers, a practice

known as "scoop-and-run."

Data from the longstanding practice helped inform the surgeons proposing this study. "All of the evidence we have points to us being right, but if we are wrong, we will end the study early," Maher told the community group. Some paramedics have opted out of

participating. Dr Patrick Reilly, trauma chief at Penn Presbyterian Hospital, a study partner, said doctors and society tend to think more is better. "If we said we were going to give another medicine, people would tend to go, 'Let's see if this works,'" he said. "This might be a situation where more isn't better." — AP



PHILADELPHIA: In this photo, Dr Zoe Maher, a Temple trauma surgeon, explains the Philadelphia Immediate Transport in Penetrating Trauma Trial (PIPT) to community leaders, at the Hunting Park Community Center, in Philadelphia. — AP

RUSSIA LAUNCHES ISS-BOUND CARGO SHIP

MOSCOW: A Russian rocket carrying an unmanned cargo ship blasted off for the International Space Station early yesterday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, the Russian space agency said. The Soyuz rocket carrying the Progress MS-03 ship was launched on schedule at 00:41 Moscow time (21:41 GMT Saturday) and began a two-day journey to the ISS, the Roscosmos space agency said on its website. The ship is carrying more than 2.4 tons of fuel, air, oxygen, food and equipment

for the crew on the international space laboratory.

It is due to dock at 03:22 Moscow time (00:22 GMT) on Tuesday. A Progress cargo ship launch failed in April 2015. Since then there have been two successful dockings of such ships. The ISS is currently manned by Kathleen Rubins of NASA, Takuya Onishi of the Japanese space agency, Jeff Williams of NASA and Russian cosmonauts Oleg Skripochka, Alexey Ovchinnin and Anatoly Ivanishin. — AFP

CHINA'S URBAN AIR QUALITY IMPROVES IN FIRST HALF

BEIJING: Air quality in China's largest cities continued to improve during the first six months of 2016, the country's environment ministry said yesterday. China's largest 338 cities enjoyed more clean air days in the first half compared with the same period of 2015, the ministry said on its website. It said 76.7 percent of January-June days had clean air, an increase of four percentage points from a year earlier.

In the capital Beijing, levels of PM 2.5 - dangerous tiny pollutants - fell 17.9 percent from a year earlier, the ministry said. In Beijing, concentrations of PM 2.5 averaged 64 micrograms per cubic meter in the first half, significantly higher than the official state standard of 35 micrograms, and the World Health Organization's guideline of an annual average of no more than 10 micrograms.

The ministry did not provide reasons for the improvement in air quality, but it

follows increased measures to crack down on polluters and coal use, as well as efforts to tackle overcapacity in the heavily polluting steel sector. A slowdown in economic growth has also likely contributed. Of the country's 10 most polluted cities in the first half, six were in the industrial northern province of Hebei, down from seven at the end of 2015.

At the end of last year, the government launched a two-month probe of the province, one of the country's most polluted regions, and found that firms had engaged in "fraudulent activities" and were flouting orders not to expand industrial capacity. On July 8, the environment ministry said it had fined several state-owned polluters in May for exceeding emission limits. A subsidiary of oil giant PetroChina Co Ltd in the northeastern city of Dalian was fined 2.9 million yuan (\$433,710) it said. — Reuters

ANIMAL WELFARE GROUP AGAIN SUES IOWA ZOO, FOCUS ON LIONS

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa: An embattled northeast Iowa zoo is facing a second lawsuit - this time regarding treatment of its endangered African lions. The Animal Legal Defense Fund and five Iowans filed a lawsuit Monday against the Cricket Hollow Zoo in Manchester, the Des Moines Register reported. Earlier this year, the national group successfully sued the zoo to force the removal of endangered lemur and tigers.

The most recent lawsuit claims that Cricket Hollow Zoo confines African lions in small, barren enclosures, disrupting and impairing the large cats. Zoo visitors have seen "a female lion retching in her enclosure, a lioness repeatedly ramming herself into her cage fencing, enclosures strewn with fly-laden meat and feces, and flies feasting on the ears and noses of African lions," the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit claims that Cricket Hollow Zoo's treatment of lions violates the federal Endangered Species

Act. A phone message left Saturday by The Associated Press at the zoo was not immediately returned. Jessica Blome, senior staff attorney with the Animal Legal Defense Fund, said the group wanted to include lions in its first lawsuit, but at the time, it was unclear whether the lions were designated as an endangered species. Federal designations have since changed, she said, making it clear that the lions are protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Blome said she's confident in the latest case against the zoo, because the previous lawsuit caused the zoo to give up its tigers. "All of the evidence that applied to the tigers applies to the lions," she said. Five tigers died at the zoo from 2013 through 2015, a California veterinarian testified in court last fall. The veterinarian said the tigers had received inadequate care and described the animals' enclosures as covered in feces and old food. — AP

WORLD TOURING SOLAR PLANE'S FINAL LEG TO UAE DELAYED



CAIRO : Swiss pilot Andre Borschberg speaks during a press conference at Cairo International Airport on July 16, 2016, announcing the postponement of the final leg of an unprecedented world tour by a solar plane due to the health of co-pilot Bertrand Piccard. — AFP

CAIRO: The final leg of an unprecedented world tour by a solar-powered plane was postponed Saturday due to the pilot's health, he said in a message on Twitter. The Solar Impulse 2 had been scheduled to leave Cairo for Abu Dhabi. "I'm sick. Stomach upset. I prefer to postpone the take-off. I cannot go flying for 48 hours in that shape. Sorry," Bertrand Piccard wrote on Twitter.

The aircraft had arrived in Cairo on Wednesday after a two-day flight from Spain, finishing the 3,745 kilometer journey with an average speed of 76.7 kilometers an hour. It had earlier landed in Seville after completing the first solo transatlantic flight powered only by sunlight, flying through the night with energy stored in its 17,000 photovoltaic cells. Piccard had completed the 6,765 transatlantic flight in 71 hours. The plane

is being flown on its 35,400-kilometre trip in stages, with Piccard and his Swiss compatriot Andre Borschberg alternating at the controls of the single-seat plane. "So Piccard was not feeling well yesterday. Was much better this morning. And then again tonight things got a bit worse. So we took the decision... it's not an easy decision but it's a wise decision for safety reasons," Borschberg told journalists who had assembled to watch the plane take off in Cairo.

The plane should depart during "the next weather window," he said. "Sometime in the middle of the week." Borschberg had piloted the plane in its 8,924 kilometer flight from Japan to Hawaii in 118 hours, breaking the previous record for the longest uninterrupted journey in aviation history. The Solar Impulse 2 embarked on its journey in

Abu Dhabi in March 2015. Both pilots have described flying the plane as a delight, but they have to be in good condition for the long flights. Piccard had said that the pilots take 20 minute naps as the plane, which is no heavier than a large car but with the wingspan of a Boeing 747, inches across the sky.

"It is comfortable. But of course you need to train for that. You need to train to make some exercise in the capsule, in the cockpit, because otherwise after several days you cannot move your legs and your arms anymore," Piccard had said when the plane landed in Cairo. Borschberg and Piccard have said they want to raise awareness of renewable energy sources and technologies with their project. But they do not expect commercial solar-powered planes any time soon. — AFP

UPROAR AS ALBANIA TO DAM EUROPE'S 'WILDEST RIVER'

KUT, Albania: "This river will bury the living and the dead," sighed Enver Vasilaj, 93, standing by the Vjosa, one of Europe's last wild waterways, which runs uninterrupted from its source in northwest Greece to the Adriatic Sea. Vasilaj is among many residents of the remote Albanian village of Kut who are worried about the impact on their lives and livelihoods of a planned hydroelectric dam at Pocem, a few kilometers downstream.

Despite election campaign pledges to preserve the Vjosa and create a national park around the river, Albania's government in May defied local and international opposition and granted initial approval to a proposal by two Turkish firms to build a 25-metre, 99.5 megawatt dam at Pocem. Residents of Kut, 170 kilometers south of Tirana, fear the lake created by the 100 million euro (\$110 million) dam will engulf their fields and olive groves—even the cemetery—leaving only their houses above the water line.

"Here we have a curse: 'Let your tomb be flooded,'" said Dilaver Murataj, who is in charge of Kut's land registry. "It is a serious curse," he added, explaining that land was so cherished here that even when people emigrated they did not sell up. According to Olsi Nika of the environmental association EcoAlbania about 178 concession agreements have been signed for the construction of about 502 new hydropower plants.

Albania 'cannot be a museum'

Energy Minister Damian Gjiknuri said the government was determined to press ahead with the Pocem dam. "A developing country cannot be a museum. Hydropower has drawbacks, but every development has a cost to

the environment," he said. Exactly what this cost will be remains uncertain, as there has been no information about when or even whether an environmental impact assessment—usually a prerequisite in dam projects—would be carried out.

Once energy self-sufficient, Albania now produces only 70 percent of its electricity needs, Gjiknuri said. For a long time, power cuts were daily events. According to a 2015 report by the US Agency for International Development, energy demand in Albania is projected to grow by 136 percent from 2012 to 2030. For the authorities, the mountainous country's river system offers an easy source of energy.

Only 30 to 35 percent of Albania's hydropower potential has been developed so far, according to the International Hydropower Association (IHA). With dams "Albania could increase its influence in the regional energy market while simultaneously bolstering its own energy security," it said. However, it warned that the "delays due to social and environmental concerns have been a deterrent to major projects."

'Unique Balkan rivers'

"We will try to convince our friends there that it is... a chance for tourism to maintain the unique Balkan rivers in their natural state instead of building hydro plants everywhere," said Knut Fleckenstein, the European Parliament's rapporteur for Albania, an EU candidate country. He said Albania was losing between 30 and 50 percent of its electricity production to inefficiencies in the distribution network. "It is not necessary that they have to take each and every river," he said. — AFP



ALBANIA : This picture shows residents of the village of Kut standing next to the Vjosa river. — AFP

SPACE X TO LAUNCH 'PARKING SPOT' TO SPACE STATION

'US SPACE AGENCY NEGOTIATES DISCOUNTED MISSION PRICES'

MIAMI: SpaceX is poised to launch its unmanned Dragon cargo capsule to the International Space Station on Monday, carrying a key piece of equipment that was lost last year in a rocket explosion. The international docking adapter will function as a parking spot for space taxis, enabling commercial spaceships carrying astronauts to latch on securely to the orbiting outpost. It is the first of two docking adapters needed for the crew spaceships being built by SpaceX and Boeing, with those pioneer commercial flights planned for 2017 and 2018.

For Monday's launch, the gumdrop-shaped Dragon spaceship is packed with nearly 5,000 pounds of gear, including science experiments and equipment for the astronauts living in space. After blasting off from Cape Canaveral, Florida at 12:45 am (0445 GMT), SpaceX will attempt to return the first stage of the Falcon 9 rocket to an upright landing on solid ground at the NASA facility.

The California-based company headed by Internet entrepreneur Elon Musk has already managed to land its rockets on land and on a barge in the Atlantic Ocean several times, as part of an ongoing effort to make rocket parts as re-usable as components from commercial airplanes. According to Hans Koenigsmann, vice president of flight reliability at SpaceX, setting the rocket back down on solid ground requires more propellant than a water landing, but also affords a larger and more stable area for touchdown. "I think it is going to be an easier trajectory than the last one," he told reporters. "I am pretty optimistic at this point in time that we will land it, but I would always knock on wood. Just by the nature of this maneuver, it is pretty challenging." SpaceX is still in the process of scheduling the first rocket launch using one of the pieces it has recovered, perhaps in the fall, he added.

Costly accident

Weather is 90 percent favorable for the launch, which will mark the ninth of 20 missions to the space station for SpaceX, as part of a \$1.6 billion contract with NASA. In June 2015, SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket exploded about two minutes after launch, destroying a previous version of the docking adapter and thousands of pounds of gear. The total loss amounted to \$118 million, according to NASA. The cause of the accident was a faulty strut that allowed a helium tank to break loose in flight, SpaceX said.

Following the accident, the US space agency negotiated "discounted mission prices" with SpaceX for upcoming supply trips, according to an Office of the Inspector General audit released last month. It did not specify how much. If launch goes as planned Monday, the Dragon is expected to arrive at the



CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida : A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket attached to the cargo-only capsule called Dragon sits on the launch pad for a scheduled evening launch in Cape Canaveral, Florida. — AFP

space station early Wednesday. A Russian Progress cargo ship is scheduled to arrive Monday. The Dragon will stay at the orbiting outpost for about a month before returning to Earth for a splash down in Pacific Ocean, carrying back 1,300 pounds of science experiments. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

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DROP IN PHYSICAL ACTIVITY DURING THE HOLY MONTH



The Health Ministry released the results of a study conducted with citizens and expats at Gate Mall during the holy month of Ramadan about the decreasing rates of physical activity during the holy month compared to the months that preceded it. The study revealed that there is a drop in physical activity with "women" and "men", also women were less active than men. Results also showed that those who suffer from obesity

and increased weight have lesser level of activity than those with normal weight during before Ramadan, and the gap increased during the month, adding those people suffer from chronic diseases during the month. Head of the media office at the Health Ministry Dr Ghalia Al-Mutairi aided the campaign as one of Health Ministry's efforts to confront non-communicable chronic diseases which include diabetes, hypertension, heart

and their risk factors headed by obesity and smoking. Al-Mutairi said, the goal behind the campaign was to encourage shoppers to practice physical activity as one of the healthy life patterns that protect against chronic diseases and help control them. She said 1050 persons were tested during the month, 108 of them were discovered with high blood sugar levels, and 66 new hypertension cases. She said tests showed that the per-

centage of excess weight is 42.3% and obesity 31% among participants in addition to 35% smokers. Meanwhile the first step voluntary group, conducted a campaign called "reduce your weight" to encourage people reduce their weight at Gate Mall, and offered prizes to encourage overweight people lose weight. The group held a prize distribution ceremony under the patronage of Public Authority for Sports, where it announced the winners and

distributed valuable prizes to those who lost weight during the holy month. Al-Sanabel Al-Thahabeya and its principle Sebamed were among the sponsors of the campaign and gave away prizes during the month. The award ceremony was sponsored by PAS in cooperation with Mubarak Al-Kabeer and Qurain Cooperative Society, and the First Step for Prevention of Diseases Group.



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khalidiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadisiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



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Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 17/07/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 34 °C

By Night :Relatively hot with light to moderate north westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h

SFC. CHART

MSL Analysis (hPa) Valid 1200 UTC 17 JUL 2016

Four-Day Forecast

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Expected Weather	very hot	very hot + relatively humid	very hot + relatively humid	very hot
Min Temp °C	34	32	33	35
Max Temp °C	48	46	47	51
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly later on	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	08 - 30	08 - 30	12 - 35

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	36	48
KUWAIT AIRPORT	34	49
ABDALY	32	49
BUBYAN	33	49
JAHRA	36	50
FAILAKA ISLAND	32	48
SALMIYAH	36	45
AHMADI	38	47
JAL ALIYAH	33	49
QAROH ISLAND	34	40
UMM AL-MARADEM	34	41
NUWAISIB	34	47
WAFRA	35	49
MANAGISH	32	48
SALMY	29	48
MUTRIBA	31	50

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	49
Min Temp (°C)	36
Max Rel Hum (%)	15
Min Rel Hum (%)	05
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	60 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:00
Sunset	18:48

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:27
Sunrise	05:00
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:29
Sunset	18:48
Isha	20:18

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		



PRIVATE CLINICS

<p>Ophthalmologists</p> <p>Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor 25622444 Dr. Samy Al-Rabaa 25752222 Dr. Masoma Habeeb 25321171 Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy 25739999 Dr. Mohsen Abel 25757700 Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl 25732223 Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly 25732223</p> <p>Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)</p> <p>Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner 24555050 Ext 510 Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali 25644660 Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel 25646478 Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah 25311996 Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory 25731988 Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary 22620166 Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz 25651426</p> <p>General Practitioners</p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi 24555050 Ext 123 Dr. Yousef Al-Omar 24719312 Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem 23926920 Dr. Kathem Maarafi 25730465 Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah 25655528 Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi 24577781 Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rfae 25333501</p> <p>Urologists</p> <p>Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy 22641534 Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul 22639955 Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi 22616660 Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C) 25313120 Dr. Leons Joseph 66703427</p>	<p>Plastic Surgeons</p> <p>Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf 22547272 Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari 22617700 Dr. Abdel Quttainah 25625030/60</p> <p>Family Doctor</p> <p>Dr Divya Damodar 23729596/23729581</p> <p>Psychiatrists</p> <p>Dr. Esam Al-Ansari 22635047 Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan 22613623/0</p> <p>Gynaecologists & Obstetricians</p> <p>Dr Adrian arbe 23729596/23729581 Dr. Verginia s.Marin 2572-6666 ext 8321 Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan 22655539 Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami 25343406 Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly 25739272 Dr. Salem soso 22618787</p> <p>General Surgeons</p> <p>Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer 22610044 Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher 25327148</p> <p>Internists, Chest & Heart</p> <p>Dr. Adnan Ebil 22639939 Dr. Mousa Khadada 22666300 Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan 25728004 Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra 25355515 Dr. Mobarak Aldoub 24726446 Dr Nasser Behbehani 25654300/3</p>	<p>Paediatricians</p> <p>Dr. Khaled Hamadi 25665898 Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed 25340300 Dr. Zahra Qabazard 25710444 Dr. Sohail Qamar 22621099 Dr. Snaa Maarooof 25713514 Dr. Pradip Gujare 23713100 Dr. Zacharias Mathew 24334282</p> <p>Dermatology</p> <p>Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University 23845955</p> <p>Dentists</p> <p>Dr Anil Thomas 3729596/3729581 Dr. Shamah Al-Matar 22641071/2 Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed 22562226 Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer 22561444 Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan 22619557 Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash 22525888 Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan 25653755 Dr. Bader Al-Ansari 25620111</p> <p>Neurologists</p> <p>Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri 25633324 Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan 25345875</p> <p>Gastrologists</p> <p>Dr. Sami Aman 22636464 Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly 25322030 Dr. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali 22633135</p>	<p>Endocrinologist</p> <p>Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman 25339330</p> <p>Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari 25658888</p> <p>Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr 25329924</p> <p>Physiotherapists & VD</p> <p>Dr. Deyaa Shehab 25722291</p> <p>Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees 22666288</p> <p>Rheumatologists:</p> <p>Dr. Adel Al-Awadi 25330060</p> <p>Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah 25722290</p> <p>Internist, Chest & Heart</p> <p>DR.Mohammes Akkad 24555050 Ext 210</p> <p>Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital 25339667</p> <p>Consultant Cardiologist</p> <p>Dr. Farida Al-Habib 2611555-2622555 MD, PH.D, FACC</p> <p>Inaya German Medical Center Tel: 2575077 Fax: 25723123</p>
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Psychologists /Psychotherapists

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William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677



- 03:25 Deadly Islands
- 06:36 Swamp Brothers
- 07:25 Too Cute!
- 08:15 River Monsters
- 09:10 Treehouse Masters
- 10:05 Tanked
- 11:00 Too Cute!
- 11:55 Bondi Vet
- 12:50 River Monsters
- 13:45 Gator Boys
- 14:40 Treehouse Masters
- 15:35 Tanked
- 16:30 Wildest Africa
- 17:25 Big Fish Man
- 18:20 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
- 18:45 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
- 19:15 Tanked
- 20:10 Wildest Africa
- 21:05 Treehouse Masters
- 22:00 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
- 22:25 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
- 22:55 Gator Boys
- 23:50 Big Fish Man
- 00:45 Ultimate Air Jaws
- 01:40 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
- 02:05 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
- 02:35 Tanked



- 03:20 Spooks
- 04:10 Doctors
- 04:40 Eastenders
- 05:15 Sinbad
- 06:00 Eastenders
- 06:30 Eastenders
- 07:00 Eastenders
- 07:30 Doctors
- 08:00 Doctors
- 08:30 Father Brown
- 09:15 Upstairs Downstairs
- 10:10 Sinbad
- 10:55 Doctors
- 11:30 Eastenders
- 12:05 Father Brown
- 12:55 Upstairs Downstairs
- 13:55 Sinbad
- 14:40 Eastenders
- 15:15 Doctors
- 15:45 Father Brown
- 16:35 Stella
- 17:25 Sinbad
- 18:15 Casualty
- 19:10 Father Brown
- 20:00 The Living And The Dead
- 21:00 The Living And The Dead
- 22:00 Ripper Street
- 22:55 Spooks
- 23:50 Casualty
- 00:35 The Living And The Dead
- 01:30 The Living And The Dead
- 02:30 Ripper Street



- 03:40 Extreme Collectors
- 04:05 Auction Hunters
- 04:30 Dallas Car Sharks
- 05:00 How Do They Do It?
- 05:30 How Stuff's Made
- 06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 06:50 Junkyard Empire
- 07:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 08:30 Extreme Collectors
- 08:55 Auction Hunters
- 09:20 Dallas Car Sharks
- 09:45 How Do They Do It?
- 10:10 How Stuff's Made
- 10:35 Fat N' Loud
- 11:25 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 12:15 Street Outlaws
- 13:05 Extreme Collectors
- 13:30 Auction Hunters
- 13:55 Dallas Car Sharks
- 14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
- 15:10 Junkyard Empire
- 16:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 16:50 How Stuff's Made
- 17:15 How Do They Do It?
- 17:40 Gold Divers
- 18:30 Pacific Warriors
- 19:20 Kings Of The Wild
- 20:10 Auction Hunters
- 20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
- 21:00 Gold Divers
- 21:50 Yukon Men
- 22:40 Outback Truckers
- 23:30 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
- 00:20 Junkyard Empire
- 01:10 Gold Divers
- 02:00 Yukon Men



- 03:00 Dirty Jobs
- 03:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 06:20 How It's Made
- 07:00 Doki
- 07:25 Dick N' Dom Go Wild
- 07:50 My Cat From Hell
- 08:40 How It's Made
- 09:05 How It's Made
- 09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 10:20 Mythbusters
- 11:10 Bondi Vet
- 12:00 My Cat From Hell
- 12:50 Ultimate Survival
- 13:40 How It's Made
- 14:30 Dirty Jobs
- 15:20 Mythbusters
- 16:10 Doki
- 16:35 Dick N' Dom Go Wild
- 17:00 Pick A Puppy
- 17:50 Kings Of The Wild
- 18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
- 19:30 Mythbusters
- 20:20 How It's Made
- 21:10 Pick A Puppy
- 21:35 Pick A Puppy
- 22:00 Kings Of The Wild
- 22:50 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Ultimate Survival
- 00:30 Mythbusters
- 01:20 Pick A Puppy
- 01:45 Pick A Puppy
- 02:10 Kings Of The Wild



- 03:15 The Hive
- 03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 04:10 Hank Zipzer
- 04:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 05:00 Violetta
- 05:45 The Hive
- 05:50 Mouk
- 06:00 Hank Zipzer
- 06:25 Sofia The First
- 06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 06:55 Gravity Falls
- 07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 07:45 Backstage
- 08:10 Bunk'd
- 08:35 Shake It Up
- 09:00 Hannah Montana
- 09:25 Hannah Montana
- 09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
- 10:15 Wizards Of Waverly Place

- 10:40 Good Luck Charlie
- 11:30 Jessie
- 12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 12:45 Hank Zipzer
- 13:10 Austin & Ally
- 14:00 Liv And Maddie
- 14:50 Dog With A Blog
- 15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:20 Gravity Falls
- 15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
- 16:10 Violetta
- 17:00 Backstage
- 17:25 Alex & Co.
- 17:50 Girl Meets World
- 18:15 Liv And Maddie
- 18:40 Best Friends Whenever
- 19:05 Austin & Ally
- 19:30 Bunk'd
- 19:55 Jessie
- 20:20 Backstage
- 20:45 Good Luck Charlie
- 21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
- 22:00 Binny And The Ghost
- 22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
- 23:10 Hank Zipzer
- 23:35 Binny And The Ghost
- 00:00 Violetta
- 00:45 The Hive
- 00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch



- 03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
- 03:20 Calimero
- 03:35 Zou
- 03:45 Loopdidoo
- 04:00 Art Attack
- 04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
- 04:35 Calimero
- 04:50 Zou
- 05:00 Loopdidoo
- 05:15 Art Attack
- 05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
- 05:50 Calimero
- 06:00 Zou
- 06:20 Loopdidoo
- 06:35 Art Attack
- 07:00 The Hive
- 07:10 Zou
- 07:25 Loopdidoo
- 07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 08:05 Sofia The First
- 08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
- 08:45 PJ Masks
- 09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 09:35 Doc McStuffins
- 10:00 Sofia The First
- 10:30 Goldie & Bear
- 10:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 11:25 The Lion Guard
- 11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
- 12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
- 12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 13:00 Sofia The First
- 13:30 Doc McStuffins
- 13:55 Miles From Tomorrow
- 14:25 The Lion Guard
- 14:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 15:20 Doc McStuffins
- 15:45 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
- 16:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 16:30 Doc McStuffins
- 16:55 Sofia The First
- 17:25 Goldie & Bear
- 17:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 18:20 The Lion Guard
- 18:45 Miles From Tomorrow
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 20:00 Doc McStuffins
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:30 PJ Masks
- 22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 22:45 Unbungalievable
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 Loopdidoo
- 00:05 Art Attack



- 06:00 Booster
- 06:10 Super Matrak
- 06:35 Super Matrak
- 07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
- 07:25 K.C. Undercover
- 07:50 Supa Strikas
- 08:15 Phineas And Ferb
- 08:40 Camp Lakebottom
- 09:10 Gravity Falls
- 09:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 10:00 Rocket Monkeys
- 10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
- 10:50 Booster
- 11:20 Booster
- 11:45 Pair Of Kings
- 12:10 Pair Of Kings
- 12:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 12:40 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

- 13:30 Phineas And Ferb
- 13:55 Phineas And Ferb
- 14:20 Kickin' It
- 14:45 Kickin' It
- 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 15:15 Mighty Med
- 15:40 The 7D
- 16:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 16:30 Pickle And Peanut
- 16:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
- 17:25 Coopers Re-Activated
- 18:15 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 18:40 K.C. Undercover
- 19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 19:10 Annedroids
- 19:35 Phineas And Ferb
- 20:00 Kirby Buckets
- 20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
- 20:55 K.C. Undercover
- 21:20 Pickle And Peanut
- 21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
- 22:10 Mighty Med
- 22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
- 23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am KSA



- 03:00 Mystery Diners
- 04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 05:00 Chopped
- 06:00 Man Fire Food
- 08:00 Chopped
- 09:00 Barefoot Contessa
- 10:00 The Kitchen
- 11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 12:00 Chopped
- 13:00 Guy's Big Bite
- 14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 15:00 Man Fire Food
- 16:00 Chopped
- 17:00 The Kitchen
- 18:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
- 19:00 Chopped
- 20:00 Man v Food
- 20:30 Bite This With Nadia G
- 21:00 Restaurant Takeover
- 22:00 Mystery Diners
- 23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
- 00:00 Iron Chef America
- 01:00 Restaurant Takeover
- 02:00 Mystery Diners



- 03:25 It's Not Rocket Science
- 04:20 Don't Tell The Bride
- 05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
- 06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 08:00 It's Not Rocket Science
- 08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
- 09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
- 10:40 The Chase
- 11:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
- 12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 13:25 Emmerdale
- 13:50 Eggheads
- 14:20 Coronation Street
- 14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples
- 15:35 Chopping Block
- 16:30 Together
- 17:00 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 17:25 Don't Tell The Bride
- 18:20 Emmerdale
- 18:45 Eggheads
- 19:10 Coronation Street
- 19:35 Chopping Block
- 20:30 Together
- 21:00 Tracey Ullman's Show
- 21:25 Don't Tell The Bride
- 22:00 Coronation Street
- 22:50 Emmerdale
- 23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
- 00:10 The Chase
- 01:00 Emmerdale
- 01:30 Eggheads
- 02:00 Coronation Street



- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 03:48 Henry Danger
- 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 05:00 Max & Shred
- 05:24 Henry Danger
- 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 07:48 Winx Club
- 08:12 The Loud House
- 08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 09:24 Harvey Beaks
- 09:48 Henry Danger
- 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
- 11:00 Winx Club
- 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles

- 12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 13:00 Breadwinners
- 13:24 The Loud House
- 13:48 Get Blake
- 14:12 Rabbids Invasion
- 14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 15:00 Game Shakers
- 15:24 The Loud House
- 15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 16:36 Harvey Beaks
- 17:00 Sanjay And Craig
- 17:24 Harvey Beaks
- 17:48 The Loud House
- 18:12 Henry Danger
- 18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
- 19:24 Game Shakers
- 19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- 21:24 Breadwinners
- 21:48 Breadwinners
- 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
- 22:36 Sanjay And Craig
- 23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 23:24 Henry Danger
- 23:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
- 00:12 Max & Shred
- 01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
- 01:24 Sanjay And Craig
- 01:48 Sanjay And Craig
- 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
- 02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants



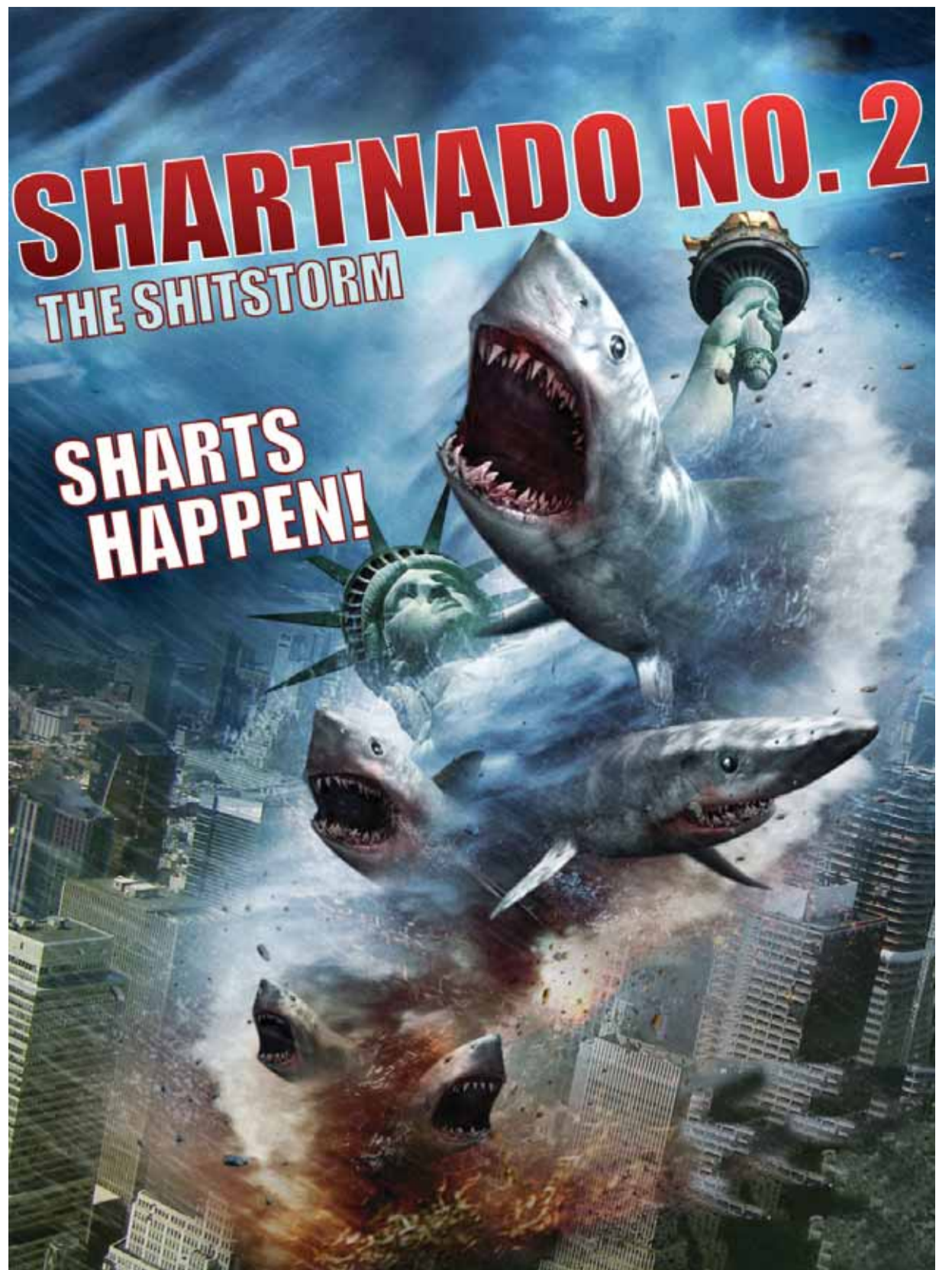
- 03:00 Living With Fran
- 03:30 Mad Love
- 04:00 The Goldbergs
- 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 05:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
- 06:00 George Lopez
- 06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 08:00 The Goldbergs
- 08:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
- 09:00 Living With Fran
- 09:30 The Last Man On Earth
- 10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 10:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
- 12:00 George Lopez
- 12:30 The Goldbergs
- 13:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
- 13:30 The Bernie Mac Show
- 14:00 Mad Love
- 14:30 The Last Man On Earth
- 15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 15:30 Dr. Ken
- 16:00 Modern Family
- 16:30 George Lopez
- 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
- 18:00 Living With Fran
- 18:30 Mad Love
- 19:00 The Last Man On Earth
- 19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
- 20:00 Comedians
- 20:30 Comedians
- 21:00 Dr. Ken
- 21:30 Last Man Standing
- 22:00 Ballers
- 22:30 Man Seeking Woman
- 23:00 Life In Pieces
- 23:30 Comedians
- 00:00 Comedians
- 00:30 Dr. Ken
- 01:00 Last Man Standing
- 01:30 Ballers
- 02:00 Man Seeking Woman
- 02:30 Life In Pieces



- 03:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
- 04:00 Bessie
- 06:00 Longford
- 08:00 Subway Stories
- 09:30 The Pee-Wee Herman Show On Broadway
- 11:00 The Cheshire Murders
- 13:00 Cinema Verite
- 15:00 Shot In The Heart
- 17:00 The Cheshire Murders
- 19:00 The Wire
- 20:00 Band Of Brothers
- 21:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
- 21:30 Ballers
- 22:00 The Night Of
- 23:00 Vice Principals
- 23:30 How To Make It In America
- 00:00 The Wire
- 01:00 Band Of Brothers
- 02:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
- 02:30 Ballers



- 03:00 Damien
- 04:00 Bones
- 05:00 Good Morning America
- 06:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 07:00 Devious Maids



SHARKNADO 2- THE SECOND ONE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

- 08:00 The Blacklist
- 09:00 Code Black
- 10:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
- 11:00 Devious Maids
- 12:00 The Blacklist
- 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 14:00 Live Good Morning America
- 16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
- 18:00 The Blacklist
- 19:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
- 20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
- 21:00 Stitches
- 22:00 Code Black
- 23:00 Better Call Saul
- 00:00 Devious Maids
- 01:00 Stitches
- 02:00 Code Black



- 04:00 388 Arletta Avenue
- 06:00 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 07:45 Breakdown
- 09:45 47 Ronin
- 11:45 Airplane vs. Volcano
- 13:30 Unstoppable
- 15:15 In The Name Of The King: The Last Mission
- 16:45 47 Ronin
- 18:45 Pearl Harbor
- 22:00 The Man With The Iron Fists
- 00:00 No Way Out
- 02:00 Sharknado 2: The Second One



- 04:00 Mr. Destiny
- 06:00 Sister Act
- 08:00 Sweet Home Alabama
- 10:00 Sleepless In Seattle
- 12:00 Mr. Destiny

- 14:00 Three Men And A Baby
- 16:00 Sweet Home Alabama
- 18:00 Encino Man
- 20:00 What We Do In The Shadows
- 22:00 Joe Dirt 2: Beautiful Loser
- 00:00 Ted
- 02:00 Encino Man



- 03:00 Frank
- 05:00 Before I Go To Sleep
- 07:00 The Love Guide
- 09:00 Foxcatcher
- 11:15 Before I Go To Sleep
- 13:00 The Melancholy Fantastic
- 14:30 The French Minister
- 16:30 Foxcatcher
- 19:00 Two Night Stand
- 21:00 Goodbye World
- 23:00 Afternoon Delight
- 01:00 Foxcatcher

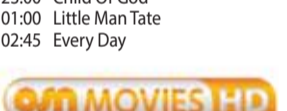


- 03:15 Sky High
- 05:15 Ernest Goes To Camp
- 07:15 Tinker Bell And The Legend Of The NeverBeast
- 09:00 Toy Story
- 11:00 The Princess And The Frog
- 13:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
- 15:00 Toy Story 2
- 17:00 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid
- 19:00 Favorite Magic
- 21:00 My Strange Martian
- 23:00 Honey, I Blew Up The Kid
- 01:00 Strange Magic



- 03:30 Calendar Girls
- 05:30 Two Men In Town

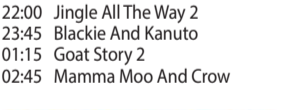
- 07:45 Blackfish
- 09:30 Get On Up
- 12:00 A Passage To India
- 15:00 Veronica Guerin
- 17:00 Little Man Tate
- 19:00 Every Day
- 21:00 True Colors
- 23:00 Child Of God
- 01:00 Little Man Tate
- 02:45 Every Day



- 03:00 Step Up Revolution
- 05:00 Persecuted
- 07:00 Accidental Love
- 09:00 Step Up Revolution
- 11:00 Hot Pursuit
- 12:45 Tomorrowland
- 15:00 Boychoir
- 17:00 Step Up All In
- 19:00 A Royal Night Out
- 21:00 The Walk
- 23:15 The Boy Next Door
- 01:00 Little Accidents



- 04:15 Columbus In The Last Journey
- 06:00 Elf: Buddy's Musical Christmas
- 07:00 Goat Story 2
- 08:30 The Heart Of The Oak
- 09:45 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
- 11:15 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
- 12:45 Goat Story 2
- 14:15 Jingle All The Way 2
- 16:00 Blackie And Kanuto
- 18:00 The Heart Of The Oak
- 20:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
- 22:00 Jingle All The Way 2
- 23:45 Blackie And Kanuto
- 01:15 Goat Story 2
- 02:45 Mamma Moo And Crow



- 04:15 I Am Ali
- 06:15 The Mark
- 08:00 The Rewrite
- 10:00 Diana
- 12:00 McFarland, USA
- 14:15 Song For Marion
- 16:00 The Rewrite
- 18:00 Seventh Son
- 19:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
- 22:00 Jackie & Ryan
- 00:00 Chocolate City
- 02:00 Seventh Son



- 04:30 Hidalgo
- 06:45 Starship Troopers
- 09:00 Saving Mr. Banks
- 11:15 Beyond A Reasonable Doubt
- 13:00 Signs
- 14:45 Surrogates
- 16:30 My Daughter Must Live
- 18:15 A Lot Like Love
- 20:00 Bruce Almighty
- 21:45 Seabiscuit
- 00:15 10 Things I Hate About You
- 02:00 Up Close & Personal



- 03:00 The Bridge
- 04:00 House Of DVF
- 05:00 Style By Jury
- 05:30 Style By Jury
- 06:00 The Simpsons
- 07:00 Bones
- 08:00 American Idol
- 09:00 American Idol
- 10:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
- 10:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
- 11:00 The Bridge

- 12:00 House Of DVF
- 13:00 Style By Jury
- 13:30 Style By Jury
- 14:00 The Simpsons
- 14:30 The Simpsons
- 15:00 Bones
- 16:00 American Idol
- 17:00 American Idol
- 18:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 19:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 20:00 Grey's Anatomy
- 21:00 Cougar Town
- 21:30 Cougar Town
- 22:00 The Simpsons
- 22:30 The Simpsons
- 23:00 Bones
- 00:00 American Idol
- 01:00 American Idol
- 02:00 Grey's Anatomy



- 03:40 Quiet City
- 05:00 Movie Talk
- 05:30 Welcome To Pine Hill
- 07:00 A Small Section Of The World
- 08:00 Cloro (Chlorine)
- 09:35 Kumiko, The Treasure Hunter
- 11:20 Circulo
- 13:10 Andrea Bocelli: Child Destined To Sing
- 14:05 Les Paul: Chasing Sound
- 15:35 Waiting For Charlotte
- 16:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
- 17:00 Day In The Life: Samuel L. Jackson
- 17:20 A Small Section Of The World
- 18:20 Battle For Britain
- 1

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (14/07/2016 TO 20/07/2016)

Channel	Programme	Time	Channel	Programme	Time
SHARQIA-1	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	11:30 AM		NOW YOU SEE ME 2	11:45 PM
	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	1:45 PM		INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	5:15 PM
	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	4:00 PM		FINDING DORY -3D	7:45 PM
	SULTAN- HINDI	6:15 PM		INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	10:00 PM
	INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	9:30 PM		NOW YOU SEE ME 2	12:30 AM
	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	12:05 AM			
SHARQIA-2	GHOSTBUSTERS	1:00 PM		FANAR-3	
	GHOSTBUSTERS	3:30 PM		FINDING DORY	12:45 PM
	FINDING DORY -3D	5:45 PM		FINDING DORY	3:00 PM
	GHOSTBUSTERS	8:00 PM		SULTAN- HINDI	5:15 PM
	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	10:15 PM		SULTAN- HINDI	8:30 PM
	GHOSTBUSTERS	12:45 AM		SULTAN- HINDI	11:45 PM
SHARQIA-3	FINDING DORY	12:45 PM		FANAR-4	
	FINDING DORY	3:00 PM		GHOSTBUSTERS	1:00 PM
	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	5:30 PM		MARAUDERS	3:15 PM
	ABU SHANAB	7:45 PM		GHOSTBUSTERS	5:30 PM
	ABU SHANAB	10:00 PM		MARAUDERS	8:00 PM
	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:30 AM		GHOSTBUSTERS	10:15 PM
				MARAUDERS	12:45 AM
MUHALAB-1	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	11:30 AM		FANAR-5	
	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	1:45 PM		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	11:30 AM
	SULTAN- HINDI	4:00 PM		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	1:45 PM
	ABU SHANAB	7:15 PM		TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	4:00 PM
	ABU SHANAB	9:30 PM		TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	6:15 PM
	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	11:45 PM		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	8:30 PM
				CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	10:45 PM
MUHALAB-2	FINDING DORY	12:45 PM		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	1:00 AM
	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	3:00 PM		MARINA-1	
	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	5:15 PM		GHOSTBUSTERS	12:15 PM
	FINDING DORY	7:30 PM		GHOSTBUSTERS	2:30 PM
	INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	9:45 PM		GHOSTBUSTERS	4:45 PM
	TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:15 AM		GHOSTBUSTERS	7:00 PM
MUHALAB-3	FINDING DORY -3D	11:30 AM		NOW YOU SEE ME 2	9:15 PM
	GHOSTBUSTERS	1:30 PM		NOW YOU SEE ME 2	12:05 AM
	FINDING DORY -3D	3:45 PM		MARINA-2	
	GHOSTBUSTERS	6:00 PM		TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:45 PM
	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	8:15 PM		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	3:30 PM
	GHOSTBUSTERS	10:30 PM		TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	5:45 PM
	CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	12:45 AM		ABU SHANAB	8:00 PM
FANAR-1	GHOSTBUSTERS	12:00 PM		ABU SHANAB	10:15 PM
	GHOSTBUSTERS	2:45 PM		TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:30 AM
	ABU SHANAB	5:15 PM		MARINA-3	
	ABU SHANAB	7:30 PM		CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	1:00 PM
	ABU SHANAB	9:45 PM		FINDING DORY	3:15 PM
	ABU SHANAB	12:05 AM		FINDING DORY	5:30 PM
FANAR-2	NOW YOU SEE ME 2	11:45 AM		FINDING DORY	7:45 PM
				CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	10:00 PM
				CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	12:15 AM
				AVENUES-1	
				CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	11:45 AM
				SULTAN- HINDI	2:00 PM
				SULTAN- HINDI	5:15 PM
				SULTAN- HINDI	8:30 PM
				AVENUES-2	
				GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX	11:30 AM
				TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS -4DX	2:00 PM
				GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX	4:30 PM
				GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX	7:00 PM
				TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS -4DX	9:30 PM
				GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX	12:05 AM
				AVENUES-3	
				FINDING DORY	11:30 AM
				ABU SHANAB	1:45 PM
				ABU SHANAB	4:15 PM
				ABU SHANAB	6:45 PM
				ABU SHANAB	9:15 PM
				ABU SHANAB	11:45 PM
				360° 1	
				FINDING DORY -3D	12:15 PM
				FINDING DORY -3D	2:30 PM
				FINDING DORY -3D	4:45 PM
				FINDING DORY -3D	7:00 PM
				FINDING DORY	9:15 PM
				KILL COMMAND	11:30 PM
				360° 2	
				SULTAN- HINDI	12:45 PM
				NO FRI	
				FINDING DORY	1:30 PM
				FRI	
				SULTAN- HINDI	4:00 PM
				SULTAN- HINDI	7:30 PM
				SULTAN- HINDI	11:00 PM
				360° 3	
				FINDING DORY	11:30 AM
				INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	1:45 PM
				INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	4:15 PM
				INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	6:45 PM
				INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	9:15 PM
				INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE	11:45 PM
				AL-KOUT.1	
				GHOSTBUSTERS	1:00 PM
				CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	3:15 PM
				GHOSTBUSTERS	5:30 PM
				CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	7:45 PM
				GHOSTBUSTERS	10:00 PM
				CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE	12:15 AM
				AL-KOUT.2	
				TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS	12:30 PM
				NOW YOU SEE ME 2	3:00 PM
				ABU SHANAB	5:45 PM
				ABU SHANAB	8:00 PM
				ABU SHANAB	10:15 PM
				NOW YOU SEE ME 2	12:30 AM

REQUIRED

A mini-Market
Requires Salesman/Saleswoman
Filipino National

- Fluent in Arabic (speaking)
- Experience is a must
- Presentable.
- Transferable Visa (article 18)

Send CV to email
quickbasket1@gmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME

Taluk, Tanjore district, here-by changed my name to Jayaraman Ravichandran. (C 5188)

I, Shaik Madar (old name), Passport No. P0377626, R/o, D.No. 28/83, Bhavani Nagar, Bethal Colony, Rayachoty Town & Mandal, YSR Kadapa Dist., A.P. hereby changed my name as Pathan Haroon Khan S/o P.Azeez Khan (new name). (C 5190)
16-7-2016

I, Jayaraman Sekar holder of Indian Passport No. K7934219, residing at D.No. 215 a Middle street, Thevarkan Danallur Village Kulikarai Post Kudavasal

I, Nagarajan Arumugam Shetty, Passport No. H0113366, issued at Kuwait on 26.11.2008. Father name: Arumugam Marudan Shetty, residing at Post Box No. 28506, Safat 13146 Kuwait. Shall henceforth be known as Nagarajan Arumugam. (C 5189)
14-7-2016

EMERGENCY 112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:27

Shorook 05:00

Duhr: 11:54

Asr: 15:29

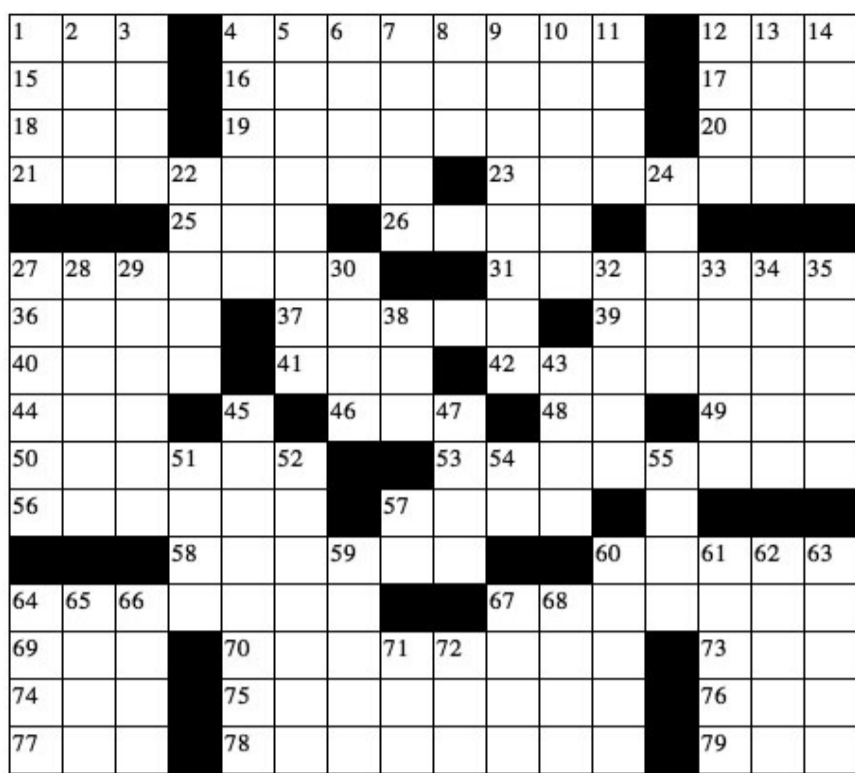
Maghrib: 18:48

Isha: 20:17

Flight Schedule

Arrival Flights on Monday 18/7/2016				Departure Flights on Monday 18/7/2016			
Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	Airlines	Flt	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	AIC	982	Ahmedabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	BBC	044	Dhaka	00:10
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	MSC	404	Asyut	00:10
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	PIA	206	Lahore	00:40
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
MSC	501	Alexandria	02:00	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
JZR	185D	Dubai	02:10	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	RJA	645	Amman	03:55
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	KAC	417	Manila	03:55
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	MSC	502	Alexandria	04:00
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	JZR	560	Sohag	05:00
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
FEG	933	Sohag	05:00	MSC	502	Asyut	06:00
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
JZR	529	Asyut	06:00	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
JZR	555	Alexandria	06:10	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
PAL	668	Manila/Dubai	06:25	KAC	542	Amman	06:55
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC	104	Dubai	07:05
BAW	157	London	06:40	UAE	875	Dubai	07:15
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	GFA	217	Dubai	07:55
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	FDB	063	Dubai	08:25
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	614	Bahrain	08:30
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	ABY	123	Sharjah	08:35
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	JAI	572	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:50
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	KAC	154	Beirut	09:05
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	674	Dubai	09:15
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	FDB	059	Dubai	09:30
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	DLH	634	Frankfurt	09:30
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KNE	381	Taif	09:40
ETD	919	Abu Dhabi	08:20	MEA	402	Beirut	09:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	OMA	647	Muscat	09:50
KAC	284	Dhaka	09:00	JZR	189	Dubai	10:05
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	MSR	618	Alexandria	10:15
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	QTR	1088	Doha	10:20
IRA	667	Esfahan	09:15	FDB	5053	Dubai	10:25
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	174	Munich	10:35
JAV	621	Amman	09:25	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	10:40
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	UAE	859	Dubai	10:45
SAW	403	Damascus	09:45	ALK	229	Colombo	11:00
CCE	345	Sohag	10:00	THY	764	Istanbul	11:00
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	QTR	1082	Doha	11:10
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	GFA	219	Bahrain	11:20
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	11:25
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	JZR	125	Bahrain	11:35
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	11:35
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	BBC	143	Dhaka	11:55
FDK	801	Damascus	12:15	JZR	185	Dubai	12:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	RBG	555	Alexandria	12:05
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	JAI	574	Mumbai	12:10
MSC	401	Alexandria	12:30	MSR	614	Cairo	12:10
UAE							

CROSSWORD 1315



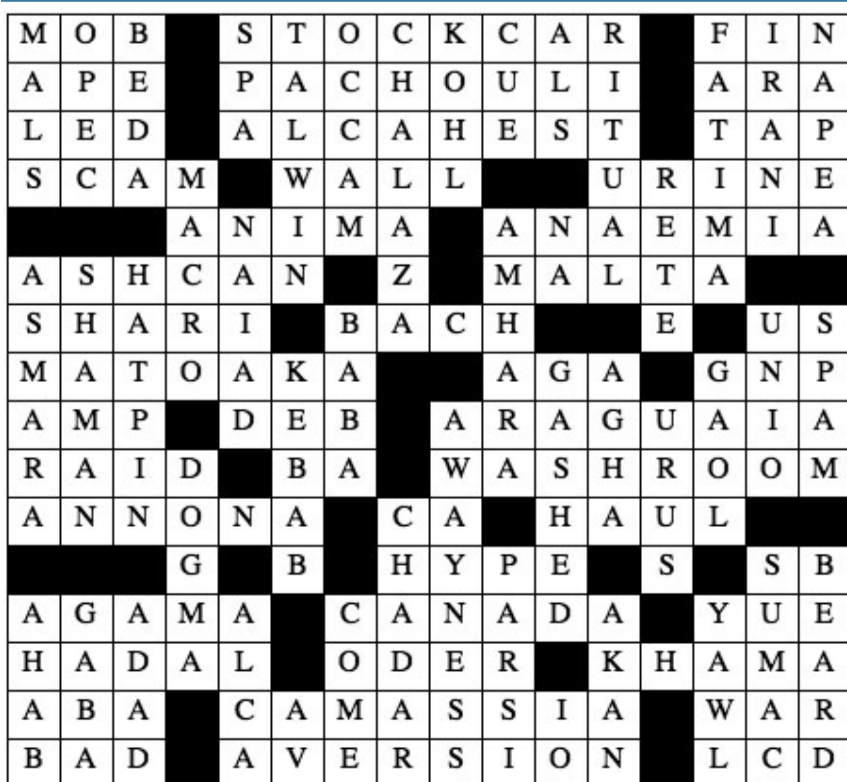
ACROSS

- 1. A lyric poem with complex stanza forms.
4. Thick dark syrup produced by boiling down juice from sugar cane.
12. An enclosed space.
15. Cooking utensil consisting of a wide metal vessel.
16. Stork with a grooved bill whose upper and lower parts touch only at the base and tip.
17. A user interface in which you type commands instead of choosing them from a menu or selecting an icon.
18. The capital and largest city of Japan.
19. Having no intelligible meaning.
20. A legal document codifying the result of deliberations of a committee or society or legislative body.
21. An abrupt failure of function or health.
23. Large family of important mostly marine food fishes.
25. Fiddler crabs.
26. Scottish explorer who led Arctic expeditions that yielded geographic discoveries while searching for the Northwest Passage (1777-1856).
27. Run away.
31. A tumor of bone tissue.
36. Offering fun and gaiety.
37. American poet (born in England) (1907-1973).
39. American professional baseball player who hit more home runs than Babe Ruth (born in 1934).
40. Type genus of the Anatidae.
41. Being one more than ninety.
42. Causing irritation or annoyance.
44. (British) A waterproof raincoat made of rubberized fabric.
46. Syndrome resulting from a serious acute (sometimes fatal) infection associated with the presence of staphylococcus.
48. A heavy odorless colorless gas formed during respiration and by the decomposition of organic substances.
49. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
50. A block of absorbent material saturated with ink.
53. In a carnal manner.
56. Melon having yellowish rind and whitish flesh.
58. A historical region on northwestern India and northern Pakistan.
64. Painting that applies the pigment thickly so that brush or palette knife marks are visible.
69. The cry made by sheep.
70. Genus of North American herbs with basal cordate or orbicular leaves and small panicle flowers.
73. A master's degree in business.
74. Support resembling the rib of an animal.
75. Azerbaijani chess master who became world champion in 1985 by defeating Anatoli Karpov (born in 1963).
76. A decree that prohibits something.
77. A nucleic acid consisting of large molecules shaped like a double helix.
78. (biology) Bent or curved forward or upward.
79. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

- 3. An organic compound that contains a hydroxyl group bonded to a carbon atom which in turn is doubly bonded to another carbon atom.
4. A constitutional monarchy in a tiny enclave on the French Riviera.
5. An odorous gum resin formerly used in medicines.
6. A transparent optical device used to converge or diverge transmitted light and to form images.
7. Typical geese.
8. The compass point that is one point east of due south.
9. Uttered in a monotonous cadence or rhythm as in chanting.
10. A region of northeastern France famous for its wines.
11. A vehicle mounted on runners and pulled by horses or dogs.
12. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
13. Type genus of the Alcidae comprising solely the razorbill.
14. Make reference to.
22. United States screenwriter and filmmaker (born in 1944).
24. Conforming to an ultimate standard of perfection or excellence.
28. Any of several tropical and subtropical tree-like herbs of the genus Musa having a terminal crown of large entire leaves and usually bearing hanging clusters of elongated fruits.
29. (usually in the plural) Pants for casual wear.
30. A bodily passage or tube conveying a secretion or other substance.
32. A sharp hooked claw especially on a bird of prey.
33. A projecting bay window corbeled or cantilevered out from a wall.
34. Brilliantly colored south Asian pheasant.
35. Feeling or showing anger.
38. God of the underworld.
43. A unit of area (4840 square yards) used in English-speaking countries.
45. A woman's headscarf folded into a triangle and tied under the chin.
47. Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
51. An informal term for a father.
52. Of or relating to Dante Alighieri or his writings.
54. The blood group whose red cells carry both the A and B antigens.
55. A primeval personification of air and breath.
57. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
59. A combat between two mounted knights tilting against each other with blunted lances.
60. A deceitful and unreliable scoundrel.
61. A Bantu language spoken by the Kamba people in Kenya.
62. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
63. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
65. Most important element.
66. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
67. A German man.
68. (Greek mythology) God of love.
71. An emergency procedure consisting of external cardiac massage and artificial respiration.
72. 10 hao equal 1 dong.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You may discover that this is the day you were supposed to come up with some final ideas about important matters around the house. Take a group vote and start from that point... You will be happy you included everyone and they will have no objections about the outcome.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This morning is a great time to be with others in some group project. You will have all the things you need to move forward in some project. Perhaps you want a barbecue pit or a water garden.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Chores left undone could be driving you nuts this morning. If you and your partner want to get the chores done before you take a dip in the lake or enjoy some other entertainment, you will have to pull your resources together.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Today there may be a need to reassess and work on ways in which you can increase your feeling of security. This feeling is based on an inner knowing that you will be able to rise above whatever may block your way.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

Your sense of the unity behind things spiritual and psychological is clear and felt by those around you. You are, no doubt, a romantic, at home in the world of dreams and images.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

The phone seems to ring from morning to evening and if you have a cell phone with you, there will be a constant checking to see who left a message.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Obtaining and exchanging information takes on emotional significance for you. You may find yourself guiding someone younger than you in matters of importance-a new member of the team or a co-worker friend.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You have a natural love of the law and working things through and you are not put off by problems or obstacles. You have the ability to work with others, particularly regarding vocation or career guidance.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You tend to carry a lot of mental energy and this can suddenly erupt when you are not kept busy. The ways in which you speak, think and use your mind can bring about brilliance.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You have an inner drive to be thorough and responsible in minute details-self-disciplined. You possess an architect's vision for what needs to be done and how to do it right to make it last-an expert or true builder.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Perhaps it is time for a well-deserved vacation. Planning short trips can be fun too. A conservative streak sets you against anything that is not realistic and you may find yourself short on patience.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You see discipline as opportunities rather than as handicaps and today is no exception. You would make a good teacher in matters of organization, practical competence, etc.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Adverbs 1

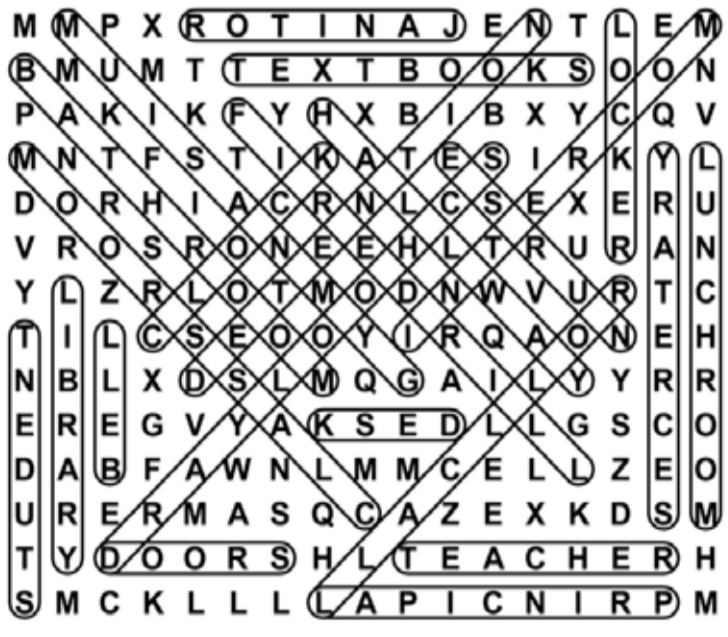
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- ACROSS ANYWHERE APART AWAY BELOW DOWN EASILY FAR GREATLY HOWEVER LITTLE LOUDER MONTHLY NEARBY ONCE QUICKLY REALLY SOMEWHERE SOON THEN TODAY TOMORROW UPWARD

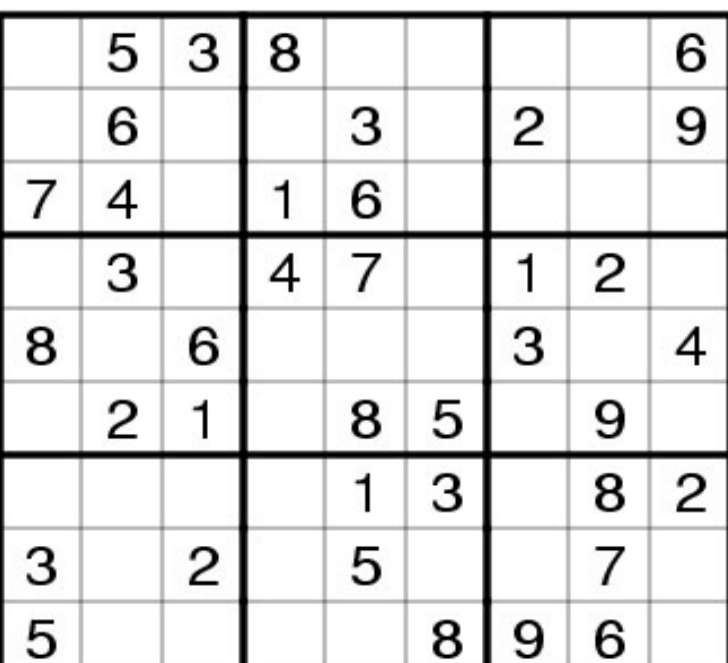
Yesterday's Solution

School - Solution



- BATHROOM BELL CLASSROOM CLOCK DESK DETENTION DOORS FIRE DRILL GYMNASIUM HALLWAY INTERCOM JANITOR LIBRARY LOCKER LUNCHROOM NURSE PRINCIPAL ROLL CALL SCHOOLYARD SECRETARY STUDENT TEACHER TEXTBOOKS

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Color me!



1. The villain, The Queen of Hearts, appears in which 1951 Disney film?
2. What American actor played the part of Burt in Mary Poppins?
3. Which Disney film is set on a Hawaiian Island?
4. Name the sidekick of Disney character, Pongo?
5. What animals portray surfer dudes in Finding Nemo?
6. Who, in the film Mary Poppins, sings the song 'Step in Time'?
7. What are Scully and Mike collecting to power Monstropolis in Monsters, Inc?
8. 'Two Worlds' is a song from which Disney film?
9. Which Disney classic has a talking mirror which is asked 'mirror mirror on the wall'?
10. The villain, Madame Mim, appears in which 1963 Disney film?

- ANSWERS
1. Alice in Wonderland
 2. Dick Van Dyke
 3. Lilo and Stitch
 4. Perdita
 5. Turtles
 6. Bert & Co
 7. Children's screams
 8. Tarzan
 9. Snow White
 10. The Sword in the Stone

DID YOU KNOW?

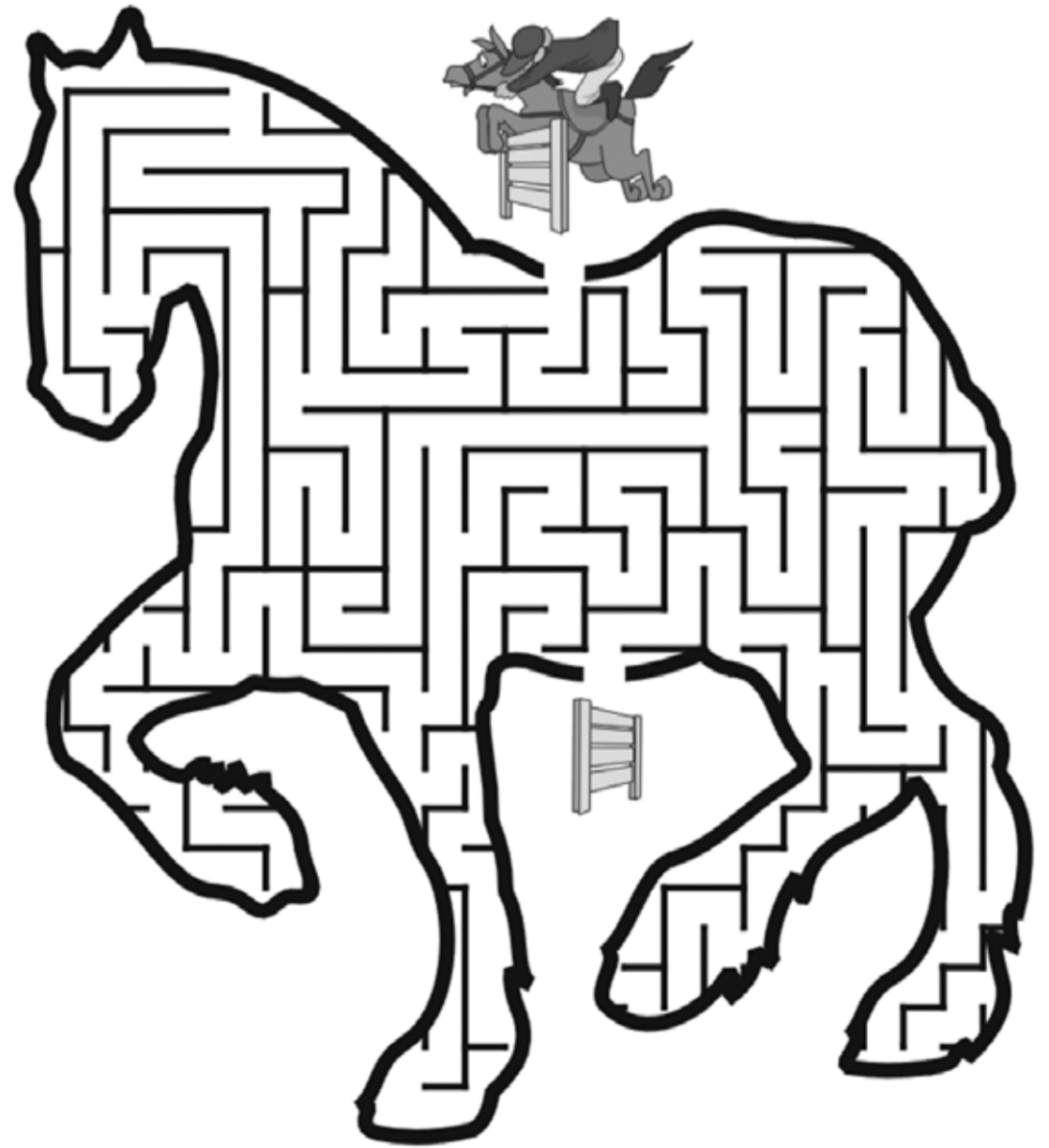


- * Gold is a chemical element. Its chemical symbol is Au and its atomic number is 79.
- * Compared to other metals, gold is less chemically reactive.
- * Gold is a good conductor of electricity and heat.
- * Gold is shiny, soft and dense. It is also malleable, which means it can easily be beaten into thin sheets or other shapes.
- * Gold is malleable enough for just 1 gram to be hammered into a sheet 1 square meter in size. It can also be made so thin that it appears transparent.
- * Due to a similar appearance to gold, the mineral pyrite has the nickname fool's gold.
- * The amount of gold in various alloys (a combination of gold and another metal such as silver) is measured in carats (k). Pure gold is 24k.
- * As of 2009, it has been estimated that humans have mined around 160,000 tons of gold.
- * Over the last 100 years South Africa has been the biggest producer of gold. In recent times however it has been surpassed by China.
- * As of 2009, the USA has 8133 tons of gold reserves while Canada only has 3.
- * Throughout history gold has often been seen as a symbol of wealth.
- * Gold is the most popular precious metal for investments.
- * The price of gold continually fluctuates and is often linked to major economic events.
- * There is a monetary system called the 'gold standard' which fixes a unit of money to a certain weight of gold.
- * Over the years gold has been used to create expensive jewelry, coins and various forms of art such as the Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun's famous burial mask. In modern times it has also been used for things such as electronics and dentistry.
- * Injectable gold has been proven to help reduce pain and swelling in patients suffering from tuberculosis and rheumatoid arthritis.
- * Gold is a popular choice when it comes to rewarding achievement with medals, statues and trophies. Academy Award, Olympic and Nobel Prize winners all receive golden items in recognition of their achievement.

JOKES

- Q: What rock group has four men that don't sing?
A: Mount Rushmore!
- Q: What city cheats at exams?
A: Peking!
- Q: What is the capital of Washington?
A: The W!
- Q: What did Delaware?
A: Her New Jersey!

- Q: What is the fastest country in the world?
A: Rush-a!
- Q: Teacher: What can you tell me about the Dead Sea?
A: Student: I didn't even know it was sick!



SUDOKU

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ACTIVITY

MAKE A BEADED STARFISH

- What you need:
- * Starfish template printable
 - * Recycled cardboard
 - * 15 x medium beads Paint
 - * Googly eyes
 - * Scissors
 - * Craft glue



- Activity:
1. Use our downloadable starfish template to cut a star shape out of your piece of cardboard.
 2. Paint it on both sides.
 3. Crease the star where each point begins to make your starfish look more animated.
 4. Glue on his googly eyes.
 5. Now on his underside, you are going to give him some 'suckers'. You can use beads from an

old necklace if you don't want to go to the craft shop. Just glue three beads to each point. (Keep an eye on small children while you are using beads.)

6. All done! Make this cute starfish in lots of different colors.

KIDS RECIPE

EGG MAYO SANDWICH

- Ingredients:
- * 1 large egg
 - * 1 tablespoon low-fat cottage cheese
 - * White pepper and salt to taste
 - * Rye or Sourdough bread, toasted or untoasted



- Method:
1. Put a cold egg in water from the tap, bring to the boil and time about 8 minutes from the time the water starts boiling for a hardboiled egg.
 2. When the egg is cooked, remove the shell. If you prefer a warm sandwich mash the egg with a fork till it's broken into rough chunks and then add the cottage cheese and mash till a desired consistency is reached. Season to taste.
 3. If you like your sandwich filling cold, then cool the egg completely before mashing and adding

4. Spread on bread and enjoy or refrigerate for up to 2 days in an airtight container in the fridge.



Trevor Noah emerging from Stewart's shadow

Maybe it's time to forgive Trevor Noah for not being Jon Stewart. The new "Daily Show" host is finding his footing after a rough start replacing the man who made the broadcast essential. His comedy has grown sharper, he's becoming more comfortable with his adopted country and he's finding an audience of his own, even if smaller than his predecessor's. "Some people are still going, 'you're not Jon Stewart,'" Noah said. "Some people are still grading me accordingly ... They're doing the wrong thing. They're grading me on something I'm not trying to do. Many of them have caught on, some faster than others. All I can do is make the show for the people who wish to watch it."

In recent weeks, Noah mixed comedy and forceful opinion by advocating for restrictions on gun access following the Orlando massacre, and said it's possible to both support police and activists fighting against institutional racism. Praising House Democrats who used C-SPAN and the Internet to spread news about their sit-in to support gun legislation, he said, "I haven't seen the young and old work that well together since the first 'Karate Kid.'" Following a story about criticism directed at Justin Timberlake for appropriating black culture, correspondent Roy Wood Jr. tried to "outblack" Noah by noting he'd been born in Alabama, attended a black university and worked in urban radio. "I'm from South Africa," Noah replied, ending the argument.

'Black Trump'

A "black Trump" rap video used the candidate's own words for comedy. That and last fall's comparison of Donald Trump to African dictators, probably his first breakthrough segment, are examples of "Daily Show" humor you couldn't imagine in Stewart's hands.

Comedy Central had installed Noah last September only five weeks after Stewart left, giving him a show with Stewart's writers, staff and format. "You almost got the sense he was mouthing Jon Stewart's words," said Robert Thompson, director of Syracuse University's Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture. "And, actually, he was." That invited comparisons and, inevitably, Noah was found wanting. In Slate, critic Willa Paskin wrote of a "Daily Show"-shaped hole in culture, despite a lesser version airing each weeknight. She wrote that Noah



Trevor Noah appears during a taping of "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah" in New York. The new "Daily Show" host is finding his footing after a rough start replacing Jon Stewart, the man who made the broadcast essential. — AP

was too cautious, backing away from tough issues. "You may still laugh, but an inessential 'Daily Show' is a real loss," Paskin wrote.

Noah couldn't ignore the criticism, or the tweets urging him to shut up about Africa and wondering about his funny accent. Sometimes he'd disarm the haters by tweeting back but, yes, there were adjustment issues. "I was deferring to the old style of show, because you're so afraid to tarnish an institution," he said. "You're afraid to be the person who

destroyed the 'Daily Show.' Once you get that monkey off your back - you realize the "Daily Show" with Jon Stewart is over. As Jon said to me, the show died when he left. The slot exists, the name exists, but the show has to start anew."

'We hired him for his talent'

Besides incorporating new forms of comedy into the mix, Noah said he's making the show less about media coverage of events than the events themselves. He can't match Stewart's passion for politics, so he's tried to broaden the subject matter. The political



Trevor Noah appears during a taping of "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah" in New York. The new "Daily Show" host is finding his footing after a rough start replacing Jon Stewart, the man who made the broadcast essential. — AP

conventions - Noah will be in both Cleveland and Philadelphia this month - will give viewers a new chance to see how he's adapted. Comedy Central had no choice but to give Noah the existing show since there wasn't enough time to create something new from scratch, said Kent Alterman, network president. "We didn't hire him for his experience," Alterman said. "We hired him for his talent. We always knew it would be a long game, and it would take him awhile to find his way, find his voice, find

his rhythm. If we take a step back and look at how he's growing, we're very happy." Alterman points out that it took time for Stewart to mold the show in his image after replacing Craig Kilborn, and said it's unfair to compare Noah to Stewart in his 16th year. The Emmy Awards nominations last week spoke to the show's diminished presence. The "Daily Show" wasn't nominated for best variety show, a category that Stewart had dominated. The show was nominated every year between 2002 and 2015, winning 11 times. The recently announced departure of Jessica Williams, who predated Noah and was the show's best-known correspondent, leaves a significant hole.

Find his own voice

Stewart took a good chunk of the audience with him; "Daily Show" nightly viewership is down 35 percent since Noah took over, according to the Nielsen company. Comedy Central says measuring Noah's show strictly on how many people watch each night is outdated, and claims that Noah has increased the show's visibility online, among coveted younger male viewers and internationally. The network said the show reaches 7.9 million people each week through multiple platforms, although it didn't have a similar figure for Stewart's last year.

"It's hard," Alterman said, "to change a rocket ship while you're flying it." Paskin said she hasn't seen enough of the show lately to update her assessment on Slate. Syracuse's Thompson said the passage of time has helped Noah. Memories of Stewart's "Daily Show" are fading, the comparison less relevant. "In the past couple of weeks, he seems to really have begun to do what I hoped and expected he would - and that is to find his own voice while still relying on the behemoth that is the 'Daily Show' system," Thompson said. — AP



Chris Martin, right, and Jonny Buckland from the band Coldplay perform at MetLife Stadium on Saturday in East Rutherford, New Jersey. — AP photos

Coldplay kicks off stadium tour with colorful show

Coldplay kicked off its US stadium tour with a colorful show that included fireworks, confetti and balloons, mixed with American pride, sympathy for France, moving words from Muhammad Ali and audio from President Barack Obama. The British foursome led by Chris Martin performed for feverish fans Saturday at the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. They started their two-hour show on a bright, high note - jamming onstage as fireworks burst to the sky - matching the glowing, multicolored wristbands fans received walking into the venue.



Martin worked the stage playfully throughout the night: He ran up the long aisle enthusiastically, rolled on the floor like a child, rocked on the guitar and crooned on the piano. He held the American flag at one point while the audience roared, later putting it in his back pocket and keeping it there throughout the band's electrifying set, which included songs such as "Yellow," "Speed of Sound," "Viva la Vida" and "Fix You." Martin even joked that he and his band mates - Jonny Buckland, Guy Berryman and Will Champion - may be moving to the US following Britain's vote to exit the European Union. "We'll probably be refugees here at some point," he said.

Though most of Coldplay's concert played like a lively dance party, there were serious moments onstage, too. They played audio of Obama famously singing "Amazing Grace" and showed video of the late Ali offering wise words during a 1977 interview in England. Martin laid the flag of France across his piano during one song in tribute to the 84 people who died Thursday in a bloody truck rampage in Nice, France. "It's a very confusing time to be alive," Martin said. "The only response is to send love and good thoughts."

The band went on to finish the night with a cherry, upbeat set. They covered David Bowie's "Heroes" and Tom Waits' "Jersey Girl," a song also covered by Bruce Springsteen. The latter performance earned roaring cheers from the audience, and Martin called The Boss "the greatest artist in my opinion." Martin ended the night by kissing the American flag and placing a sign above it that read, "Love." "We as a band want to thank you for coming out, not just tonight but for all the nights," he said toward the end of the show. "(And) for taking all the (expletive) you get for being into Coldplay." — AP

Beatles family reunites for 10th anniversary of 'Love' Show

Former Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, along with John Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, were on hand Thursday night in Las Vegas to officially mark the ten year anniversary of Cirque du Soleil's Beatles-themed show, "Love." McCartney was accompanied by his wife, Nancy Shevell, Starr by his wife, Barbara (and her sister, Marjorie, with her husband, rocker Joe Walsh), and Ono by her son, musician Sean Lennon. It was expected that Olivia Harrison, George's widow, would also be present, but was unable to attend due to illness.

Though the McCartneys posed briefly for photographers at the Mirage Hotel and Casino before dashing into the theater, the Starr troupe offered a few extra moments, the drummer quipping to the photographers, "Send me copies!" The show's music director, Giles Martin, also made the trip to Vegas.



Nancy Shevell (left) and her husband, recording artist Sir Paul McCartney, attend the 10th anniversary celebration of "The Beatles LOVE by Cirque du Soleil". — AFP photos



Artist/singer Yoko Ono.



Recording artist Ringo Starr attends the 10th anniversary celebration of "The Beatles LOVE by Cirque du Soleil".

Martin, with his father, the late Sir George Martin, created the Grammy-winning soundtrack to the show, which deftly combines elements of classic Beatles songs together to complement the fantastical show visuals. Fellow producer Peter Asher (Linda Ronstadt, James Taylor), in whose home McCartney lived for his first few years in London, noted to Variety on the red carpet, "We all know The Beatles' music by heart.

I also know the way the music was recorded and the limitations of what you can and cannot do," hav-

ing been part of the British duo Peter & Gordon, who also recorded at Abbey Road Studios in the mid-1960s. "What Giles did was miraculous."

Also in attendance was Ron Howard, who has directed the upcoming "Eight Days a Week: The Touring Years," a documentary about the first half of The Beatles' career, to be released this September.

Related Beatles-Themed 'Love' Gets a 10th Anniversary Makeover
Choreographers Napoleone and Tabitha D'umo ("Nappytabs"), known for their work on So You Think You Can Dance, and who created three new numbers for the show, were also present, as was colleague Arlene Phillips. In addition, actors Mira Sorvino, Kevin Dillon, Cary Elwes, Kevin Nealon, John Hutcherson and Kristoff St. John were among the other VIPs who took in the performance. During the show's opening - which took place just hours after hundreds of people were mowed down by a truck driver in Nice, France - one of the cast members announced a statement, "In light of recent events, The Beatles' message of peace and love carries on."

McCartney and Starr joined the cast onstage at the end of the event to thank them, McCartney noting, "This fantastic show just gets better and better." Of the revamped "Love" show, featuring updated graphics now including The Beatles' own likenesses, Starr added, "I thought I was fabulous." Martin joined them, noting, "My dad passed away this year, and I miss him. John is not here, George is not here. But," he said, addressing the cast, "the music lives on because of you guys." — Reuters

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Bonnie Brown of the country music trio the Browns dead at 77



In this file photo, Bonnie Brown, one of three siblings whose smooth harmonies as the Browns influenced generations of singers from the Beatles to Lady Antebellum, has died. Kirt Webster said Brown died Saturday of complications from lung cancer. She was 77. Her brother, Jim Ed Brown, died in 2015, also of cancer. With sister Maxine Brown, the three helped define the Nashville sound of the 1950s and '60s and were inducted in 2015 into the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. The Browns were from Sparkman, Arkansas. — AP

publicist for Bonnie Brown, one of three siblings whose smooth harmonies as the Browns influenced generations of singers from the Beatles to Lady Antebellum, has died. Kirt Webster said Brown died Saturday of complications from lung cancer. She was 77. Her brother, Jim Ed Brown, died in 2015, also of cancer. With sister Maxine Brown, the three helped define the Nashville sound of the 1950s and '60s and were inducted in 2015 into the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. The Browns were from Sparkman, Arkansas. — AP



In this Oct 25, 2015 file photo, from left, Maxine Brown, Bonnie Brown and Becky Brown stand onstage at The Country Music Hall of Fame 2015 Medallion Ceremony at Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville, Tenn. — AP photos

Spielberg weaves magic out of Dahl's 'The BFG'

There's a secret about children that Steven Spielberg, Melissa Mathison and Roald Dahl have always known - that no matter how innocent, kids are as capable of understanding darkness as adults, and sometimes even more so. It's not that it's some completely unacknowledged truth, but it is one that rarely seems to permeate what we consider "children's entertainment" in any real way. It just makes adults too uncomfortable. It's also the reason why the under-10 set flops to Dahl.

A measured embrace of the deep menace in Dahl's words is why this long-time coming adaptation of his 1982 book "The BFG" not only succeeds, but shines. It's not just some pleasant romp into the

Spielberg has been coaxing out of child actors since "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial."

Some scary dreams

Thankfully, Sophie has been taken not by man-eaters, but the Big Friendly Giant (Mark Rylance, who was just in Spielberg's "Bridge of Spies"), who prefers to create dreams for the children of England, not snack on them. But Sophie, who lays awake night after night, saw him gliding through the streets of London and she can't be trusted with the knowledge that giants really do exist, no matter how pure her intentions.

Back in Giant Country, things don't get off to a great start between Sophie and the BFG either. It takes some trials, some scary dreams, some danger, and some skepticism before their friendship becomes real - but it's worth the build. Whether you've read "The BFG" a thousand times, or haven't in 30 years, or even at all, Sophie and the BFG's impossible bond is bound to break your heart.

Rylance's BFG is an astonishing meld of real life and CG animation. It's jarring at first but kids won't mind, and adults will grow accustomed to it. Thankfully, it somehow stays clear of the uncanny valley. Most importantly, it fits in the context and look of this storybook world, which truly does feel like the page come to life. There are certain limitations to the form that hinder the full range of a Rylance performance, but what's here is sufficient, even when he's flutulent - sorry, whizzpopping - or working his way through Dahl's twisty language.

Significant portion

The only real misstep is when the humans are introduced. Sophie has had enough with the bullying of the other giants and decides, as in the book, to go convince the Queen of England (Penelope Wilton) and her assistants (Rebecca Hall, Rafe Spall) to help save the children of England from certain death by giant. The pacing of this segment goes haywire and feels like too long and meandering a diversion in what is already a long movie. Not to mention the fact that a significant portion of this sequence is devoted to whizzpoppers. It just makes you long to return to Giant Country, the BFG's gadget-filled home and the land of dreams.

There's a melancholy hanging over the film, too - that it's Mathison's final screenwriting credit. It's also a lovely exit for a woman who always knew to never write down to her audience, children or not. Mathison died last November of cancer at age 65. — AP

REVIEW



From left, actor Mark Rylance, actress Ruby Barnhill and director Steven Spielberg pose for photographers as they arrive at the premiere of the film 'The BFG' in London yesterday. — AP

world of giants. It's an honest-to-goodness, gut punch of a journey, crackling with heart, uncertainty, and overflowing with all-out wonder.

There's really no other way to tell a story about an orphan who is captured by a giant and taken to a land crawling with much larger giants who like the taste of human beings, or "beans" as they're called. The orphan, Sophie, is played by the newcomer Ruby Barnhill. Sporting a Dorothy Hamill haircut and rounded glasses, this little brunet moppet is a delightful revelation who is at turns feisty, lovable and even a little annoying (in a good way). In other words, she's a believable kid - a result that

Dark secrets of the man who opened architecture to the light



A general view of the architectural site created by French architect Le Corbusier, in Firminy, near Saint-Etienne. — AFP photos



The Maison de la Culture (House of culture) (bottom) built by French architect Le Corbusier, in Firminy, near Saint-Etienne, eastern France.

Love him or loathe him, few people have changed the world we live in more than Le Corbusier, one of the fathers of modern architecture, whose works were placed yesterday on UNESCO's prestigious World Heritage List. His ideas about utilitarian concrete buildings have altered the face of cities across the planet and have had an equally profound influence on urban planning. From his modernist master planning of Chandigarh in northern India to Paris, which he dreamed of leveling to make way for

became clear that many were depressing and anonymous, and blamed for urban alienation.

Vertical cities

"You have to put him in context," said Vanessa Fernandez an expert at the Paris-Belleville School of Architecture. "He came from an incredible avant-garde in the 1930s" when building techniques had yet to catch up with architects' ideas. "After the war in the face of a baby boom and slum housing they had to build three million homes in 30 years." Some of his "vertical cities" were adored by their residents, particularly his Marseille block built in 1945. When the Mediterranean city was made a European cultural capital three years ago, La Cite Radieuse was one of its most visited attractions.

Le Corbusier allowed light to bath the double-aspect duplexes with their open plan kitchens, then a design revolution. Inside everything was planned to Le Corbusier's own human scale he called the "modular", based on his ideal man, who, added Fernandez, was "handsome, sporty and six foot tall".

Out-and-out fascist

The image, in fact, of the perfect Aryan. For the architect was also "an out-and-out fascist",

Xavier de Jarcy, one of his biographers told AFP last year. Another biographer, Francois Chaslin, said he was a longtime far-right supporter, who was "active for 20 years in groups with a very clear ideology". He said his anti-Semitic beliefs were "kept hidden" long after his death to protect his architectural legacy. Soon after arriving in Paris in 1920 Le Corbusier hooked up with Pierre Winter, a doctor who headed France's Revolutionary Fascist Party, and worked with him to create the urban planning journal "Plans". When it closed, they started another called "Prelude".

Jarcy said that Le Corbusier wrote in support of Nazi anti-Semitism in "Plans" and in "Prelude" co-wrote "hateful editorials". His 1925 urban plan to flatten the historic centre of Paris included razing the Marais, a district long home to the capital's Jewish community. In October 1940, after France had fallen to the Nazis, Le Corbusier wrote to his mother, "Hitler can crown his life with a great work: the planned lay-out of Europe".

Writer Marc Perelman, who has investigated the architect's ideas for more than three decades, said that Le Corbusier's political and architectural ideas "are viewed separately, whereas they are one and the same thing". Born in Switzerland in 1887 as Charles-Edouard Jeanneret-Gris, the architect



This undated file photo shows Swiss-French architect Charles Edouard Jeanneret, also known as Le Corbusier arriving for a function in Corbeil-Essonnes.

his own more rational city, the Swiss-born designer was never afraid of thinking big.

He left his greatest mark on France, his adopted home, where no less than 10 of the 17 projects which UNESCO classified as world heritage sites are located. From the La Cite Radieuse housing project in Marseille to the Dominican monastery of La Tourette near Lyon and La Villa Savoye near Paris, it is also where he left some of his greatest masterpieces. His designs for functional apartment blocks surrounded by parks dominated France's postwar urban planning until eight years after his death in 1965 when it



The church of Saint-Pierre built by French architect Le Corbusier, in Firminy, near Saint-Etienne, eastern France.



The Maison Guiette designed by Franco-Swiss architect Le Corbusier in 1926, in the district of Populierenlaan in Antwerp.

moved to Paris at 20 and adopted his maternal grandfather's name to show that man was capable of reinventing itself. That was certainly true of his own life. Despite his links with the wartime collaborator

Vichy regime, when he drowned in the sea metres from his famously tiny cabin he had built for himself on the French Riviera, he was given a state funeral at the Louvre. — AFP



A view of the "Cite Radieuse" (Radiant City) also known as "Maison du Fada" or "The Nutter's House" designed by Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier and built in rough-cast concrete between 1947-1952, in Marseille, southern France.

Back to Basics

The HK start-up taking on fashion giants

Luke Grana arrived in Hong Kong with no contacts, cold-calling 'angel investors' he'd found on LinkedIn armed with only his CV, a business plan, and some big ideas to overhaul fashion. In little more than two years, his eponymous clothing store amassed \$6 million in seed funding and has become the go-to shop for under-35s seeking quality staples for their wardrobe. And yet Grana is not a designer, has little fashion experience, and his inspiration came from a business brainstorming session rather than a passion for couture.

What he does have are plans to shake things up. "The way we shop for clothes is going to change," the 32-year-old says. Global fashion sales currently total around \$1.8 trillion a year, with online accounting for five percent, he says, citing a Euromonitor report. "That is forecast to grow to 30 percent by 2030," he adds suggesting Grana, which has no physical stores—only a fitting room space where customers can try the clothes before buying online—is well placed to take advantage of this shift.

The current system, with its reliance on expensive shop space, middle men, and vast inventory, he insists is "hopelessly inefficient"—and results in opaque pricing. "Gen Y is more focused on transparency," the Australian entrepreneur-part of Generation Y himself says. "I made things simple. So if a t-shirt costs \$7.50 to produce, we'll sell for \$15 — a straight forward mark-up."

Ahead of the curve

Quality is his other pillar. The brand uses world renowned material such as Chinese silk from Huzhou or Peruvian Pima cotton, sourced from the same mills that work with luxury brands such as Ralph Lauren and Lacoste. "We deal direct with the mills and factories, items are then shipped to our warehouse and then shipped to the customer," he

explains. Hong Kong, the world's biggest cargo hub, is well suited for his global audience—the US, Australia and Singapore are also key markets. Of the hundreds of cold-calls he made in late 2013, just one replied: banker Pieter Paul Wittgen.



Luke Grana looks at items of clothing at his company Grana's warehouse.

Wittgen, now the company's COO, was impressed enough by both Grana and his ideas that he introduced him to a wider network of 'angels'. The firm is now backed by big name investors including BlueBell Group, distributors for the likes of Christian Dior in Asia, and Golden Gate Ventures, a leading backer of start-ups in the region. Grana's head of design, Anthony Hill, worked for Paul Mith.

On average Grana's customers now spend \$120 per order, while sales are above expectations—rising 25-40 percent each month—he says. Earnings are currently being reinvested in expansion to Japan, Korea and eventually China but Grana expects to be in profit by late 2017. It may seem an overnight success but for Sydney-born Grana this has been a long time coming. In his teens, he read company annual reports and business books. Aged 21 and still at university he set up his first business—a coffee shop—using \$15,000 of life savings.



Clothes are displayed in the warehouse at Grana's offices in Hong Kong.



Clothing designer Natasha Pelling takes measurements at Grana's offices in Hong Kong.

After nine months he sold for \$145,000 and went on to launch and sell-at-profit-two similar ventures. At 24, he set up Charge Point, an electric car charging infrastructure but sold up in 2012 when he realized the concept was "ten years ahead of the industry". He took time off to "surf and brainstorm" with his profits.

"I wasn't demotivated, I was really hungry," he insists. "During brainstorming I realized there was a disruption coming in fashion." But his next start-up Coachy was a webcam teaching service—an "Airbnb for tutoring" in his



Australian entrepreneur Luke Grana, 32, stacks product presentation boxes at his company Grana's warehouse in Hong Kong. — AFP photos

words. Again he found his ideas were ahead of the curve: internet speeds then could not support his idea, so he closed up. "I learned the importance of being in the right market at the right time."

'Do things differently'

Grana's eureka moment came during a holiday in Peru, where he came across Pima Cotton. Within the week he had visited mills and bought samples for friends and family. "Based on their reaction I knew I had found my product. But I didn't know about styles, pricing or how to merchandise," he adds. So he went and got some shop floor experience working at Zara and French Connection. Grana seems assured this is his moment. Certainly the focus on "timeless wardrobe essentials" is prescient: British design house

Burberry announced a move to 'seasonless collections' as the trend for decluttering sees fast fashion falling out of favor.

At Grana they focus on timeless colors and run a limited number of seasonal ones. "There are no sales, just one standard price year round." Social media presence has helped spread the word quickly. Grana's adverts pop up regularly on Facebook, 17,000 follow the Instagram account, and it uses Snapchat to give a glimpse into the mills and factories it uses.

Grana concedes "fashion has a bad reputation" for exploitation but is confident his firm does not use child labour, adding independent safety audits of production will begin this year. "I don't want to copy anything from the traditional model," he says. "We are doing things differently." — AFP



Bucharest was once known as "Little Paris of the East." But English, not French, is the preferred foreign language in Romania's capital city, and 96 percent of its inhabitants are native Romanians. Bucharest buzzes with an energetic, round-the-clock vibe. The city also features an eclectic mix of architecture - from Oriental Byzantine to French neoclassical to communist-era apartment buildings - reflecting a variety of cultural influences across decades and even centuries.

WHAT'S NEW

Some new attractions await visitors, while facelifts make a few familiar places worth a return visit. The Palace of Spring, the official family residence of the communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, opened its gilded doors to the public in March. It was the Ceausescu family home until 1989, when he was ousted from power and executed. Richard Nixon, the late US president, Richard Nixon, once dined there. The glitzy decor includes a bathroom decked out in gold, mosaics in the swimming pool and a movie theater where the walls are upholstered with plump gold cushions. A pair of peacocks roams the garden. Ceausescu's pants, his wife Elena's shoes and an old black-and-white TV are all on display. Tours cost 15 lei to 45 lei (\$3.68-\$11).

The "Wings" monument, dedicated to the hundreds of thousands of victims of communism, was unveiled in May, in front of Bucharest's House of the Free Press, a Soviet-inspired building where a statue of Lenin once stood. It is 30 meters (98 feet) high, an intricate web of concrete wings. Though it's clunky rather than graceful, it is a massive concrete reminder of the political detainees who were held in communist prisons or deported and persecuted.

Romanians love the arts, particularly theater. The National Theater underwent a 75-million euro (\$82.5 million) four-year revamp; its original facade, covered with arches, now has a distinctly Le Corbusier look to it, with large, smooth curved forms. The National Opera has also undergone considerable refurbishment, although headlines about the opera have been dominated not by the new wallpaper and foyer but by a row between Romanian management and Danish choreographer Johan Kobborg and his partner English National Ballet principal dancer Alina Cojocaru. Opera tickets start from about 25 lei up to about 150 lei (\$6.2 to \$37).



A man and child walk next to the new Wings monument celebrating the memory of the anti-communist resistance in Bucharest, Romania.



A bride holds an umbrella in a park in Bucharest, Romania.



Members of parliament attend a session at the Parliament Palace in Bucharest, Romania.

CLASSIC ATTRACTIONS

Ceausescu's giant palace in the south of the capital, the world's second-largest administrative building after the Pentagon, is a must-see. It houses the Parliament and important conferences are held there. In December, shepherds angry with government policy almost managed to storm the building. It's a 3-kilometer (1.9 mile) walk around the building and

a large Orthodox cathedral, the Salvation of the People, is being built on its grounds, a cause for some controversy.

Other essentials include Revolution Square, the National Art Museum (housed in an old royal palace), the 19th-century Atheneum concert hall, and the old Communist Party headquarters. Ceausescu and his wife Elena fled from the roof of that building in a helicopter in December 1989 to get away from the booing crowd. It was their last public appearance.



A visitor takes pictures during a tour of Romanian communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's former family home, dubbed the Palace of Spring in Bucharest, Romania.



A huge European Union flag is installed in front of the Romanian parliament building, formerly the House of the People, built during the rule of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.



Romanian Orthodox nuns wait outside the Stavropoleos church, built in 1724, in Bucharest.



People walk in the old part of Bucharest, Romania.

TIPS

Take a Bucharest City Tour Sightseeing bus for 25 lei (\$6.20). With 14 stops on the route, you can hop on and off as often as you want within 24 hours. For the more energetic, there are bicycle rentals and bike lanes on some boulevards. There are hardly any hills (Bucharest is a mere 70 meters or 230 feet above sea level) but drivers can be aggressive. Otherwise, ubiquitous yellow Dacia taxis are cheap and zippy, costing 1.4 lei (35 cents) a kilometer. A subway ride is a surefire way to avoid heavy traffic, with two rides costing 5 lei (\$1.23).

In June, the national airport company took the welcome decision to cap taxi fares. Authorized taxis will charge a maximum of 1.4 lei a kilometer (0.6 miles) from the Henri Coanda Airport in an effort to stop legendary rip-offs. A ride into Bucharest should cost about 35 lei (\$8.60).

Shopping is a favorite pastime, and many shops are open until 10 pm, with some 24/7 convenience stores too. Exchange bureaus are generally reliable and don't charge commission. Smoking was banned in indoor venues in March.

HANGING OUT

Central Vechi or Old City is very popular, a maze of bars, clubs, restaurants, shops and the 16th century Old Princely Court Church, clustered on a few streets close to the imposing National Bank of Romania. For those in search of peace and quiet, Bucharest's fabled parks have a lot to offer. There is the elegant 19th century Cismigiu Gardens, where you can watch locals play chess and backgammon or take a stroll. Farther north, there is the fashionable and sprawling Herestrau park next to the ethnographic Village Museum, featuring different styles of rural houses. You won't be able to visit the royal Elizabeth Palace next door, but the small Botanical Gardens in Cotroceni district are worth a visit, or if you want to get to know the "real" Bucharest, head south to the splendid IOR park, by getting off at Titan subway station or taking the 330 or 335 bus. — AP



Woman walks outside Romanian communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's private cinema hall in the basement of his family's former home, dubbed the Palace of Spring in Bucharest, Romania.



File photo taken with a long exposure, Romanian Catholic worshippers attend a Palm Sunday religious service at the St Joseph cathedral in Bucharest.



These photos provided by Quinn show the inside of homes in the micro apartment building Carmel Place in New York. — AP photos

New York experiments with tiny 'micro' apartments



New York City's first "micro" apartment complex is open for business, challenging the limits of minimalist living. What the tiny dwellings lack in square footage, they try to make up for in amenities. Carmel Place, a 55-unit complex that opened June 1 in the Kips Bay neighborhood of Manhattan, represents the first time in decades that the city has allowed apartments to be built this small - ranging from 260 to 360 square feet. That's roughly the equivalent of a one-car garage.

It's the latest entry in a national trend toward smaller urban housing. The rise in single-person households - now nearly a third of New York City's households - and ever-higher rents led the city to approve the experimental project. Carmel Place got city land and a waiver from New York's 400-square-foot minimum on new apartments, set in 1987.

Frank Dubinsky of Monadnock Development, which built Carmel Place along with the Lower East Side People's Mutual Housing Association, said there would probably be more new micro-apartments in New York soon. Compared to other modern buildings in its neighborhood, Carmel Place offers relatively modest rents, and services and amenities - such as multi-functional furnishings - that are aimed at making small-scale living a little easier.

Architectural elements like 8-foot windows and nearly 10-foot ceilings are also meant to make small spaces more livable. The complex of services and amenities were put together by a company called Ollie, its name inspired by the words "all inclusive."

Save tenants time and money

"Just because people need a living room and a bedroom doesn't mean they need a designated living room and a bedroom. They just need the functionality of both rooms," explains Chris Bledsoe, co-founder of Ollie, which did design work on the apartment interiors as well. The firm nArchitects designed the interior and exterior of the building. The amenities are meant to save tenants time and money, and create a sense of community, he said. Carmel Place is "a more plug-and-play living experience - one that solves a housing need for the next two years of someone's life, not forever. You don't need to buy your own furniture or hire a cleaning company. Everything is set to go," he said.

In addition to Internet and Wi-Fi, rent includes a weekly tidying service and a monthly deep clean, along with dog walking, dry-cleaning pickup and even a butler app called Hello Alfred, for customized errands. The nine-story complex also includes shared spaces. Thirty-two of the units are market rate, with rents from \$2,446 to \$3,195. Another 14 apartments have rents set by affordable-housing programs topping out at \$1,490 per month; 60,000 people applied for those

in a lottery. "In cities, space is at a premium and the only real solution is to make living spaces smaller," said Lisa Blecker, spokeswoman for Resource Furniture, which provides most of the furniture included in the micro-apartment units. The furniture - much of it made by the Italian company Clie - emphasizes slim lines and multi-functionality. The 9-foot-long sofa converts into a queen-size bed. A tiny cube of an ottoman transforms into dining chairs. A slim console table expands to seat 10.

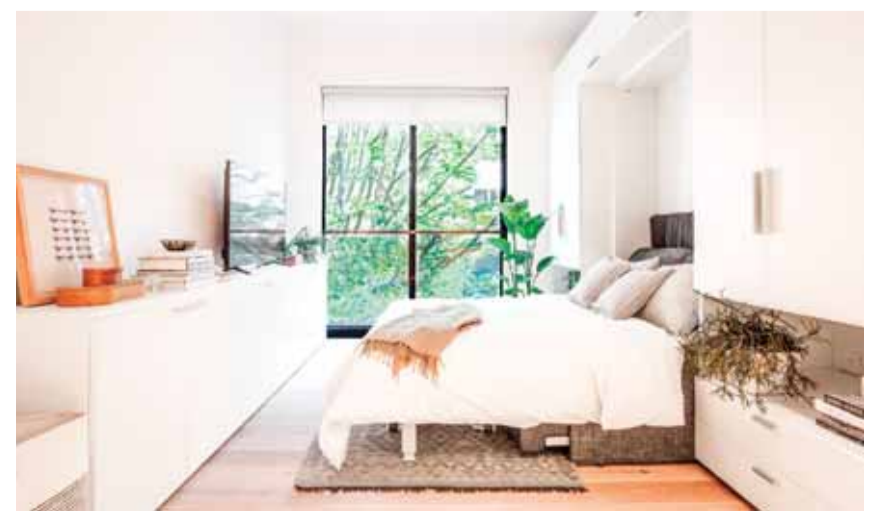
Although the pieces are pricey - Resource Furniture's Swing wall-sofa bed surrounded by cabinets costs between \$10,000 and \$15,000 - Blecker says clients see savings in housing costs and "the realization that 350 square feet



The micro apartment building Carmel Place in New York.

can feel luxurious if it's well designed with the right furniture." Bledsoe said micro-apartments' convenience and affordability can be particularly appealing to young singles, empty nesters, long-distance commuters, and baby boomers in transition or looking for an urban pied-a-terre.

Of course, tiny apartments in New York are not exactly new. Veteran appraiser Jonathan Miller estimates there are about 3,000 older apartments citywide that measure less than 400 square feet. And some real estate agents say New York's young professionals are increasingly seeking small studios, willing to sacrifice space to be near work and away from roommates. Cities from San Francisco to Boston have OK'd some micro-apartments in recent years, seeking to address housing squeezes. — AP



9/11 museum stages major exhibition: Art rife with reality

To mark the 15th anniversary of the terror attacks, the 9/11 memorial museum is staging a major special exhibition. It features artists who have transformed a day of terror - often with personal links - into works of both grief and tenderness. Brutal reality still dominates the display opening on Sept 12. Scorched and

over the city on Sept 10, 2001, from her studio on the 92nd floor of the north tower. The footage is now condensed into a piece dedicated to a fellow artist who died a day later in the same tower.

"Through the lens of art, we reflect on the raw emotion we all felt on that unforgettable Tuesday morning 15 years ago," said Alice Greenwald, the memorial museum's director. The artists are not asking "that we revisit the horrors of that day but that we try to make sense of what was left in its wake." Along with human bodies that came tumbling down from windows outside the inferno were business communications with the world. A rumpled sheet in Japanese and an application for a marketing job written days before the Sept 11 attacks - once just ordinary items - now reflect



In this image provided by the 9/11 Memorial Museum a piece of art, created by Ejay Weiss using ash from Ground Zero from what was the World Trade Center garage and entitled "9-11 Elegies" is a painting that is part of a special 15th anniversary exhibit at the 9/11 Memorial Museum by 13 artists who have filtered a day of terror often with personal links into works of both grief and tenderness.



In this image provided by the 9/11 Memorial Museum a piece of art, created by Chris Saucedo, entitled "World Trade Center as a Cloud," is in memory of the artist's firefighter brother whose remains were never found.



In this image provided by the 9/11 Memorial Museum a piece of art, created by Manju Shandler and entitled "Gesture," is one piece of a 2,996-piece set of the larger work which is part of a special 15th anniversary exhibit at the 9/11 Memorial Museum by 13 artists who have filtered a day of terror often with personal links into works of both grief and tenderness. — AP



In this image provided by the 9/11 Memorial Museum a piece of art, created by Doug and Mike Starn, from paper blown from the World Trade Center on 9/11 and entitled "Fallen #6," is part of a special 15th anniversary exhibit at the 9/11 Memorial Museum by 13 artists who have filtered a day of terror often with personal links into works of both grief and tenderness.

torn business papers from the collapsing towers and radio transmissions from the fiery pit are part of the collection titled "Rendering the Unthinkable: Artists Respond to 9/11."

Thirteen artists contributed paintings and a sculpture, as well as works on paper and video. In one video clip, a young woman washes her fire chief father's shirt - soiled from three days spent working in the smoking World Trade Center rubble. Brooklyn resident Christopher Saucedo created his papier-mache artwork, "World Trade Center as a Cloud," as a way to remember his firefighter brother, whose remains were never found. Other artists lost friends or witnessed the attacks. Monika Bravo, a native of Colombia living in Brooklyn, had filmed a thunderstorm passing

the "unthinkable" assault.

The papers, many in pieces, were blown out of the disintegrating skyscrapers and landed as far away as Brooklyn across the river. A soundtrack features recitations of various papers' contents. The exhibition was assembled by the National September 11 Memorial & Museum that oversees two reflecting pools bearing the names of the nearly 3,000 people who died on Sept 11 in New York, Washington and Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The display is the first in the museum's special exhibition gallery where various 9/11-related topics are planned in the future. — AP

Lifestyle

Best of Bucharest:
Eclectic
architecture,
Palace of Spring

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MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016



Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra works on his huge mural.

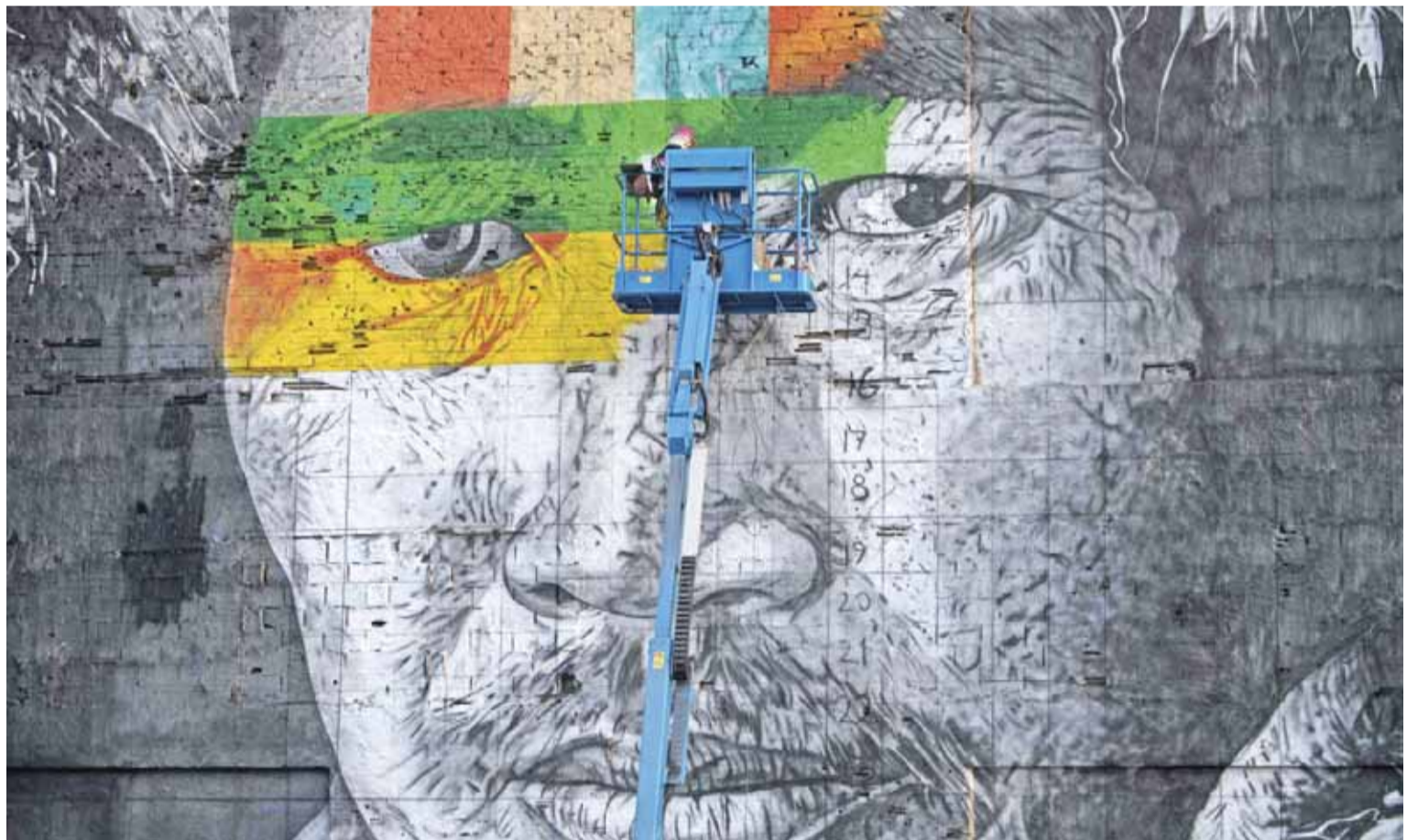
Brazil graffiti artist paints massive Olympic mural



Assistants to Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra work on the painting of a huge mural representing the five continents, at the Olympic Boulevard, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. — AFP photos



Assistants to Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra work on the painting of a huge mural representing the five continents.



Assistants to Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra work on the painting of a huge mural.



View of part of Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra's huge mural.

Perched atop a cherry picker truck several stories high, Brazilian graffiti artist Eduardo Kobra sprays puffs of paint on a sprawling mural in the colors of the Olympic rings. With three weeks to go to the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro, Kobra and his assistants are racing to put the finishing touches on the 3,000-square-meter (32,000-square-foot) painting that graces a wall in the city's newly overhauled port district. The mural depicts five indigenous faces representing the continents of the world, awash in the blue, yellow, black, green and red of the Olympics.

Thailand's Karen people represent Asia, the Huli of Papua New Guinea represent Oceania, the

Tapajos of the Brazilian Amazon represent the Americas, the Chukchi of Siberia represent Europe and the Mursi of Ethiopia represent Africa. "There is growing intolerance in the world," said Kobra, 40, of the motivation behind the work.

"Look at Europe, where people are rejecting refugees, rejecting what is different. I hope this mural, in the Olympic spirit, will help remind us that we are all different but all one: the human race." Kobra and his team spent 15 days preparing the former shipyard wall by plugging its holes and painting it white. For the past week, they have been working 11 hours a day to cover the wall—about half the size of a football pitch—in spray paint, acrylic and varnish.

They have already used 2,000 bottles of spray paint, 200 liters (50 gallons) of acrylic and 100 cans of varnish, says Kobra, who grew up tagging walls in a hardscrabble neighborhood of Sao Paulo called Campo Lindo. From the age of 12 years old, "the street was my way to socialize, have fun and also protest against social exclusion," he said. Today, he does graffiti "only with permission," he said. His current work, called "We Are All One," is sponsored by the Rio 2016 organizing committee and city hall. His goal is to finish it several days before the August 5 opening ceremony in time for the thousands of tourists and athletes expected to descend on the city's iconic waterfront. — AFP

101-year-old Japanese aims for more records

As the world's top swimmers prepare for the Rio Olympics, a sprightly Japanese centenarian insists she will still be smashing records by the time the 2020 Tokyo Games roll around. Closing in on her 102nd birthday, Mieko Nagaoka has racked up a slew of jaw-dropping world bests in her age bracket after only taking up swimming in her late eighties, but warns she is not done yet. "I'm fit as a fiddle," Nagaoka told AFP in an interview after completing the 400 meters freestyle in 26 minutes, 16.81 seconds at a Japan Masters Swimming Association competition in Chiba, on the outskirts of Tokyo.

"The secret is to eat well and stay active. It's no good sitting around at my age. I want to keep swimming until I'm 105 — and beyond that," added the Yamaguchi native, who has lived through 22 Olympics to date. Nagaoka, who swam the race backstroke sporting a white cap and dashing black and gold swimsuit, finished well over 17 minutes behind the winner, 80-year-old Etsuko Azumi. Hard of hearing, Nagaoka failed to hear the roar of the crowd after completing the eight-lap race and attempted to return for a ninth before being

fished out by judges as nervous medics watched on.

"It was just another race," smiled Nagaoka after changing into a pink jacket and matching hat. "Swimming makes me happy, that's what I love about it," she added. "When I'm swimming I'm in my own little world." Along with 105-year-old sprinter Hidekichi Miyazaki, another geriatric record breaker, Nagaoka is blazing a trail for Japan's turbo-charged pensioners in a country with one of the world's highest life expectancies. Nonetheless, Nagaoka's time was well outside her world record of 16:36.80 set two years ago.

Thunderous applause

Her rivals had long dried off and were talking by the side of the pool when Nagaoka finally touched to thunderous applause. But she struck a defiant tone. "I want to keep swimming as fast as I can," said Nagaoka, who owns world records in the women's 100-104 age division in nine events, including the 1,500m freestyle—a distance most people of her venerable age would struggle to walk. "I'll keep going for as long as I'm alive." Born in 1914, days after the outbreak



Mieko Nagaoka talking to reporters after taking part in the women's 400m freestyle race at the Japan Masters swimming competition in Narashino, in suburban Tokyo. — AFP photos

of World War I, when Japan fought on the side of the allies, Nagaoka's rambunctious lust for life continues to astound her family and coaches.



Mieko Nagaoka swimming during the women's 400m freestyle race.

"Her attitude to life is totally scandalous," said her 76-year-old son Hiroyuki.

"She refuses to live life by the correct rules. She eats only the finest food and turns her nose up at anything she doesn't fancy. "You're supposed to slow down with age, but she was getting quicker with age in her nineties, breaking record after record," he added. "That sense of joy and purpose in life is the secret to her long life." Nagaoka still trains three times a week in Yamaguchi, southwest Japan, under the tute-

lage of long-time coach Shintaro Sawada. "At first I thought she was joking about swimming until 100, but she was deadly serious," said 41-year-old Sawada.

"I've never met anyone like her—she eats when she wants and sleeps when she wants. She has a very stubborn streak and fierce determination." Perched beside his mother, the younger Nagaoka beamed with pride. "She's amazing," said Hiroyuki. "Mentally she's still very sharp. She's the world's greatest mum!" — AFP