

'Habab and Shouna' prepare ships for annual diving trip



Trump show rolls into Cleveland as convention opens



Iraq marshlands named as UNESCO world heritage site



Call for blanket Russia Olympics exclusion over state-run doping



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FLEEING TURKISH ARMY ATTACHE TO KUWAIT ARRESTED BY SAUDIS

TURKEY WIDENS PURGE, DEMANDS US HAND OVER GULEN



Min 35°
Max 47°
High Tide 00:12 & 10:40
Low Tide 05:03 & 18:27

ACTIVISTS, MPs CALL TO HALT DEMOLITION OF HISTORICAL MOSQUE

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A number of MPs and activists yesterday called on authorities to stop orders to demolish a 123-year-old historical mosque in Kuwait City to make way for a key road project. The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs said the decision to demolish the Shamlan Al-Roumi Mosque, built in 1893, was taken by the Cabinet and it had objected to the decision. The demolition is required because the mosque is in the way of the final phase of the First Ring Road project.

The ministry of public works, which is supervising the project, said it cannot change the course of the project, where a tunnel and a bridge are planned at a major intersection in the capital. Activists launched a hashtag campaign on Twitter and other social media calling on authorities to drop plans to demolish the mosque because of its historical and religious value and called for finding alternatives.

MP Ahmad Al-Qhudhaibi condemned the decision to demolish the mosque, saying it amounts to a humiliation of Kuwait's history and held Awqaf Minister Yaqoub Al-Sane responsible for the decision. The lawmaker warned that MPs will not allow the minister to demolish the historical mosque and if it happens, he will be grilled in the next term, which starts in October.

Continued on Page 13



ANKARA: People carry the coffin of Sehidmiz Murat Inci, victim of the coup attempt, during his funeral ceremony at Kocatepe Mosque yesterday. — AFP

By Faten Omar and Agencies

KUWAIT/ISTANBUL/ANKARA: Saudi authorities have detained the Turkish military attache to Kuwait for his suspected involvement in a foiled coup against the rule of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, local media reported yesterday. The attache, identified as Mikail Ihsanoglu, was arrested at an airport in the eastern Saudi city of Dammam as he attempted to board a flight to Germany, the reports said.

"Saudi authorities are holding the military attache for the Turkish embassy in Kuwait," the kingdom's Asharq Al-Awsat daily reported, quoting what it described as a foreign diplomatic source. "He was stopped based on a Turkish request and was detained during his attempt to flee over his likely links to the coup in Turkey," the daily reported. The Saudi-owned Al-Arabiya news channel confirmed the report from "Saudi sources" adding that Ihsanoglu was heading to Dusseldorf in Germany via Amsterdam. Kuwait's Al-Qabas daily said that Ihsanoglu had fled Kuwait by land to Saudi Arabia.

Turkey's Ambassador to Kuwait Salih Murat Tamer told a press conference at the Turkish Embassy yesterday that "accusations against him are yet to be investigated, once he is handed over to Turkey".



Salih Murat Tamer

Continued on Page 13





Grill Fiesta Combo
4 pos Grilled XL Shrimps, 3 pos Grilled Fish, Fries, Coleslaw, Tartar, Bread & Cola

KD 3.300



Family Summer Fiesta
20 pos Fried Shrimps, 10 pos Monster Shrimps, 8 pos Fried Fish, Family Fries, Family Coleslaw, 4 Tartar, 4 Bread & 2.25 Liter Cola

KD 9.750



Shrimps Fiesta Combo
45 pos Fried Shrimps, Fries, Tartar, Bread & Cola

KD 5.600



Shrimps & Calamari Fiesta Combo
30 pos Fried Shrimps, 10 pos Fried Calamari, Fries, Tartar, Bread & Cola

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KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania Mahadhi Juma Maalim.— KUNA



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Kuwait Yu Yun Chol.



His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chairman of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah.

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES NEW AMBASSADORS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday the newly-

appointed Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania Mahadhi Juma Maalim. His Highness also received the newly-appointed Ambassador of the

Republic of Korea to Kuwait Yu Yun Chol. The audiences were attended by head of the protocol at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh

Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. Earlier, His Highness Sheikh Nawaf received Chairman of the National Security Bureau Sheikh

Thamer Al-Ali Al-Sabah, and Chairman of the Public Authority for Sports Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA

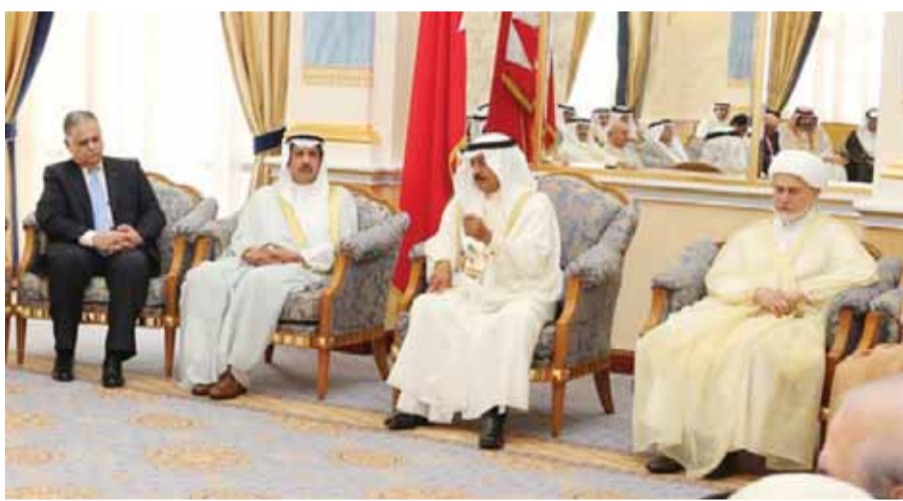
BAHRAIN'S PM ASSERTS OF GCC COORDINATION'S IMPORTANCE

MANAMA: Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa stressed yesterday the importance of increasing coordination among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and double the efforts for the sake of reaching the sought Gulf Union for the best interest and stability of the GCC peoples.

He said, during his meeting with a number of ambassadors accredited to Bahrain, led by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah, that "the contin-

uation of the plots and the diversity of their tools confirm that there is no substitute for our union which strengthens our resolve and our ability to maintain our countries and achieve the aspirations of our peoples".

Meanwhile, Ambassador Sheikh Azzam said that Prince Khalifa's remarks were a real translation of cohesion between the leader and the citizens and this also proves keenness of the political leadership in the Gulf States, which are keen on continuing to communicate with citizens and interact with their aspirations. —KUNA



MANAMA: Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa meets with a number of ambassadors accredited to Bahrain, led by the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Kuwaiti Ambassador to Bahrain Sheikh Azzam Mubarak Al-Sabah. —KUNA



Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled meets with the Sanaa delegation.

UN SPECIAL ENVOY MEETS PRISONERS' COMMITTEE OF YEMENI PEACE TALKS

YEMENI PARTIES THANK KUWAIT FOR SPONSORING TALKS

KUWAIT: The United Nations' (UN) Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed met YESTERDAY with the committee dealing with prisoners and detainees, part of UN-brokered peace talks held in Kuwait. The meeting featured discussions on the release of all captives, an issue that has seen much progress as of late.

Moreover, the UN Special Envoy was expected yesterday to meet with a number of officials, including Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdulmalik Al-Mekhlafi to review current developments in the war-torn nation and efforts to find a political solution to a conflict that remains largely unabated.

The government's delegation pulled out of the latest round of talks, citing that certain provisos need to be in place, particularly, that the Ansarullah movement and General People's Congress recognize the legitimacy of President Abd-Rabbuh Mansour Hadi's rule. The UN Special Envoy is expected to head to the Saudi capital Riyadh soon to resume discussions with the Yemeni president and the country's political parties

Kuwait's role

Earlier on Sunday, Yemeni parties have expressed gratitude for Kuwait's sponsoring of the Intra-Yemen talks, as Kuwait reiterated calls for them to seize the chance to end the suffering of Yemeni people. These remarks were made in three meetings held by the Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah in Bayan Palace Sunday with Cheikh Ahmad, Mikhlafi and Sanaa delegation.

The UN envoy and Yemeni delegation said that they greatly appreciate Kuwait's great role in hosting and creating conducive atmosphere for the success of the talks. They thanked His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and Kuwait's government support to the peace talks that aim to restore security and stability across Yemen. Meanwhile, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled urged both sides to redouble their efforts and seize the chance to bring to a halt the conflict in Yemen, promote peace and restore Yemen's stability.

Commitments towards peace

In the meantime, the Sanaa delegation, which represents Yemen's Ansarullah movement and General People's Congress, has reiterated commitment towards the int'l efforts to mediate



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled meets with the UN Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmad.—KUNA



Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled meets with the head of the Yemeni government delegation Abdulmalak Al-Mikhlafi.

a comprehensive peace deal to end the current crisis the country. In a press statement, the two delegations stressed the talks should be based on the previously agreed points. They laid it bare that "any other agendas or diversions in this regard would not be accepted."

They noted that they have made additional consultations during the past two weeks upon requests from the UN envoy to Yemen and the State of Kuwait with a view to giving impetus to talks benefiting from the progress achieved in the first round. The UN envoy has also visited a number of regional countries for the same purpose. He noted the main goal of these efforts is to help reach a comprehensive and integrated political deal to end the deadlock.

Meanwhile, the UN envoy held Sunday meetings with the delegations of the Yemeni Ansarullah movement and the General People's Congress and the delegation representing the Yemeni government.

Ould Cheikh Ahmad discussed with the Yemeni stakeholders a host of political, security and humanitarian topics on the agenda of the 'Kuwait consultations,' in addition to the safeguards sought by the government delegation, namely acknowledgement of the legitimacy of Yemeni President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi and the UN Resolution 2216. The UN-brokered intra-Yemeni peace talks resumed in Kuwait Saturday after a two-week suspension. The talks first began in Kuwait on April 21.—KUNA

DIPLOMAT TOUTS KUWAIT'S ROLE IN LISTING HISTORICAL SITES

ISTANBUL: Kuwait's permanent delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Dr Meshal Hayat hailed yesterday the role of Kuwait's delegation participating in the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in putting historical sites of Arab, Muslim and friendly countries on the world heritage list. Speaking after ending the WHC meeting in Istanbul due to the developments of Turkey, Hayat said backed by Arab and Muslim delegations, Kuwait played a notable part in the listing of new historical sites. He added that a total 21 historical sites in European, Asian, African and Latin American countries had been registered during the WHC's 40th session.

However, the meetings will resume in Paris, where the UNESCO is headquartered, due to the political situation in Turkey which has recently witnessed a failed military coup. The participating Kuwaiti delegation consists of the permanent delegate to the UNESCO, Kuwait's historical building observer Abdullah Al-Beishi and several other officials of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL). The 40th session kick-started in the Turkish city of Istanbul on July 10th. The World Heritage Committee was formed in 1972. It is responsible for implementing the World Heritage Convention, outlining the use of the World Heritage Funds, and allocating different financial assistance. —KUNA



ISTANBUL: Permanent delegate to the (UNESCO) Dr Meshal Hayat during the World Heritage Committee meeting. — KUNA

SUPREME COUNCIL SIGNS CONTRACT TO IMPROVE AUDIT BUREAU GOVERNING SKILLS

KUWAIT: The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD) signed a contract to implement a UN-backed plan to improve the governing performance of the State Audit Bureau, which will, hence, allows other sectors in the country to realize their full potentials.

The plan will be supervised by an international consultant and is part of a national program to enhance collaboration among the country's govern-

ment sectors, General-Secretary of GSS-CPD Dr Khaled Mahdi told the press yesterday.

The plan was signed with BWC International and the UN Development Program. The aim of the plan is to provide the Audit Bureau with a set of tools and skills to evaluate the performance in health, oil and education sectors, initially, then the rest of the sectors. BWC is a global network of experts to develop and run business. — KUNA

INFO MINISTER CITES CONTEST AS INCENTIVE FOR YOUTH

KUWAIT: A contest held last May served as an incentive for youth to develop their business acumen, said Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah yesterday.

Sheikh Salman made those comments in a statement issued by the Ministry of Information (MoI) after a meeting between the Minister of Information and Dr Redha Bahbahani, Director General of the Global Center for Development and Leadership at Kuwait University (KU) and Dr Adel Al-Husseinan, KU's Deputy Director General for Development. Moreover, Sheikh Salman underscored the importance of translating youth ideas into actual projects that would help diversify the country's revenue pool. Meanwhile, the statement also noted that the KU officials offered explanations on impending projects. The contest, dubbed 'Start-up Kuwait' and co-organized by KU and other universities, aims to hone entrepreneurship in youth, encouraging them to contribute to the growth of the nation's economy. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with Dr Redha Bahbahani, Global Center for Development and Leadership at Kuwait University (KU) Director General and Dr Adel Al-Husseinan, KU's Deputy Director General for Development. — KUNA



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

CABINET OKS FINAL ACCOUNTS, SUPPORTS TURKEY, FRANCE

MINISTERS EXAMINE FINANCIAL STABILITY REPORT

KUWAIT: The Cabinet yesterday approved final accounts for the 2015-2016 fiscal year of government departments, addressed major external issues namely Turkey's events expressing satisfaction at the legitimacy success, expressed solidarity with France in aftermath of the "blatant and criminal" attack in Nice and affirmed stand alongside the international community against terrorism.

During its weekly session chaired by the Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Cabinet reviewed recommendations by the economic affairs committee on bills for approval of the financial accounts for the fiscal year 2015-2016 for a number of authorities and sectors.

The ministers welcomed the relevant bills for the National Assembly, Kuwait Municipality, Kuwait University, the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI), Kuwait Fire Service Directorate, the Public Investment Authority (PIA), the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET), the Public Authority Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR), the Public Authority for Assessment of Compensation for Damages Resulting from Iraqi Aggression, the Public Authority for Youth and Sports (PAYS), the Environment Public Authority (EPA), the Public Authority for Disabled Affairs (PADA), the General Authority to Take Care of Printing and Publication of Holy Quran, Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority, the Public Authority for Manpower, the Public Authority for Food Affairs and Nutrition, the Investment Promotion Authority, the Authority for Projects Partnerships. The approved bills have been referred to His Highness the Amir, pending referral to the National Assembly.

Relief

Meanwhile, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah, reading a statement after the session, said the ministers expressed relief and welcome regarding success of the legitimacy and democracy in Turkey, depicting will of the Turkish people alluding to the recent botched bid to overthrow the government by military forces.

The Cabinet expressed sincere congratulations to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, praising the Turkish people for siding with the legitimacy and adhering to the democratic system. Moreover, it lauded the Turkish people's positive role in restoring stability to the country, hoping it would witness further stability, progress and prosperity.

As to France, the Kuwait Cabinet expressed deep condolences to President Francois Holland and the French people on demise of citizens as a result of the "flagrant criminal act" that has recently happened in Nice, affirming strong condemnation of "this terrorist and criminal act that contradicts all heavenly laws and humanitarian values." Furthermore, the Cabinet affirmed the State of Kuwait stand alongside the international community in combating various forms of terrorism.

Letters

The session got started with a briefing about a message His Highness the Amir had received from Kofi Annan, head of the Elders organization, requesting financial support to cope with El-Nino phenomenon, resulting for the climatic change. Annan had expressed hope that the State of Kuwait and other UN member states, during forthcoming meeting on climatic change,

would work out a map to cope with the weather changes by 2020.

They were notified about a message His Highness the Prime Minister had received from Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, inviting His Highness to take part in the annual convention due in Davos, January 2017.

The ministers reviewed a report by the permanent committee for improving the business environment in Kuwait. Deputy Prime Minister, Finance, Acting Oil Minister and Acting Commerce and Industry Minister Anas Al-Saleh addressed the ministers about the committee accomplishments, namely cooperation between the public and private sectors to create an adequate business environment in the country, as well as in cooperation with the World Bank.

Financial stability

On other issues, the ministers examined a report about the general financial stability for 2015, presented by the Central Bank of Kuwait, tackling hazards facing the banking sector and the banks' resistance to pressure, affirming that the sector maintained its strength.

The executives approved bills regarding aviation services with Mexico, Japan, standardization cooperation with Morocco, a cultural accord with the Kyrgyz Republic and amending the accord for the aviation services with Switzerland. They also approved bills on joining the Cartagena protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity and an accord with France in the relics' sector. Furthermore, the Cabinet congratulated Theresa May on assuming the UK premiership post. —KUNA

GCC FMS HOLD 'VERY POSITIVE' MEETING WITH KERRY

BRUSSELS: Foreign Ministers from the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met US Secretary of State John Kerry in Brussels yesterday, discussing a wide range of issues of common interest with him. "The discussions were really very positive," Kuwaiti Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Suleiman Al-Jarallah said after the two-hour meeting. The meeting covered the regional issues such as the situation in Syria, Iraq, Yemen and relations with Iran, he said. Kerry earlier met the 28 EU foreign ministers.

Jarallah noted that Kerry came to Brussels after meetings in Russia, and the US official informed the GCC ministers about the US and Russian position on the Syrian crisis and the steps to be taken for a political solution and support the efforts of the special UN envoy Staffan de Mastura to resolve the Syrian conflict.

"The discussions were very frank, open and in depth with the US Secretary of State," stressed Jarallah. "The situation in Syria regrettably is very complicated and difficult and requires the continuation of efforts and pressure," he said.

Jarallah said that later yesterday, the GCC ministers were scheduled to hold a coordination meeting among them-



Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah

selfes, followed by a meeting with the 28-ministers of the EU. There are many topics of common interest with the EU, he said and stressed that "we have strategic ties with the EU. There are many areas of cooperation and coordination with the EU." "We are satisfied with the progress in EU-GCC ties and these meetings contribute to the strengthening of the ties and opens new horizons for the future of EU-Gulf relationship," stressed the Kuwaiti official. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Fawaz Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah met yesterday with directors of the projects, services and maintenance group at Kuwait Oil Company (KOC). They discussed KOC's latest developmental projects in Ahmadi City. Separately, Sheikh Fawaz met with members of the Committee to Preserve the Cultural Identity of Ahmadi City, which he chairs. During the meeting, Sheikh Fawaz reiterated the need to providing necessary support for efforts to protect the city's historical and cultural landmarks.

POWER CUTS REPORTED AS TEMPERATURES SOAR

MINISTRY BLAMES BACHELORS, VIOLATING BUILDINGS

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: As temperatures soared to over 50 C degree and the power load exceeded 13,000 megawatts, some residents complained against power outages in Mahboula, Fahaheel, Waha, Abu Halifa, agricultural Wafra, Wafra Road, Mishref and Qasr. The blackouts took place on Sunday and lasted for several hours, bringing everything to a halt, and the Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) was informed through the hotline 152. MEW said the main reason for the cuts is bachelors living illegally in residential areas and overloads due to violating buildings, and asked consumers to switch off unnecessary appliances at home to avoid overloads.

Renewable energy

In other news, the committee to develop uses of renewable energy sources held its fourth meeting at the main building of MEW in South Surra. The meeting was chaired by MEW Undersecretary Mohammad Bushehri. The committee aims at accounting for and documenting all uses of renewable energy of all types in response to the initiative of HH the Amir, in which he announced Kuwait's plans to diversify source of energy by using renewable energy sources by 15 percent of the total power produced by 2030. Chairman of the technical sub-committee Dr Salah Al-Mudhi gave a presentation that included current and future renewable energy sources until 2020, which will reach 11 percent of the total need of energy in Kuwait,



with a total of 1600 MW, divided as 85 percent photoelectric, 10 percent solar and 5 percent from house garbage.

Housing violations

Separately, Kuwait Municipality departments continued pursuing houses violating building rules and regulations. The Municipality public relations department said 100 violating houses were found in Mubarak Al-Kabeer. The department said the number of decisions to cut power to violating houses is 24, and legal action is

being taken to cut power to 76 houses.

Judiciary insult

The cassation court set July 25 as the date to give its verdict in a case in which Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah is accused of insulting the judiciary. Defense lawyer Ali Al-Rashidi demanded that the court upholds the court of first instance's ruling which found his client not guilty of charges. He argued that the prosecutor general is not a judge, and his client did not insult him.

MGRP COORDINATES WITH MOI TO STOP LABOR SUPPORT TO CONVICTS

KUWAIT: The Manpower and Government Restructuring Program (MGRP) is coordinating with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) on a mechanism to provide names of Kuwaitis serving prison sentences to stop the National Labor Support. According to the law, no labor support must be paid to those convicts, MGRP Secretary General Fawzi Al-Majdali added in a press statement. He stressed secrecy of the relevant

data provided by the ministry. The cooperation with the ministry has revealed 65 people serving prison sentences, have received national labor support and other financial advantages, however, which is against the law, Majdali said. The MGRP will take legal procedures to restore payments from those who do not work for the private sector or who were abroad or are in prison, Majdali said. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Students from the Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity achieved top prizes in the 'Smart Brain' international competition in Thailand, which took place Sunday night featuring 1,465 students from different countries.



'HABAB AND SHOUNA' PREPARES SHIPS FOR ANNUAL DIVING TRIP



KUWAIT: Young Kuwaiti divers participated yesterday in the 'Habab and Shouna,' an event held as a prelude to the 28th Pearl Diving Trip which takes place between July 24 and August 4, 2016. During the annual event, ships are cleaned and prepared for the trip. Ships are laced with oil; a step 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 by the 'Shouna.'

— Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat



In Brief

KUWAIT AIRWAYS RESUMES FLIGHTS TO ISTANBUL

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways Corporation (KAC) said yesterday it has resumed its flights between Kuwait and Istanbul. The move came as the situation is back to normal in Turkey and flights are resumed at Istanbul Airport, Kuwait's national carrier said in a press statement. The KAC had announced Friday suspending flights to Istanbul due to the developments of the failed military coup in Turkey. — KUNA



FLIGHT MADE EMERGENCY LANDING DUE TO DEATH CASE

KUWAIT: Kuwait Airways said yesterday that its flight 411 that was en route to the Thai capital Bangkok made an emergency landing on Sunday at Dhaka airport because of the death of a Kuwaiti passenger on the plane. The company said in a press statement today that the plane completed the journey to Bangkok after the completion of the necessary procedures. — KUNA



KUWAIT NAVY TO CARRY OUT DRILL: DEFENSE MINISTRY

KUWAIT: Kuwait Navy will carry out shooting training with live ammunition at the naval range on July 20-21, the Ministry of Defense said yesterday. The location is 16 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Jailaa, all the way to Garu island, six nautical miles east of Ras Al-Zor, with a stretch reaching Umm Al-Maradem island. Sea-goers are advised to refrain from approaching the location. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: A Kuwaiti man rearranges traditional teapots at a store in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

VOLUME OF DIRECT INVESTMENTS AMOUNTS TO KD 230 MILLION: COMMERCE MINISTER

KUWAIT: Kuwait's direct investment since the first quarter of the current fiscal year (the first of April 2016) amounted to more than 230 million Kuwaiti dinars, said Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali.



Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali

The total volume of investments since the beginning of work of Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority in 2015 and to date has reached more than KD 635 million, Ali said in an interview with Arabic-language daily newspaper Al-Rai, published yesterday.

The requests submitted by foreign companies during the past three months are concentrated in the service, information technology, telecommunications and energy sectors, he added. He pointed out that the ministry is working on reducing the documentary cycle to one step, as well as separation of corporate founding and licensing procedures and the launch of an electronic system for transaction procedures. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry honored a number of long-time volunteers who helped worshippers and senior citizens during the ėQiyami prayers performed during Ramadan this year, as well as the Eid Al-Fitr prayers. Director of the ministry's General Department of Civil Defense Major General Abdullah Al-Ali and his assistant Colonel Jamal Al-Foudari attended the honoring ceremony.

Legalese

THE OXYMORONIC MEDIA

By Mohammad Hani Farran
Lecturer at the Arab Open University

Radical Islam, Muslim extremist, honor killing and holy war are nothing but contradictory terms that the mainstream media has coined to demonize Islam. Islam is definitely not radical, an extremist is not a true Muslim, there is no honor in killing and war is certainly not holy. Islam is a religion of peace and mercy and the very word 'Islam' means to submit or surrender.

We sometimes fail to stop and think about the words the media bombards us with especially when it comes to religion. Over time, we become desensitized and they become part of our vocabulary. Lenin once said, "A lie told often enough becomes the truth."

Thanks to such biased terms, Islamophobia is also on the rise and a quick search on Google brings in 4.7 million results. Whereas Christianophobia produces 46,000 hits and Judeophobia nets in 57,000 hits respectively. Clearly, an extremely tiny amount for both compared to the 4.7 million for Islamophobia. Where did all this prejudice against Islam come from? Are the crazy violent ones only on our side? Or is there a more sinister agenda by some in the media business?

KUWAIT CRUDE TO REACH \$39-42 PB BY YEAR END

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwait crude oil is expected to be between \$39 and \$42 per barrel (pb) by the end of the 2016, according to analysts interviewed yesterday. They said that the prices would remain over \$40 pb next year as markets are recovering. The current fluctuations of oil prices were much expected as the



Analyst Mohammad Al-Shatti

market was making for a balance but at a slow pace that was affected by developments either in demand or supplies, analyst Mohammad Al-Shatti said. He referred to factors that impacted oil prices over the past period, namely the rise of the US gasoline and diesel fuel and the decline of future contracts.

Brexit vote

Shatti said that oil prices had seen new falls in the aftermath of the Brexit vote in the UK, as uncertainty has the upper hand regarding consequences on the country, the European Union (EU) and the world at large. He pointed to forecasts that the decline of demand would not exceed 100,000 barrels daily in worst scenarios, with production recovery from countries like Canada, Nigeria and Libya. A recent report by the International Energy Agency (IEA) warned of the continuation of the oversupply on the market as a state of contango



Abdul-Samea Behbehani

carries on. Contango refers to a situation where the future spot price is below the current price, and people are willing to pay more for a commodity at some point in the future than the actual expected price of the commodity.

Chairman of Al-Sharq for Petroleum Consulting Company Abdul-Samea Behbehani said that Brent crude had seen a sharp fall of \$1.4 last Wednesday to hit \$46.6 pb. He referred to the alterations of oil price to oversupply, especially from the North Sea.

Production from Iran reached 3.6 million barrels and from Iraq 4.22 million barrels in May, as OPEC output remained at 32.88 million barrels, one million barrels above demand, he said. Behbehani had an optimistic view for 2017, as demand on OPEC oil is forecast to hit 33 million barrels, which will tighten the gap between supply and demand. He also expected Brent crude to stand at \$45pb.— KUNA



An Invitation to Tender No (KAC/PP/3/ 2016) For leasing (2) new buildings of KAC flight attendants' accommodation working in State of Kuwait

Kuwait Airways is pleased to invite all individuals and companies specialized in real estate to participate in the above tender regarding lease of (2) new buildings, adjacent or separated, located in Hawalli Governorate, Salamyia Area is advantage, for KAC flight attendants' accommodation working in Kuwait.

To all interested individual and companies shall bring a copy of such announcement and check in the office of secretary of Tender Committee, Ground Floor, KAC Head Office, AlDajeej Area, near Kuwait International Airport, during business hours as of the date of this announcement publication. To purchase the tender documents, the interested bidder shall pay an amount of KD 50 which is non-refundable, to the chief treasurer at KAC location against an official receipt to be furnished along with the offered bid. Furthermore, a copy of this announcement shall be attached therewith, taking note that the Documents submission Date (in a sealed and closed envelopes) is 2PM, this day Monday, corresponding to 8/8/2016.

All documents shall be submitted to the office of secretary of KAC Tender Committee. Any tenders provided after the aforesaid date shall be disregarded.

A preliminary meeting will be held to answer all inquiries received from the participated entities concerning the tender, at 11 , in the morning of this day Sunday , corresponding to 31/7/2016, at the Meeting Hall of Arrangements and Housing Department located at The Ground Floor, KAC Head Office, AlDajeej Area, near Kuwait International Airport. In the event of the bidder's absence, all discussions, decisions, and recommendations included in minutes shall be binding upon the bidder.

**If you have any further questions, please contact:
Tel. 24345555 Ext. 2249 - Or Fax: 24722431**

REQUIRED

Required for a major security service company to work in a major oil company

**First: Safety Engineer
Monthly Salary KD 750**

- University degree in engineering.
- Accredited Certificate in general knowledge in safety and occupational health (IOSH) and (NEBOSH)
- 10 years experience

- Fluent in English spoken and written
- Kuwait driver's license
- A certificate approved by KOC

**Second: Safety Supervisor
Monthly Salary KD 450**

- Accredited Certificate in general knowledge in safety and occupational health (IOSH) and (NEBOSH)
- 10 years experience

- Diploma
- Fluent in English spoken and written
- Kuwait driver's license
- A certificate approved by KOC

**To enquire and submit CV and certificates of experience and academic qualifications
Tel: 60098461-22451217 Ext: 123 - Fax: 22444467
Email: mail@alraed@alraed-security.com**

Crime

Report

MAN RAPED IN SULAIBIYA

KUWAIT: Farwaniya detectives are investigating the case of a young man who was raped repeatedly for four years under threats and blackmail of posting his naked pictures on social media, according to the victim's statements. A security source said a youth aged 23 told Omariya police that he was raped by a citizen, who lured him to a house in Sulaibiya, took photos of him naked, then threatened to post them online. The victim was concerned by the suspect asking him on Friday to accompany him to a Gulf country and continue his acts, and again threatened to publish his pictures.

Contrabands found

Two Gulf nationals were sent to the Drugs Control General Department (DCGD) after they were found in an abnormal condition. The two were in a car with Gulf license plates, in which hashish and an imported liquor bottle were found. Separately, detectives arrested an Egyptian man who sold Tramadol tablets, and he had 700 pills on him. DCGD received tips about the Egyptian, so they conducted investigations. Policemen waited near his home in Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, then caught him with 700 Tramadol pills.

Embezzlement

The appeals court sentenced a citizen, who is a senior official in a company, and a Lebanese, for 10 years each in a case of embezzling KD 86,000, and terminated the official from his job. The two were asked to return the money they embezzled and fined double that amount. The public prosecution charged the citizen of enabling the Lebanese man to embezzle KD 86,000 using forged invoices for electronic systems for a company the Lebanese works for.

Fake office busted

The Ministry of Interior's relations and security information department said residency detectives busted a bogus domestic help office run by an Ethiopian who swindled customers. An undercover agent agreed with the office to hire a domestic helper for KD 200 per month, and the suspect was arrested along with two women - an Ethiopian and a Sri Lankan - both reported absconding. The department said that while the arrest was being made, an Ethiopian woman offered a KD 800 bribe to free them, and the officer pretended to agree to it and she was caught in the act. The suspects were sent to concerned authorities.

Officers attacked

Two citizens attacked a policeman who asked for their IDs after pulling them over on Fahaheel Expressway. Both were arrested and sent to Bayan police station. A Najda police patrol was on Fahaheel Expressway across Bayan, when a car was spotted with two persons inside. The car was stopped and policeman asked for their IDs, but they attacked and beat him. A security source said a call for backup was made and policemen arrested the two and took them to the police station.— Al-Rai



ZAIN PROVIDES MOI WITH OVER 40 WHEELCHAIRS

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, provided the Ministry of Interior (MOI) with over 40 wheelchairs with the aim of distributing them to the ministry's various departments that witness large numbers of visitors on a daily basis.

Zain's team was welcomed by Director of the General Directorate for Residency Major General Talal Marafi and the Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department's Director Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash.

Zain provided the wheelchairs with aim to distribute them to the

Ministry of Interior's various departments, including The General Directorate of Immigration, General Directorate of Traffic, General Department of Citizenship and Travel Documents, Civil Defense, and more. Zain launched this initiative as part of its CSSR strategy to serve the community, as such departments witness large numbers of visitors that include elderly and special needs individuals.

Zain will continue to find ways to serve the community as to foster a better world and be a productive member of the society. The company

will always be keen on shouldering initiatives that work towards enhancing the society's welfare. Zain's long-term cooperation with the Ministry of Interior included launching SMS awareness campaigns regarding various issues that are of interest to the society.

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.



KFH RENEWS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH KUWAITI SKYDIVER MOHAMMAD AL-REFAEI

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) renewed its strategic partnership with the Kuwaiti Professional Skydiver Mohammad Al-Refaei in the framework of its commitment towards assuming the social responsibility and keenness to support the youth and sports. Refaei is a certified skydiver from the International Federation of this sport. He took part in a plethora of international championships in Kuala Lumpur, Spain, Holland and Dubai. He achieved many international titles.

KFH's partnership with Refaei emanates from its social responsibility and its keenness to support the youth and sport, while recognizing the national talent in efforts to motivate them to win international titles and elevate Kuwait's name in the international championships and forums. Meanwhile, Refaei praised KFH's support and keenness on appreciating him, which comprises an impetus for further success and achievements in his upcoming championships.



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry announced recently that it continues to receive applications to enroll for training courses in the noncommissioned officers' institute, including the 22nd batch for noncommissioned officers and the 34th batch for the lance corporal rank. Furthermore, the ministry announced receiving enrollment application for the 87th batch of students at the Police Academy.

THIS IS WHAT I LEARNED FROM MY TEACHER

By Nermin Al-Houti

Respect is more important than love
 Understanding is better than proportionality
 Trust is better than jealousy
 Patience is a great evidence of sacrifice.
 Staying away from problems does not mean weakness... rather it means you are more able to enjoy your life.
 When you forgive, you do not change the past, but you make the difference in the future.
 A fine line is what separates gaining hearts and breaking them, it is called: method.
 Everything around us leave and disappear except good deed, it remains instilled in the heart.
 Congratulations for who seeds goodness, happiness and good kindness everywhere.
 Congratulations to he who gave those who

These are short sentences and simple words, but it is very difficult for the human being to be able to reach them

passed through his life something of his scent.
 Make he who sees you pray for the one who raised you.

Purity of heart is not stupidity, rather it is an instinct Almighty Allah distinguishes who He loves with. These are short sentences and simple words, but it is very difficult for the human being to be able to reach them. Those words and attributes were and continue to be values that my teacher 'Abu Mubarak' instills in us to make his school and diwan a utopia, so congratulations to you and your students, including myself. You are the Plato of our era.

Final word: "Beauty is not in what we wear... beauty is the beauty of knowledge and good manners," - Ali bin Abi Taleb.
 — Translated by Kuwait Times



BURGAN BANK INVITED 'BUBA' KIDS CUSTOMERS TO ATTEND 'FINDING DORY' MOVIE AT GRAND CINEMAS

KUWAIT: Stemming from its wide range of valuable privileges specially designated to its 'BuBa' Kids Account holders, Burgan Bank, in collaboration with Grand Cinemas, recently invited its 'BuBa' customers to watch 'Finding Dory' movie for free, at Grand Cinemas Al Hamra Luxurious Centre, on Thursday, 14 July, 2016.

'BuBa' kids customers had the choice of reserving their seats to any of two shows that were exclusively available for them that day. They enjoyed watching the movie in 3D, which added a new dimension of entertainment filled with excitement and anticipation while watching the movie, while bringing along a friend or acquaintance.

Burgan Bank is committed to rewarding its 'BuBa' account holders with exclusive offers that are tailor-made for their own lifestyle and aspirations, and will continue accommodating optimal customer convenience with the provision of added value benefits inside and outside Kuwait.

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

Kuwait Times International

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016



Suicide bombers attack Yemeni army, killing 10

FRANCE FALLS SILENT FOR NICE VICTIMS AS POLITICIANS BICKER

Page 10

Page 8



CLEVELAND, Ohio: Protesters hold up a sign before the opening of the Republican National Convention yesterday. —AFP

TRUMP SHOW ROLLS INTO CLEVELAND

'UNCONVENTIONAL' REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION OPENS

CLEVELAND: Thousands of delegates descended on a tightly secured Cleveland arena yesterday for the opening of the Republican National Convention, with Donald Trump's wife playing character witness as the tough-talking mogul locks up his party's presidential nomination. Melania Trump, a Slovenian-born former model, will headline the opening night of the 2016 convention in Cleveland, Ohio, which takes place against a backdrop of fear over racial violence and unrest abroad.

The four-day confab will end Thursday with a speech from the 70-year-old billionaire real estate mogul, whose rise to lead the Republican White House ticket has been one of the more improbable journeys in American politics. Trump told Fox News early yesterday that his wife would be "speaking about her love of the country," adding that he will attend the opening session and may even say a few words - a sign that the convention will be anything but political as usual. "I will be there. I want to watch. It's going to be very exciting," Trump said.

The theme of yesterday's proceedings, which will also feature former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani, is "Make America Safe Again" - a play on Trump's slogan "Make America Great Again". A spate of race-tinged police-involved shootings - and cop killings, including the fatal shooting of three officers in Louisiana on Sunday - has put the country on edge. Deadly attacks overseas, most recently in Nice, and an attempted coup in Turkey, have only stoked an overall sense of instability.

President Barack Obama has urged Americans to temper their words and show stronger common resolve, but Trump is instead highlighting divisions. "We are TRYING to fight ISIS, and now our own people are killing our police," Trump tweeted shortly after the Baton Rouge shooting, referring to the Islamic State group. "Our country is divided and out of control. The world is watching."

Trump has portrayed himself as a sheriff who can fix things. "We have to bring law and order back to this country, whether we like it or not," he told Fox, as he bemoaned the deteriorating race relations in America. He believes that presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton should be jailed for using a private email server to handle sensitive government documents while serving as secretary of state, something the FBI said was careless but not criminal. Trump will also call on retired Lieutenant General Michael Flynn and tough-talking Senator Joni Ernst as convention speakers to back up his point.

Of more immediate concern for Trump however is a split among Republicans. The reality TV star's unorthodox style and hard-right message have left the party more divided than it has been in a generation. After his wife, the candidate's team will send his son and daughters to the convention stage in the coming days in an attempt to humanize The Donald. Polls show that Trump struggles badly with moderate voters, and his campaign will want to project a more positive image to the general electorate.

But several party luminaries will be absent - reportedly including John Kasich, host state Ohio's sitting governor. Kasich battled Trump and others unsuccessfully for the Republican nomination, and kept himself out of contention to be Trump's vice presidential running mate. "He's making a big mistake," Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort said of Kasich's absence. Trump's choice of Indiana Governor Mike Pence as his running mate could help shore up his position among conservatives, although the real estate billionaire seemed tepid about his decision.

In a remarkable first joint appearance on Saturday, Trump eventually got around to talking about Pence and explained why he was picked, in less-than-enthusiastic terms. "One of the reasons is party unity - so many people have said, 'party unity'. Because I'm an outsider," Manafort insisted Republicans were shoulder to shoulder. "This is a Trump convention. The party is united," he said. "It's a few people who are holding up and they don't reflect anything other than their personal opinion." Pence will address the convention tomorrow.

Protests

Inside the convention arena, it remains to be seen if the "Never Trump" camp will make themselves heard. Outside, however, law enforcement is bracing for a wave of protests, when protesters aim to march close to the heavily protected venue. Cleveland's roads are lined with concrete barriers and metal fencing, and helicopters buzz overhead. The Midwestern city of nearly 400,000 has taken out \$50 million in protest insurance.

Ohio's open-carry law, which allows people to carry loaded weapons on the streets, is adding to fears of violence. Police Chief Calvin Williams said officers were on alert after the Dallas and Baton Rouge killings. "Officers are more keen to things that are happening and our officers are told to be especially cautious during their tours," Williams said. — AFP

MILITANT KILLS 5 IN KAZAKHSTAN

ALMATY: A lone gunman with Islamist links killed at least three policemen and two civilians in Kazakhstan's financial capital Almaty yesterday, senior security officials said, the second such attack in less than two months. Police detained the attacker, identified as 26-year-old Ruslan Kulikbayev, in a shootout on a busy central street after he had gone on the rampage, attacking a police station and an office belonging to the KNB security service. Kulikbayev had been imprisoned before for robbery and illegally possessing weapons and had "became close to Salafists" in prison, KNB security service head Vladimir Zhumakanov told a Security Council meeting.

The shootings will stoke fears of a growing Islamist threat to the oil-producing nation of 18 million people. Last month, men the authorities said were Islamic State sympathizers attacked gun stores and a military facility, killing seven. Thousands of nationals from Central Asian nations are known to be fighting alongside Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, and the authorities have long warned they could return and carry out attacks on home soil.

Kazakhstan is far more prosperous than its post-Soviet neighbors and has been ruled with a firm hand by President Nursultan Nazarbayev since 1989. But the fall in global oil prices has hit its

economy hard and there have been rare outbreaks of violence and public protests since April, initially caused by discontent over proposed land reforms but swiftly attracting others unhappy about wider issues. Interior Minister Kalmukhanbet Kasymov told the same Security Council meeting that police had first believed that the attacker had accomplices, but had later learnt that another man they had detained was driving a car under duress at gunpoint.

Nazarbayev, who chaired the meeting, called the attacks a terrorist act and ordered tighter security in public areas. Five witnesses told Reuters they had heard gunshots in three parts of Almaty, the mainly Muslim nation's largest city. "We saw a man with a rifle," one shop worker said by phone. Footage uploaded to the Internet showed a man pointing an assault rifle at a car he tried and failed to stop.

Interior Minister Kasymov said the attacker had shot a policeman guarding a police station, taken his automatic rifle and then opened fire at others, killing one civilian and wounding several policemen. Kulikbayev then hijacked a car and went to a KNB building where he shot two more policemen. He hijacked another car, according to Kasymov, before engaging police in the final shootout after which he was captured. Kasymov said the gunman

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IN LEBANON, SYRIANS FEAR RISING DISCRIMINATION

BEIRUT: Syrian refugee Abu Adnan was rushing his newborn to the doctor one night in the Lebanese town of Rmeish when municipal police stopped him and began questioning him. He was in violation of a municipal curfew that prevents Syrian refugees from leaving their homes between sunset and sunrise. "They began questioning me - 'Where are you going? Why?'" he told AFP, speaking on condition that a pseudonym be used.

Eventually he was allowed to continue, but was followed to and from the doctor's office, ensuring that he returned home directly. This is just one example of what Syrian refugees and local activists say is increasing pressure on, and even outright racism against, Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Lebanon hosts

more than one million Syrian refugees - roughly a quarter of its population - and has regularly been praised for opening its borders to those fleeing the brutal conflict in its neighbor.

But the refugee influx has strained resources and tempers, with some Lebanese viewing the years-long presence of Syrians as a burden, even an imposition. Some municipalities have taken matters into their own hands, imposing curfews on refugees, ordering night raids on their homes, evicting them or even making them clean the streets. "Lately, things have become very difficult," said Abu Adnan. "Once, a group of drunken young men broke into the home of some Syrian refugees and started beating and cursing them," he said. "The municipality did nothing for the

Syrians; instead it evicted dozens from their homes."

Obligation to Protect Refugees

Such incidents spiked again recently after a string of suicide bombers attacked Al-Qaa village on Lebanon's border with Syria. Reports initially suggested the attackers had come from nearby refugee settlements, though that was later denied by Interior Minister Nuhad Mashnuq. Lebanese activists say the security fears of citizens are being manipulated by some to justify measures against the Syrians. On Monday, they planned a "march against racism" in Beirut from the foreign ministry to the interior ministry.

Rights groups have urged Lebanon to protect Syrians escaping the war that

began in March 2011 and has killed more than 280,000 people. "Amnesty International is concerned about recent reports of harassment and physical abuse of Syrian refugees including arbitrary arrests and forced evictions from informal settlements," said its refugee researcher Khairunissa Dhala. She said Lebanon has "international obligations to protect Syrian refugees who are seeking safety in the country".

Matthew Saltmarsh, senior communications officer for the UN's refugee agency UNHCR, added: "It is important to remember that Syrian refugees in Lebanon are themselves seeking sanctuary from violence in their home country." But in Rmeish, the municipality's Facebook page urges "all citizens to be guards". "It is our duty to report any sus-

picious movement to the authorities," it says. Municipality chief Marun Shibli says Rmeish is home to 6,000 Lebanese and that the arrival of more than 1,000 Syrians was "more than we could handle".

'Forced to Clean Streets'

"A decision was taken to keep only those who could have a local sponsor. Now there are only about 500 refugees left," he said. Other municipalities have also come under fire for their treatment of refugees. In mid-July, municipal police in the coastal town of Amchit north of Beirut carried out night-time raids on several homes. Pictures posted online showed refugees kneeling or lined up facing a wall, their hands crossed behind their backs, as municipal policemen checked their identity documents.— AFP



ANKARA: People shout slogans as they block the entrance of the armored troops school yesterday.—AFP

ARMY SAVED ERDOGAN BUT RISKS LOSING CLOUT

ISTANBUL: Support from the highest echelons in the army helped keep President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in power after the failed coup but Friday's events risk further undermining the military's status as a key player in Turkish politics. Relations between Erdogan and the Turkish army have often been strained, but he can thank the top brass - as well as the mass mobilization of his own supporters - for seeing off the threat. Turkey has detained 103 generals and admirals as well as more than 2,800 soldiers accused of supporting Friday's attempted power grab, but most of the military's senior figures stayed loyal to Erdogan.

These included chief of staff General Hulusi Akar who was taken hostage by the coup plotters in a terrifying ordeal. "The coup d'etat was foiled thanks to an alliance between Erdogan and the secular arm of the army," said Fuat Keyman, director of the Istanbul Policy Center.

'Army Chief Refused to Sign'

Erdogan has reached out more to the armed forces since he fell out with erstwhile ally Fethullah Gulen, an Islamic preacher now living in the United States, whom the Turkish leader blames for the attempt to topple him. Ironically, Erdogan, who came to power in 2003, allied himself with Gulen in order to rein in the military deemed to be the main threat to his Islamo-conservative government. The armed forces are considered the guardians of the secular Turkish state created in 1923 by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, ready to act when the mainly Muslim nation's government takes on a religious hue.

The army led successful coups in 1960, 1971 and 1980 and was also behind the ouster in 1997 of Islamist prime minister Necmettin Erbakan, a political mentor of Erdogan, in a bloodless coup. But when the putschists were trying to overthrow Erdogan, dozens of senior officers, including generals, rushed on to television channels to denounce the move. Akar was held hostage for 20 hours during the coup

attempt. He refused, despite a pistol held to the head, to sign a declaration that the rebel leaders had taken power, according to comments given to NTV television. He was applauded and cheered as a national hero by lawmakers when he attended an extraordinary session of parliament after the foiling of the coup.

'Marriage of Convenience'

Analysts say the rapprochement between Erdogan and the military came about for two reasons - hostility to Gulen and the renewal of the Kurdish conflict in the southeast. Kurdish rebel attacks against Turkish security forces have intensified with almost daily attacks since the collapse of a two-and-a-half-year ceasefire last July. For Professor Jean Marcou of France's Sciences-Po university, the new relationship between the head of state and the army is a "marriage of convenience".

The alliance was on display in April when Turkey's highest court quashed the 2013 convictions of dozens of senior army officers for allegedly trying to overthrow the government. The Turkish authorities said Gulen - who wields enormous power with supporters in the media, judiciary and police - was behind that bid. Retired General Ilker Basbug, a former chief of staff who was jailed for life under the original ruling, on Sunday denounced the "action of the putschists" and said he hoped the army would emerge stronger.

'Devastating for Army'

But Friday's events have more likely provided Erdogan with the chance to again clip the wings of the armed forces. The army now risks losing its role as a political actor and becoming more of a traditional purely military force, said Marcou. Erdogan could meanwhile beef up the role of the police, who were massively opposed to the plotters and had already been growing in power. "The videos of men in uniform attacking civilians are devastating for the army, which is now going to have to work hard on its image," said Keyman.—AFP

MUSLIM MOB STABS CHRISTIAN TO DEATH IN EGYPT OVER FEUD

MINYA, Egypt: A Muslim mob in southern Egypt stabbed a Coptic Christian to death over a personal feud, officials said yesterday, stoking anger among Christians amid a spike in assaults on their community. Bishop Macarius of the southern Minya governorate said the mob attacked the families of two priests with knives and batons in the village of Tahna Al-Gabal late Sunday. A family member, Fam Khalaf, 27, was killed and the father of one of the priests was wounded. Police said they arrested four people in connection to the incident.

Yesterday, mourners gathered at a local church for prayers for the dead and protests. Marching to the graveyard, they chanted "with blood and soul, we redeem the cross". Christians make up 10 percent of Egypt's mostly Muslim population. Sectarian violence occasionally erupts, mainly in rural communities in the south. Islamic extremists have also targeted Christians.

On Saturday, a group of Muslims attacked and torched houses of Christians

in the village of Abu-Yacoub, also in Minya, following a rumor that a Christian intended to turn a kindergarten into a church. Security forces arrested at least 14 people. Last week, in another Minya village, Kom Al-Lufi, a group of hardliners attacked and torched houses of Christians after a similar rumor.

In May, a Muslim mob stripped an elderly Christian woman of her clothes and paraded her on the streets of another Minya village, following a rumor that her son had an affair with a Muslim woman. The incident sparked public uproar and prompted Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi to publicly vow to bring the attackers to justice. Egypt's Orthodox Coptic Christians strongly supported Sisi's ouster of his Islamist predecessor Mohammed Morsi, who hails from the Muslim Brotherhood group. Following Morsi's toppling, many Islamists claimed that Christians had conspired with the military against them. Attacks on Christian homes, businesses and churches subsequently surged in the south.—AP

FEAR IN REBEL-HELD ALEPPO AS SYRIA REGIME LAYS SIEGE

COALITION STRIKES KILL 21 CIVILIANS IN MANBIJ

ALEPPO: Civilians in rebel-held parts of Syria's Aleppo expressed fears yesterday of a lengthy government siege, as food supplies dwindled after regime troops seized the only road into the city's east. The advance by the government, which has been backed by a Russian air offensive, is seen as a major setback for opposition forces in Syria's second city. The United Nations says about 600,000 Syrians already live under siege throughout the country, most encircled by government forces, though rebels and the Islamic State group have also used the tactic.

A US-backed alliance of Kurds and Arabs has also surrounded the IS stronghold of Manbij about 100 km northeast of Aleppo city. Air strikes by the US-led coalition killed at least 21 civilians in and around the jihadist bastion yesterday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor said. In Aleppo city itself, food and fuel shortages had already hit rebel-held eastern districts that are home to at least 200,000 people, after government forces advanced to within firing range of the key Castello Road supply route on July 7.

Regime forces seized the road itself at the weekend, completely severing the rebel-held portion of the city from the outside world and raising fears of a potentially devastating siege. "I don't know what is going to happen to us," said 38-year-old Mohamed Rukby, an unemployed father-of-four in the Bustan Al-Qasr neighborhood. "We have nowhere to go. All the roads are closed and we've been suffering for days with shortages of bread, food and basically everything."

'Mission Impossible'

In the city's opposition-controlled Al-Mashhad district, mechanic Mohamed Zeitun said his work had dried up because a shortage of fuel meant residents were not driving anywhere. "The idea of the siege keeps me up at night," the 44-year-old told AFP. "I don't have supplies to last me more than a week, and if there is no food in the markets, there could be a famine," said the father-of-five.

Aleppo city was once Syria's economic powerhouse, but it has been ravaged by the war that began in March 2011 with anti-government protests. The conflict has killed more than 280,000 people and left Aleppo divided roughly between government control in the west and rebel control in the east. Analysts said the government advance was a significant blow for rebels. "It has now become mission impossible for Syria's rebels who are completely deprived of any breathing space," said Karim Bitar, an analyst at the Paris-based Institute of International and Strategic Relations. The advance also leaves Syria's President Bashar Al-Assad feeling "considerably more secure than a few months ago," he said, meaning his forces could move "to further consolidate his positions."

'Devastating Blow'

The encircling of eastern Aleppo has raised international concern, with the UN's humanitarian coordination body OCHA warning that "the situation is particularly worrying due to the

high concentration of people living in this area". It said eastern Aleppo had not received humanitarian supplies since July 7, and that there was enough food there to last 145,000 people for one month.

OCHA said some essentials had been stockpiled and there were sufficient emergency medical supplies for four to five months. But "further life-saving aid is needed urgently," it added. In some places, civilians have reportedly starved to death or died for lack of medical supplies because of siege tactics. Despite successive rounds of talks, international efforts to find a solution to the conflict have yet to bear fruit, and UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura has urged Russia and the United States to push for renewed peace talks in Geneva next month.

But the opposition High Negotiations Committee said the regime's advance around Aleppo could jeopardise new talks. "This is pushing the negotiations in Geneva to a more remote date. Frankly the prospects are becoming less and less possible or more and more remote," HNC member Basma Kodmani said on Sunday night. Syria expert Aron Lund, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said that if Assad manages to secure both Damascus and Aleppo it would be a "devastating blow for his opponents". "It wouldn't mean the war is over. The government is still weak and exhausted... But it might have severe repercussions for rebel morale and perhaps also for foreign support to the opposition," he added.— AFP



HAJR, Yemen: People run for cover as smoke rises following a car bomb attack at an army checkpoint at the entrance to this town in southeast Hadramawt province yesterday.—AFP

SUICIDE BOMBERS ATTACK YEMEN ARMY, KILLING 10

ADEN: Two suicide bombers tried to ram vehicles laden with explosives through two Yemeni military checkpoints near the government-held port city of Mukalla yesterday, killing at least 10 people, the army and medics said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks near the capital of Hadramout province on the Gulf of Aden, the latest in a series of bombings since forces loyal to Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, backed by UAE troops, drove out Al-Qaeda militants from the city in April.

The Yemeni army's Second Military Command, which is based in Mukalla, said militants had used a booby-trapped bus at a checkpoint in Al-Burum, southwest of Mukalla, and a booby-trapped car in Al-Ghaber, to the west. "Forces at the checkpoints were able to confront the vehicles and prevented them crossing the security barriers," an army statement said. It said six soldiers had been killed and 18 wounded. Medics said four civilians were also dead, and that 15 soldiers had been taken to hospital, five in serious condition.

Militants from Al-Qaeda and its rival Islamic State have been building up their presence in the impoverished country, taking advantage of the chaos created by Yemen's civil war, which began in 2014. Al-Qaeda's Yemeni branch had built up a mini-state centred on Mukalla. It has tried to bomb several Western airliners and claimed responsibility for an attack on the offices of the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in Paris last year.— Reuters

SUSPECTS IN SAUDI EMBASSY ATTACK APPEAR IN IRAN COURT

DUBAI: More than 10 people accused of storming Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran in January appeared in a Tehran court on Monday, Iranian news agencies reported, weeks after President Hassan Rouhani urged the judiciary to take action. The suspects are accused of "disturbing the public order and damaging embassy buildings", according to state media. Around 10 other suspects were absent from the first hearing.

Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic relations with its rival Iran after protesters stormed the kingdom's embassy in Tehran and consulate in Mashhad following Riyadh's execution of a prominent Saudi Shiite cleric. The Iranian government condemned the assault and Rouhani, keen to improve Tehran's long-strained relations with neighbors and the West, asked the judiciary to punish the protesters and prevent further attacks.

Such incidents have recurred throughout the Islamic Republic's 37-year history, often harming its foreign relations. Protesters attacked the US embassy in 1979, Kuwait in 1987, Saudi Arabia in 1988, Denmark in 2006 and Britain in 2011. None of the assailants were convicted. Iran's judiciary announced in April

that more than 100 suspects had been arrested over the attack on the Saudi missions and 48 charged. All were released on bail.

At yesterday's hearing, a 25-year-old defendant said he had learned of the protest action against the Saudi embassy from social media groups "said to be linked to the Revolutionary Guards", according to the ISNA news agency. The Revolutionary Guards Corps is the strongly anti-Western and most powerful military and security force in Iran. Some Guards commanders condemned the attack as a plot against Iran and suggested "foreign agents" had been behind it.

"I didn't know the protest did not have a permit... I am regretful as I broke the heart of the supreme leader (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei)," ISNA quoted the unnamed defendant as saying. Khamenei, the highest authority in the Islamic Republic, has said the attack was "very bad and wrong" and had "damaged the country and Islam". A defense lawyer said two of his clients were absent from court as they were fighting in Syria against the rebels. Iran is allied with President Bashar Al-Assad in Syria's civil war while Saudi Arabia has supported his opponents.—Reuters



BATON ROUGE: Police guard the emergency room entrance of Our Lady of the Lake Medical Center, where wounded officers were brought on Sunday. — AP

SHOOTER AN EX-MARINE WHO DENIED TIES TO ANY GROUP

WASHINGTON/KANSAS CITY: The gunman who killed three police officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Sunday was a former US Marine sergeant who served in Iraq and made the dean's list in college, government officials with knowledge of the case said. The suspect, Gavin Eugene Long, 29, who also wounded three other officers, was from Kansas City, Missouri, a source familiar with the investigation told Reuters. He was divorced and living in a working-class neighborhood, and Missouri records show he had no criminal history.

It was not immediately clear how Long, who was black, ended up in Baton Rouge, where police killed him in a shootout on his 29th birthday, according to media reports. The city has become a flashpoint for protests after police shot and killed Alton Sterling, a black man, outside a convenience store there on July 5. A website, social media accounts and YouTube videos that appear tied to Long include complaints about police abuse of African-Americans and indicate he recently joined demonstrations in Dallas, where a black former US Army reservist killed five officers two days after Sterling's death.

In a YouTube video, Long praised the killing of the Dallas officers and said, "It's justice." He also posted a separate video on July 8, in which he described himself as a former Christian, former member of the Nation of Islam and then repeatedly stated he was now not affiliated with any group. "They'll try to put you with ISIS or some other terrorist group," he said. "No. I'm affiliated with the spirit of justice. Nothing else."

A website named "convoswithcosmo" that features self-help, health and relationship advice was owned by a Gavin Long at a Kansas City address, according to online records. As of Sunday night, police in Kansas City had cordoned off the block where that address is located. That address

also appears in local court records for a Gavin Long in two separate civil cases.

In a YouTube video posted on July 10, the host of "Convos with Cosmo" says he is in Dallas and had gone to the city to join protests there.

The man says that African-Americans are oppressed and questions why white American revolutionaries are praised for fighting their oppressors but African ones are not. Later in the video, he suggests that only violence and financial pressure will cause change.

"We know what it's going to take. It's only fighting back or money. That's all they care about," he says to the camera. "Revenue and blood, revenue and blood, revenue and blood. Nothing else." A government source said federal officials were reviewing the web postings but could not definitively link them to Long.

Decorated Military Career

Long was affiliated with the anti-government New Freedom Group, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing a person briefed on the investigation. A spokeswoman for the Southern Poverty Law Center, which tracks extremist groups, said she had no information about such a group. Reuters was not able to confirm the existence of the New Freedom Group. Records provided by the US Marines show Long received a number of awards during his five years in the military, including a good conduct medal.

He served in the Marines from Aug 2005 to Aug 2010 as a data network specialist and rose to the rank of sergeant, according to Yvonne Carlock, deputy public affairs officer for the Marines. Long was deployed to Iraq from June 2008 to Jan 2009. CBS News reported that he left the Marines with an honorable discharge, but Carlock would not confirm that detail. — Reuters

GUNMAN 'WAS SEEKING OUT,' AMBUSHED SIX US OFFICERS

POLICE-COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN BATON ROUGE TENSE

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana: A former Marine dressed in black and carrying extra ammunition ambushed police in Baton Rouge, shooting and killing three law enforcement officers less than two weeks after a black man was fatally shot by police there in a confrontation that sparked nightly protests that reverberated nationwide. Three other officers were wounded Sunday, one critically. Police said the gunman was killed at the scene. "His movements, his direction, his attention was on police officers," state police Col Mike Edmonson said Monday morning. He would not elaborate but said the gunman "certainly was seeking out police officers", and he used the word "ambush" to describe the attack.

Edmonson also confirmed that investigators have interviewed people with whom the shooter had contact in Baton Rouge. But Edmonson wouldn't say how many or give details. He stressed that the interviews don't mean that those people were involved in the shooting and urged any others who might have had contact with or information about shooter Gavin Long to come forward.

The shooting less than a mile from police headquarters added to the tensions across the country between the black community and police. Last week, a gunman targeted police during a march in Dallas, killing five officers. And just days before the Baton Rouge attack, one of the slain officers had posted an emotional Facebook message about the challenges of police work in the current environment.

President Barack Obama urged Americans to tamp down inflammatory words and actions. "We don't need careless accusations thrown around to score political points or to advance an agenda. We need to temper our words and open our hearts ... all of us," Obama said. The gunman was identified as Gavin Long of Kansas City, who turned 29 Sunday. Long, who was black, served in the Marines from 2005 to 2010, reaching the rank of sergeant. He deployed to Iraq from June 2008 to January 2009, according to military records.

Although he was believed to be the only person who fired at officers, authorities were investigating whether he had some kind of help. "We are not ready to say he acted alone," state police spokesman Major Doug Cain said. Two "persons of interest" were detained for questioning in the nearby town of Addis. They were later released without any charges being filed. While in the military, Long was awarded several medals, including one for good conduct, and received an honorable discharge. His occupational expertise was listed as "data network specialist". The University of Alabama issued a statement saying Long attended classes for one semester in the spring of 2012. A school spokesman said university police had no interactions with him.

Deadly Encounters

In Kansas City, police officers, some with guns drawn, converged on a house listed as Long's. It was the fourth high-profile deadly encounter in the



This three image combination photo shows (from left) Baton Rouge police officers Matthew Gerald and Montrell Jackson and Baton Rouge Parish Deputy Brad Garafalo. — AFP

United States involving police over the past two weeks. In all, the violence has cost the lives of eight officers, including those in Baton Rouge, and two civilians and sparked a national debate over race and policing. Authorities initially believed that additional assailants might be at large, but hours later said there were no other active shooters. They did not discuss the gunman's motive or any relationship to the wider police conflicts.

The shooting began at a gas station on Airline Highway. According to radio traffic, Baton Rouge police answered a report of a man with an assault rifle and were met by gunfire. For several long minutes, they did not know where it was coming from. The radio exchanges were made public Sunday by the website Broadcastify. Nearly 21/2 minutes after the first report of an officer getting shot, an officer on the scene is heard saying police do not know the shooter's location.

Almost 6 minutes pass after the first shots are reported before police say they have determined the shooter's location. About 30 seconds later, someone says shots are still being fired. The recording lasts about 17 minutes and includes urgent calls for an armored personnel carrier called a BearCat.

"There simply is no place for more violence," Louisiana Gov John Bel Edwards said. "It doesn't further the conversation. It doesn't address any injustice perceived or real. It is just an injustice in and of itself." From his window, Joshua Godwin said he saw the suspect, who was dressed in black with a ski mask, combat boots and extra bullets. He appeared to be running "from an altercation". Mike Spring awoke at a nearby house to a sound that he thought was from firecrackers. The noise went on for 5 to 10 minutes, getting louder.

Of the two officers who survived the shooting, one was hospitalized in critical condition, and the other was in fair condition. Another officer was being treated for non-life-threatening injuries, hospital officials said. Two of the slain officers were

from the Baton Rouge Police Department: 32-year-old Montrell Jackson, who had been on the force for a decade, and 41-year-old Matthew Gerald, who had been there for less than a year. The third fatality was Brad Garafalo, 45 and a 24-year veteran of the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office.

Tensions

Jackson, who was black, posted his message on Facebook on July 8, just three days after the death of 37-year-old Alton Sterling, a black man killed by white Baton Rouge officers after a scuffle at a convenience store. In the message, Jackson said he was physically and emotionally tired and complained that while in uniform, he gets nasty looks. When he's out of uniform, he said, some people consider him a threat. A friend of Jackson's family, Erika Green, confirmed the posting, which is no longer on Facebook. A screenshot of the image was circulating widely on the Internet.

Police-community relations in Baton Rouge have been especially tense since Sterling's death. The killing was captured on cellphone video. It was followed a day later by the shooting death of another black man in Minnesota, whose girlfriend livestreamed the aftermath of his death on Facebook. The next day, a black gunman in Dallas opened fire on police at a protest about the police shootings, killing five officers and heightening tensions even further.

Thousands of people protested Sterling's death, and Baton Rouge police arrested more than 200 demonstrators. Sterling's nephew condemned the killing of the three Baton Rouge officers. Terrance Carter spoke Sunday to AP by telephone, saying the family just wants peace. "My uncle wouldn't want this," Carter said. "He wasn't this type of man." A few yards from a police roadblock on Airline Highway, Keimani Gardner was in the parking lot of a warehouse store that would ordinarily be bustling on a Sunday afternoon. He and his girlfriend both work there. — AP



This file photo taken on Jan 11, 2005 shows US air force tanker planes lining to take off from the Incirlik Airbase in southern Turkey for a daily patrolling mission over northern Iraq and Afghanistan. — AFP

KEY BASE NEAR SYRIA RISKS NEW TURKEY-US TENSIONS

ISTANBUL: The future use by the United States of a key Turkish air base near Syria risks causing new tensions between the key NATO allies after the botched coup attempt, but using it as a bargaining chip could prove risky for Ankara. Washington has since 2015 used the Incirlik base in the southern province of Adana as a highly convenient launch pad for bombing raids against Islamic State (IS) jihadists in Syria. Before being granted permission by Turkey to use Incirlik for the air strikes - after tough negotiations - US planes had to use bases far further away in Jordan and Kuwait.

However Friday's failed coup, which President Recep Tayyip Erdogan blames on US-based Islamic preacher Fethullah Gulen, has raised anti-American rhetoric in Ankara. Turkish officials are furious that the United States has so far turned a deaf ear to requests for his extradition, with the Labor Minister Suleyman Soylu even saying Washington was "behind the coup".

This has raised fears that Ankara could use Incirlik as a lever to pressure Washington for Gulen's extradition to face trial in Turkey. Ozgur Unluharsicikli, director of the German Marshall Fund's office in Ankara, said Turkey-US tensions were already high because of Washington's support for Kurdish militias in Syria. "The situation would only get worse if Washington does not answer Turkey's calls for Gulen's extradition," he told AFP.

'Risks Backfiring'
Gulen, a reclusive 75-year-old Islamic preacher, has been in exile in the United States since 1999, but wields enormous influence in Turkish society, with supporters in the media, police and judiciary. The United States has so far shown little interest in Turkey's repeated demands for his extradition since a vast corruption scandal that shook Erdogan's government in 2013, which was also blamed by Ankara on Gulen and his loyalists in the police and judiciary.

Soner Cagaptay, director of the Turkish Research Programme at The Washington Institute, said Turkey would be making a mistake to use Incirlik to speed up Gulen's extradition. "In my view, if Ankara did that, it would backfire," he told AFP. "While access to the base is important for US operations against the Islamic State, it is not indispensable. Washington gained access to the base only in 2015 and before then, it was handling anti-IS operations very well without access to Incirlik or other Turkish bases," he said. "If Turkey forces the United States, Washington can go back to that option again."

Incirlik houses 1,500 US troops and is just 110 km from the Syrian border. It has notably been used to deploy drones, Prowler electronic warplanes and A-10 ground attack aircraft in the fight against IS. US Secretary of State John Kerry said Saturday that Washington would assist Turkey in the

investigation of the failed coup, inviting Ankara to share any evidence it has against Gulen. Unluharsicikli said any use of Incirlik as a bargaining chip would dent Washington's reliance on Turkey as a partner in anti-IS operations and would push Americans to seek an alternative. "And that would not be smart," he told AFP.

'Active Anti-IS Player'

Already, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said Sunday that the events in Turkey had raised questions about its "reliability" in the fight against IS. And after Friday's turmoil, Turkey briefly shut down Incirlik, forcing its NATO ally to halt strikes in Syria. Turkish authorities also detained at the base a senior air force general and a dozen other suspects accused of backing the failed coup. Pentagon spokesman Peter Cook said Sunday that operations against IS had resumed from the base after its air space reopened.

After long being accused of not doing enough in the fight against the jihadists, Turkey has played a fuller role in the US-led anti-IS coalition and carried out its own artillery strikes. "Turkey is an active member of the international coalition," a Turkish official said. But Turkey had also lamented the delay in the delivery of American light multiple rocket launchers - High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS) - to be deployed along its border with Syria to combat IS. — AFP

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ARMENIA AUTHORITIES URGE HOSTAGE TAKERS TO GIVE UP

YEREVAN: Authorities in Armenia called on gunmen holed up in a police station in the capital Yerevan to lay down their arms yesterday and release four people they were holding hostage. The gunmen seized the police station and hostages on Sunday, killing one police officer and wounding two others in the process before demanding Armenians take to the streets to secure the release of jailed opposition politicians. They released two hostages on Sunday and three more on Monday, the security service said.

Negotiations to end the situation peacefully are underway. The hostage takers' main demand is to free Jirair Sefilian, an opposition leader whom the authorities have accused of plotting civil unrest. Sefilian was jailed in June over allegations of illegally possessing weapons. The securi-

ty service said talks were deadlocked so far. "The armed group is refusing to release other hostages, including high ranking officials, to lay down their weapons, or to surrender," the National Security Service said in a statement, saying the group posed a direct threat to society.

Yerevan's deputy police chief, Valery Osipyan, was reported to be among the hostages as was Vardan Yeghiazaryan, the country's deputy police chief. The security service said the outcome remained uncertain. "Law enforcement agencies are doing everything they can to end this peacefully, but in the circumstances it might not be enough," it said. "That's why we again appeal to the members of the armed group ... to end their armed resistance. For now, there is still time and the opportunity to do that." — Reuter

WHO WERE NICE ATTACK VICTIMS?

PARIS: Victims of the Nice truck attack included three generations of a family out for a stroll, a Frenchman protecting his pregnant wife and a former Soviet soldier. The Bastille Day assault killed 84 people of all ages including 10 children who had been out enjoying a fireworks display on a warm summer evening. The dead came from at least 12 countries. More than 300 people were also injured when the Tunisian driver slammed his truck into the crowd on the seaside promenade on Thursday. Here are some of the victims' stories.

Children's lives cut short

Four-year-old Yanis C, described by his father Michael in local media as "a rascal, a scallywag, always smiling," was playing with other children a few feet from his parents when he was hit. Mehdi H was the 12-year-old son of a Nice football referee who also lost his sister-in-law in the attack. His twin sister is in a coma. Another 12-year-old, Amie V, was the daughter of a magazine journalist based in Nice.

Families wiped out

One 14-year-old boy who is in a critical condition will wake up to the death of his mother, Christine Fabry, 67, and her partner Hugues Mismarck. His sister is injured and 17-year-old brother is missing. Christophe Lyon, the former head of a rugby club, lost his wife, parents, parents-in-law and his wife's son in the attack. They were grandparents Francois, 82, and Christiane Locatelli, 78, their daughter Veronique Lyon, 55, and grandson Michael Pellegrini, 28. His parents were Gisele and Germain Lyon. Laurence Tavet, 49, who was married to an Algerian, was killed with two of her grandchildren. One of them, seven-year-old Yanis, had come to visit her on his holidays, the Algerian foreign ministry said. Tunisian national Olfa Bent Souayah Khalfallah, 31, was with her four-year-old son on a family holiday from their home in Lyon, France. Her devastated husband searched for their son for more than two days before discovering that the little boy had also been killed.

Dying to save his wife

Timothe Fournier, a 27-year-old Parisian, died after pushing his seven-months-pregnant wife out of the truck's deadly path, his

cousin Anais said. "He was a great guy," she said. "A young dreamer, but someone who was always there for his family."

Killed on holiday

A Texas-based newspaper identified the two Americans killed as baseball coach Sean Copeland, 51, and his 11-year-old son Brodie, who were on a family vacation in Europe. "They are so loved," the Austin American-Statesman quoted the family as saying in a statement. Sisters Magdalena, 21, and Marzena Chrzanowska, 20, were on holiday with their two other sisters when they were killed, the priest in their hometown of Krzyszkowice, Poland said. Slain Russian tourist Victoria Savchenko, a 20-year-old student, was also holidaying in the French Riviera resort.

Devoted local mothers

Fatima Charrihi, 60, a Nice resident and mother of seven, was among the first to be killed by the driver, her son Hamza told local media. He described her as "an extraordinary mum" and a devout Muslim who practised "real Islam, not that of the terrorists". Madagascan mother Mino Razafitrimo, 31, was with her two children aged four and six, who survived. She was a "joyous person very involved with the Malagasy community in Nice", a friend said.

Students

A teacher and two of her students from Berlin's Paula-Fuerst School were killed, the Berlin mayor's office said. American student Nicolas Leslie was also killed, the University of California, Berkeley said. The 20-year-old had been in the French city as part of Berkeley's study abroad program.

Soldier, sportsman, farmer

Men and women of all professions were among the dead. Former Soviet soldier Igor Sheleshko, 47, was a father-of-four who held both Russian and Belgian nationality. He had been living in Nice for four months, said Andrey Eliseev, arch-priest of the Saint-Nicolas cathedral who described him as "a pious man". The priest named another victim as Roman Ekmalyan, a Georgian businessman of Armenian origin who had lived in Belgium. — AFP



NICE: This handout picture taken by a drone shows a general view of the Jardin Albert 1er and the promenade des Anglais crowded as thousands gather to observe a minute of silence in Nice. France fell silent on July 18, 2016, for the victims of the Nice truck attack, but the mourning was overshadowed by politicians tearing into each other over the massacre. — AFP

FAITH IN GOVERNMENT DROPS; FRANCE MOURNS NICE VICTIMS

CROWDS JEER FRENCH LEADERS

PARIS: Crowds jeered France's leaders at a tribute yesterday to victims of last week's truck attack in Nice and an opinion poll showed a sharp drop in confidence in the ability of President Francois Hollande's government to combat terrorism. Before and after a minute of silence held to pay respects to the 84 dead, many of the thousands gathered in the south-coast resort city of Nice chanted "resign, resign" at Manuel Valls, the Socialist prime minister. Others yelled "Hollande, resign".

The poll published in Le Figaro newspaper showed 33 percent of respondents were confident in the current leaders' ability to fight terrorism, down sharply from confidence levels of at least 50 percent in the wake of two major attacks last year. "The government promises us things but nothing sticks," Nice city resident Antony Fernandez told Reuters TV. "What have they done up to now to make us feel safe? And yet what do we expect? Every six months we're going to mourn for more dead?" The latest poll came at a moment when, less than a year from a presidential election, political opponents have fast abandoned the initial restraint that usually prevails on such occasions to sharply criticize Hollande and his government.

Ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy, who is competing in a November primary for the ticket to run as presidential candidate for France's mainstream centre-right parties, said overnight Hollande's government had failed to do all it could. "I know there's no zero risk, I know perfectly well that we don't pull each other apart before the victims have even been buried," he told TF1 TV. "But I want to say, because it's the truth, that everything that should have been done over the last 18 months ... wasn't done." In Thursday's attack, delivery man Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlej ploughed a 19-tonne truck into crowds of revelers, killing 84. It has plunged France back into a state of grief, fear, and now political recrimination.

Politics under scrutiny

The government has struck back by denouncing opponents for breaking ranks so fast. Speaking ahead of the nationwide minute-of-silence on Monday, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve accused the government's opponents of breaking ranks in an unseemly way. "We've seen tirades emerge immediately and personally this is both shocking and sad ... it's undignified in the current context," he said. Voters also denounced the lack of restraint among competing politicians while many of those killed in Thursday's attack on the seafront Promenade des Anglais boulevard had yet to be identified or buried. "I'd have liked the politicians

to have the decency when the bodies were still on the Promenade not to start saying to it's so-and-so's fault," said Stephane Bebert, who was at the ceremony.

As tributes drew throngs of people back to the scene of the carnage, police investigated, with some four of the six people arrested after the attack transferred early on Monday for questioning at the headquarters of France's

counter-terrorism department in the western edge of Paris. The bickering between politicians contrasted starkly in speed and intensity with the restraint seen in the immediate wake of the attack on Paris last November and one in January 2015 on the Charlie Hebdo newspaper. Some four million people took to the streets to march in solidarity after the Charlie attack. — Reuters

BRITAIN WILL KEEP 'LEADING ROLE' IN EUROPE: JOHNSON

BRUSSELS: New British foreign minister and top Brexit backer Boris Johnson pledged yesterday Britain would continue to play a "leading role" in Europe as he met his European Union peers in Brussels for the first time. The normally ebullient Johnson was on his best behavior after infuriating his partners in the run-up to last month's referendum by comparing the EU's ambitions for closer integration to Adolf Hitler's. "We have to give effect to the will of the people and leave the European Union but... we are not going in any way to abandon our leading role in European participation," Johnson told reporters.

He said he had a "very good conversation" with EU foreign affairs head Federica Mogherini late Sunday—although a dinner with her was called off after his plane had to make an emergency landing. "I am very much looking forward to meeting my colleagues," he added. US Secretary of State John Kerry, attending his first EU foreign ministers meeting, said Johnson had told his peers Britain intended to remain a "vital component" of Europe. Kerry visits London later Monday in an effort to reaffirm the two sides' shared history and values which the Brexit vote had not changed, he said.

France 'frank' with Britain

Johnson was a key player in the June 23 Brexit referendum and his appointment last week stunned many in Europe, with French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault saying he had lied to voters during the campaign. Ayrault, speaking on his arrival at the talks, said he had a "frank and useful" phone conversation with Johnson over the weekend. "There are lots of things to work on with Britain. I will always talk to Boris Johnson with the greatest sincerity, the greatest frankness, I think it's like that we have to move on," he said. Ayrault repeated French calls for Britain to launch the Brexit negotia-

tions as soon as possible so as to end uncertainty. New British Prime Minister Theresa May says she will likely do that at the end of this year or early in 2017 but not before London has worked out what sort of future relationship it wants with the other 27 EU members. The prospect of Britain leaving has stoked fears the bloc could struggle for global left since it will be losing a nuclear-armed power with a permanent, veto-wielding seat on the UN Security Council. Among one of the last acts of former Prime Minister David Cameron, who resigned last week, was to announce that Parliament would vote Monday to replace Britain's ageing Trident nuclear deterrent. MPs are widely expected to approve the revamp but some may blanch at the massive price tag of £41 billion (49 billion euros, \$54 billion).

Trepidation over Johnson

The foreign ministers' meeting was overshadowed by the failed military coup in Turkey and last week's deadly attack in Nice, the third major terror incident in France since 2015. Johnson was awaited with some trepidation given his reputation for quips and bon mots which have often landed him in hot water. The former mayor of London and one-time schoolmate of Cameron is well known in Brussels where he worked in the 1990s as the Daily Telegraph's EU correspondent.

His critics accuse him of exaggerating his stories to play to the eurosceptic gallery at home. Officials in Brussels stressed they would welcome Johnson but there is little doubt his Brexit role ruffled feathers. Johnson was supposed to have met all his EU colleagues on Sunday for an informal dinner but several member states objected, saying it would amount to "informal talks" with London before it began formal divorce negotiations, one European diplomat said. — AFP



Photo shows garbage at the site where Mohamed Lahouaiej-Bouhlej, a 31-year-old Tunisian who drove a truck into a crowd watching a fireworks display on Bastille Day, was killed by the police. The message reads 'murderer and coward'. — AFP

ALBANIA RAVAGED BY 'GANGRENE' OF CORRUPTION

TIRANA: Lusha Qogle was asked to pay 5,000 euros (\$5,520) for a court document proving she had sold her bar in the Albanian capital 20 years ago: 1,000 euros for her lawyer, 4,000 euros for the judges. "Corruption! With a capital C!" said Qogle, 56, voicing the outrage felt by many of the Balkan nation's 2.7 million people. But slapped with a 20,000 euros invoice for unpaid electricity bills going back years, she needs the document to prove she has had nothing to do with the bar for two decades. Albania's judiciary is ravaged by corruption and the European Union has said it cannot join the 28-member bloc until it cleans up its act.

According to surveys, 90 percent of Albanians are desperate to see the sweeping reforms demanded by Brussels. But a disagreement between the ruling majority and the opposition has thrown into doubt whether the law will be adopted by parliament before it concludes its session on Thursday. The political parties met on Monday in Tirana, in the presence of US and European representatives, in a bid to break the deadlock. Lawyer Artan Haxhia said that his peers "sometimes serve as middlemen" in arranging deals, while waiting for hearings. "Here trials are led

like auctions, it is bargaining," he said.

'Gangrene of Albania'

There are frequent land disputes in the agrarian nation that suffers from poor record keeping. Houses destroyed without due process, divorces are wrongly recorded and organized crime is rampant: no area is free of corruption. "It is endemic," said the country's ombudsman Igli Totozani. "It is the gangrene of Albania". Politicians of all political stripes agree. Albanians "distrust the judiciary, they distrust politicians," the centre-right opposition leader Lulzim Basha said. For Socialist Prime Minister Edi Rama, the judicial system is the "shame of this country". According to an expert report published on parliament's website, many Albanians believe that some magistrates "pay between 100,000 and 300,000 euros for a better position in urban areas," where they can earn more money in kickbacks.

Another common perception is that a prisoner could arrange to be moved from solitary confinement to house arrest for "60,000 to 80,000 euros". Fatri Islamaj, the head of Tirana's main court, said that while corruption does exist, "the perception of its magnitude is greater than reality". "Corrupt judges should not

be retained," Islamaj said, adding that only "four or five" of some 700 judges or prosecutors in the country had been axed. Earlier this month, the state attorney's office sought five years imprisonment for a prosecutor from the southern town of Saranda, who reportedly asked for 80,000 euros from a litigant in a land dispute to rule in his favour.

'Political interference'

In its latest annual report on Albania, the European Parliament singled out "political interference" and a "high level of corruption". The judicial reform package negotiated with European help has been blocked as the opposition is opposed to foreigners being included in a body tasked with examining candidates for magistrates. Prime Minister Rama has also rejected the involvement of political parties, including the opposition, in the body. He is backed by Knut Fleckenstein, the European Parliament's rapporteur for Albania, who has been trying to foster dialogue between the parties since 2014. "As long as the judges are all-in-one way or another-dependent on some politician, the corruption will not stop," he said.

The US ambassador to Albania Donald Lu warned last month that "judi-



TIRANA: People wait in front of the Court building in Tirana. The Balkan country's judiciary is plagued by corruption and the European Union said it could not join the 28-member bloc before reorganizing it. — AFP

cial corruption not only allows judges and politicians to fill their pockets with corrupt money, it is destroying the lives of normal, honest people". In late June, the chairman of the German parliament's EU Affairs Committee, Gunther Krichbaum, threatened to revoke

Albania's status as an EU candidate, obtained in 2014. The threat provoked a fierce outcry. Ombudsman Totozani said he trusts "only in the international community," describing the country as a paradox—a democratic system with no democratic culture. — AFP

INDIAN RAPE SURVIVOR GANG-RAPED AGAIN BY SAME MEN

NEW DELHI: An Indian student was recovering in hospital after being gang-raped by a group of men including some charged with sexually assaulting her three years earlier, an officer said yesterday. Police in Haryana state were hunting for the five, accused of abducting the 21-year-old student of the lowest Dalit social caste from outside her college before drugging and raping her in a car.

The student was found unconscious in bushes on the side of a highway last Wednesday night in Haryana which borders New Delhi, in the country's latest shocking sexual attack. Haryana deputy superintendent of police Pushpa Khatri said the student, who is still in hospital, has identified all five men-two of whom are currently on bail awaiting trial for raping her in 2013. "She has identified the five accused and two of them were involved in the gang-rape of the student in Bhiwandi district in 2013," Khatri said. "We have formed several teams to arrest the accused."

The woman's family has accused the five of threatening them in the lead-up to Wednesday's attack, demanding that they withdraw the rape case lodged after the 2013 assault. "The accused were constantly threatening us to compromise outside the court. They even offered us a hefty amount for settlement.

But we didn't agree," the victim's brother was quoted by the Hindustan Times as saying. The family also alleged they were forced to move to Rohtak district in the state from a neighboring district after the 2013 attack because of harassment by the accused.

Members of the Dalit caste held small protests in Rohtak on Sunday to demand justice for the victim. The fatal gang-rape of a student on a bus in Delhi in 2012 shone a global spotlight on frightening levels of violence against women in India. It also led to major reform of India's rape laws, including speeding up of trials and increased punishments for offenders, but



horrific attacks continue to be reported in the media on a daily basis. The most recent official figures show that 36,735 rapes were reported across the country in 2014, although activists say the true number is likely much higher because of the social stigma attached to sexual crimes. — AFP

NEW DELHI: The mother and father of the victim of the fatal gang rape on a moving bus in 2012 arrives to address the media at the Supreme court, as the top court began its hearing in the appeals filed by the convicts in the case, in New Delhi, India yesterday. A trial court in September 2013 awarded the death sentence to the convicts, which was also upheld by the Delhi High Court. The convicts then approached the Supreme Court which had in 2014 stayed their execution and the matter has been pending in the top court since. — AP

'SELFIE' CLERIC UNDER FIRE OVER BALOCH'S MURDER

LAHORE: A prominent Muslim cleric in Pakistan who was censured for appearing in "selfie" photographs with murdered social media celebrity Qandeel Baloch is being investigated in connection with her killing, police said yesterday. Baloch, 26, described as Pakistan's Kim Kardashian, divided opinion in the deeply conservative Muslim society with her risqué photos. Her murder on Friday has shocked the country and sparked fresh debate about so-called honor killings.

Baloch's brother, Muhammad Waseem, told media he drugged and strangled his sister as she had violated their family's honour with her social media posts, including a series of selfies with cleric Abdul Qavi last month. One video appears to show her sitting on Qavi's lap.

Police said Qavi, who was suspended from a prominent Muslim council after the photographs were published, was also part of their investigation into her murder. "We have decided to widen the scope of the investigation and include Mufti Abdul Qavi in the probe," Azhar Ikram, the police chief in the town of Multan, where Baloch was killed, told Reuters.

Qavi has denied any involvement in Baloch's murder but said yesterday he would present himself to police for questioning if summoned. Qavi told media on Saturday Baloch's death should serve as an example for others who tried to malign the clergy, though he also stated that he had "forgiven her".

Baloch, who described herself as a modern day feminist, was unapologetic about her bid to push the boundaries of acceptability for women and change "the

typical orthodox mindset" of Pakistan. Her pictures and videos outraged religious conservatives who viewed her as a disgrace to the cultural values of Islam and Pakistan. Others hailed her as a "feminist icon".

Breadwinner

Police were also investigating Baloch's other brother, Muhammad Aslam, who is a junior army officer, Ikram said. More than 500 people - almost all of them women - die in "honor killings" in Pakistan every year, usually at the hands of relatives acting over a perception "shame" has been brought on the family. Governments have deplored the practice but done little to stop it. Many Pakistanis have called for the passage of an anti-honor killing law aimed at closing a loophole that allows family members to forgive those responsible for such killings.

After Baloch's death her father, Muhammad Azeem, filed a police report against both his sons, alleging Aslam had encouraged Waseem to carry out the killing. Police have declined to comment on Aslam's role and he was not available for comment yesterday. Baloch built a modeling career on the back of her social media fame and was the family breadwinner. "She was my son, not a daughter.

I have lost my son," Baloch's father said, according to the English-language Dawn newspaper. "She supported all of us, including my son who killed her." Azeem was also not available for comment. After the outcry over the selfies with Qavi, Baloch held a news conference and appealed to the interior ministry to provide her with security. No help was provided. — Reuters



ALLAHABAD: Indian Hindu devotees take a holy dip in the flooded River Ganga at the Sangam in Allahabad. — AFP

HINDU MONK'S TEMPLE MISSION IN INDIA A HEADACHE FOR MODI

MEMBERS OF HINDU RIGHT LOBBY FOR TEMPLE

AYODHYA: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was flying high in June, jetting from Afghanistan to Mexico in a whirlwind of red carpet diplomacy crowned by a speech to the US Congress extolling democracy and investment opportunities in the subcontinent. But when Modi returned home, he was reminded of the headwinds those ambitions face, as his hardline Hindu supporters agitate for a greater say in how the country is run.

The pressure on the leader of the world's fastest growing major economy is clearest in Ayodhya, a dilapidated outpost of muddy roads and open sewage where religious and political leaders from the Hindu right are pushing for the construction of a temple where a mosque was destroyed by a mob in 1992. "We expect and hope that the temple will be constructed during his tenure," Nritya Gopal Das, the elderly, influential monk leading the Ayodhya temple campaign, said of Modi.

The disputed site, now ringed with guard towers and troops, is in northern India's Uttar Pradesh state, the setting of elections early next year that could make or break Modi's chances of gaining control of the upper house of parliament. That would help the prime minister push through his economic reform agenda, which firebrands within his religious base do not always agree with. It was a campaign of public insults by Hindu hardliners that helped push the highly respected head of India's central bank, Raghuram Rajan, to announce last month that he was stepping down, a shock move that disappointed foreign investors.

The prime minister's office has said it wants the temple issue kept completely out of electioneering. The demolition of the mosque by Hindus in Ayodhya sparked some of the deadliest riots in India's independent history and deepened religious divisions that still exist today. The town is becoming a defining test of Modi's ability to navigate a tension central to his administration: appeasing Hindu nationalist activists who corral votes for the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) while preventing them from derailing his pro-business growth agenda. Modi's success or failure will go a long way to defining his legacy.

Actions louder than words?

And so, on a recent visit to Ayodhya, the words of the BJP's state chief in Uttar Pradesh, Keshav Prasad Maurya, sometimes jarred with his actions. As sweat streamed over the saffron-colored tilak dot on his forehead, he smiled at reporters and described the BJP's electoral strategy: emphasize development, expose corruption.

Asked about demands to build the Hindu temple, he said the courts should decide. "We respect every institution of democracy," said Maurya. Yet he had spent much of the day in the company of men who cheer the mosque's demise, and are increasingly restless to raise a temple in its place as an expression of Hindu supremacy. His convoy of white sports utility vehicles had pulled into Ayodhya so that he could celebrate Das's birthday. That morning, Maurya folded his hands in supplication and awaited blessings from the monk, whose self-described mission is to build the temple, a project that risks enraging India's Muslim minority of about 170 million people.

"I think Modi wants to win the UP (Uttar

Pradesh) election by whatever means," said Ramachandra Guha, a historian who has written about the significance of the temple in Ayodhya as a galvanizing issue for the various factions of the Hindu right, including the BJP. But, he said, there is a catch. "Modi, given his intelligence, knows that constructing the temple will be disastrous for his image." Instead, Guha expects the BJP to "finesse the question" with proxy issues. That may include clamping down further on cow slaughter, for example, as the animals are held sacred by Hindus. Critics say such concerns are signals to the Hindu majority that the nation is for them, not Muslims and Christians.

Tradition holds that Ayodhya was the birthplace of Lord Ram, a physical incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu. Many Hindus believe that the exact spot of his inception was where the Babri Mosque was razed. The call to build the Ram temple is a core tenet of the Hindu right. The BJP's manifesto says it is committed to "explore all possibilities within the framework of the constitution" to make that happen. As Modi heads to the halfway point of his term in office, Hindu activist groups who helped elect him in 2014, including the ideological parent organization of the BJP, are pushing for him to deliver.

Modi's call

Modi faces a tough choice. Green light the laying of a cornerstone, and he would enthrall supporters yet risk unrest. After the mosque came down in 1992, rioting in Mumbai claimed some 1,000 lives; a day of revenge attacks that followed in that city killed 257 people and wounded hundreds. Mohammad Hashim Ansari remembers the December morning in 1992 when the mobs

swarmed the Babri Mosque; he could see its three domes crumpling from his small alleyway home in a Muslim quarter of Ayodhya. The rail-thin 96-year-old, who can hardly hear and has many teeth missing, is the oldest litigant in a case seeking to preserve a Muslim claim on the land. He is not confident of his chances in the face of an ascendant Hindu right: "I don't want the temple to be made, but they have a plan for building it. They've taken over the government, they're in power. They can do whatever they want."

An aide to Modi in New Delhi said the prime minister wants no talk of the temple in the Uttar Pradesh elections: "Development is the top priority." It is not clear if that will satisfy Modi's doctrinal base in the runup to the state ballot. During the festivities marking his 78th birthday in June, Das convened a private meeting with some of the country's most influential Hindu religious leaders. His message, according to a person present, was that religious and political discourse on the subject of the temple should not be separated. Every monk in every city, Das was quoted as saying, should be talking about the importance of the Ram temple.

The BJP's parent organization and a source of conservative activism and ideology, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), lobbied for an upper house seat this April for a firebrand politician named Subramanian Swamy. Less than two weeks later, Swamy informed parliament that he had a point of order to raise. Amid cries of disbelief, Swamy rose from his seat and voiced frustration that the nation's attorney general had not done more to get a court verdict on the temple in Ayodhya. In Ayodhya and across India, there are powerful men who have waited their entire lives for a Ram temple to be built. — Reuters



ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani civil society activist carries a placard during a protest yesterday against the murder of social media celebrity Qandeel Baloch by her brother. — AFP

DEATHS FROM TOXIC ALCOHOL REACH 33

NEW DELHI: Another 12 people have died after drinking toxic homemade liquor in northern India, officials said yesterday, taking the overall toll to 33 with dozens more fighting for their lives in hospitals. The victims, all from the same district in Uttar Pradesh state, fell ill after drinking the alcohol on Friday night and were taken to hospital suffering from severe stomachache, vomiting and blurred vision.

Most were daily wage labourers and farmers too poor to afford branded alcohol, who would usually buy a cheap mix from illegal bootleggers. Police have arrested a local vendor on charges of culpable homicide and authorities have suspended 11 officials, including some police.

Ajay Yadav, the top civil official in Etah district said the death toll there had reached 29. In neighboring Farrukhabad district, police said the death toll climbed

to four, with over a dozen more in critical condition.

Bootleggers often add methanol—a highly toxic form of alcohol sometimes used as an anti-freeze or fuel-to their home-brew liquor to increase the alcoholic content. If ingested, it can cause blindness and liver damage and can kill in larger concentrations. Hundreds of poor people die every year in India due to alcohol poisoning, mostly from consuming cheap hooch. In April eight people including two soldiers died 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

BANGLADESH INDICTS 41 ON MURDER CHARGES

DHAKA: A Bangladesh court yesterday indicted 41 people for murder in the deaths of more than 1,100 people in the collapse of a building that housed five garment factories and became known as the country's worst industrial disaster. Investigators initially said those accused of wrongdoing in the 2013 collapse of the Rana Plaza building would be charged with culpable homicide, which carries a maximum punishment of seven years in jail. But they later changed the charges to murder due to the gravity of the disaster.

Masud Rana, who owned the building outside Dhaka, and 33 other people pleaded not guilty when the charges against them were read out in court. Another seven who absconded will be tried in absentia, said Mizanur Rahman, a public prosecutor. District Judge SM Kuddus Zaman announced their trial will begin Sept 18. Those found guilty of murder could face the death penalty as a police report submitted to the court called the deaths a "mass killing." About 2,500 people were injured in the April 2013 disaster. The defendants include Rana's par-

ents and the owners of the five factories housed in the building.

Investigators from Bangladesh's Criminal Investigation Department said the change from culpable homicide charges came after the investigation found that Rana, his staff and the management of the five factories had forced the workers to enter the building the day of the collapse despite their unwillingness to work after the building had developed major cracks a day before. The collapse highlighted the grim conditions in Bangladesh's garment industry.

Low wages in the South Asian country have led global brands and retailers to prefer Bangladesh over China, the leading apparel exporter in the world. Bangladesh has the world's second-largest garment industry with nearly 4,000 factories employing about 4 million workers, mostly women. The building collapse triggered uproar at home and abroad, with a call for reforms in a sector that helps Bangladesh earn more than \$20 billion a year from exports, mainly to the United States and Europe. — AP

PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE 'NOT AFRAID OF HUMAN RIGHTS'

MANILA: Human rights are not a concern in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs, he said, as he vowed to ignore due process and compared himself to Ugandan dictator Idi Amin. Duterte's threat came as the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) joined the chorus of groups criticizing Duterte's advocacy of killing. In the latest of a series of tirades, the country's newly elected leader doubled down on a promised campaign of widespread killings and said he wouldn't listen to "bleeding hearts." "I will retire with the reputation of Idi Amin," he said in a

speech Sunday, referring to the late African ruler whose 1971-1979 regime was characterised by large-scale rights abuses that killed tens if not hundreds of thousands of Ugandans.

"I am not afraid of human rights (concerns.) I will not allow my country to go to the dogs," Duterte said, vowing to pardon all abuses committed by security forces. "Why will I give you a (due) process? I am the president. I don't give you (due) process," he said. Duterte swept to power on May 9 after pledging to end crime in the Philippines using the same "shoot-to-kill" methods critics say

he employed as mayor of the southern city of Davao. Police on Monday unveiled plans for a large electronic billboard outside the force's Manila headquarters to broadcast a running tally of drugs suspects who have been arrested or "neutralized"—killed—during operations.

The billboard will "give everyday people... the accomplishments of their police," community relations chief Senior Superintendent Gilberto Cruz said. The billboard, which was ordered by Duterte and the police leadership, will likely be completed by September, he added. In a public statement, the

Bangkok office of the ICJ criticized Duterte, saying "there has been a marked increase in the number of deaths of alleged drug dealers from the day you assumed office." "We are also concerned about your recent statements that appear to be encouraging extra-judicial killings," the non-government organization of judges and lawyers said.

The group reminded him that the Philippines had passed laws and signed international agreements binding it to work against police abuse, extra-judicial killings and the death penalty which

Duterte hopes to restore to the country. Major TV network ABS-CBN said it had recorded 408 "drug fatalities" between May 10 and July 15, based on police and media reports. Images of people killed in police anti-drug operations, or corpses found with signs saying things like "I am a drug pusher" have become daily fare in the local newspapers. A former addict said yesterday that he had handed himself into police as part of an official mass drug amnesty event after two acquaintances turned up dead. "I could be killed. That really scared me," he said.—AFP

SHIPS WORSEN AIR POLLUTION IN CHINA, KILLING THOUSANDS

OSLO: A boom in shipping is aggravating air pollution in China and other nations in East Asia, causing thousands of deaths a year in a region with eight of the world's 10 biggest container ports, scientists said yesterday. Often overlooked compared to cars and factories that are far bigger causes of smog, ship traffic has more than doubled off East Asia since 2005 and some pollution from the fuel oil of ships wafts inland, they said. The Chinese-led study estimated that sulphur dioxide, which generates acid rain, and other pollution from ships caused an estimated 24,000 premature deaths a year in East Asia, mainly from heart and lung diseases and cancer.

About three-quarters of deaths were in China, and others mainly in Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and South Korea, according to the study published in the Journal Nature Climate Change based on satellite data tracking almost 19,000 vessels. The death toll is a tiny though rising share of an estimated one million deaths caused annually by air pollution in East Asia, the study found. Given many uncertainties, the number of deaths could be as low as 14,500 or as high as 37,500, it said. "A few years ago in East Asia the levels of shipping just weren't that large. Now they're huge," Drew Shindell, one of the authors at Duke University in the United States, told Reuters of reasons for the study.

China, where Shanghai is the world's busiest container port, will start demanding cleaner fuels for ships in coastal regions from 2019. China has thousands of protests every year sparked by concerns about environmental degradation. North America and parts of Europe already require that ships operating close to land use more costly, less polluting fuel with a sulphur content below 0.1 percent. The US Environmental Protection Agency expects the North American controls will prevent 14,000 premature deaths a year by 2020. Worldwide, the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) plans to cut the sulphur limit for ships' fuel to 0.5 percent from 2020 from a current 3.5 percent.

The curbs could be delayed to 2025 if member states decide that refineries are unable to adapt in time. Natasha Brown, an IMO spokeswoman in London, said a decision is due in October. Yesterday's study also found that emissions of carbon dioxide, the main man-made greenhouse gas, from shipping off East Asia had doubled in less than a decade to 16 percent of the global total from the industry in 2013. Other air pollutants from ships have a cooling effect on global climate, however, by reflecting sunlight into space. The cooling is likely to predominate for about another eight years before warming takes over, it said.—Reuters



HONG KONG: A woman sleeps as she stands during her commute in an underground MTR train in Hong Kong yesterday. — AFP

MANY IN HONG KONG SEEK EXIT AMID CHINA TENSION

42 PERCENT OF RESIDENTS LOOKING TO EMIGRATE

HONG KONG: When activists began setting fire to trash bins and hurling bricks at police during a February riot in Hong Kong, Chris Lee became more convinced his decision to leave his siblings and mother behind and move to Taiwan was the right one. Hong Kong, long known as one of the safest and most law-abiding cities in Asia, has become increasingly polarised with occasional violent protests, fuelled in part by tensions with Communist Party leaders in Beijing over the Chinese-ruled city's democratic future.

"It's not just the politics that are messed up," said Lee, who moved to Taiwan in March and opened a restaurant. "It is also the people who have become irrational and fickle that drove me to leave." Lee is not alone. Some 42 percent of Hong Kong residents want to leave, a survey by independent think tank Civic Exchange showed in June. This compares with 20 percent wanting to leave neighboring Singapore. Seventy percent of 1,500 people surveyed said Hong Kong had become "worse" or "much worse" to live in, with the biggest concerns housing, the "quality of government" and education.

The number of Hong Kong people emigrating to Canada almost doubled in the first quarter of this year compared with the same period last year, and the number moving permanently to Taiwan rose 36 percent over a similar time frame, data shows. The most recent data from the United States is from 2014 and flat. Emigration to the UK has declined, but the minimum amount for those seeking to qualify for residency as investors there has also doubled to 2 million pounds (\$2.64 million). Australia doesn't provide data for Hong Kong but aggregate figures for emigrants from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and Mongolia rose slightly last year.

'Started to be nervous'

The diminishing confidence in Hong Kong's future follows the "Occupy Central" protests in late 2014 demanding Beijing grant Hong Kong full democracy. "After Occupy, (Hong Kong people) started to be nervous about the future," said Andrew Lo, a director of Anlex Services Limited, which handles Taiwan immigration cases. Mary Chan, of immigration experts Rothe International Canada, said the immigration process typically takes one to two years. "Which is why the numbers are only increasing now," she said. The disappearances of five Hong Kong booksellers who specialized in gossipy political books about Chinese leaders, some of whom were believed to have been abducted by Chinese agents, has also eroded broader confidence in the "one country, two systems" formula under which the former British colony returned to China in 1997. One of the booksellers who returned to Hong Kong told media he may emigrate to Taiwan because he no longer feels safe in the city. "Young people were more upset about the government two years ago but the sense of dissatisfaction actually cuts across ages now," said Professor Michael DeGolyer, who co-led the study.

The Mainland Affairs Council in Taiwan, a self-ruled island China considers a breakaway province, said it expected the increase in Hong Kong immigrants to continue. "Taiwan is an open, pluralistic and liberal democracy. The people are very friendly. Housing prices and consumer prices are relatively cheap, while entrepreneurial opportunities and the similar cultures of Hong Kong and Taiwan are all factors for Hong Kong residents to consider coming to

Taiwan," it said.

Hong Kong's immigration department declined to comment on the survey. The Security Bureau declined to answer questions about whether the Hong Kong government was concerned about emigration or believed it was

due to political concerns. It provided its own emigration estimates based on the number of requests it had received for certificates of no criminal conviction. Those figures showed a slight increase last year but were below where they were a decade ago.—Reuters

AFGHAN FORCES SEE HOPEFUL SIGNS; AIR STRIKES HIT TALEBAN

KABUL: A combination of airstrikes and a Taleban apparently still adapting to its new leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada has given a lift to Afghan forces that had braced for heavy fighting at the start of summer. After 15 years of war, nobody believes a lull in fighting seen over the past few weeks is a decisive shift in the conflict. Officials even admit to some surprise at the problems facing the Taleban, which launched its annual spring offensive in April promising major attacks across the country.

The insurgents started their spring offensive in April with a major push to take Kunduz, the strategic northern city its fighters briefly seized last year. A bumper opium crop promised to swell the coffers of the insurgents who control much of the trade, allowing them to pay for more fighters and equipment. But the assault on Kunduz city was beaten back and fighting has eased in other key regions including the southern province of Helmand, where government forces were holding on in a few district centers after heavy fighting in the winter.

A Taleban drive to cut off the main highway linking the southern provinces of Uruzgan and Kandahar, which led to fierce fighting in May, was also quelled and Afghan government forces backed by US air power have gone on the attack in Kandahar. Haibatullah, a hardline cleric who took over after his predecessor Mullah Mohammad Akhtar Mansour was killed in a US drone strike in May, is respected in the movement for his religious credentials. But Afghan and Western officials say he does not appear to have Mansour's administrative ability.

At the same time, the movement's wider leadership has suffered, with 45 senior figures, including key commanders in Helmand, Ghazni, Kunduz and Kandahar killed over the past six months, according to information from the interior ministry. "Last year, we were more in active defense mode and the enemies were attacking us, but this year we are after them," said Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi. With US commanders free to step up air strikes against the Taleban since President

Barack Obama gave them broader powers in June, operations are being conducted "almost daily," the top NATO commander Gen John Nicholson said last week.

Afghanistan's own Special Forces and its fledgling airforce, including eight A-29 jets, have also played a growing role in hitting the Taleban forces and chains of command. The Taleban have been scornful of claims of coalition success, issuing a statement last week dismissing the "futile" change to US rules of engagement. But Mohammad Rasoul Zazai, spokesman for the 215th Maiwand army corps in Helmand, said insurgents were avoiding large formations and were patrolling only in small groups of 10 or 15. "The Taleban are no longer in a position to attack in large numbers," he said.

Taleban on the defense

Brig Gen Charles Cleveland, spokesman for the NATO-led Resolute Support mission, said there was "cautious optimism" amid signs the Afghan army had improved over the winter as well as at the impact of the US airstrikes in recent weeks. "It could change tomorrow, but at this point we believe that the Afghans are successfully on the offense," he said. Earlier this year, coalition officials estimated the Taleban controlled as much as six percent of Afghan territory but threatened up to a third of the country.

However while they still threaten many provincial areas, they do not appear to have made substantial gains. "It was clear from the outset that they wanted to seize a provincial capital as well as multiple district capitals and they have not done that," Cleveland said. Interior ministry figures support the impression of a less active Taleban in recent weeks, but officials stress the change is relative and heavy fighting continues in many regions. Since the start of the Persian new year on March 21, the Taleban have conducted 1,024 attacks, compared with 1,309 in the same period last year, according to interior ministry figures. Bomb blasts were down at 599 compared to 948 last year and there were four complex attacks against 11 last year.—Reuters



KABUL: This photo shows a general view of a landscape with many destroyed tanks, remaining from soviet regime era, on the outskirts of Charikar city in Parwan province, north of capital Kabul, Afghanistan.—AP

FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION COULD END 'IN DISASTER'

BEIJING: Freedom of navigation patrols carried out by foreign navies in the South China Sea could end "in disaster", a senior Chinese admiral has said, a warning to the United States after last week's ruling against Beijing's claims in the area. China has refused to recognize the ruling by an arbitration court in The Hague that invalidated its vast territorial claims in the South China Sea and did not take part in the proceedings brought by the Philippines.

It has reacted angrily to calls by Western countries and Japan for the decision to be adhered to. China has repeatedly blamed the United States for stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, a strategic waterway through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually. China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam all have rival claims, of which China's is the largest. The United States has conducted freedom of navigation patrols close to Chinese-held islands, to Beijing's anger, while China has been bolstering its military presence there.

Speaking behind closed doors at a forum in Beijing on Saturday evening, Sun Jianguo, an admiral and Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the powerful Central Military Commission, said the freedom of navigation issue was bogus and one that certain countries repeatedly hyped up. "When has freedom of navigation in the South China Sea ever been affected? It has not, whether in the past or now, and in the future there won't be a problem as long as nobody plays tricks," he said, according to a transcript of his comments seen by Reuters. China is the biggest beneficiary of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and won't let anybody damage it, Sun said.

"But China consistently opposes so-called military freedom of navigation which brings

with it a military threat, and which challenges and disrespects the international law of the sea," Sun said. "This kind of military freedom of navigation is damaging to freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, and it could even play out in a disastrous way," he added, without elaborating. He said the court case at The Hague must be used by China's armed forces to improve its capabilities "so that when push comes to shove, the military can play a decisive role in the last moment to defend our national sovereignty and interests".

Despite the warnings, China and the United States have been maintaining open lines of communication, with US Chief of Naval Operations John Richardson meeting the head of the Chinese navy, Wu Shengli, in Beijing yesterday. "I think that you can visit China this time at our invitation, that shows both sides attach great concern to maritime security," Wu told Richardson in brief comments in front of reporters. In the meeting, Wu said China would not stop building reefs and islands in the sea, state-owned Xinhua news agency reported, with that construction also part of China's efforts to bolster its claims.

Separately, China's Maritime Safety Administration said yesterday that an area just off the east of the island province of Hainan would be a no-sail zone from July 19-21 while military drills take place. China generally describes its exercises in the South China Sea as routine. China's air force also said on its microblog it had recently carried out "normal battle patrols" over the South China Sea involving bombers, spy planes and flying tankers, including over Scarborough Shoal which is disputed with the Philippines. Such air patrols would become "a regular practice" in the future, Xinhua reported an air force spokesman as saying.—Reuters



In this file photo, Chinese missile frigate Yuncheng launches an anti-ship missile during a military exercise in the waters near south China's Hainan Island and Paracel Islands. China said yesterday, that it is closing off a part of the South China Sea for military exercises this week, days after an international tribunal ruled against Beijing's claim to ownership of virtually the entire strategic waterway. — AP



An Iraqi man rides a boat on July 14, 2016 in the Ahwar area in southern Maysan province - also known as the Iraqi Marshlands - one of the world's largest inland delta systems. — AFP

IRAQ MARSHLANDS NAMED AS UNESCO HERITAGE SITE

BAGHDAD: UNESCO has named Iraqi marshlands once ravaged by dictator Saddam Hussein as a World Heritage Site, a bright spot for a country where jihadists have repeatedly sought to wipe out history. The area named "is made up of seven sites: three archaeological sites and four wetland marsh areas in southern Iraq," UNESCO said. "The archaeological cities of Uruk and Ur and the Tell Eridu archaeological site form part of the remains of the Sumerian cities and settlements that developed in southern Mesopotamia between the 4th and the 3rd millennium BCE," it said.

"The Ahwar of Southern Iraq - also known as the Iraqi Marshlands - are unique, as one of the world's largest inland delta systems, in an extremely hot and arid environment," UNESCO said. Iraq has been seeking World Heritage status for the marshes since 2003, and its government hailed the move. Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi congratulated the Iraqi people on UNESCO's decision, and thanked "all those who contributed to this success". Abadi also said that culture in the country will continue "despite the destruction and demolition of Iraqi heritage and antiquities by barbaric terrorist gangs".

He was referring to Islamic State group's destruction of artefacts at the Mosul museum and the ancient cities of Nimrud and Hatra, the latter of which is a World Heritage Site. IS has sought to couch the destruction in religious terms, saying it was targeting idols, but that has not stopped it from selling artefacts to fund its operations. The marshlands once stretched across some 20,000 sq km, but they were devastated after Saddam ordered them drained in the 1990s to stop them being used as hideouts by Shiite guerrillas opposed to his regime.

Many dams and canals ordered built by the dictator have now been demolished, allowing waters from the Tigris and Euphrates rivers to flood back, fish and fowl to return and humans to settle once again. But dams farther upriver in Syria and Turkey still limit the flow of water into the marshes, and high levels of salinity in water in the south has also been a problem, making it undrinkable for humans and animals and killing fish.

In addition to the newly named site in the south and Hatra, an ancient fortress city in present-day Nineveh province in the north, Iraq is home to three other UNESCO World Heritage sites. The Arbil Citadel, where 19th-century facades still stand at a much older site, is located in Iraq's autonomous Kurdish region, while Samarra Archaeological City - the site of the 9th-century capital of the Abbasid Caliphate - lies north of Baghdad. And Ashur, a city that dates to the 3rd millennium BCE and which was the first capital of the Assyrian Empire, is in the Sharqat area to the north of Samarra, where Iraqi forces have battled IS militants. — AFP

FLEEING TURKISH ARMY ATTACHE TO KUWAIT...

Continued from Page 1

"Ihsanoglu has not come to work since two days, and we heard that he is out of country, but this does not mean he is a suspect. No one can confirm or deny if he was with the coup or not," he said.

Erdogan has blamed Friday's putsch on his arch-enemy, US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen. "We are dealing with a smart terrorist organization led by Gulen. He is manipulating people's minds by denying his involvement in the coup - the devil will not admit he is a devil. They are like a cancer, and we have started to clean it up. They will now think twice before attempting any coup," Tamer told reporters. "We cannot force the US to hand over Gulen because every country has its system. We have good relations with America in fighting IS," he added.

Tamer stated that the violence is not the answer, "What came with elections goes with elections. Throughout the process, all political parties and members of the Turkish parliament and the people stood firmly by democracy, democratic institutions and the constitution. A joint declaration in defense of democracy was issued during the extraordinary meeting of the general assembly on July 16," he said.

Tamer said that the Turkish Embassy since Jan 2016 is receiving visa applications by Syrians, Iraqis and other nationalities by filling an online form. "The citizens of these countries are our friends and brothers, but they will only be granted visas online. People have to fill the application and come to the embassy on the date mentioned online," he said, pointing out that this decision was to limit immigration to Turkey.

Omar Al-Tahan, Turkish Airlines' director of corporate and regional marketing, said the carrier will deal with any problems regarding tickets for July 15, 16 and 17, and anyone who has a problem will be provided fresh tickets. He added Turkish Airlines will help Kuwait Airways evacuate all Kuwaitis who want to return from Turkey. Tahan stressed that everything is back to normal and the carrier has returned to work at Atatürk Airport in Istanbul.

Meanwhile, Turkey launched fresh raids and sacked almost 9,000 officials yesterday in a relentless crackdown against suspected coup plotters that has alarmed the West and sparked fears Ankara could reinstate the death penalty. Erdogan has vowed to wipe out the "virus" of the putschists after facing down Friday's dramatic coup bid that left more than 300 people dead.

But the United States and European Union have sternly warned him against excessive retribution as the authorities round up the alleged perpetrators of the attempted power grab. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said over 7,500 people have been detained so far, including 103 generals and admirals, in the investigation into Friday's coup. The interior ministry said almost 9,000 people, including almost 8,000 police but also municipal governors and other officials, had also been dismissed in a widening purge.

Early yesterday, special Istanbul anti-terror police units raided the prestigious air force military academy, detain-

ing four suspects, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported. Authorities have also detained General Mehmet Disli, who conducted the operation to capture chief-of-staff Hulusi Akar during the standoff, an official said. The 103 generals detained are accused of seeking to violate the constitution and attempting to overthrow the authorities by force, as well as belonging to what the authorities call the Fethullahci Terror Organisation (FETO) led by Gulen.

Erdogan has urged citizens to remain on the streets even after the defeat of the coup, in what the authorities describe as a "vigil" for democracy. Public servants' annual leave has meanwhile been cancelled until further notice. With Turkey's big cities still on edge, Turkish security forces killed an armed attacker who shot at them from a vehicle outside the Ankara courthouse where suspects from the failed coup were appearing before judges.

Western leaders have urged Turkey to follow the rule of law in the wake of the coup bid, with the massive retaliatory purge adding to concerns about human rights and democracy in the NATO member state. Responding to the criticism, Yildirim said the plotters would be brought to account but Turkey would "act within the law". But the divisive Erdogan added fuel to the fire Sunday when he told supporters that Turkey could consider reintroducing the death penalty which it had abolished in 2004 as part of its longstanding EU membership bid. "We cannot ignore this demand," he told a chanting crowd outside his house in Istanbul late on Sunday. "In democracies, whatever the people say has to happen."

EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini responded bluntly yesterday. "Let me be very clear... no country can become an EU state if it introduces the death penalty," she said. Yildirim said it would be wrong to "act in haste", calling for a parliamentary debate on the issue. There has also been concern about the nature of the arrests which have appeared aimed at humiliating the suspects. Meanwhile, a Greek court will Thursday decide the fate of eight Turkish military officers who fled across the border by helicopter after the failed coup in Turkey and who Ankara wants to see extradited.

Erdogan has long accused Gulen of running a "parallel state" in Turkey, and urged Obama to extradite the reclusive preacher from the United States to face justice. The 75-year-old preacher has categorically denied any involvement in the plot and suggested it could have been staged by Erdogan himself. Kerry said he had urged his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu to "send us evidence, not allegations." Yildirim rejected that demand. "We would be disappointed if our (American) friends told us to present proof even though members of the assassin organization are trying to destroy an elected government under the directions of that person," Yildirim said. "At this stage there could even be a questioning of our friendship," he added.

In another development, Turkish prosecutors have started searching a key air base in southern Turkey, used by the United States for air raids on the Islamic State group, for evidence Turkish troops there assisted the coup.

CELEBRATORY GUNSHOTS UNDER FIRE IN LEBANON

BEIRUT: Whether it's joy, political passion or grief, for many Lebanese, there's only one way to show it: By lifting a gun and firing off rounds into the air. But the deadly practice, a tradition in many Arab countries, has attracted new scrutiny and police attention following a spate of deaths and serious injuries in incidents involving indiscriminate gunfire. "It felt like a fire had burst into my chest," said 15-year-old Hussein Azab, whose chest was pierced by a bullet fired during celebrations after municipal elections in May. One person was killed and three others were wounded in celebratory gunfire that day.

The following month, a child was killed and a woman wounded in separate incidents by people firing guns to celebrate official exam results. "I was with my mum, my brother and my aunt on our way to my grandfather's house at around 8:30 (pm) when I was hit," said Azab, who was shot in southern Beirut. "The blood started pouring out of my chest and I was very afraid. I thought I would die," he said, struggling to recount his ordeal as he gazed at the 15-centimetre scar running down his chest.

The experience has also scarred him psychologically, leaving him afraid of loud noises, particularly fireworks. "My life changed. I've become irritable and afraid all the time. I can't sleep, and if I do, I wake up from panic attacks," he said. Hussein's mother Wafaa was angry and tearful. "They were celebrating winning elections while we were crying blood."

With the deadly incidents making headlines, Lebanon's police force says it has made more than 130 arrests of people firing in the air since early June. It is also encouraging people to report shooters via a special hotline. Police spokesman Joseph Mousallem called the practice "a sick, fatal phenomenon". "Citizens must come together to stop shooting and not be silent about the shooters," he told AFP. "This isn't an issue of tradition. It is a crime that leads to death."

Officially, celebratory gunfire is illegal in Lebanon, where firearm ownership remains widespread more than two decades after the end of its 1975-1990 civil war. A 1959 law states "anyone firing in residential areas or in a crowd, whether their gun is licensed or not" faces up to three years in prison or a fine. But the fine has not increased since it was set at 500 Lebanese pounds in 1959, an amount now worth just 60 US cents.

Shopowner Qassem, a resident of the southern Lebanese port city of Sidon, is undeterred by the legislation. He first fired into the air 14 years ago, to celebrate the birth of his daughter. "It was our first joy and I shot about 75 bullets into the air. I started firing every year on my daughter's birthday, which is Lebanese Independence Day," he said. He insisted he takes precautions before firing, refraining from shooting in packed residential streets and asking those around him to step away before he lets loose.

In a bid to deter people like Qassem, one member of parliament has submitted a draft law increasing the jail time for such gunfire to up to 20 years, and the maximum fine to the equivalent of \$12,500. The bill has received support from various political parties, but it has yet to be voted on because Lebanon's parliament is paralyzed and not meeting to legislate.

In the interim, the powerful group Hezbollah has taken the initiative to curb indiscriminate shooting in neighborhoods under its control. The issue is more pressing for the group because its supporters often fire bursts of bullets into the air when Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah gives one of his frequent speeches, or during the funerals of fighters killed in the Syrian conflict. Nasrallah himself has publicly criticized the practice, telling his supporters in June that celebratory gunfire "will be enough for us to expel someone from our ranks". The decision would apply to everyone, even senior Hezbollah members "who have been fighting Israel for 30 years", he warned.

Fadi Abi Allam, who heads the Permanent Peace Movement, an NGO, called for tighter regulations and better implementation of existing gun laws. "I know that firing weapons is an expression of joy or sadness, but the sky has never once swallowed a bullet," he said. Exacerbating the issue is the sheer number of weapons in Lebanon. An estimated four million guns are licensed as personal firearms in Lebanon, which has just four million citizens, according to Abi Allam. "Some households don't own any weapons - others own dozens," he said. Abi Allam urged families, schools, religious figures, civil society and the state to combine their efforts and work together to put an end to the practice. — AFP

ACTIVISTS, MPs CALL TO HALT DEMOLITION...

Continued from Page 1

MP Rakan Al-Nisf urged the minister to halt the demolition immediately, and warned that he will be held politically responsible for the action. MP Abdullah Al-Turajji called on the prime minister to intervene and stop the decision to raze the mosque because of its historical value as one of Kuwait's important sites.

Meanwhile, the court of cassation yesterday set July 25 as the date to issue its verdict against Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd Al-Sabah on charges of insulting the judiciary. The criminal court had sentenced Sheikh Ahmad, a top international sports figure and a former minister, to six months in jail. The appeals court however acquitted him of the accusations. Rulings by the cassation court are final and cannot be appealed.

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In my view

THE WORLD THAT
STANDS SUPREME

By Pani J Anthony

While the world hopefully enjoys the new slogans such as peaceful world, one looks back with a sense of pride as a global citizen - over the great achievements of mankind in improving the quality of life and the historical feats in the information age. Yet one shudders at the thought of the danger in stock - the uncertainty over the very existence of the human race: poverty, hunger, disease, unemployment, illiteracy, the debt burden, unfavorable trading conditions, all forms and types of conflicts and environmental degradation. On the other side, in the last few decades, there is more talk about justice and human rights than ever before.

The time spent to close and open the eye lids is the time that it takes for more atrocity to be committed against a woman somewhere in the world. Whether she is beaten in her home, molested outside or raped, either within outside her home, justice doesn't come easily, even if it comes at all.

The growing violence against women is part of dehumanization and vulgarization process of society. There are exceptions, a mother of a girl child feels that the girl child is a burden to her since she has to meet all the heavy expenses. This growing syndrome of violence makes the women to be on tenterhooks several times. There is a woman behind every successful man is a celebrated statement. But we are not ashamed to relegate them always as the shadow of man.

Vital role

"Investing in a girl is watering a plant in a neighbor's garden" is a popular saying. "No society can make any progress without the co-operation of women who, indeed, play a vital role in developing the nation". It makes me wonder if the world has conveniently forgotten the Indian Nobel laureate Tagore's saying: "Women is the builder and moulder of a nation's destiny".

Political participation of women has now become a reality and, let us hope, this will pave for gender equality. It pains that the politicians are systematically delaying the rights of the women. The statesmen need to understand that without the dues given to women, any nation can hardly achieve total progress.

Over several years after freedom, in many countries, the midnight woes are not over. The dastardly events are on the rise and they pose a threat to the very integrity of the nation and its overall growth. "A nation depends highly on the quality of the citizens rather than the quantity", said Rousseau, the French revolutionary writer.

The right to education and religion, though enshrined in Constitution, has not reached a large section of the population. Racial discrimination, long declared a sin, loom large still.

Equality

Social justice will remain a dream until economic equality becomes a reality. To make this happen, the oppressed and the unfortunate need a level ground in education and employment.

Provided the right opportunity and given optimal inputs, the depressed can rise to the occasion and substantially contribute to the future of the land; Nelson Mandela and Ambedkar bear testimony to this. Ambedkar virtually rose from the dust and sowed the seeds of hope in the minds of the oppressed.

This ensuing millennium need not necessarily spread the pall of gloom, there are men and women in all walks of life who are leading lights in their own chosen field of activity.

There is a hope of a better world, a world of better men and women, with sense and sensibility, with reason and rationale, a world of peace, prosperity and glory. Weighing the pros and cons, assets and liabilities, the world of the present millennium promises to be paradigm, sans poverty, penury, pestilence where friendship and brotherhood will stand supreme.

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DEATH PENALTY FOR COUP PLOTTERS ?



REBEL JETS HAD ERDOGAN PLANE IN SIGHTS

By Humeyra Pamuk and Orhan Coskun

At the height of the attempt to overthrow Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan, the rebel pilots of two F-16 fighter jets had Erdogan's plane in their sights. And yet he was able to fly on. The Turkish leader was returning to Istanbul from a holiday near the coastal resort of Marmaris after a faction in the military launched the coup attempt on Friday night, sealing off a bridge across the Bosphorus, trying to capture Istanbul's main airport and sending tanks to parliament in Ankara.

"At least two F-16s harassed Erdogan's plane while it was in the air and en route to Istanbul. They locked their radars on his plane and on two other F-16s protecting him," a former military officer with knowledge of the events told Reuters. "Why they didn't fire is a mystery," he said. A successful overthrow of Erdogan, who has ruled the country of about 80 million people since 2003, could have sent Turkey spiralling into conflict and marked another seismic shift in the Middle East, five years after the Arab uprisings erupted and plunged its southern neighbour Syria into civil war.

A senior Turkish official confirmed to Reuters that Erdogan's business jet had been harassed while flying from the airport that serves Marmaris by two F-16s commandeered by the coup plotters but that he had managed to reach Istanbul safely. A second senior official also said the presidential jet had been "in trouble in the air" but gave no details. Erdogan said as the coup unfolded that the plotters had tried to attack him in the resort town of Marmaris and had bombed places he had been at shortly after he left. He "evaded death by minutes", the second official said.

Around 25 soldiers in helicopters descended on a hotel in Marmaris on ropes, shooting, just after Erdogan had left in an apparent attempt to seize him, broadcaster CNN Turk said. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim had also been directly targeted in Istanbul during the coup bid and had narrowly escaped, the official said, without giving details. Flight tracker websites showed a Gulfstream IV aircraft, a type of business jet owned by the Turkish government, take off from Dalaman airport, which is about an hour and a quarter's drive from Marmaris, at about 2240 GMT on Friday.

It later circled in what appeared to be a holding pattern just south of Istanbul, around the time when a Reuters witness in the airport was still hearing bursts of gunfire, before finally coming in to land. Gunfire and explosions rocked

both Istanbul and Ankara through Friday night, as the armed faction which tried to seize power strafed the headquarters of Turkish intelligence and parliament in the capital. At one point it ordered state television to read out a statement declaring a nationwide curfew.

But the attempt crumbled as forces loyal to Erdogan pushed the rebels back and as the Turkish leader, at one point appearing on broadcaster CNN Turk in a video call from a mobile phone, urged people to take to the streets to support him. More than 290 people were killed in the violence, 104 of them coup supporters, the rest largely civilians and police officers.

The aerial aspect of the plot appears to have centred on the Akinci air base around 50 km northwest of Ankara, with at least 15 pilots involved under the orders of a rebel commander, according to the former military officer. The head of the armed forces, Hulusi Akar, was held hostage at the base during the coup attempt but was eventually rescued. Jets from Akinci piloted by the rebels roared low over Istanbul and Ankara repeatedly during the chaos of Friday night, shattering windows and terrifying civilians with sonic booms. Fighter jets taking off from another air base at Eskisehir, west of Ankara, were scrambled to bomb Akinci and try to stop the rebels. However, the rogue aircraft were able to keep flying through the night by refuelling mid-air after a tanker plane was commandeered, the first senior official said. The tanker aircraft was taken from the Incirlik air base in southern Turkey, which is used by the US-led coalition to bomb Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. The commander of Incirlik was detained on Sunday for complicity, the official said.

Masterminds

Three senior officials in Ankara said Akin Ozturk, head of the air force until 2015 and a member of High Military Council (YAS), the top body overseeing the armed forces, was one of the masterminds of the plot. He was among thousands of soldiers detained, pictured on Sunday in handcuffs wearing a striped polo shirt at Ankara police headquarters. Ozturk was due to be retired this August at a meeting of the YAS, which convenes twice a year. According to his biography, still on the military's website, he was born in 1952.

The second mastermind was thought to be Muharrem Kose, a former legal adviser to the chief of military staff, the

same three Ankara officials said. They described Kose as a follower of Fethullah Gulen, a US-based cleric whose network Erdogan has blamed for carrying out the coup attempt. Kose was removed from his post in March for misconduct but had not been discharged from the armed forces, one of the officials said. His whereabouts are currently unknown.

"There were serious preparations ongoing for a very long time. The two people in question seem to have been the brains behind the coup attempt," the official said, declining to be identified because the investigation is still continuing. Erdogan and the government have long accused Gulen's followers of trying to create a "parallel structure" within the courts, police, armed forces and media with the aim of seizing power, a charge the cleric has repeatedly denied.

'Not Fully Prepared'

Erdogan, his roots in Islamist politics, has always had a difficult relationship with the military, which long saw itself as the guardian of secularism in Turkey, carrying out three coups and forcing a fourth, Islamist-led government from power in the second half of the 20th century. Coup plot trials saw hundreds of officers jailed while Erdogan was prime minister, as the government used the courts to clip the wings of the armed forces. The allegations were later discredited and convictions overturned, but the actions damaged morale and fuelled resentment.

Yet the coup plotters appear to have overestimated the support they would find within the military ranks. "It was outside the chain of command which was the biggest handicap for the coup plotters," said Sinan Ulgen, a visiting scholar at Carnegie Europe and a former Turkish diplomat. "They had an insufficient portfolio of resources. They were grossly under-equipped to achieve their strategic objectives ... There was definitely quite a degree of incompetence compared to how coups were done here in the past."

At one point they tried to silence CNN Turk, forcing the evacuation of the studio. When it came back on air, anchorwoman Nevsin Mengü described the soldiers as young and with "only fear in their eyes and no sign of devotion or determination". The former military officer said the coup plotters appeared to have launched their attempt prematurely because they realised they were under surveillance, something corroborated by other officials in Ankara. —Reuters

HARDLINE BACKLASH COULD SIDELINE ROUHANI

By Parisa Hafezi

A year after Iran's nuclear deal with the West, hardliners are gaining authority in a backlash against pragmatic President Hasan Rouhani that his allies say could leave him sidelined or push him out of power in an election next year. Rouhani, who was elected in a landslide in 2013 on a promise to reduce Iran's diplomatic isolation, delivered the agreement that resulted in a lifting of financial sanctions in return for curbs on Tehran's nuclear programme.

The deal had the grudging approval of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, the archconservative in office since 1989, whose ultimate authority outranks that of the elected president. But now that the negotiations are over, Rouhani's supporters say that Khamenei and his followers are trying to restrict the president's authority or replace him. In the face of such pressure, Rouhani himself may decide not to stand again.

Already, hardliners are blaming the president's faction for the failure of the deal to deliver a swift improvement in living standards, at a time when prices for oil exports are low and promised foreign investment has yet to arrive. "The political infighting has intensified in Iran. The legitimacy of the establishment is at stake," said a senior official, who asked not to be identified. "It will deepen further until the presidential election next year," the official said, adding that Rouhani himself now had "serious doubts about running for a second term".

Rouhani's allies believe his personal popularity and the prospect of Iran coming out of its political and economic isolation have panicked hardline allies of Khamenei, who fear losing power and aim to bring the presidency to heel. "Hardliners want a president who is closer to their camp and gets his directions from Khamenei's allies," a reformist former official said, speaking on condition of anonymity like other

figures within Iran contacted for this story. "If they fail to find a candidate, then they will impose more limits on Rouhani in his second term."

'Revolutionary Ideology'

Iran's political system allows elections for president and parliament, but gives a hardline watchdog body power to veto laws and decide which candidates may stand. Since taking over from the Islamic Republic's founder Ayatollah Rouhollah Khomeini, Khamenei, now 76, has made sure that no group, including among his own hardline allies, has gained enough power to challenge his authority. Khamenei's allies control the bulk of financial resources as well as the judiciary, the security forces, public broadcasters and the Guardian Council which vets laws and election candidates. "Khamenei's ideal set-up is to have weak presidents who can be held accountable for the frustrations and economic malaise that many Iranians feel," said Iran analyst and senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Karim Sadjadpour. What mattered most for Khamenei was not "the support of the electorate, but the support of the protectorate," he said. "Khamenei can live without the admiration and social media likes of Iran's urban sophisticates, but not without the loyal support of 150,000 Revolutionary Guardsmen and their Basij henchmen," said Sadjadpour, referring to an elite military force and its affiliated militia.

Not Needed Now Talks Are Over?

The parlous state of Iran's economy pushed Iran's top leaders to accept Rouhani as the best option to resolve their nuclear dispute with the West. But Rouhani's allies believe that those close to Khamenei no longer see Rouhani as useful. "Now the nuclear crisis is over. Hardliners want to retake the control by weakening Rouhani. An election victory next year will cement hardliners' grip in power," said a Rouhani ally. "Rouhani was elected to resolve Iran's nuclear issue." In recent

months Khamenei has spoken about the importance of "revolutionary ideology" and the "resistance economy", seen as veiled criticisms of Rouhani's policies of political and economic engagement with the West. There is no clear challenger lined up to stand against Rouhani yet, but hardliners could reach a consensus on a high-profile candidate for the election in coming months. "Rouhani's policy of interaction with the world ... scares the hardliners as they believe that without confrontation, particularly with the West, the Islamic Republic could stop being a revolutionary state," said Meir Javedanfar, an Iranian-born Israeli lecturer on Iran at the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya in Israel. The hardliners fear that could ultimately "lead to the establishment's collapse," he added.

'High Expectations'

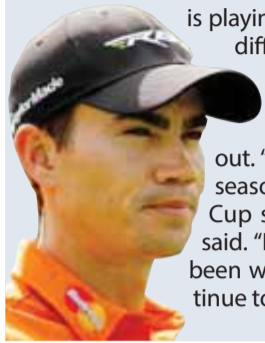
Hardliners have criticized Rouhani for the slow pace of economic recovery, saying his government was duped into accepting concessions on Iran's nuclear program while getting little back in return. "The focus at the moment is of course on the economy and that will be the battleground for the next election," said Ali Ansari, director of the Institute of Iranian Studies at the University of St. Andrews. "The expectations Rouhani created around the deal were going to be difficult to reach, and popular disappointment, no doubt encouraged by the hardliners, is likely to rebound on him." Partly because of unilateral US sanctions that remain in place, major European banks and investors are holding back from doing business with Iran. So far, Iran has secured banking links only with smaller financial institutions, and the US banks remain prohibited from doing business with Iran directly or indirectly. Foreign investors also face other risks, like complex regulations, lack of transparency within Iran's banking system, unclear dispute resolution mechanisms, labor issues and corruption.

For many ordinary Iranians, a sense of disillusionment has set in, because expected economic improvements have failed to materialize, and Rouhani's government has fallen short of delivering a hoped-for easing of social restrictions. The government was tainted by the leak of pay slips of some top executives, which were dozens of times the average monthly income of an Iranian urban household. The source of the leak has yet to be identified. "I am struggling to pay my rent and look at the salaries these people get. They only care about people when our votes are needed," said government employee Reza, 32, who said he voted for Rouhani. —Reuters



GOLFER VILLEGAS OUT OF OLYMPICS

TROON: Camilo Villegas of Colombia pulled out of the Olympics yesterday because he is trying to keep his job on the PGA Tour. Villegas had indicated for the last two weeks that he wanted to be in Rio for golf's return to the Olympics for the first time since 1904. While he considered the Zika virus - Villegas and his wife are trying to start a family - his main concern was work. Having pulled out of the Barbasol Championship last week with a thumb injury, he is No. 146 in the FedEx Cup standings. Only the top 125 advance to the playoffs and keep full cards for the following season, and Villegas has only four tournaments left. He is playing the RBC Canadian Open this week. "This is an incredibly difficult decision for me, but ultimately I have to do what's best for my career," Villegas said. He is the 21st male golfer to withdraw from the Olympics, and he joins Brendon de Jonge of Zimbabwe in citing his job security for pulling out. "Right now, I have not secured my PGA Tour card for next season and I have several opportunities to improve my FedEx Cup standing, one of which overlaps with the Olympics," he said. "I have waited until the last minute to withdraw as I have been working hard to secure my playing privileges so I can continue to represent Colombia on the PGA Tour." —AP



CHINA TO SEND 416 ATHLETES TO RIO

SHANGHAI: China will send 416 athletes to Rio de Janeiro next month, its largest overseas delegation in Olympic history, continuing its pursuit of medals that saw it take second spot in the table behind the United States four years ago. The country will send 256 women and 160 men to compete in 26 sports, the government said during a ceremony unveiling the team in Beijing yesterday, state news agency Xinhua reported. It fielded 396 athletes in the London 2012 games. "This is the largest ever Olympic delegation China has sent overseas," Cai Zhenhua, deputy director of China's General Administration of Sport, was reported by Xinhua as saying. He added that the delegation has 711 members including 29 foreign coaches. Local fans were assured by the inclusion of popular Chinese swimmer Ning Zetao, the recent subject of rumours that he had been cut from the squad for taking on too many commercial engagements. He is first Asian swimmer to win the 100 metres freestyle at the world championships. —Reuters

PYEONGCHANG UNVEILS TWO 2018 MASCOTS

SEOUL: A white tiger named 'Soohorang' and an Asian black bear called 'Bandabi' were unveiled yesterday as the two mascots for the 2018 Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Pyeongchang. "Soohorang and Bandabi will be your good friends and promote the Pyeongchang Olympic Games to the whole world," Lee hee-beom, president of the Games organising committee, told students during a ceremony at Hoeng Gye elementary school in Pyeongchang. Soohorang's name is derived from the Korean words for 'protection' (Sooho) and 'tiger' (ho-rang-i). The white tiger is considered a sacred guardian animal in South Korea, with some locals considering the Korean peninsula to be tiger-shaped. The 1988 Seoul Olympics also featured a tiger mascot. Paralympic Games mascot "Bandabi" represents courage and strong willpower, organisers said. The Pyeongchang 2018 Olympic Winter Games will be held from Feb. 9-25. — Reuters



KUWAIT DEFEAT MALAYSIA 4-1 IN DAVIS CUP

By Abdellatif Sharaa

KUWAIT: Kuwait defeated Malaysia in four matches to one during the Davis Cup competition that was held in Kuwait over the past three days. Kuwait won the two singles matches on the first day, then ensured their win of this round when it won the doubles match the

next day. On Sunday night, Kuwait's Abdelrahman Al-Awadhi defeated Malaysia's Mohamad bin Zain Al-Aabdeen by the score of 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, in the match Al-Awadhi displayed his skills and marked his first win for Kuwait in the Davis Cup competition. The final match saw Malaysia's Hao Ching Kuwai defeating Kuwait's Hamid Al-

Sulaiteen 6-2, 7-6 (8), though Al-Sulaiteen gave strong showing, ending the round with Kuwait winning 4-1. With this win Kuwait remains in the second international group, while Malaysia drops to the third group. The tournament was held under the Kuwaiti flag under the supervision of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), at the main court of Yarmouk sports club, which

was made ready by the Public Authority for Sports in a record time. Tournament Director Faleh Al-Otaibi thanked PAS for its obvious and major support of KTF activities, and pointed to its efforts in making this event a success. Al-Otaibi lauded the spirit of the players and their outstanding efforts. He also thanked chairman of the technical commit-

tee Abbas Al-Busairi and workers at KTF and Yarmouk sports club. Al-Otaibi said chairman and board members will hold a special ceremony to mark Kuwait's win and ITF's honoring of Kuwait's tennis player Mohammad Al-Ghareeb who has been representing Kuwait over the past 20 years. Faleh Al-Otaibi thanked the players, coaches and team captain Adel Al-Shatti.

CAL'S AUSTRALIA GAME IS NEW MOVE TO TAKE FOOTBALL DOWN UNDER

LOS ANGELES: California coach Sonny Dykes has prepared for the travel challenges associated with a season-opening game in Sydney. Dykes has spoken with NFL coaches who have taken their teams to London, prepared onboard exercises for players and consulted Nike for compression apparel they can wear during the flight when the Golden Bears depart the Bay Area on Aug 20 and arrive down under on Aug 22. But for a real understanding of how taxing travel to and from Australia can be, Dykes could have just asked Oregon State punter Nick Porebski. "When I first did it, I was jet-lagged for about two days," the Melbourne-born Porebski said at Pac-12 media days. "It

is a leg game. It is a far cry from how Porebski discovered football. "The first time I actually watched American football it was on at like 2 o'clock in the morning on some weird channel," Porebski said. "It definitely has grown, though. Even had a few mates who had Super Bowl parties over there. It is taking off, and I think in four or five years, it will be really big." Porebski grew up playing Australian rules football starting from 5 years old, but had to give it up due to shoulder injuries. He then started working with Prokick Australia, a program that has helped the winners of the last three Ray Guy Awards as the top punter in college football transition to the American game. "The rugby-style punt, that's pretty much an Aussie-rules kick," Porebski said. "The thing that we have to learn is the spiral with two steps and kick." The Beavers found Porebski when he was at a junior college in Utah, but have since sent an assistant coach to Australia to recruit. "And it's not just kickers," Oregon State coach Gary Andersen said. "There's some very talented young men over there. And there are some quality people over there that are helping these kids get better."



Sonny Dykes arrives

is a tough flight. You're sitting there for a long time. Your legs are going to get heavy." Porebski is one of a growing number of Australians to find success playing what his countrymen call American football, fueling growth in the sport back home. A Cal spokesman said approximately 70,000 tickets have been sold for the Aug. 27 game against Hawaii at the 83,500-capacity ANZ Stadium, the first college football game to be played in Australia since BYU defeated Colorado State in 1987. The eight-team professional National Gridiron League will begin playing its inaugural season in October. Rugby star Jarryd Hayne's stint with the San Francisco 49ers last season resulted in increased media interest, while ESPN's Australia networks regularly broadcast NFL and col-

lege games. "There are opportunities for other Pac-12 schools possibly," Shaw said. "We've heard a lot about how excited they are about this game and if we can help that in some way, shape or form by our conference investing in a game like this, you never know where it could lead." Cal offensive tackle Steven Moore is thrilled for the chance to play outside the US, as he and the other Bears big men could benefit from the lengthy nature of the trip. Since Dykes puts the starting offensive and defensive linemen up front on team charter flights, the 6-foot-6, 310-pound Moore is already thinking about a lie-flat seat in first class. "That would be cool," Moore said. "I definitely don't want to be sitting in a little chair all the way to Australia." —AP



Helyolido team

HELYOLIDO CROWNED CHAMPIONS

CAIRO: Helyolido team was crowned champions of Cairo handball tournament in the juniors category after a draw with Al-Ahly. Helyolido defeated Al-

Shams and Nasr during the semifinals, as they defeated Al-Shams, which ended in second place by 16-14. Meanwhile Al-Ahly ended in third place.

Coach Hassan Kameel said there were 14 teams divided into two groups and we reached the semifinals and were able to win the tournament.

RUSSIAN SKATING STAR DENIES DOPING

MOSCOW: Evgeni Plushenko, Russia's two-time Olympic figure skating champion, angrily distanced himself from a damning report yesterday that revealed rampant Russian state-run doping at the 2014 Sochi Winter Games and other events. "I, Evgeni Plushenko, declare that I've never used any kind of doping, I've always competed fairly," TASS state news agency quoted him as saying. "At Sochi I gave samples for testing twice and there always was a man next to me who kept the procedure under control. And there has never been any additional medical interference, whatever anyone says." The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) called for Russia to be banned from the Rio

Olympics next month and other international sport after an investigation found the FSB secret service helped a "state-dictated failsafe system" carried out by the Moscow sports ministry. The 33-year-old Plushenko, who has competed at four Olympics, accused Russia's rivals of attempting to besmirch the country, after its track and field team was already barred from Rio. "The Games in Sochi were the best in history and everybody knows that," he said. "I can say it with pride. I suppose the countries competing with Russia, who launched this campaign, are just nursing a grievance and are burning with envy because of that." Dmitry Svishchev, who heads the lower

house of Russian parliament's sports and physical culture committee, said the investigation by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren for WADA was just more "unconfirmed fantasy." "We've already heard all of that and nothing new has been said," Svishchev told Match! TV channel. He accused Grigory Rodchenkov, the former Moscow doping laboratory director whose allegations prompted the McLaren probe, of lying. "He's a person that cannot ever be trusted. He said one thing in Russia and completely different in the United States. No one should believe him. Now we have just plenty of his fantasies and insinuations, but none of them were backed up by facts." —AFP

NADIA STILL TURNING HEADS 40 YEARS ON FROM PERFECT 10

LONDON: She was once the ponytailed Romanian teenager excited at the thought of owning coloured socks and eating bubble gum yet Nadia Comaneci went on to captivate the world by performing an Olympic feat that continues to stir the emotions four decades later.

The ponytail is long gone, the childhood cravings have been replaced by more sophisticated tastes, but no matter where she goes Comaneci cannot escape the memories of what happened on July 18 1976 in Montreal.

The day she became the first gymnast to score a perfect 10 at the Olympic Games. "Every time there is a zero in the anniversary, it's kind of bigger. There was 10, then 20, then 30 and now 40, it seems like a lot of numbers. It's like half of your life is gone," Comaneci told Reuters in a telephone interview while on a short holiday in California with her family. "But to realise that it's 40 years since it happened, it's like 'oh my gosh, really?' "Because it's the 40th year, I feel

like I've been celebrating the anniversary the entire year. Everyone I meet this year wants to talk about it."

Those celebrations are set to continue for the next few weeks as Comaneci heads to Montreal on July 21 where her 10-year-old son Dylan will get his first chance to see the Olympic Stadium "where his mom's name is engraved."

Then it will be on to Rio for the Aug. 5-21 Games. The anniversary will be spent together as a family with Dylan and her husband-fellow Olympic champion Bart Conner- and Comaneci's memory of the occasion remains razor sharp despite the passage of 14,610 days. "I remember when I started to do the compulsory (routine on the uneven bars), I thought I did a pretty good routine but I didn't think I did my perfect routine," said the 54-year-old, who now resides in Oklahoma. "I know I didn't watch the scoreboard as I was already thinking about the balance beam after I finished. "Then I heard the big noise in the arena,

I look around, I turned my head and saw the scoreboard. I first saw the 073 which was my competition number and 1.00 score which was under. "I looked at one of my team mates and she shrugged her shoulders, indicating that something was wrong with the scoreboard. It all happened so fast."

WHITE SOCKS

With officials not expecting any gymnast to attain perfection, the electronic scoreboard installed in Montreal lacked the space needed to accommodate all four figures to illustrate the perfect mark. That epic fail by technology did little to tarnish Comaneci's memory of the feat. "The fact that the scoreboard could not show the 10 added to the drama, it made it bigger," she said breaking down in laughter. "Scoring the first 10 in history was a big deal but the fact that even an electronic scoreboard could not figure out how to put out a score, it made the story more historic."

Scoring that first 10 became such a traffic-stopping moment people seem to forget that Comaneci went on to collect three gold medals in Montreal, including the all around title, and two more top prizes in Moscow four years later.

Born in 1961 in the factory town of Onesti to a car mechanic named Gheorghe and his wife Stefania, Comaneci still has to pinch herself when she thinks how her life is now dictated by something she did "as a 14-year-old child". "Nellie (Kim) got a 10 a little after me but nobody talks about it. If fate had wanted it, it would have been someone else making history. I was just a little bit quicker!" she quipped.

"At that time I didn't understand the impact it made as I wasn't competing to make history, I was competing to win medals. "It's very special that it will be there for eternity."

There is so much focus on what happened in 1976 and the years that fol-

lowed, Comaneci admitted memories of pre-Montreal can be a little blurry at times. While she needs to "go and Google to see where I went" on her first trip outside Romania, what she does remember is the things that used to light up her eyes. "The fascinating thing for us to bring home to Romania was bubble gum, coloured socks and coloured hair clips. These were things we didn't have in Romania at the time," said Comaneci. "We only had white socks in Romania. But when I used to come back from the States, I used to bring back pink and yellow socks with all kind of designs, and hair clips and elastic bands for the ponytail that had colourful designs."

"We used to exchange leotards with gymnasts from other countries. I don't remember who I got my most prized leotard from but it was one with a lot of stars on it." Chances are whoever got Comaneci's leotard has not forgotten its original owner. — Reuters

ASIAN AND EUROPEAN TOUR ANNOUNCE 'STRATEGIC ALLIANCE'

SINGAPORE: The Asian Tour and the European Tour announced a "strategic alliance" yesterday that could pave the way for more co-sanctioned golf tournaments being held in Asia. The alliance follows a period of negotiations, which began last August, between the two circuits who will now both be invested in expanding playing opportunities in Asia and the rest of the globe. The two tours will have a new joint



Keith Pelley

office in Singapore but will retain their own separate identity in terms of brand and logo, and will be managed by their own individual boards, both organisations said in a statement.

"Following successful discussions over the past year to develop our joint vision,

we are delighted to announce this 'Strategic Alliance,' Keith Pelley, chief executive of the European Tour said.

"We have enjoyed a very strong and prosperous relationship with the Asian Tour over the past 17 years, and this formalises that partnership, representing an exciting new era in our association."

The Malaysian Open in 1999 was the first co-sanctioned tour between the two organisations, which have since conducted 95 such tournaments.

Talks on the expected union appeared to be in trouble in December when Asian Tour Chief Executive Mike Kerr resigned for unspecified reasons following player concerns about limited opportunities on the combined circuit.

Last year's Asian Tour featured only 12 stand-alone events with many more co-sanctioned with larger circuits such as the European, U.S. PGA and Japan Tours who all boast fuller schedules and bigger prize money. "This is a very positive step forward in our desire to further grow professional golf in Asia and around the world," Kyi Hla Han, commissioner of the Asian Tour said. "We are also confident a greater collaboration between the Asian Tour and European Tour will deliver a stronger product to our partners and appeal to new sponsors to get involved with the game."

"The future looks very exciting for the Asian Tour and European Tour." —Reuters



TROON: Phil Mickelson of the United States, left congratulates Henrik Stenson of Sweden for winning the British Open Golf Championships at the Royal Troon Golf Club in Troon, Scotland, Sunday. — AP

STENSON, MICKELSON FOREVER LINKED AFTER EPIC OPEN DUEL

TROON: They walked off the 18th green together, arms wrapped around each other, forever linked by one of golf's greatest duels.

Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson. No losers here, but only one winner. Stenson claimed the claret jug, a major champion for the first time at age 40. All it took was 10 birdies and a magnificent 8-under 63 in the closing round of the British Open.

Right on his heels, almost to the very end, was Mickelson. Lefty shot a bogey-free 65, good enough to win on just about any Sunday but this one, another runner-up finish in a major providing little consolation.

"I'm happy for Henrik," said Mickelson, who finished three shots behind Stenson's record score for a major championship. "I knew that he would ultimately come through and win. I'm disappointed that it was at my expense."

This was a shot-for-shot showdown that mirrored Tom Watson and Jack Nicklaus at Turnberry in 1977, the famed "Duel in the Sun."

Maybe it was a sign when the sun popped out from behind the clouds for the first time in three days at Royal Troon just as Stenson and Mickelson walked to the first tee.

"I knew he wasn't going to back down at any point," said Stenson, whose 20-under 264 beat the scoring mark of 265 that David Toms set at the 2001 PGA Championship and was three shots better than anyone had ever shot in the Open. "I knew I had to keep on pushing, keep on giving myself birdie chances."

For Mickelson, there was no second-guessing the way he played. This wasn't another Winged Foot, where his silly decision to go with a driver off the tee at the 72nd hole cost him the U.S. Open in 2007. But it was still a runner-up finish in a major, the 11th of his career, his extensive list of close calls surpassed only by Nicklaus' 19.

Mickelson knew there wasn't much more he could do. Still, this one hurt just as much as the rest of them. In a way, maybe even a little more. "It's probably the best I've played and not won," Mickelson said. "I don't have a point where I can look back and say, 'I should have done that' or 'Had I only done this.' I played a bogey-free round of 65 on the final round of a major. Usually that's good enough to do it. And I got beat."

BEST PERFORMANCE

At 46, Mickelson knows his window of opportunity is beginning to close. He would've been the oldest winner of the Open since 1867. No one older than 48 has ever captured a major.

"I played what I feel was well enough to win this championship by a number of strokes, and yet I got beat by three strokes," he said. "You know, it's not like I have decades left of opportunities to win majors, so each one means a lot to me. And I put in my best performance today. Played close to flawless golf and got beat."

Stenson has long been one of the better players on the PGA Tour, but he'd never been in the final group of a major before this one. He looked like he'd done it all before. Many times, in fact.

"It's not something you want to run around and shout, but I felt like this was going to be my turn," Stenson said. Even with a couple of three-

put bogeys and a 5-foot birdie attempt that slid by the cup at 17, Stenson became only the second player to close with a 63 in the final round of a major. Johnny Miller did it first in 1973, rallying from six shots down to capture the U.S. Open by a single stroke.

This one was more like the 39-year-old showdown between Watson and Nicklaus at another course in the British Open rotation, the one 25 miles down the Scottish coastline. Watson's 65 was just enough for a one-stroke victory against Nicklaus' 66, with the next-closest player another 10 shots back. On Sunday, J.B. Holmes finished third, 11 shots behind the runner-up.

DECISIVE BLOW

"I thought we played great and had a wonderful match," Nicklaus wrote on his Facebook page, remembering Turnberry. "Our final round was really good, but theirs was even better. What a great match!"

Stenson began the day with a one-stroke lead. Neither player could push the margin any higher than that until they got to the 15th, the

Swede again up by a shot after rolling in an 18-foot birdie the previous hole.

Mickelson had the edge, putting his approach on the green, about 30 feet from the flag. Stenson's second shot rolled off the right side of the green, leaving him with a 50-foot putt up the ridge.

Stenson made his. Mickelson didn't. That was the decisive blow. "We both played some great golf," Stenson said. "It makes it even more special to beat a competitor like Phil. He's been one of the best to play the game, certainly in the last 20 years." Now it's on to the PGA Championship in less than two weeks, the schedule compressed because of the Olympics. For Mickelson, it's a chance to get over the sting of such a bitter defeat. He won the PGA the last time it was played at Baltusol in 2005.

For Stenson, it's a chance to quickly add another major to the one he waited so long to get. "We're only getting started, aren't we?" he said, a newfound confidence in his voice. "You never know once you open the floodgates what might happen." —AP

THAI BADMINTON STAR RATCHANOK CLEARED OF DOPING

BANGKOK: Thai Badminton star Ratchanok Intanon broke down in tears and spoke of her relief yesterday after being cleared of doping, ending fears her Olympic dreams had been scuppered. The 21-year-old shuttler, who is beloved in Thailand and remains the kingdom's best chance for a medal in Rio, tested positive for a banned substance in May after a tournament in China.

But the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Monday cleared her after ruling that the substance had been administered to treat a tendon injury and was allowed.

"I was confident in my innocence and I am glad that I received justice. I will practise and hope to bring a medal back for Thailand," she told reporters at a press conference in Bangkok.

"The Olympics is my dream," she added, before bursting into tears. Rumours of the positive test result first surfaced in the Thai media last week, leaving fans on tenterhooks.

In a statement published Monday, the BWF said Ratchanok tested positive for triamcinolone acetonide, a corticosteroid which is banned in most circumstances. However if administered directly into a muscle tendon for medical reasons it is allowed under the BWF's rules.

"The panel concluded that because the route of administration of the substance in the medical treatment process was intra-tendinous-an authorised administration route-no violation of the regulations was committed," the BWF said.

Patama Leeswadtrakul, president of the Badminton Association of Thailand, said doctors had been treating Ratchanok for pain in her right hand and back. "We said it was used honestly to cure her injuries," she told reporters. The 21-year-old star has charmed the Thai public-who affectionately call her Nong May-with her girl-next-door demeanour despite the fame and riches of sporting success.

In 2013 she became the youngest ever world champion. She was briefly ranked number 1 after winning Singapore Open in April but has since slipped to fourth. A medal favourite in Rio, she will carry the Olympic hopes of a country with few top-class athletes.

She has caught the imagination of Thailand as much for her rags to riches back story as on-court heroics.

Her parents are migrants to Bangkok from the country's poor northeast who worked in menial jobs at a badminton centre on the outskirts of the city. While they worked, Ratchanok played badminton unlocking her talent at the age of six.

In a recent interview with AFP in Bangkok she said she was "100 percent confident" of bringing home a medal from the Rio Olympics. Fans congratulated Ratchanok on her Instagram account where she had recently posted a picture of the stars with the cryptic caption "I'm faded" as the doping rumours swirled last week. "The sky after a storm always shines," one fan wrote. Another added: "You're not faded, you are now brighter." —AFP



BANGKOK: Thai Olympic badminton hopeful Ratchanok Intanon (C) holds papers clearing her name during a press conference regarding recent doping allegations in Bangkok yesterday. Thai Badminton star Ratchanok Intanon broke down in tears and spoke of her relief yesterday after authorities cleared her of doping, ending a brief scare that many had feared would scupper her Olympic dreams. — AFP

TROON DUEL AN EXAMPLE TO REST OF SPORT: JACKLIN

TROON: Tony Jacklin won two majors and is Europe's most decorated Ryder Cup captain but he says he has never seen anything like the battle royal between Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson at the 145th British Open.

Stenson and Mickelson traded birdie blow after birdie blow in a remarkable final-round slugfest at Royal Troon on Sunday before the 40-year-old Swede emerged victorious over the 46-year-old American.

The new champion's closing eight-under-par 63 tied the lowest round in a major and his winning total of 264 was a record for any of the 'Big Four' tournaments.

"It was amazing, those two guys were in another world," Englishman Jacklin told Reuters in an interview. "Once more golf has given a great example to the world of sport. Those two just blew the field away, there was no one else in it."

"Henrik was 20-under at the end and Phil was 17-under, you would have thought Troon was a pitch and putt course last week but the weather was terrible on Friday and Saturday, the wind really blew," said the 72-year-old Jacklin.

American JB Holmes finished a distant third, 11 strokes adrift of five-times major winner Mickelson. Jacklin, who followed up his 1969 British Open win at Royal Lytham by landing the U.S. Open title at Hazeltine, Minnesota a year later, said he was also struck on Sunday by the way that Stenson and Mickelson went about their business.

The two men showed there was a great rapport between them and engaged well with the huge galleries on the west coast of

Scotland, high-fiving and fist-pumping fans as they made their way from one hole to the next.

"It was wonderful sportsmanship from both of them and Phil was gracious in defeat at the end," said Jacklin. "I was sorry for Phil but delighted for Henrik because he's waited a long time for his first win in a major."

DUEL IN THE SUN

"He knew Phil wasn't going to lay down and just let him do it and it will go down as one of the finest finishes of all time."

Jacklin said it was every bit as good as the memorable "Duel in the Sun" when Tom Watson edged out Jack Nicklaus in another ding-dong tussle in the British Open at nearby Turnberry 39 years ago.

"Sunday was right up there with 1977," said the man who won twice, tied once and lost once in four matches in charge of Europe's Ryder Cup team between 1983 and 1989.

"The whole process of winning a major is about staying in the moment. If you are made of the right material, as Henrik and Phil both are, they are class acts, it's all about not getting ahead of yourself."

"Henrik showed tremendous resolve and self belief. Even at the prize-giving ceremony he said 'I haven't taken it in yet', that just shows how concentrated he was," said Jacklin.

"Both players were out on their own, it was quite spectacular, and you could see the chemistry between them. It was wonderful golf in very, very difficult conditions. "All power to Henrik and Phil. They deserve all the accolades they are going to get." — Reuters



WASHINGTON: In this July 3, 2016, file photo, Washington Nationals starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg delivers a pitch during a baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds, in Washington. — AP

MARTE'S HOMER LIFTS PIRATES OVER NATIONALS

WASHINGTON: Starling Marte hit a solo home run in the 18th inning as the Pittsburgh Pirates beat the Washington Nationals 2-1 Sunday in a marathon game that lasted almost six hours. Pinch-hitter Daniel Murphy homered with two outs in the ninth inning for Washington, and it took a long while until anyone scored again. Marte's seventh home run of the season helped end the series finale and the Pirates avoid getting swept by the NL East leaders. The only longer game in the majors this season came July 1 when Cleveland beat Toronto in 19 innings. Marte hit the first pitch from Oliver Perez (2-3) into the seats in left field. Jonathon Niese (8-6) survived a couple of singles to get the victory. It was the longest regular-season game for the Nationals since the franchise moved from Montreal to Washington after the 2004 season. The Nationals lost an 18-inning game to San Francisco in the 2014 playoffs.

METS 5, PHILLIES 0

Jacob deGrom tossed a one-hitter, and Curtis Granderson and Asdrubal Cabrera homered as New York beat Philadelphia. DeGrom (6-4) allowed only a third-inning single to pitcher Zach Eflin and retired 27 of 29 batters. The lanky right-hander struck out seven, walked one and went the distance for the first time in 68 career starts. Eflin (2-3) allowed five hits and three runs in six innings. Granderson drove his 16th homer way out to right-center for a 2-0 lead in the third. Cabrera's two-run shot off Andrew Bailey in the eighth was his 13th homer and gave the Mets a 5-0 lead. DeGrom improved to 15-3 with a 1.63 ERA in day games and 14-15 with a 3.19 ERA at night.

YANKEES 3, RED SOX 1

Masahiro Tanaka outpitched David Price in their first matchup to win his fourth straight decision, helping New York end Boston's six-game winning streak. Starlin Castro keyed New York's three-run fourth inning with an RBI double that scored Didi Gregorius from first base. No. 9 batter Austin Romine and Jacoby Ellsbury each added a run-scoring single with two outs off Price (9-7), who gave up 11 hits in 5 2/3 innings as the Yankees prevented a three-game sweep. Following his team's loss on Saturday, manager Joe Girardi said the

Yankees needed to turn things around immediately and called Sunday night "probably as important (a) game that we've had in July in a long time." New York (45-46) responded with excellent pitching and a handful of timely hits. Tanaka (7-2) fanned seven with one walk over six innings of three-hit ball.

MARLINS 6, CARDINALS 3

Ichiro Suzuki doubled, singled twice and had another hit taken away on a replay challenge, leaving him six shy of 3,000, after Miami's win over St. Louis. The 42-year-old Suzuki made just his second start this month with All-Star Marcell Ozuna getting a day off. He's been largely reduced to pinch hitting behind a set outfield, and singled in that role on Friday. Suzuki also walked, scored a run and came up just short on his bid to beat out an infield hit. All of that in wilting, 93-degree heat for a player who'd been 3 for 11 in July. Giancarlo Stanton's second double of the game drove in the go-ahead run in a two-run seventh against Jonathan Broxton (1-2). Christian Yelich had two hits and three RBIs as Miami took two of three for just its second series win the last seven years in St. Louis. Kyle Barraclough (5-2) won in relief and A.J. Ramos earned his 29th save in 30 chances.

RANGERS 4, CUBS 1

Cole Hamels pitched eight dominant innings in his first game at Wrigley Field since throwing a no-hitter at the famed ballpark a year ago, and Texas stopped a four-game slide. Hamels (10-2) struck out his first six batters. He fanned seven overall and gave up just an unearned run and four hits. Last summer, the lefty threw a no-hitter and struck out 13 at Wrigley in his final start for Philadelphia. He was then traded to the Rangers. Sam Dyson struck out three in the ninth for his 19th save in 21 chances. Ian Desmond homered and Robinson Chirinos drove in two runs as Texas avoided a three-game sweep in the matchup of division leaders. The Cubs had won three in a row.

REDS 1, BREWERS 0

Billy Hamilton dashed home on All-Star Jonathan Lucroy's passed ball with two outs in the ninth inning, giving Cincinnati the win. The speedy Hamilton drew a two-

out walk from Tyler Thornburgh (3-3). Left-hander Will Smith relieved and walked Joey Votto. Hamilton stole third with Jay Bruce hitting, setting up the game-winning play. Tony Cingrani (2-2) pitched a perfect ninth for the win.

TIGERS 4, ROYALS 2

Jarrod Saltalamacchia hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Detroit past Kansas City. After Tyler Collins hit a leadoff single in the ninth, Saltalamacchia won it with a drive off Joakim Soria (3-4) that easily cleared the wall in right field. The Detroit catcher raised his right arm in celebration almost immediately as he trotted toward first base. Those were the only two RBIs of the day for Detroit. The Tigers scored their first two runs of the game on a balk and a wild pitch. Francisco Rodriguez (1-0) pitched a perfect top of the ninth for the win.

RAYS 5, ORIOLES 2

Evan Longoria homered twice, Jake Odorizzi picked up his first home victory this season and Tampa Bay won for just the fourth time in 28 games. Longoria had solo shots in both the first and eighth innings. He has 21 homers this season after his 17th career multihomer game. Odorizzi (4-5), who was 0-3 in 10 previous starts at Tropicana Field, gave up two runs and seven hits in six innings. Overall, he had been 0-2 in six starts since winning June 8 at Arizona. Oswaldo Arcia had a two-run shot during the second and Brad Miller added a third-inning solo driver as the Rays took a 4-1 lead against Dylan Bundy (2-2), who allowed four runs and five hits over 3 1/3 innings in his first major league start. All-Star Alex Colome got three outs for his 20th save in as many chances.

BRAVES 1, ROCKIES 0

Chase d'Arnaud singled with two outs in the ninth inning off Gonzalez Germen and Atlanta avoided a three-game sweep. It was a rare home victory for the Braves, who are 14-36 at Turner Field and have baseball's worst overall record. Atlanta had lost four straight to Colorado. Following dominant outings through the seventh by Braves ace Julio Teheran and Rockies starter Jon Gray, the Braves used four relievers and the Rockies one before Germen (2-1) gave up Ender Inciarte's leadoff single in the ninth. Anthony Recker bunted over Inciarte, who advanced to third on a wild pitch and scored on d'Arnaud's liner to left field.

INDIANS 6, TWINS 1

Josh Tomlin pitched 7 2/3 strong innings, Mike Napoli hit one of three Cleveland homers in a win over Minnesota. Chris Gimenez had two RBIs off the bench as the division-leading Indians won for just the third time in eight games. Max Kepler homered for Minnesota. Tomlin (10-2), who gave up eight runs - including a season-high five earned - in 4 2/3 innings against Detroit in his previous outing July 6, looked more like the pitcher that had six straight quality starts before that outing. He allowed six hits and struck out four against the Twins.

ANGELS 8, WHITE SOX 1

Albert Pujols hit a pair of two-run homers, Jered Weaver pitched seven strong innings and Los Angeles completed

an emphatic three-game sweep of Chicago. Pujols connected in the first and fourth innings of his 53rd multi-homer game. He has 577 career homers as he pursues Mark McGwire (583) for 10th place on baseball's career list. Five Angels drove in a run while lighting up Jacob Turner (0-1) over the first five innings. He yielded seven hits and eight runs in his debut for the White Sox, who have lost four straight. After their worst first half since 1992, the injury-plagued Halos (40-52) returned with three outstanding starts while outscoring Chicago 16-1.

ASTROS 8, MARINERS 1

Jose Altuve homered among his four hits and drove in three runs, Collin McHugh escaped a pair of bases-loaded jams to pitch six scoreless innings, and Houston beat Seattle. Altuve had a two-run homer and three singles in five at-bats to raise his American League-leading average to .346. McHugh (6-6) allowed four hits and walked four, striking out 10 to win for the first time in eight starts since his last victory on May 30. Carlos Gomez added his second career grand slam in the seventh inning off Nathan Karns to put the Astros up 8-0. Kyle Seager singled home Seattle's only run in the eighth off Chris Devenski. Mike Montgomery (3-4), making his second start this season after 30 relief appearances, allowed four runs and seven hits in five innings, walking two and striking out seven.

BLUE JAYS 5, ATHLETICS 3

Josh Donaldson hit a tiebreaking two-run double with two outs in the ninth against his former team and Toronto avoided a three-game sweep. Troy Tulowitzki homered while Russell Martin and Justin Smoak added two hits apiece for the Blue Jays. Donaldson, traded from Oakland to Toronto prior to the 2015 season, also singled and scored in the first inning. Marcus Semien homered for the A's. Smoak and Junior Lake hit consecutive one-out singles off John Axford (3-3) in

the ninth. Devon Travis struck out looking before Donaldson lined a 2-1 pitch down the left field line to drive in pinch-runner Andy Burns and Lake. Jason Grilli (3-1) retired three batters for the win. Roberto Osuna pitched the ninth for his 19th save.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, DODGERS 5

Robbie Ray pitched seven scoreless innings, Jake Lamb hit his 21st home run and Arizona held on to beat Los Angeles. The Dodgers had runners at first and third with one out in the ninth when rookie Jake Barrett struck out Yasiel Puig and Chris Taylor to earn his second save. Ray (5-8) gave up four hits, struck out seven, walked two and hit two batters. The left-hander worked out of a bases-loaded, no-out jam in the second inning and left with a 6-0 lead. Lamb hit a solo homer and singled in a run off Kenta Maeda (8-7), tagged for a season-worst five runs on seven hits in 4 1/3 innings starts.

PADRES 5, GIANTS 3

Edwin Jackson held San Francisco hitless until Conor Gillaspie's three-run homer with one out in the seventh inning, and San Diego held off the Giants for its first sweep of the season. Jackson, making his first start since 2014, and three relievers combined on a two-hitter against the Giants, who despite losing three straight still have the best record in the majors at 57-36. San Diego remains the only big league team without a no-hitter, having played 7,582 games without one since starting out in 1969. After striking out Brandon Crawford to open the seventh, Jackson bobbled Gregor Blanco's grounder for an error and then walked Ramiro Pena before Gillaspie connected. That cut the Padres' lead to 4-3. Jackson (1-1) was then pulled. He walked five and struck out four. He pitched a no-hitter in 2010 for Arizona. All-Star starter Johnny Cueto (13-2) took his first loss since April 21. He had three straight complete-game victories against the Padres this season coming into Sunday. — AP



NEW YORK: New York Yankees Chase Headley breaks his bat grounding out during the seventh inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox on Sunday, in New York. — AP

MLB results/standings

Detroit 4, Kansas City 2; Tampa Bay 5, Baltimore 2; Cincinnati 1, Milwaukee 0; Atlanta 1, Colorado 0; NY Mets 5, Philadelphia 0; Pittsburgh 2, Washington 1 (18 innings); Cleveland 6, Minnesota 1; Miami 6, St. Louis 3; Texas 4, Chicago Cubs 1; LA Angels 8, Chicago White Sox 1; Toronto 5, Oakland 3; Houston 8, Seattle 1; Arizona 6, LA Dodgers 5; San Diego 5, San Francisco 3; NY Yankees 3, Boston 1.

American League

Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Baltimore	53	37	.589	-
Boston	51	39	.567	2
Toronto	52	42	.553	3
NY Yankees	45	46	.495	8.5
Tampa Bay	35	56	.385	18.5
Central Division				
Cleveland	54	37	.593	-
Detroit	48	44	.522	6.5
Kansas City	46	45	.505	8
Chicago White Sox	45	46	.495	9
Minnesota	33	58	.363	21
Western Division				
Texas	55	38	.591	-
Houston	50	42	.543	4.5
Seattle	46	46	.500	8.5
LA Angels	40	52	.435	14.5
Oakland	40	52	.435	14.5

National League

Eastern Division				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Washington	56	37	.602	-
Miami	49	42	.538	6
NY Mets	49	42	.538	6
Philadelphia	43	50	.462	13
Atlanta	32	60	.348	23.5
Central Division				
Chicago Cubs	55	36	.604	-
St. Louis	47	44	.516	8
Pittsburgh	47	45	.511	8.5
Milwaukee	39	51	.433	15.5
Cincinnati	34	58	.370	21.5
Western Division				
San Francisco	57	36	.613	-
LA Dodgers	52	42	.553	5.5
Colorado	42	49	.462	14
San Diego	41	51	.446	15.5
Arizona	40	53	.430	17

INDIA'S TOP COURT BARS MINISTERS, BUREAUCRATS FROM BCCI

NEW DELHI: India's top court has barred ministers and bureaucrats from holding posts in the country's cricket board (BCCI) as part of administrative reforms in the world's richest national cricket body.

The Supreme Court yesterday accepted most of the recommenda-

tions of the Lodha Committee, a three-member panel it had appointed to look into the functioning of the BCCI which is perceived as a cash-rich but opaque body run by politicians and businessmen.

In their report, submitted in January, former chief justice of India

RM Lodha and two of his colleagues recommended age and tenure restrictions for top officials and cooling off period between successive terms for top officials among others.

"We allow most of the recommendations of the Justice Lodha panel on administrative changes in the BCCI," a

two-judge division bench of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice of India Tirath Singh Thakur and Justice F.M.I. Kalifulla, said in their order.

"Nobody above the age of 70 will be office bearer of the BCCI. A person cannot be simultaneously an office-bearer in the state cricket association

as well as in the BCCI." In other recommendations, all of which would have to be implemented within six months by the BCCI, the panel wanted the board to be brought under the Right to Information Act which would allow citizens to access information held by the board. — Reuters

TUNISIA'S MELLOULI AIMS FOR ONE LAST MEDAL IN RIO

TUNIS: Tunisia's most decorated sportsman Oussama Mellouli will go the Olympics for the fifth time in Rio de Janeiro at the end of a roller coaster swimming career of gold medals and a drug ban. A two-time gold medalist and the first African man to win an Olympic swimming gold, Mellouli, 32, said he is "calm" and "optimistic" that he can win one last medal.

"With the Olympics, I'm going to do something I know well. For the young ones, it will be different," he said. "Eat, swim, sleep, repeat—that's the rhythm of an athlete. You shouldn't think of anything but that."

After competing in Sydney in 2000 and Athens in 2004, Mellouli won the 1,500 metres title at the 2008 Beijing Games. He made African history just three months after returning from an 18-month ban after testing positive for a stimulant in late 2006. Mellouli said it was a substance to help stay awake while studying. He lost two world titles because of the ban.

Four years later at the London Olympics, he snatched a bronze in 1,500m. And despite a virus that left him vomiting in his hotel room just days before the 10-kilometre swimming marathon, he headed to the Serpentine lake in Hyde Park determined to compete. Under blazing sun, he beat Germany's Thomas Lurz to gold in a time of 1hr 49min 55.1sec. That made him the first swimmer to win Olympic golds in both pool and open water competitions.

'ATHLETES ARE DREAMERS'

"Ninety-nine percent of athletes are dreamers," he said. "From the moment the dream is in our spirit, we strive for it. For me, it's been like that since I was 16," said Mellouli, who comes from La Marsa on the coast near Tunis. Mellouli had to think seriously, including in a six month retreat, before launching into this Olympic campaign. He said he wants to accomplish his Olympic dream for his family, particularly his mother Khadija, and the people who have accompanied

him throughout his career. "In Tunis, Marseille, Font-Romeu, in the United States—I've had the chance to work with exceptional people who have pushed me to win these prizes," he said.

Despite his previous victories, he has not yet decided whether to compete in the pool or just focus on the marathon—just the third in the history of the Games.

"The 1,500 metres is three days before the 10 kilometres. Competing could affect my freshness," he said. Mellouli has mostly trained in California for the last 15 years, but keeps strong ties to Tunisia.

Dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali made much of Mellouli's success, and the swimmer was accused of being close to the regime. It was a perception Mellouli was keen to shake off when the regime fell in 2011. Sitting in a hotel on Bourguiba Square where many of Tunisia's early Arab Spring demonstrations took place, he told AFP he saw his victory in London 2012 as his "redemption." "I was the only really popular athlete under Ben Ali, and I talk about it openly. Winning another gold medal in 2012, for the Tunisian revolution, was a very important moment in my career," he said.

'EXTRAORDINARY THINGS'

From the United States, Mellouli follows closely the tortuous progress of Tunisia's young democracy, which has been threatened by a series of jihadist attacks. "Before, it was our family that used to worry about us when we were away. Now, it's we who are worried for them," he said. But he added: "Even if there are sacrifices to make, and difficult choices, we're proud of this democracy." As at the Beijing in 2008, Mellouli will carry the Tunisian flag at the opening ceremony. And when the Games are over, he has ideas for Tunisian sport. He wants to instill in youth the idea that "if you dream big and you work hard, you can get there." "Some people say that that's an American or a French slogan, it's not for us in Tunisia, he said. "But for me, I think Tunisians can do extraordinary things." —AFP



TORONTO: Journalists look over a report on allegations of a state-backed doping conspiracy involving the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, yesterday, in Toronto.—AP

RUSSIA ASSAILED IN REPORT FOR DOPING PROGRAM BEYOND SOCHI

MONTREAL: The tactics Russia's government and sports leaders used to help their Olympic athletes get away with doping now have a name: "disappearing positive methodology."

The practice lasted at least four years, covered 28 Olympic sports and the Paralympics and involved at least 312 positive tests that went unreported at the behest of higher-ups in the country's sports ministry, according to a 97-page report issued yesterday.

"A mind-blowing level of corruption within both Russian sport and government," is what Travis Tygart, the CEO of the US Anti-Doping Agency, called it.

But in his report on Russian doping, arbitrator Richard McLaren did not make any recommendations for the future of the Russian team at the Rio Olympics. He said it was up to others, including the International Olympic Committee, to "absorb and act upon" the report.

IOC President Thomas Bach called the revelations a "shocking and unprecedented attack on the integrity of sports and on the Olympic Games" and said the IOC wouldn't hesitate to apply the toughest sanctions available against those accused of cheating. The IOC executive board will meet Tuesday to begin sorting through options.

McLaren's report said allegations made by Moscow's former anti-doping lab director about sample switching at the Sochi Olympics went much as described in a New York Times story in May. That program involved dark-of-night switching of dirty samples with clean ones; it prevented Russian athletes, including more than a dozen medal winners, from testing positive.

But McLaren said the bottle tampering in Sochi was a one-shot deal.

RESULTS HELD BACK

Meanwhile, Russia's "disappearing positive methodology" began in 2011, shortly after Russia's disappointing performance at the Vancouver Olympics. It included the 2013 track

world championships in Moscow and was in place as recently as the 2015 swimming world championships in Kazan.

In short, Russia's deputy minister of sports, who was also part of Russia's Olympic Committee, would direct workers at Moscow's anti-doping laboratory of which positive sam-



MOSCOW: In this Wednesday, Oct 21, 2015 file photo, International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach speaks at the World Olympians Forum in Moscow, Russia. Yesterday, WADA investigator Richard McLaren confirmed claims of state-run doping in Russia. — AP

ples to send through and which to hold back. Assisting the plan was Russia's national security service - the FSB, the current version of the Soviet Union's KGB.

McLaren said out of 577 positive sample screenings, 312 positive results were held back or labeled "Save" by the lab workers - but that was only a "small slice" of the data that could have been examined. More than 240 of the 312

"Saves" came from track and field and wrestling, but other sports involved included swimming, rowing, snowboarding - and even table tennis.

McLaren suggested the numbers could have been higher, but he had only 57 days for his investigation, which was commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency after the Times story came out. Time is crucial because the Olympics begin Aug. 5, and decisions about Russia's participation in Rio must be made.

The US Anti-Doping Agency is one of several sports organizations that said it would call for a full ban of the Russian team if the report showed evidence of a widespread, state-sponsored doping conspiracy. McLaren's report said it did, and the investigator said he was "unwaveringly confident in my report."

He insisted there was no leak of his report, as several sports organizations suggested over the weekend, when draft letters calling for Russia's ban were leaked to the media.

CLEAN ATHLETES

US Olympic Committee CEO Scott Blackmun said the report proved a point he'd made earlier this summer.

"The current anti-doping system is broken and urgently requires the attention of everyone interested in protecting clean athletes," he said.

He was relying on the IOC and international sports federations to figure out appropriate sanctions. But there is far from a consensus on what those sanctions will be, as the sports world toes the line between what Bach called "collective responsibility and individual justice."

Among those not in favor of a full Russian ban was the head of gymnastics - a sport that was not among the 28 with non-reported positives. "The right to participate at the games cannot be stolen from an athlete, who has duly qualified and has not be found guilty of doping," said Bruno Grandi, president of gymnastics' international federation. "Blanket bans have never been and will never be just." — AP

AUSTRALIA'S MCEVOY DROPS 200M FREESTYLE AT RIO

SYDNEY: Australia's highly-rated Cameron McEvoy said yesterday he will drop the 200-metre freestyle from his swimming programme at next month's Rio Olympics to be fresher for the relays.

McEvoy, ranked sixth in the world in the event this year, said he made his decision after consultation with his coach Richard Scarce and national head coach Jacco Verhaar.

He had planned to swim in six disciplines in Brazil—the 50m, 100m, 200m freestyle and the three relays.

"It's been a decision that Richard (Scarce) and I have spent a lot of time thinking about," McEvoy said.

"It wasn't an easy decision to make, especially seeing I have been doing the 200m freestyle internationally for so long and it has been one of my favourite and main events for my entire swimming career."

McEvoy said he reached his decision

before leaving for a US training camp in Auburn, Alabama, last Friday.

"We have had to take a step back and look at the bigger picture of the entire week and remember that I am only human and that I do have my limitations," he added.

"If the programme was more like the world championship years then I am sure I would not be pulling out of the 200m free. Unfortunately it's not and it is on the same day as the 4x100m freestyle relay and the 4x200m is the same day as the 100m freestyle."

McEvoy said he would now be fresher for the 4x100m freestyle heats on the second day of competition and on day four for the 4x200m heats.

David McKeon, who finished third to dead-heaters McEvoy and Thomas Fraser Holmes in the event at the national trials, will take McEvoy's spot in the individual 200m freestyle at Rio. —AFP



BEIJING: In this Wednesday, June 29, 2016 file photo, models pose in Chinese team uniforms for different sports during an event to unveil the official Team China 2016 Rio Olympics team uniforms at the Water Cube in Beijing. —AP

JEPTOO'S EX-AGENT, COACH APPEAR IN SEPARATE COURTS

NAIROBI: The former agent and coach of banned marathon champion Rita Jeptoo appeared in separate Kenyan courts yesterday and were both released on bail as police continue to investigate them for involvement in doping. Agent Federico Rosa was charged last week with six counts related to administering banned substances to two athletes: Jeptoo and a little-known runner named Elijah Kiprono Boit. The Italian national denied the charges and was released on Monday on \$5,000 bail.

Jeptoo was the top female marathon runner in the world and a three-time Boston Marathon and two-time Chicago Marathon champion when it was announced she failed an out-of-competition test for the blood-booster EPO in late 2014. Court documents in Rosa's case allege he conspired with others to administer a prohibited substance to Jeptoo on several occasions in August and September 2014.

Jeptoo was banned for two years and is the highest profile of at least 40 Kenyan athletes to fail doping tests and be banned since the last Olympics in 2012. Her case has gone to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, with the IAAF seeking a sterner punishment than the two-year ban handed down to her by Kenyan authorities.

Rosa, who still represents other top Kenyan athletes, had his passport withheld when he was released on bail. The judge said he would release Rosa's travel documents if the agent could prove his claim that he represented 10 Kenyan athletes who were due to compete at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics. Rosa said he needed to travel to Europe and then the Olympics to conduct business. Rosa is the agent for, among others, three-time 1,500-meter world champion Asbel Kiprop, marathon runners Jemimah Sumgong and Stanley Biwott, and former 800-meter world champion Eunice Sum. None of those athletes have been implicated in the case, and some have spoken out in defense of Rosa, saying he is being targeted as a scapegoat for Kenya's long-running doping problems.

In a twist, marathoner Mathew Kisorio, an athlete Rosa previously represented who was banned for doping, said last week in an affidavit presented to the court that he was "pressurized by some people to falsely incriminate" Rosa in doping. Jeptoo's former coach, Claudio Berardelli, who is also Italian, has not been formally charged but is being investigated alongside five Kenyan men for conspiracy to help athletes take banned substances.

Berardelli previously coached Jeptoo, Kisorio, and 800-meter runner Agatha Jeruto, who were all banned for doping. Berardelli also previously worked for Rosa's athlete management company but the relationship ended after those three runners he trained failed tests. On Monday, Berardelli was also released on \$5,000 bail as a judge at a sepa-

rate court gave police and prosecutors more time to investigate. Three of the five Kenyan men facing doping charges alongside Berardelli were accused in a recent undercover operation by British newspaper The Sunday Times and German broadcaster ARD of providing and administering EPO to foreign athletes training in Kenya. — AP



NAIROBI: Italian coach Claudio Berardelli, foreground, leaves the Kenya Mililani Court, yesterday. The former agent and coach of banned marathon champion Rita Jeptoo appeared in separate Kenyan courts yesterday and were both released on bail as police continue to investigate them for alleged involvement in doping. —AP



MONACO: (COMBO) This combination of file pictures created yesterday shows (from L) Germany's goalkeeper Manuel Neuer, Argentina's forward Lionel Messi, Wales's midfielder Gareth Bale, Barcelona's Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez, Real Madrid's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo, Germany's midfielder Toni Kroos, Italy's goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon, Germany's midfielder Thomas Mueller and Portugal's defender Pepe. The 10 players were selected by journalists from each of UEFA's 55 members associations who will vote for a second time on August 5 to determine the three finalists. The winner of the award will be announced in Monaco on August 25 when the draw for the Champions League group stage is made. — AFP

JUVE TO BREAK BANK FOR HIGUAIN: REPORT

MILAN: Italian champions Juventus are set to pay a hefty 94.7 million euros (\$105m) release clause in Gonzalo Higuain's contract with Napoli to lure the Argentina star to Turin, reports claimed yesterday.

Higuain joined Napoli for 40 million euros from Real Madrid in 2013 and has since gone on to become one of the most exciting, and bankable stars in Italy's top flight.

The 28-year-old centre-forward hit a stunning 36 goals last season to break Gunnar Nordahl's 66-year-old record of 35 goals for AC

Milan in a 20-team season, which he achieved in 1950. Now the Argentina star is set to break Napoli hearts by joining their bitter, northern rivals in a deal that could see Juventus offer several players and pay the massive release clause to Napoli to secure Higuain's services.

According to widespread reports in the Italian media, Higuain has personally agreed to the move.

Talks between both clubs were expected to begin on Monday and although they may continue for some time, Juventus are set to pull

out all the stops in a bid to secure Higuain.

La Gazzetta dello Sport said Juventus are willing to offer striker Simone Zaza and defender Daniele Rugani as part of the deal.

If Higuain were to join Juventus, Napoli would then focus on replacing him with either Mauro Icardi (Inter Milan), Alvaro Morata (Real Madrid) or Nikola Kalinic (Fiorentina), said the report. Napoli have maintained in recent weeks that Higuain is not for sale, the club's vice-president Edoardo De Laurentis—the son of club owner Aurelio—even telling worried

fans on Sunday to "sleep tight" when asked about Higuain's possible departure.

But a front page headline in Gazzetta dello Sport warned Napoli fans it was "Higuain Day" and that Juventus would be "launching an assault" in a bid to close the deal.

At Juventus, Higuain would join up with fellow Argentina international striker Paulo Dybala, forming a formidable duo that would likely strike fear into the hearts of Serie A defenses before a ball is kicked in anger.

While Higuain hit 36 league goals in 2015-

2016, Dybala finished Serie A's second-highest scorer on 19.

Dybala also followed Higuain on the social media platform Instagram last weekend, fuelling speculation the Napoli striker is set to quit the southern club two years before his current contract expires.

Juventus claimed their fifth consecutive Serie A title last season with a nine-point cushion on Napoli, who will feature in next season's Champions League. The new Serie A season starts on August 20. —AFP

RUSSIA'S ALFA BANK IS FIRST REGIONAL WORLD CUP SPONSOR

ZURICH: FIFA, which has struggled to find commercial partners since it was battered by a corruption scandal last year, named a Russian bank as the first of up to 20 regional World Cup sponsors yesterday. The global soccer body said Alfa Bank would "activate sponsorship initiatives" around the 2018 World Cup, which is being hosted by Russia, although it did not say how much the deal is worth.



MOSCOW: FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura signs an official FIFA tournament ball during a news conference in Moscow, Russia, yesterday, during the FIFA sponsorship event with Russian Alfa Bank. — AP

FIFA said that under a new commercial strategy for the World Cup, up to four packages were being offered for regional sponsors in each of five regions it listed as Europe,

North America, South America, Middle East and Africa, and Asia. FIFA was thrown into turmoil last year after criminal investigations were launched into the sport in the United States, where several dozen former soccer officials have been indicted, and Switzerland.

It was also forced to reform its bidding process after a December 2010 vote awarded the 2018 and 2022 tournaments to Russia and Qatar respectively. Gianni Infantino was elected to the FIFA presidency in February after promising greater funding for FIFA's 211 member associations during his campaign.

He said increasing sponsorship revenue would be a priority for his presidency. FIFA sources have said the federation faces a shortfall of about \$500 million in its predictions if it fails to reach sponsorship revenue targets and Infantino's rivals in the election said his targets were unrealistic. FIFA's commercial structure allows for six to eight top tier partners, of which China's Wanda Group became the sixth when they signed a deal in March. Previously, Sony and Emirates had both left at the end of 2014 after their agreements expired. These are followed by six to eight World Cup sponsors, although only two of these slots are currently filled. The regional World Cup sponsors are a further tier below, having replaced the old system of national sponsors from the host nation. —Reuters



SHANGHAI: This photo taken on Sunday shows Demba Ba of Shanghai Shenhua reacting moments after breaking his leg during the 17th round football match of the Chinese Super League against Shanghai SIPG in Shanghai. Former Chelsea striker Demba Ba suffered a horror broken leg in the Shanghai derby at the weekend, with his coach warning the injury could end the 31-year-old's playing career. — AFP

BA'S HORROR LEG-BREAK 'COULD END CAREER'

SHANGHAI: Former Chelsea striker Demba Ba's career could be over after the 31-year-old suffered a horrific broken leg in the Shanghai derby at the weekend.

The Senegalese marksman tangled with SIPG defender and captain Sun Xiang in the 63rd minute of his side's 2-1 Chinese Super League victory. As the pair fell, Ba's left leg was caught between the turf and his opponent's boot, bending at a sickening angle and then appearing to snap gruesomely below the knee.

Shenhua's medical team raced on to the pitch without waiting for the referee's signal and the match was stopped for eight minutes while the Chinese Super League's top scorer, with 14 goals, was treated on the pitch before being taken to hospital. Speaking after the match, a visibly shaken Shenhua coach Gregorio Manzano said the incident was potentially career-ending. "In my 33 years as a coach I have won, drawn and lost games, but today is the most bitter victory because what happened to Demba Ba is what no one ever wants to see," Manzano said.

"Football is unfair sometimes to let such a terrible thing happen to such a good man. That could end a player's career."

Shenhua, who won the match 2-1, described the injury as a broken leg and said the incident for which Sun was not booked was "unfortunate" in a statement released on Monday.

Manzano told local media that Ba, who also played for Newcastle and West Ham in England, would be out for at least seven months. "If I can choose, I'd rather lose the match than lose Demba Ba," Manzano told the Shanghai Daily newspaper.

TEMPESTUOUS DERBY

SIPG's coach, the former England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson, expressed sympathy, according to Shanghai Daily, saying: "It was a bad injury. I'm very sorry for Ba."

Ba's former club Chelsea posted a message of support on their official Twitter feed. "All at Chelsea FC send our best wishes to former striker @dembabafoot. Get well soon Demba," it said.

The incident took the gloss off a pulsating and tempestuous Shanghai derby watched by more than 24,000 fans that saw 10 yellow and two red cards as both sides finished with 10

men. Chinese international forward Wu Lei put SIPG ahead in the 55th minute with a stunning strike from outside the box.

Shanghai-born playmaker Cao Yunding equalised for Shenhua with just three minutes of the 90 left, before a Freddy Guarin penalty five minutes into added time sealed a dramatic 2-1 win for the home side.

Elsewhere big-spending Jiangsu Suning lost

3-0 away to newly-promoted Yanbian Fude in the shock result of the Chinese Super League weekend action.

And a late double from Chinese international midfielder Zheng Long in the last 10 minutes saw Luiz Felipe Scolari's table-topping Guangzhou Evergrande beat Changchun Yatai 2-1 away from home to extend their lead over second place Suning to 13 points. —AFP

SIZE NOT BIG ISSUE FOR LEICESTER NEW BOY MUSA

LONDON: Leicester's record signing Ahmed Musa admits the best decision he ever made was giving up goalkeeping to become a striker so feared that he is looking to make an immediate impact on the Premier League.

The 23-year-old Nigeria international moved to the King Power Stadium for £16.5 million (19.7 million euros) from CSKA Moscow earlier this month and, having given up his goalkeeping ambitions as a schoolboy because of his diminutive stature, the 5ft 7in tall forward has no worries about coping with the physical challenge of the English top flight.

Musa became a striker while still at school when he decided to hang up his goalkeeping gloves. He believes it was a decision that made his career, which has now taken him to England as a short-term understudy and potential longer-term replacement for England striker Jamie Vardy, who is six years his senior. But Musa believes the pair could also operate in tandem. "I was a goalie between 10 and 12," he revealed. "But changing was the best decision of my life because I would never have been good enough to become a professional goalkeeper. "It was difficult at first but then you get used to the fact you are not very big. A lot of people used to tell me 'Musa, you are too small to be a striker'.

"But I said: 'It doesn't matter what size you are, it's what you can do that matters.' I think I am like Jamie Vardy. I have speed, I like to work hard, we are similar in lots of things. "Am I faster? I can't say yet, I have never played with him. But I am looking forward to finding out!

"I'm looking forward to playing with Vardy. I like his style. I think we can fit well together. "I think this is the right time for me to join Leicester. Last season, they were going after the title.

"This time we are starting afresh—that's why I chose to join them this season. "I'm from Nigeria and all Nigerian players would like to play in the Premier League. I think this will be a good league for me." Musa also admits he has been stunned by the Leicester work ethic in pre-season training.

"When I started my first session I was thinking 'wow,'" said Musa. "Because I have never seen that in Russia—but now I am getting used to it. "The intensity here is quite different to Russia. Here it is a little bit harder, in Russia they are more laid back.

"I think that is the most difficult thing, but I think that is the secret behind Leicester's success. "Everyone is focussed and everyone is happy with each other. That's the biggest secret—if you're all happy with each other you can achieve a lot." — AFP

FROOME'S SUFFOCATING GRIP ON TOUR TIGHTENING

MOIRANS-EN-MONTAGNE: A feeling of anti-climax is settling over the Tour de France as the world's greatest bike race heads for Switzerland yesterday.

The anticipated battle between reigning champion Chris Froome and his arch rival Nairo Quintana has been something of a damp squib so far. Froome took control of the race with a daring solo escape on a descent on stage 7 and since then has been eking out his lead, most notably in a strong time-trial performance last Friday.

He has a 1min 47sec advantage over second-placed Bauke Mollema but perhaps more significantly, leads fourth-placed Quintana by 2:59. The diminutive Colombian has been a disappointment this year, failing to shine in the numerous mountain stages so far.

Widely regarded as the best climber in the world, Quintana has failed to put in a single attack of note and even struggled on last Thursday's climb up Mont Ventoux, losing time to Froome, Mollema and Australia's Richie Porte. His Movistar team and even Froome insist that the imminent counter-attack will begin in the Alps.

But there has been a worrying trend for those seeking drama and excitement in this race, and that's been the outright domination of Froome's Sky team. Third-placed Briton Adam Yates says attacking the Sky-led peloton, particularly in the mountains, is an exercise in futility. "With Sky riding such a hard tempo there's not much you

can do," he said. "As soon as there's an attack, they (the attackers) gain a few seconds and then start going backwards."

Yates, currently the highest-placed young rider, says the only way to make an impression would be to try something audacious. "Maybe you have to attack earlier or get in the breakaway because Sky are looking untouchable," he added.

Quintana's Spanish team-mate Alejandro Valverde claims Movistar will go on the attack following Tuesday's rest day, although he admitted they could do nothing on Sunday's tough stage with six categorised climbs. "We're going to try to do our best in the coming week. We're definitely going to try something," he said after the 15th stage. "I think people are expecting more fire and fight from us. We will fight in the coming stages but not today (Sunday)."

Monday's 16th stage will suit either a breakaway or, if their teams are determined enough to reel in the escapees, a sprint finish. The 207km course from Moirans-en-Montagne to Berne in Switzerland is mountainous without having any difficult climbs.

But the incline on the sprint finish could favour a specialist 'puncher' rather than a pure out-and-out sprinter. Following today's rest day, the key period begins with four mountainous stages, including an uphill 17km time-trial, back-to-back. If the race doesn't explode into life then, it never will. —AFP



BERNE: Great Britain's Christopher Froome (R), wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, take the start of the of the 209 km sixteenth stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Moirans-en-Montagne and Berne. — AFP

Sports

Kuwait defeat
Malaysia 4-1
in Davis Cup

15

Russia assailed in
report for doping
program beyond
Sochi

18

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016

NADIA STILL TURNING HEADS 40 YEARS ON FROM PERFECT 10

Page 16



PORTLAND: Croatia's Ivan Dodig, right, and Marin Cilic react during a win over Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan, of the United States, in a Davis Cup tennis match, in Portland, Ore. Dodig and Cilic won 6-2, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4. — AP

CROATIA RALLIES TO STUN US 3-2 IN PORTLAND

PORTLAND: The odds stacked against his underdog side, Croatian captain Zeljko Krajan was brimming with confidence Sunday morning before the reverse singles matches in the Davis Cup quarterfinal tie against United States.

Marin Cilic and Borna Coric backed up their captain's belief in a stirring rally, winning matches to give Croatia a 3-2 comeback victory at the Tualatin Hills hard courts. "Today, I knew they were going to bring the quality," Krajan said. Cilic got in started, beating John Isner 7-6 (11-9), 6-3, 6-4. Coric then topped Jack Sock 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The US lost for the fourth time in 161 tries when leading 2-0 lead in a Davis Cup tie. After the United States swept the singles matches Friday, Cilic and Ivan Dodig kept Croatia alive Saturday with a four-set victory over twins Bob and Mike Bryan in doubles.

"It's really unbelievable," Krajan said. "I would say shocked from this win. Looking back on Friday and being 2-love down and then playing against the Bryans yesterday, it didn't look

very positive for us."

Croatia will host France - a 3-1 winner at the Czech Republic - in the World Group semifinals Sept. 16-18. Croatia reached the semifinals for the first time since 2009. It won its only Davis Cup title in 2005.

In the other semifinal, defending champion Britain will host Argentina. Cilic set the tone for the comeback against Isner, a decision that was closer than the score indicated. Cilic won a marathon tiebreaker in the opening set, then broke Isner's serve once in the next two sets to pull out the win. The opening set was riveting. Isner was hot, allowing Cilic to win only one point during his first 25 serves. But the American was unable to break Cilic, forcing a tiebreaker. Cilic won a couple points off Isner's serve late in the tiebreaker to pull out an 11-9 win, setting off a torrent of emotion along the Croatia sideline.

"That was definitely a tough task, but I stayed in there mentally," Cilic said. "I was very, very focused." Isner was clearly

disappointed he didn't get the jump on Cilic. "The first set was critical. Felt like I definitely was the better player in the first set. Didn't get paid off, but that's on me. He came up with the goods when he needed it. That gave him a lot of confidence, I think," Isner said. US captain Jim Courier disagreed that momentum swayed in Croatia's favor after Cilic pulled out the first set. "That's not the way we look at it. First sets can be critical ... these matches are won on small margins. There are a couple points that go our way, and we're sitting here with a smile on our face instead of a little disappointment," Courier said.

Unlike Friday's first singles match, when Cilic lost after leading Sock by two sets, the world's No. 12-ranked player finished off Isner by breaking him in the ninth game to pull out a 6-4 win.

Cilic is 6-0 against Isner.

The 19-year-old Coric is becoming a reliable closer for

Croatia. It was the second time this year Coric won a fifth and deciding match to win a Davis Cup tie. "I have to be honest. I like that kind of situation," Coric said. "I like it more than playing on Court 27 somewhere, somewhere far away from the crowd. I just like the big stage more, when it's more important."

After splitting the first two sets against Sock, Coric won the final two sets by breaking the American's serves four times. Coric's performance was decidedly stronger than his three-set loss to Isner on Friday. "I was much more relaxed," Coric said. "I was hitting the ball, going for the points. I just wasn't waiting for him to miss, because I knew I cannot play like that because he's going to kill me with the forehand." Sock, who beat Cilic in a five-setter Friday, was upbeat despite dropping the finale. "Obviously, I had chances and opportunities that I didn't convert. That's tennis. Some days it's firing and some days they're missing a little bit. He played a great match," Sock said. Croatia is 4-0 in Davis Cup ties against the United States. — AP



Ivo Karlovic

IVO KARLOVIC OUTLASTS MULLER AT HALL OF FAME

NEWPORT: Ivo Karlovic charged the net, put his backhand shot over and knew he finally won the Hall of Fame Tennis Championships. The second-seeded Karlovic, from Croatia, beat third-seeded Gilles Muller of Luxembourg 6 7 (2), 7-6 (5), 7-6 (12) on Sunday in the longest deciding tiebreaker in the Open Era. The 37-year-old Karlovic lost in the final on Newport's grass courts the previous two years. It was his sixth career ATP title.

He's the oldest to win an ATP event since Marty Riessen captured the title at Lafayette, Louisiana, at 37 years, 9 months in 1979. Karlovic turned 37 four months ago. "I was able to put it over the net and there was a lot of joy after

all these years I was losing in the finals," he said. "I was finally able to do it. I was down to match point. That makes it even nicer." Karlovic fought off three match points and won it on his fifth match point, ending the final after two hours, 56 minutes.

The 6-foot-11 Karlovic raised both arms in triumph, turned and blew kisses to the fans in his player's box behind the baseline. "It's awesome because when you lose like this in the last two years, you are down to match point, thoughts come into your head," Karlovic said. "It was that much nicer."

After losing the first set tiebreaker, he took a 6-5 edge in the second

tiebreaker when Muller appeared to give up slightly on Karlovic's overhead lob that feel inside the baseline.

Karlovic then won the second set with a forehand winner. Muller smashed his racket in frustration during the changeover. In the third tiebreaker, both players came up with big shots before Muller hit a forehand long from close to the net, setting up the final point. "I don't think I did that much wrong," Muller said.

"I think Ivo played great on all the match points. He served great. I won a couple of matches in the last few weeks where I was the lucky one, I wasn't the lucky one."

Muller, 33, was looking for his first career ATP title. "If I look back to the beginning of the week, I think, yeah, I would have been lucky with making the final," he said. "Right now, it's just too close."

The tourney is played on the grounds of the International Tennis Hall of Fame and is held in conjunction with induction ceremonies. Marat Safin and Justine Henin headed the 2016 class that was enshrined Saturday with the semifinals. The Open Era began in 1968, when the Grand Slam events allowed professional players to compete with amateurs. — AP

MURRAY OUT OF TORONTO AFTER WIMBLEDON WIN

MONTREAL: Reigning champion Andy Murray, fresh from capturing his second Wimbledon title earlier this month, has withdrawn from next week's Toronto Masters, Tennis Canada announced yesterday.

Briton Murray, the world number two, said his body simply needs more rest after his grass-court championship run.

"My body needs some recovery time after reaching the latter stages of tournaments over the past few months," Murray said. "I'm sorry to my fans in Toronto but I look forward to being back in Canada next year."

The three-time Toronto winner, who also won Grand Slam titles in 2012 at the US Open and 2013 at Wimbledon, had not missed the event since his 2006 debut.

"Certainly we are disappointed," tournament director Karl Hale said. "Andy is one of the very top players in the world and a fan favourite. He will be missed but we wish him continued success."

Meanwhile, fifth-ranked Simona Halep on the women's side and No. 7 Milos Raonic for the men announced their decisions after their names were listed on the International Tennis Federation's roster for next month's Summer Games.

"After several talks with doctors and my family, I concluded that the risks are too high for my career and for my health, especially as a woman," the 24-year-old Halep, the 2014 French Open runner-up from Romania, posted on Facebook. "Family is much too important for me and I can't risk not being able to have one of my own after my career in tennis is over."

Raonic, a 25-year-old Canadian who made his first major final at Wimbledon this month, said in a statement that "I am making this decision for a variety of health concerns including the uncertainty around the Zika virus."

Unlike golf, most of the world's biggest tennis stars plan to go to Rio. On the women's side, 18 of the top 20 in the rankings are slated to play, along with 13 of the top 15 men — Agencies

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2016

Japan-based loan adds to Qatar banks' foreign borrowing spree
Page 22

After Brexit, ordinary Britons warm to gold as 'safe haven'
Page 23



SoftBank to purchase leading chip designer ARM for \$32 billion
Page 26

123,000 VENEZUELANAS CROSS BORDER TO SHOP FOR FOOD

Page 23



FARNBOROUGH: Onlookers watch as a Qatar Airways Boeing 787 Dreamliner lands during an aerial display at the Farnborough International Airshow, in Farnborough, England. The state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corp of China, known as Comac, announced plans this week at Farnborough airshow 2016, for a wide-body aircraft to be built with state-owned Russian maker United Aircraft Corporation, striking at the heart of the market leaders Airbus and Boeing. — AP

UK AEROSPACE PUTS BRAVE FACE ON BREXIT

BREXIT POSES RISKS TO INVESTMENT, ACCESS TO SKILLS

FARNBOROUGH: With UK factories working at full tilt to meet bumper demand for aeroplanes, aerospace executives have been quick to brush aside fears of any imminent threat from Britain's exit from the European Union. The industry is locked into production cycles that can take up to three decades to play out, big customers like Boeing have rallied to support local suppliers and more work is coming Britain's way as the US aerospace giant and its European rival Airbus ramp up output.

That means it could be years before any real impact of the UK's divorce from the European Union becomes clear. For now, many of those attending the Farnborough Airshow this week said they were drawing up lists of what was needed as Britain rethinks its trading relationships. "We will simply get on with it," Warren East, the chief executive of Britain's biggest aerospace company Rolls-Royce, told reporters. The UK's pre-eminence in aerospace, as the biggest player in the world after the United States, is driven by know-how and a record of industrial efficiency built up over decades.

Currently, British suppliers are trying to deal with a surge in business, with output up

39 percent in the last five years, much of it driven by exports. And since the vote to leave the EU on June 23, two big aerospace investors, Boeing and Italy's Leonardo Finmeccanica, which makes helicopters in the UK, have both said they planned to increase their British presence. The concern is that the UK's standing could weaken over time. Although it is the heart of design and production for Airbus passenger jet wings, and its Broughton plant in Wales is one of the group's most efficient facilities, some wings are now equipped in Airbus's Bremen factory in Germany.

Industry executives conceded that Brexit will force them to work harder to win new business, including those crucial new programs at Airbus which might otherwise be awarded to the aerospace giant's industrial bases in France and Germany. "Nothing comes to us naturally, so if the UK is going to succeed in the future, it's got to have the best economics and the best technology," said Marcus Bryson, a former executive at FTSE 100 parts supplier GKN, who was last year named as a lead UK government adviser for aerospace.

Other areas of concern include whether

Britain could risk losing its place at the top table on big aerospace projects if it is locked out of vital research funding and that throwing up new borders will add costs and complexity for companies trying to move goods and people around a global business, making them think twice about new investments in the UK. "We had probably 60 people from the industry at our breakfast event at Farnborough and I think everyone viewed Brexit as pretty disastrous," said Robert Thomson, an aerospace specialist at management consultancy Roland Berger.

Access to skills

Almost a quarter of a million people work in UK aerospace, in around 3,000 companies. France and Germany often get to host final assembly of new aircraft, but a big chunk of the profits come to the UK where many of the complex parts are produced, from fuselages and engines to nacelles and landing gear. Executives say they are talking to government about what will be most important to help secure the industry's future. Bristol-based Boxarr, a supplier of software to Boeing and Airbus, employs 20 people including a

Spaniard and has just hired a French engineer.

"The government need to reassure us about access to skills in the EU because we can't get the skills in this country of the type that we need, particularly engineering and mathematics," said Boxarr CEO Alasdair Pettigrew. Airbus, GKN and Rolls-Royce also said any change to EU freedom of movement rules would be damaging as being able to move teams of engineers easily and quickly around their facilities in different European countries was helpful to efficiency.

Britain's aerospace industry could also get cut out of research and development funding, like the EU's 1.6 billion euro Clean Sky initiative to develop new aviation technologies. For British aerospace trade body ADS, the key issue is one of certification, with the industry needing continued access to the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), the bloc's body for certifying new parts and components. "Delays in certification would be catastrophic for UK industry," said ADS's Chief Economist and Director of Policy Jeegar Kakkad.

Bryson said the government should make capital grants readily accessible to small and medium-sized companies to help them cope

with the uncertainty caused by Brexit. "The natural inclination at the moment is to defer (investment), whereas what you want to do is to incentivize a board to say actually the government has created such a positive environment, we'd be nuts not to," Bryson said. After Britain leaves the EU, it could strike a new trade deal, or alternatively, World Trade Organization (WTO) rules could come into force. WTO rules enforce zero tariffs on aerospace component makers in contrast to finished cars, which are subject to a duty of nearly 10 percent.

The British industry already trades substantially beyond the EU, with non-EU exports accounting for around 69 percent of Britain's total aerospace exports last year, according to official data. Since Britain's vote to leave the EU on June 23, the pound has fallen 14 percent to a 31-year low against the dollar, helping to lift the shares of companies like Rolls-Royce and Meggitt, a Dorset-based FTSE 250 supplier of wheels and brakes for planes which has operations in both Europe and the US. "Brexit is neutral in all regards, expect for currency, which is favourable," Meggitt CEO Stephen Young said. — Reuters

BANK OF AMERICA PROFIT FALLS UNDER WEIGHT OF LOW RATES

NEW YORK: Bank of America Corp reported a 19-percent drop in second-quarter profit yesterday as growth in businesses from lending to trading failed to offset the impact of persistently low interest rates. Like other lenders, the Charlotte, NC-based bank has been struggling under the weight of low rates for years, but analysts say Bank of America is particularly sensitive to the issue because of how management has positioned its balance sheet.

Accounting oddities related to interest rates also dented the bank's profit during the quarter. Net income attributable to BofA's common shareholders fell to \$3.87 billion, or 36 cents per share, in the second quarter ended June 30, from \$4.80 billion, or 43 cents per share, a year earlier. Excluding special items, the bank earned 37 cents per share, beating the average analyst estimate of 33 cents, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. Bank of America's decline in profits mirrored that of other rivals that have reported results so far, including JPMorgan Chase & Co, Wells Fargo & Co and Citigroup Inc.

After keeping rates near-zero for seven years, the US Federal Reserve bumped its target slightly higher last December. But optimism has faded that rates will continue moving upward in the near-term, especially after Britain's shocking vote to leave the European Union. On a conference call with journalists following the report, Chief Financial Officer Paul Donofrio said the bank was doing all it could to blunt the impact of low interest rates. Management is



WASHINGTON: Photo shows a Bank of America branch in Washington, DC. — AFP

keeping a tight lid on expenses and lending more, for instance.

Still, the bank reported a 12-percent decline in net interest income - a measurement of how much a bank can earn by lending and investing its deposits and other funds - showing how difficult it was for BofA to boost earnings as rates fell during the quarter. "Our results were impacted by a significant decline in long-term interest rates," Donofrio said. "We were able to offset some of this impact by focusing on the things that we control and drive, such as growing loans and deposits, managing risk and expenses and delivering for our clients."

Bank of America, the second-largest US bank by assets, was also hurt by its choice some years ago of an accounting method known as FAS 91. The method affects when it can report earnings from the

ups and downs of interest rates, Donofrio said. The method led Bank of America to adjust its income downward by \$1 billion during the quarter. In the year-ago quarter, FAS 91 boosted Bank of America's results. Donofrio said he is considering whether to switch to another accounting method to avoid the earnings volatility it creates.

Separately, the bank also took a \$200 million negative adjustment related to the value of its own debt. Altogether the adjustments hurt earnings by 6 cents per share. In reports immediately following Bank of America's results, analysts said its underlying profit was reasonably strong, given the environment. In a presentation, the bank said net income in each of its four key businesses grew, when stripping out the accounting adjustments and assets it is winding down.

Overall, Bank of America's adjusted revenue of \$20.8 billion topped estimates of \$20.4 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. Trading was particularly strong, as BofA handled high volumes following the vote in Britain, known as Brexit. Adjusted trading revenue rose 12 percent to \$3.7 billion in the quarter. Fixed income, currency and commodities trading revenue rose 22 percent. Bank of America's stock was little changed in premarket trading following the results. Up to Friday's close of \$13.66, Bank of America's shares had fallen about 19 percent since the start of the year. The KBW bank index fell 8 percent over the period. — Reuters

SAUDI BINLADIN SEEKS LOAN EXTENSION AFTER GRAND MOSQUE PAYMENT DELAY

DUBAI: Saudi Binladin Group has asked for an extension on an 817 million riyal (\$217.8 million) Islamic loan that matured last week and which was being used to fund construction on the kingdom's Grand Mosque site, sources aware of the matter said. The request to delay the payment, originally due on July 15, was because the Saudi government had yet to reimburse the construction firm for work carried out on Islam's holiest location, the sources said on condition of anonymity due to the subject's sensitivity.

The company has been hit by government spending cuts and by its suspension from receiving new state contracts since September last year, when a crane accident killed 107 people at the Grand Mosque. Binladin declined to comment. Dubai Islamic Bank, which originally helped arrange the Islamic loan, declined to comment. A spokesman for the Saudi Ministry of Finance couldn't be reached for comment. Binladin has continued work on the mosque renovations, sources said, despite the delays in government payment and a criminal investigation into the incident.

A state-linked newspaper reported last week that engineers and two government officials will face trial over the deaths. The ban on Binladin was lifted in May, although the company still has debt of around \$30 billion, bankers estimate. Binladin, a construction firm started by a Yemeni immigrant in the 1940s, has been tasked with a number of sensitive works over the years by the Saudi authorities, including the current expansion of the Grand Mosque in Makkah, which houses the Kaaba, the structure to which Muslims face while praying.

According to sources, Binladin has 1.071 billion riyals of approved payments on work completed on the project up until December 2015 which are still outstanding. It has filed a further 1.3 billion riyals of claims for work covering the period January-April 2016, for which approval is still needed. In lieu of these receivables being paid, the builder has asked the banks to accept an extension to Aug. 31 on the murabaha facility, a cost-plus-profit arrangement which is compliant with Islamic financing standards. — Reuters

JAPAN-BASED LOAN ADDS TO QATAR BANKS' FOREIGN BORROWING SPREE FOREIGN LIABILITIES OF BANKING SECTOR RISING RAPIDLY

DUBAI: A \$166 million international loan to Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ) is part of a rapid increase in foreign debt at Qatari banks as they raise money to operate in an era of cheap oil.

Fuyo General Lease. Agricultural Bank of China, State Bank of India and Bank of Taiwan also participated. Other Qatari banks have also been opening channels to borrow from Asia.

While the International Monetary Fund calculates Qatar is running an annual current account deficit of about \$9 billion, the assets of its sovereign wealth fund are estimated at over \$250 billion, giving it ample means to sustain its balance of payments position.

"Lower oil and gas revenues have caused public sector deposits in the domestic banking system to shrink, tightening liquidity and driving banks to raise funds abroad," Qatar's Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics said in a report on the economy last month.

The banks are also becoming more dependent on deposits by foreigners. Resident deposits fell 3.5 percent to 542.3 billion riyals in the past 12 months as the government, its finances pressured by lower natural gas revenues, placed less money with the banks; but non-resident deposits more than doubled to 140.2 billion riyals.

In early 2014, the central bank introduced a requirement for banks to limit their lending to 100 percent of deposits by the end of 2017. The deposit side of the ratio includes only customer deposits and not long-term wholesale funds, a top source of funding for banks.

The seven lenders in the deal included Mizuho Bank as sole co-ordinator and bookrunner, as well as Gunma Bank, Shizuoka Bank and

National Bank of Kuwait Financial Markets Daily Report. At 02:00 PM Previous Day. Global Stock Indices table, MENA Stock Indices table, Global Currencies Exchange Rate table, MENA Currencies Exchange Rate table, Global Interest Rates table, Global Bond Yields table, Commodities table.

JAZEERA AIRWAYS RESUMES ITS ISTANBUL OPERATIONS



KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways has resumed normal operations to Istanbul Ataturk Airport with the reopening of the airport Saturday morning, and is continuing to provide support and assistance to Kuwaiti nationals and residents in direct coordination with Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Flights to Istanbul Ataturk Airport were suspended for less than 24 hours during the recent unrest in Istanbul last Friday night and early Saturday morning. Jazeera Airways flights are now back to the scheduled operation as of Sunday with no impact on the airline's flights to other destinations.

TEMASEK TO UNVEIL BUYOUT DEAL FOR STRUGGLING SINGAPORE RAIL OPERATOR

SINGAPORE: Singapore state investor Temasek Holdings is set to announce a deal this week to buy out the remaining nearly 46 percent of SMRT Corp that it doesn't already own, two sources with knowledge of the matter said.

Thomson Reuters data shows. Last week, Singapore's transport regulator said it will buy almost \$51 billion (\$742 million) worth of metro train assets from SMRT, in a move aimed at easing SMRT's finances and allowing it to focus on providing reliable and well-maintained services.

The deal will be one of Temasek's rare buyouts at a time when it is seeking to boost its US exposure in difficult markets. SMRT has a market value of about \$1.8 billion. But the deal valuation is unclear given the reduced future margins for SMRT once it starts operating as an asset-light company, said the sources, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter.

Last week, SMRT said the rail financing framework had become unsustainable and its rail fare margins had been on the decline as operating expenses had risen significantly due to maintenance regime and replacement programs for the ageing network.

"The constant breakdowns of the MRT trains - that has cost the jobs of two transport ministers - underscore the need for the government to reverse the policy of privatizing public services," Gibson Dunn & Crutcher's Lee said.

DUBAI ENBD PROFIT UP 16%; BAD LOAN PROVISIONS DROP

DUBAI: Dubai's largest lender, Emirates NBD (ENBD), reported a 16 percent rise in second-quarter net profit yesterday, broadly in line with analysts' forecasts, aided by a cut in the amount of cash it sets aside to cover bad debt.

It said in a statement. This was well ahead of the 1.65 billion dirhams it earned in the corresponding period of 2015, as well as the 1.80 billion dirham consensus estimate from four analysts.

ENBD recorded its 16th consecutive quarter of rising earnings at a time when profitability at other lenders in the United Arab Emirates is challenged by a weaker economy.

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO. table, BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY table, DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD table, and various currency conversion rates for Indian Rupee, etc.

BOXIT: YOUR PHYSICAL DROPBOX



By Haider Al-Mosawi

While cleaning their flat, Premal Pullisserry turned to his wife and jokingly said: "If only we can store some of these things at our neighbor's house." As it turns out, the problem Premal identified wasn't a joke, and he started Boxit, a smart solution for physical storage. He recently secured the highest amount for a seed funding round in the MENA region. Here's Boxit's story...

Premal's problem

All successful startups have their roots in a problem painful enough for people to start using the products or services the startup has to offer. The problem may not be obvious at first. That's because human beings are prone to going numb after repeated exposure to pain. Compare email to snail mail (sending letters in a stamped envelope). How much more convenient is email? But many, many people were comfortable using snail mail because that's what they assumed sending messages should be like. When email came along, our understanding of what's possible shifted, and we could

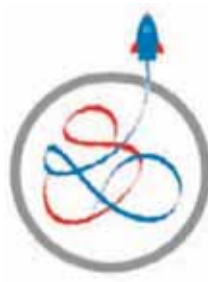
see how vastly better life can be with innovative solutions that question our assumptions about reality. Think of the value all successful businesses create, and imagine life without these businesses (Google, Facebook, Apple, etc.). Premal's startup hopes to change the way people imagine their lives to be, and how they manage the "stuff" clogging up their living spaces.

How Boxit works

If you have things at home you want to keep but don't currently use, then Boxit might be your savior: (1) Use the Boxit mobile app to request the number of boxes you want. (2) The boxes get delivered to your address, and you pack the boxes with your stuff (taking pictures on the app as you pack). (3) You request a pickup date and time for the boxes to be taken, as you look admiringly at how neat your place now looks. I personally used Boxit to store my library of books that made me feel overwhelmed with all the reading options I had (plus a box of wires I didn't know what they're for but didn't have the time to figure out). The app can be used to store seasonal clothing. It is ideal for young Kuwaiti families currently renting small flats before moving in to their own houses. Expats can also use it for items they wish to keep for when they return home and don't find a use for in Kuwait.

Validating the business

Before diving into the startup world, Premal worked at a logistics company. While there, he began doing his research on what storage solutions he can offer and if there were any other startups doing the same thing. His research only confirmed the need for such a service. US startups offering boxes for storage were in high demand from users and were receiving substantial funding from investors.



SIRDAB LAB
سرداب لاب

Premal also conducted over 120 interviews in different locations around Kuwait (The Avenues Mall, hotels, restaurants, etc) to gauge people's interest. Some signed up for the service before he even launched his business! But that was convincing enough for him to take his startup idea more seriously.

Getting the right support

Premal's colleagues - Joby Mathew and Abraham Thomas - became his cofounders, and they were all passionate about the need for personal storage solutions. Premal met his angel

investor, Subah Al Bader, through an existing client who knew about Premal's startup idea and ambitions. When Premal was ready to make the leap and focus full time on Boxit, he found Sirdab Lab, and was able to get the right guidance for his startup and work from the coworking space it offered. "Sirdab Lab is the best place to start for startups starting out," Premal told me (and I hope he didn't just say that to make me happy). "StartupQ8, Nuwait, Sirdab Lab, Brilliant Lab, Mefazec, Coded. These small communities are slowly transforming the startup ecosystem," he added.



(From left to right): Abraham Thomas, Co founder & VP - Operations, Subah Al Bader - Angel Investor & Kuwaiti partner, Premal Pullisserry, Co founder & CEO are seen in this photo.

The domino effect

Premal participated in the GCC Challenge, a Startup MENA initiative hosted in Kuwait at Sirdab Lab, which took him to Dubai for the finals. Jakob Kistorp, cofounder of Startup MENA, introduced Premal to Abed Shaheen, CEO of InfoFort, who later introduced Premal to Nader Museitif, Merger and Acquisition director at Aramex. This led to a fruitful partnership between startup and logistics giant, where Aramex would handle Boxit's delivery and storage needs. Winning Smart City App Hack in 2015 gave Boxit great exposure, as it coincided with the Gitex exhibition in Dubai, with news reaching a number of investors in the startup space. Boxit managed to raise \$600,000 in its seed round of funding, led by Wamda Capital. It has expanded beyond Kuwait to offer its services in the UAE and is now based in Dubai.

Events & opportunities

Some entrepreneurs choose to work on their startups in the dark, without engaging with potential customers, partners, or investors. This can limit a startup's chances for success, and as Premal's experience shows, putting yourself out there can lead to valuable connections and opportunities. "The journey involves lots of learning," Premal said. And it seems that entrepreneurs need to be comfortable learning along the way, whereas "wannapreneurs" (those who want to start something but never get started) continue to learn more and more without putting their learning into action.

Correction: The dates mentioned in my previous article about the Founder Institute have since changed. The correct dates are: July 20: Startup Funding 101: How To Raise Capital For Your Idea (Register at: <http://fl.co/e/93621>) - July 27: Making The Leap From Employee To Entrepreneur (Register at: <http://fl.co/e/93611>)

News

in brief

Nigeria inflation rises to near 11-year high -16.5%

ABUJA: Inflation surged to 16.5 percent in Nigeria last month-its highest level in more than decade-as prices of imported food and energy jumped after the government stopped propping up the currency, the National Bureau of Statistics said yesterday. The rate rose from 15.6 percent in May, the fifth increase in as many months, the NBS said in an emailed statement. The new rate is the highest since October 2005, according to the central bank. The highest increases were seen in electricity prices, kerosene, furniture and furnishings, road passenger transport, as well as fuels and lubricants, the statistics agency said. Food prices rose 15.3 percent year-on-year in June, compared with 14.9 percent in May. Yvonne Mhango, an economist at Renaissance Capital, told Bloomberg she expected inflation to rise further in the coming months. "We see inflation averaging in the mid 20 percent by year-end, mainly because of the foreign exchange rates," she was quoted as saying.

Joint Saudi fund launched to purchase big oil tankers

RIYADH: Saudi Arabia's national shipping company and the Arab Petroleum Investments Corp (APICORP) have launched a joint fund to purchase large oil tankers for the kingdom, an official statement said yesterday. The \$1.5-billion fund aims to purchase 15 Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) for the kingdom's state-owned shipping firm in three phases, the statement said. The agreement signed between the two companies Sunday night in Riyadh said the fund's duration is for 10 years. APICORP, the development bank of the 10 Arab petroleum exporting countries, will contribute 85 percent to the fund's capital while the Saudi firm will make up the remaining 15 percent. Established in 1978, the National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia owns 83 various vessels including 36 VLCCs. Saudi Energy Minister Khaled Al-Faleh said the fund will contribute to turning the kingdom into a regional logistics hub. The minister however denied that the purchase of tankers was a sign that Saudi plans to increase its oil production capacity, which currently stands at over 12 million barrels per day (bpd).

Zimbabwean economic crisis worsens, fails to pay soldiers

HARARE: Zimbabwe has delayed paying its soldiers for a second successive month, sources said yesterday, underlining the worsening economic crisis that has triggered recent protests. Ten days ago, President Robert Mugabe's government was shaken by a national strike led by civil servants frustrated over several salary delays as Zimbabwe's treasury struggles with a severe cash shortage. The military are normally the first priority for payment due to their role in protecting the regime of Mugabe, 92. But they were not paid as scheduled last week, and last month's salaries were paid about two weeks late. "We were supposed to get our salaries last Friday but there was nothing at the bank," a junior soldier who requested anonymity said. "We do not know when we will be paid." Other soldiers confirmed the delay. The cash-strapped government, which spends more than 80 percent of its revenue on wages, has resorted to staggering pay dates as it scrapes the bottom of its coffers.

Germany's economy to grow strongly in Q3 despite Brexit

FRANKFURT: The German economy, Europe's biggest, will continue to expand strongly in the third quarter, despite potential risks from the British vote to quit the European Union, the German central bank or Bundesbank said yesterday. After growth slowed in the second quarter of 2016, "the underlying economic trend remains very strong and a sharp increase in overall economic output can be expected in the summer quarter," the Bundesbank wrote in its latest monthly report. In the period from July to September, the main driving factors behind recovery—the very favorable situation on the labor market, rising wages and expansive fiscal policy—"remain intact," the report said.

123,000 VENEZUELANAS CROSS BORDER TO SHOP FOR FOOD

SAN ANTONIO DEL TACHIRA: More than 100,000 Venezuelans, some of whom drove through the night in caravans, crossed into Colombia over the weekend to hunt for food and medicine that are in short supply at home. It was the second weekend in a row that Venezuela's socialist government opened the long-closed border with Colombia, and by 6 a.m. Sunday, a line of would-be shoppers snaked through the entire town of San Antonio del Tachira. Some had traveled in chartered buses from cities 10 hours away.

Venezuela's government closed all crossings a year ago to crack down on smuggling along the 1,378-mile border. It complained that speculators were causing shortages by buying up subsidized food and gasoline in Venezuela and taking them to Colombia, where they could be sold for far higher prices. But shortages have continued to mount in Venezuela amid triple-digit inflation, currency controls that have restricted imports and investment and the world oil price slump that caused a collapse in the oil revenues that fund government spending.

Although the border was heavily patrolled by Venezuelan troops, the crowds were mostly orderly amid an atmosphere of tense excitement. A few activists handed out anti-government pamphlets, looking to galvanize the frustration that has characterized food riots and long lines outside supermarkets in recent weeks. Some of those waiting to cross made anti-government chants and sang the national anthem, but there was no appetite for confrontation. They were focused on the prospect of getting at fully stocked supermarket shelves and the opportunity to buy even non-essential indulgences like nail polish and beer before the re-closing of border crossings Sunday night.

"It's kind of crazy day," said Alejandro Chacon, who owns a hardware store in the nearby town of San Cristobal and was crossing the border for the first time since the closure. "It's strange to see this, but we know we're going to find what we want in Colombia, so it's a nice difference." Colombian officials dressed in white shirts individually welcomed those arriving while police handed out cake and blasted out festive vallenato tunes, the traditional music beloved on both sides of the border. Roadside kiosks set up by entrepreneurs took payment in Venezuela's currency for goods at a steep discount from what they cost on the black market back home.

"It's sad to be doing this, but we also know over there



Venezuelans carrying groceries cross the Simon Bolivar bridge from Cucuta in Colombia back to San Antonio del Tachira in Venezuela, on July 17, 2016. — AFP

we'll find something," said Rosa Cardenas, a 70-year-old retired school teacher accompanied by a 5-month-old granddaughter. Colombian officials estimated 35,000 Venezuelans crossed the border Saturday, the first day of what Colombia's government called a humanitarian corridor. An additional 88,000 entered Sunday, authorities said as the mad rush on products like sugar and flour led to extra supplies of staple goods being sent from other Colombian cities. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has

sought to deflate talk of a humanitarian crisis and instead blames his government's political enemies and self-serving smugglers for shortages. He dismissed as a "media show" the jarring images a few weeks ago of 500 women pushing through the border checkpoint, saying they were desperate to buy food. On Sunday, Venezuela's state TV ran footage of Venezuelans returning from Colombia empty-handed, dissuaded by what they called "price-gouging" and the threat of violence by their neighbors. — AP

AFTER BREXIT, ORDINARY BRITONS WARM TO GOLD AS 'SAFE HAVEN'

NUMBER OF FIRST-TIME BUYERS RISES 170%

LONDON: When Britain voted to leave the European Union, the thoughts of Yorkshire teacher Grace Hall immediately turned to her family's bottom line. Three days later, as UK stocks and sterling plummeted, she put those thoughts into action and deposited part of her life savings - 25,000 pounds-into gold. "My husband and I are both worried about bank failures and our cash getting swallowed up," she said. "I'm also worried about our kids' jobs and their future."

Hall was not alone. Dealers are seeing an unprecedented amount of interest in gold, much of it from first-time buyers, to take advantage of its role as a safe haven in times of stress or unexpected "black swan" events like Brexit. "The speed at which people are purchasing gold is unprecedented," said Joshua Saul, CEO of The Pure Gold Company, where Hall bought and keeps her Britannia coins. "We are seeing people convert as much as 40 to 50 percent of their net worth into physical gold, (compared to) 5 to 10 percent in the past," he said.

Government-owned bar and coin producer, the Royal Mint, saw a 7-fold increase in sales of 100-gram bars, around half the size of a credit card and costing around \$4,400, in the two weeks following the June 23 vote. Around 4 million pounds (\$5.5 million) of gold and silver were traded online on the platform of London-based Bullionvault.com on the June 25-26 weekend, seven times the average weekend of the previous 12 months. The number of first-time UK buyers on the site rose by around 170

percent in June and the first week of July, compared to the previous 12-month daily average, it said.

The surge in gold buying is in contrast with Brexit's effect on the London property market, considered an iron-clad bet for the past 20 years. More than 18 billion pounds of property funds aimed at retail investors was frozen in early July following a tide of redemption requests after the Brexit vote.

One London-based property developer said the current sense of panic over the UK financial system was unlike anything he had ever seen. "I just can't believe what's going on," he said, asking not to be named. "Projects that were meant to happen now haven't and the last thing I would do right now is buy another property." Instead, he has bought £350,000 worth of gold and plans to hold it for at least the next two years.

No signs of decline

It's not the first time Britons have turned to gold-dealers saw buying surge in the initial phases of the subprime crisis at the end of 2008 and during Europe's debt crisis in 2012 and 2013. But the interest dissipated quickly, the dealers said. This time could be different. "This shows little sign of declining," the Royal Mint said in a statement. Half of the buyers choose to store the metal in the mint's vault, it said.

Gold has played a central role in trade and exchange over the centuries, with bullion coins circulating as currency in several countries until World War One. During the

time of the "gold standard" of the 19th century, nearly all countries fixed their currencies against a specified amount of gold. Countries like Germany, with its experience of hyperinflation, have maintained a historical connection to gold as a tangible asset that can protect wealth against economic downturns and currency fluctuations. German consumers buy more than 100 tons of gold coins and bars a year and spent around \$4.6 billion on gold in 2015.

British interest in gold, by contrast, has been lukewarm in modern times because of the pound's role as a global reserve currency, even when sterling was tested by crashing out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM) in 1992. Britain ranks 15th among the biggest consumers of gold bars and coins. "In Germany's economic history between 1922 and 1961, some people lived through three or four expropriations or collapses of wealth, so there is an embedded sense of caution," said Brian Lucey, Professor of Finance at Trinity College Dublin. "The UK is not at that level at all but certainly continued gold retail buying is another indicator of the effect that Brexit has had," he said.

Adam Cleary, 42, bought gold ahead of the referendum to protect himself from the event of a Brexit vote but also because of his distrust of the banking system. He explained the attraction by harking back to the old days of trade. "It cannot be cancelled, it cannot be confiscated, it cannot be taken away," he said in the showroom of dealer Sharps Pixley, where investors can keep their investments in safety deposit boxes. — Reuters

AHLI UNITED BANK WINS PRESTIGIOUS HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT AWARD

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB), one of the leading Islamic Banks in Kuwait, announced yesterday that it has won the coveted international Health, Safety and Environment 2016 Excellence Award, which has been organized by the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), Kuwait Chapter. The award recognizes outstanding

achievement which reaffirms its leading role, strategic approach towards social responsibility as well as its underlying commitment towards safeguarding the Kuwaiti social fabric. Anil Lobo, Security Supervisor at Ahli United Bank received the award on behalf of the bank, during a unique ceremony that was held to recognize the winners of the award in different industry sectors.

Representatives of the ASSE as well as other companies were present during the awards ceremony. Jehad Al-Humaidh General information Technology & operation said, "The award comes at an important time for AUB as we continue to support the health sectors through a number of initiatives that were launched that aim at minimizing work dangers while raising more awareness on health and safety measures."

"Our latest recognition will help transform the bank to international HSE standards and is endorsed by one of the most prominent American firms operating in that industry. We will continue implementing the bank's strategy and adhere to the highest standards in employee safety and overall health, as they are the cornerstone and most important asset to the bank's activities," added Jehad Al-Humaidh. Moreover, Fadel Al Ali, ASSE Kuwait Chapter's Chairman also said, "Adhering to the requirements and international standards related to the overall safety in large corporations such as AUB is an important aspect in its continued efforts lead the sector, locally."



ing achievements and initiatives undertaken by organizations in relation to employee safety, along with overall activities towards safeguarding health and the environment.

With the recent accolade, AUB has become the first bank in Kuwait to receive this internationally recognized award, an

UBS, DBS AND FALCON FACE SINGAPORE SCRUTINY OVER 1MDB TRANSACTIONS

SINGAPORE: Singapore's central bank is scrutinizing several banks, including UBS and DBS Group Holdings, to see if they broke anti-money laundering rules in handling transactions linked to scandal-hit Malaysian state fund 1MDB, three people with knowledge of the matter said. The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) is looking at several aspects of the banks' operations including whether they were diligent enough in knowing who their customers were and what the source of their funds was, and whether they were particularly careful in screening politically-exposed persons such as government officials, banking and legal sources aware of the review said.

The probe could lead to fines and other penalties if lapses are found, said the sources who declined to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter. It is unclear which transactions by the banks are being examined. Switzerland's Falcon Private Bank and Coutts International, which is owned by Geneva-based Union Bancaire Privee, are also among the banks under review, they said. UBS, Coutts, and DBS, which is Singapore's top lender, all declined to comment.

When asked about the MAS review, a Zurich-based spokesman for Falcon said: "We have transparently shared our view and have nothing to add." Falcon, which is owned by one of the world's leading sovereign wealth funds - Abu Dhabi's International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIIC) - has previously said it is in contact with Singapore's central

bank and cooperating with authorities.

The MAS is in talks with several banks and will make an announcement on any punitive action against them after the review is completed, sources said.

The full details are not known at this stage. Singapore faces pressure to show that banks in the city-state are complying with increasingly tough anti-money laundering rules around the world. While the United States has imposed hefty fines on banks for lapses related to money laundering, tax evasion and international sanctions, Asian regulators have been generally slow to act, some lawyers said.

"It is also important for Singapore to be seen to be taking action against any abuse of its private banking sector for money laundering," said Nizam Ismail, Singapore-based partner at RHTLaw Taylor Wessing LLP, where he advises clients on financial services regulation and compliance. An MAS spokeswoman referred Reuters to its statement in March when it had said that "as part of its investigations into possible money-laundering and other offences in Singapore, it has been conducting a thorough review of various transactions as well as fund flows through our banking system."

1MDB referred Reuters to its earlier statements. In May, it had said it hadn't been contacted by any foreign lawful authority on matters relating to the company, and that it remains committed to fully cooperating with the authorities. — Reuters



KIVU: Picture shows a night scene of the market of Kanyabayonga, North Kivu province. A large part of Congolese people have no access to electricity or suffer for frequent and long breakdowns. — AFP

CONGO'S SMALL MINERS FILL THE HOLE LEFT BY DOWNSIZING MULTINATIONALS

MINING SECTOR BATTERED BY LOW COMMODITY PRICES

KOLWEZI: His toes bursting out of sneakers several sizes too small, a miner hacks with a pick at the copper and cobalt-laced stone in southeastern Congo, slowly filling a sack that could earn him anywhere from a handful to a few hundred dollars. The 42-year-old father of five, who only gave his first name, Stany, has done this nearly every day for a decade, after he quit his maize fields for the comparatively lucrative mines of Africa's top copper producer.

But unlike most artisanal mining, this is sanctioned by the Congolese government. As its mining heartland endures mass layoffs at big mines caused by low commodity prices, small-scale mining is helping to fill the deficit. The price of cobalt, a byproduct of copper, is expected to rise 45 percent by 2020 owing to demand for electric vehicles. Congo holds about half the world's cobalt reserves.

Seizing the initiative, the national mines ministry has recognized dozens of cooperatives of workers to exploit 10 square kilometer plots of land owned by state miner Gecamines. Tens of thousands of people also dig near mines owned by giants like Glencore and Eurasian Resources Group, as more than 13,000 jobs have been shed in the formal sector. Yet, as is often the case, poor local diggers say that it is savvier, well-capitalized foreign buyers who are cashing in. They accuse Chinese and Lebanese middlemen of dominating the market by colluding to drive down prices and rigging their instruments to understate the weight and tenor of ore they buy.

That could store up trouble if discontent turns into unrest, as happened in past years in Zambian copper mines, when workers beat up and killed Chinese mine managers in pay disputes. At the Musompo market, a smattering of half-built brick and concrete depots 15 kilometers east of Lualaba province's capital of Kolwezi, miners and traders said that of the roughly 140 buying firms, almost all are Chinese owned.

Cooperatives

Lualaba Governor Richard Muyej would rather see farming and tourism, which he considers paths to more inclusive, sustainable devel-

opment but reluctantly accepts the need to expand small mining in the near term. Muyej said giving cooperatives measuring instruments would help level the playing field between miners and foreign buyers.

Alain Chinois, the Congolese president of a cooperative with 34 members, said he might be forced to turn to foreign investors to secure the necessary funding. Under his set up, diggers will receive 60 percent of revenues from the mine while cooperative members consisting of Congolese traders running them and an investor-likely Chinese or Lebanese would split the rest. He said the cooperatives would result in better working conditions, equipment and access to capital. "As a cooperative, we can go to a bank as a well-established group," said Chinois. But he acknowledged that foreign buyers with money to invest would continue to exert major influence.

At Musompo, Louis, a Chinese buyer who checked London Metal Exchange prices on his phone between deliveries, sells to a smelter

owned by Congo Dongfang Mining International (CDM), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chinese mineral giant Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt Ltd, China's top cobalt chemicals producer. According to a January report by Amnesty International, CDM exports to China before selling to battery manufacturers who claim to supply electronics companies including Apple, Samsung SDI and Sony.

Hearing miners' complaints, Louis shrugged: "Those who are happy with the price sell the product. Those who aren't, leave." And the old concerns about the dangers and abuses of artisanal mining haven't gone away. At the Tilwizembe mine where Stany works, despite its cooperatives, research by Amnesty in 2013 documented deadly accidents and abuse of workers. But whatever its flaws, few see a viable alternative to more small-scale mining in the near term. "I do this because there is nothing else. If something else came along, I would do it," Stany said. — Reuters



KIVU: Photo shows a boy having a hair cut in a barber shop in Luofu, North Kivu province. — AFP

SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT (II)

To know more about core banking system ongoing support 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", i.e. providing end-to-end services to entire Path Solutions' clients worldwide.

Which Software Support?

The Global Support department at Path Solutions is unique in its scope and engagement models in comparison with its industry peers. Our Global Support is spread across different offices worldwide, where we have our:

Main offices

These offices would have Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 Support teams. Typically the main offices would have the Product and Program Management, Product Development, Quality Assurance, Global Support and Global Professional Services teams. The main offices are strategic in nature and key decision makers and senior management teams usually are located in the main offices. The Support office here manages Regional / Country offices.

Regional offices

These offices take care of clients in the region which typically includes clients of more than one country and would have Level 1 and Level 2 Support teams.

Country offices

Offices that take care of clients in the country itself consisting of a Team Manager and Level 1 Support team. To take care of

Support incidents, Path Solutions' Global Support has a team of experienced technical and business consultants managed by Support Managers and Directors, headed by the Executive Vice President. A dedicated team with an Account Manager is assigned to each client and the engagement becomes a partnership relationship strengthened over the years. A web portal is available for clients to post their incidents and details. Internally, incidents are routed to Level 1 and Level 2 teams of Global Support depending on the complexity of Support incidents, thus enhancing both timeliness and efficiency.

Client engagement model

The Path Solutions' client engagement model is unique in the market. Software Support is often thought of as a back office help desk function which transfers client requirements / requests / complaints to Development teams for software deliverables. However Path's Global Support team consists of Technical Consultants, Business Consultants, Subject Matter Experts, Trainers, Account Managers and Directors. With such a unique mix of resource pool, the department is capable of taking care of all business consulting / software training / projects needed by the clients. The client IT department and Path's project team strive towards synergic relationships, working as one team with an honest and transparent approach in order to fetch greater customer satisfaction and convenience for both institutions.

Different services

Path Solutions' Global Support provides project management services, business and technical consulting, system health check consultation and software training services to our clients who are banks, financial institutions, and is greatly appreciated worldwide. Our Business Consultants having worked in various banking units, being involved with a wide range of processes at a large number of banks, often have a better understanding of the numerous banking products and their flavors as used in the market when compared to seasoned thought leaders in the banks. This is the area that mainly comes into play for business consulting and training. Our Technical



Consultants provide consultation and solutions to complex requirements of clients, enabling faster turn-around of new scenarios to be catered for or challenges to be addressed, allowing business to progress uninterrupted and at a faster pace.

Global support project management

Our Global Support team provides end-to-end software upgrade, project consulting to our clients with a 100% success rate. Projects are executed by dedicated onsite resources, well guided by an assigned Project Manager and Project Director and also monitored by the Project Management Office (PMO) based in the Head Office. The projects are all well documented from initiation to closure with risk management and quality assurance practices well in place. We have received client accolades for almost all projects that were undertaken and we could confidently say that almost all of our clients would be good project references.

Support partners

Path Solutions is proud to mention that unlike many software vendors in the market, Path does not have external partnerships for software implementation or Support services. We believe that customer satisfaction is prime and therefore do not sub-contract commitments of valued customers. The product knowledge and experience of the team is a key attribute that

would decide on the quality of services delivered to the client. We mentor our knowledgeable, skilled teams, knowing that the largest and most vital organizational asset is PEOPLE.

Customer satisfaction

This is the paradigm I believe in the most and strive towards every day. Path Solutions, as an organization and all our processes, are built around this paradigm. The organizational culture creates self-driven employees who are driven towards excellence in customer satisfaction. Be it software implementation, support, consulting or training; we believe customer satisfaction is key and one of the most important measures of our success and that is why we stand out among our peers in the market.

Public activities

I am a member of IOMF Kuwait, an organization of likeminded people with a view to give a helping hand to socially backward, sick and homeless people in the community, irrespective of cast, creed or religion. We believe in helping the sick and needy, in whatever way possible. The motto of IOMF is "Don't withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it".

People who influenced you

What I learned from my parents and

grandparents is that "wherever you are, be 100% honest to your organization and 100% sincere to your work", "If we are able to help people, we should help them, and never ever create problems for them". I am following their valuable guidance till this second and always praying to God Almighty to allow me to continue the same till the last second in my life.

My brother-in-law and brother are my role models for work. They are so dedicated, hardworking, honest and sincere in their work and I follow their path. I reached Kuwait in 1989 and working with the same group till today. I am always remembering our group founder member and main pillar late Mr. Yousef Al Sager. He was so loving, caring and down to earth personality. I am so impressed with our company founder and previous Chairman and also our current Group Chairman and CEO. Both are straight-forward, professional and very friendly gentlemen. Even though they are the top in our organization, we deal altogether like brothers and friends. Working with professional people is a great experience and will definitely help one enjoy his work.

My wife is the silent supporter and strength behind all my success. There can be ups and downs in our life but we never forget our past, happiest days and pray for a brighter future. Once in a while we spend some time evaluating ourselves, identifying our shortfalls to do the required corrections. In my difficult situations, the sentence that always gives me power and strength is "I can do all things through God Almighty who strengthens me and guides me".

Your message to workers

I am working in Kuwait since 1989 and for me Kuwait is my second home. Kuwait is a country that provides its residents with great comfort, security, freedom and flexibility. So, we should be sincere to this country, its government and remember them in our daily prayers. We should also follow the rules and regulations of the country. My general message would be that one should be 100% sincere to one's work. Never ever allow anyone to question your honesty. If we are sincere in our work, we will be sincere in life too.

TRUMP BANKERS QUESTION HIS PORTRAYAL OF FINANCIAL COMEBACK 'THE ART OF THE COMEBACK'

NEW YORK: Donald Trump, who often says he only likes winners, tells one grand tale of loss: In 1990, he nearly went bankrupt and was forced to ask dozens of banks to whom he owed money to change the terms on their loans and forgive some of his debts. It was, the real estate developer admits in his 1997 book "The Art of the Comeback," the darkest period of his professional life. In his telling, it's a story of redemption, of resilience, and proof of his exceptional negotiating skills and shrewd thinking.

Six people who participated in the loan workout negotiations have a different recollection, raising questions about a key part of the personal narrative that many of Trump's supporters have found compelling as he campaigns to be the next president of the United States on Nov. 8. On the campaign trail he has portrayed himself as a survivor and a master negotiator. Trump says his comeback began when he recognized a downturn in the real estate market and quickly asked banks to renegotiate his loans. "That decision was perhaps the smartest thing I did," he wrote.

The six bankers and lawyers involved in the talks say the bailout wasn't based on any overture Trump initiated with the banks - and the terms of the deal were dictated by what was best for the banks, not Trump. Three of the participants say Trump didn't acknowledge he had a problem until his lenders reviewed his books, realized he was on the brink of collapse, and summoned him for debt restructuring talks. While much has been written about Trump's financial troubles at the time, there has been little examination of his description of the bank negotiations in "The Art of the Comeback," including his assertion that he chose to initiate those talks. Trump's spokeswoman, Hope Hicks, declined to comment for this story.

Warning signs

Following the US stock market crash of 1987, a global recession hit New York real estate. New construction stalled, and several big developers declared bankruptcy. As the real estate market slumped, Trump ran out of cash. At the beginning of 1990 he owed a combined \$4 billion to more than 70 banks, with \$800 million personally guaranteed by his own assets, according to Alan Pomerantz, a lawyer whose team led negotiations between Trump and 72 banks to restructure Trump's loans. Pomerantz was hired by Citibank but became lead counsel for the negotiations.

At the time, Trump was not considered a major developer, but he was a New York celebrity. His affair with the actress Marla Maples and his divorce from his first wife Ivana Trump made national news headlines, and his first book, "The Art of the Deal," was a bestseller. He didn't have a large portfolio of real estate in New York, with the notable exceptions of his 5th Avenue building, Trump Tower, completed in 1983, and the Plaza Hotel, which he bought in 1988 after borrowing heavily from Citibank. He also owned three casinos in Atlantic City, having made a financial bet that he could revive the East Coast gambling destination. And in 1989 he added part of an airline to his portfolio, again turning to Citibank for a loan to help finance the acquisition of bankrupt Eastern Airlines Shuttle. He turned it into Trump Shuttle.

Looking at the books

In 1989, in response to growing concerns about the economic downturn, the Federal Reserve began asking big banks to review their exposure to the sinking real estate market. At the beginning of 1990, a credit specialist at one of Trump's biggest lenders decided to take a look at the bank's book of loans to him. The decision was prompted in part by the Fed's questions, as well as concerns within the bank about its exposure to the real estate market. The credit specialist, who did not want to be identified, concluded at the time that Trump was "about to go into bankruptcy."

"The banks were onto the problem before he was onto the problem," the specialist said. Pomerantz said some of the banks became aware of the magnitude of Trump's financial problems when, on a single day, he drew down every cent of a \$100 million line of credit one of the banks, Banker's Trust, which was purchased by Deutsche Bank in 1999, had given him to meet his obligations.

Reuters was unable to independently confirm this. "He did not come to the banks and say 'I have a problem.' That did not happen," said Pomerantz. Pomerantz, who says he is not a member of any political party, argued in an opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal that Trump's record in real estate was not a good way to measure whether or not he would be a good president. In "The Art of the Comeback," Trump says he began loan workout talks in March 1990 when he informed his bankers he might miss a payment on his casino debts. "If I had waited just six months longer to renegotiate

terms with the banks, I might have lost everything," he wrote. "I would have had to stand in line with a whole bunch of other moguls who were trying to do the same thing."



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump

Making a deal

Soon, in boardrooms of banks and law firms around Manhattan, Trump's deputies and lawyers began a series of meetings with representatives of the 72 banks, which had billions in outstanding loans, according to Pomerantz. During the same period, Trump was separately negotiating a series of loans on his Atlantic City casinos. One of the bankers involved in those negotiations, Ben Berzin, said Trump seemed unaware of the depths of his financial troubles even after the banks had stepped in.

"There was a period during these negotiations when he was still spending money like a drunken sailor," Berzin said, recalling the uproar among the bankers when, in a TV interview in the summer of 1991, Trump displayed a large diamond engagement ring he had given Maples. Media reports said the ring cost \$250,000, and Pomerantz said the bankers complained about it to Trump in their next meeting.

At one point, Trump invited all of the bankers to a Broadway show that Maples had a role in, according to Berzin and a banker who took part in the larger talks with the 72 banks. Both said they believed Trump was trying to curry favor to win better terms in the workouts. Berzin attended the show but the other banker did not. Trump described Berzin in "The Art of the Comeback" as a "jerk" who would "scream at people at the top of his lungs about nonsense." Berzin said he was irritated by Trump's characterization and denied ever raising his voice in a meeting.

Banking on 'the salesman'

In his book, Trump says he told representatives of the 72 banks he would declare bankruptcy and "tie you guys up for years" in the proceedings unless they staked him \$65 million to keep his businesses running until the real estate market recovered. He also wanted them to agree to defer all loan payments until that time. "The banks more than capitulated - they enthusiastically agreed to my proposal," Trump wrote. The bankers and lawyers interviewed dispute this. Though it was true that a personal bankruptcy would have made it harder for the banks to collect what Trump owed them, he had little leverage in the talks, they said.

He, too, would have been seriously hurt in a bankruptcy, especially since he had personally guaranteed so much of what he had borrowed. In Pomerantz's analysis, he would have been able to hold on to little else beyond his home and his pension plan. During the 18-month process of negotiations and asset sales, Trump also asked for more time to develop his business ideas, like his plan to turn hotel rooms at the Plaza Hotel into condominiums, according to one of the bankers, who declined to be identified.

That proposal was vetoed. While he did receive a \$450,000-a-month allowance from the banks to keep his business operations going, it was structured and executed on the banks' terms, several of the negotiators said. The banks decided they could recover more of the \$4 billion they were collectively owed if they sold Trump's holdings one by one, waiting until the market recovered, rather than taking possession of the assets, four participants in the talks said. These individuals said the banks agreed to forgive Trump's personal liabilities in exchange for his help in selling the properties. The proceeds of the sales would then be split among the banks.

Trump agreed that the banks could take away all his personal property, including his beloved Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, if he failed to execute the agreement. "We had to be sure he would pay attention," Pomerantz said of the liens on Trump's personal holdings. "We would meet with him every Friday morning. He was under very strict restrictions by the banks." Trump worked with the bankers to sell his assets, even when he disagreed about the timing of the sales, most notably when Citibank eventually sold the Plaza. The banks did not recover 100 percent of what they were owed and several lenders vowed never to work with Trump again. — Reuters



LONDON: British Finance Minister Philip Hammond (left) greets Stuart Chambers, Chairman of British chip designer company ARM Holdings, outside 11 Downing Street in central London yesterday. Japanese mobile giant SoftBank has agreed a cash takeover of iPhone chip designer ARM Holdings for around 24.3 billion, the pair said yesterday, in a major investment boost for post-Brexit Britain. — AFP

SOFTBANK TO BUY LEADING CHIP DESIGNER ARM FOR \$32 BILLION

A MAJOR INVESTMENT BOOST FOR POST-BREXIT UK

LONDON: Japanese mobile giant SoftBank has agreed a cash takeover of iPhone chip designer ARM Holdings for around £24.3 billion, the pair said yesterday, in a major investment boost for post-Brexit Britain. "We have long admired ARM as a world renowned and highly respected technology company that is by some distance the market-leader in its field," SoftBank chairman and chief executive Masayoshi Son said of the deal valuing the British group at about \$32 billion or 29 billion euros. Son added that the deal marked SoftBank's "strong commitment to the UK and the competitive advantage provided by the deep pool of science and technology talent" in the university city of Cambridge where ARM is headquartered.

Britain's new finance minister Philip Hammond praised the mega deal that comes amid warnings about a slowdown to growth in the country after its vote last month to exit the European Union. "This £24 billion investment would be the largest ever from Asia into the UK," Hammond said in a separate statement. "It would guarantee to double the number of jobs in ARM in the UK over the next five years and turn this great British company into a global phenomenon. "Just three weeks after the referendum decision, it shows that Britain has lost none of its allure to international investors. Britain is open for business-and open to foreign investment," said Chancellor of the Exchequer Hammond.

Weak pound

Analysts said the vast weakening of the pound, in particular against the dollar, since the referendum result is making British companies attractive for foreign groups. "We can

see in this deal the effect of Brexit and the collapse in the pound as British companies become ripe takeover targets," said Neil Wilson, analyst at ETX Capital trading group. "A lot more British firms could become foreign-owned quite soon," he added also after South African general retail group Steinhoff International last week agreed a takeover of British discounter Poundland for around £597 million.

SoftBank meanwhile said it would offer £17 for each ARM share, a premium of around 43 percent compared with Friday's closing price of £11.89. That resulted in ARM's share price rocketing 45 percent in early trade yesterday. "The consideration values the entire existing issued and to be issued share capital of ARM at approximately £24.3 billion," said the company statement. ARM chairman Stuart Chambers said the "compelling" offer for the company's shareholders "secures the delivery of future value today and in cash."

He added: "The Board believes that by accessing all the resources that SoftBank has to offer, ARM will be able to further accelerate the use of ARM-based technology wherever computing happens." ARM develops and licenses technology central to digital electronic devices, including those made for Apple's fierce rival Samsung. The British company's customers shipped "about 15 billion ARM-based chips" in 2015, up almost a quarter year-on-year, according to the group's website. Almost half of the chips were used for mobile phones and tablets, it added. ARM's revenues meanwhile jumped 15 percent to almost \$1.5 billion last year on the design of chips used also in computer servers. — AFP



TOKYO: Pedestrians walk past the Softbank shop at the Ginza shopping district in Tokyo. — AFP

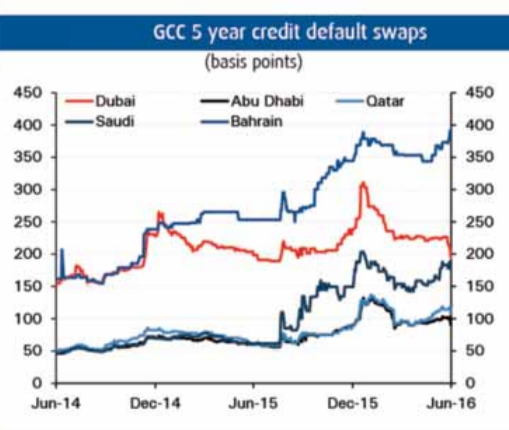
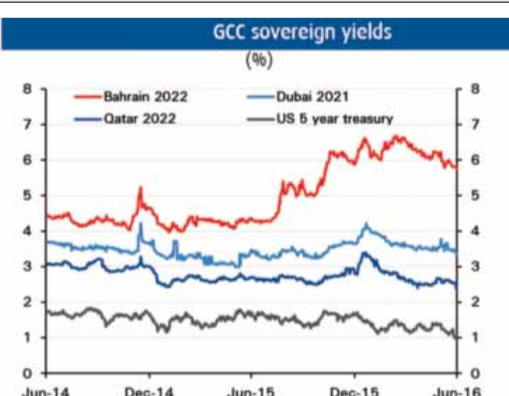
YEN RETREATS AS TURKEY QUASHES COUP ATTEMPT

LONDON: The yen sank back towards three-week lows against the dollar yesterday, as investors unwound a surge of safe-haven trades done on the back of reports of an attempted military coup in Turkey on Friday. Turkey widened a crackdown on suspected supporters of the failed coup on Sunday, taking the number of people rounded up in the armed forces and judiciary to 6,000, and the government said it was in control of the country and economy.

That eased concerns over the prospect of another major round of turmoil to add to Europe's economic and political problems, drawing investors back into higher-risk currencies and out of the traditional security of the yen. "In general in the past few weeks, we've seen a positive risk environment, and obviously that took a blow as events developed on Friday," said Jeremy Stretch, head of currency strategy at CIBC in London. "The scenario looks a bit calmer now ... so we're back to thinking

about the sort of policy outlook that had the yen falling against the dollar last week." The dollar gained almost 1 percent on the day to 105.80 yen in early European trade, having reached as high as 106 yen in Asian time.

A handful of media reports last week stirred speculation that the latest leg of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's efforts to get the Japanese economy going again will see the Bank of Japan fund a rise in government spending as "helicopter money" directly targeted at consumers and businesses. While analysts are sceptical that Japanese authorities would resort to such measures, the chatter about more aggressive stimulus has put added focus on whether the BOJ will unveil more monetary easing at its policy meeting in late July. That should weaken the yen and plays in to a broader world environment where central banks are again thinking more about stimulus than finally putting an end to the era of ultra-low interest rates and money-printing. — Reuters



GCC DEBT MARKETS SEES LITTLE VOLATILITY IN YIELDS

KUWAIT: GCC debt markets saw little volatility in yields in 2Q16, even as issuance picked up on the back of healthy sovereign activity supported by stable oil prices, a dovish Fed, and limited global volatility. Investor confidence in the region remains fragile as concerns over fiscal sustainability and tightening domestic liquidity remain. In a bid to ease pressures on domestic liquidity, most recent sovereign issuance has been international; central banks have also eased liquidity regulations.

Nonetheless, liquidity strains persisted, pushing regional banks towards debt and interbank markets for funding, adding further upward pressure on interbank rates. Appetite for GCC debt is expected to remain healthy, though it may be dampened by external risk factors. Yields have benefited from the relative stability in global oil markets and a dovish Fed.

GCC yields saw little volatility in 2Q16 and continued to steadily trend downwards, as oil prices maintained healthy levels and the Fed rate hike was postponed to the second half of 2016. Yields also seemed to be little affected by the global fallout that followed the Brexit vote. However, GCC spreads to US treasuries have widened as investors fled to safety. Five to six year paper for Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Qatar finished the quarter down 21 to 23 basis points, settling at 3.33%, 1.90%, and 2.37%, respectively.

Despite recovering oil prices, CDS rates were up in 2Q16 for most GCC sovereigns following persistent speculation over fiscal sustainability and tightening liquidity. A slew of rating and outlook adjustments, to the downside for most, prompted investor caution. Successfully implementing fiscal reforms and tightening banking liquidity emerged as the main concerns. Saudi Arabia was the most

affected, seeing its credit default swaps (CDS) rate jump by 26 basis points in 2Q16, eroding any confidence gained in the past six months.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates appeared to emerge as a regional safe haven. Dubai CDS rates dropped 31 basis points to just under 200 swap points for the first time in almost a year, while Abu Dhabi's swap rates, the lowest amongst its peers, were mostly flat on the quarter. GCC debt issuance was strong in 1H16, boosted by sov-

NBK ECONOMIC UPDATE

ereign issuance. Gross issuance totaled \$55 billion during the first half of 2016, with \$36 billion added in 2Q16 alone. This compares to \$74 billion issued during the whole of 2015. The stock of outstanding bonds in the region grew by 24% in 2Q16, its fastest pace in five years, to stand at \$335 billion.

With public sector financing needs expected to top \$120 billion in 2016, GCC sovereigns continued to tap debt markets for funding, leading the issuance of new debt in 2Q16. Sovereigns accounted for close to 75% of gross issuance during the quarter, issuing \$27 billion. With liquidity concerns at the forefront, some governments avoided domestic currency issues in favor of international offerings. Appetite for the debt was strong, with Abu Dhabi, Qatar, and Oman, comfortably selling \$16.5 billion worth of international bonds. Saudi is looking to capitalize on this momentum and is seeking to offer international investors \$10 billion in foreign currency bonds, if not more.

This follows its successful bid for an international syndicated loan of similar magnitude (Charts 4). Financial institutions actively tapped debt and interbank markets for funding in 2Q16 on the back of declining deposits and increased government issuance. Regional banks saw a pick-up in issuance over the quarter, raising \$6 billion; this was their largest offering in four quarters, as they increasingly turned to market funding. With deposit growth slowing across GCC banks, loan-to-deposit ratios have been under pressure. At the same time, competition over short-term funding saw pressures mount in the interbank market, with rates trending upwards.

Saudi Arabia's 3-month interbank rate jumped 42 basis points during 2Q16 and 68 basis points year-to-date. In a bid to ease pressures, some central banks have adjusted their liquidity and reserve requirements, as seen in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Oman. Uncertainty in global markets and oil prices has muted non-financial sector activity in recent years. Although up on the quarter, with healthy issuance activity of \$3 billion in 2Q16, NFS issuance, has been anemic over the last 8 quarters (3Q14-2Q16), averaging \$0.8 billion per quarter, compared to a quarterly average of \$4.2 billion from 3Q12 through 2Q14.

While GCC debt growth is expected to remain robust on the back of large financing needs, external economic risks may dampen appetite for it. Further US policy rate hikes in 2016 and 2017 and increased global market volatility, such as continued repercussions from Brexit or a sharp slowdown in the Chinese economy, could see appetite for emerging market debt diminish. Upward pressure on the US dollar, and in turn all GCC currencies, may also discourage investment in GCC debt if their offerings are mispriced.

ASIA'S 2ND-SLOWEST WEB SEEN BRAKING ROBUST GROWTH

MANILA: Patrolling downtown Manila in his new Toyota, Uber driver Daniel Canezal is grumpy. It's not from the heat, grime or traffic of the capital's clogged streets - it's the Philippines' ramshackle internet service that is making his life a misery. Since signing up with the ride-hailing app this year, the 61-year-old has lost count of fares missed because of patchy smartphone networks as one of Asia's fastest-growing economies labors with one of the region's slowest webs. "They should correct their services, it's embarrassing," said Canezal.

That's all about to change, say the operators of the country's two networks, Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co (PLDT) and Globe Telecom Inc. After a \$1.5 billion deal in May to buy prized mobile spectrum from a potential rival, the duo say they plan to invest hundreds of millions of dollars to boost coverage. But from Uber drivers to business elites, users complain they are fed up with a duopoly that has had decades to build a reliable web. Industry leaders have already tasked new President Rodrigo Duterte with making the web faster - or risk a drag on the robust economic growth he has vowed to ensure.

The tough-talking Duterte wasted little time issuing a threat to liberalise rules to bring in foreign telecoms companies if need be. "Improve the service or I will open the Philippines for competition," Duterte warned PLDT and Globe in May. The need for more speed is crystal-clear: The Philippines' market of 100 million people ranked 21st out of 22 Asian countries in terms of internet speed, according to a study by data analytics firm Ookla - just ahead of Afghanistan.

PLDT and Globe say their move to jointly buy food-to-power conglomerate San Miguel Corp's start-up telecoms business - snapping up premium 700-megahertz spectrum compatible with 4G services - was what was needed to kick start upgrades. But with PLDT and Globe controlling 57 percent and 43 percent of the wireless market respectively, skeptics have noted the deal cements their dominance of a market worth about \$6 billion in annual revenue, effectively raising the bar for potential new entrants and undermining incentives to improve.

Duopoly vs. Red tape?

The joint PLDT-Globe deal - the biggest acquisition in the country in nearly three years - came soon after a failed attempt by Australia's Telstra Corp to enter the Philippines in a joint venture with San Miguel. Telstra said the deal fell through because commercial terms could not be agreed. "It's one thing for PLDT and Globe to say they will improve service, it's another thing for them to provide that," said Mary Grace Santos, a research fellow with Information and Communications Technology think tank LIRNEAsia. "The consumers will definitely lose, the economy will also suffer," said Santos. "We really need to shake things up."

At Globe, President Ernest Cu said his firm was not against a third player coming into the market. But he said snail-paced internet service was down to excessive administrative hurdles slowing plans to expand data capacity, rather than the effective existence of a duopoly. "It is incumbent upon the government entities to rid the bureaucracy, the red tape that plagues us," Cu told reporters when the deal was announced late in May. Even if administrative delays are stripped away by Duterte's government, a more serious headache for PLDT and Globe could be in the offing, with some analysts predicting their deal to buy the San Miguel assets may not pass muster as it stands with antitrust authorities.

Regulator National Telecommunications Commission has given Globe and PLDT a year to ramp up speeds. Meanwhile a newly formed Philippine Competition Commission is looking into the San Miguel deal closely, even as PLDT and Globe separately asked the Court of Appeals to stop the body from scrutinizing the agreement. Still Globe does have contacts with the new Manila administration: Duterte has appointed Rodolfo Salalima, former chief legal counsel of Globe, to head up the newly formed Department of Information and Communications Technology that will oversee telecoms policy.

Connectivity vital

In the meantime, customer firms reliant on the internet say they're more worried about lost business than getting value for money in the telecoms service. "It's common for online customers to abandon an e-commerce transaction if it takes so long to load a page," said Jacqueline Van Den Ende, the country head of online property broker Lamudi. At Uber, general manager for Manila, Laurence Cua, highlighted the importance of reliable connectivity, and said some drivers and riders provide feedback citing difficulty connecting online.

"We are rapidly moving towards an Internet-dependent economy, where opportunities such as flexible working hours and more effective ways to find riders and drivers are only made possible with the efficient transfer of information," said Cua. For Uber driver Canezal, a livelihood is at stake. "With my savings and my wife's income still not enough to send my children to school, my wife and I decided to have a car through a loan payable in 5 years," he said. "I work full time in Uber...It is now my source of income."—Reuters



TOKYO: In this photo, Hayatto Noguchi, Japanese Vine artist, shows his work on a smart phone during an interview with The Associated Press in Tokyo. — AP photos



TOKYO: In this photo, Reika Oozeki, right, and Hokuto Ikura, left, Japanese Vine artists, speak while during an exclusive interview with The Associated Press in Tokyo.

JAPAN COMPANIES SEEK HIPNESS THROUGH TEENS POSTING VINES

JAPANESE COMPANIES APPROACH VINERS FOR MARKETING

TOKYO: What's helping turn Japanese youngsters into stars on Vine, the Twitter-owned social network devoted to looping, six-second video clips, is the stodginess of this nation's business world. Japan Inc companies, both big and small, are generally so clueless about appealing to youngsters - especially young women and especially on social networks - they need all the help they can get from teenage Viners for marketing.

Reika Oozeki, 19, became a sensation overnight on Vine when she was just 17, offering snarky sketches of life. "I was studying for tests, and I was bored," says Oozeki, who started out using her cell phone to shoot videos of herself in pajamas or at school. "I was so surprised it caught on." Now she has more than 730,000 followers and her videos have looped over viewers' screens nearly 850 million times. Most of her clips are close-ups of her face.

She might coo pretending to be with a date, and then suddenly switch to a growl when she is supposedly with girlfriends. She has appeared on TV shows, got cast in a movie and is signed with a production company. She is also training to become a swimming coach for children, who adore her because she is famous on Vine. When companies approach her to make Vine clips, Oozeki is often given free rein.

Intel inside

She is sometimes not even required to say the company name. In the clip she made for Intel Japan, she merely snarls, "Interru haitteru," the Japanese for "Intel Inside." Vine is unique as a social network in that people post entirely video, much of it taken on

cell phones. Each clip is a six-second loop. There are 200 million people who watch Vine videos every month, and, although Vine does not break down viewers by country, Japan is one of Vine's largest markets outside the US.

Kota Furukoshi, chief executive of Tokyo-based Web marketing consulting startup Ninoya, says Japanese companies, which still tend to be dominated by old men, are generally resigned to their lack of online savvy. Instead of trying to acquire and build such skills in-house, they tend to turn for outside help for online marketing, he said. Popular Vine creators in Japan represent a break from old-style Japanese who tend to be shy, inhibited and inept at self-expression, said Kota Furukoshi, chief executive of Tokyo-based Web marketing consulting startup Ninoya.

"They're very creative. They're stylish. They're sharp," Furukoshi said. "They know how to build their personalities online." Vine translated well in Japan, unlike other companies that had a culture clash. LinkedIn, for instance, failed, and was even frowned upon in this culture where job-hopping is not as common as in the US and is seen as betrayal by employers, said Furukoshi.

Vine is at a disadvantage compared to YouTube or Facebook as a moneymaker because most Vine users are too young to be big spenders. But some companies - like the Japan unit of Intel and Japanese candy maker Morinaga & Co - are using Vine, seeing it as a worthwhile investment for brand recognition. There are signs that the Vine craze may have peaked in Japan. Nobu Hayashi, who consults and writes about technology in Japan, believes Vine's trademark brevity is proving its weakness. "It becomes just one gag after the other," Hayashi said.

Watch more

Last month, Vine added a "watch more" option, allowing an attachment of longer video of up to 140 seconds, and up to 10 minutes for some partners. Vine is also starting to support opportunities to make money through the clips. But Japanese, like Americans, are often turning to rivals like Snapchat. And other social

networks, such as Instagram and Facebook, also offer video. Oozeki says she is expanding to other platforms, especially YouTube, for self-expression.

That reflects the sentiments of many of the Japanese Vine stars, who see their influence on Vine as a springboard for other online or film careers. Hokuto Ikura quit his job at a major company, moved to Tokyo from Fukuoka to become a planner at Tokyo-based Grove Inc, which recruits and supports Viners and other online creators. Vine changed Ikura's life in a personal way, too. Oozeki is now his girlfriend. He says they complement each other well because Oozeki is inspired and creative, while he is more organized and analytical.

Hayatto Noguchi, with about 23,000 followers and 16 million loops or views on Vine, is hoping to leverage Vine as a springboard for his livelihood. Noguchi uses animation as well as the stop-motion technique of manipulating real-life objects, frames at a time, to create the illusion of movement. In one, colorful origami-like buildings pop up on a desk. In another, a likeness of Noguchi appears on top of a cake to wish a happy birthday.

He has already been tapped by Intel Japan, Tic Tac mints and other companies to create Vine videos, although the pay is relatively small at a few hundred dollars (tens of thousands of yen) per post. It's a tricky process to fine-tune the looping and craft an eye-catching concept. An overly polished look can backfire because most people are tired of the slickness of TV ads and Hollywood movies, he said.

Noguchi recently quit his job at a cell phone company and is devoting himself full time to Vine. He hasn't told his parents about Vine, dreaming of that day they'll find out on their own. But he has no illusions about how fleeting the Vine craze might be, and shrugs that time might be running out for him to become a self-sustaining videographer. "I think this year is it," he said.—AP



Tesla Motors Inc CEO Elon Musk

TESLA'S MUSK SAYS SOFTWARE CHANGES COULD IMPROVE AUTOPILOT SYSTEM

DETROIT: Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk says he's optimistic that a software update can improve the semi-autonomous Autopilot system in the company's cars. Tesla has been working on changes to Autopilot since May, after one of its Model S sedans failed to sense a tractor trailer in bright sun and crashed into it. The driver was killed.

In a Twitter post Sunday, Musk said that after talking

with German supplier Bosch, which makes its radar sensors, it appears "significant improvements" to Autopilot can be sent to drivers automatically through over-the-air software updates. Musk gave no details on the improvements. He also didn't say when the updates might happen. Musk also said he plans to release new product plans for Tesla after his other company, Space X, launched a rocket early yesterday.—AP

FROM FAVELAS TO THE WHITE HOUSE, TILES TURN FOOTSTEPS INTO ELECTRICITY

LONDON: It was in Morro da Mineira favela, in Rio de Janeiro, that British engineer Laurence Kemball-Cook first saw how his floor tiles could make a difference. Children were playing soccer as their families cheered them on - a typical scene, except the match was being played at night in an area normally off-limits to slum dwellers after dark. Under their feet were 200 tiles that Kemball-Cook and his team had installed with funding from oil giant, Shell.

As the children ran up and down the pitch, their kinetic energy was being stored in batteries, and along with solar panels, used to illuminate the field. "The parents saw that their kids were taking part in a real-life science experiment and how inspiring it was," said Kemball-Cook, founder and chief executive of Pavegen, which produces the tiles that convert footsteps into electricity.

The project was unveiled by Brazilian soccer legend Pele, who called it a first in the world, according to media reports. Nearly two years on, the soccer pitch is still being powered by children's footsteps, and there are now over 100 Pavegen installations in more than 30 countries. The tiles have been laid down in London's Heathrow Airport, Sandton City shopping centre in Johannesburg, and another soccer pitch in Lagos, Nigeria.

Powered by footsteps

Kemball-Cook, who is confident his tiles will last a lifetime, will also see them installed outside the White House in Washington DC later this year. "We've got an aim to cover every city in the world with our tiles to provide a tangible off-grid energy source," he said. There are still around 1 billion people in the world without access to electricity. Ensuring they are able to access to affordable, reliable energy that does not harm the planet is a concern for many policymakers and social entrepreneurs alike.

Instead of using sunlight or wind power, which varies in availability, Pavegen tiles work by converting the downward weight of a person's footsteps into electricity

through an internal flywheel. Each step generates five watts of power but the more the flywheel turns, the more power it produces, which is why Pavegen tiles work best in high traffic areas, Kemball-Cook said.

But for all the successes, Kemball-Cook said his concept was birthed from failure, after he struggled to design a new type of streetlight for British energy provider Eon. "I failed to do so and hung my head in shame and left Eon," said the Loughborough University graduate, who devised his first Pavegen tile shortly after in 2009 from his London bedroom. Nearly 130 prototypes later, Kemball-Cook launched a new version of the product in May. Known as 'V3' and triangular in shape, he said it can produce 200 times more energy than the original square-shaped tile.

Steps and social media

To encourage people to care about renewable energy, the tile collects data and connects with smartphones to track the amount of energy produced through footsteps. In May, Kemball-Cook partnered with ex-Apple marketing executive Jeff Martin, founder of Tribal Planet, which builds mobile platforms that rewards consumers for doing "social good". Through Martin's technology, people walking on Pavegen V3 tiles can use their footsteps to redeem rewards at retailers or make donations through their phones - incentives to keep users engaged even if they lose interest in clean energy or climate.

"In a social media world, you have to do it that way to make it sustainable otherwise people forget about it and move onto the next thing," Martin said. "We're softly encouraging people to see the value of their own energy, not just the energy they consume," he said. Kemball-Cook said integrating Pavegen tiles into slums, roads, shopping centers and sport stadiums around the world were all firmly in his sights, adding that creating sustainable cities for future generations was his main priority. "Communities doing something as simple as walking can now change their communities," he said. "People are the solutions."—Reuters

NEW HAMPSHIRE CITY POLICE USE POKEMON GO TO LURE FUGITIVES

MANCHESTER: Police in New Hampshire's largest city have gotten the Pokemon Go bug, trying to lure fugitives with the popular app. A post on the Manchester Police Department Facebook page announces that police recently detected one of the more rare Pokemon characters - a Charizard - in the booking area.

The post invites those whose names appear on a list linked to the post to be "one of the lucky ones" to come capture the Charizard. The list includes the names of the more than 500 fugitives on the department's wanted persons roundup. Sgt Eric Knight said Sunday the post has yet to net an arrest. But it's been popular with its Facebook followers. Since the post went up late Saturday night, it's captured more than 13,000 "likes."—AP

MAN SHOOTS AT 'POKEMON GO' PLAYERS OUTSIDE HOUSE

PALM COAST, Florida: Authorities say a Florida man fired shots at two late-night "Pokemon Go" players in a car outside his house but no one was injured. Flagler County Sheriff's Office spokesman James Troiano says in a news release that the homeowner awoke to a noise outside about 1:30 am Saturday and saw a car sitting in the road in front of his house. He told authorities he got a handgun and approached the vehicle.

Troiano says the two teens in the car sped away and the man fired several shots at them. Later that morning, he says, the mother of one of the teens called the sheriff's office when they realized the car had a flat tire and several bullet holes in it. She told officials the two had been playing the smartphone app. The release says the investigation is ongoing.—AP

TASTE FOR MUSHROOMS HELPS FARMERS TO PROTECT FOREST

BABATI, Tanzania: Magdalena Gwasuma ducks carefully into a small, dark cage at the back of her house, where rows of fresh oyster mushrooms sit on wooden shelves. "I didn't know anything about growing mushrooms at home - we used to get them from the forest," the 60-year-old said. "I didn't know growing mushrooms could be a way of making money." Gwasuma, who lives near Babati town on the edge of the Nou forest in Tanzania's northern Manyara region, now realizes she can make a living without cutting down the neighboring trees.

Thousands of people living in the area have long depended on the forests around them to source wood for fuel or to make charcoal for a living, aid workers say. Most are also poor farmers, like Gwasuma, who have been suffering from recurring drought and dismal harvests. "The rains have become more unreliable, and this change in the weather has affected our agricultural production, as we have experienced low crop yields and shortages of water for livestock and domestic use," she said.

Like many of her neighbors, Gwasuma has turned to growing oyster mushrooms to

find new sources of income under a project run by Farm Africa, an international charity that works to reduce poverty in rural communities. Tanzania has one of the highest rates of deforestation in sub-Saharan Africa, with around 372,000 hectares of forests destroyed every year, according to the U.N Food and Agriculture Organization's 2015 Global Forest Resources Assessment.

Mature trees - which are vital to protecting soil from erosion, purifying air and water, and curbing climate change by sucking in carbon - are being chopped down as demand for wood increases, local experts say. "When the forest is logged or burned, not only does carbon absorption stop but the carbon stored in trees and other vegetation is released into the atmosphere, increasing the amount of climate-changing gases," said Lawrence Kileo, Farm Africa's field officer.

Climate resilience

While mushrooms have traditionally been eaten in northern Tanzania, most farmers picked them from the wild and did not grow them commercially. But Farm Africa is now teaching farmers to grow oyster mushrooms

to reduce their reliance on growing crops and raising animals. The project is part of wider government efforts to boost resilience to climate change by encouraging farmers to find other ways of earning money.

Local families, who have for many years depended on the forest for their livelihoods, have been introduced to mushroom cultivation, raffia weaving and beekeeping. With funding from the European Union, Farm Africa has trained 700 farmers in mushroom cultivation, and hopes the model could be replicated elsewhere in Tanzania.

Mushroom cuisine

Forest ecosystems lend themselves well to mushroom production, and experts work with farmers to select the best place to build their mushroom-growing facilities, which must be dark, warm and moist, Kileo said. Farmers are also being trained in processing techniques so the mushrooms can be sold fresh or dried. The organization has set up a processing and collection centre where farmers can come to sell their mushrooms, Kileo said.

Because the protein-rich fungi have a

short production cycle, farmers can grow them throughout the year and generate a good profit, he added. A kilo of mushrooms fetches around 6,000 Tanzanian shillings (around \$3) in the local market, Gwasuma said. Since Farm Africa began promoting oyster mushroom farming to communities around the Nou forest seven years ago, demand for mushrooms for domestic consumption has increased, it said.

Project coordinator Beatrice Muliwela said local people initially did not know how to cook mushrooms other than boiling them in stew. "Many were also wary of eating them because they had been warned some mushrooms are poisonous," she said. To raise awareness of mushrooms as a food, Farm Africa organized regular galas to demonstrate various mushroom dishes. That paid off, and to meet growing demand, farmers are being trained to produce mushroom spores so they can expand production.

Mushrooming profits

In 2015 around 1,850 bottles of young spores were distributed, and a total of 22,145 kg of mushrooms were produced - of

which 10,390 kg were sold fresh and the rest dried. That earned a net income of 99.26 million shillings (around \$49,630), split among 17 groups totaling 300 farmers, Kileo said. Mushroom farming has made a big difference to Gwasuma, her nine children and their families.

She makes 480,000 shillings (\$240) from growing mushrooms each year, which is her biggest source of income. Before, her husband was the family's main breadwinner. "With the extra money, we have been able to send all our grandchildren to school, improve our diets and afford medical costs. We have also been able to improve our home and invest in our business," she said.

Despite its success, the mushroom-growing push has not been without problems, Muliwela said. Developing the right spores that grow well in the local environment has been one challenge. Another is access to markets, because farmers need to sell their fresh mushrooms close by to avoid spoiling them during transportation over longer distances. "This is a problem because farmers have less access to markets and reduced bargaining power," said Muliwela. —Reuters

TAIWAN TO MAKE LUNAR LANDER FOR NASA MOON-MINING MISSION

TAIPEI: Taiwan is building a \$47 million lunar lander as part of the first ever moon-mining project, officials said yesterday. The lander, to be made by the island's Chung-shan Institute of Science and Technology, will carry a rover and touch down on the moon's surface after a three-day journey from Earth. US space agency NASA is leading the project, which is called Resource Prospector and aims to be the first mining expedition on another world. The rover is designed to excavate hydrogen, oxygen and water from the moon, NASA says on its website.

"To be honest, the schedule is pressing,"

Han Kuo-chang, the head of CSIST's international cooperation program, told AFP, adding that the US would supply the rover and the lander's descent propulsion system. "Should the Resource Prospector prove to be successful, the moon could be used as a base for space journeys into Mars," Han said. It is the first time Taiwan has built a lunar lander. CSIST is required to deliver the 3.7-tonne vehicle to NASA before the end of 2018, according to the agreement signed between Taiwan and the US space agency. NASA is due to launch the moon-mining mission early in the 2020s.—AFP

INDONESIA BEGINS RE-VACCINATING VICTIMS OF FAKE DRUG RING

JAKARTA: Indonesia yesterday began re-vaccinating nearly 200 children who received fake versions of imported inoculations from a drug-counterfeiting ring broken up last month after operating for more than a decade. President Joko Widodo urged calm as public uproar intensified over revelations that health officials knew about the syndicate producing the fake vaccines for several years but did little to stop it.

The scandal has exposed major weaknesses in the oversight of the health sector, which has expanded rapidly alongside a growing middle class. No illnesses or deaths have been directly linked to the fake vaccines, officials have said. "I want to ask people to stay calm because this incident happened over such a long time," Widodo told reporters at a Jakarta clinic offering re-vaccinations. "We need more time to investigate so we can get the real data of people who suffered from these fake vaccines."

The ring used stolen vials and forged labels to make the fake medicine look like imported vaccines produced by GlaxoSmithKline and Sanofi. State-owned Bio Farma produces nearly all vaccines available in Indonesia. At least 28 health care facilities throughout the country, including Jakarta and the tourist resort island of Bali, were suspected of buying fake booster vaccines for hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough.

Revoke permits

Health officials said the sham vaccines contained the antibiotic gentamicin and saline solution and were not harmful and made up only 1 percent of total vaccines in Indonesia. Investigators are trying to determine how widely the fake drugs were distributed.

Police have arrested nearly two dozen people, including drugmakers, pharmacists, doctors and nurses. Police have identified at least 197 children for re-vaccination, but many more are expected to be confirmed.

Health Minister Nila Moeloek told Reuters officials knew fake vaccines were being distributed in 2013 but she declined to say why action was not taken sooner. The president has ordered an overhaul of the food and drug monitoring agency. One mother, Rina Herlina Sari, said she no longer trusted private clinics. "The government should revoke their permits," she said.

Reporters visited the clinic accused of giving Sari's daughter, and other children, fake vaccines, and found it operating. Its main midwife had been arrested but other staff were working. "The overall facility is a health facility with other areas of care so we have to allow it to continue," Agung Setya, director of criminal police investigations, said. "It is up to the health ministry to decide whether to shut it down."—Reuters



Durban, South Africa: Disguised people walk in front of AIDS activists during a march called 'Keep The Promise 2016' through the streets of Durban.—AFP

AIDS SUMMIT OPENS WITH WARNINGS, PROGRESS AT RISK

'ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS HUMANKIND HAS FACED'

DURBAN, South Africa: More than 18,000 scientists, campaigners and donors opened a major AIDS conference in South Africa yesterday, hailing progress against the disease but warning that recent gains were under threat. The week-long conference returns to Africa 16 years after Nelson Mandela galvanized the world to take up the fight against AIDS, describing it as "one of the greatest threats humankind has faced".

Again hosted by the coastal city of Durban, the International AIDS Conference is seen as the key biannual gathering of experts tackling a pandemic that has claimed more than 30 million lives in 35 years. Among those attending this 21st edition are UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, activists including singer Elton John and actress Charlize Theron, and Britain's Prince Harry. "When the global AIDS community last met (in Durban) in 2000, only a few thousand Africans were receiving antiretroviral drugs," billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates said in a speech on the eve of the opening session.

"Today, more than 12 million Africans are on treatment—more than a quarter of them living here in South Africa." But other statistics are less encouraging.

In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 2,000 young people under the age of 24 are newly infected every single day, and almost half of the people living with HIV are undiagnosed. "If we fail to act, all the hard-earned gains made in HIV in sub-Saharan Africa over the last 15 years could be reversed," Gates warned, pointing to Africa's huge young population entering the risky age for catching the disease.

Ban Ki-moon also warned that urgent action was needed to avoid progress being lost. "As a global community, we must move quickly and decisively towards achieving the targets that will help us finally bring this epidemic to an end," he said yesterday. The United Nations has set a target of ending the AIDS pandemic by 2030.

A 'crucial time'

Infection rates are rising in many regions of the world, with Russia especially hard hit. There are some 36.7 million people worldwide living with HIV/AIDS, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. Of these, only 17 million are receiving treatment. "This conference comes at another crucial time in the HIV epidemic," said Chris Beyrer, president of the International AIDS Society.

"If we don't make the right strategic choices, we risk reversing hard-won gains. Delay is tantamount to defeat." Until 2000, only wealthier countries had hosted the AIDS meeting. That all changed when South Africa became the first developing country—and the first with an unbridled epidemic of HIV in its population—to take the helm.

The conference was a highly-charged affair, but its emotional impact transformed the AIDS campaign. Campaigners accused drugs companies of providing life-saving drugs to HIV patients in rich countries but ignoring counterparts in poor economies. And South African activists angrily leveled accusations of AIDS-



denialism at then-president Thabo Mbeki, who insisted the disease was caused by poverty, not by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Hundreds of delegates walked out when Mbeki, who relied on advice from discredited scientists, told the conference opening: "It seemed to me that we could not blame everything on a single virus."

Mbeki denied millions access to life-saving antiretroviral drugs, and a Harvard study later concluded his policies were responsible for

300,000 avoidable deaths in South Africa. "It was a very painful moment in the world," Beyrer told AFP, recalling the 2000 event. Things changed under subsequent leaders, and South Africa now has the world's largest treatment program. With no cure for the virus in sight, patients today still face lifelong reliance on expensive antiretroviral drugs which cause side effects. This time around, delegates will pore over the latest scientific research, amid frustration that there is still no vaccine for the stealthy virus. — AFP

HIV/AIDS STILL TOP KILLER OF AFRICAN ADOLESCENTS

JOHANNESBURG: HIV/AIDS remains the leading cause of death among Africans aged between 10 and 19, UNICEF chief Anthony Lake said yesterday at the start of a major international conference on the virus. "Despite remarkable global progress in tackling the HIV/AIDS pandemic, much work remains to be done to protect children and adolescents from infection, sickness and death," Lake said in a statement released on the first day of AIDS 2016, held in the South African city of Durban. "AIDS is still the number two cause of death for those aged 10-19 globally and number one in Africa," added the head of the UN children's agency. According to UNICEF, AIDS-related deaths among people aged between 15 and 19 have more than doubled since 2000, with 29 new infections within this age group taking place across the world every hour. "Girls are particularly vulnerable, making up about 65 per cent of new adolescent infections worldwide," said the statement.

"In sub-Saharan Africa, which accounts for about 70 per cent of people in the world living with HIV, three out of every four adolescents

newly infected by HIV in 2015 were girls." Some 68 per cent of 52,000 young people surveyed in 16 countries said they did not want to be tested, both because they were afraid of an HIV-positive result, and because they were worried about social stigma. Meanwhile, new mother-to-child infections taking place during childbirth or breastfeeding have dropped by 70 per cent since 2000.

In 2015, just six countries—all but one in Africa—accounted for half of new infections among under-14s: India, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Tanzania. "The undeniable progress we have made in the last three decades does not mean that our struggle is over," said Lake. "The battle against AIDS will not be over until we redouble prevention and treatment efforts; until we reach those young lives still being denied the progress that millions before them have enjoyed; and until we end the stigma and fear that prevent so many young people from getting tested." AIDS 2016, the 21st International AIDS Conference, brings together 18,000 scientists, politicians, activists, jurists, and donors. — AFP



NEW YORK: This photo provided by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey shows a diamondback terrapin turtle on a JFK airport runway in New York. — AP

TURTLE NESTING DISRUPT KENNEDY AIRPORT TAKEOFFS

NEW YORK: Of all the factors that could delay flights at New York's John F Kennedy International Airport, this one is probably the slowest: Turtles. Nearly 400 diamondback terrapins have turned up on the airport's property this year, most near the sandy turf bordering runways where they lay eggs and build nests.

Some of the slowpoke visitors have managed to crawl onto the runways and taxiways, causing delays while workers round them up, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that operates the airport said Friday. "Anything can be a hazard to aircraft, even turtles," said Laura Francoeur, the Port Authority's chief wildlife biologist.

While officials said they didn't have information on whether a plane has ever hit a turtle, they did say that it's not uncommon

to have delays of several minutes at a time while workers pluck turtles from the potential path of planes. The turtles are then measured, tagged and returned to a safe habitat. That normal habitat is the nearby Jamaica Bay salt marshes.

But each year after mating, during a month long nesting season that peaks in mid-July, they find special spots for their eggs to hatch, mostly in the sand along the perimeter of the airport.

Two years ago, the Port Authority installed plastic barriers along the sandy edge to keep the turtles from taking runway walks. But that doesn't deter the more adventurous ones. Last year, 163 turtles found their way on to airport property, officials said, fewer because of runway construction.—AP

IN SARATOGA SPRINGS, REVIVING THE WELLS THAT MADE IT FAMOUS

SARATOGA SPRINGS, New York: More than a century after scores of Saratoga Springs' famous mineral wells were capped in an early example of environmental conservation, a few of them could soon be flowing with naturally carbonated water once again. A volunteer group has undertaken a project, with the cooperation of state officials, to find and restore a few of them. The effort succeeded on a recent



NEW YORK: In this photo, water spouts from Shonts Well # 3 that is being restored at Saratoga Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs, New York. — AP

summer day, with water shooting out of the top of one wellhead that had been weed-choked and forgotten for decades.

"That's probably the first time in 90 years that much water is coming out of there," said Richard Aichele, a member of Friends of Saratoga Spa State Park. State officials point out the effort is limited to just a few wells total in the Saratoga park. Alli Schweizer, the park's educator, said the restoration group's efforts won't threaten the park's aquifer and are purely for historical purposes "so future generations can enjoy them."

Saratoga Springs has been known for its natural mineral springs since Colonial

times, when Mohawk Indians introduced Europeans to the carbonated waters bubbling up from the ground in the Adirondack foothills. As Saratoga grew in the early 1800s, hotels sprouted to cater to visitors who traveled here to drink the water and bathe in the belief it would relieve various ailments, making "the Spa" one of America's first resort towns.

Saratoga was already a thriving summer-time destination when the first organized thoroughbred races were held here in 1863, launching a tradition that attracts hundreds of thousands of fans each year. By the early 1900s, gas companies had started drilling mineral water wells in an area on Saratoga's southern outskirts, a short distance from the two dozen or so mineral springs sprinkled around the town's main business and residential section.

Springs going dry

Within a few years, more than 150 wells were bringing naturally occurring carbonic gas to the surface, where it was bottled in pressurized metal cylinders and used for carbonated beverages such as soda. "Our springs were basically going dry," Schweizer said. Wealthy Saratoga residents, concerned that the area's aquifer was being depleted, began pushing the state to halt the gas-extraction operations conducted on privately owned land. "They realized what they had here, they were influential, they applied pressure and got the job done," said Charlie Kuenzel, a retired earth science teacher-turned-tour guide whose local history tours include the springs.

In 1909, the Legislature and the governor approved legislation that eventually resulted in the state acquiring the land where the gas was being extracted, capping all but a handful of the springs. The mineral springs replenished themselves over time, and the area where most of the gas extraction occurred is now a 2,400-acre state park that's home to a performing arts center, a resort hotel, golf courses and mineral baths.

Last year, Aichele and fellow volunteer Phil Henzel began searching for some of the capped mineral springs, using old maps and by talking with park employees, one of whom led the men to the weed-covered well cap near the banks of the creek. The park's friends group plans to build a fountain on the newly reopened spring and landscape the surrounding grounds, similar to what has been done for other nearby springs. They also hope to revive a couple of other defunct springs that dot the park. "We're rediscovering history again," Aichele said. — AP



NEW YORK: In this photo, state parks workers Mark Holmes, Jay Downing and Rod MacDuff connect pipes on Shonts Well # 3 that is being in restored at Saratoga Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs, New York. — AP



FLORIDA: In this file photo, boats docked at Central Marine in Stuart, Florida, are surrounded by blue green algae. — AP

CURING FLORIDA'S ALGAE CRISIS WILL TAKE TIME, MONEY, SCIENCE

STUART, Florida: The enormous algae outbreak that has coated swaths of Florida's St. Lucie River with guacamole-like sludge is a man-made affliction, arising from political and economic decisions made over the past 140 years. Chasing dollars, Florida land developers and their government allies broke up nature's flow that used rivers, Lake Okeechobee and the Everglades to move water south from central Florida to the Florida Bay at the peninsula's tip.

That spurred Florida's economic growth, but it came with a price: Rivers and lagoons have periodically become so toxic with green and brown slime that fish die off, residents are sickened and tourists stay away. The algae-laden runoff flowing down rivers and estuaries after this year's heavy winter rains has hit especially hard along the St. Lucie River near the heavily populated Atlantic beaches. It's an oft-recurring problem. Yet joint federal and state projects agreed upon in 2000 by former Democratic President Bill Clinton and then-Republican Gov. Jeb Bush have been slow to materialize amid tight budgets and political opposition.

Causes

It's complicated, but the simple answer is humans. From the late 1800s well into the 1900s, business interests with government cooperation sought to drain the Everglades so land could be developed. Water that naturally flowed south from Lake Okeechobee through the Everglades to Florida Bay was diverted east and west into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee rivers and out to sea.

Around the lake, farms, ranches and homes sprang up, producing human and animal waste and fertilizer, all laden with phosphorus and nitrogen that fast-reproducing algae feast upon. Florida's heavy seasonal rains wash the pollutants into the lake and slow-moving rivers, prompting massive blooms almost annually in Florida's summer heat.

Consequences

Environmental, health and economic. Outbreaks kill fish and other plants by sucking oxygen from the water and releasing toxins. Toxins in the food chain can kill birds, reptiles and mammals. Humans fall sick by touching or breathing toxins. Boaters, fishermen and beachgoers stay away as waters look and smell rancid.

Short-term solutions

The US Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District, which control much of the flow through levees and gates, are

holding more water north of Lake Okeechobee and sending less water into the rivers. That has alleviated the immediate outbreak, at least in the river. An algae bloom in the lake covers 200 square miles.

Long-term solutions

Gov. Rick Scott wants to spend unspecified millions to get homeowners off septic tanks and onto sewer lines, reducing nutrient runoff. Scott also wants federal authorities to expedite an \$880 million project strengthening a dike which surrounds Lake Okeechobee, controlling its water flow. The 18-year project is scheduled for completion in 2025; Scott wants it done faster. Democrats and Republicans are at odds over who's to blame for not allocating extra money. Eric Draper, Audubon Florida's executive director, said strengthening the Herbert Hoover Dike "won't do anything" to alleviate algae because the Army Corps of Engineers will never significantly raise Lake Okeechobee's water level. John Campbell, a Corps spokesman, said even with expedited funding, it's unclear how much faster the project could be completed - given there are only so many qualified contractors to do the work.

Proposals

Some environmentalists say nature has the best solution: Let the water flow south into the Everglades as it did before man intervened. That's what was proposed in the then-\$7.8 billion pact

Clinton and Bush negotiated 16 years ago.

To achieve that end, retention reservoirs covering 90 square miles would be built south of Lake Okeechobee. Supporters say the water could be cleaned of phosphorus, nitrogen and other pollutants before releasing it into the Everglades. They say that also would improve the health of Florida Bay, which lost sea grass when dwindling freshwater turned the bay water too salty.

Agree-disagree

No. Brian LaPointe, an algae researcher at Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, said scrubbing the water of so much nitrogen would be nearly impossible. Besides, nitrogen-laden water would be a disaster for the Florida Bay, its sea grass and its coral, he said. Instead, he recommends reducing the amount of nutrients that farmers, ranchers and residents near the lake leech into the water.

Plan enactment

That's doubtful in the current political climate. The plan would require buying land owned by powerful cane growers US Sugar Corp and Florida Crystals. US Sugar struck a deal in 2008 to sell 300 square miles of land to the state for \$1.7 billion, but Florida's economy tanked, the state ran low on money, legislators balked and the company changed its mind. Only 42 square miles were purchased for \$197 million. — AP



FLORIDA: In this photo, sugar cane grows in fields bordering a roadway in Lake Harbor, Florida. — AP

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Kuwait Times
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5 of the Middle East's greatest ancient wonders



Persepolis, Iran

Located some 70 kilometers from the modern city of Shiraz, the once mighty city of Persepolis was the capital of the Persian Empire. Founded in the 6th century B.C., Persepolis was a complex of elaborate palaces built by Darius the Great, a king of the First Persian Empire. Centuries later, although a shadow of its former glory, the site's monumental stairways and the stone terrace survive.

Steeped in history, the Middle East has more than its fair share of ancient treasures and UNESCO World Heritage sites.



Old Jerusalem

A holy place for Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Old Jerusalem has long held great significance. Reflecting this, the winding streets inside the ancient walled city are divided into the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Armenian quarters. Among Old

Jerusalem's many holy sites, the Dome of the Rock is probably the most recognizable: Dating back to the 7th century, it is recognized by all three religions as the site of Abraham's sacrifice.



Karnak, Egypt

Karnak near Luxor is a great religious temple complex full of sanctuaries, kiosks, pylons, obelisks and, notably, the Great Temple of Amun. Much of the complex is dedicated to Amun,

a major god in Egyptian mythology. Karnak is the site's modern name, its ancient name was Ipet-isut or "The most select (or sacred) of places."



Shibam, Yemen

Famed for its distinctive architecture, the 16th-century walled city of Shibam in Yemen is often called the "Manhattan of the desert" for its impressive

tower-like structures. The city grew up because of its location as an important caravan halt on the spice and incense route across the Southern Arabian plateau.



Baalbek, Lebanon

Known as the "City of the Sun," Baalbek in the Lebanon's fertile Bekaa Valley is among the best preserved Roman ruins in the Middle East. Built on a magnificent scale that rivaled even ancient Rome,

pilgrims from across the empire flocked here to worship. Today, Baalbek hosts an annual arts festival making it a major cultural hub as well.

ANIMAL PLANET HD

03:25 Wildest Africa
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 From Pound Pups To Dog Stars
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Wildest Africa
17:25 Big Fish Man
18:20 Woodfellas
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Wildest Africa
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 Woodfellas
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 Big Fish Man
00:45 Human Prey
01:40 Woodfellas
02:35 Tanked

ID INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

03:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
03:48 Last Night In...
07:00 On The Case With Paula Zahn
10:20 Southern Fried Homicide
11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
12:00 Last Night In...
15:20 Southern Fried Homicide
16:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
17:00 Monsters: When Moms Go Bad
20:20 Southern Fried Homicide
21:10 California Investigator
21:35 California Investigator
22:00 Vanity Fair Confidential
22:50 Murder Among Friends
23:40 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
00:05 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
00:30 Scored: Crimes Of Passion
01:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
02:10 Murder Among Friends

11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
13:55 Miles From Tomorrow
14:25 The Lion Guard
14:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:20 Doc McStuffins
15:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
16:30 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:25 Goldie & Bear
17:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:20 The Lion Guard
18:45 Miles From Tomorrow
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:30 PJ Masks
22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
22:45 Unbungleable
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo

itv CHOICE

03:25 Together
03:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
04:20 Don't Tell The Bride
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
07:05 Chopping Block
08:00 Together
08:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40 The Chase
11:35 Chopping Block
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 Grantchester
17:25 It's Not Rocket Science
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Eggheads
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Chopping Block
20:30 Grantchester
21:25 It's Not Rocket Science
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:10 The Chase
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries

BBC FIRST

03:25 Spooks
04:20 Casualty
05:15 Sinbad
06:00 Eastenders
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Holly City
08:00 Casualty
08:55 Father Brown
09:45 Stella
10:35 Sinbad
11:25 Casualty
12:20 Father Brown
13:05 Stella
13:55 Sinbad
14:45 Casualty
15:35 Father Brown
16:20 Stella
17:10 Sinbad
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Doctors
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:00 Silent Witness
21:00 Silent Witness
21:55 Ripper Street
22:50 Spooks
23:40 Doctors
00:10 Doctors
00:40 Silent Witness
01:35 Silent Witness
02:30 Ripper Street

Disney CHANNEL

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
09:50 Wizards Of Waverly Place
10:40 Good Luck Charlie
11:30 Jessie
11:55 Jessie
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Hank Zipzer
13:10 Austin & Ally
14:00 Liv And Maddie
14:25 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
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost

Disney XD

06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 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 Boyster
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
13:00 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
15:50 The 7D
16:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Supa Strikas
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

nickelodeon HD

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 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:12 The Haunted Hathaways
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 Last Man Standing
19:30 Living With Fran
19:55 Mad Love
20:00 Suburgatory
20:24 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
20:48 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Dr. Ken
21:24 Last Man Standing
22:00 Ballers
22:24 Bordertown
23:00 Life In Pieces
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Dr. Ken
01:00 Last Man Standing
01:30 Ballers
02:00 Bordertown
02:30 Life In Pieces



47 RONIN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

UNIVERSAL PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH RELATIVITY MEDIA KEANU REEVES '47 RONIN' HIROYUKI SANADA TADANORU ASANO RIKKO KIYUCHI KO SHIBASAKI HAN ESCHKEH BENNY RUSE STEWART HARRIS MICHAEL JAY BUELLS JONATHAN MATHIASSEN ANDREW SCOTT STUBER CHRIS FENTON WALTER HAMADA PAMELA ADRI ERIC MCELROY CARIS MORGAN WALTER HAMADA

Discovery CHANNEL HD

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 Gold Divers
11:25 Yukon Men
12:15 Outback Truckers
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 Diamond River Hunters
18:30 Venom Hunters
19:20 Kings Of The Wild
20:10 Auction Hunters
20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
21:50 Diamond River Hunters
21:50 Venom Hunters
22:40 Dive Wars Australia
23:30 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
00:20 Junkyard Empire
01:10 Diamond River Hunters
02:00 Venom Hunters
02:50 Dive Wars Australia

Discovery Family

03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Doki
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 My Cat From Hell
08:40 How It's Made
09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 My Cat From Hell
12:50 Ultimate Survival

food network

03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
04:30 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
09:30 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Man v Food
20:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

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
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

OSN FIRST HD MORE

03:00 The Night Of
04:00 Vice Principals
04:30 How To Make It In America
05:00 The Cheshire Murders
07:00 Cinema Verite
08:30 Shot In The Heart
10:15 Path To War
13:00 Southern Rites
14:30 Grey Gardens
16:15 Path To War
19:00 The Wire
20:00 Band Of Brothers
21:00 True Blood
22:00 Preacher
23:00 Jayne Mansfield's Car
00:00 The Wire
01:00 Band Of Brothers

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

03:00 Better Call Saul
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
07:00 Devious Maids
08:00 The Blacklist
09:00 Code Black
10:00 Stitches
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 Supergirl
20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
21:00 The Catch
22:00 Lucifer
23:00 Better Call Saul
00:00 Devious Maids
01:00 The Catch
02:00 Lucifer

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

04:30 Get On Up
07:00 Veronica Guerin
09:00 God Help The Girl
11:00 Little Man Tate
12:45 Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom
15:15 Grand Central
17:00 God Help The Girl
19:00 Low Down
21:00 Hitting The Apex
23:30 I Origins
01:30 Grand Central

sundance CHANNEL

07:00 Bones
08:00 American Idol
09:00 American Idol
10:00 Grey's Anatomy
11:00 Grey's Anatomy
12:00 Grey's Anatomy
13:00 Cougar Town
13:30 Cougar Town
14:00 The Simpsons
14:30 The Simpsons
15:00 Bones
16:00 American Idol
17:00 American Idol
18:00 Low Winter Sun
19:00 Low Winter Sun
20:00 Low Winter Sun
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 Low Winter Sun



OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

04:00 47 Ronin
06:00 Airplane vs. Volcano
07:45 Tavin
09:15 R.I.P.D.
11:15 Batman Unlimited: Animal Instincts
12:45 Pearl Harbor
16:00 The League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen
18:00 R.I.P.D.
20:00 Faster
22:00 Watchmen
01:00 The Millennium Bug
02:45 Sharknado 3: Oh Hell No!

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

04:15 Jingle All The Way 2
06:00 The Heart Of The Oak
08:00 Memory Loss
10:00 The Three Dogaters
11:30 Blackie And Kanuto
13:00 Mamma Moo And Crow
14:30 Daddy Im A Zombie
16:00 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
20:00 Blue Elephant 2
22:00 Daddy Im A Zombie
23:30 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
Memory Loss
02:45 Blue Elephant 2

TLC HD

03:50 Circles
05:40 Maravilla
07:00 The Sunshine Boy
08:00 Look, Stranger
10:10 Mi Amiga Del Parque
11:35 Discovering: Zeffirelli
12:20 Big Star: Nothing Can Hurt Me
14:15 The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill
15:50 Look, Stranger
17:10 The Sunshine Boy
19:00 In The Bath Tub Of The World
20:25 Teddy Bear
22:00 Happy Accidents
01:20 The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill
02:55 Broke Sky

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

04:00 Three Men And A Baby
06:00 Sweet Home Alabama
08:00 Krippendorf's Tribe
10:00 Three Men And A Baby
12:00 Encino Man
14:00 Bad Parents
16:00 Krippendorf's Tribe
18:00 Cas & Dylan
20:00 Laggies
22:00 Let's Be Cops
00:00 For A Good Time, Call Cas & Dylan

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

04:00 Song For Marion
06:00 Diana
08:00 Superfast
10:00 Metallica: Through The Never
11:45 Seventh Son
13:45 The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part I
16:00 Superfast
17:45 Godzilla
20:00 Project Almanac
22:00 The Wedding Ringer
00:00 Catch Hell
01:45 Godzilla

STAR MOVIES

04:15 Seabiscuit
06:45 My Daughter Must Live
08:30 Signs
10:30 A Lot Like Love
12:30 Bruce Almighty
14:15 Dragonfly
16:00 10 Things I Hate About You
17:45 Up Close & Personal
20:00 The Entitled
21:30 Lay The Favorite
23:15 Breaking And Entering
01:15 From Dusk Till Dawn

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

03:00 My Favorite Martian
05:00 The Princess And The Frog
07:00 The Lizzie McGuire Movie
09:00 Toy Story 2
11:00 Earth To Echo
13:00 Frankenweenie
15:00 Toy Story 3
17:00 Homebound: The Incredible Journey
19:00 First Kid
21:00 Night At The Museum: Battle Of The Smithsonian
23:00 Homebound: The Incredible Journey
01:00 First Kid

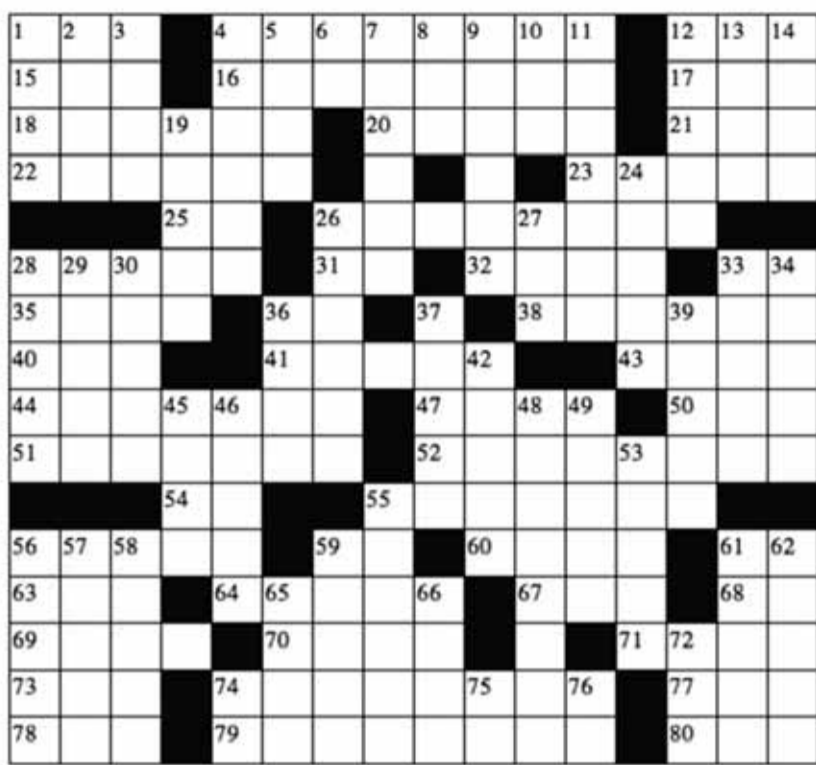
STAR WORLD HD

03:00 Grey's Anatomy
04:00 Grey's Anatomy
05:00 Cougar Town
05:30 Cougar Town
06:00 The Simpsons
06:30 The Simpsons

03:15 Your Style In His Hands
04:00 Billion Dollar Hotel
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Little People, Big World
05:35 Cake Boss
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 The Face UK
07:15 Toddlers & Tiaras
08:05 Say Yes To The Dress, Ai Bridesmaids
08:30 Say Yes To The Dress, Ai Bridesmaids
08:55 Kate Plus 8
09:45 Little People, Big World
10:10 Little People, Big World
10:35 Jon & Kate Plus 8
11:25 Cake Boss
11:50 Billion Dollar Hotel
12:40 The Face UK
13:30 Oprah's Master Class
14:20 Belief
15:10 Little People, Big World
15:35 Little People, Big World
16:00 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:50 Jon & Kate Plus 8
17:40 Cake Boss
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
18:30 Your Style In His Hands
19:20 Say Yes To The Dress, Ai Bridesmaids
19:45 Say Yes To The Dress, Ai Bridesmaids
20:10 The Face UK
21:00 My 600-Lb Life: Where Are They Now?
21:50 My Giant Life
22:40 Monsters Inside Me
23:30 Extreme Couponing
23:55 My 600-Lb Life: Where Are They Now?
00:45 My Giant Life
01:35 Monsters Inside Me
02:25 Jon & Kate Plus 8

WATCHMEN ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

CROSSWORD 1316



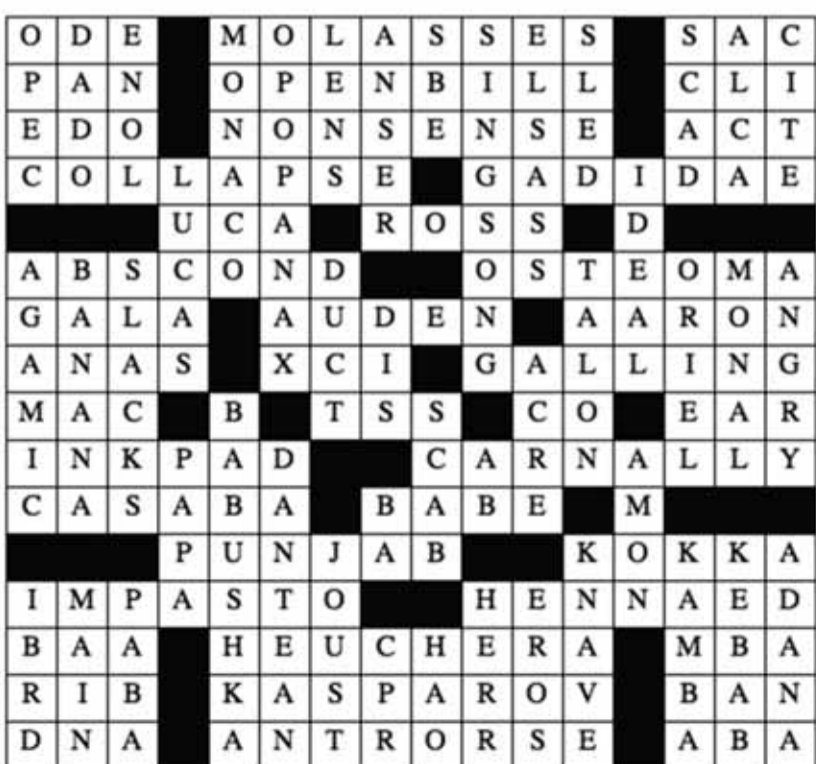
ACROSS

1. A person regarded as greedy and pig-like.
4. An iron-clad vessel built by the Confederate forces in the hope of breaking the blockade imposed by the North.
12. An interest followed with exaggerated zeal.
15. Anterior pituitary hormone that stimulates the function of the thyroid gland.
16. Anesthetize with ether.
17. A Kwa language spoken by the Yoruba people in southwestern Nigeria.
18. An inhabitant of ancient Thebes.
20. A tributary of the Rio Grande.
21. Someone who is morally reprehensible.
22. (Spanish) Saffron-flavored dish made of rice with shellfish and chicken.
23. Wild ox of the Malay Archipelago.
25. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
28. Tall coarse perennial American herb having small white flowers followed by blackish-red berries on long drooping racemes.
31. A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
32. The closing section of a musical composition.
35. A cord that is drawn through eyelets or around hooks in order to draw together two edges (as of a shoe or garment).
38. The basic unit of money in Panama.
40. Fermented alcoholic beverage similar to but heavier than beer.
41. A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
43. Small beads made from polished shells and formerly used as money by native Americans.
44. Become slow or slower.
47. (computer science) A data transmission rate (bits/second) for modems.
50. A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
51. A Dravidian language spoken in southern India.
52. Not normal.
54. An organization of independent states to promote international peace and security.
56. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
60. A pilgrimage to Mecca.
63. Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
64. A warm dry wind that blows down the northern slopes of the Alps.
67. 100 pyas equal 1kyat.
68. The atomic weight of an element that has the same combining capacity as a given weight of another element.
69. Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
70. Type genus of the Majidae.
71. A small cake leavened with yeast.
73. A police officer who investigates crimes.
77. Light informal conversation for social occasions.
78. A rapid bustling commotion.
79. The Palestinian uprising (beginning in 1987) against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.
80. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.

DOWN

1. A protocol (utilizing TCP) to transfer hypertext requests and information between servers and browsers.
2. A law passed by US Congress to prevent employees from being injured or contracting diseases in the course of their employment.
3. Clarified butter used in Indian cooking.
4. (South African) An ear of corn.
5. An inactive volcano in Sicily.
6. A blood group antigen possessed by Rh-positive people.
7. An official or legal cancellation.
8. A strong emotion.
9. A member of the Algonquian people formerly inhabiting the Maritime Provinces of Canada.
10. Relating to or containing the azo radical.
11. Ctenophore having short tentacles.
12. A sheet or band of fibrous connective tissue separating or binding together muscles and organs etc.
13. A Kwa language spoken in Ghana and the Ivory Coast.
14. A man who is much concerned with his dress and appearance.
19. Visionary British poet (1757-1827).
24. The skin that covers the top of the head.
26. A South American river.
27. Characteristic of a mob.
29. South African plant widely cultivated for its showy pure white spathe and yellow spadix.
30. A large body of water constituting a principal part of the hydrosphere.
33. Sluggish tailed Australian arboreal marsupial with gray furry ears and coat.
34. (neurology) Of or relating to the vagus nerve.
36. In bed.
37. An imaginary elephant that appears in a series of French books for children.
39. Broad in the beam.
42. A region of Malaysia in northeastern Borneo.
45. King of Denmark and Norway who forced Edmund II to divide England with him.
46. Valuable fiber plant of East Indies now widespread in cultivation.
48. (of unknown regions) Not yet surveyed or investigated.
49. Lacking in smartness or taste.
53. The seventh month of the Moslem calendar.
55. An island in the south Pacific.
57. (architecture) Forming or resembling an arch.
58. Small tropical American tree bearing edible plumlike fruit.
59. The locus of feelings and intuitions.
61. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
62. Jordan's port.
65. A strategically located monarchy on the southern and eastern coasts of the Arabian Peninsula.
66. Marked by or showing unaffected simplicity and lack of guile or worldly experience.
72. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
74. Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
75. A silvery soft waxy metallic element of the alkali metal group.
76. A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

The energies today show a fluency in communication and sharpen your intellect. You are curious and talkative and adept at solving your problems. There are also indications that you may increase your finances as a result of your communication abilities. Friends or acquaintances discover your gains and may ask for a loan from you. You must be cautious and discriminate between those who truly need help financially and those engaged in rip-offs. This is a time you greatly desire peace and quiet in the family setting. Maternal instincts may come to the forefront now and you make every effort to appease any discordance in the home. Also, there is a strong wish to make your surroundings pleasant-perhaps by redecorating.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This is a good time to lead the way on an assignment, for your originality is unusually heightened. Also, a business deal hinges on your being competent and assertive. You are buoyed with plenty of confidence. You and your friends may be planning a fun trip on a riverboat that has gambling or perhaps some other entertainment soon. You may feel that luck is in your corner this week. You could be right... Just do not become carried away with the moment-walk away with money in your hand. Make sure both your expectations and abilities are realistic. Your sympathy for others is great-particularly a favorite charity. It is good to give money to a charity, but your time and energy could be important as well.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You may find yourself deep into conversation with groups most of this day. In the morning it may be one group and in the afternoon it could be another group. Mental stimulation from others is important for you right now and it's a good idea to make every effort to cooperate and compromise with others. Any project should be a great success. This afternoon is an excellent time for taking part in social activities. Relations with lovers and friends are exceedingly pleasant. Your energy level is high and it is best to apply it in practical pursuits. Giving flowers or some other token of your esteem to a loved one will bring pleasurable rewards. This is a stable time where many of your relationships are in harmony with other parts of your life.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

There are times that you really enjoy your work. You may feel fortunate to have found a profession in which you appreciate your responsibilities. Any problems you may have in any area of your work or duty are usually valued as lessons. This is a time when you may also give your support to your teammates in order to encourage an early end to a difficult project. A celebration by mid-week will announce the success of your team. This afternoon you look forward to interactions with loved ones. You enjoy working behind the scenes, getting at any secret or hidden areas of the mind and psyche. Transforming experiences are where you like to be most. This evening is for fun.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

This is the time to shed away old concepts and ideas and prepare instead for a higher level of consciousness. New insights about your goals in the professional world come to you today. You are apt to spend a considerable amount of time and effort to improve finances, principally through physical or manual activity. There is growth and gain through these things. Generally, this is a fruitful period. It may be that you talk with a financial consultant this afternoon. Companionship with others is most rewarding this evening and you should take every opportunity to be with friends or family. You can be helping them as much as their presence helps you. Family, home and the other roots in your life give you a sense of mission now.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

A sudden business trip will open new doors of opportunity. Some business negotiation may be tricky but you have a talent for creating positive compromises. You will be able to complete the needed transaction in good time. This trip may be to a foreign country and could cause a reaction within your family. Reassure them that you will do a bit of research and take the precautions necessary. Be thoughtful of your family; they really care for you and will be supportive of your decision. Be sure to take your camera. This is an excellent time to maintain those relationships that are truly important. There is also a new and sweet intimacy to your love relationship. If this person is not going with you on this trip, set aside some funds for keepsake gifts to bring back.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Today, you tackle a project classified as work. Because this work interests you deeply, you really consider it fun. Status and security goals need rethinking in order to take advantage of changing circumstances. Your career is a focus for this, but your home and family situation are also involved. Finances-purchases, investments and credit in particular-could stand some clear thinking. Planning a budget system with input from all concerned may be in everyone's best interest. You could receive unexpected help or support from those around you, especially a young person. You and your family will prosper from new skills in communication and financial planning. This new information brings the family closer together.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may receive an offer to work for another place of business today. There could be pressure, but you would be best to educate yourself on the company, the people they sell their wares to and their standing in the community, city or country. Your analytical abilities are good. Projects that require much study may also involve travel to a library or museum. Fresh insight comes to you through mass media news reports-broadcasting, publishing or advertising. You will have a whole new perspective on a particular subject. There is a need to see both sides of an issue and strike a fair balance in several basic ideas that you have. In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best this evening.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 19)

A group meeting this morning reveals new information that would cause more study or investigative work to take place regarding some ongoing program or project. You may uncover or find an answer to some reason that there have been delays. Without realizing it someone gives you new insight into the way of finding answers. A long, complicated work matter may have everyone on edge. You may have to talk several people into the idea that the project will just need to take a little more time and patience. You may talk someone out of leaving the company this afternoon. This is an excellent time to sway others to your cause through speeches or clever arguments. You receive good news this evening.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You feel ready to conquer the world today. Perhaps you have done your homework or prepared the speech or just feel good after a few days of feeling kind of low. There is not only a desire for accomplishing great things but there will probably be many opportunities to partake in life's many puzzles. However, you should be careful in taking any undo risks or thrill-seeking stunts. Road rage and taking undue cautions in the heat of the day might be included here. There is an opportunity to increase your finances. It would be good to weigh the pros and cons of any business venture or investment at this time. A common interest in spiritual and mystical values among family members may occur this evening. Religious activities are enjoyed.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your moods may fluctuate as much as the weather. Keeping an eye on the tendency to become negative will help you to stay in touch with the things you need to be involved with this day. This is not a good time to make any concrete decisions about a relationship or business deal. Applying yourself to work and helping friends, even in the subtlest manner, should prove successful. This afternoon a little quiet time at home is preferred. You might enjoy working in the garden or reading a book or stopping all activity to just hang out with a young friend and perhaps, feed the ducks. You encourage others to loosen up and you enjoy your companions, friends or family this evening. Relationships started at this time can be long lasting, if you wish.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You display an urge to be recognized by co-workers for your hard work. There is a possibility that supervisors will analyze and summarize job positions and you and your co-workers may chat about the professional realm of life. This is life in the big business world and nothing to do with any individual but involves the general flow of business. Kindness to each other is important during the analyzing as each employee may be a bit sensitive. You have some projects that will come to an end, especially large ones. Resist selling short just to finish work as it could be misleading as to just how much work can possibly be fit into one day. This afternoon you may enjoy a few mental games with your friends. Romance is the highlight of the evening.

WORD SEARCH

Adverbs 2 - Word Search

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

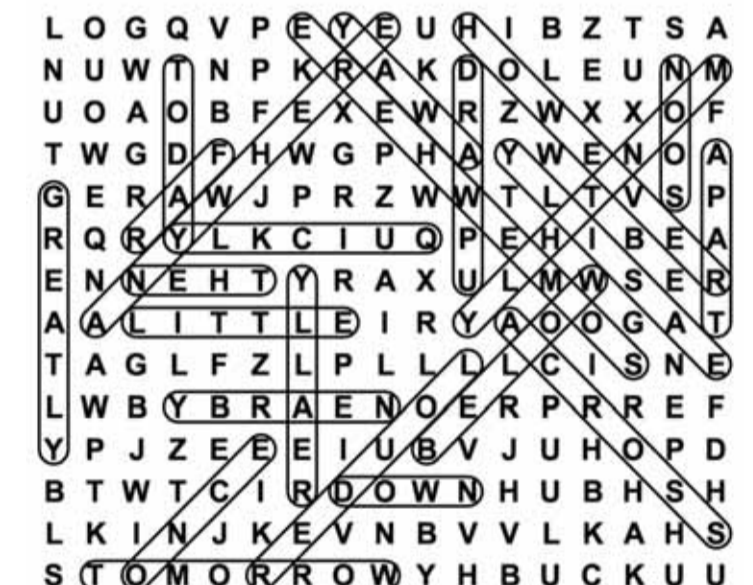


- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| AGAIN | HOME | RARELY |
| ALREADY | LOUDLY | SHORT |
| BEHIND | NEARLY | SLOWLY |
| DOWNWARD | NEVER | SOFTLY |
| FIRST | NOWHERE | SOMETIMES |
| FORWARD | OFTEN | WEEKLY |
| GENTLY | PRESENTLY | WELL |
| HIGH | QUITE | |

Yesterday Solution

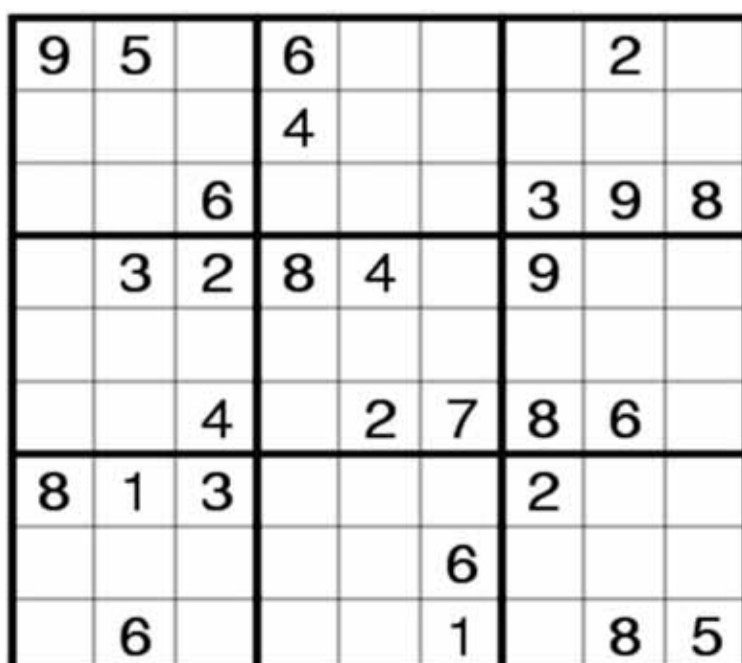
Large Print Word Search Puzzles

Adverbs 1 - Solution



- | | | |
|----------|---------|-----------|
| ACROSS | GREATLY | REALLY |
| ANYWHERE | HOWEVER | SOMEWHERE |
| APART | LITTLE | SOON |
| AWAY | LOUDER | THEN |
| BELOW | MONTHLY | TODAY |
| DOWN | NEARBY | TOMORROW |
| EASILY | ONCE | UPWARD |
| FAR | QUICKLY | |

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





Find the Pokemon

MEOWTH PIKACHU BLASTOISE SNORLAX
ONIX ZUBAT STARYU BUTTERFREE MUK STARMIE
METAPOD

E M S N O R L A X S
E E R B N M T R T U
R T M E I M R A T S
F A N U X C R K F H
R P I N K Y E T U T
E O U M U G T O P W
T D Z U B A T L J O
T B L A S T O I S E
U F J L U O T Y D M
B V P I K A C H U J

SUDOKU

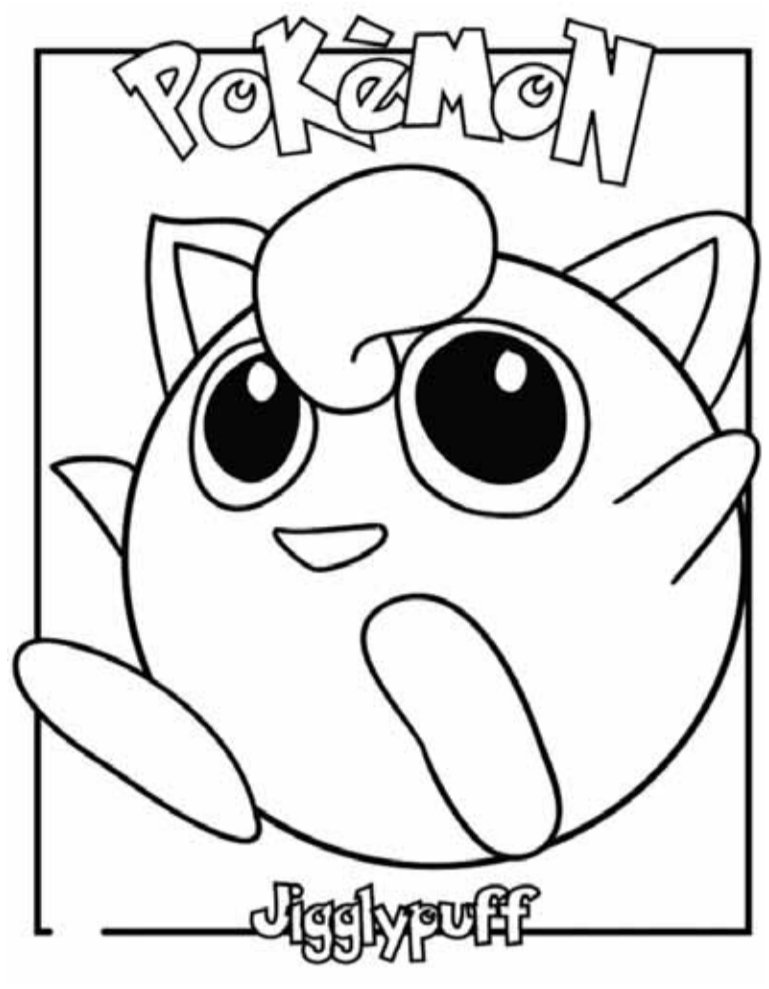
9	3	5			7		4	2
	4		1		5			
		7	2	3		6		
8	2		4				7	5
5			1					4
		9				3		
6		5				7	8	
		3	8	7				
	8				3			9

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

Solution



Color me!



ACTIVITY



Funny bookmark idea

- What you need**
- 1 photo of child pretending to hang from a rope
 - white card for backing
 - clear contact
 - hole punch
 - scissors
 - glue
 - string (to make the tassel)
- Activity**
1. Once you've taken your photo, print it out. It should print out at the right size if you print it onto A4 paper. If it doesn't paste it into a word document and shrink it to the size you want it.
 2. Cut around the outline of the body.
 3. Glue the hanging body onto a piece of card backing. Leave the arms holding the rope, unglued for now.
 4. Put contact over the top and the cut it out again.
 5. You should now be able to peel back only the arm and hand section. This will allow you to punch a hole where the hand is, so that you can thread the tassel through later.
 6. Set that aside and make the tassel.
 7. Use a small piece of cardboard about 6cm x 4cm and wind the string around about 20 times.
 8. Thread another piece of string through (see video) and tie a double knot, gathering the string together at the bottom.
 9. Now get your scissors and snip the top edge (see video).
 10. Tie a smaller piece around the tassel's bunch, about 5mm along.
 11. Trim the end so that the tassel is even.
 12. Tie the main string in a looped knot at the end.
 13. Now thread that through the hole you punched in the bookmark earlier.
 14. Glue the unglued flap down over the arm and hand. It should look like the kid is 'hanging' from the rope.
 15. A cute bookmark that will remind Mum or Dad who loves them best, everytime they open their book to read.

JOKES

- Q: What has forty feet and sings?
A: The school choir!
- Q: Why did the girl sit on the ladder to sing?
A: She wanted to reach the high notes!
- Q: What is the musical part of a snake?
A: The scales!
- Q: Where did the music teacher leave his keys?
A: In the piano!
- Q: What do you call a cow that can play a musical instrument?
A: A moo-sician
- Q: What makes pirates such good singers?
A: They can hit the high Cs!



Did you know?

- Silver is a chemical element. Its chemical symbol is Ag and atomic number is 47.
- Silver is a soft, shiny metal that is a good conductor of electricity.
- Silver is precious metal that has been used for many years to make fine pieces of jewelry, coins, utensils and various pieces of art.
- In modern times silver is also used in dentistry, electronics, photography, mirrors and in a number of industrial applications that make use of its unique properties.
- You may have heard of the term sterling silver, this is the name given to an alloy (combination of metals) that is at least 92.5% silver by weight. The other 7.5% is made up of other metals, usually copper.
- Silver is found naturally by itself, as an alloy with gold or in an ore (a rock containing various metals and elements). Silver is often found in copper and lead ores.
- The price of silver has fluctuated dramatically over the last century, climbing as demand increases but dropping when large silver deposits are found.
- As of November 2009, gold was valued at around 65 times the value of silver by mass.
- The word silver is one of the few words in the English language that is nearly impossible to rhyme. Words such as orange, purple, breadth, wolf, depth, angst, gulf, ninth and twelfth are also difficult or impossible to rhyme. While there are some words that do actually rhyme with these examples they are usually very rare or hardly used in the modern English language.

RECIPES FOR KIDS



Summer salad sandwich

- Ingredients**
- 225g can sliced beetroot, drained
 - 8 slices multigrain bread
 - 4 butter lettuce leaves
 - 8 slices Swiss cheese
 - 1 carrot, grated
 - 2 tomatoes, sliced
 - 1 avocado, cut into wedges
 - 1 cup alfalfa
 - Bananas and sultanas, to serve
 - Hummus
 - 400g can chickpeas, rinsed, drained
 - 1 tablespoon tahini
 - 1 lemon, juice
 - 1 pinch ground cumin
- Method**
1. To make hummus, place all ingredients in a food processor. Process until smooth.
 2. Add 1-2 tablespoons water and pulse until a spreadable consistency. Place in an airtight container and refrigerate until ready to use.
 3. Pat dry beetroot with paper towel. Spread hummus over four slices of bread. Top with lettuce, carrot, cheese, tomato, avocado, beetroot and alfalfa.
 4. Sandwich together with remaining bread. Pack in lunchbox with fruit and sultanas.

DISNEY THE QUIZ

1. What Disney film released in 2010 retells the classic fairytale Rapunzel?
2. What is the name of Woody's owner in Toy Story?
3. In which Disney film will you hear the song 'Zero To Hero'?
4. Whose tea party does Alice attend?
5. The villain, Sid Phillips, appears in which 1995 Disney film?
6. What Disney film released in 2007 was half animated and half acted by real actors, featuring Susan Sarandon?
7. Name the Disney character that sang, 'One Day My Prince Will Come'?
8. What puts Snow White into a deep sleep?
9. What type of animal is a Flounder?
10. What helps the medicine go down, in Mary Poppins?



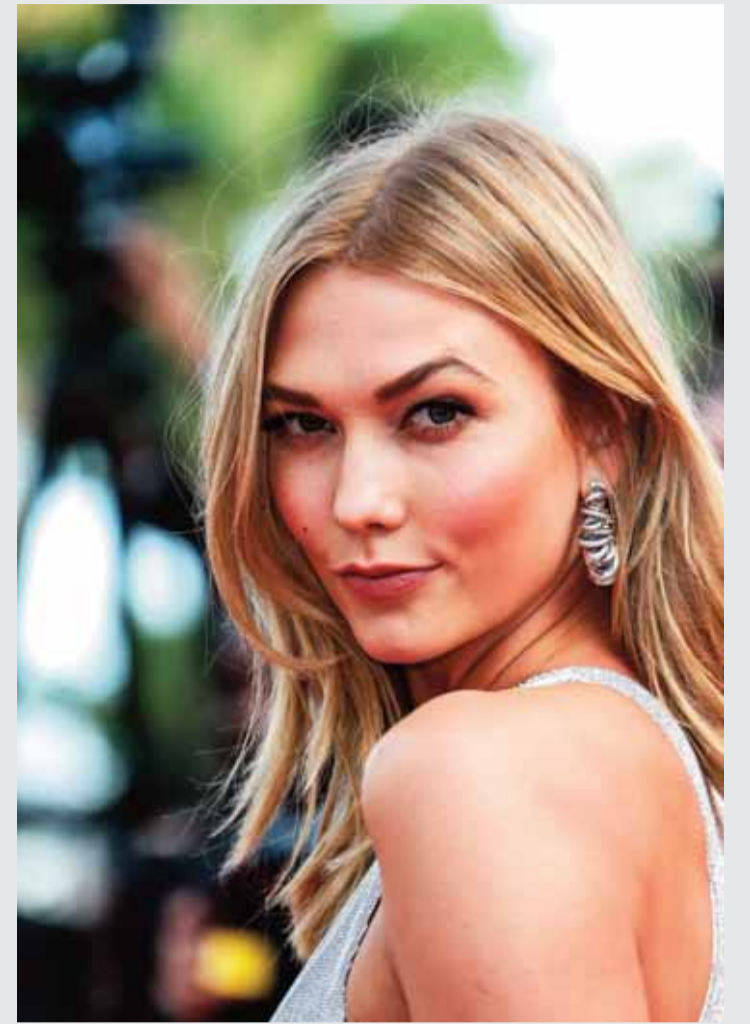
ANSWERS

1. Tangled
2. Andy
3. Hercules
4. Toy Story
5. The Mad Hatters
6. Enchanted
7. Sleeping Beauty or Snow White
8. A poisoned Apple
9. A Fish
10. A spoonful of sugar



Karlie Kloss worries she 'would look like a crazy woman' in heels

The 6'1" star has revealed she refuses to wear heels because of her height, which she fears would make her stand out on the streets of New York City. The blonde beauty shared: "I feel like I can conquer the world in a pair of flats. I think I would look like a crazy woman walking around N.Y.C. in heels since I'm 6'1" and 6'4" in heels. Plus, I take the subway, so I'd stand out even more!" The 23-year-old model is often seen in her sneakers and admits she wears flat shoes for "convenience and comfort". Karlie told PeopleStyle: "I'm also always running around in sneakers. I probably have at least 50 pairs." Karlie's height and good looks have helped to make her the envy of many, but the star admitted it has taken her time to discover her most flattering style. She said: "Learning what works for me was a challenge as a kid, especially with my height. But now I use it to my advantage. "Like I love wearing high-waisted trousers to make my legs look even longer." And Karlie revealed she has also found a way of making her height work to her advantage on the red carpet. She explained: "I love being super-tall because I can wear flats on the red carpet. And I get to wear amazing gowns at a runway show that nobody else could pull off because it's so long. There are definitely upsides to it." On the flip side, Karlie - who has modeled for lingerie giant Victoria's Secret - acknowledged her long legs are not suited to wearing short skirts. She shared: "I definitely do not look good in something that's too short. Everything gets shorter on me!"



Ellie Goulding has been diagnosed with exhaustion

The 29-year-old star has revealed the extent to which her busy work schedule has taken its toll on her wellbeing, saying she was advised by doctors to cancel two shows this weekend because she risks losing her voice for good. The blonde beauty - who has nearly played 100 shows across the world already in 2016 - shared: "I've had to cancel some festivals this weekend because of exhaustion. I've done nearly 100 shows this year and my doctor has said if I do this weekend my voice might not bounce back from it. They did a bunch of tests on me and I have been diagnosed with exhaustion." The health-conscious star insisted she would only have cancelled her shows if there was no alternative. She did, however, say she is remaining upbeat about the rest of 2016, despite her setback. Ellie told the London Evening Standard

newspaper: "I'm a hard worker. I don't cancel anything unless I really need to, but my doctor said, 'Ellie, your voice is going to burn out'. Glastonbury was the point where I realized I was pretty exhausted. "It's all good though - I'm feeling really positive about the rest of the year." Ellie's next performance is scheduled for July 31 in Chicago, after which she will travel to New Zealand and Australia in September and October as part of her world tour. The 'Love Me Like You Do' hitmaker initially announced she would be cancelling her shows in Latvia and Finland via her Twitter account earlier this week. She tweeted: "Am sorry that I had to cancel this weekend's festivals. Because of ill-health I've been advised to not travel or perform. I'll bounce back (sic)"

James Bay had never seen a stadium gig before recently watching Beyonce in action



The chart-topping singer has revealed that despite being one of the most popular musicians in the world, he only recently attended a gig in a stadium venue - and he loved it. He confessed: "I went to my first stadium gig the other night and I saw Queen B. It was dreamy, the whole experience. I'm a big fan. "I had never seen a show in a stadium before. It's massive and it's an absolutely amazing thing. Especially when it's someone like her!" Meanwhile, the 25-year-old star admitted he is relishing touring with his album 'Chaos and the

Calm' and does not want the experience to stop anytime soon. He told BBC Radio 1: "We do a lot of touring, I'm slightly worried... I've been lucky that this campaign, the amount I have been able to tour with this album...it has gone on and on. "It's gonna go on till at least till October, like a whole American tour to do as well." However, James admitted there are some perils involved with moving from city to city in such a short timeframe, recalling one particular moment of embarrassment. He shared: "I just about saved my own bacon when I said in Glasgow ... in

Edinburgh, I'm almost doing it again! "I went, 'Hello Glasgow-Edinburgh' and the whole crowd just kinda cheered, except people in the front who were like 'booooo' - they totally spotted it." Meanwhile, James also revealed he is excited by the prospect of making new music, even though it will mean he won't be on the road for a period of time. He explained: "I'm so excited to get stuck into new music. And suddenly terrified at the thought of not touring anymore."

Charlie Sheen wants to make a reality show about living with HIV

Seven months after the 50-year-old actor revealed he is HIV positive, Charlie is ready to tell his story and really "open up". Speaking to US Weekly, a source said Charlie wants the show to be about, "his life in general," adding: "He's met with various producers. He'd really open up and allow the cameras inside his world." Charlie was once one of the highest paid actors on television with the sitcom 'Two and a Half Men', but his reign came to an end after his erratic behavior, disparaging comments about the series' creator Chuck Lorre and drug use forced studio bosses to terminate his contract. In Charlie's final season on the show, he was earning a staggering \$1.8 million an episode. Since his career meltdown and subsequent HIV announcement Charlie has been trying to get his life back on track and recently said that telling the world about his diagnosis was "like being released from prison". He said: "It was like being released from prison ... and we unearthed the stepping stones to a rubicon of change." However, the star regrets not being "more involved" in his children's lives. Charlie - who has Cassandra, 31, with his ex-partner Paula Profit, daughters Sam, 12, and Lola, 11, with his former wife Denise Richards and seven-year-old twins Bob and Max with his ex-spouse Brooke Mueller admits he has many regrets about his past but insisted he is trying to make up for his mistakes. He said: "I regret not using a condom one or two times when this whole thing happened. I regret ruining 'Two and a Half Men'. I regret not being more involved in my children's lives growing up ... But, we can

only move forward from today, and they wouldn't call it the past if it wasn't."



Michael Jackson had injections to delay puberty

Michael Jackson claimed he had been given injections at 13 to delay puberty and keep his voice high. The 'Thriller' hitmaker's former personal physician, Conrad Murray - who was jailed for involuntary manslaughter after administering the fatal dose of Propofol which killed the King of Pop in June 2009 - claimed he confided in him about the hormone treatment he had received in his early teens. Writing in his new book, 'This Is It', Murray - who met Michael three years before his death - revealed: "He began talking vaguely, seeming to have more difficulty describing precisely what happened to him. Maybe he was almost at the limit to his cathartic confession that night. But what Michael said left me the impression that he had been given injections, probably hormones, to delay puberty." After he had revealed for the first time to someone else his deepest held secret, Michael stopped talking." And Murray believes the shocking treatment accounted for his patient's bizarre character traits. In the extract, which has been published by the Daily Mirror newspaper, he wrote: "I often saw Jackson at his most exposed and confessional. He only agreed to share after making me swear, 'You will never breathe a word. Never.' I agreed. I was shocked when Jackson told me. It would explain all of Michael's unusual behavior as well as his morphological changes." Despite being renowned for his dancing skills, Murray revealed the 'Billie Jean' singer was in constant pain because of an "advanced chronic fungal infection" and a number of calluses. Despite being in pain for years, Michael's desire for privacy had meant he had refused to let a doctor check out his problems. Murray said: "[They] were covered in calluses... and had an advanced chronic fungal infection. It turned out he always

wore socks because he was so ashamed of the way his feet looked. "I suggested he needed a podiatrist. A day after his feet were treated, he was amazed he could walk and dance without pain. Later I prescribed anti-fungal medications to clear the infection. It was a complete success. Meanwhile, I personally administered regular lotions and massages to remove the rough skin. "The fact Michael's feet, something critical to him, were in such poor condition was a sign not only had he neglected himself but those around him were not keeping a close eye on his wellbeing."



Kim, Khloe and Kourtney Kardashian slapped with a \$10 million lawsuit

The reality TV stars have been accused of backing out of a deal to represent their line of make-up, while the company has also asked a judge to block the sisters from speaking negatively of Haven, according to the gossip website TMZ. Haven has based its eye-watering payout claim on the strength of some supposedly damaging remarks the sisters made as they allegedly performed a U-turn on their agreement.



Kim Kardashian West shares Taylor and Kanye conversation

Kim Kardashian West has shared a video of Taylor Swift describing Kanye West's 'Famous' lyrics as a "compliment". The 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' star has previously insisted the 'Shake It Off' singer approved her husband's controversial track - in which Kanye raps about wanting to have sex with Taylor - but after the 26-year-old pop star denied her claims, she took to Snapchat on Sunday (17.07.16) to share a number of revealing videos. After 'Keeping Up With the Kardashians' had featured the dispute on the show, Kim posted footage of Kanye and Taylor on the phone, with the 38-year-old rapper reading her the lyric "For all my Southside n****s that know me best / I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex". In response, Taylor could be heard saying: "It's like a compliment." Kanye reassured the singer he wanted her to "feel good" about the song. He said: "What I give a f**k [about] is you as a person, and as a friend, I want things that make you feel good." He then thanked her for being "so cool" about it, while she said she appreciated the "head's up" about the song. She added: "Go with whatever line...[you think is] better." "I really appreciate you telling me about it, that's really nice." Even asking or seeing if I'd be OK with it. I just really appreciate

it. I would never have expected you to tell me about one of the lines in your song. "I mean, I don't think anybody would listen to that and be like, 'Oh, that's a real diss.' You gotta tell the story that way that it happened to you and the way you experienced it." And the 'Blank Space' hitmaker went on to tell Kanye she would tell the media he had called her and things were fine between them. She said: "If people ask me about it, I think it would be great for me to be like, 'Look he called me and told me the line before it came out. Joke's on you guys, we're fine.'" However, Taylor has now hit back, insisting she never approved the actual lyric that Kanye used in the track - "I feel like me and Taylor still might have sex / Why? I made that b***h famous." She also slammed Kim for calling her a "liar". In a post on Instagram titled "That moment when Kanye West secretly records your phone call, then Kim posts it on the Internet", she wrote: "Where is the video of Kanye telling me he was going to call me 'that b***h' in his song? It doesn't exist because it never happened. You don't get to control someone's emotional response to being called 'that b***h' in front of the entire world," the singer wrote on her social media account. "He promised to play the song for me, but he never did.

While I wanted to be supportive of Kanye on the phone call, you cannot 'approve' a song you haven't heard. Being falsely painted as a liar when I was never given the full story or played any part of the song is character assassination." Taylor and Kanye first fell out in 2009 when he invaded the stage to object to her triumphing over Beyonce at the MTV Video Music Awards. And the 'Bad Blood' singer referenced that in her Instagram post, closing the statement with: "I would very much like to be excluded from this narrative, one that I never asked to be a part of, since 1999." After Kim - who has children North, three, and Saint, seven months, with Kanye - insisted last month Taylor had approved the track, her representative hit back to say that was untrue and the singer had been left "humiliated". They said: "Taylor heard it for the first time when everyone else did and was humiliated. Kim Kardashian's claim that Taylor and her team were aware of being recorded is not true, and Taylor cannot understand why Kanye West, and now Kim Kardashian, will not just leave her alone."



Lamar Odom stayed sober during his visit to a strip club

Although the 36-year-old former basketball star was reportedly removed from a flight for being "wasted" after he downed beers and whisky at Los Angeles International Airport on Monday (11.07.16), he was on his best behavior while out in New York the following night. The owner of CityScapes Gentlemen's Club told the New York Post's Page Six: "He just asked for water and cranberry juice. He didn't drink any alcohol at all. "He came with a group, three females and three guys. It didn't seem like he was on a date with any of the girls or anything, they were just a bunch of his friends from the area. He called about an hour ahead and we got the VIP area ready for him. "He came around 3:15 [a.m.] and stayed 'til last call at 3:45; we close at 4. He let people come over to say hi and take pictures while he was there. He was really chill and friendly. He didn't get any dances or anything." Although

Lamar remained sober at the strip club, the star - who suffered a near-fatal overdose in a Las Vegas brothel last October - has allegedly returned to his former ways by binge drinking more than he ever has done. Speaking to PEOPLE about the estranged husband of Khloé Kardashian, a source said: "[Lamar] is back to treating his body worse than ever. "Lamar's near death experience affected a lot of people. Especially Khloe. She put her life on hold for weeks to be by Lamar's side at the hospital 24/7. It was awful for Khloe to get the phone call that Lamar had overdosed. "For days, she didn't know if he was going to make it. It infuriates her that Lamar is back to his old ways. Khloe was really hoping that the awful hospital experience would have a positive effect on Lamar, but it's really been the opposite."



Winona Ryder has never been married because her "standards are really high"

The 44-year-old actress ended her engagement to Johnny Depp in 1993 and says the reason she has never tied the knot is because she wants to be sure she will have a marriage like her parents, who have been "madly in love for 45 years". She explained to Net-A-Porter's The Edit: "I'm a serial monogamist. I was single for a while and dating and... I just didn't know how to do it! I've always been like that: When I was 15, there was a guy I liked, and we made out, and I thought that meant he was my boyfriend. My mom had to explain it to me." "But marriage? I don't know. I'd rather never have been married than been divorced a few times. Not that there's anything wrong with divorce, but I don't think I could do it if that was a possibility. When your parents are madly in love for 45 years, your standards are really high. But I've been happily with someone for quite a while now." Winona has been dating fashion designer Scott Mackinlay Hahn since 2011. The former child star also revealed she loves getting older and finds that she is getting offered more interesting roles after taking time out from Hollywood. She said: "I love getting older. I think it has to do with always being the kid on set. It's interesting because, these days, [cosmetic surgery] is treated almost like hygiene. I've had people say to me, 'Oh, you should, you know...' and they point to my forehead. 'Get that seen to!' But I'm like, 'No! I've been waiting so long for that to happen!' "I know actresses have a tough time because of their age - they're just not getting hired. I know it exists. You're the girlfriend, then you're the mother. But I don't see it as a bad thing - it can be just as interesting, if not more so, than the leading-lady, ingenue phase."



Bono was locked in a cafe during the Bastille Day attack

The 56-year-old musician - whose real name is Paul Hewson - was dining with friends in La Petite Maison in Nice, France, on Thursday (14.07.16) when the devastating massacre took place on the Promenade des Anglais, and he was instructed by restaurant owner Anne-Laure Rubi to hide for half an hour whilst the restaurant barricaded its doors and windows, according to La Parisienne magazine. The U2 lead singer was trapped inside the building alongside the former mayor of Nice, Christian Estrosi, and chef Alain Ducasse, until police cleared the area. The 'With or Without You' hitmaker was escorted from the premises with his hands on his head, along with other restaurant-goers. However, this is not the first time the Irish star has been close to a terror attack. In November last year Bono and his band mates - who were preparing to grace the stage at the AccorHotels Arena - were

merely a few miles away from the terror attack at the Eagles of Death Metal concert in the Bataclan theatre in Paris, which saw 130 civilians killed. And Bono prayed with the group's Jesse Hughes "for three or four days" after the terrorist attack at the gig. Speaking previously, Jesse said: "Without a word, Bono sent me a phone five hours after the shooting started, so I could call my mom. "I called to say thanks and the next three or four days, he called me, to check on me and pray with me." The group later returned to the city for what Jesse admitted was the "most important" gig they had ever played. He said: "This is probably the most important show I'll ever play. It's weird, because normally they're not important, they're just fun. "But it turns out, fun is important. Those motherf***ers wanted to snuff out rock and roll and we're not letting that happen."

Kylie Minogue ready for children with Joshua Sasse

Kylie Minogue reportedly wants to start a family with Joshua Sasse. The 'Spinning Around' hitmaker is said to be in "such a good place" and is keen to have children with her fiancée. A source told The Sun newspaper: "It's all starting to come together for Kylie, she's in such a good place. "She never really made a big deal about motherhood when she was single but now she's in a very serious, long-term relationship, it's on the agenda. Her family and friends are just as excited for her." It was previously revealed that Kylie, 48, and Joshua, 28, are planning to marry in Italy next month. Speaking about the couple's impending wedding, an insider said recently: "Joshua has been telling his friends in Greece about their plans to marry in Italy. "Joshua is still in Sifnos, while Kylie is in London - he came back two days after their recent trip there and she will no doubt be back soon." And Kylie

previously gushed about Joshua - who has two-year-old son Sebastian with his ex-partner Francesca Cini - and admits she makes him "very happy". She said: "I think the general consensus is we kind of look right together. So even though on paper it might not look right, it just is right. "He is an absolutely brilliant, brilliant guy. And even if I try and act cool and natural, it's written all over my face that I am very happy." The couple confirmed their engagement in a posting in a newspaper earlier this year after a whirlwind six-month romance. The notice reads: "The engagement is announced between Joshua, son of the late Dominic Sasse and of Mary Heale (nÉe Macauley), of Herefordshire, and Kylie, eldest daughter of Ronald and Carol Minogue, of Melbourne, Australia."

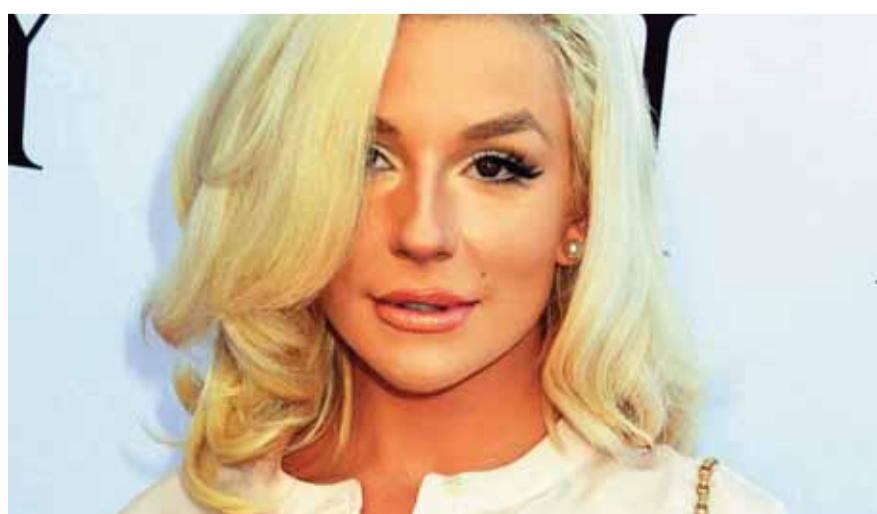


Miley Cyrus has 'so much love' for Liam Hemsworth

Miley Cyrus has got "so much love" for Liam Hemsworth. The 'Wrecking Ball' hitmaker - who recently rekindled her romance with the 'Hunger Games' star - has taken to Instagram to gush about her fiancée. Sharing a picture of Liam cuddling with his dog Dora, she wrote: "So much love in one pic... (sic)" It comes only days after Miley's tattoo of Liam's favourite food Vegemite on her arm was unveiled. Tattoo artist Dr Woo shared a picture of the new ink, writing: "@miley Cyrus don't play when it comes to #vegemite #halfneedle (sic)." And things are said to be going from strength to strength for the happy couple, who are reportedly set to wed on a beach in Liam's native Australia. A source said: "They're getting married on the beach. Their parents are doing most of the work. It's been easy." Another insider added: "They have been discussing potential venues and looking around. Miley's mentioned she's interested in having a bunch of bouncy houses. Like at a carnival!" Liam, 26, recently opened up about how tough it was splitting from Miley, 23, while in the spotlight. He said: "Of course it was hard, man. But at the time we were going in different directions and it's just what needed to happen. We were both super young and it was a good decision at the time - we both needed that. "I make my decisions about what's going to make me happy, what I think is right and what I want to do, and I don't worry too much outside of that." Miley and Liam - who had split in 2013 after three years together - sparked rumors they had rekindled their romance earlier this year when Miley was spotted wearing a ring on her engagement finger.



Courtney Stodden suffers a miscarriage



Courtney Stodden has suffered a miscarriage. The 21-year-old reality star was expecting her first child with husband Doug Hutchison but has now sadly lost the baby. In a statement released to People magazine, her manager said: "It is with a heavy heart to inform you that last week Courtney Stodden suffered a heartbreaking miscarriage. Courtney and her husband, Doug, are at an emotional loss for words and are using this time to grieve with their close family and friends. "Please respect their privacy as the couple try to cope with losing their precious baby and seek the support they both need." Following her loss, Courtney - who was around three months pregnant - tweeted: "I love you my sweet angel," and "God is embracing you." She also posted a picture of a quote that said: "Babies lost in the womb were never touched by fear,

they were never cold, never hungry, never alone & importantly always knew love." Courtney married 56-year-old actor Doug in 2011 but split just two years later. However, they soon reconciled as she knew Doug was the one she wanted to spend the rest of her life with. In May they announced they were having a baby and they also renewed their vows to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary. Courtney recently revealed how her husband had been looking after her. She said: "Doug has been fabulous. He's been taking care of me so well. He gets sympathy morning sickness. It's funny. "He's such a great husband, and he's like, 'I think you are sexier now.' I'm like, 'I don't know how to take that. Do you want me to be all lumpy?'"

4K HDR TV Boom Goes International With Globo

LOS ANGELES: Showcasing the latest in TV technology, Brazil's Globo, Latin America's biggest network, will from Monday offer its flagship production "Dangerous Liaisons" in 4K High Dynamic Range to users of its Globo Play VOD service.

Netflix ("Marco Polo"), Amazon ("Mozart in the Jungle") and Vudu already offer content in 4K HDR, a standard backed by Hollywood studios and YouTube. But Globo is the first of any mainstream broadcaster, and the first non-US company known to several analysts consulted by Variety, to offer content in the format.

The move reflects a trend on display at January's Consumer Electronics Show: That 4K HDR is becoming a new broadcast standard. Conventional broadcasters were not expected to make the jump into HDR until 2017. Globo's early foray with "Dangerous Liaisons" raises the question whether 4K HDR production and distribution by other free-to-air broadcasters could come online faster than anticipated.

poor country, and features period details that lend themselves to 4K HDR technology. Many of "Dangerous Liaisons" scenes were shot at Argentina's Santa Candida Palace, a sumptuous country mansion built in 1847 in an Italian high-pomp style with columns, huge fireplaces, coffered ceilings, wooden doors, and marble floors. Outdoor settings take in Patagonia's sun-dazzled Puerto Madryn beach.

"The settings and landscapes allowed us to explore the brightest bright and subtle blacks. It's perfect content to be graded in HDR," said Raymond Barros, Globo chief technology officer. "As far as we know, Globo will be the first free-to-air broadcaster which offers 4K HDR on its Over-the-Top platform," he added.

Brazilians will need 4K HDR-compatible TV sets to catch the high-tech version of "Dangerous Liaisons" via Globo's VOD service, Globo Play.

Globo Play has struck distribution deals with five smart TV platforms: Samsung, Sony, Panasonic, LG and Philips. It has seen "nearly 500,000 smart TV downloads," said Erick Bretas, Globo's head of digital media.

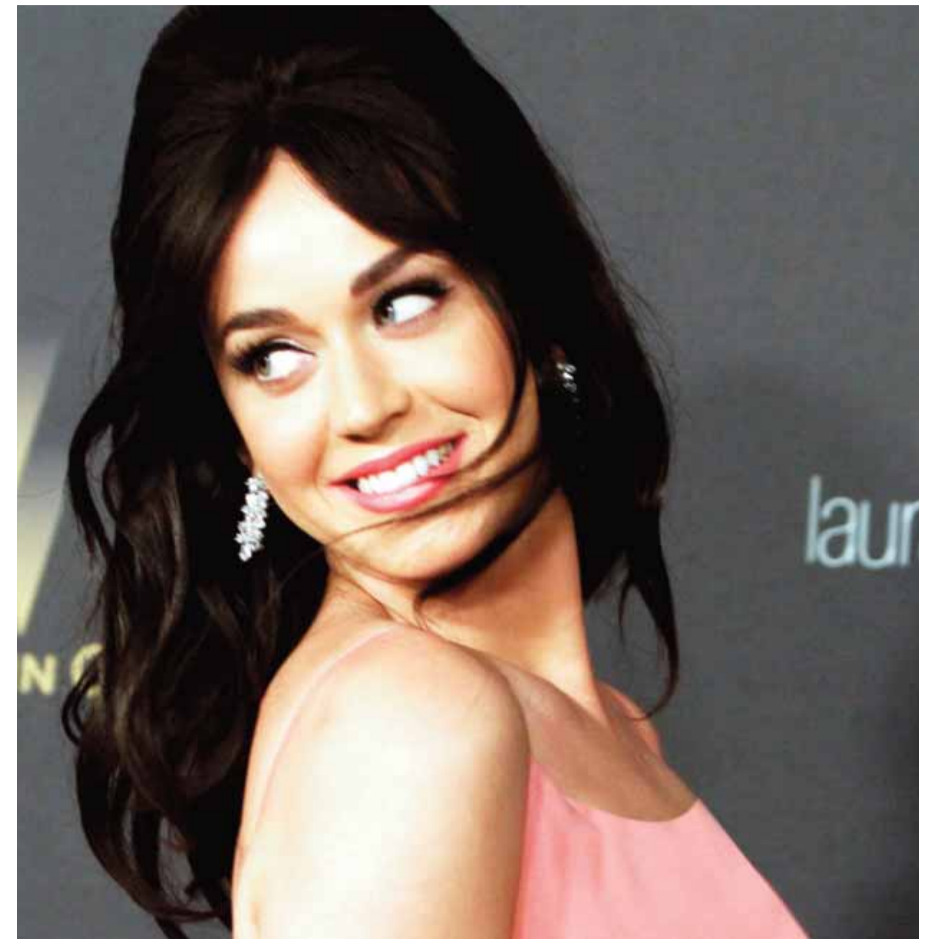
"Smart TVs allow delivery straight to the home via high speed broadband and content distribution networks such as Akamai," said Ed Border of Ampere Analysis. He added: "If you're not streaming to mobile devices over a home network, then mobile reception could pose bandwidth challenges. Mobile streaming is not always an option at home, as the quality of mobile coverage can vary greatly."

VOD remains "the only way to provide mass market 4K HDR programming through the medium term," said Gareth Sutcliffe of Enders Analysis. "From an efficiency standpoint, there is negligible additional overhead to distribute 4K HDR over non-HDR 4K in a VOD environment, but the consumer proposition for HDR is superior enough that it could generate additional margin," Sutcliffe said.

One question is how big of an audience the 4K HDR version of "Dangerous Liaisons" will attract. "We know 4K HDR-compatible sets are at this moment expensive, but we expect the prices to decrease when manufacturers gain scale," Bretas said.

At January's Consumer Electronics Show, nearly all the big-name TV manufacturers touted 4K HDR display units. In Britain, three of LG's four new sets this year will be HDR-compatible. Hisense, another TV manufacturer, is promising a 43-inch TV model with HDR for later in 2016 for as little as \$400.

"4K HDR-enabled displays will become the default purchase option within the next 18 to 24 months, and as volume picks up...the cost is going to fall quickly for access to HDR," Sutcliffe said. — Reuters



Katy Perry to open MTV VMAs?

Katy Perry is set to open this year's MTV VMAs. The 31-year-old singer is making her musical comeback and wants to perform new single 'Rise' at the prestigious event next month.

She is currently in talks with organizers, who are hoping she will address her high-profile feud with Taylor Swift, which was brought back into the limelight yet again last week. A source told The Sun newspaper: "Katy's been gearing up for her musical comeback for months and this would be the perfect way to launch herself back on the big stage. The talks are in early stages but both parties are keen for it to happen."

"Her record label Capitol have backed her by coughing up millions to ensure her new album is her best yet. Given the amount of material she has at her disposal, especially her reaction to Taylor's diss track 'Bad Blood', you can see why it's so highly anticipated."

Katy and Taylor fell out in 2012 when Katy allegedly stole one of Taylor's backing dancers for her 'Prism' tour. Taylor, 26, then hit back by basing her song 'Bad Blood' on their fall out.

Last week, Katy found herself embroiled in a battle again after Taylor's ex-boyfriend Calvin Harris hit out at his former lover on Twitter. He tweeted: "I know you're off tour and you need someone new to try and bury like Katy ETC but I'm not that guy, sorry."

Soon after his rant, Katy retweeted a message she wrote in May 2015 which read "time, the ultimate truth teller". The raven-haired beauty also shared an animated gif on Twitter of US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton pulling a smug "I told you so" expression.



Described by Variety as the "darling" of the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, 4K HDR offers not only 4K's higher pixel number definition but greater pictorial realism, such as in skin tones, as well as a broader color gamut and the ability to distinguish visual details in particular bright or dark scenes.

"Dangerous Liaisons" stars Brazilian heartthrob Selton Mello as serial seducer Augusto de Valmont, Patricia Pillar in the Glenn Close role and telenovela star Marjorie Estiano as the devoutly religious but seduced Mariana de Santanna. The production hews fairly faithfully to the plot dynamics of Pierre Choderlos de Laclos' original 1782 epistolary novel.

But, set in 1920s high-society Brazil, it highlights the near-surreal wealth of Brazil's upper crust in a mostly dirt-

ABC News Teams With Facebook for 24-Hour Live Political Convention Coverage

LOS ANGELES: ABC News plans to deliver around-the-clock live coverage on Facebook for the 2016 Republican and Democratic national conventions under a partnership with the social giant. ABC News, which has 8.6 million followers on its primary Facebook page, said it will have 24-hour live coverage across a variety of pages. Throughout each day and between the speeches in primetime, ABC News' curated Facebook feed will provide live video of on-the-scene interviews, protests and other breaking news.

Under the companies' deal, Facebook will provide ABC News with exclusive, real-time data during major speeches that it will use across TV and digital platforms. ABC News hosts and correspondents also will incorporate viewer comments, questions and discussions in its Facebook Live coverage.

ABC News isn't the only media outlet turning to Facebook for the political conventions. C-SPAN, for one, plans to use Facebook Live during the conventions from about 8-11 p.m. Eastern each night, and Univision Communications' Fusion says it will use the service as part of its coverage. Facebook also is erecting "lounge" areas in both GOP and Democratic convention halls for media groups to use to broadcast live video. Facebook Live, launched less than a year ago, has quickly become a factor in the modern media mix-by turning virtually anyone in the world into a correspondent. A Facebook Live broadcast by a Minnesota woman last week after a police officer shot and killed her boyfriend spawned nationwide protests. During a sit-in staged last month by House Democrats in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to force a debate on gun-control legislation, more than a dozen pols turned to Facebook Live as well as Periscope to get their message out after GOP leaders barred TV cameras from the chamber.

Related Facebook Live Death Videos: Social Media Giants Adjust to New Role

Andy Mitchell, Facebook's director of news and global media partnerships, called the ABC News programming strategy for Facebook Live an "innovative" approach to using the platform. "With this partnership, Facebook will further solidify itself as the place where people across the political spectrum come to connect with their friends and family and watch democracy in action," he said.

Meanwhile, ABC News this week launched updated apps for iPhone, Android and Apple TV, along with a redesigned homepage, with video-focused enhancements including support for up to eight simultaneous live streams across all platforms.

The new ABC News app for iOS and Android includes a "live" tab that features up to eight simultaneous streams in a scrollable format. In-line video in the app autoplays (with audio muted) as a user scrolls through content feeds.

On Apple TV, the ABC News app designed for the device's tvOS operating system also lets users watch multiple live streams at once, picking from up to eight live streams on the top shelf of the Apple TV home screen. The app also auto-detects a viewer's location to deliver news from the nearest local ABC station; that currently is available in about 30 markets, including the Alphabet net's eight owned stations in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Houston, Fresno, Calif., Philadelphia and Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina — Reuters



Celine Dion backs with album as she mourns husband

NEW YORK: Canadian superstar Celine Dion is ready with a new album, the first since her husband's death, that will feature collaborations with French stars and uplifting lyricism, her label announced yesterday.

The album, which will come out on August 26, is entitled "Encore Un Soir." Dion released the title track which means "One More Night" in English in May. The pop diva, 48, had dedicated the ballad to her late husband Rene Angelil, who died in January from throat cancer at age 73.

Angelil was taken by Dion's voice when she was a child and became her musical guide and manager, marrying her in 1994 when she was 26. The song "Encore Un Soir" was written by Jean-Jacques Goldman, a leading French pop star. Label Sony Music said that the album will also feature Dion's first song writ-

ten by two other prominent French rockers, Francis Cabrel and Serge Lama. "Celine voluntarily chose uplifting themes that focused on life and positivity," the label said in a statement. Dion will also delve into her Quebecois heritage with a cover of "Ordinaire" by Robert Charlebois, a major artist of the French-speaking province. Dion, who also sings in English, has sold 220 million albums, placing her among the ranks of the most successful recording artists of all time.

Dion is on a tour that includes nine sold-out shows at the Bercy arena in Paris as well as 10 concerts in Montreal, five in Quebec City and two in Trois-Rivieres, Quebec, before she returns to her residency at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. — AFP

'No Other Love' Actress Issues apology to People of China

LOS ANGELES: A Korean-American actress, Audrie Kiko Daniel (aka Kiko Mizuhara) has issued a video apology to the people of mainland China. It is the latest in a series of incidents highlighting the growing politicization of the entertainment industry in East Asia.

Mizuhara apologized for allegedly using social media to "like" a photograph in which Chinese artist Ai Weiwei raised his middle finger in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. She also used her nearly five minutes of English-language mea culpa to deny that she was the person in a photo taken at Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which commemorates Japanese WWII dead.

Mizuhara appears in the mainland Chinese production "No Other Love" from which lead actor Leon Dai was last week removed after the production group and the film's investors decided that he had been too equivocal on the subject of Taiwanese independence. Among the film's investors are Alibaba Pictures Group.

It is unclear whether the film, which had begun post-production, will now be reshot with a replacement male lead. And it is unclear whether Mizuhara's groveling has been enough to satisfy the patriotic forces in the Chinese media, and to let her keep her role.

Taiwan's Premier Lin Chuan this weekend issued a statement saying actors and actresses should be allowed to perform "without political factors getting in the way."

Taiwan became self-ruled after the Communist Party took over mainland China in 1949, but cross straits tensions have never ceased. This year, which saw the election of a less pro-China president in Taiwan, and the recent

Hague ruling on economic use of the South China Sea, has witnessed a rising tide of intolerance. In January, Chou Tzu-yu of K-pop group Twice was forced to apologize to the people of (mainland) China by her (Korean) management JYP Entertainment after she was accused of waving a Taiwan flag during a TV show.

Tenky Tin, chairman of the Hong Kong Movie Production Executives Association, said it was inevitable that mainland Chinese rules and ideologies would have to be followed by those who seek to break into the China market.

However, Tin said that the recent events will not help mainland Chinese productions travel abroad. "In general mainland movies don't appeal to overseas markets, even those in Hong Kong. But this doesn't seem to be a concern for China," he said. Others are dealing with the situation through humor. Some Hong Kong and Taiwanese netizens have used Facebook (which is banned in China) to launch The First Annual Apologies To China Contest.

The South China Morning Post cites contestants posting satirical comments including: "I am sorry that I cannot understand the Chinese democracy. It must be because I am not intelligent enough," and "Sorry, but my computer does not have a Great Firewall. I can watch BBC, CNN and access Google." — Reuters



American actress, Audrie Kiko Daniel (aka Kiko Mizuhara). — AFP



Related YouTube to Live-Stream GOP, Dem Conventions in 360-Degree Video, Facebook to Host Media Lounges ABC News' wall-to-wall Facebook coverage is part of a digital deluge of video coming for the conventions, and underscores how critical social media has become for traditional news orgs to reach audiences.

CBS News has cut a pact with Twitter to live-stream CBSN on the social service, while YouTube will be the official live-streaming partner for both conventions. The Republican National Convention runs from July 18-21 in Cleveland, and the Democratic National Convention will be held July 25-28 in Philadelphia.

According to ABC News, what will make its live-streaming content on Facebook stand out is that it won't simply be repurposing TV programming on digital. Rather, it will have correspondents in the thick of the conventions to cover it more deeply it's ever been able to before.

"Our live-stream strategy is all about bringing users a wide variety of unique moments they may not otherwise see on television," said Colby Smith, ABC News VP of digital. "For the conventions in particular, Facebook Live is the perfect platform to reach and engage with our audience, delivering a 360-degree perspective of what's happening on the ground."



NEW YORK CITY: Two of the new mounds are visible on Governors Island in New York Harbor. — AP photos

New, man-made hills on NYC island offer spectacular views

NEW YORK: Four new hills built on New York City's Governors Island offer sweeping views of the Statue of Liberty and lower Manhattan, unique places to hike and climb, and massive slides that dwarf those found on any playground.

Set to open Tuesday, the 10-acre park called The Hills at Governors Island is the newest piece of the redevelopment of the once off-limits former Army and Coasts Guard base in the heart of New York Harbor.

The four hills, built in part with fill and debris from demolition of the island's old barracks, range from 26 feet to 70 feet high, and have been lushly planted with trees, shrubs and grasses. One, aptly named Slide Hill, has four stainless-steel chutes that run as long as 57 feet.

"One of the signatures of Governors Island is this idea that play is for everyone," Leslie Koch, president of the trust created by the city to oversee redevelopment of 150 acres of the island. "There's no age limit. Adults are invited to play, not just children." Gulls cawed overhead as Koch described how the hills were designed to take advantage of the island's 360-degree vantage point, offering views not only of New York's skyscrapers and Lady Liberty, but of burgeoning Jersey City, New Jersey, and the Brooklyn and Verrazano bridges. "With each foot that you go up the hills, you get more and more," Koch said.

The Dutch landscape architecture firm West 8, based in Rotterdam, designed the park. Designer Adriaan Geuze said the pathways that wind around the park's hills create "conceal and reveal" vistas that create a sense of anticipation. Outlook Hill, at 70 feet the highest point on the island, can be ascended by strolling up a sloping path or by climbing over granite blocks salvaged from the island's old seawall.

Other hills include the gently sloping Grassy Hill and Discovery Hill, home to a site-specific art installation called Cabin, by the British artist Rachel Whiteread. The concrete shed is meant to evoke a Thoreau-like retreat overlooking the busy metropolis.

Governors Island was off limits to ordinary New Yorkers during most of the past 200 years, and Koch said the redevelopment over the past decade has been aimed at making it part of the "living, breathing city."

Other attractions include tours of Castle Williams, a 19th-century fort built to prepare for a British attack, bike trails and Hammock Grove, which has playgrounds for children and 50 hammocks for their parents to relax.

If You Go ...

GOVERNORS ISLAND: Located in New York Harbor, it is open to the public from May 28 to Sept. 25.

GETTING THERE: Ferries run daily from the Battery Maritime Building in lower Manhattan and on weekends from Pier 6 in Brooklyn. The round-trip cost is \$2 for adult and \$1 for senior citizens. There is no cost for children under 13. The ferry is free for everyone on Saturdays and Sundays until 11:30 a.m. Cars are not allowed on Governors Island, but visitors can bring bicycles on the ferry or rent them on the island. — AP

NEW YORK CITY: Giant granite scramble on Outlook Hill is seen on Governors Island in New York's harbor. — AP



Harlan Coben Teams with Pay TV Operator Sky on 'The Four'

LOS ANGELES: European pay-TV provider Sky is reteaming with bestselling novelist Harlan Coben on an eight-part crime series, "The Four," as the network continues to ramp up its drama output. The series follows their collaboration on "The Five," the author's first original story for TV.

"The Four" is a stand-alone, character-driven thriller that tells the chilling story of an idyllic family community irrevocably shattered by secrets, lies, suspicions and misguided trust," according to a press statement.

The series is an original story created by Coben and written by Danny Brocklehurst, whose recent credits include "Ordinary Lies." It is produced by Nicola Shindler's Red Production Company, which is best known for "Happy Valley" and "Last Tango in Halifax" and which also produced "The Five." Executive producers are Coben, Brocklehurst and Shindler. It was commissioned by Sky's head of drama Anne Mensah, commissioning editor Cameron Roach, and director of Sky's entertainment channel Sky 1, Adam MacDonald.

"The Five," which debuted in April on Sky 1, was well-received in the British press, which called it "a compelling thriller with a killer premise" (Telegraph), "expertly plotted with a fine script" (Observer) and a "new TV obsession" (Heat).

Coben's books have sold more than 60 million copies, and his last nine novels all debuted at No. 1 on The New York Times bestseller list. His 2001 thriller "Tell No One" was adapted into the critically acclaimed French-language movie by Guillaume Canet. More recently, French channel TF1 adapted his bestselling novel "No Second Chance" into a six-part series that became the highest-rated French TV series in a decade.

In a statement, Coben said: "I am incredibly proud of what we all achieved with 'The Five.' Our goal from the start was to create a gripping crime drama that moved you, surprised you - and had a shocking and emotionally satisfying ending. I never wanted to make a sequel to 'The Five' - that story has now been told-but rather, to start fresh and bring a whole new crime drama to the screen."

"The Four" joins 12 original drama series already on air or set to air in the near future on Sky's channels Sky Atlantic and Sky 1, including "The Young Pope," "Guerrilla," "Tin Star," "Jamestown" and "The Last Dragonslayer," as well as returning series including "Fortitude." In the past year, Sky has made a big impact on the drama scene with BAFTA nominations for "The Last Panthers" and "The Enfield Haunting," and large audiences for "Stan Lee's Lucky Man." — Reuters

Road brings jeans, satellite TV to Himalayan Shangri-La

LO MANTHANG, NEPAL: A Himalayan Shangri-La that was closed to visitors until 1992, the former Buddhist kingdom of Upper Mustang in Nepal is facing unprecedented change as a new highway brings modernity to the roof of the world. Kerosene lamps have given way to solar panels, denim sneakers have replaced hand-stitched cowhide boots and satellite dishes are taking over the rooftops of homes dotted across the region, which borders Tibet. The former kingdom's days as a cultural time capsule are numbered-and change cannot come soon enough for young people like Tsewang Norbu Gurung, who lives in its walled capital, Lo Manthang. "I remember when Nepali TV first came here, less than 10 years ago. We used to pay 20 rupees (18 cents) for a three-hour sitting in someone's house," said Gurung.

Today, nearly everyone owns their own television-imported from China or India-and young men like 30-year-old Gurung spend their evenings watching Bollywood films, Tibetan mythological dramas or soccer matches.

Sitting with friends at a local teashop, their eyes glued to a television screen showing a Euro 2016 match, Gurung told AFP the road had transformed life in Lo Manthang. "Earlier, everything-rice, oil, basic supplies-had to be carried up on mules, it would take so many days, now it takes just one day in a vehicle," he said.

Gurung, who runs a souvenir shop, worked as a laborer on the road that was completed in 2014, connecting Upper Mustang with India and China-a modest throwback to an era when the region dominated trans-Himalayan commerce in salt, wool and spices. For generations, traders led caravans through this forbid-

ding high-altitude desert, passing vast canyons and red mountains that, legends say, are stained with the blood of a demon killed by the founder of Tibetan Buddhism.

Isolated past

Nepal annexed the kingdom of Lo, as it was known then, in the 18th century but allowed the king to retain his title. It renamed the area Upper Mustang. For decades it saw virtually no foreign visitors and was accessible only by foot or horseback, leaving its residents cut off from outside influence until the road was completed a few years ago.

The local Loba community, who speak a variant of Tibetan, retained their Buddhist practices even as the Cultural Revolution hit religious traditions in neighbouring Tibet. Upper Mustang's isolation was so absolute that its royal family only boarded a plane for the first time in 1995, on visits to the US and Germany.

Former crown prince Jigme Singi Palbar Bista grew up in a cavernous five-storey palace with 108 rooms, but the family did not live in luxury. With no electricity and with firewood scarce, palace staff would burn yak dung to heat the rooms. There were no high schools in Upper Mustang, so the prince would spend days trekking or riding to Jomsom on the region's outskirts.

"We are not like other royals... not that kind of luxury," the 60-year-old told AFP. Nepal's transition from a monarchy to a republic in 2008 ruled out any chance of Bista inheriting the throne, making his father the last king of a 600-year-old dynasty.

The father-of-three now devotes his time to running a tour

agency and doing charity work while overseeing repairs to the palace after last year's earthquake. But the Lobas still regard Bista as a spiritual guardian and approach him for help resolving land disputes that would otherwise have to be filed in court.

'Disappearing' culture

Nepal's government has sought to preserve Upper Mustang's unique culture by keeping tourist numbers down, charging a minimum visitors' fee of \$500. But many fear the road threatens the region's unique identity as younger Lobas embrace modernity, swapping handspun Tibetan robes for made-in-China jeans.

Lo Manthang's gates are no longer locked at night to keep horses from running out. Instead, motorbikes crowd its cobblestone streets. "It's important to save our culture so it reflects our identity. Otherwise there will be nothing special left about (Upper) Mustang," said Khenpo Kunga Tenzin, head of Lo Manthang's Monchoe Dragkar Thegchen Ling monastery.

"We had our own identity, our own way of dressing... but now it's all disappearing, it will all be gone." Poised between an isolated past and an uncertain future, young Lobas like shopkeeper Gurung are more positive. "When I realize that my generation doesn't know local songs or dances, I feel a bit ashamed," he said. "But overall I am optimistic about the future. Things are getting better... life is getting easier." — AFP



LO MANTHANG, NEPAL: In this photo taken on June 15, 2016, a crowd gathers to purchase groceries from a mobile jeep shop in the walled capital.



LO MANTHANG, NEPAL: In this photograph taken on June 16, 2016, Nepalese pedestrians walk in the walled capital. — AFP photos



NICE: People gather at a makeshift memorial on the Promenade des Anglais yesterday. — AFP

Netflix to be exclusive international home to new 'Star Trek' series

Also Acquires Spain's 'Skins'

LOS ANGELES: Netflix has signed an international licensing agreement with CBS Studios Intl. for the new "Star Trek" television series. The streaming platform will be the exclusive home of the series in 188 countries, excluding the US and Canada, where CBS and Bell Media, respectively, have the exclusive rights. Each episode of the series will be available globally within 24 hours of its US premiere.

Additionally, all 727 episodes of the previous "Star Trek" TV series, including "Star Trek: The Original Series," "Star Trek: The Next Generation," "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine," "Star Trek: Voyager" and "Star Trek: Enterprise," will be available on Netflix around the world by the end of this year.

Commenting on the Netflix pact, Armando Nunez, president and CEO at CBS Studios Intl., said: "The launch of the new 'Star Trek' will truly be a global television event. 'Star Trek' is a worldwide phenomenon and this international partnership will provide fans around the world, who have been craving a new series for more than a decade, the opportunity to see every episode virtually at the same time as viewers in the US. Thanks to our world-class partners at Netflix, the new 'Star Trek' will definitely be 'hauling on all frequencies' throughout the planet."

The new series will begin production in Toronto in September for its January 2017 premiere. "The franchise will return to television for the first time since 2005 with a new ship, new characters and new missions, while embracing the same ideology and hope for the future that inspired a generation," according to a press statement.

In the US, the series will launch with a special premiere episode on the CBS Television Network in January. The premiere episode and all subsequent episodes will then be available in the US exclusively on CBS All Access, the network's dig-

ital subscription video-on-demand and live-streaming service.

Bell has acquired the exclusive linear TV and SVOD rights in Canada. Each episode of the new series will be available simultaneously with its release in the US. Bell has also licensed all episodes in the "Star Trek" TV library.

Alex Kurtzman and Bryan Fuller are co-creators and executive producers for the new "Star Trek," based on Gene Roddenberry's original series. Fuller launched his career writing for "Star Trek: Deep Space Nine" and "Star Trek: Voyager." Kurtzman is co-writer and producer of the blockbuster films "Star Trek" and "Star Trek Into Darkness." The series is produced by CBS Television Studios in association with Kurtzman's Secret Hideout, Fuller's Living Dead Guy Prods., and Roddenberry Entertainment. Kurtzman, Fuller, Heather Kadin, Gretchen Berg and Aaron Harberts, Rod Roddenberry, and Trevor Roth will serve as executive producers.

Acquires Spain's 'Skins' as it Drives Into Spanish Content

Building its increasingly impressive lineup of titles from Spain, Netflix has made an early acquisition of global rights to "Piel" (Skins), a social-drama addition to a burgeoning genre talent factory overseen by Spanish director-producer Alex de la Iglesia ("Perfect Crime," "Witching & Bitching").

The Netflix deal was clinched by Vicente Canales' Film Factory. "Skins" is a spinoff of Spanish actor-turned-director Eduardo Casanova's short "Eat My S—," about a girl who has a hyper-realistic anus for a mouth, which screened at 2016's South by South West Fest.

Turning on "malformed people looking for a place in society," "Skins" a choral multi-story drama, also features a girl without eyes, De la Iglesia told Variety at last September's San Sebastian Fest. It is Casanova's feature debut.

The movie will enroll fellow stars of "Aida," one of Spain's biggest TV comedy series hits, such as Carmen Machi, Ana Polvorosa and Secun de la Rosa. Candela Pena ("Torremolinos 73"), Jon Kortajarena ("A Single Man") and Joaquin Climent ("To Steal From a Thief") co-star.

"Skins" is a punk, rebel and violent riposte to the social construct, all the pressure society is subjected to," Casanova said. De la Iglesia produces "Skins" out of his Madrid-based Pokepsie Films, which he runs with actress Carolina Bang, in partnership with Kiko Martinez's Nadie es Perfecto.

An early acquisition deal for "Skins"—rather than a co-production, as some Spanish media suggested—gives Netflix more flexibility in its financing and local release, opening the door for the movie to bow in Spanish theaters, which is required by law for access to national subsidies. Otherwise, however, it looks as if Netflix will have global exclusivity.

Netflix launched here in Spain last October, with a client take-up estimated at well below one million. That compares to more than 80 million in the rest of the world, including 47 million in the U.S., as of March 31.

When acquiring Spanish films for distribution, Hollywood studios often focus on titles that will make most of their money in the domestic market, and therefore acquire Spanish rights. But Netflix looks at a movie's international potential.

De la Iglesia told Variety that "Skins" hews close to an American indie tradition, which may aid its viewership abroad. "Far from being a future project, Netflix is a current and essential bet for Spanish production," he said.

But Netflix is just only beginning to ramp up its investment in local content, whether via original production orders or early acquisitions of movies and series. "If you look at Netflix, by hours of content available, local [national] content in most

major Western European markets typically represents between 2% to 5% of the catalogue," said Richard Broughton of Ampere Analysis. "EU content represents a much larger proportion of the catalogue."

On May 25, the European Union proposed 20% European content quotas in all EU territories for Netflix operation and European product-investment requirements in EU countries that demand them. Most European Netflix services meet a 20% European content level, according to an Ampere Analysis study.

Spain is one of only four territories in the 28-member EU that currently imposes an investment quota on national VOD services, so it may be more likely to extend that to Netflix.

Analysts have warned that EU content and investment quotas could result in higher costs and lower returns on investment. But that is almost certainly not the case for Spain. Even if a VOD investment quota were set at the same level as that for free-to-air broadcasters and pay-TV operators in Spain, at 6% of annual revenue, Netflix could probably meet that threshold at present simply through its first original series order in Spain, an untitled work from Bambu Producciones announced this March.

"Depending on how the quotas were structured, they could cause issues if they were applied across smaller markets without large local production sectors, they were set at broadcaster levels (i.e. 10%-12%) or higher, [and] they were based on share of programming spend rather than share of revenue," Broughton said. — Reuters

Stephen Colbert crashes RNC stage for 'Hunger Games' prank

CLEVELAND: A video posted online shows "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert taking over the microphone on stage in Cleveland in a "Hunger Games" themed prank at the site of the Republican National Convention, which began yesterday.

The video shows Colbert behind the podium saying it's his honor "to hereby launch and begin the 2016 Republican hungry for power games" and banging a gavel. A man who appears to be security then confronts Colbert,

who says "I know I'm not supposed to be up here, but let's be honest, neither is Donald Trump" before being led off stage.

Colbert dressed like "Hunger Games" emcee Caesar Flickerman for the spoof, complete with a blue wig. He's worn the same setup on his show in a recurring bit about the presidential campaign.—AP

