

Kuwait, EU sign MoU to boost cooperation



Afghan Germany train axe attacker 'left IS video'



Erdogan foe Gulen dismisses Turkey extradition bid



IOC mulls 'options' as Russia made to wait on Rio fate



OLD HERITAGE MOSQUE TO BE RELOCATED, NOT DEMOLISHED

PAM DEPLORES DEQBASI RESIGNATION • IS CELL TRIAL BEGINS



Min 35°
Max 49°
High Tide 00:52 & 11:22
Low Tide 05:53 & 19:03



150 FILS
NO: 16937
40 PAGES

IMF RAISES MIDEAST GROWTH FORECAST

DUBAI: The International Monetary Fund yesterday raised its 2016 growth forecast for the Middle East and North Africa after a rebound in oil prices, but maintained its cautious outlook for Saudi Arabia. The region, along with Afghanistan and Pakistan, is set to see economic growth of 3.4 percent this year, better than a previous projection of 3.1 percent, the IMF said. At the same time it cut the growth forecast for 2017 to 3.3 percent, down from 3.5 percent in April, citing fallouts from "terrorism" and geopolitical tensions in its World Economic Outlook Update.

The region includes major oil exporters like the Gulf Arab states, Iraq, Iran and Algeria, as well as oil importers such as Egypt, Morocco and others. Following the lifting of international sanctions in January, Iran's oil exports have reached more than two million barrels per day, close to their pre-sanction levels. "In the Middle East, oil exporters are benefiting from the recent modest recovery in oil prices while continuing fiscal consolidation in response to structurally lower oil revenues," the IMF said.

"Geopolitical tensions, domestic armed strife, and terrorism are also taking a heavy toll on the outlook in several economies, especially in the

Continued on Page 15



KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Ali Al-Omar holds a press conference yesterday. — KUNA

By B Izzak and Agencies

KUWAIT: Minister of Public Works and Minister of State for National Assembly Affairs Ali Al-Omar said yesterday that the historical Shamlan Al-Roumi Mosque in Sharq will be moved to a new location. Speaking at a news conference, the minister indicated that the mosque, a national heritage landmark, would not be demolished - rather it will be dismantled and reconstructed at another location, stating that the expansion of the First Ring Road requires that the mosque be relocated. A prototype structure of the old mosque would be installed at its original location. Omar affirmed keenness on taking into consideration legal and social issues when executing development projects.

Omar said that the National Assembly's 14th legislative term boosted cooperation with the executive authority. The parliament accomplished 441 legislations concerning laws, decrees for accords, and budgets and final accounts, said the minister. He lauded the legislators for issuing laws that secure privileges for Kuwaiti families, employees, retirees, security personnel and youth, bolstering social security and the state's role at the level of social care.

Omar singled out, among the best approved laws, ones that allow citizens to appeal to the constitutional court, those concerning transport and communication, health insurance for retirees, the family court, and children and juvenile rights.

Continued on Page 15



ISTANBUL: Pro-Erdogan supporters react during a protest at Sarchane Park yesterday. — AFP

TURKEY TARGETS MEDIA AND SCHOOLS IN PURGE

ISTANBUL: Turkey widened its massive post-coup purge to the media and schools after vowing to root out supporters of an exiled Islamic cleric it accuses of orchestrating the attempted power grab. Global alarm is mounting over the retaliatory action since Friday's failed putsch, which has already seen a massive crack-down in the military, police and judiciary and thousands detained. Around 50,000 soldiers, police, judges, civil servants and teachers have been suspended or detained since the coup attempt, stirring tensions across the country of 80 million which borders Syria's chaos and is a

Western ally against Islamic State.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Turkey had sent dossiers to the United States to back up its demand for the extradition of reclusive preacher Fethullah Gulen, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's sworn enemy who lives in exile in Pennsylvania. "We will pull them (Gulen supporters) out by the roots like a razor blade," he said. And the authorities acted swiftly - cancelling licenses for radio and television stations said to be linked to the so-called Gulenists. The government also suspended more than

Continued on Page 15

PLAGIARISM ROW PLAGUES TRUMP

UAE EMPLOYERS ORDERED TO HOUSE LOW-PAID WORKERS

ABU DHABI: The United Arab Emirates has ordered employers to offer free accommodation to workers paid \$540 or less per month, in the latest move in the Gulf to address alleged abuses of migrant labor. South Asians, who make up a large proportion of the UAE's foreign workforce, will be the main beneficiaries. But the decision, which enters force in December, will only apply to companies that employ more than 50 workers, the human resources and Emiratisation ministry said on Monday.

The UAE and other oil-rich Gulf states are often criticized by human rights groups for their treatment of expatriate laborers. "Experts spent several months studying the living conditions of those workers, who have been listed in the ministry's classifications system as low-skilled laborers," Human Resources Minister Saqr Ghobash. The ministry will carry out regular inspections of the housing that companies provide to their workers to ensure that health and safety standards are met, Ghobash said. Legal action will be taken against companies that violate the regulations, he said.

Last year, the UAE announced labor reforms aimed at curbing abuses and protecting the rights of millions of foreign workers, including allowing them to terminate their contract and change employer. Emiratis, who account for barely 10 percent of the UAE's population of nine million, are a small proportion of the workforce compared to Asians. Kuwait last week set a minimum wage for its hundreds of thousands of mostly Asian domestic workers and granted them other rights. — AFP

CLEVELAND: Donald Trump's presidential campaign came under withering scrutiny yesterday, after a nightmare start to the Republican convention capped by an embarrassing plagiarism scandal that tarnished his wife Melania's prime-time speech. After an opening day in Cleveland that was marred by a vocal and very public rank-and-file revolt by anti-Trump delegates, Melania's address was meant to get the show back on track. The conventions are designed to champion the party candidate, rally the grassroots and propel the party toward November's election.

With millions watching on television, the Slovenia-born former model delivered an eloquent and seemingly heartfelt defense of her husband. "Donald is, and

always has been, an amazing leader," said the 46-year-old. "Now, he will go to work for you." But there were unmistakable similarities between her remarks and a speech given by Michelle Obama at the 2008 Democratic convention.

While the controversy burned for 12 hours and social media erupted with mocking commentary, the Trump campaign appeared paralyzed. Denials of wrongdoing, followed by tacit admissions, followed by attempts to insulate Melania only added to the picture of a campaign in chaos. Campaign chair Paul Manafort described the whole kerfuffle as "absurd," and Trump's supporters seemed unperturbed.

Continued on Page 15



CLEVELAND: Presumptive Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump stands on stage with his wife Melania Trump following her address to delegates on the first day of the Republican National Convention on Monday at Quicken Loans Arena. — AFP

JUNE HOTTEST ON RECORD



BORDEAUX, France: People walk on the water mirror fountain to cool down as temperatures reached 40° C by midday yesterday. Last month was the hottest June in modern history, marking the 14th consecutive month that global heat records have been broken, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said yesterday. — AFP

BINLADIN PULLS BACK FROM FINANCIAL BRINK

RIYADH: Saudi Binladin Group, the kingdom's biggest construction conglomerate, appears to have pulled back from the brink of a financial crisis that risked damaging the wider economy. SBG was hard hit last year as low oil prices forced the government - its chief customer - to cancel or suspend projects and delay payments. It was then barred from receiving new state contracts altogether after one of its cranes toppled into Makkah's Grand Mosque during a storm, killing 107 people.

Facing a severe cash squeeze, it has been forced to halt work at a string of projects and lay off thousands of staff. Many of its foreign workers in Jeddah, Makkah and Riyadh did not receive their salaries for months. Some staged public protests and in one case, they set company buses on fire. But the government has taken a more benign approach to SBG in the past three months, letting it resume bidding for new contracts and, according to banking and construction industry sources, making some long-overdue pay-

ments to the group.

This has helped the firm pay salaries to some 10,000 workers, secure a 2.5 billion riyal (\$667 million) loan from local banks, repay bondholders and resume work at some stalled projects. An SBG spokesman declined to discuss details of the conglomerate's finances or the status of its projects. Riyadh has a strong incentive to keep SBG afloat. The group's health matters to the Saudi banking system and wider economy because of its large debt - it is estimated to owe local and foreign banks a total of about \$30 billion - and its involvement in many of the kingdom's most important projects.

Continued turmoil at the company could also have a ripple effect on its large network of suppliers. SBG still faces a challenging future, however. The group may never regain the preferential access to big projects and control over pricing that it enjoyed for decades, bankers and analysts say - an example of the pressures that Saudi Arabia's family

business empires face as cheap oil forces the kingdom to restructure its economy.

"Binladin has enjoyed for a long time a very privileged position that will probably go and never come back," said a senior banker in the region, declining to be named because of commercial sensitivities. David Butter, a business analyst at the Chatham House think-tank in London, said: "The whole system has gotten a bit sloppy and complacent over the past 10 to 15 years in an environment where there have been no constraints on spending.

"You've had companies able to count on a sweetheart system whereby contracts were allocated among an elite group. Now perhaps there's space for other companies." The crisis over the past year, and Saudi Arabia's new economic realities, have forced SBG to seek to reduce its reliance on government revenue. It has hired overseas experts and drawn up a new business plan which executives have been presenting in talks with creditors.

Continued on Page 15



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Kuwait Oil Company (KOC) CEO Jamal Abdulaziz Jaafar and officials of the Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Park project in Wafra. — KUNA photos



A delegation member gives an explanation about the Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Park project to His Highness the Crown Prince.

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES OFFICIALS OF ‘SHEIKH NAWAF PARK’

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received at Seif Palace yesterday Abdulaziz Jaafar, CEO of Kuwait Oil Company (KOC), and officials of the Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah Park

project in Wafra. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince was briefed on the details of the project, to be carried out by the KOC.

The park, to be built on a total area of a million square meters, will include a huge

shopping center, exhibition venues, coffee shops, an artificial lake, green areas, a resort, a zoo, a heritage and crafts complex, indoor and children playgrounds, a Roman theater and models of the Kuwaiti landmarks.

His Highness Sheikh Nawaf thanked the

officials for their efforts to guarantee success for the project that will push ahead the wheel of economic development in Kuwait and serve all classes of the society. The meeting was attended by Amiri Diwan Advisor Mohammad Dhaifallah Sharar and

the head of the protocol at His Highness the Crown Prince's Diwan Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince also received yesterday Faisal Naif Al-Duwaish. — KUNA



Saudi foreign minister Adel Al-Jubeir (left) and EU High Representative Federica Mogherini attend the press conference.

KUWAIT, EU SIGN MOU TO BOOST COOPERATION

EU, GCC AGREE TO EXPAND TIES

BRUSSELS: The European Union (EU) and Kuwait signed a Memorandum of Understanding to encourage cooperation between Kuwait and the EU in many areas through the EUs foreign service, called the European Action External Service. The MoU was signed yesterday in Brussels, Belgium by Kuwait's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Ambassador Suleiman Al-Jarallah and EU High Representative Federica Mogherini.

Jarallah explained that this MoU offers Kuwait the opportunity to cooperate with the 28-member European bloc outside the EU, for example to give aid and assistance the EU provides to Africa. "It also gives us the opportunity to cooperate with the EU in areas like energy, investment and in many areas which strengthen the cooperation between Kuwait and the EU," he said. Jarallah noted that the EU is a big organization capable of offering assistance and expertise to other countries. "Through this MoU, we can profit from the expertise and capabilities of the EU in Kuwait and also outside Kuwait," he said.

Jarallah said his meeting with Mogherini covered bilateral ties and cooperation, regional issues and the EUs role in these issues, and added that the EUs influence on these regional issues is very strong and effective.

He noted that since many years now the EU and the Gulf Cooperation Council have held negotiations to sign a free trade agreement and said he hoped that "the day comes when we sign this agreement and we hope that this will not be long." Jarallah described the current state of relations between the EU and Kuwait as "excellent" and noted that there is continuous contacts between the two sides. "We look with optimism to the future of EU-Kuwait ties and we are on the right path to strengthen these ties which will serve the interests of Kuwait and generally of the GCC," he added.

Stronger ties

The 25th European Union-Gulf Cooperation Council Ministerial Meeting ended in Brussels Monday night with a firm determination to expand and strengthen bilateral political, economic, cultur-

al and social cooperation and relations. "In a challenging regional environment, EU and GCC Ministers underlined the importance of further strengthening their ties, to serve as a solid and effective foundation for sustainable regional and international stability and security," said a Co-Chairs' Statement released after the meeting. The EU and GCC Ministers exchanged views and identified common concerns and priorities with regard to the situation in the region, notably on Yemen, Iran, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and the Middle East Peace Process.

"They underlined the strategic importance for the EU and the GCC to coordinate closely on these developments. They welcomed in particular the resumption of the UN-mediated Yemen peace talks in Kuwait on 16 July and reiterated their support to the UN Special Envoy for Yemen in facilitating a comprehensive and lasting settlement between Yemeni parties to restore peace and resume the transition in Yemen, in line with the GCC Initiative, the National Dialogue Conference Outcomes, UN Security Council Resolution 2216 and other relevant UNSC Resolutions," noted the statement.

Speaking at a press conference Monday night, Mogherini said "we agreed to work together in Kuwait - The EU is represented by our head of delegation at Yemen, to work together to help the parties to find common ground. This was one element where convergence was complete between us and among the respective parties. We agreed that there is only a political solution to the conflict in Yemen. We are trying to join forces to facilitate this process. "I want to stress the extremely relevant role that Kuwait is playing not only as a generous host but also as a political sensible host," stressed Mogherini. The EU delegation to the meeting was led by Mogherini, and the GCC delegation was led by Adel Al-Jubeir, Saudi foreign minister as GCC rotating Presidency. The GCC Secretariat was represented by Dr. Abdullah bin Rashed Al-Zayani, Secretary General.

Political settlement

Meanwhile, Jubeir told the joint press confer-

ence that "I think the reason that there is a commonality of views is because the consensus in the international community and also among the Yemeni parties is that a political settlement in Yemen has to be based on three basic principles, the GCC initiative, the outcome of the Yemeni national dialogue and the UN Security Council resolution 2216."

On the issue of terrorism, Mogherini said the EU and the GCC have a mutual interest to work together closely on countering terrorism. "We decided to do so more and more in the coming months and years. We will continue to work together to fight Daesh (IS), other terrorist movements. But also we will work together to prevent radicalization and find ways to be effective in our fight against terrorism," she said.

Jubeir said "Syria will be judged on what actually happens on the ground, whether the Syrian regime will respect the cease-fire, will it accept humanitarian aid, the Syrian regime will accept a peaceful solution based upon the Geneva conference and the UN resolution. These are all real questions. Our support for the moderate opposition will continue and we shall continue to combat the Islamic State in Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East." The joint statement said the Ministers reviewed progress in the EU-GCC strategic relationship and noted with satisfaction that two-way trade represented more than 155 billion euro in 2015, an increase of 55 percent since 2010. The Ministers welcomed cooperation initiatives notably through the EU-GCC dialogues on the economy, air transport, the energy experts group, exchanges on railway transport, trade facilitation, as well as cooperation on economic diversification. "The Ministers looked forward to expanded EU-GCC relations through increased people-to-people contacts, and further cooperation in the social, economic, educational, cultural and scientific fields, and human rights," said the statement. EU and GCC Ministers agreed to hold their next meeting in Bahrain in 2017. The six-member GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Kuwait's role

Separately, a Polish official lauded yesterday Kuwait's role in the Middle East, saying that the GCC State had a great impact in lessening the suffering of many people in the region namely the Syrian refugees. After the 25th European Union-Gulf Cooperation Council Ministerial Meeting, Polish Foreign Ministry official Joanna Wronecka said that Poland appreciated "Kuwait's role in the region especially within the humanitarian domain." She stressed that her country was looking into means to boost relations with Kuwait on all possible levels, adding that Poland was also eager to coordinate with the GCC country to address issues of regional importance. The Polish official met with Jarallah, and the two officials both touched on issues pertaining to bilateral relations and means to develop them. Regional and international developments as well as means to coordinate EU and GCC efforts were also on the table of discussions. — KUNA

INFORMATION MINISTER HAILS COOPERATION WITH US EMBASSY

KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah praised yesterday the cooperation with US embassy through media and cultural activities. This came during a meeting between the Minister and the outgoing US Ambassador to Kuwait Douglas A Silliman on the occasion of ending his tenure.

Meanwhile, the US Ambassador stressed the deep-rooted cultural relations between the two countries, underlining high professionalism of the Ministry of Information under the leadership of Sheikh Salman Al-Sabah. Silliman asserted keenness to strengthen the relation between the United States and Kuwait in various fields in order to achieve the common interests of the two friendly countries.

Local media

In other news, Sheikh Salman hailed the Kuwaiti media personnel for succeeding to occupy high positions in both Arab and international journalistic organizations. The Minister's statements came during his reception yesterday of newly appointees, Deputy Chairman of the Arab Journalists Union Adnan Al-Rashid, Member of the follow-up committee for the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) general conference Jassem Kamal, and Member of the executive committee for the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Dahiran Aba-Al-Khail. Sheikh Salman said that Kuwait expects from them to support their country's higher interest, adding that the Kuwaiti leadership would not hesitate to offer all sorts of support to them to execute their work at the local, regional or international arenas. Meanwhile, Al-Rashid, Kamal, and Aba-Al-Khail expressed their content by the support given to the Kuwaiti media personnel and valued the recognition by Sheikh Salman.

Vital partnership

Separately, Sheikh Salman reiterated the significance of partnership among public and private institutions, as well as the civil society in cultural programs. Sheikh Salman, who is also chairman of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL), yesterday presided over a council meeting to follow up projects of the Kuwait National Museum, Sheikh Abdullah A-Jaber Al-Sabah's Palace and the Abdullah Al-Jaber's Cultural Center. This partnership is likely to produce an integrated cultural environment to promote the Kuwaitis' awareness and thinking, especially young people, the minister told the meeting.

In addition, Sheikh Salman stressed commitment to project schedules to avoid remarks by the State Audit Bureau and other monitoring bodies. The meeting, attended by the NCCAL senior officials, also discussed the various activities of the 'Kuwait Capital of Islamic Culture 2016,' and the initial views on concluding the celebrations.

Cultural activities

Also yesterday, Sheikh Salman discussed with a delegation of the International Committee of Women (Kuwait Branch) means of holding cultural activities on the sidelines of the declaration of Kuwait being a capital of Islamic culture for 2016.

This came in a ministry statement following the Minister's meeting with the delegation that included Narjes Al-Shatti, Nada Bouresli, and wife of Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait Dr Hiba Barakat as well as Indian Ambassador's wife. The Minister expressed deep appreciation for the tremendous work exerted by the ambassadors and diplomats and the women delegation for their cultural activities organized inside the country. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with Deputy Chairman of the Arab Journalists Union Adnan Al-Rashid, Member of the follow-up committee for the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) general conference Jassem Kamal, and Member of the executive committee for the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) Dahiran Aba-Al-Khail.



KUWAIT: Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah chairs a meeting of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters yesterday. — KUNA



BRUSSELS: Kuwait's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Ambassador Suleiman Al-Jarallah (left) and EU High Representative Federica Mogherini sign the agreement. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah meets with Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Yusuf Abdullah Al-Ansari. —KUNA

ACTING PREMIER PRAISES FIREMEN

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah received yesterday Director General of Kuwait Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Yusuf Abdullah Al-Ansari. The minister, during the meeting, lauded the Kuwaiti firemen's sacrificial acts for safeguarding lives of citizens and residents in the State of Kuwait, stressing that their devotion and great efforts

are highly admired. The meeting, held at the Foreign Ministry headquarters, was attended by the KFSD Deputy Director General for Prevention and Safety Supervision, Khaled Al-Mekrad. Also present were Ambassador Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah, the Acting Deputy Foreign Minister, and senior Ministry officials. Ansari and Mekrad later met with National Assembly

Speaker Marzouq Ali Al-Ghanem as well.

In other news, Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled received a written message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari dealing with means of cementing bilateral relations. It also deals with boosting mutual cooperation regarding regional and international events and other issues of common concern. —KUNA

CLERICS BASH POKEMON GO AS 'WASTE OF TIME'

MP ARGUES USERS ARE PUNISHED ONLY IF THEY BREAK LAW

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Many religious institutions in Arab countries have issued a fatwa against Pokemon Go, the wildly popular game app sweeping the world. "Pokemon Go has harmed many players, who have been involved in car accidents or fallen from cliffs," Sheikh Hai Al-Hai, a cleric at a Sabah Al-Salem mosque told Kuwait Times.

Hai said Pokemon Go makes players walk like drunkards without paying attention to what is going on around them. He added that the Saudi Grand Mufti and the deputy head of Al-Azhar

Abbas Shuman have prohibited playing this game. He reiterated that Islam prohibits anything that harms us. "This game has made people spy on each other. It takes photos of private places, houses and worship places, and this makes us believe that the game could be a tool by some terrorist organizations to know more about these locations with videos, photos and even addresses," he said.

"God instructs us not to spy in the Holy Quran, but if you look at all social media sites, you will see that they are spying on people everywhere by getting their passwords, personal

photos, videos of their intimate moments and more. Young people are lost in social media and games - they are wasting the best time of their lives," Sheikh Hai added.

Several MPs in Kuwait have also expressed concern about the game, reiterating a statement made earlier by the Interior Ministry in which it warned gamers from using the app near 'vital locations' including mosques, police stations and shopping malls for security reasons. Meanwhile, one Islamist lawmaker argued that using the app itself does not constitute a violation to the law or Islamic regulations. "If a user's actions lead to harming others or to a violation to the law such as entering a house uninvited or taking pictures without permission, then he should be punished according to the law," MP Abdulrahman Al-Jeeran explained, as quoted by Al-Rai newspaper yesterday.

Pokemon Go is a free-to-play app that gets users up and moving in the real world to capture fictional 'pocket monsters' known as Pokemon. The goal is to capture as many of the more than hundred species of animated Pokemon as you can. The idea that Pokemon, a Japanese videogame in which the player must collect all species of the titular mythical creatures, is a plot to subvert Islam is not a new one among Muslim clerics. When the game first became popular in the early 2000s, Saudi Arabia's Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul Aziz bin Abdullah Al-Sheikh claimed the game featured symbols "of international Zionism and the state of Israel" and had the potential of "possessing the minds" of children with Zionist ideas. His fatwa stands today, reaffirmed by Egyptian clerics.



KUWAIT: This file photo shows a gamer using the Pokemon Go application on his mobile phone inside his car in Kuwait City. —Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

SIX ARRESTED FOR TRADING IN TRAMADOL

TWO HURT IN ABDALY ROAD CRASH

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Criminal detectives arrested six Egyptian men on charges of trading in a banned substance, and found 1,427 Tramadol tablets with them, the Interior Ministry's Relations and Security Information Department announced yesterday. Tips were received by criminal detectives that a man identified as Ashraf Hanafi Mohammad had illicit tablets for trading, and he was arrested with 100 Tramadol tablets he planned to sell for KD 200. He said that he deals with another man named Wael Othman Ali, who was arrested. He said he is a mediator in the sale, and brings the drugs from yet another man called Akram Alexan Jundi. The third suspect said he delivered the drugs and handed the money to a fourth man named Jad Abdelshafi Abdellatif, and 220 tablets were found on him. He in turn said he received them from a man identified as Adel Abdelnasser Mohammad, who had 107 tablets on his arrest. The statement said this suspect told them about a sixth man named Abdelameen Ahmad Younis, who had 1,000 tablets. The suspects were sent to concerned

authorities. Separately, Central Prison authorities found 12 small joints thought to contain heroin during a routine inspection. The drugs were with an Egyptian inmate named Yasser Mohammad Khalaf.

Thieves caught

In other news, the department announced that Farwaniya detectives arrested a gang that committed several robberies against citizens and expats. The first suspect, a bedoon wanted to serve a two-year, four month jail sentence, also wanted by Jahra and Ahmadi detectives. The second suspect, Yousuf Hameed, is also a bedoon. The suspects were arrested in Ardiya and they confessed to committing the crimes. They were identified by victims in a line-up. They were sent to concerned authorities.

Traffic accident

A car flipped over on Abdaly Road, so Abdaly rescue center responded and found two injured and trapped persons inside the car. The doors were cut open, and the injured were handed to paramedics, who evacuated them by medevac.

No injuries in fires

Sulaikhath and Doha firemen put out a fire that broke out in a Doha school. The fire was in the teachers' room but no one was at school. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported. Meanwhile, a Hitteen house caught fire, so Mishref fire center responded and contained the blaze, which was put out in 10 minutes. No injuries were reported. In another incident reported yesterday, wood and debris caught fire in Khaitan, and firemen were able to contain and keep it from spreading, and it was put out in 20 minutes. Separately, a car caught fire in Hitteen, prompting Mishref fire center to respond and put it out without injuries. Also yesterday, a residential building in Farwaniya caught fire, prompting Farwaniya fire center to respond with Ardiya as backup. The fire was in a flat with people inside, so the building was evacuated and the fire was put out without any injuries.

Staff promotion

Director of administrative affairs at Kuwait Fire Services Directorate (KFSD) Colonel Nasser Al-Ansari said 1,803 officers and non-commissioned officers will be promoted during the coming few days, adding that the promotions were approved after a decree on the KFSD budget for 2016/2017 was issued. Ansari appreciated the support of State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah, adding that this step will promote those who deserve it on the basis of seniority.

Low-cost homes

Based on the instructions of Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister and Acting Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah to provide policemen with low-cost homes, the Interior Ministry will start distributing these homes to those who deserve them from August 1, after recovering them from those whose service ended, or lost any of the conditions they must meet to deserve these homes.



KUWAIT: This photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows six men arrested yesterday for trading in Tramadol.

NO CHANGES EXPECTED TO CABINET LINEUP

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: There are no plans for a Cabinet reshuffle in the coming period as some MPs demand, government sources said, adding that the current lineup will not change before the end of the Cabinet's constitutional term "even if grilling motions are filed."

A number of lawmakers have reportedly threatened to file interpellations against Ministers of Communications Essa Al-Kandari, Education Bader Al-Essa, Commerce Yousuf Al-Ali, Health Ali Al-

Obaidi and Social Affairs Hind Al-Subaih. But according to the sources, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah is satisfied with the performance of his ministers and their ability to execute development projects. "Sheikh Jaber believes that laws passed by the National Assembly are implemented by the government according to certain dates and mechanisms; a process that requires time," the source said, commenting on accusations that ministers are delaying key projects passed by the parliament.

MINISTRY ACTS TO PREVENT CABLE THEFTS

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The Ministry and Electricity and Water (MEW) has allocated KD 12.8 million as an estimated budget to carry out plans to protect vital power facilities in various areas around the country with its current 2016/2017 budget, informed sources at the ministry said. The project aims at benefiting from advanced applications to effectively monitor and manage security of facilities, and reduce the possibility of security breaches, the added.

The sources said thefts of cables and other equipment reported at power and water networks constitute a great concern for the ministry. "There are efforts being exerted to find means to limit these thefts," the sources indicated, adding that those thefts lead to electricity and water cuts especially in remote areas, in addition to risking waste of public funds.

According to the sources, MEW has established 'total coordination' with the

Interior Ministry to stop the thefts. They added that the Interior Ministry spares no effort in presenting all sorts of support in this regard, and finding new mechanisms to monitor MEW facilities and using modern technology in this regard.

This comes while Jahra detectives arrested two Asian nationals for stealing high voltage power cables, the Interior Ministry announced yesterday. Tips received about two suspects selling copper extracted from power cables, the ministry said in a statement. After the information was confirmed, detectives arrested Mohammad Islam Khan, Bangladeshi, who took police to where he kept the cables. The suspect's partner, identified as Mohammad Bilal was arrested at the scene; where police also found several cables. The suspect said during questioning that he buys the cables from an Egyptian man that comes to his house every now and then. The suspect denied knowledge of the man's identity. A case was filed for investigations.



KUWAIT: This handout photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows two people arrested for stealing high voltage power cables.

TWO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES REPORTED

KUWAIT: A female citizen arrived at Adan Hospital bruised and wounded on the face and body. She told police that it was her brother who caused the injuries. The woman then went to Mubarak Al-Kabeer police station and lodged a complaint against her brother, and he was summoned and detained for further legal action. Separately, a female citizen who works for the Awqaf Ministry told Adan police that her husband beat her badly in their house, and gave police a medical report to prove her claims. A case was filed for investigations.

ior during weddings. A security source said sending the vehicles out, after being impounded, came after revoking their licenses, especially since their owners use them for reckless driving.

Shop robbed

Thieves stole computers and make-up equipment along with KD 300 in cash from a beauty shop. The shop owner, a citizen, found the door of her shop open as a result of a break-in, so she called police. They went there along with criminal evidence officers, as detectives took over the case.

Pedestrian mugged

Three thieves robbed an Indian man of KD 500 and his mobile phone, and left him with fractures and critical injuries. The man was walking near the Jahra traffic department when three persons surprised him and asked him to give his valuables, and when he refused, they beat him and left him motionless. Several passersby saw him and called the police, who arrived with paramedics and rushed him to Jahra Hospital. Investigations are underway.

Bank forgery

A citizen complained at Sabah Al-Salem police station about an unidentified person who withdrew KD 1,200 from his bank account from several locations. The citizen said he does not subscribe to the bank's SMS service, and discovered the theft recently. He gave police a statement of his account.

Harassment

A female citizen told police she was driving on Fahaaheel road when a man in a luxury car asked her to take his phone number and made indecent gestures with his hand. The woman lodged a complaint, and authorities are investigating. — Al-Anbaa

DEFAULTING KUWAITI TENANTS GET GOVT FINANCIAL HELP

KUWAIT: Justice Minister and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Yaqoub Al-Sane declared yesterday the start of disbursing Al-Waqf financial allocations for limited-income Kuwaiti families who could not pay monthly housing rent. The minister said in a statement that the payments would be monthly, indicating that the

decision is retroactive as of last January. The allotments were deposited in bank accounts for those eligible for the financial support at the end of the last June. The financial aid project aims at aiding the largest number possible of low-income citizens who cannot pay the housing rent. — KUNA

In Brief

ACTING PREMIER
RECEIVES MESSAGE

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday received a written message from Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari dealing with means of cementing bilateral relations. It also deals with boosting mutual cooperation regarding regional and international events and other issues of common concern. — KUNA



KUWAIT OIL PRICE UP
45 CENTS TO \$41.91 PB

KUWAIT: The price of Kuwaiti oil went up 45 cents Monday to reach \$41.91 per barrel as oppose to \$41.46 pb last Friday, said a statement by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday. At the world market yesterday, oil prices settled down two percent on Monday after rising stockpiles of crude and refined fuel intensified fears another major glut was building up. The price for the American crude went down 80 cents to settle at \$45.15 pb, and the Brent mix also went down 89 cents to settle at \$46.72 pb. — KUNA



US DOLLAR STABLE AGAINST
KUWAITI DINAR AT KD 0.302

KUWAIT: The US dollar yesterday stabilized against the Kuwaiti dinar trading at KD 0.302, as well as the euro stabilizing at KD 0.334, compared to Monday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said in its daily bulletin. It added that the Sterling Pound stabilized at KD 0.399. The Swiss Franc also remained unchanged exchanging at KD 0.307. The Japanese Yen remained the same at KD 0.002. — KUNA



Photo

o f t h e d a y



KUWAIT: A lovebird looks on from its birdhouse. — KUNA photo

KRCS DISTRIBUTES 2,200 FOOD BASKETS TO IDPs IN IRBIL

AID DISTRIBUTED TO DISPLACED SYRIANS IN LEBANON

IRBIL/BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has handed out 2,200 food baskets to internally displaced persons (IDPs) at some villages in Mosul city, northern Iraq. Kuwait Consul General in Irbil Dr Omar Al-Kandari said in a statement on Monday that the consulate supervised the distribution of 2,200 food baskets to displaced families living at camps in western Irbil.

This aid is distributed upon the initiative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah aiming to alleviate suffering of these people, he added. Kuwait has been aiding needy people and the displaced as they are in a dire need of humanitarian aid, he noted.

He said that the distribution plan at this stage hopefully would include a number of displaced people in Fallujah city, adding that this humanitarian campaign is conducted by coordination with the Kurdistan Regional Government and Barzani Charity Foundation, under the supervision of the Consulate General of Kuwait.

Kandari pointed out that the number of

displaced people and individuals is expected to increase in the upcoming period; therefore Kuwait is keen to be present as soon as possible to meet needs of internally displaced persons and mitigate their suffering.

Eighth batch

Meanwhile, Yousef Al-Me'raj, director of KRCS' disaster management and emergency, said this is the eighth batch of aid distributed by the society to displaced people. He added that KRCS provided basic aid for displaced people in the region coming from villages surrounding Mosul, in accordance with the directives of KRCS' administration. Each basket contains basic and essential food like rice, lentils, oil, milk and others, he stressed.

Lauding KRCS' aid, an official at Barzani foundation said Kuwait's KRCS is the first body which has been quickly providing humanitarian aid to the displaced persons in the areas liberated by the Iraqi army.

KRCS and Zakat (alms) House handed out before the holy month of Ramadan up to 15,000 food parcels to displaced people and



Syrian refugees in the region. The number of displaced people has risen over the last days as they are fleeing the areas controlled by the so-called Islamic State. According to official figures, there are up to 2,258,522 refugees and internally displaced persons, and 32 camps in the region.

Syrian families

In other news, KRCS said Monday that aid have been distributed to a number of displaced Syrian families in northern Lebanon in cooperation with the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC). Food packages and cleaning materials were handed to around 250 Syrian families at Rihaniya camp in Akkar district, northern Lebanon, said Abdullah Al-Zaid, head of KRCS's mission to Lebanon, adding that one food package is sufficient enough to a family of five members for a whole month. Zaid expressed his hope that the aid help in alleviating the suffering of refugees, reiterating KRCS' commitment to aid Syrian refugees in Lebanon and all countries they have taken as refuge. — KUNA



IRBIL/BEIRUT: KRCS workers hand out food baskets to internally displaced persons in Mosul city, and Syrian refugees in Lebanon. — KUNA

KUWAITI MINISTER URGES OVERSEAS INVESTMENTS

KUWAIT: It is imperative that Kuwait broadens its investments abroad and diversifies them in as many revenue generating fields of trade as possible, said Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Youssif Al-Ali yesterday.

This came out in a ministry statement after a meeting the minister had with his Sri Lankan counterpart Risad Badhiutheen on the sidelines of The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) currently being held in the Kenyan capital city of Nairobi. Dr Ali acknowledged the investment opportunities in Sri Lanka available to both the public and private sectors in Kuwait as he underscored the growing commercial ties between the two countries.

Minister Badhiutheen painted an attractive image of the investment opportunities in his country to the Kuwaiti minister in the hopes of enticing Kuwaiti investments to it. For instance, the Sri Lankan minister boasted that his country is among the best sought-after destinations for international

tourists, so much so that the country seeks to build hotels with rooms enough to absorb about 2.5 million tourists in the upcoming few years.

Sir Lanka, he noted, has confirmed plans to build a two billion dollar oil refinery capable of producing no less than 200,000 barrels of oil daily. Investors moreover, he said, can find ample opportunities for investing in industry, shipbuilding, and fisheries in his country. He expressed hope that Kuwaiti investments would assume a coveted role in pushing along the Sri Lankan economy. The Kuwait minister is representing his country at the 14 UNCTAD meeting.

UNCTAD is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The organization's goals includes maximizing the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries and assisting them in their efforts to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis. — KUNA



KUWAIT: (From left) Rima Termos, TRACCs CEO, introduces the officials from both Kuwait and Greece, namely Khaled Al-Quoud, Aris Beis, Theodore Deventzis and nutritionist Ahmed Al-Failakawi. — Photos by Yasser Al-Zayyat

GREECE, EU PROMOTE FRESH PEACHES, FRUITS IN KUWAIT

By Ben Garcia and Agencies

KUWAIT: Next week, about 57 cooperatives and hypermarkets in Kuwait will be flooded with peaches from Greece as part of the 'Peach Garden' project, a European co-financed project for promoting fresh peaches in the markets of UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Kuwait. It was established by the Association of Imathia's Agricultural Cooperatives Producers Organizations (IACPO) from Greece and Novacert. Kuwait and Greece enjoy a remarkable business relation where trade exchange between both countries reaches about \$174 million annually.

Officials of the company are currently in Kuwait to promote peaches and get a bite of the peach market and that of other fruits like kiwis, nectarines and apples in the Gulf, particularly Kuwait. "Please take advantage of the free tasting at co-ops. We want you to judge yourselves which are the tastiest peaches in the market. Our peaches are from the vast and fine agricultural land we have in Greece," said Theodore Deventzis, Commercial Director of IACPO. "The main objective is to inform the consumers and the distributors about the safety and premium quality of the product. To be able to

impart the nutritional value of the peaches, we need to educate the people why peaches are important for the human body," he said.

Aris Beis, representative of Novacert Ltd, said that with the current promotion, it is seeking a business partnership and at the same time encouraging Kuwaitis to take advantage of business in Greece, especially in the agriculture sector. "This is just the first step. We want to bring premium quality fruit from Greece. The project we are promoting will last for three years. Greek peaches and other fruits will gain a significant chunk of the market share of every country in the Middle East, and this step is very important for us," Beis said. "It's with great pleasure that we meet both Kuwaiti customers and investors in Kuwait and believe it is an excellent market to promote European fruit produced in Greece, which perfectly match the sophisticated Kuwaiti taste." Peaches in Kuwait are imported from countries like Jordan and Lebanon, but according to him, Greek peaches are better in quality and taste.

Promotional campaigns

In Kuwait, the project will witness a series of promotional actions like product sampling in

supermarkets, presentations as well as public relations events that include business missions from Greece and invitation of opinion leaders to Greece.

During the press conference held at Marina Hotel, Khaled Al-Quoud, CEO of Al-Quoud International, specializing in the fruits industry said: "Kuwait is an open market for different kinds of agricultural products. It's marked with diversity of fresh fruits which cater to different tastes and needs. As an industry expert, I see European fruits as an added value to the fruit market in Kuwait, which will provide the sophisticated customers with a top-notch option."

Ahmed Al-Failakawi, a nutritionist, elaborated on the role of the peaches and fruits in general in enhancing human health and preventing diseases while keeping the body in good shape. He also emphasized on the importance of the fruits in adopting a healthy lifestyle and eliminating obesity, which is prevalent amongst the younger generation in Kuwait. Failakawi stated that it is extremely important to include fruits in our daily nutrition routine as a main source of vitamins and fibers, which are two criteria much needed for a healthy body.



KFH officials honoring representative of PACI

KFH APPLIES E-SIGNATURE SERVICE TO EMPLOYEES

IN COLLABORATION WITH PACI

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) applied the E-signature service to its employees in collaboration with the Public Authority for Civil Information (PACI). The e-signature facilitates employees' processes in updating their civil identifications online through the support of a number of PACI officials who were accessible at KFH's headquarters for a period of 3 weeks.

This step contributes in saving employees' time and efforts and easing the registration process, which comes in line with

the e-governemnt concept and the bank's endeavors to serve its human resources and offer them the chance to benefit from many eservices.

KFH is considered amongst the first companies in Kuwait to apply the e-signature service to its employees in line with its strategy to cope with the latest technological development.

This project contributes to the modernization of Kuwait and meets its ambitious vision of an electronic era.

KUWAIT MARKS 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARAB LEAGUE'S MEMBERSHIP

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait will celebrate today the 55th anniversary of the Arab League's membership. Kuwait tried to join the Arab League in 1958, but the move failed as the state was not independent at that time.

After declaring Kuwait's independence from Britain on June 19, 1961, Iraq's Prime Minister at that time Abdulkareem Qassem called for annexing Kuwait to Iraq. Kuwait submitted a request to the Arab League on June 23, 1961 for getting a membership, the league approved the request on July 20.

As a result, Kuwait called on Britain to withdraw its troops and replaced them with Arab ones and actually some troops from the United Arab Republic, Jordan, and Sudan arrived in Kuwait to protect it from any foreign interference. On February 8, 1963, Qassem was assassinated and the Arab troops withdrew completely from Kuwait on February 20.

Accepting the request of Kuwait to join the league, Secretary General for Political Affairs at that time Dr Sayed Nofal said the league was very pleased of Kuwait's joining the Arab family. He added that Kuwait actually has enjoyed, unofficially, the membership of the league for a long time, either on political or social or cultural arenas. The league also issued a resolution aimed to helping the State of Kuwait join the United Nations membership.

Arab unity

Since joining the league, Kuwait has been exerting all possible efforts aiming to support Arab unity and cohesion either inside or outside the league through its representative His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, who was serving as foreign minister at that time. His Highness the Amir played a key diplomatic role in healing the Arab rift, adopting a balanced policy, cementing bonds of cooperation, and settling Gulf and Arab disputes.

Kuwait has a pioneering role in mediating amongst Yemeni parties in the 1960s and stopping the armed forces in September, 1972 between the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The mediation made by His Highness the Amir when he was serving as foreign minister at that time through the committee formed by the league ended with reaching a Yemen's peace agreement in and a deal on trade exchange in October, 1972.

His Highness the Amir played also a key role in settling Lebanon's crisis since the eruption of the civil war in 1975 until 1989. In 1980, His Highness the Amir made mediation efforts between Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman to ease tensions between them.

Palestinian cause

Regarding Kuwait's role in supporting the Arab issues, the State of Kuwait has been keen on backing the Palestinian cause, the core issue of Arabs, in international arenas through demanding a halt of the Israeli aggression and recognizing legitimate rights of Palestinians. This was submitted on May 18, 1963 in a statement read out by His Highness the Amir before the UN General Assembly.

History will always remember of the stance of late Father Amir Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah in 1970 when he contributed to lifting the blockade imposed on late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat in Jordan during the battles dubbed as 'Black September'. Kuwait also has been supporting the Palestine people and government through providing financial and in-kind aid brotherly Palestinians who have been under the Israeli occupation.

As for Arab League's stance over the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, the league issued on August 10, 1990, resolution No. 195, which condemned the Iraqi invasion and asked, during an extraordinary summit, Iraq to abide by UN Security Council resolutions. The league confirmed at the summit Kuwait's sovereignty and independence, and denounced Iraqi threats against Kuwait, before issuing consecutive resolutions pertaining to the Kuwait's prisoners and their compensation for damage caused by the invasion. Moreover, Kuwait's contribution to reconstructing Iraq is another example of its keenness to extend bridges of cooperation to strengthen the Arab unity. Kuwait's aid-either grants, or development projects economic, or loans has been extended through its economic and development funds to its Arab countries.

Economic summit

Kuwait hosted a first Arab economic, developmental and social summit in 2009, which was one the most successful summits held by the league, and the Africa-Arab summit, the two international pledging humanitarian conferences for Syrian and other Arab activities as well.

After the terrorist attack on Kuwait's Imam Al-Sadeq Mosque last year, the Council of Arab League at the level of permanent delegates expressed its strong condemnation and denouncement of the 'heinous' crime.

The council stressed, in a statement, its full solidarity with Kuwait, His Highness the Amir and Kuwaiti people in combating terrorism and extremism. The council voiced its sincere condolences to the Kuwaiti leadership, government and people, and its pride over Kuwait's national unity and cohesion. — KUNA

Take your local Internet capacity when you travel

To activate roaming, send **DATA ON** to **99990**

ROAMING على كيفك FOR KD7 WEEKLY

www.kw.zain.com/roaming

A Wonderful World



SOUTH AL-MUTLA CITY PROJECT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVING HOUSING PROBLEMS



Head of the Housing Committee at the Parliament MP Faisal Al-Kanderi

KUWAIT: South Al-Mutla City project has created a significant change in the housing philosophy in Kuwait and created a situation of optimism among those concerned with the housing issue, in addition to lowering of rent prices of private housing in the country.

The new city's population is expected to reach about 400,000 inhabitants and will contribute to the reduction of the waiting period to get a home, especially as it is the largest residential city in Kuwait, as well as resolving the housing issues, rising of rent and the elimination of excess housing in urban areas.

Efforts of the government, parliament and youth have resulted in the signing of the contract to build the city which will be held on an area of 102 square kilometers, including 90 square kilometers spreading over residential usages that will include all facilities and public buildings that cover all the services and keep

pace with the requirements of the service ministries.

Head of the Housing Committee at the Parliament MP Faisal Al-Kanderi said that the signing of the infrastructure contract for South Al-Mutla City project came after cooperation between the parliament and the government during the committee meetings which agreed on many laws and regulations made by the MPs in this regard. The project includes 30,000 housing units, he said, adding that the signing of the contract was a breakthrough towards ending the suffering of the citizens who are eagerly awaiting homes.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of the Real-Estate Union Qais Al-Ghanim said the government's cooperation with the private sector, whether domestic or foreign will develop these houses to accommodate the requirements of Kuwaiti youth and meet all their needs. — KUNA



Secretary General of the Real-Estate Union Qais Al-Ghanim



NATIONAL GUARDS DEPUTY CHIEF LAUDS GOVT MONITORING APPARATUS

KUWAIT: Deputy Chief of Kuwait National Guards (KNG) Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah yesterday praised performance of the Government Performance Follow-Up Apparatus for pin pointing shortcomings and defects in the administration.

KNG said in a statement Sheikh Meshaal met with the

apparatus head, Sheikh Ahmad Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, and other officials, discussing a number of upgrading projects, part of the Guards' 2020 strategic goals. Sheikh Ahmad toured the Guards chairmanship headquarters, accompanied by senior officials, where was he briefed about the sections and tasks. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry's retirees' diwaniya hosted retired officers for their weekly gathering yesterday. Major General Adeeb Suwaidan, Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Citizenship and Passports Affairs and Colonel Saif Al-Mutairi, Director of the Retirees Care Department attended the gathering.

AHLI UNITED BANK WINS INT'L HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT EXCELLENCE AWARD

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank (AUB), one of the leading Islamic Banks in Kuwait, announced today 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 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 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 compa-

nies were present during the awards ceremony.

Jehad Al-Humaidh, General Manager IT and 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 Mrs. 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."



Anil Lobo, Security Supervisor at Ahli United Bank received the award on behalf of the bank.





Half of Syrian kids in Lebanon not in school

ERDOGAN STRENGTHENED AFTER COUP

‘NONSENSICAL’ TO CLAIM PRESIDENT ORCHESTRATED PUTSCH: PRESIDENCY

ISTANBUL: When President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's drawn face was seen on television appealing to supporters through a humble mobile phone app, some may have thought the game was up for the Turkish strongman. But his backers flooded the streets of Istanbul and Ankara in response to his desperate appeal on FaceTime to counter the botched military coup that represented the biggest threat to his 13-year domination of the country.

And rather than being damaged by the coup, Erdogan is likely to emerge strengthened, analysts said. They said his pugnacious charisma and image as the protector of conservative and pious Turks from treachery emanating from outside are likely to receive a huge boost. However Erdogan still faces obstacles, notably to implementing his dream of a fully-fledged presidential system in Turkey and keeping military support to fight Kurdish rebels.

Erdogan will now "have his hands free", said Dorothee Schmid, Turkey specialist at the French Institute for Foreign Relations (IFRI). "He will have the full powers, with a mindset of vengeance and desire to control the country in a totalitarian fashion," she said. Since the coup, Erdogan has roused crowds of thousands in his home district of Istanbul, vowing to listen to their calls for the re-imposition of the death penalty.

He has also enjoyed a rare degree of across-the-board support in Turkey, with even opposition parties lining up to denounce the coup. Indeed there are so many reasons to see the coup as a boost to Erdogan that there have been suggestions in particular on social media that it was staged with the express aim of helping him.

'Same Obstacles'

"It's not a coup but theatre", was a viral hashtag on Turkish social media on the night of the putsch. The government has slammed such claims as utterly false and Erdogan told CNN late Monday that he was 15 minutes from being killed before leaving the Aegean hotel where he was staying for Istanbul.

"It is really nonsensical. This is no different really than claiming 9/11 was orchestrated by the United States - and that the Paris and Nice attacks were orchestrated by the French government," Ibrahim Kalin told foreign reporters. Turkey has accused Erdogan's archfoe Fethullah Gulen of organizing the coup from exile in the United States, but the Islamic cleric retorted the president himself may have staged it. Asked about an allegation the Americans were behind Friday's events, he said: "One of our ministers made a comment at the heat of the event when the emotions were high... you have to understand the psychology here." He said coup plotters will be tried "on charges of treason and attempt to change the constitutional order illegally."

Schmid said all would now not be plain sailing for Erdogan who was leading a deeply polarized country where confidence in the political process has sunk. "He is also leading a state that is more and more in a state of disorder," she added, saying that Turkey was becoming a "country which is more and more difficult to control."

Faruk Logoglu, a former Turkish ambassador to the US and



ISTANBUL: Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan addresses his supporters gathered in front of his residence early yesterday. — AP

lawmaker for the opposition Republican People's Party (CHP), said that the coup "will reinforce Erdogan's powers and allow him to limit the freedoms that remain". He said that the outcome would feed Erdogan's desire to seek constitutional change for a presidential system in Turkey at a time when he already has unprecedented powers over politics, the economy and the media in Turkey.

Bayram Balci, Turkey expert at Ceri Sciences Po in Paris, said that the coup was nothing less than a "gift from heaven" for Erdogan. "He presents himself as the savior of democracy, he starts a new life and this will increase his powers." "Erdogan is going to be seen as very strong. He has lots of charisma, he shows both authority and authoritarianism." But to achieve his dream of implementing a presidential system in Turkey, Erdogan will face the same problems as before, namely winning a two-thirds majority in parliament for a straight change or a three-fifths majority to call a referendum on the issue. "The same obstacles remain in place," said Balci.

'Symbolic' Effect

"For now he cannot even call a referendum. The one thing that he can do is to persuade some deputies to vote for him." Thus Balci said that despite the boost Erdogan has received from the coup, the main effect will be purely "symbolic and psychological". Meanwhile, while thousands of soldiers and dozens of generals have been detained in a relentless post-coup crack-down, Erdogan will need to stay on good terms with the back-

bone of the military who stayed loyal to him. The Turkish president will be wary of launching a full-scale purge of the Turkish army at a time when it is fighting a rebellion by Kurdish militants. The military has sustained heavy losses in the year since the truce with the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) broke down last in July last year but Erdogan has made clear there will be no let-up in the offensive against the banned group. "Erdogan cannot purge the army too much. He needs it," said Balci. — AFP

AFGHAN GERMANY TRAIN ATTACKER 'LEFT IS VIDEO'

WUERZBURG, Germany: The Islamic State group yesterday released a video purportedly featuring a 17-year-old Afghan refugee who went on an axe rampage on a German train, injuring five people, two critically. The video showed teenager "Mohammed Riyadh" - knife in hand - announcing in Pashto he would carry out an "operation" in Germany, and presenting himself as a "soldier of the caliphate". Four members of a family of tourists from Hong Kong and a passer-by were hurt in the assault

a video it claimed showed the attacker threatening "infidel" countries. Authorities said they were still trying to determine the video's authenticity.

'Calm and Even-Keeled'

Locals described the assailant, identified in media reports as Riaz A, as "calm and even-keeled" and a "devout Muslim who did not appear to be radical or a fanatic", according to Joachim Herrmann, interior minister of Bavaria state. "According to the investigation

An eyewitness told DPA news agency that the train, which had been carrying around 25 people, looked "like a slaughterhouse" with blood covering the floor. Germany has thus far escaped the kind of large-scale jihadist attack seen in the southern French city of Nice last week, in which 31-year-old Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel used a truck to mow down 84 people. That attack was also claimed by IS without the assailant having clear ties to the group.

A record 1.1 million people were let in to Germany last year, with Syrians making up the largest group followed by Afghans. The assailant had arrived as an unaccompanied minor in Germany in June 2015 and had been staying with a foster family in the region for the last two weeks, Herrmann said. "We must determine what the motive was and to what extent he really belonged to the Islamist scene or self-radicalized very recently," Herrmann said, adding that the assailant had no criminal record in Germany.

Political Tensions

Germany has been spared major Islamist attacks but in May, a mentally unstable 27-year-old man wielding a knife killed one person and injured three others on another Bavarian regional train. Early reports had suggested he had yelled "Allahu Akbar" but police later said there was no evidence pointing to a political motive. He is being held in a psychiatric hospital. In February, a 15-year-old girl of Turkish origin stabbed a policeman in the neck with a kitchen knife at Hanover train station in what prosecutors later said was an IS-inspired attack.

And police in April arrested two 16-year-olds over an explosion that wounded three people at a Sikh temple, in what was believed to be an Islamist-motivated assault against an Indian wedding party in the western city of Essen. Bavaria is governed by the Christian Social Union, sister party to Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats, which had been vocal in criticizing Merkel's welcoming stance toward refugees. — AFP



An image grab taken from a video released yesterday by Amaq News Agency, an online service affiliated with the Islamic State (IS) group, purportedly shows teenager 'Mohammed Riyadh', the Afghan refugee who slashed people on a German train the previous night, holding a knife in his hand while announcing in Pashto he would carry out an 'operation' in Germany, as he presents himself as a 'soldier of the caliphate'. — AFP

late Monday in southern Germany that appeared likely to rekindle tensions over the country's refugee influx.

German authorities said they had found a hand-painted IS flag and what they called a suicide letter among the asylum seeker's belongings. The assailant was killed by police as he attacked officers while trying to flee. "The perpetrator of the stabbing attack in Germany was one of the fighters of the Islamic State," the IS-linked Amaq news agency said. Amaq later released

thus far, there was no evidence on site to point to him belonging to the Islamist network," Herrmann said. Police however later found a farewell letter he apparently left for his father, who still lives in Afghanistan, in which he said the world's Muslims "must defend themselves." "Now pray for me that I can take revenge on non-believers, pray for me that I can get to heaven," the note said.

Prosecutors said he shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest) three times as he made his way through the carriage.

REDTAG

always fashionable. always affordable.

SALE

UP TO

50% OFF*

WOMEN • MEN • KIDS • BABY • HOME

BAHRAIN • KSA • KUWAIT • OMAN • QATAR • UAE

rewards www.redtag-stores.com /RedtagFashion

*Terms and Conditions apply

ARREST OF DUAL-NATIONAL IRANIANS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED

BEIRUT/WASHINGTON: Montreal academic Homa Hoodfar was preparing to return to Canada from Iran in March when agents from Iran's powerful paramilitary Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps raided her Tehran home and took her laptop, phone, books and passport, her family said. Over the course of the next three months, Hoodfar, an Iranian, Canadian and Irish citizen, was called in regularly for day-long interrogations. On June 6, she went in for yet another interrogation session but was not released.

Nine days later, the hardline Mashregh site, which is affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards, published what it alleged were her crimes: Creating security problems within the Islamic Republic by taking part in feminist activities. It pointed to her link with Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML), a network of

women and organizations that do advocacy and academic work. Hoodfar's niece said the 65-year old anthropology and sociology professor at Concordia University in Montreal was in Iran on a personal trip. "Those allegations are not backed with any facts and they're baseless," Amanda Ghahremani told Reuters by phone from Canada.

Attempts to reach the Revolutionary Guards via their official news site and the media office of the Iranian judiciary for comment were unsuccessful. There was no immediate comment from Iran's UN mission in New York to Reuters about the arrest of dual-national Iranians. In the past nine months, the Revolutionary Guards have arrested at least six dual-national Iranians, their friends and family members say, the highest number of Iranians with dual-nationality detained at one

time in recent years to have been acknowledged. The government has confirmed most of the detentions, without giving details of any charges.

Analysts say the circumstances are often similar: arrest on arrival or departure from Tehran's airport, the announcement of a period of interrogation followed by a hardline website publishing a list of alleged crimes, usually plotting to overthrow the government, before they set foot in court. The Iranian government does not recognise dual nationality, which prevents relevant Western embassies from seeing individuals who have been detained.

In March, the US State Department issued a warning noting that Iranian-Americans are particularly at risk of being detained or imprisoned if they travel to Iran. According to former prisoners, families of current ones

and diplomats, in some cases the detainees are kept to be used for a prisoner exchange with Western countries. In January, the United States and Iran reached a historic prisoner swap deal that saw Iranians held or charged in the US, mostly for sanctions violations, released in return for Americans imprisoned in Iran.

Among the dual-nationals currently being held is Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, an Iranian-British citizen, who was detained at Tehran's airport in April while traveling with her two-year old daughter. Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 37, works for the Thomson-Reuters foundation, a London-based charity that is independent of Thomson Reuters and operates independently of Reuters News. Monique Villa, the foundation's CEO, said Zaghari-Ratcliffe had no dealings with Iran in her professional capacity. — Reuters



TEHRAN: Iranians enjoy ice-cream on a sidewalk in northern Tehran yesterday. — AP

DOCUMENT SHOWS LESSER LIMITS ON IRAN NUKE WORK

TEHRAN'S ABILITY TO BUILD A BOMB BOOSTED

VIENNA: Key restrictions on Iran's nuclear program imposed under an internationally negotiated deal will start to ease years before the 15-year accord expires, advancing Tehran's ability to build a bomb even before the end of the pact, according to a document obtained Monday by AP. The confidential document is the only text linked to last year's deal between Iran and six foreign powers that hasn't been made public, although US officials say members of Congress who expressed interest were briefed on its substance. It was given to the AP by a diplomat whose work has focused on Iran's nuclear program for more than a decade, and its authenticity was confirmed by another diplomat who possesses the same document. Both demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to share or discuss the document.

The diplomat who shared the text with the AP described it as an add-on agreement to the nuclear deal in the form of a document submitted by Iran to the International Atomic Energy Agency outlining its plans to expand its uranium enrichment program after the first 10 years of the nuclear deal. But while formally separate from the bigger nuclear accord, he said that it was in effect an integral part of that pact and had been approved by the US, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany, the six powers that negotiated the deal with Tehran.

Details published earlier outline most restraints on Iran's nuclear program meant to reduce the threat that Tehran will turn nuclear activities it says are peaceful to making weapons. But although some of the constraints extend for 15 years, documents in the public domain are short on details of what happens with Iran's most proliferation-prone nuclear activity - its uranium enrichment - beyond the first 10 years of the agreement.

The document obtained by the AP fills in the gap. It says that as of Jan 2027 - 11 years after the

deal was implemented - Iran will start replacing its mainstay centrifuges with thousands of advanced machines. Centrifuges churn out uranium to levels that can range from use as reactor fuel and for medical and research purposes to much higher levels for the core of a nuclear warhead. From year 11 to 13, says the document, Iran will install centrifuges up to five times as efficient as the 5,060 machines it is now restricted to using.

Those new models will number less than those being used now, ranging between 2,500 and 3,500, depending on their efficiency, according to the document. But because they are more effective, they will allow Iran to enrich at more than twice the rate it is doing now. Components other than centrifuge numbers and efficiency also go into the mix of how quickly a nation can make a nuclear weapon. They include how much enriched uranium it has to work with, and restrictions on Iran's stockpile extend until the end of the deal, crimping its full enrichment program.

Enrichment

But a comparison of outputs between the old and newer machines shows the newer ones work at double the enrichment rate. That means they would reduce the time Iran could make enough weapons grade uranium to six months or less from present estimates of one year. And that time frame could shrink even more. While the document doesn't say what happens with centrifuge numbers and types past year 13, US Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz told The AP that Iran will be free to install any number of advanced centrifuges beyond that point, even though the nuclear deal extends two additional years.

That will give Iran a huge potential boost in enrichment capacity, including bomb making should it choose to do so. But it can be put to use

only after the deal expires. Moniz noted that the limit on the amount of low-enriched enriched uranium Iran will be allowed to store will remain at 300 kilograms (660 pounds) for the full 15 years, significantly below the amount needed for further enrichment into a bomb. As well, the stockpile will remain restricted to a level used for reactor fuel that is well below weapons grade. These restrictions translate into "serious constraints on ... (Iran's) nuclear program for 15 years," Moniz said.

In selling the deal to skeptics, the US administration said it is tailored to ensure that Iran would need at least 12 months to "break out" and make enough weapons grade uranium for at least one weapon. Moniz said the document obtained by the AP posed no contradiction to that claim because "we made it very clear that we were focused on 10 years on the minimum one-year breakout time." The document also notes that Iran will greatly expand its work with centrifuges that are even more advanced, including large-scale testing in preparation for the deal's expiry 15 years after its implementation on Jan. 18.

Breakout Time

But State Department spokesman Mark Toner said that "the prohibition on Iran's pursuit of a nuclear weapon - and our ability to monitor the peaceful nature of its nuclear program - remains in effect indefinitely." The breakout time does not go off a cliff nor do we believe that it would be cut in half, to six months, by year 11," he said. Iran insists it is not interested in nuclear weapons, and the pact is being closely monitored by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA says Tehran has essentially kept to its commitments since the agreement was implemented, a little more than six months after Iran and the six powers finalized it on July 14, 2015. — AP

HALF OF SYRIAN REFUGEE KIDS IN LEBANON NOT IN SCHOOL

BEIRUT: Mariam Khatib, a 15-year-old Syrian refugee in Lebanon, says she has just one wish in life - to be able to go back to school. "People are nothing without education," says the shy teenager, who has not been in a classroom since her family fled the southern Syrian province of Daraa three and a half years ago. "I wish God would grant one wish to me and my siblings - that he opens the door for us to go to school," she told AFP. Mariam and her siblings are among more than 250,000 Syrian refugee children in Lebanon who are not in school, according to a report released by Human Rights Watch (HRW) yesterday.

"The high number of refugee children out of school is an immediate crisis," the New York-based watchdog warned. "Some have never stepped inside a classroom." The problem is particularly acute among children aged 15-18, just three percent of whom were enrolled in Lebanon's public schools during the 2015-2016 school year, according to HRW. And the crisis continues despite the efforts of the Lebanese government and international donors to increase enrolment among the more than one million Syrians who have taken refuge in the country since the war began in March 2011.

According to the report, there are nearly 500,000 Syrian children between the age of three and 18 in Lebanon. Only 158,000 non-Lebanese children, mostly Syrians, are enrolled in public schools and about 87,000 are enrolled in private or semiprivate schools, HRW said. In Qab Elias, in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, dozens of informal refugee camps are full of children who are getting no education. "I can't describe how tough it feels. It's really hard," said Mariam's 18-year-old brother Ismael, who has not been to school since the eighth grade. "I long to go back to school... I really miss my friends and the teachers."

'Afraid for their Future'

Their father Imad al-Din said he simply could not afford to send his children to

school. "We've been in Lebanon for three and a half years and none of my children have been to school here," he said. "Our financial situation doesn't allow it, and so far I haven't received help from anyone. My wife and I feel terrible that we haven't managed to send them to school," he added. "I'm so afraid for their future if they don't get an education."

Many refugees in Lebanon cite fees as a hurdle to enrolling their children, despite a Lebanese government policy waiving admission fees for primary school children. The issue illustrates what HRW calls a key problem: That Lebanese government policies intended to increase refugee school enrolment are being unevenly implemented and in some cases ignored. The government has allowed refugees to enrol in schools without proof of residency, waived primary school fees, and opened up afternoon "second shifts" for Syrian children. But refugees describe school administrators demanding documentation or fees that they cannot provide, or refusing to create second shifts.

Multiple Obstacles to Education

HRW also documented a range of additional barriers, including the cost of transportation for students, bullying and harassment, and insufficient spaces and teachers to accommodate Syrian refugees. Many families are also constrained by their expired residency permits, which are costly to renew. Without papers, they are afraid to move around or send their children to school for fear of arrest. The group also noted that the Lebanese government was continuing to prevent Syrian teachers from working, despite a shortage of Lebanese teachers.

Abdulkarim Al-Salem, a local leader in one Qab Elias informal camp, said Lebanon should open up schools just for refugees inside the settlements. "In this camp alone, there are 180 children who don't go to school, because there are no schools that can take in this number," Salem told AFP. "Even if they could enrol in local schools, the route to the schools is along a main road and it isn't safe." — AFP



SAADNAYEL, Lebanon: Syrian refugee children take part in activities organized by the non-profit organization "Beyond Association" on July 16, 2016. — AFP

US-LED STRIKES KILL 56 CIVILIANS NEAR MANBIJ

BEIRUT: Children were among at least 56 civilians killed in strikes by a US-led coalition yesterday near a Syrian village held by the Islamic State group, a monitor said. The civilians had apparently been mistaken for jihadists and were bombed while fleeing fighting in Al-Tukhar in Aleppo province, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. "There are at least 56 dead, including 11 children, and dozens more wounded, including some in critical condition," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman.

The monitor - which relies on a network of sources inside Syria for its information - says it determines what planes carried out raids according to their type, location, flight patterns and the munitions involved. Asked about the strike, the coalition said it had "conducted air strikes near Manbij... recently" and that it was looking into the reports alleging civilian casualties. "As with any allegation we receive, we will review any information we have about the incident... such as the proximity of the location" to coalition air strikes, it wrote in an email to AFP. "We take all measures during the targeting process to avoid or minimise civilian casualties or collateral damage and to comply with the principles of the Law of Armed Conflict."

Al-Tukhar lies 14 km north of the town of Manbij, a key IS stronghold that has been repeatedly targeted in raids by the US-led coalition. On Monday, the Observatory said 21 civilians had been killed in coalition raids in

the area, 15 of them in a northern district of Manbij and another six in Al-Tukhar. Manbij sits on IS's main supply route between Syria and neighboring Turkey and has been the target of a US-backed offensive by a Kurdish-Arab alliance of fighters since May 31.

In June, the Syrian Democratic Forces alliance broke into western districts of the town, but their advance has been slowed in the past month because of landmines planted by the jihadists and ongoing suicide attacks. The US-led coalition said in a statement on Tuesday that SDF fighters had captured an IS "command centre and logistics hub" in western Manbij on Sunday. It said the fighters had also seized "a significant amount of the city during the operation, which provided civilians the opportunity to escape". SDF fighters control around a quarter of Manbij, according to the Observatory.

Clashes Near Aleppo

Near Aleppo, meanwhile, government forces sought to tighten their siege of rebel-held districts of the battleground second city. Clashes erupted around Handarat, a largely deserted Palestinian refugee camp north of the city, after government forces seized parts of the only remaining supply route into rebel-held eastern districts, effectively severing them from the outside world. The capture of the Castello Road has raised fears of a lengthy siege of east Aleppo, where residents have already reported food shortages and rising prices. — AFP

GULEN DISMISSES EXTRADITION BID

SAYLORSBURG, Pennsylvania: Fethullah Gulen, the Muslim cleric and bitter foe of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Monday dismissed as doomed to fail Ankara's bid to extradite him from the United States over a failed coup attempt. Gulen, the spiritual leader of the Hizmet movement - which promotes moderate Islam across dozens of countries and is dubbed a terrorist group by Erdogan - firmly denies Ankara's charge he was behind the coup bid.

"I have no concerns personally," Gulen said in an interview with several media outlets including AFP at his compound in the Pennsylvania town of Saylorsburg he has called home since 1999 under self-imposed exile. The United States "is a country of law," added the cleric. "The rule of law reigns supreme here. I don't believe this government will pay attention to anything that is not legally sound. As a side note, I will die one day. Whether I die in my bed or in prison, I don't

care," said Gulen.

Erdogan told CNN a formal request for the extradition of the 75-year-old Gulen would be submitted in the coming days. But US Secretary of State John Kerry said Ankara would need to provide "evidence, not allegations" against Gulen. The Turkish government previously sought - unsuccessfully - to extradite Gulen after the corruption scandal that shook the country in 2013 and triggered the resignation of three ministers.

"Because those were not legal demands, the US government did not pay attention, did not take them seriously," Gulen said. "They were not acceptable, reasonable and legal requests... Now through this attempted coup, it looks like they have strengthened their hands. They will attempt to do the same thing."

'Betrayal of the Turkish Nation'

In addition to denying his own involvement, Gulen "condemned" the coup attempt that left at least 300 dead. "I have always been against military interventions in domestic politics," Gulen said. He called the putsch attempt "treason, a betrayal of the Turkish nation." The spiritual leader said if he had prior knowledge of the plans to attempt overthrowing the government he would have urged plotters to reconsider. "I would call out and say if you

are a nationalist by virtue of your values, please don't attempt such a thing," Gulen said.

He did voice concern that Turkey's government is moving away from democratic principles. "In such a horrible picture, it's not possible to talk about democracy anymore," Gulen said. "This kind of regime resembles more like a clan or a tribal administration."

Turkey Needs US More

Gulen - who members of his circle say suffers from diabetes and cardiovascular disease - was visibly tired, noting that he has barely left home for two years. While he may not be concerned about his own fate, the opposition leader said he was very worried about worsening relations between the United States and key NATO ally Turkey. He recalled that Turkish troops fought alongside their American counterparts during the Korean War, and that the two nations have been close allies for decades at the trans-Atlantic military alliance that Turkey joined in 1952.

"If it is separated from NATO, Turkey would go into a chaos of problems. It would evaporate itself. It would really finish itself," Gulen said. "The United States could find other options, but I think Turkey needs the United States' partnership more than the US needs Turkish partnership." — AFP



SAYLORSBURG, Pennsylvania: Turkish cleric and opponent to the Erdogan regime Fethullah Gulen addresses at his residence on Monday allegations by the Turkish government about his involvement in the attempted July 15 coup. — AFP

US, CUBA NO LONGER ENEMIES, BUT NOT EXACTLY FRIENDS

HAVANA: A year after restoring diplomatic ties, the United States and Cuba are far from fully normalizing their troubled relationship, which remains haunted by Cold War ghosts despite cautious ongoing talks. In a reconciliation that was long unthinkable, the two countries restored ties on July 20, 2015, 54 years after severing them in the aftermath of the Cuban Revolution. The moment was marked by the reopening of Cuba's embassy in Washington, followed by the official reopening of the US embassy in Havana four weeks later.

But don't confuse diplomatic relations with friendship, cautioned former Cuban diplomat Jesus Arbolea. "Cuba and the United States have never been friends and probably never will be," he said. The restored relationship is more like a "coexistence of opposites," he told AFP. US President Barack Obama's awkward visit in March to his Cuban counterpart, Raul Castro, sealed the rapprochement they announced in December 2014, but underlined the huge gulf still separating the countries despite the mere 160 km between them.

Obama called for democratic reforms on the

communist island, urged the regime to safeguard human rights and famously let his hand go limp when Castro tried to raise it in a victory salute at the end of a testy joint press conference. A month later, Cuba's communist party held a congress where it defied calls for greater opening, at which Castro condemned what he called external pressure "to end the revolution."

His predecessor, older brother and revolutionary comrade Fidel Castro lambasted Obama's visit, telling Cubans not to be taken in by the US president's "syrupy words" and recalling the island's long enmity with "the empire," including Washington's backing for the failed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

Cruise Ships, Hotels

The main outstanding grudge is the financial and trade embargo the US has imposed on Cuba since 1962. Obama has used executive power to chip away at it, but has failed to persuade a Congress controlled by his Republican opponents to scrap it entirely. Cuba is also demanding the United States

return its naval base at Guantanamo Bay, end policies that fast-track Cuban immigrants for US citizenship and pay it billions of dollars in reparations.

But despite the lingering tension, there are visible changes on the ground. Cruise ships now sail from Miami to Havana. Travelers can stay at the Four Points by Sheraton, recently opened by American hotel group Starwood. And regular commercial flights between the two countries are due to begin in the coming months. "It's a very young process," said Arbolea. But it started from "total divorce," he added. The former British ambassador to Cuba, Paul Hare, said both sides remain "wary" of each other. "They know that every sign of 'normality' will be interpreted as a kind of ideological surrender," he said. "So they want to keep relations low-key and neither friendly nor antagonistic. Discussions on transport, the environment, security, etc will continue to be the low-risk strategy."

'Mixed Bag'

At a human level, the rapprochement has sent hordes of people across the Florida Straits in both

directions. Cubans, fearing an end to their preferential treatment in the US immigration system, are flocking there in larger numbers: Arrivals increased 78 percent last year, to more than 43,000, according to the Pew Research Center. American visitors to Cuba have meanwhile surged 84 percent, despite the ban on tourism under the embargo.

In the United States, the question is how the November presidential election will impact the nascent thaw. Both the Democratic and Republican parties' presumptive nominees, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, have voiced support for the rapprochement, though Trump said the US should have made a "better deal". In Cuba, the question is how long it will take for reconciliation to boost an economy left adrift by the collapse of the Soviet Union and more recently the foundering of key backer Venezuela. For Cubans, "the outcome has been a mixed bag," said Michael Shifter, head of the Inter-American Dialogue research center. "This process has only served to reveal how deep Cuba's political and economic problems go, and how complicated they will be to fix," he said. — AFP



GUATEMALA CITY: Police officers escort the corpses of two inmates after a brawl at the Pavon maximum security prison in Fraijanes municipality on Monday. — AFP

13 KILLED IN GUATEMALA PRISON RIOT

GUATEMALA CITY: Thirteen people were killed Monday in a prison riot in Guatemala, among them an ex-soldier imprisoned for killing a Roman Catholic bishop almost two decades ago, authorities said. "Among the dead is Mr (Byron) Lima," who was convicted for his role in the 1998 murder of Juan Gerardi, and died during a "brawl" among inmates, Interior Minister Francisco Rivas told reporters. A previous toll had just two dead. The clash took place inside Pavon prison, just outside the capital, after authorities tossed a grenade at the inmate's "security detail".

Rivas said the deadly uprising was linked to Guatemalan drug lord Marvin Montiel Marin, alias "El Taquero", who has been in the same prison for the 2008

killings of 15 Nicaraguans and a Dutch national. The bishop had investigated atrocities committed during Guatemala's civil war, documenting more than 50,000 human rights violations - most attributed to the army - during the 1960-1996 armed conflict.

Lima was serving a 20-year prison sentence handed down in 2001. Three others, including his father, a former colonel, were convicted over the bishop's murder. While serving his sentence, Lima was considered one of the most powerful figures inside Guatemala's prison system. In 2014, a judge charged Lima with leading a criminal network that effectively controlled prison life, including arranging inmate transfers, conjugal visits and access to phones. — AFP

POLICE ACROSS US PATROL IN PAIRS AFTER AMBUSH ATTACKS

DENVER: Police departments across the country are ordering officers to pair up after ambush attacks left eight officers dead in Texas and Louisiana, a precaution that could slow response times to low-level crimes and drive up overtime for already exhausted police. Los Angeles police assigned members of specialized crime-fighting units to back up officers responding to routine calls. Baltimore police began sending two squad cars to every call received. Dispatchers in Denver urged officers to travel in pairs indefinitely and "keep their head on a swivel" to protect themselves against potential threats. Police in Fort Worth extended the order beyond their uniformed officers to plainclothes detectives and high-ranking supervisors.

The new safety measures are some of the most intense since the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, said Darrel Stephens, executive director of the Major Cities Chiefs of Police Association. Los Angeles also ordered more of its helicopters to patrol the skies. Officers elsewhere were told to keep their guard up, especially around police stations. It was unclear when operations would return to normal.

"You're on the street eight, 10, 12 hours. Remaining with that heightened sense of alertness for that entire time is a pretty big challenge," Stephens said. "Doubling up those officers helps them keep track of each other and helps them feel a sense of safety." It was unclear whether the buddy system might have prevented Sunday's targeted killings of three law enforcement officers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or the July 7 killings of five officers during a Dallas protest march with a heavy police presence.

In some cities, doubling up means less police visibility and geographic coverage on the streets because putting two officers in one car means other vehicles stay parked. Some departments have compensated by asking officers to extend their shifts, further straining those already on overtime from long nights of protests. In Denver, two officers already respond to most calls, either together or in separate cars. But response

times could slow for lower-priority cases, like thefts, that typically require just one officer.

Buddy System

Two-person patrols are the safest approach, but "what we're seeing is the two-officer cars are responding to everything, so there are fewer cars to handle the calls," said Denver police Sgt Bryan O'Neill, vice president of the city's Police Protective Association. "Our two-man cars are going out and working as quickly and effectively as they can, knowing that the calls are going to stack up. They don't want to see the citizens suffer because we have fewer cars out there."

Two-officer patrols are not a fool-proof solution, and studies are mixed about their effectiveness. Seven of the 51 officers killed in 2014 were in a two-officer vehicle, according to FBI statistics. But if an officer is shot, a two-person patrol usually ensures the second officer can radio and get help, said Peter Moskos, a former Baltimore officer who teaches law and police science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

But two-officer patrols are difficult to sustain for departments short on money and manpower, said Officer Robert Swartzwelder, president of the police union in Pittsburgh, where the chief called for fewer single-officer cars patrolling neighborhoods. Most police departments will continue to focus resources on high-crime neighborhoods, in spite of manpower constraints, Stephens said.

Some officers said a strain on resources is worth it to improve officer safety during dangerous times. The shooting of an officer in Milwaukee on Sunday as he sat alone in his police cruiser should be seen as proof of the buddy system's value, said Mike Crivello, who heads the Milwaukee's Police Association union. "When there are two officers, obviously it's double protection for both of them," he said. The Milwaukee officer was wounded and undergoing surgery Monday. "Had he had a partner, the other one would be watching out," Crivello said. — AP

REPUBLICANS ATTENDING - AND AVOIDING - TRUMP CONVENTION BUSHES CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE

CLEVELAND: Donald Trump's elevation to Republican presidential nominee is not to everyone's taste in a party struggling to accept the controversial outsider as the list of those attending, and avoiding, the national convention makes clear. The fragile unity of the GOP is on display in Cleveland, where observers are reading the tea leaves in the choices Trump and the Republican leadership made in determining who addresses the party faithful.

The event is hardly the glittery showbiz spectacular of A-listers that Trump had repeatedly hinted at, after the former reality television star derided previous conventions as "boring" and stiff. Some big Republican names are off the marquee, and their absence may impact the future direction of the party - whose divisions were in the spotlight Monday as anti-Trump delegates launched a revolt on the convention floor.

Of the major figures coming to Cleveland for the confab, the billionaire's wife Melania Trump drew most attention as she spoke Monday night - in the longstanding tradition of potential first ladies taking the stage in efforts to humanize their husbands. But Trump is pushing the boundaries somewhat by adding his children to the schedule as well. Daughter Tiffany and sons Eric and Donald Trump Jr. have speaking roles, as does daughter Ivanka Trump, who has emerged as a star in her own right and has a slot on the convention's final night.

Rivals-Turned-Allies

Retired general Michael Flynn on Monday backed up Trump's call for law and order in a country reeling from race-related violence. Former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani also bolstered Trump's anti-terror credentials. And three speakers focused on the deadly 2012 assault on the US mission in Benghazi, Libya that left four Americans dead, and how they felt then-secretary of state Hillary Clinton failed to do enough to prevent the killings.

The speakers included John Tieggen, a veteran who fought in Benghazi, and Pat Smith, mother of Sean Smith who died during the attack on the US consulate. Politically, the Monday highlights included former Texas governor Rick Perry, himself a onetime 2016 presidential candidate who had assailed Trump's campaign as "a toxic mix of demagoguery and nonsense."

But he has since made peace with the presumptive nominee, as many former rivals do before they speak at the conventions. Neurosurgeon Ben Carson, another 2016 presidential hopeful, speaks Tuesday, as does New Jersey governor and former candidate Chris Christie, who was on Trump's vice president



CLEVELAND: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump arrives onstage on the first day of the Republican National Convention on Monday at Quicken Loans Arena. — AFP

short list. The two Cuban-American US Senators who ran for president this year, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio, address the convention late Wednesday.

Several lawmakers will take the stage, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, whose open hesitation about endorsing Trump earlier this year sparked consternation among the party faithful. Trump's running mate Mike Pence, the governor of Indiana and a conservative evangelical Christian, has a prime spot Wednesday night, and former House speaker Newt Gingrich, a Trump friend who was considered for the VP position, also has a speaking slot.

Conspicuous Absences

But the political no-shows are even more prominent. Former Republican presidents George H W Bush and George W Bush are skipping the gathering. Romney is steering clear as expected, after harshly criticizing Trump during the primaries. The 2008 nominee John McCain is also staying away. That leaves Bob Dole, 92, as the only former nominee at the convention. Several lawmakers are avoiding

Cleveland, including Senator Rob Portman of host state Ohio, and Senator Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania. Both are locked in tough re-election battles in battleground states.

Among the most conspicuous absences is John Kasich, who battled bitterly with Trump for the nomination. Although he did appear briefly by video, Kasich's absence is particularly awkward given that he is governor of the convention's host state Ohio. People who know Trump through his company dealings will address the confab in order to shed light on the tycoon's business acumen, including Kerry Woolard, the general manager of Trump Winery in central Virginia.

Trump will touch on some cultural sensitivities Thursday when venture capitalist Peter Thiel, the cofounder of PayPal, becomes the first openly gay delegate to address the convention. But while 2012 Republican nominee Mitt Romney brought Hollywood megastar Clint Eastwood to his convention, Trump fails to match the wattage. His celebrities include former "Happy Days" actor Scott Baio, "Duck Dynasty" hero Willie Robertson, and soap opera star Antonio Sabato, Jr. — AFP

ACTIVISTS: TRUMP IMPERILS 'CRITICAL' RACE RELATIONS

CINCINNATI: US race relations are at a critical juncture and threaten to spiral out of control if Donald Trump is elected president, say members of America's largest civil rights organization. "There are people out here who want to create a racial war and if we're not careful we're going to fall into that," said Moneuc Connors, 50, a former local NAACP chapter president working two jobs in Indiana. On Sunday, a black Iraq veteran, seemingly incensed by racial bias towards African Americans, shot dead three police officers, one of them black, in the Louisiana city of Baton Rouge.

Just over 10 days ago, five police officers were shot dead in Dallas by a black sniper bent on killing whites following two high-profile fatal shootings of black men at the hands of police. From the white man who killed black worshippers in Charleston to the gunman who killed 49 people in a gay Orlando nightclub in June, the past year has seen a torrent of slaughter motivated by hate.

Connors says she is "praying" that presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton wins the Nov 8 election. "I do feel if Trump the Chump do get it, it's going to take our world back," she told AFP on the sidelines of the conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Cincinnati, Ohio. The New York billionaire, who will be nominated Republican candidate for president on Tuesday, has been widely condemned for running a divisive campaign and is one of the rare US presidential candi-

dates to decline an invitation to address the NAACP annual convention.

'Getting Worse'

He spearheaded the movement that questioned whether America's first black president, Barack Obama, was born in the United States and has been accused by Clinton of playing coy with white supremacists. "Caucasian people aren't shot dead like we are," says Oscar Arrington, a retired New York police officer attending the NAACP convention and angling to get onto one of the committees. "It seems to be getting worse instead of better because we keep saying no more, we're tired, it's enough and right after that some other unarmed person of color is shot and killed by the police. It needs to be dealt with," Arrington told AFP.

The vast majority of Americans agree. More than 80 percent think the country's next president should place a major focus on improving race relations, which 63 percent say are "generally bad" according to a recent Washington Post/ABC News poll. NAACP president Cornell William Brooks, who has compared police shootings to lynchings, used his keynote address to urge the next president to commit to a five-point pledge to preserve black lives. "If you want our vote, if you want our support, you've got to honor our pledge within the first 100 days and commit before you take office," he said. He demanded an end to federal money for agencies that discriminate, the forced handover of internal documents, data on

deaths, a federal code of conduct and an independent board to investigate shootings. NAACP delegates welcomed the proposal and warmly applauded Clinton's call at their convention for criminal justice reform, data about deaths in custody and tighter gun control.

'More Racially Divided'

"We're at a critical juncture," said Terry Pruitt, a retired lobbyist attending the conference from Michigan. "I think we're either at a point where we can unite this country and move forward, or continue to take steps back," he told AFP. Neither was it just a question of law enforcement. He blames Republicans for not doing enough during the Obama administration to create unity and help solve some of the problems. "From day one when you make a commitment to not support the agenda of the president and to do everything you can to dismantle some of his vision and some of his desire, then you set up the stage for war and conflict," he said.

"I hope with the right leadership we can tone down some of the rhetoric and that's why I have a big struggle with Donald Trump. Because how do you take back some of the statements that he's made? How do you begin to accept that he's got the common will of all the people and is a champion of equality?" Arrington said he was concerned by the scale of support for Trump and predicted that a Trump presidency would sow discord. "He'll probably fragment the country more," he said. "It'll be more racially divided." — AFP

UKRAINIANS TAKE TO FACEBOOK TO BREAK TABOO OVER RAPE

KIEV: It was yet another online discussion blaming a rape victim for provoking her attacker that prompted Ukrainian activist Anastasiya Melnychenko's campaign to shatter taboos in her homeland and neighboring Russia. In response Melnychenko typed out an unflinching account of the string of sexual assaults she has suffered throughout her life then posted it on Facebook with the hashtag #IAmNotAfraidToSpeak, repeated in Ukrainian and Russian.

Her courageous move this month opened the floodgates and soon hundreds of women in Ukraine and Russia started to share their own personal stories of sexual violence, a subject that is more often hushed up or ignored. For many of the women it was a powerful way to release pent-up painful memories. "I was a schoolgirl, when it happened. A young guy followed me to my house, pulled me by the jacket and put his hands up my skirt," wrote 30-year-old art critic Asia Bazdyrieva. "I was 19, it was my boyfriend's pal. He was two metres (six

foot five) tall, very big and strong. The street was completely empty and I was afraid to resist. He raped me," posted mother-of-four Valeriya Bezlepkina.

"I was a young girl with freckles from a poor district. Violence was a common thing there, familiar to every girl I knew," shared famous restaurant critic Aurora Ogorodnyk. Melnychenko's openness helped to break down a wall of silence that activists say exists around the issue of sexual violence-and especially rape-in the ex-Soviet region. "In our society blaming the victim is the norm," Melnychenko said. "That is why women are silent about the abuse. They do not talk about these incidents to their relatives or to the police because they are afraid of being condemned".

'Violence loves secrecy'

In Ukraine-a country of some 45 million inhabitants-only around 320 cases of rape or attempted rape were registered by the authorities last year. Rights activists insist that the small number of reported

attacks does not represent the true scale of the problem. "Sexual violence is a subject that gets disregarded," says Anna Sayenko, a lawyer from La Strada Ukraine, an international women's rights centre.

In most cases women do not immediately go to a police station for a forensic examination due to fears of being judged by society, Sayenko said. "The most important thing is to convey to women that the first thing they need to do if it happens to them is to contact the police", she said. By breaking through the fear of how people will react, Melnychenko's online campaign appears to have struck a deep chord with women in both Ukraine and Russia. Psychologist Alevtyna Shevchenko says such sharing of experiences works as a sort of group therapy, where the interaction between the participants encourages even those who are usually silent to talk. "Violence loves secrecy and silence," Shevchenko says. "Admitting out loud that the problem exists is the first step towards solving it. There is no other way." — AFP



KIEV: Ukraine's activist Anastasiya Melnychenko poses in Kiev. It was yet another online discussion blaming a rape victim for provoking her attacker that pushed Ukrainian activist Anastasiya Melnychenko to launch a campaign to shatter taboos in her homeland and neighboring Russia. — AFP



PARIS: French MPs attend a parliamentary commission to examine a bill on the extension of the state of emergency yesterday in Paris. — AFP

FRENCH MPs URGED TO UNITE ON EMERGENCY RULE AFTER ATTACKS

GOVERNMENT CALLS POLITICAL UNITY

PARIS: France's government, smarting from accusations that it did not do enough to prevent last week's deadly truck attack in Nice, urged lawmakers yesterday to extend a period of emergency rule that gives police greater search-and-arrest powers. Criticized by opposition politicians and jeered by crowds at a remembrance ceremony on Monday, Prime Minister Manuel Valls wants lawmakers to back a three-month rollover of the emergency regime imposed after a previous lethal attack last November.

"We need people to stay together, we want to move fast with broad backing," said government spokesman Stephane Le Foll. The move came as Nice's seafront boulevard, the Promenade des Anglais, reopened after Thursday's attack, in which Tunisian Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhleh drove a truck into crowds of Bastille Day revelers, killing 84, before being shot dead by police.

Dozens more were hurt and 19 people remain on life support five days after the carnage that prosecutor Francois Molins described as terrorist. Islamic State has claimed the attack although no hard evidence linking Bouhleh to the militant group has been found. Molins said Bouhleh had shown sudden signs of

interest in hardline Islamist propaganda in the days before he ran amok while noting that he also ate pork, drank alcohol and engaged in "unbridled sexual activity".

Speaking ahead of the evening's parliamentary debate on the emergency rule plan, Le Foll said President Francois Hollande's Socialist government was willing to consider a longer, six-month extension of emergency rule in line with demands from right-wing members of the National Assembly. Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said French fighter jets would keep bombing the strongholds of Islamic State, which has seized control of parts of Syria and Iraq and called for believers to attack France because of its bombardments.

"This is not just symbolic," Le Drian said of the emergency rule bill, adding that France was second only to the United States in the number of air strikes against Islamic State bases. "We can see from what happened in Germany that the threat is everywhere," the minister said, alluding to news of yet another attack overnight in Germany in which a man hit train commuters with an axe, seriously injuring four. As tension ran high over risks of further attacks

in France, police officials also confirmed that explosives had been found at the flat of an arrested taxi driver who was on an intelligence services watchlist.

The number of French people who believe Francois Hollande is up to the task of tackling terrorism plunged to 33 percent after the attack in Nice, from confidence ratings of 50 percent or so in the wake of the two other big attacks in early and late 2015. France imposed emergency rule after the Nov. 13 attacks in which Islamist militants killed 130 people in Paris, giving the police powers to search homes and place people under immediate house arrest without advance clearance from judges.

The bill to be debated in parliament would also grant police and spy services greater powers to dig into suspects' computers and mobile phone communications. Another poll published yesterday asked voters who they absolutely did not want to see elected leader of France next June: 73 percent said Hollande, but the percentage hostile to far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who some believe will benefit from a climate of voter alienation, topped 60 percent. — Reuters

VENEZUELANAS FIRED FOR BACKING MADURO RECALL

CARACAS: Eva Bellosa's boss fired her from her government job with a single, chilling line: "You know what you did." Indeed, she thinks she does. She signed a petition calling for a recall referendum against Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. She is one of 1,250 government employees sacked for signing the petition, according to the trade union UNETE, which plans to file a discrimination case at the International Labor Organization demanding their jobs back. "I had spent my entire professional life at SENIAT," the Venezuelan tax authority, said Bellosa, a 51-year-old lawyer. "We don't deserve to be thrown out for exercising our rights after 20, 25, 30 years."

Maduro is fighting for his political survival as Venezuela teeters on the brink of economic collapse, devastated by the global plunge in the price of oil, its main export. Tapping Venezuelans' outrage over food shortages, long lines, hyperinflation and violent crime, the opposition has gathered 1.8 million signatures to launch a referendum on removing Maduro, as provided for in the constitution. The leftist president's camp has vowed to fight them tooth and nail.

Maduro's right-hand man, former legislative speaker Diosdado Cabello, called on government supporters in May to comb through the petition "signature by signature" for state employees. "If there are squalid infiltrators, they have to go," he said. Bellosa said that left her no doubt about the real reason she was fired after 24 years. "All the pieces fit," she said.

Miguel Monsalve tells a similar story after being sacked from his job at the National Electric Corporation (Corpoelc), where he had worked for 12 years. "They didn't tell us why. But when the fired workers started to talk among ourselves we all had a common denominator: We had

signed" the recall petition, he said. He said similar firings had also taken place at the state iron and aluminum producers. Human rights group Provea says police officers have been sacked for the same reason.

'Let Them Fire Us'

The National Electoral Council has published the list of the petition's signatories online, ostensibly for the purpose of verifying their identity - the next stage in the process. The fired state employees allege a darker motive. But the government denies targeting signatories for reprisals. "That's never been done. Anyone who knows the civil service knows there's a very broad level of protection. It's difficult to be fired, much less for political reasons. We don't persecute here," said Labor Minister Oswaldo Vera. But he said the matter was a subject of legitimate debate. "If I don't share my company's viewpoint... how can you perform your best?" he said.

The opposition-majority legislature passed a motion last month condemning the allegedly political firings. Even some traditional Maduro allies have spoken out. In an open letter to the National Electoral Council, three former ministers who served under Maduro's late predecessor and mentor, Hugo Chavez, condemned the firing of state employees for "exercising a constitutional right."

The letter - which was also signed by a prominent, retired pro-Chavez general, Cliver Alcalá, and other members of the newly launched "Platform in Defense of the Constitution" - urged the electoral authorities to allow the recall vote to go ahead to prevent the "grave consequences" of mounting social unrest. Chavez, the fiery leftist who led Venezuela from 1999 to 2013, himself faced a recall referendum in 2004, which he won with 58 percent of the vote. — AFP

SHOOTING IN EAST UK LEAVES 3 DEAD

LONDON: Three people were killed yesterday in a shooting in eastern England, including the suspected assailant, police said-adding that there was no indication of a link with terrorism. "Three people have been fatally wounded, including the suspected offender," a statement from Lincolnshire Police said, confirming a "firearms incident" near a swimming pool. "There is an ongoing police investigation and at this stage we are not looking for anyone else in connection with the incident. "There is no indication that

this is a terrorist related incident and no shots have been fired by police."

The incident began at around 9:00 am (0800 GMT) when police were called to reports of a person injured near the Castle Swimming Pool in Spalding, a town in Lincolnshire. "We would urge members of the public to stay away from the area at the present time," police said. In a short statement on its Facebook page, the Castle Sports Complex and Swimming Pool said it was closed "due to an incident in the local area". — AFP

NEPAL URGED TO PROBE POLICE TORTURE CLAIMS

KATHMANDU: Nepal must investigate allegations that police tortured protesters arrested during demonstrations against a new constitution that left at least 50 people dead nationwide, Amnesty International said yesterday. Nepal was left reeling last year from months of violent clashes between police and ethnic minority protesters who say the charter leaves them politically marginalized. Eight officers and an 18-month-old boy were killed during clashes in the southwestern town of Tikapur last August, prompting authorities to impose a curfew and arrest dozens from the Tharu ethnic minority.

In a new report, Amnesty International interviewed 20 of those arrested including a 14-year-old boy and detailed allegations of police beatings including with batons and plastic pipes. The rights watchdog called on Kathmandu to establish a "prompt, independent, impartial and effective" investigation into the allegations and take action against those involved. "These are merely the first steps that Nepal's authorities must take to begin effacing the shame of this episode," said Champa Patel, Amnesty International's South Asia director.

Some of those arrested told

Amnesty they were forced to sign confessions. Others were denied medical attention, although one man said he received treatment after his shoulder was broken during interrogation. One detainee said officers picked him up at midnight and took him to a police post, where they beat him up. "Then they stopped at another police post and beat me there with lathis (batons), whatever they had, rifle butts," he said in the report, which urges Nepal to pass a long-pending bill to criminalise torture.

Another man in custody complained of being beaten until he fell unconscious. There was no immediate response from authorities to the report. Human Rights Watch also alleged police brutality and extrajudicial killings last year during the protests. The constitution, the first drawn up by elected representatives, was meant to cement peace and bolster Nepal's transformation to a democratic republic after decades of political instability and a 10-year Maoist insurgency which ended in 2006. But protests against the charter, adopted last September, triggered a months-long border blockade. Continuing discussions between the government and demonstrators have failed to reach agreement. — AFP

CYCLIST WHO TRIED TO HALT NICE RAMPAGE DRIVEN BY 'INSTINCT'

MARSEILLE: A 31-year-old French crane driver who latched onto the Nice attacker's truck to try halt his murderous rampage-one of two heroes of the night-said he acted out of "pure instinct". Alexandre, who asked AFP that his surname be withheld, was among the crowd that massed on Nice's stately palm-lined Promenade des Anglais for the spectacular Bastille Day fireworks display last Thursday. "I came across the truck as I was leaving the fireworks on my bike," he said.

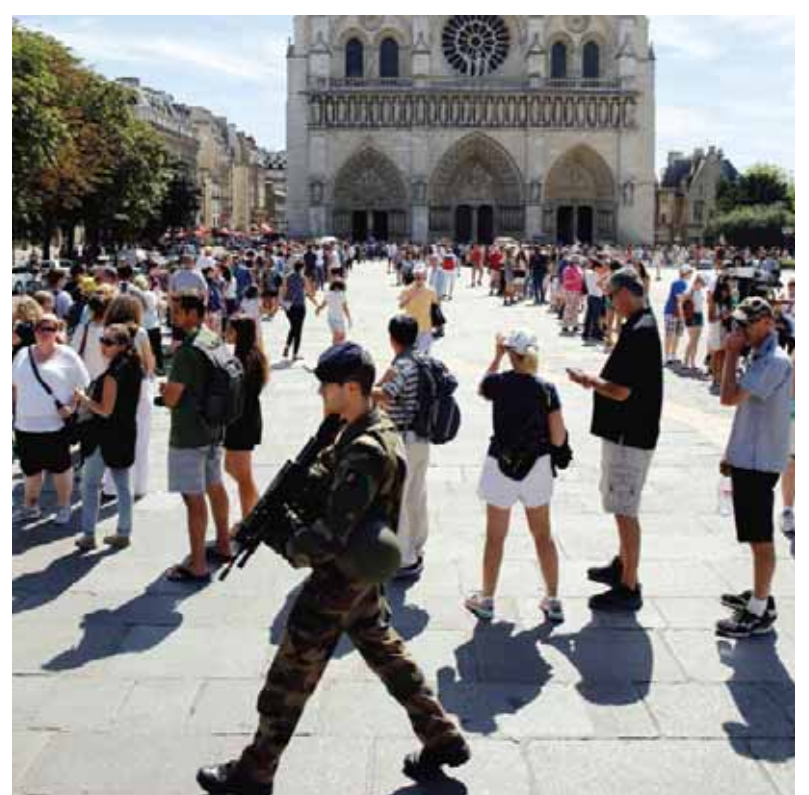
"At one point I told myself I would cross the promenade to take the bicycle path along by the sea to go faster. "It was in crossing the road that I saw people running and saw the truck. I then threw down my bike," Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhleh, also 31, had already left a trail of devastation, zigzagging down the street at speed to try crush as many people as possible with his 19-tonne refrigerated vehicle. Alexandre caught onto the handle of the cab door on the driver's side to try to stop him.

'Looking for his gun'

The Tunisian father-of-three at the wheel clapped eyes on him and then began searching for something in the truck. "It was his gun he was looking

for," Alexandre said. Grabbing a hold of his pistol Bouhleh pointed it at the young crane driver, who promptly let go of the handle. "No matter what I did, my life is important to me," he said. At that moment he felt a motor-bike brush past him as the other hero of the night, whose identity is still unknown, entered the fray. The motorcyclist chased the truck and also tried to open the driver's door to overpower Bouhleh but fell off and ended up under the wheels, according to a German journalist who filmed the events on his phone. It is not known whether the motorcyclist survived.

Bouhleh, a delivery driver by profession, looked to be "in full control of his vehicle" as he careened down the street, Alexandre said. "In one place there was someone who was selling sweets, the truck swerved to avoid a gazebo and mounted the sidewalk to hit him." By the time police deployed to guard the July 14 festivities had caught up with him and shot him dead, Bouhleh had crushed 84 people to death, including around a dozen children, and injured around 300 others. Tens of thousands of people marked a minute's silence for the victims on the seaside promenade on Monday. — AFP



PARIS: A French serviceman enforcing the Vigipirate plan (France's national security alert system) patrols on the square in front of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris, during a minute's silence in tribute to the 84 victims of the Nice truck attack. — AFP

360 MALL - Centre Manager GLA Property Management Kuwait

You will be responsible for overseeing and directing the day to day operations of a 1 million plus sq.ft mixed used Centre and providing professional Property Management services for the Owner and investors of the Centre, hiring and training of all personnel, establishing appropriate facility management procedures, overseeing the maintenance, security and cleaning of the facility, etc.

Apply Now [JB3546771](#)

Legal Consultant GLA Property Management Kuwait

You will be responsible for providing the organization including CEO with effective legal services and advice from simple to complicated legal issues related to organization's mandate and controlling the transparency and the relationship between Company and other Governmental bodies to protect shareholders interest and ensure the full compliance with the law.

Apply Now [JB3543115](#)

Accountant / Cashier GLA Property Management Kuwait

You will be responsible for receiving all the cheques from investors and issue receipts after verification of cheque validity, beneficiary name and amount, verifying if the amounts are in compliance with the invoices / contracts and in case of any discrepancies, as well as, validating the same.

Apply Now [JB3537847](#)

Finance Director Manpower Middle East Kuwait

You will be responsible for supervising all accounting and Financial functions, as well as, leading and overseeing the establishment & running of financial/accounting systems, inclusive of policies, procedures and practices in line with local government and IFRS.

Apply Now [JB3551257](#)

Senior Quality Assurance Engineer Kharafi National - Kuwait

You will be responsible for ensuring internal quality audits are carried out in operations/ departments/ projects as per the annual audit plan, assisting the Quality Assurance Unit Head in preparing procedures, and keeping the superiors informed of the audit feedback for continual improvement.

Apply Now [JB3551298](#)

Deputy Program Manager Vectrus Kuwait

You will be responsible for ensuring that tasks received from the Government are analyzed and supported through the preparation of executable mission plans and orders, as well as, attending various meetings in support of all supply, transportation, maintenance, accountability, retrograde and special task missions.

Apply Now [JB50126950](#)

Power Plant O&M Director GE Kuwait

You will be responsible for managing operations and maintenance of power plant on behalf of the customer, as well as, operating and maintaining the plant on behalf of the customer within the boundaries of the O&M contract or Long Term Service Agreement.

Apply Now [JB50126809](#)

Marketing Manager (Internal Post) - Ali Abdulwahab Al Mutawa - Kuwait

You will be responsible for leading the Marketing and Visual Merchandising team, creating short term and long term marketing strategies, as well as, supporting brand- and business strategies, business development, and financial targets.

Apply Now [JB3551062](#)

CEO / COO Treeline Business Solutions Private Limited - KSA

You will be responsible for ensuring provision of quality care and services through cost effective management, as well as, assisting business development team to establish centers in line with the vision along with leadership team and assisting in doing feasibility study and business plan.

Apply Now [JB3551424](#)

Senior Key Account Executive BRC Industrial (Saudia) Ltd. KSA

You will be responsible for reporting to Commercial Director, managing top Key Accounts with full responsibility for their effect on P&L, preparing reports by collecting, analyzing, and summarizing all competitive information.

Apply Now [JB3551341](#)

Human Resources Manager Middle East Hospital and Specialized Clinics - KSA

You will be responsible for serving as an internal consultant to the company helping to establish, as well as, administering and providing interpretation of Human Resources policies/procedures on an as-needed basis.

Apply Now [JB3551296](#)

Marketing & Communications Country Lead Accenture - KSA

You will be responsible for ensuring local image programs support the strategic priorities of Accenture, continuing to build the Accenture brand, as well as, ensuring local marketing programs fully leverage all available and relevant global/regional image programs, tailoring as necessary to local market conditions.

Apply Now [JB50127051](#)

Graphic Designer Emirates REIT Management UAE

You will be responsible for designing and producing marketing materials that align with our target audience profiles and meets our stated business goals, as well as, developing materials in both print and digital media across all channels.

Apply Now [JB3551271](#)

Key Account Manager Manpower Middle East UAE

You will be responsible for developing and implementing our product lines in the retail segment of Hypermarket channel, formulating & achieving complete business plan, as well as, preparing & analyzing monthly sell-out reporting per store & per category.

Apply Now [JB3551266](#)

Financial Consultant I-Expatriate UAE

You will be responsible for meeting potential clients and assessing insurance requirements to offer adequate covers and appropriate advice, as well as, preparing quotations and presentations and establishing long-term relationship with customers.

Apply Now [JB3551444](#)

Chief Financial Officer Michael Page International Limited - UAE

You will be responsible for ensuring that the best financial business decisions are made through influencing, as well as, contributing to and ownership of the financial elements and implications of each business unit's major decisions.

Apply Now [JB3551232](#)

QC Inspector - Painting Kentz Qatar

You will be responsible for attending all necessary inspections as identified in the approved Inspection and Test Plan (ITP), as well as, inspecting the production quality to establish the client requirements are being achieved.

Apply Now [JB50127028](#)

Events Manager - Doha Festival City (Mall) Al Futtaim Group - Qatar

You will be responsible for identifying and successfully managing mega sized events such as exhibitions, grand openings, CSR events, retailer events, stage events, sponsorships and 3rd party events in the Mall.

Apply Now [JB3551226](#)

Sales Executive Al-Ta'adhod Trading & Contracting Group - Qatar

You will be responsible for gathering market and customer information, acting as a contact between a company and its existing and potential markets, as well as, negotiating the terms of an agreement and closing sales.

Apply Now [JB3480586](#)

Functional Track Lead - Oracle Michael Page International Limited - Qatar

You will be responsible for directing, organizing and controlling Divisions Super users and Key users and functional consultant's project activities, under the direction of a Project Manager (PM), as well as, tracking and monitoring the issue logs and coordinating the closure of the issue logs with IS consultant leads.

Apply Now [JB3551383](#)

www.bayt.com

Register > Upload your CV > Apply

IN RARE MOVE, PAKISTAN BARS FAMILY FROM 'FORGIVING' SON

ISLAMABAD: Pakistani authorities have barred the family of a murdered social media celebrity from legally "forgiving" their son for strangling her, sources said, in a rare stand against the so-called practice of "honor killings". Muhammad Waseem drugged and strangled Qandeel Baloch on Friday in a murder that has shocked Pakistan, a deeply conservative Muslim nation where the 26-year-old both titillated and outraged with her risqué social media photos and videos. Waseem told media he had "no regrets" about killing his sister as she violated the family's honor by her social media pictures, including "selfie" photographs with prominent Muslim cleric Abdul Qavi. In a video post with Qavi, she appears to sit on his lap.

A police source said the government of Punjab, the country's largest province, has made it impossible for the family to forgive the son who murdered her - a common legal loophole that sees many honor killings go unpunished in Pakistan. "It was done on the instructions of the government. But it happens rarely," said the Punjab police official. A senior government official in Islamabad confirmed the order came from the Punjab government. 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.

It was not immediately clear if the Punjab government's decision would lead to any meaningful reforms. An anti-honor killings bill that aims to close the family forgiveness loophole has been bogged down in parliament. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in February promised to speed up the passage of the proposed law but right groups say there has been no progress. "There is no honor in killing in the name of honor," Sharif said about Baloch's murder, according to his daughter, Maryam. Baloch's father, Muhammad Azeem, has filed a police complaint against Waseem and another one of his sons for their role in Baloch's murder.

Police on Monday also said they were widening their investigations to include Qavi, the Muslim cleric who was removed from a prominent Muslim committee after the selfie photos were published. He has denied any wrongdoing. Baloch built a modeling career on the back of her social media fame and was the family breadwinner. Media often described her as Pakistan's Kim Kardashian and she called herself a modern-day feminist. But her pictures and videos outraged religious conservatives who viewed her as a disgrace to the cultural values of Islam and Pakistan. She often received death threats. — Reuters



SHAH SADAR DIN: Pakistani relatives and residents carry the coffin of social media celebrity, Qandeel Baloch during her funeral in Shah Sadar Din village, around 130 kilometers from Multan. — AFP



KASHMIR: A masked Kashmiri protester throws a stone at Indian policemen during a protest in Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir yesterday. — AP

KASHMIR PROTESTS FLARE, 3 KILLED AS ARMY OPENS FIRE

INDIA LIFTS BAN ON PRINTING KASHMIR NEWSPAPERS

SRINAGAR: Indian soldiers fired on a stone-throwing crowd defying a curfew in the Kashmir region, killing three people, police said yesterday, as unrest sparked by the death of a separatist militant flared. Authorities have imposed a curfew in Muslim-majority Kashmir for 11 days, blocked mobile phones and briefly ordered curbs on newspapers to stop people from gathering and to control the worst outbreak of violence there in six years.

Late on Monday, protesters blocked a road and threw stones at an army convoy. "Some miscreants then tried to snatch weapons from the army and tried to set vehicles on fire," a police spokesman said yesterday. The army opened fire after the protesters refused to heed warnings and two women were killed, the spokesman said. A third person died in hospital yesterday, taking the death toll to 42 since protests erupted on July 9 over the killing of Burhan Wani, 22, a commander of the Hizbul

Mujahideen militant group, the previous day.

About 3,500 people have been hurt, many with eye injuries caused by pellets Indian forces have been firing from a non-lethal weapon. The injuries have fuelled anger. Kashmir is India's only Muslim-majority state and has been contentious since India and Muslim Pakistan were carved out of British-ruled India and declared independent in 1947. Both sides rule the Himalayan region in part but claim it in full and India has long accused Pakistan of arming separatists battling Indian forces in its part of Kashmir. Pakistan denies that.

The young militant Wani represented a new generation of fighters in a region where alienation runs deep even though attacks have fallen dramatically since the revolt broke out in 1989. India's interior minister, Rajnath Singh, said he had ordered security forces to exercise restraint. He told parliament he would visit Kashmir soon and hold

talks with people "whose pain is being felt by every Indian". The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, which has advocated a tough stand on Kashmir, shares power with a regional party in Kashmir and has been criticized for failing to address grievances.

The publisher of Kashmir's largest-circulation newspaper said authorities had asked him to resume publication after police seized newspapers over the weekend and shut down cable television, saying it was necessary to stop people from fomenting trouble. But Abdul Rashid Mukhdooni, printer and publisher of Greater Kashmir, said he was meeting other publishers to decide whether to resume publication under the curfew. Militants claiming to be "brothers close" to Al-Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent had called on social media for people in Kashmir to attack Indian forces, US intelligence group SITE said on Monday. — Reuters

PHILIPPINES REJECTS CHINESE CONDITIONS; SEA ROW RAGES

MANILA: Manila has rejected Beijing's demand that it "disregard" an international ruling that invalidated the Asian giant's claims to much of the South China Sea before negotiating on the issue, the Philippines' foreign secretary said yesterday. China last week denounced a UN-backed tribunal's finding that there was no legal basis for its claims to most of the strategic, resource-rich waters, provoking stern warnings from leaders from Japan to the EU that it must respect the rule-based global order.

Following the decision, Beijing asked Manila, which brought the case, "to open ourselves for bilateral negotiations but outside of and in disregard of the arbitral ruling", foreign minister Perfecto Yasay told broadcaster ABS-CBN. "This is something that I told him was not consistent with our constitution and our national interest," he said.

The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruled that Beijing had violated the Philippines' sovereign rights to exploit resources in waters up to 340 kilometers beyond its coast, called its exclusive economic zone. It said there was no legal basis to China's claims to much of the sea, embodied in a "nine-dash line" dating from 1940s maps. Yasay's comments were more forceful than previous Philippine reactions, with Manila's new President Rodrigo Duterte keen to restore relations with Beijing and promising not to "taunt or flaunt" the verdict. Many other countries have been more outspoken.

At an Asia-Europe summit in Mongolia at the weekend, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and European Union President Donald Tusk took China to task for its refusal to respect the decision. China has long denied the tribunal's authority to rule on the case, calling it a "fraud" and accusing its members of accepting money from Manila. Yasay and his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi discussed the possibility of talks on the sidelines of the Ulan Bator summit but made no headway, he said, quoting Wang as telling him: "If you will insist on the rul-

ing, discussing along those lines, then we might be headed for a confrontation." Direct talks were unlikely soon in the light of Beijing's refusal to accept the ruling, Yasay said.

'Let the dust settle'

Yesterday, China launched war games in waters some distance north of the contested area. Beijing has built a series of artificial islands in the sea capable of supporting military operations, and a top Chinese military official told a visiting US admiral this week that it would "never stop our construction" prematurely. The project has raised concerns that Beijing may seek to hamper the free movement of ships and aircraft through the region, and may even create an air defense identification zone over the sea, which would seek to put restrictions on foreign planes.

A combat air patrol was mounted over the sea recently and they will become a regular practice in future, an air force spokesman said separately according to the official news agency Xinhua. China seized Scarborough Shoal-known as Huangyan Dao in Chinese-in 2012 after a brief stand-off with the Philippine navy. Manila lodged suit at the tribunal the following year. Beijing, which justifies its extensive claims by saying it was the first to have discovered, named and exploited the sea, has said the tribunal ruling cannot be the basis of any discussions. Duterte's "first and foremost" priority was to regain access to Scarborough Shoal for Filipino fishermen, Yasay said.

The new president said last week that he would send former president Fidel Ramos to China to start talks on the ruling, but Yasay did not know if Ramos would accept and did not know when that mission could be dispatched. "Let the dust settle some more and let's see how we can open up the road for this kind of negotiation," Yasay added. In the long term, he said, Manila had not ruled out the possibility of giving China a role as a contractor when the government moves to exploit the resources, including natural gas, in its exclusive economic zone. — AFP

LIBERAL CHINA MAGAZINE SHUTS OVER FORCED RESHUFFLE OF MANAGEMENT

BEIJING: A leading liberal magazine in China has halted publication after a government body forced a sudden reshuffle of its leadership team, which its lawyer yesterday blamed on an effort to stifle voices that disagree with the ruling Communist Party. Since taking office more than three years ago, President Xi Jinping has cracked down on dissent, reining in the media and detaining dozens of rights activists. The government denies any abuse of human rights or freedom of expression, saying it is going after law-breakers. Founded in 1991, the magazine, Yanhuang Chunqiu, also known as China Through the Ages, is known for challenging party views on sensitive issues, such as political reform and the Cultural Revolution.

It has been seen as a forum for more reform-minded officials and claims a circulation of about 200,000. Last week, the Chinese National Academy of Arts, which is technically in charge of the magazine, decided to demote or replace its leadership, including publisher Du Daozheng, 92, a former head of the government's publishing regulator. In a statement dated Sunday and circulated online, Du said the magazine would stop publishing, accusing the academy of violating freedom of publication and of sending people to force their way into the newsroom and seize control of the website.

The academy did not answer repeated telephone calls to seek comment. China's publishing regulator, the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television, also did not respond to requests for comment. The State Council Information Office, which oversees press communications for China's cabinet, did not immediately respond to emailed questions. The magazine's lawyer, Mo Shaoping said the party had clearly decided it had had enough of the magazine. "It is the only magazine that speaks the truth," Mo said. "They don't want the magazine to exist anymore."

Du is in hospital, Mo said. Du's daughter, Du Mingming, herself under medical treatment in the United States, told Reuters she and her father would refuse to work anywhere else. "We would rather be a broken piece of jade than a whole tile," she said, invoking a Chinese proverb that rates a glorious death preferable to living in dishonor. The party has tried to shut the magazine 19 times in the past 25 years, one of its editors told Reuters, seeking anonymity because the situation is sensitive. It escaped closure last year after Xi intervened, a source with ties to the leadership told Reuters, also speaking on condition of anonymity. "Yanhuang Chunqiu's old comrades are not anti-party," the source quoted Xi as saying, referring to the publisher and his team. — Reuters

TAIWAN BUS INFERNO KILLS 26, MAINLY CHINA TOURISTS

TAIPEI: A fire ripped through a bus carrying tourists from China in Taiwan yesterday, killing all 26 on board in the worst road accident to hit mainland visitors since a holiday boom to the island. The disaster, which occurred as the tourists were heading to the airport for their flight home, was the latest in a series that have called into question Taiwan's safety record. Media footage showed the bus, with flames shooting from the front, rammed into an expressway barrier near Taipei. The images showed thick plumes of smoke and burned-out wreckage at the roadside. A police spokesman said the bus had caught fire before it crashed into the barrier but gave no reason.

"All the people on the bus died," Lin Kuan-cheng, spokesman for the National Fire Agency said. "At this stage it is still not clear why no passengers escaped from the bus." The Liberty Times newspaper quoted an unnamed eyewitness as saying passengers were pounding on the bus windows for help as the driver swerved sharply before the crash. One image in Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper showed two men trying to smash the windows of the burning bus with fire extinguishers as the doors of the vehicle remained shut. A firefighter at the scene said there were no survivors still calling for help when they arrived.

The bodies were being retrieved from the vehicle yesterday evening after police and prosecutors examined the site, said an AFP photographer at the scene. The tour group of 24 people-three children, 15 women and six men-was from China's northeastern city of Dalian, Taiwan's interior ministry said. A Taiwanese driver and Taiwanese tour guide were also killed, the National Fire Agency confirmed. The group were on their way to Taipei's main Taoyuan airport for a 4:30 pm flight back to Dalian after an eight-day tour of the island. The accident happened shortly before 1:00 pm.

String of accidents

Chinese tour groups have increasingly visited Taiwan in recent years after a boom in mainland tourism. That was fostered by a rapprochement between the rivals under former Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou, who came to power in 2008 and left office in May. However, there are fears the industry may be hit after Beijing-sceptic Tsai Ing-wen won the presidency in January, amid reports that tourist numbers have dropped.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office said it had launched "emergency response measures" after the accident,

and would send a team to the island to help handle the aftermath. "We are highly concerned about the safety of our mainland compatriots," said spokesman Ma Xiaoguang, quoted by state news agency Xinhua. Several recent fatal accidents in Taiwan have led to safety probes. In February 2015 a TransAsia plane crashed into a river in Taipei, killing 43 on board-including 28 mainland Chinese tourists. A recent report by investigators confirmed the pilot had shut down the wrong engine after the other one failed. The airline was instructed to overhaul safety procedures and training. — AFP



TAOYUAN, Taiwan: A bus carrying tourists from mainland China is on fire after it crashed along an expressway on its way to the airport in Taiwan's city of Taoyuan yesterday. — AFP

INDONESIA'S MOST WANTED ISLAMIST MILITANT KILLED

JAKARTA: Indonesia's most wanted Muslim extremist has been killed in a firefight with troops, authorities said yesterday, ending a years-long hunt for the Islamic State (IS) group supporter. Santoso, the leader of the Eastern Indonesia Mujahideen, was shot dead on Monday on mountainous Sulawesi island, where he had been hiding out in the jungle with a small band of followers. His death is a major victory for authorities in the world's most populous Muslim-majority country who had pursued the extremist for five years, sending thousands of security forces to hunt for him.

His group carried out a string of deadly attacks on domestic security forces and was known for training militants from around the archipelago. In 2014 he pledged allegiance to IS and earlier this year was placed by the United States on a list of global terrorists. "The group is obviously weakened now that we have got the leader," national police chief Tito Karnavian told reporters, as he confirmed the militant's death. He said the country's extremists had wanted to transform Sulawesi's Poso district, where Santoso and his followers were based, into a "safe haven" and a regional power base.

"With this group broken, their hope for a base there is gone," he added. After Indonesia suffered a string of Islamic extremist attacks in the early 2000s, including the 2002 Bali bombings which killed more than 200, authorities launched a crackdown that weakened the most dangerous networks. But Santoso's group remained a thorn in the side of the government, with the long-haired, gun-toting militant regularly appearing in

videos urging extremists to launch attacks on the security forces.

Significant blow

The picture has changed recently, with other cells now considered a greater threat. Santoso was not believed to have played role in an IS-claimed attack in Jakarta in January that left four attackers and four civilians dead. But his death will still be seen as a significant blow to Islamic militancy in Indonesia. The extremist, known by several aliases including Abu Wardah, was killed alongside one other militant in Tambarana village in Poso. Police said the pair were killed beside a river and a rifle was recovered. Two women, one of whom was suspected to be Santoso's wife, and another man, escaped from the gunfight.

Following a sustained campaign by security forces, authorities believe just 19 members of Santoso's group now remain on Sulawesi waging a guerrilla campaign against the government. Santoso also attracted militants from abroad, with several members of China's mostly Muslim Uighur ethnic minority travelling to Indonesia to join his group. Several were killed fighting with the Eastern Indonesia Mujahideen, and in July last year four Uighurs were jailed after being caught on Sulawesi attempting to join the group. Santoso became involved in Islamic extremism during bloody fighting between Muslims and Christians around Poso from the late 1990s to the early 2000s which left hundreds dead. He went on to form the Eastern Indonesia Mujahideen and quickly jumped to the top of the most wanted list after his men began killing police officers.—AFP



PALU, Indonesia: Indonesian police stand guard at a local hospital in Palu, Central Sulawesi province, after a firefight between suspected Muslim extremists and security forces in the nearby village of Tambarana the day before. — AFP

MYSTERY NUMBERS IN NORTH KOREA'S BROADCASTS CARRY COLD WAR ECHOES

SEOUL: North Korea's state radio has recently broadcast strings of indecipherable numbers, Seoul officials said yesterday, in a possible resumption of a Cold War-era method of sending coded messages to spies operating in South Korea. A female announcer at the radio station read numbers for 2 minutes on June 24 and 14 minutes on Friday, according to Seoul's Unification Ministry and National Intelligence Service.

A copy of those comments provided by the ministry included phrases such as "No 35 on Page 459" and "No 55 on Page 913." During the Cold War, Pyongyang sent such numbers via shortwave radio to give missions to agents dispatched to South Korea, according to captured North Korean spies. It later reportedly stopped such broadcasts once it could communicate with its spies overseas via the internet, and as animosities with South Korea eased following a historic

inter-Korean summit meeting in 2000.

Relations have deteriorated greatly since then as North Korea has pursued the development of nuclear weapons despite international sanctions. The announcer in the North Korean broadcasts described the numbers as "review assignments in physics (under the curriculum of) the remote educational university for the geological expedition members across the country" or "practice assignments in mathematic lessons (under the curriculum) of the remote educational university for expedition members of team No. 27."

Neither the Unification Ministry nor the NIS elaborated on whether South Korea believes the North's recent broadcasts were meant to send information to agents in the field. Some experts in Seoul view the messages as a North Korean attempt to wage psychological warfare.—AP



SEOUL: Replicas of a North Korean Scud-B missile (left) and South Korean Nike missiles are displayed at the Korean War Memorial in Seoul yesterday. North Korea test-fired three ballistic missiles yesterday, South Korea's military said.— AFP

NORTH KOREA FIRES 3 BALLISTIC MISSILES IN A SHOW OF FORCE

PYONGYANG VOWS 'PHYSICAL RESPONSE' TO THAAD DECISION

SEOUL: North Korea fired three ballistic missiles yesterday which flew between 500 and 600 km into the sea off its east coast, South Korea's military said, the latest in a series of provocative moves by the isolated country. The US military said it detected launches of what it believed were two Scud missiles and one Rodong, a home-grown missile based on Soviet-era Scud technology. North Korea has fired both types numerous times in recent years, an indication that unlike recent launches that were seen as efforts by the North to improve its missile capability, yesterday's were meant as a show of force.

"This smells political rather than technical to me," said Melissa Hanham, a senior research associate at the US-based Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California. "I think the number and distance of the missiles lets them remind the ROK (Republic of Korea) of what they are up against," she said, referring to South Korea by its official name. North Korea and the rich, democratic South are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. The North regularly threatens to destroy the Japan, South Korea and the South's main ally, the United States.

The launches came nearly a week after South Korea and the United States chose a site in the South to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-missile system to counter threats from the North, which had prompted Pyongyang to threaten a "physical response". "Our assessment is that it was done as a show of force," a South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff official said at a briefing. The missiles were launched from an area in the North's western region called Hwangju between 5:45 am South Korea time and 6:40 am, the South's military said, an indication that the North was confident they would not crash on its own territory.

"The ballistic missiles' flight went from 500 km to 600 km, which is a distance far enough to strike all of South Korea, including Busan," the South's military said in a statement. Busan is a South Korean port city in the south. North Korea

has test-fired a series of ballistic missiles in recent months, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions, including intermediate-range missiles in June and a submarine-launched missile this month.

"In addition to the basic goal of enhancing missile units' readiness to fight, it might be a way of reminding their southern neighbors that the site chosen for a THAAD battery in South Korea is within reach," Joshua Pollack, editor of the US-based Nonproliferation Review, said of yesterday's launches. South Korea announced last week the THAAD system would be deployed in the southeastern county of Seongju. In addition to the decision to base a THAAD system in South Korea, the United States recently angered North Korea by blacklisting its leader Kim Jong Un for human rights abuses. "The threat to our national security is growing very quickly in a short period of time," South Korean Prime Minister Hwang

Kyo-ahn told parliament yesterday.

Bombs, missiles, sanctions

North Korea conducted its fourth test of a nuclear device in January, and activity at its nuclear test site has increased recently, according to media reports in South Korea and Japan citing government officials, as well as a report by Washington-based North Korea monitoring project 38 North. Following the latest nuclear test and a February space rocket launch that was widely viewed as a missile test in disguise, the UN Security Council imposed tough new resolutions that further isolate North Korea.

While China supported tougher sanctions against its neighbor and ally North Korea, it has sharply criticized the decision to base a THAAD battery in South Korea, saying the move would destabilize the security balance in the region. —Reuters

PAKISTANI COURT ORDERS FREEZING OF MUSHARRAF PROPERTY, ACCOUNTS

ISLAMABAD: A special court trying former Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf for treason passed an order yesterday freezing his bank accounts and confiscating his property, his lawyer said. The head of a three-judge panel, Mazhar Alam Miankhel, made the order in the absence of the former president, who left for Dubai in March for what was described as urgent medical treatment. The order came after authorities gave the court documentation on Musharraf's property. He faces multiple charges including treason and murder over the assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in 2007.

"The court ordered freezing of the former president's bank accounts and attachment of his property to the respective session courts all over the country," Musharraf's lead counsel Ahmad Raza Kasuri said. The court adjourned

indefinitely after passing the order, which means the case is closed unless the former president returns to Pakistan. Musharraf ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup in 1999. He resigned in 2008 to avoid possible impeachment and went into exile overseas.

He returned in 2013 in an attempt to contest elections but was barred from taking part in the polls and from leaving the country while facing a barrage of legal cases. The travel ban was lifted in March. In January this year Musharraf was acquitted over the 2006 killing of a Baloch rebel leader, Nawab Akbar Bugti. But four cases against him remain—one accusing him of treason for imposing emergency rule, as well as those alleging the unlawful dismissal of judges, the assassination of opposition leader Bhutto and a deadly raid on Islamabad's radical Red Mosque. — AFP

Premier Brands

To see your ad here, call:

+965 248 35 616 / 617

E MAIL: info@kuwaittimes.net

ads@kuwaittimes.net

Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

best offers

<div> <p>SHARP LC-32LE260M</p> <p>العلامة التجارية الأولى في اليابان Japan's No.1 Brand</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: yellow;">32"</p> <p style="font-size: 36px; color: red;">49</p> <p>السعر Price KD .990</p> <p>2-HDMI 240Hz USB</p> </div>	<div> <p>SHARP LC-50LE458X</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: yellow;">50"</p> <p style="font-size: 36px; color: red;">129</p> <p>السعر Price KD .990</p> <p>HDMI CI+ USB</p> </div>	<div> <p>SHARP LC-58LE275X</p> <p>AQUOS</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; color: yellow;">58"</p> <p style="font-size: 36px; color: red;">199</p> <p>السعر Price KD .990</p> <p>HDMI 240Hz USB</p> </div>
---	--	--

بيت
AL-YOUSIFI

[@BestAlYousifi](#)
[@BestAlYousifi](#)
[@BestAlYousifi](#)

Credit: Start from 5KD • Up to 48 month • Instant approval

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalidn str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road)

• Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaheel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

Kuwait Times

THE LEADING INDEPENDENT
DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF
ESTABLISHED 1961

Founder and Publisher
YOUSUF S. AL-ALYAN

Editor-in-Chief
ABD AL-RAHMAN AL-ALYAN

EDITORIAL : 24833199-24833358-24833432
ADVERTISING : 24835616/7
FAX : 24835620/1
CIRCULATION : 24833199 Extn. 163
ACCOUNTS : 24835619
COMMERCIAL : 24835618

P.O. Box 1301 Safat, 13014 Kuwait.
E MAIL :info@kuwaittimes.net
Website: www.kuwaittimes.net

In my view

SOUTH SUDAN STRUGGLES
TO AVERT 'CATASTROPHE'

By Peter Martell

Street sweepers in South Sudan's capital Juba have cleaned up the blood and bullet casings after gun battles at the presidential palace, but salvaging peace will be a far harder task, analysts warn. A shaky ceasefire has held since fighting that raged in Juba last week, leaving hundreds dead and forcing thousands to flee their homes. The country's peace agreement is in tatters, but diplomats balk at throwing it away entirely. AU special envoy Alpha Oumar Konare has pleaded for the deal to be rebuilt, warning that the consequences of failure are dire. "If we cannot stop, it will be a catastrophe," he said. The violence, which dominated an African Union summit on Sunday, is the latest in a war that broke out in Dec 2013. It has pitted soldiers loyal to President Salva Kiir against troops backing his long time rival Vice-President Riek Machar, who technically ended his rebellion to forge a unity government in April.

'Leaders Have Failed'

Hopes are low, however. After a string of failed peace deals, diplomats' faith in the two top men is at breaking point. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said the people "have been let down by their own leadership" and called for more sanctions on those blocking peace, an arms embargo, and to bolster the 12,000-strong UN peacekeeping force. It is a message echoed by veteran journalist Alfred Taban, arrested on Saturday after he wrote in an editorial in the Juba Monitor that the leaders had "completely failed".

Academic Alex de Waal has warned he fears the political system may be "too deformed to be reformed". For now, the grossly impoverished nation "can only function either with a well-financed big man or a ruthless enforcer at the top", de Waal said in a recent article. But with the government both nearly bankrupt and unable to impose order, neither option works, he said. "The country is too diverse and its communities too well armed for an old-style dictatorship to be possible, even if it were a morally acceptable option," he added.

But for those trying to stop South Sudan from collapsing entirely, even a flawed peace deal is better than none at all. "For internationals to dismiss the agreement as irrelevant or unsalvageable at this stage would only play into the hands of those hardliners that seek continued military confrontation," said former ceasefire monitor Aly Verjee. Machar has been in hiding since the July 8 battles at the presidential palace, and the country will remain in limbo until new political and military deals are struck. His men were forced to flee as tanks and helicopter gunships pounded their positions with overwhelming firepower.

It remains unclear what force he can still command, and his authority over his generals and troops is also in question. Casie Copeland, of the International Crisis Group, said it was the best peace that could be made at the time, preventing an escalation of the conflict. "It halted the fighting, created a framework for reform, transitional justice and elections and prevented regional powers being further sucked into South Sudan's war," Copeland said. The situation is dire. Over a third of South Sudan's population are expected to face severe food shortages over the coming months, and there is a real risk of what the UN has termed a "hunger catastrophe". The economy is in ruins with runaway inflation and people are suffering.

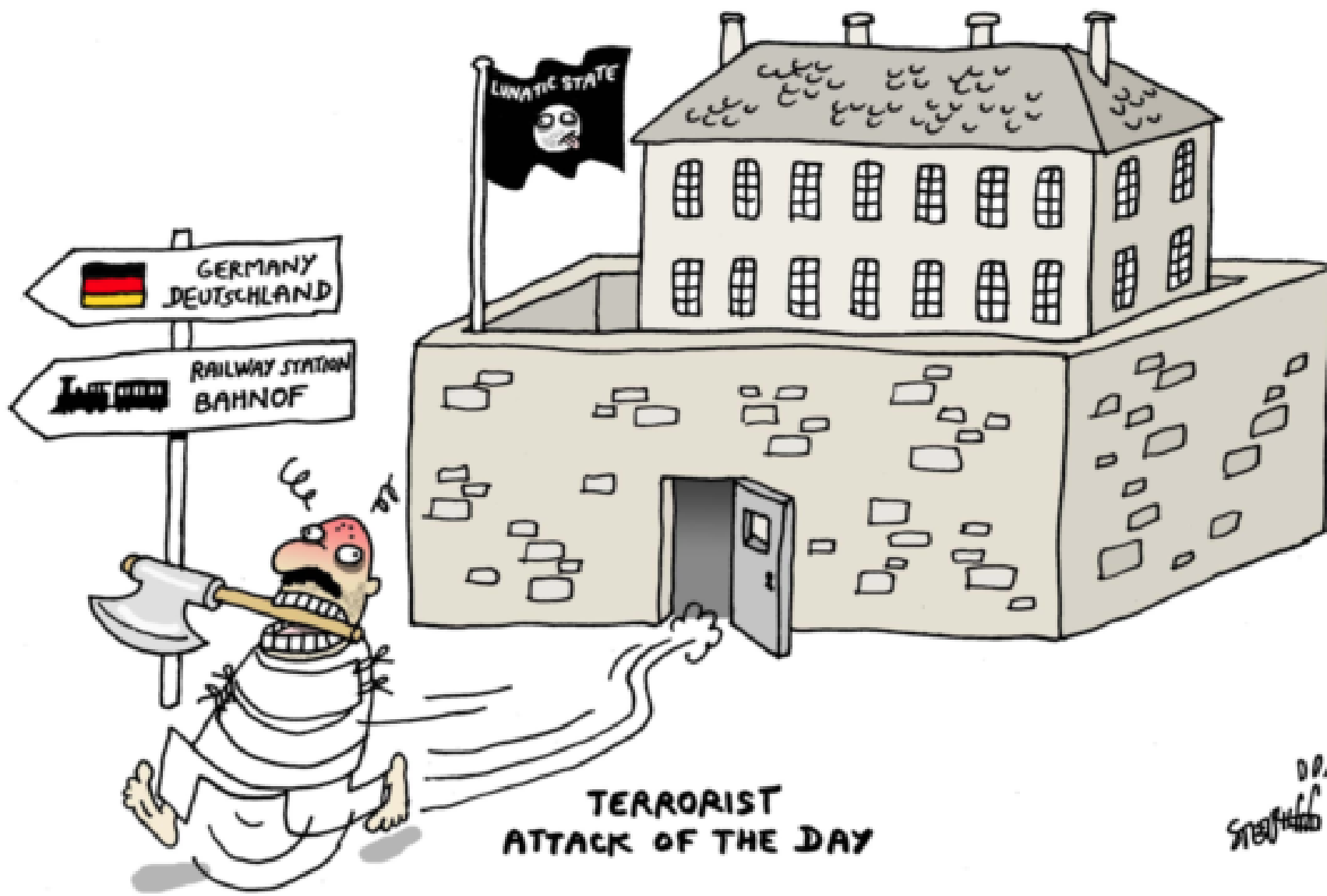
'No Future Here'

The peace deal was based on buying loyalty with power and cash, two critical elements never delivered. Kiir undermined the fundamental power-sharing pillar of the deal by nearly tripling regional states, while oil cash that bought support and once provided some 98 percent of government revenues has gone. Production was cut due to fighting, while a global slump in prices meant that what landlocked Juba earned for its crude about equalled its pipeline export payments to Khartoum.

It is doubtful at best if the rivals could even claw back the peace deal to the status quo - but critics say that placing two rival armies in the same city without integration was always a recipe for disaster. "It placed the security of the capital city Juba jointly in the hands of the two deeply hostile forces," said de Waal, who has spent years involved in peace negotiations in Sudan and South Sudan, saying Juba was "arm twisted" by the international community to agree.

For now, more peacekeepers and the threat of sanctions seem the international community's main options. But more peacekeepers may not make the UN mission any more effective. The UN has been widely criticised for failing to intervene, instead hunkering down inside its bases, where over half of the peacekeepers are tied up guarding 160,000 civilians sheltering behind razor wire. "We can't continue like this forever," said vegetable seller Rebekah Joseph, a mother-of-three who fled the fighting for shelter in a church in Juba. "I'm going home to my village when it is safe, for there seems no future here, because nothing ever changes," she said. — AFP

All articles appearing on these pages are the personal opinion of the writers. Kuwait Times takes no responsibility for views expressed therein. Kuwait Times invites readers to voice their opinions. Please send submissions via email to: opinion@kuwaittimes.net or via snail mail to PO Box 1301 Safat, Kuwait. The editor reserves the right to edit any submission as necessary.



PUSHBACK AGAINST 'OPEN-CARRY' GUN LAWS

By Julia Harte

Tents, ladders, coolers, canned goods, tennis balls and bicycle locks are banned in the area surrounding the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. But guns are fine. When Ohio Governor John Kasich on Sunday rejected the Cleveland police union's request to ban the open carrying of firearms near the Quicken Loans Arena, he weighed into a national debate pitting city authorities who contend with gun violence against state lawmakers who answer to gun-loving voters.

Law enforcement leaders in several major cities say municipalities should have to the power to suspend open-carry laws when needed to protect public safety. Currently, 15 of the 45 states that allow openly carried handguns give cities power to restrict those laws, according to a Reuters review of state statutes. In Cleveland, police union head Steve Loomis said he made the request to protect officers following recent fatal shooting of three police officers in Louisiana on Sunday and the killing of five officers in Dallas on July 7. Kasich said he did not have the power to circumvent the state's open-carry law.

A decade ago, all Ohio municipalities had the power to regulate how guns could be carried. Now, only the state legislature can do it. In 2006, the state legislature passed a law denying cities the ability to restrict openly carried weapons, overriding the veto of then-Governor Bob Taft. Cleveland sued the state to try to win back that power, but lost in 2010. Across the country, similar battles are playing out in states where municipal authorities, often backed by police departments, are clashing with state lawmakers over how to regulate the open carrying of firearms.

Dallas's police chief drew criticism from gun rights advocates for saying open carriers made it more "challenging" for his officers to respond to a shooter who killed five policemen at a demonstration this month. The debate occasionally transcends political ideology. Some opposition to open-carry gun laws comes from Republican politicians such as former Texas Governor Rick Perry, who said last year that he was not "fond of this open-carry concept".

Police in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, have been trying and failing to restrict the open carrying of guns for years. The state attorney general argues that citizens have a constitutional right to publicly display weapons, which cannot be overruled by city authorities. "I wish more of our legislators could see past the ideology," said Milwaukee Police Chief Edward Flynn. "They have no concern about the impact in urban environments that are already plagued by too many guns and too much violence." Flynn attracted gun owners' ire when he told his officers in 2009 to detain open carriers despite the attorney general's ruling. Flynn said his department has since "adapted" to the state law.

Safety vs Rights

Open-carry advocates say that criminals almost never openly carry firearms. And if law-abiding citizens fail to demonstrate their right to carry guns, they risk losing it, they add. "We're sympathetic to law enforcement being concerned about their safety, but that doesn't mean we give up citizens' rights just to make it easier to police large events," said John Pierce, co-founder of national advocacy group OpenCarry.org. Wisconsin state representative Bob Gannon said he personally is "not a fan" of the practice because it makes people

uncomfortable. Still, he said, the right to carry guns in public spaces should be upheld because it is protected by the state constitution. "The police chief is not an emperor for the state, and he should defer to the state statutes," he said.

In states where cities can restrict open carry laws, they often have had to defend that right in court. Colorado passed legislation in 2003 aimed at ensuring a state law on firearms supersedes local ordinances. Denver, the state capital, sued the state to make sure the laws would not affect the city's longstanding ban on openly carrying firearms. The city won in 2006 after a 3-3 ruling from the Colorado Supreme Court upheld a lower court ruling in favor of Denver.

"In some parts of rural Colorado, where there's a lot of critters, some people really like the idea of open carry," said Dan Montgomery, chief of police of the Denver suburb of Westminster for 25 years before leaving the force in 2010. "Certainly, even in the law enforcement community we have our arch conservatives who strongly believe in it, but for the vast majority of us, it's problematic."

Not all cities agree. After a man carrying a rifle opened fire in a Colorado Springs neighborhood last autumn, killing three bystanders, Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers said he had

"no appetite" for tightening the city's open-carry laws because he did not think such restrictions would improve public safety. Suthers declined to comment for this article.

Unpopular With Cops

Little research has been done on the views of open-carry policies among police officers nationwide or even within states, which each regulate guns differently. But studies by two top police organizations in the past year provide some insight. In Florida and Texas, where open-carry laws were recently debated in the state legislatures, surveys found that a majority of law enforcement leaders opposed them. Open-carry legislation was defeated in Florida but passed in Texas.

In Florida, open-carry advocates will almost certainly try to legalize it again next session, said Bob Gualtieri, chair of the legislative committee of the Florida Sheriffs' Association, which represents the state's 67 sheriffs. The association took a vote on the issue this year and found three quarters of the 62 responding sheriffs opposed open carry. A 2015 survey of about one-fifth of the police chiefs in Texas also found that three quarters of respondents opposed open carry, according to the state police chiefs' association, which ran the survey. — Reuters

TOUGH-TALKING TRUMP WINS
OVER SOME SKEPTICAL WOMEN

By James Oliphant and Amy Tennery

Donald Trump's tough talk on law and order in a time of growing national insecurity appears to be winning over some of his fiercest skeptics - women initially put off by his swaggering tone, his clashes with female critics and past affairs. But so far those are mostly conservative women. As Trump hones his message, the challenge is to make it also resonate among independent or undecided female voters who are crucial to his hopes of winning the US presidential election in November. Turmoil on the streets both abroad and at home could give Trump a new opportunity to do just that.

On Monday, Trump tried to seize it with an evening program at the Republican National Convention with several women speakers, including his wife Melania, focused on security. She told the convention that her husband would offer the country new leadership and keep it "safe and secure." Americans have been rattled by recent attacks in France and Florida, the murder of police officers in Texas and Louisiana, and widespread protests over the killings of unarmed black men, polls show.

"We're not electing a husband, we're not electing a preacher, we're electing a leader," said Kay White, a Republican delegate to the nominating convention from Tennessee who originally supported US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas in the early nominating contests, or primaries. For White, it's a one-issue election. "Security," she said. "Nothing else matters." A year ago, Penny Nance, president of Concerned Women for America, a conservative advocacy group, was a blistering critic of the thrice-married Trump because of comments he made about Fox News anchor

Megyn Kelly that many felt were sexist. But Nance now supports Trump and says the candidate can fashion an effective message for women centered on national security, she told Reuters on the sidelines of the convention. "Every day we wake up and get our kids ready for school and the television is on and there is another attack," she said.

'Security Moms'

For Trump, independents will be a tougher sell. A majority of women who identify as "independent" continue to hold an unfavorable opinion of him. According to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll from June 1 to July 15, 64 percent of independent women voters expressed a "very unfavorable" or "somewhat unfavorable" view of Trump. That compares with 89 percent of Democratic women voters and 31 percent of Republican women voters who have a similarly unfavorable view of the New York businessman.

Trump isn't the first candidate whose tough talk on security has won over women voters. George W. Bush used the same message in his re-election campaign in 2004, in the midst of his "war on terror," to appeal to so-called security moms who were concerned about terrorism.

Bush garnered 48 percent of the vote of American women in that election. By comparison, Republican candidate Mitt Romney drew 44 percent in 2012, a full 10 points behind President Barack Obama. Trump has had trouble convincing women nationally to support him ever since he entered the race in the summer of 2015, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling. Among women who are expected to vote on Nov 8, a majority expressed an unfavorable opinion of him every time they were asked in the polls. — Reuters

EUROPE'S EYES ON MERKEL TO REBUILD EU

By Paul Taylor

When the chips are down in Europe, everyone turns to Angela Merkel for a solution. But the German chancellor often sits on her hands until the last minute, then does the minimum necessary to keep the show on the road. Since last month's shock British referendum vote to leave the European Union, all eyes have been on Berlin to indicate a way out of danger for the 27 members who will remain. As usual, Merkel, the continent's most powerful and experienced leader, is biding her time and letting underlings air their differences without tipping her hand before she departs for her three-week summer break this week.

Votes had barely been tallied in Britain when her vice-chancellor, Sigmar Gabriel, leader of the center-left Social Democrats, and European Parliament President Martin Schulz rushed out a 10-point plan for a "refoundation" of Europe. Lamenting that ever more citizens doubted Europe's ability to deliver a better future, they called for a more federal Europe with the European Commission as its government, and a more flexible, growth-friendly economic policy turning away from austerity to investment in an "industrial renaissance".

Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble rapidly shot down those ideas, rejecting any need for economic stimulus spending and reaffirming his balanced budget target up to 2020 at a time when many in Europe are pleading with Berlin to borrow money free of interest and invest massively in infrastructure. He refuses to accept that surplus countries like Germany, which has a giant current account surplus of eight percentage points of GDP, should help poorer deficit countries adjust by spending more on public investment and boosting consumption.

Furthermore, Schäuble said those calling for a bold federal leap forward in integration had failed to understand the public disenchantment with the EU that fuelled the British vote and is

driving nationalistic euroscepticism elsewhere in Europe. Rather than give more power to Brussels, the veteran conservative, who once advocated a federal "core Europe", said it was time for national governments to take matters more into their own hands if the Commission was unable to do the job.

Schäuble is blocking the next steps forward in euro zone risk-sharing - the creation of a European bank deposit insurance system and of a fiscal backstop for the currency area's single resolution fund to help wind down failed banks. The 71-year-old finance minister has also managed to delay any debt relief for Greece until after next year's German election in September and manoeuvred to delay public support for Italy's ailing banks, saying there was no acute crisis.

Less Vulnerable

Even the German head of the euro zone's rescue fund, Klaus Regling, argued last week that Berlin and its partners needed to go further to make the currency area less vulnerable to shocks. Restructuring Italian banks' bad loans and forcing investors including retail savers to take losses before any public money can be injected under the EU's new bank recovery and resolution rules could trigger precisely that kind of post-Brexit shock.

Regling called for completing European banking union by phasing in a deposit insurance scheme after a transition period. He also advocated a limited budgetary capacity for the euro area to cushion economic shocks hitting only some countries. Both proposals have so far been anathema to Schäuble, who speaks for a school of German fiscal hawks in warning that such steps would lead to unacceptable permanent north-south transfers inside the monetary union.

At least there is debate in Germany about what the EU should do to regain momentum and overcome the trauma of losing Britain, its second largest economy, even if much of it resembles shadow boxing before next year's German elections. In many EU

countries, politicians have simply fallen back on blaming Brussels, with some demanding the scalp of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker as a scapegoat.

To be sure, Juncker has contributed to the sense of disarray by first trying to rush an EU trade deal with Canada through the European Parliament without letting national lawmakers have a say, then reversing himself under pressure from governments. The result is that the Canada deal could be bogged down for many months, perhaps indefinitely, and the chances of getting a bigger and more sensitive trade and investment partnership with the United States wrapped up and ratified seem even more remote.

No progress on monetary or banking union, deadlock on trade - that doesn't leave much scope for restoring public and financial market confidence in Europe. The German and French foreign ministers, both social democrats, have issued more modest joint proposals for the EU to focus on internal and external security, managing migration and refugee flows, and boosting the economy and job creation. Their nine-page paper, which would not require changing the EU's founding treaty with the risk of more referendum defeats, called for a European Security Compact with a more integrated foreign and security policy and a permanent civil-military chain of command for crisis management operations.

But when it came to the euro - the economic heart of the European project - their suggestions of investment-boosting measures by surplus countries and a common fiscal capacity (budget) for the euro zone, ran into the same stonewall in the German Finance Ministry. Merkel has broadly welcomed the Franco-German paper and broadly adopted its focus on three main themes - migration, security and growth/jobs. Whether she is willing to overrule Schäuble and take political risks before next year's federal elections is highly doubtful. Yet without some initiative to provide fresh wind after the Brexit blow, the EU looks highly vulnerable to the next external shock, whether from Islamist militants, Italian banks or another surge in migration. — Reuters



Amateur and professional kitesurfers are pictured in Cabo de la Vela, Guajira Department, Colombia, on July 4, 2016. In Cabo de la Vela, a remote destination in the extreme northeast of Colombia, members of the Wayuu indigenous tribe seek to tame the art of kitesurfing, a sport that has become a source of income in this impoverished region of the Caribbean as well as the challenge of competition. — AFP

BINLADIN PULLS BACK FROM FINANCIAL BRINK

Continued from Page 1

Banking sources briefed on the plan say the group will aim for more modest growth and focus more on private-sector leisure projects and overseas business.

SBG benefited for many years from close ties with the government. Mohammed Binladin, a Yemeni immigrant who founded the group in the 1940s, distinguished himself as a dependable partner by building palaces for the kingdom's expanding line-up of princes. SBG became a behemoth with hundreds of subsidiaries. But as the business grew, the group tolerated cost overruns and poor bookkeeping, confident that it could secure additional financing from its royal patrons, said bankers, employees and construction industry sources. "Saudi Binladin Group is a family business that ballooned based on relationships," said a construction executive who worked with SBG for over a decade. "As they started to grow in scale, they developed inefficiencies."

That left SBG severely exposed as low oil prices caused the government to cut spending and left it reeling when it was subsequently banned from receiving state contracts. The cash squeeze over the past year has forced the company to halt work at projects including Jeddah's new King Abdulaziz International Airport and the King Abdullah Financial District in Riyadh. Work also stopped at Abraj Kudai, a gaudy \$3.5 billion, 45-storey luxury hotel in Makkah that is to feature royal floors and rooftop helipads. It slowed for several months at Jeddah Tower, designed to be the world's tallest building.

The cash crunch has now partially eased. The government let SBG resume bidding for new state projects in May and made some delayed payments to the group. The brighter out-

look helped the company secure the 2.5 billion riyal Arab National Bank and Saudi British Bank around the same time, according to banking sources.

SBG resumed work at the Jeddah airport in early June and repaid holders of a 1 billion riyal Islamic bond maturing late that month, albeit after a delay. The company has hired about 30 finance and management professionals from overseas, including former Morgan Stanley banker Klaus Froehlich as chief financial officer, and drawn up the new business plan. The SBG spokesman said it had finished laying off and compensating about 70,000 foreign workers, reducing staff numbers from about 200,000 over the past several months - a purge which bankers see as positive.

The group remains under pressure, however. It has asked banks to extend an 817 million riyal loan that matured last week and was being used to fund construction at the Grand Mosque, with government payments for the project still delayed, according to sources familiar with the matter. Ultimately, bankers' willingness to extend credit may depend on SBG's relations with the government. An economic reform drive launched by authorities last month emphasizes cost-cutting and efficient use of state money, which could affect SBG's business.

Big family conglomerates in Saudi Arabia are also under pressure from authorities to invest more in the economy now that oil prices are low. This has become a source of friction between SBG and the government, bankers said. "All of the major family business groups in this country have done very well under an economic system that is on its way to reform," said the senior banker. But time will tell whether the government's reforms work, he added. "They're taking on some strong vested interests." — Reuters

IMF RAISES MIDEAST GROWTH FORECAST

Continued from Page 1

Middle East, with further cross-border ramifications," it said. The IMF maintained its growth projections for Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude oil exporter, at 1.2 percent for this year and raised it slightly to 2.0 percent for 2017.

The economies of the kingdom and its oil-exporting peers in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have been hit hard by the slide in oil prices which began more than two years ago. They have lost hundreds of billions

of dollars in revenues, prompting them to take austerity measures and resort to borrowing to plug the huge budget deficits. The IMF has praised the reform measures while insisting that more needs to be done.

In a report last month, the IMF said the value of oil and natural gas exports in the GCC states and Algeria was projected to fall by almost \$450 billion this year compared with 2014. It also estimated that their cumulative budget shortfalls would hit \$900 billion as a whole by 2021. The GCC groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. — AFP

OLD HERITAGE MOSQUE TO BE RELOCATED...

Continued from Page 1

The parliament, during the term, held 119 sessions. Two scheduled ones did not convene and a single one was cut short due to the demise of MP Nabil Al-Fadhil, he said, adding that there were 20 interpellation motions and 42 inquiries filed. Omair affirmed keenness of HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah on tackling any strains in the relationship with legislators.

Meanwhile, the opposition Popular Action Movement (PAM) yesterday strongly deplored the resignation of its leading member and former MP Ali Al-Deqbasi, who said he took the action to be able to take part in the coming parliamentary elections. Deqbasi informed PAM's leadership late on Monday that he has decided to quit the movement because it did not meet for a very long time, thus obstructing his functioning as a member of the political bureau.

He also said that he resigned because he has decided to take part in the elections scheduled for next summer. The former lawmaker also said that he will maintain good ties with the movement, but will work as an independent in the future. Deqbasi is the first leading figure to quit PAM, one of the main opposition groups in the country led by prominent opposition figure and former MP Musallam Al-Barrak, who is serving a two-year jail term on charges of

insulting HH the Amir.

PAM denied in a statement allegations made by Deqbasi that it did not meet for a long time, adding that the former MP had been invited to all the group's meetings but did not attend. The group regretted that Deqbasi decided to quit while its leader Barrak was still in jail. It however said that its political bureau will meet to discuss the resignation.

In 2012, almost all opposition groups boycotted the election after the government unilaterally changed the election law to reduce the number of votes allowed for a voter from four to just one. But since then, a number of groups and opposition activists have decided to end their boycott and said they will contest the next election. Prominent among these groups are the Muslim Brotherhood-linked Islamic Constitutional Movement.

In another development, the criminal court yesterday began the trial of the members of one of three cells linked to the Islamic State group busted a few weeks ago. The cell consists of a mother and son who were brought back from Syria. The mother told the court that she had never joined IS and only went to Syria to bring her son back. Her son, known as Abu Turab, however confessed that he joined IS but never took up arms. He said he was influenced by clerics on the Internet. The next hearing was set for July 26.

TURKEY TARGETS MEDIA AND SCHOOLS IN PURGE

Continued from Page 1

15,000 state education employees allegedly linked to the "Fethullah Terrorist Organization" -0 its name for Gulen's network.

Turkey's education board also demanded the resignation of almost 1,600 deans from private and state universities. Already, around 9,000 people including police and government officials have been sacked and 7,500 people detained including top generals accused of masterminding the plot. Erdogan spokesman Ibrahim Kalin defended the mass detentions, saying it was a legal process and that suspects would face charges of "treason and attempting to change the constitutional order".

Yildirim warned Turks against exacting revenge on backers of the attempted overthrow, after disturbing pictures emerged of rough treatment meted out to suspects. "Nobody can have a feeling of revenge. This is unacceptable in a state governed by rule of law." Ankara says Gulen, who wields enormous influence in Turkey through supporters in various sectors as well as a private pre-university education network, hatched the plot to end Erdogan's 13 years in power. Gulen, 75, has rejected the allegations, saying Erdogan himself may have staged the putsch, an idea dismissed by the presidency as "nonsensical".

Turkey's anxious Western allies have told Ankara to abide by the rule of law amid fears about a worsening state of democracy and human rights in the strategic NATO nation. Erdogan's suggestion that the death penalty could be reinstated has also sent shudders through Europe, with the EU warning such a move would be the nail in the coffin of Turkey's already embattled bid to join the bloc.

The escalating purges have hit financial markets, with the currency plunging to around three liras to the dollar, after the central bank cut interest rates and Moody's said it was reviewing Turkey for a possible downgrade. An Ankara court on Monday charged and detained 26 former generals over the putsch, including former air force chief General Akin Ozturk. Ozturk has been painted by some Turkish media as the mastermind but denied the claims and said he did not know who

was behind it. State media had published images of a haggard-looking Ozturk, one ear heavily bandaged, and other suspects at the courthouse, their hands tied behind their backs.

The coup bid was the most serious threat to Erdogan since he took power first as prime minister in 2003, and saw rebel troops close down bridges in Istanbul, parliament bombed from the sky and protesters shot in the streets. It has raised deep concerns about the stability of the strategic NATO partner, which has a key base used in the US-led fight against the Islamic State group and which houses a large nuclear weapons stockpile.

A total of 208 people were killed, including 145 civilians, 60 police and three soldiers, along with 104 coup plotters, the government and army says. The military has often had strained relations with Erdogan's Islamo-conservative government as the traditional guardians of Turkey's secular system and has carried out coups in the past. It said the vast majority of its members had nothing to do with Friday's plot and that the "traitors" would be punished severely for the "humiliation and disgrace" of the Turkish republic. UN rights chief Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein urged a fair trial for the suspects and voiced "serious alarm" over the mass suspension of judges.

Turkey has piled the pressure on Washington to extradite Gulen, adding to tensions between the two governments already frayed by differences over Syria. The reclusive cleric said in an interview at his Pennsylvania compound that he had no concerns about the extradition request. "The rule of law reigns supreme here. I don't believe this government will pay attention to anything that is not legally sound." He called the putsch attempt "treason, a betrayal of the Turkish nation."

Erdogan has remained in Istanbul since he flew back on Saturday from the holiday resort of Marmaris where he was staying when the coup struck. The president, who critics have long accused of becoming increasingly autocratic, has spoken to supporters every night, urging them to maintain a "vigil" for democracy. He told CNN his life had been in grave danger. "If I stayed (in Marmaris) 10, 15 minutes more, I would either have been killed or kidnapped and taken away by them." — AFP

PLAGIARISM ROW PLAGUES TRUMP

Continued from Page 1

"There's just a passion for Donald, and his wife knocked it out of the park," said Robert Antonacci of the New York delegation. "Who cares? It was her speech. I don't believe for a minute that Melania and Donald were sitting around going, 'Hey, let's plagiarize Michelle Obama's speech.'" Trump himself was ultimately forced to come out in his wife's defense. "It was truly an honor to introduce my wife, Melania. Her speech and demeanor were absolutely incredible. Very proud!" he tweeted.

Earlier, making a surprise cameo appearance at the gathering in Cleveland to introduce his wife, the bombastic tycoon showed confidence that belied the day's drama. "We're going to win so big" said Trump. "Ladies and gentlemen, it is my great honor to present the next First Lady of the United States." Republican establishment figures - whose party was once respected for its discipline and public unity - are now suggesting the speechwriter be fired and defending Trump as a candidate. "The distraction gets you off message a little," said Republican party boss Reince Priebus, though he added that he expected the flap to fade quickly.

As the convention resumed yesterday, Republican leaders in the Senate and the House of Representatives will now be tasked with stopping the bleeding. House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell will be keynote speakers. More than most, they have been responsible for holding the Republican Party as populist Tea Party conservatives gained clout. But they now find themselves atop a party that has shifted to the right and with a candidate who many party members strongly oppose.

On Monday, some of those members voiced anger on the convention floor when they were unable to register their protest within the rules. "We deserve to be heard, this is the people's convention!" said Diana Shores, a delegate from Virginia, while pro-Trump delegates tried to drown out the rebels with shouts of "Shame! Shame!" Other speakers yesterday included two of Trump's children, including his daughter Tiffany, who has until now been rarely seen on the campaign trail.

The convention also holds a state-by-state roll call vote, with each delegation confirming the winner in their primary election. Although a routine procedure, it too could be the scene of further disruptions by anti-Trump factions. Trump fans insist delegates must heed the will of the grassroots of the party and make him the Republican nominee without equivocation. The real estate mogul won a thumping victory in a series of statewide party elections, garnering more than 13 million votes - the most of any Republican nominee ever. He is due to address the convention tomorrow, at which time he will formally accept the party's nomination. — AFP

GUDMUNDSSON JOINS BURNLEY FROM CHARLTON

LONDON: Burnley have signed Iceland international winger Johann Gudmundsson for an undisclosed fee from Charlton Athletic, the promoted Premier League side said in a statement yesterday. Gudmundsson, who had a joint league high 11 assists in the Championship (second-tier) last season, has signed a three-year contract with Burnley, with the club having an the option to extend for an additional year. The 25-year-old, who was relegated to League One with Charlton last season, is Burnley's first signing of the close season and started every one of his country's games at Euro 2016. Iceland pulled off the upset of the tournament when they defeated England in the last 16, before being eliminated by hosts France in the quarter-finals. "Johann... is a quality player who we saw last season playing at Charlton in a tough time and we liked the quality he showed," Burnley manager Sean Dyche told the club's website. (www.burnleyfootballclub.com) "It helps to see a player in the European Championship with that kind of company and he did well there so it was one we all agreed would be a good acquisition for the club and we look forward to working with him going forward." —Reuters



KOSTELIC EYES 2018 WINTER GAMES FAREWELL

ZAGREB: Croatia's veteran ski champion Ivica Kostelic, struggling with longterm knee problems, said he hoped to retire at the 2018 Winter Olympics, it was reported yesterday. The 36-year-old Kostelic assured the Sportske Novosti daily paper that he was "definitely" thinking about retiring at the Olympics. "One should not give up hope. If it's in any way possible I would like to ski until Pyeongchang" in South Korea, hosts of the next Winter Olympic Games, he said. Commenting on his problematic right knee, exposed to years of wear and tear on the slopes and around a dozen surgeries, Kostelic joked it was "excellent shape for 'civil life.'" The Zagreb-born star has started fitness training for next season and is due to prepare on the slopes in Switzerland in August. In April, Kostelic postponed his retirement until a home World Cup race in Zagreb next January. Besides knee problems, Kostelic has also been dogged by back pain. Kostelic won the 2011 World Cup and four Olympic silver medals—the combined in 2006 in Turin, the super-combined and slalom in Vancouver in 2010 and the super-combined in Sochi in 2014. —AFP

IBRAHIMOVIC TO MISS CHINA TOUR

LONDON: Zlatan Ibrahimovic will miss Manchester United's pre-season tour of China as the Sweden striker takes an extended break following Euro 2016. Ibrahimovic joined Jose Mourinho's side on a free transfer after leaving French champions Paris Saint Germain at the end of last season, but the Premier League club's legion of fans in China won't get a first glimpse of the marquee signing in a United shirt. Although United's 25-man squad for the trip includes Wayne Rooney, Marcus Rashford, Chris Smalling, David De Gea and Paddy McNair, who all exited Euro 2016 later than Ibrahimovic, the former Barcelona and Inter Milan forward was granted extra time off by Mourinho and is currently sunning himself in Los Angeles. Ibrahimovic's first United appearance is likely to come against Galatasaray in Gothenburg on July 30. The 35-year-old's absence won't slow the clamour to see United's glamour friendlies against Borussia Dortmund in Shanghai on Friday and Pep Guardiola's Manchester City in Beijing on Monday.—AFP



AUSTRALIA FACE ENGLAND FIRST UP IN 2017 WORLD CUP

SYDNEY: Australia will open the defence of their rugby league crown in a testing clash against England while New Zealand face Samoa after the draw was made yesterday for the 2017 World Cup.

The powerhouses of the game will meet in Melbourne on October 27 in Pool A, which also features France and Lebanon. The Kiwis, who Australia smashed 34-2 in the 2013 final at Manchester's Old Trafford, begin their campaign in Auckland a day later in Pool B that includes Scotland and Tonga.

Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, where rugby league is the national sport, co-host the tournament that culminates with the final in Brisbane on December 2.

"Rugby league is truly a game for everyone. We hope the Rugby League World Cup 2017 leaves a legacy for the game that sees it continue to grow and dominate the sporting landscape," said the tournament's chief executive Michael Brown.

Games will be hosted in more than a dozen locations to give as many fans as possible a chance to see some live action, including Canberra, Darwin, Christchurch, Auckland and Port Moresby.

"Over the course of the pool stages we have looked to position matches in strong rugby league communities and where large populations of expats, Pacific and indigenous fans live," said Brown.

"The decision to take matches to places like Darwin, Perth, Christchurch and Port Moresby were made with the future of the game in mind. They are matches we believe will give profile to the sport in markets that

have already shown an appetite for rugby league."

Pool C features Papua New Guinea and two others coming from a European qualifying tournament later this year, with Wales, Ireland, Russia, Serbia, Italy and Spain in contention.

Fiji, the United States and a third European nation fill out Pool D.

2017 rugby league World Cup fixtures:

October 27: Australia v England (Melbourne)

October 28: PNG v Euro Q1 (Port Moresby);

New Zealand v Samoa (Auckland); Fiji v USA (Townsville)

October 29: Scotland v Tonga (Cairns); Euro Q2 v Euro Q3 (Cairns); France v Lebanon (Canberra)

November 3: Australia v France (Canberra)

November 4: New Zealand v Scotland (Christchurch); Samoa v Tonga (Hamilton); England v Lebanon (Sydney)

November 5: PNG v Euro Q2 (Port Moresby); Euro Q3 v USA (Townsville); Fiji v Euro Q1 (Townsville)

November 10: Fiji v Euro Q3 (Canberra)

November 11: Samoa v Scotland (Cairns); New Zealand v Tonga (Hamilton); Australia v Lebanon (Sydney)

November 12: PNG v USA (Port Moresby); Euro Q1 vs Euro Q2 (Perth); England v France (Perth)

November 17: Quarter-final (Darwin)

November 18: Quarter-final (Christchurch); Quarter-final (Wellington)

November 19: Quarter-final (Melbourne)

November 24: Semi-final (Brisbane)

November 25: Semi-final (Auckland)

December 2: Final (Brisbane). — AFP



LAS VEGAS: DeMar DeRozan #9 of the 2016 USA Basketball Men's National Team drives against Kyrie Irving #10 of the 2016 USA Basketball Men's National Team during a practice session at the Mendenhall Center yesterday in Las Vegas, Nevada. — AFP

US BASKETBALL TEAM OPENS CAMP IN LAS VEGAS WITH NEW FACES

LAS VEGAS: Coach Mike Krzyzewski got his first glimpse at the new-look US national team, as the team opened camp at Las Vegas with just two players back from the 2012 national team that won the gold medal in London.

Carmelo Anthony returns for his fourth run at the Olympics, after winning a bronze medal in 2004 and gold medals in 2008 and 2012, while Kevin Durant is looking for a second gold medal after playing on the championship team in 2012.

And though there are 10 new faces on the team that will represent the US at Rio, several were a part of the 2014 FIBA world championship team, and know what is expected of them. Making things easier, as it was for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, the 12-man roster has been set since June, giving Krzyzewski and his staff ample time to devise rotations and focus on the players they knew were coming.

"It's the angst you go through in that week of determining from 16 to 12, (it) takes away from your preparation," Krzyzewski said. "We have had none of that. That's a huge advantage, and also for these guys, you got 12 guys (who) have been completely focused on being on this team. It's really a good advantage."

Krzyzewski said he was pleased with Anthony

taking charge the first day, being a vocal leader for what he believes could be one of the best defensive teams he's ever coached since becoming taking over in 2005. He also credited Durant, Kyrie Irving and DeMarcus Cousins for stepping up as leaders on the opening day of camp.

"It's a new group of guys (so) I get a chance to go out there and kind of be a leader to the team and kind of enjoy it," Anthony said. "For me, it's about going over there and having fun, getting that feeling back, getting that fun feeling back and try to get a gold medal."

As he's done in year's past, Krzyzewski met with the team and staff privately Sunday night, showing players video clips from previous years and delivering a motivational speech about what it means to represent the United States. With the recent unrest involving civilians and police officers, the message came across even stronger for this team.

"Whenever you get a chance to sit in that meeting and see and understand what we're doing is bigger than us, as basketball players, it gives you chills and puts everything in perspective," DeMar DeRozan said. "It makes your job easier to go out there and do what you love to do and represent your country."

And as the national team takes on its new look, ushering in a new era, the 69-year-old Krzyzewski is making his final run with the Olympic team. Under his watch, Krzyzewski has led the U.S. to gold medals at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics as well as the 2007 FIBA Americas Tournament and the 2010 and 2014 world championships. Nonetheless, Krzyzewski said the most important thing is to avoid focusing on the milestones he, Anthony and Durant are headed toward, and aim toward maintaining a united front with the entire squad.

"All of us need to be in this moment, not in 'this is my last time' or 'it's the third gold medal for Carmelo,'" said Krzyzewski, who has led the Americans to a near-perfect 52-1 since 2005. "It's 'this team,' and that's what we're trying to do, just be in this moment with this team. It's one of the biggest mistakes any competitor can make, is to be in only your moment. They're not going to play because it's my last time being the Olympic coach. So I have to coach them like it's my first time, and that's how we're going to do it."

"We just want to play as well as we can, and be worthy of winning the gold, so they'll be worthy of continuing to win the respect of our country and the world." —AP

BRITAIN NAME RUGBY SEVENS SQUAD FOR RIO

LONDON: Tom Mitchell and Emily Scarratt will captain the British men's and women's rugby sevens teams at next month's Rio Games after they were among the 24 players named in the squad by the British Olympic Association yesterday. A number of experienced sevens specialists, such as James Rodwell and Dan Norton, have been included in the men's squad as rugby sevens makes its Olympic debut during the Aug. 5-21 Games. Just four 15-a-side players, including Glasgow Warriors centre Mark Bennett, with previous sevens experience, made the squad.

"We have named a talented and experienced squad of 12 players today which we believe offers the right combinations and complementing skill sets needed to be successful in Rio," men's head coach Simon Amor said.

"It has however been a 27-player effort and recognition must go to every player

involved in the programme, as well as the hard working and exceptional management team." Britain's men will face New Zealand, Kenya and Japan in Pool C, while the women play Brazil, Canada and Japan in Pool C.

Men's squad

Mark Bennett, Dan Bibby, Phil Burgess, Sam Cross, Alex Davis, James Davies, Ollie Lindsay Hague, Tom Mitchell (c), Dan Norton, James Rodwell, Mark Robertson, Marcus Watson. Reserves: Luke Treharne, Ruairidh McConnochie.

Women's squad

Claire Allan, Abbie Brown, Heather Fisher, Natasha Hunt, Jasmine Joyce, Katy McLean, Alice Richardson, Emily Scarratt, Emily Scott, Danielle Waterman, Joanne Watmore, Amy Wilson-Hardy. Reserves: Megan Jones, Kay Wilson. — Reuters

VIVA MUSS'S FOOTBALL TRAINING CAMP KICKS OFF

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, shared the enthusiasm and excitement of the top 16 qualifying players who travelled to Manchester in England, to practice at Manchester United's Cliff Training Ground.

The training program comprises of several

workshops and activities educating the players on the best maneuvers, attacks, different scenarios and conditioned games. The program also focuses on different technical areas, such as dribbling, short passing, turning and finishing. The programs were also designed to develop young players in other fields, such as

tactical understanding, and mental, physical and social growth. During the first day at the camp, head of coaches recognized Jasem Bin Rida as best player amid his pillars.

Commenting on this occasion, Ayman Salem Al-Mutairi, Corporate Communications Senior Manager at VIVA said: "We are extreme-

ly pleased with the enthusiasm the players have displayed since the beginning of the trip. As soon as they arrived to register their names at MUSS, they could not wait until practice to begin and to show off their talents to the coaches. We are very pleased to have been able to support these young athletes in bring-

ing them closer to their dream of becoming professional football players." He added: "We scheduled different activities to the players to ensure the maximum of experience during this camp, and we offered many surprises for them in recognition of their commitment and passion."





Matthias Dolderer of Germany (C) celebrates with Hannes Arch of Austria (L) and Matt Hall of Australia (R) during the Award Ceremony at the fourth stage of the Red Bull Air Race World Championship in Budapest.



Dolderer performs during the fourth stage.

DOLDERER WINS HISTORIC 70TH RED BULL AIR RACE IN BUDAPEST THRILLER

BUDAPEST: At a landmark Red Bull Air Race in Budapest on Sunday, German pilot Matthias Dolderer tightened his grip on the World Championship lead by winning a turbulent contest cut short by unfavorable weather. Hannes Arch of Austria claimed second, while Australia's Matt Hall earned third.

An abbreviated Red Bull Air Race in Budapest, Hungary on Sunday wasn't short on thrills, as Germany's Matthias Dolderer confidently delivered the best time in the Round of 8 despite race winds that pilots said were the most turbulent they could remember. Due to weather delays, the safe flight window could not accommodate the full racing program, and when the Final 4 was cancelled, race results were determined by the Round of 8 times. Dolderer's 58.653 seconds clinched his victory, while Austria's Hannes Arch was second with 58.942 and Australia's Matt Hall took third with 59.236.

The rain couldn't drown out the cheers of the 20,000 spectators as they lined both banks of the Danube and waved from picturesque balconies to celebrate history's landmark 70th Red Bull Air Race. Even worse conditions had canceled Qualifying on Saturday, and limited experience on the season's most technical track so far gave the advantage to the more experienced pilots.

In accordance with the rules, a finish based on Round

of 8 results awards 75% of the points given in a full race. In earning his second win of the season (and the second of his career, which began in 2009), Dolderer increased his tally in the World Championship points to 41.25, putting him 15.25 points ahead of Arch in second. Nonetheless, after earning no points in the season opener due to a penalty, Arch's 26 points represent a significant rebound as the season reaches its midpoint. American Kirby Chambliss, who rounded out the Budapest Final 4, now sits just behind in the third position with 25.25 points.

RACE BY RACE

"It was crazy with the rain and wind. After a penalty in my first flight today I thought it was just a bad weekend, but then the second flight went really well," said Dolderer, who thanked his Matthias Dolderer Racing team for their support on a difficult weekend. "I'm not focusing on the points standings. For me what counts is race by race, and our results are showing that all the hard work over the winter on the aircraft and myself paid off. We really look forward to the next race and will treat it as if we're starting at zero."

Dolderer also earned the DHL Fastest Lap Award, a component introduced this season that defines a new standard of speed at the Red Bull Air Race. Each race this

season has seen a different awardee, with Dolderer, Arch, Hall and Martin Sonka of the Czech Republic each earning the honor.

Due to the weather conditions, the weekend's Challenger Cup competition was cancelled. The Challenger Cup is an element of the Red Bull Air Race created in 2014 to help the next generation of pilots develop the skills and experience needed for potential advancement to the Master Class.

Results Master Class Budapest: 1. Matthias Dolderer (GER) 2. Hannes Arch (AUT) 3. Matt Hall (AUS) 4. Kirby Chambliss (USA) 5. Yoshihide Muroya (JPN) 6. Nigel Lamb (GBR) 7. Nicolas Ivanoff (FRA) 8. Juan Velarde (ESP) 9. Pete McLeod (CAN) 10. Michael Goulian (USA) 11. Petr Kopfstein (CZE) 12. Peter Podlunsek (SLO) 13. Martin Sonka (CZE) 14. Francois Le Vot (FRA).

World Championship Standings: 1. Matthias Dolderer (GER) 41.25 pts, 2. Hannes Arch (AUT) 26 pts, 3. Kirby Chambliss (USA) 25.25 pts, 4. Yoshihide Muroya (JPN) 22.50 pts, 5. Nicolas Ivanoff (FRA) 22 pts, 6. Nigel Lamb (GBR) 19.75 pts, 7. Matt Hall (AUS) 18.75 pts, 8. Martin Sonka (CZE) 14 pts, 9. Pete McLeod (CAN) 12.50 pts, 10. Francois Le Vot (FRA) 10 pts, 11. Juan Velarde (ESP) 9.25 pts, 12. Michael Goulian (USA) 6.75 pts, 13. Peter Podlunsek (SLO) 3 pts, 14. Petr Kopfstein (CZE) 2 pts.



Dolderer celebrates during the Award Ceremony at the fourth stage of the Red Bull Air Race World Championship in Budapest.



Dolderer performs during the training.



Dolderer prepares for his flight during the fourth stage of the Red Bull Air Race World Championship in Tokol, Hungary.

DOZENS OF WRESTLERS SUE WWE OVER NEUROLOGICAL INJURIES

NEW HAVEN: World Wrestling Entertainment Inc was sued on Monday by Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and dozens of other retired male and female wrestlers seeking to hold it responsible for neurological injuries they claimed to suffer by participating in its bouts.

The complaint was filed on behalf of more than 50 plaintiffs who have performed with WWE or its predecessors since the 1970s, including Joseph "Road Warrior Animal" Laurinaitis and Paul "Mr. Wonderful" Orndorff.

It accused Stamford, Connecticut-based WWE and Chairman Vince McMahon of intentionally classifying wrestlers as "independent contractors" rather than employees, as a means to avoid liability under applicable worker protection laws. "WWE placed corporate gain over its wrestlers' health, safety, and financial security, choosing to leave the plaintiffs severely injured and with no recourse to treat their damaged minds and bodies," the complaint said.

The lawsuit seeks compensatory and punitive damages, as well as improved medical monitoring. WWE, in a statement, called the lawsuit another attempt to hold it liable by a lawyer who had two earlier lawsuits dismissed and added that "we're confident this lawsuit will suffer the same fate".

WWE has won the dismissal of some claims in other lawsuits accusing it of hiding the risks of head trauma from wrestling. The National Football League and National Hockey League have also been sued by retired players over head injuries. Monday's complaint was filed with the federal court in New Haven, Connecticut.

The plaintiffs accused WWE of concealing the risks of the degenerative brain disease chronic traumatic encephalopathy and other traumatic brain injuries attributable to wrestling, including through "scripted" moves it choreographed. Konstantine Kyros, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, in an email said WWE's "exploitative business model" kept his clients from learning their rights under laws such as the federal Occupational Safety and Health Act.

According to the complaint, Laurinaitis, 55; Snuka, 72; and Orndorff, 66, suffer from cognitive difficulties including headaches, dizziness and memory loss, while Snuka and Orndorff also experience confusion, depression and mood swings. The plaintiffs also include former referees and identical twins Earl and Dave Hebner, 66, who according to the complaint have experienced cognitive difficulties. Dave Hebner has also been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, the complaint said. —Reuters

FROOME RUBBISHES 'TOUR OVER' TALK

BERN: Chris Froome dismissed suggestions he's got the Tour de France wrapped up, pointing to four tough stages in the Alps to come.

French sports newspaper L'Equipe ran a headline saying "Sans rival"-without rivals-at the end of the first two weeks of the Tour, with Froome leading by 1min 47sec overall from Dutchman Bauke Mollema. The 31-year-old Kenyan-born Englishman has been imperious during the race this year, launching a daring solo attack on a fast descent to take victory on stage eight.

He then broke away alongside world champion Peter Sagan on a flat 11th stage with crosswinds to snare more time from his rivals. Froome took time out of all but two of the top climbers-Mollema and Australian Richie Porte-on the uphill finish on Mont Ventoux and then crushed the other contenders on Friday's time-trial. But the Sky team leader insists it is far too early to start crowning him with a third Tour victory.

"I don't agree," he said when asked about the L'Equipe headline. "Other teams have said they're going to attack this week in the Alps, I expect they will do. "To say I've won and I don't have any rivals, that's rubbish. A lot can happen in four days in the mountains.

"You only need one bad day and you can lose a few minutes." The possibility of cracking and losing time will be high over the next four stages.

Wednesday's 17th stage finishes with 23km of climbing over the final 30km, including an hors category last ascent. On Thursday there's a 17km uphill time-trial while Friday and Saturday's stages both have four categorised climbs. Before the Tour began, Froome and several rivals all identified these four coming days as the key to the whole race.

'EXTREMELY CHALLENGING'

And Froome explained it was with that in mind that he is remaining understated. "I am appearing more reserved because this next block is four very tricky days. "Each day is different and has it's

own challenges. Obviously the time-trial is quite important.

"Each day is extremely challenging-it's definitely a four-day block as opposed to picking one day to go harder than the other ones." Yet he did admit Wednesday's stage looks particularly arduous, with the 13km first category climb followed by a 10km hors category one at the finish, and only 7km of downhill respite between the two. "That's an extremely tough stage in itself.

"It's an uphill finish-we've only had

one real uphill finish and that was Ventoux. "Everybody knows the story of (what happened on Mont) Ventoux already-it will be interesting to see what happens on Wednesday." While Froome will be on the defensive, BMC Racing pair Porte and Tejay Van Garderen will be going on the attack. They're seventh and eighth respectively at 4:27 and 4:47 behind Froome, and a top three finish is the aim. Briton Adam Yates currently holds that and is 1:42 ahead of Porte. "I'm in good condition and it is a hard

four-day block coming up after the rest day," said Tasmanian Porte, 31.

"I think I've got everything to play for now, I'm not too far off the podium. "It's a big goal so bring it on." Van Garderen, 28, suggested the two could work together to improve the chances of one making the podium. "As of now I'm not really going to put a number on it (where he hopes to finish) but we've got to be happy with our best," said the American. "We have to see how things play out, there's a number of different tactics." — AFP



HILTERFINGEN: Overall leader's yellow jersey British cyclist Christopher Froome attends a press conference at his hotel on the second rest day of the 2016 Tour de France cycling race yesterday in Hilterfingen, Switzerland. — AFP

NZ SUPREMO WANTS FOUR-DAY TESTS AND TWO-TIERS

WELLINGTON: New Zealand Cricket chief David White called yesterday for Test cricket to continue its pink-ball revolution by slashing the format to four days and introducing two divisions. The longest form of the game has struggled to find an audience in the Twenty20 era, prompting the introduction last year of day-night Test cricket played under lights with a pink ball.

The Black Caps were part of that first day-night Test against Australia at Adelaide Oval and White described it as "one of the great sporting events". But

rather than rest on its laurels, White said Test cricket needed to keep innovating to improve its relevance.

He strongly supported the idea of cutting the length of Tests from five days to four, which he said would "greatly assist with programming and player workloads". The idea, first floated by former Australian captain Mark Taylor, has already won support from fellow Aussie greats Shane Warne and Greg Chappell, as well as England Cricket Board chairman Colin Graves. "We need to seriously look at it," White told ESPNcricinfo.com.

"One of the challenges at the moment is if you play a three-Test series it has to be played over four weeks. Four weeks is a long time.

"But if you play a three-Test series of four-day cricket, it can be played over three weeks, so you save a week." White also supported plans to introduce two divisions in Test cricket, saying it would give greater "context" to the game. "If we had a competition with promotion and relegation, and a winner at the end, it would really increase interest, no doubt about that," he said. White said if

two divisions were introduced, steps needed to be taken to ensure countries that were in the bottom tier were not disadvantaged financially.

However, "weaker" Test nations such as Zimbabwe and Bangladesh have vowed to vehemently oppose such a system, fearing they never play the top Test nations who will have formed a de facto premier league. A four-day format is also likely to meet opposition from traditionalists, who were against the pink-ball innovation and fear further bastardisation of a game dating back to 1877.

However, there has been a steady stream of changes since then, including covered wickets, banning underarm bowling and reducing the number of balls an over from eight to six.

Teams in the 1920s and 1930s often played "timeless Tests" to try to ensure a result if a series was deadlocked.

The practice was abandoned in 1939 when a Test between South Africa and England in Durban lasted 10 days and still was abandoned as a draw because the tourists needed to leave to catch their boat home. — AFP



COLOMBO: Australian cricketer Stephen O'Keefe plays a shot during the second day of a three-day practice match between Australia and Sri Lanka XI team at the P. Sara Oval Cricket Stadium in Colombo yesterday. Australia and Sri Lanka play three Test, five One-Day Internationals and Two T20 series matches between July 26 and September 9, with the first Test played from July 26 at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium in Pallekele. — AFP

O'KEEFE HAUL IN TOUR MATCH RAISES HOPES OF SELECTION

MELBOURNE: Steve O'Keefe's five-wicket haul in the tour match in Sri Lanka has raised his hopes of selection for Australia in the test series with regular spinner Nathan Lyon. Left-arm spinner O'Keefe took 5-43 at the P Sara Oval in Colombo as Australia dominated the opening day of their sole practice match before the series opener in Pallekele next week. Lyon went wicketless for 72 runs against the Sri Lanka Board XI but is unlikely to be dropped for the three-test series which is expected to feature drier wickets. O'Keefe, who made his test debut away against Pakistan in 2014, played only his second match in January, teaming up with Lyon at the spin-friendly Sydney Cricket Ground against West Indies. The pair took three wickets apiece in the first innings of the rain-hit match.

O'Keefe returned marginally better figures than Lyon in both his test appearances but said he was still very much the 28-year-old's understudy.

"He's a bit of a role model of mine and a bit of a mentor when it comes to spin bowling," the Malaysia-born 31-year-old

said. "I've always looked up to him in his career and how he's gone about his business. "He's verging on a couple of hundred test wickets now so there's a truck load of experience and knowledge that I try to get out of him.

"And when the big occasions come up he's always stood up to the challenge. "He's in a good place and I feel extremely privileged to bowl with him at the other end." O'Keefe added that Lyon had been "battling a little bit of sickness" but was bowling "beautifully". Australia have hired former Sri Lanka spin great Muttiah Muralitharan as a coaching consultant in a key to unlock the hosts on their own pitches and O'Keefe said he was relishing the 44-year-old's advice. "The beauty of Murali (is) he's always got something to say to you," he said. "He'll come up after each session and spell, and give you hints whether it be about the field or how they might play. "So he's been a massive help ... and you can't underestimate what it's like having a guy like that who's played a majority of his career in these conditions." — Reuters

BAYLISS PONDERES SPIN OPTIONS AHEAD OF SECOND PAKISTAN TEST

LONDON: England coach Trevor Bayliss has said it's possible the team could field two specialist spinners at home after Yorkshire leg-break bowler Adil Rashid was called into the squad for the second Test against Pakistan.

Joining Rashid in an unusually large 14-man party were the fit-again duo of James Anderson and all-rounder Ben Stokes, with England looking to bounce back after last week's 75-run defeat by Pakistan in the first Test at Lord's. Pace bowler Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, is now set to make his Test return on his Lancashire home ground when the second of a four-match series starts at Old Trafford on Friday. Anderson and Stokes have been proving their fitness following respective shoulder and knee injuries in the ongoing County Championship match between Lancashire and Durham at Southport near Liverpool. The more intriguing selection was that of Rashid, all of whose three Test appearances to date came in 'spin-friendly' conditions against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates last year.

England have long been reluctant to field two spinners at home, where pitches in recent years have tended to favour faster bowlers. Moeen Ali, who for most of his career has been better known as a batsman, was effectively 'milked' by Pakistan in their first innings 339 at Lord's and there are those who believe Rashid could replace him as England's front-line spinner.

But while neither Ali nor Rashid are in the class of Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah, who rose to the top of the International Cricket Council Test bowling rankings after his 10-wicket haul at Lord's, Bayliss said it was not impossible both men could feature in the same England side. "I've always thought of playing two spinners (at home), at some stage," he said.

"(Pakistan) have three left-arm pace bowlers, who created rough outside the off stump for Moeen," the Australian added.

"So looking ahead, if we did happen to have two spinners, they could both play an important part for us."

'GIFTED' WICKETS

But the biggest immediate problem England have to solve after Lord's is how to bat better against Shah, who knocked Anderson off the top of the rankings on a pitch that did not offer him that much assistance. "Our batters have to play their spin a lot better," said Bayliss. "Especially in the first innings, I felt we gifted him a few wickets with shots I'm sure the boys would like to replay."

Hampshire batsman James Vince was retained despite a lowly average of under 19 after four Tests, with his 42 in the second innings at Lord's his highest score.

But he seemed unaware he was being drawn ever wider by Pakistan's seamers in the hope of being caught in the slip cordon, which is exactly how he fell after edging Wahab Riaz to Younis Khan.

England backed Chris Woakes after some unconvincing early displays and saw the Warwickshire paceman return match figures of 11 for 102 at Lord's. Bayliss hopes England will be rewarded for adopting an equally patient approach with Vince.

"Most of the innings he's played, I think he has looked very good while he has been there," said Bayliss. "The way he goes about it—personally, I think it would be an injustice if he doesn't make it." However, he added: "In the end, it will be the number of runs that determines his longevity in the team.

"I'm sure he is starting to feel the pressure. "He'd like to be scoring more runs. Ask anyone who has been in that situation, it is a difficult thing to go out and play your natural game. He has some work to do. "If you think they are good enough and they believe they are, a lot of times they will come good. "That's not 100 percent of the time...but I like to think that (Vince) will play more cricket for England." —AFP

RIZZO HOMERS AS CUBS BEAT METS

CHICAGO: Anthony Rizzo hit a three-run homer and Jon Lester pitched 7 2/3 innings as the Chicago Cubs stopped an eight-game losing streak against the New York Mets with a 5-1 victory on Monday night in a rematch of last year's NL Championship Series. With one out and two on in the third inning, Rizzo fouled off five straight 2-2 pitches from Steven Matz before driving a changeup deep into the right-center bleachers for his 22nd homer. Lester (10-4) allowed one run - Wilmer Flores' leadoff homer in the seventh - and four hits in his first win in a month. Matz (7-6) was charged with four runs and eight hits in five-plus innings, dropping to 0-5 in his last nine starts.

MARLINS 3, PHILLIES 2

Jose Fernandez tied a career-high with 14 strikeouts while Martin Prado hit a solo homer off Brett Oberholtzer (2-2) in the 11th. Fernandez pitched 6 1/3 innings and became the pitcher to reach 500 strikeouts in the fewest innings: 400. Christian Yelich hit an RBI double off Jeanmar Gomez with two outs in the ninth and scored on Marcell Ozuna's single. Kyle Barraclough (6-2) pitched one inning and A.J. Ramos finished for his 30th save, retiring Maikel Franco on a game-ending flyout to the warning track.

TIGERS 1, TWINS 0

Matt Boyd (1-2) allowed three hits in six innings, sending last-place Minnesota to another loss just hours after it announced the firing of general manager Terry Ryan. Justin Upton homered in the second. Three relievers finished for the Tigers, with Francisco Rodriguez pitching a hitless ninth for his 26th save.

YANKEES 2, ORIOLES 1

Alex Rodriguez hit his 696th career homer - his first since June 18 - while Ivan Nova (7-5) grinded through six innings and Aroldis Chapman hit 105 mph while locking down his 19th save. The No Runs DMC triad, possibly in its final days with Andrew Miller and Chapman rumored to be on the trade block, covered the final three innings to extend its scoreless streak to 22 innings. The Yankees are 18-1 when Dellin Betances and the other two relievers pitch in the same game. Kevin Gausman (1-7) also allowed Brian McCann's sacrifice fly in the third and fell to 0-1 in three starts against New York this season despite a 1.31 ERA over 20 2/3 innings.

REDS 8, BRAVES 2

Zack Cozart, Joey Votto and Eugenio Suarez all homered in the fourth inning of a matchup between the NL's two worst teams. The Reds (35-58) have taken three of five this season against the Braves, who have the majors' worst record (32-61). Atlanta is 19-31 at Great American Ball Park, including five losses in its last six games. Matt Wisler (4-9) has given up five homers in his last two starts. Brandon Finnegan (5-7) allowed two runs and seven hits in five-plus innings.

CARDINALS 10, PADRES 2

Mike Leake (7-7) had his second straight double-digit strikeouts game with no walks to join Bob Gibson (1968-69) as the only St. Louis pitchers to accomplish the feat, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Leake struck out a season-best 11, allowing one run and six hits in six innings. Pinch-hitter Matt Adams' two-run double keyed a four-run sixth. Randal Grichuk and Jedd Gyorko connecting in consecutive at-bats in the seventh before Stephen Piscotty homered into the third deck in left in the eighth. Christian Friedrich (4-6) gave up four runs - three earned - and six hits in 5 1/3 innings.

ROYALS 7, INDIANS 3

Jarrod Dyson hit a grand slam off Jeff Manship following a pair of walks by Bryan Shaw (1-4) to cap a seven-run rally in the eighth. Corey Kluber scattered five hits and took the mound to begin the eighth with a 2-0 lead. But manager Terry Francona and trainer James Quinlan came from the dugout and pulled Kluber because of a right calf cramp on a night with a 90-degree gametime temperature. Luke Hochevar (2-2) worked a scoreless eighth while Wade Davis got the final out for his 20th save.

ATHLETICS 7, ASTROS 4

Yonder Alonso drove in three runs with a pair of two-out hits to back Kendall Graveman's fifth consecutive win as the Athletics beat the Astros. Khris Davis hit his fourth home run in three games while Marcus Semien had two hits and scored twice and Ryon Healy added an RBI double for the A's. Oakland has won three of four since the All-Star break. Graveman (6-6) allowed three runs over seven innings to earn his second straight win over Houston. Dyan Dull retired three batters and Ryan

MLB Results/Standings											
NY Yankees 2, Baltimore 1; Miami 3, Philadelphia 2 (11 innings); Chicago Cubs 5, NY Mets 1; Detroit 1, Minnesota 0; Cincinnati 8, Atlanta 2; Kansas City 7, Cleveland 3; St. Louis 10, San Diego 2; Colorado 7, Tampa Bay 4; Oakland 7, Houston 4; LA Angels 9, Texas 5; Seattle 4, Chicago White Sox 3.											
American League Eastern Division											
	W	L	PCT	GB							
Baltimore	53	38	.582	-	Washington	56	37	.602	-		
Boston	51	39	.567	1.5	Miami	50	42	.543	5.5		
Toronto	52	42	.553	2.5	NY Mets	49	43	.533	6.5		
NY Yankees	46	46	.500	7.5	Philadelphia	43	51	.457	13.5		
Tampa Bay	35	57	.380	18.5	Atlanta	32	61	.344	24		
Central Division					National League Eastern Division						
Cleveland	54	38	.587	-	Chicago Cubs	56	36	.609	-		
Detroit	49	44	.527	5.5	St. Louis	48	44	.522	8		
Kansas City	47	45	.511	7	Pittsburgh	47	45	.511	9		
Chicago White Sox	45	47	.489	9	Milwaukee	39	51	.433	16		
Minnesota	33	59	.359	21	Cincinnati	35	58	.376	21.5		
Western Division					Central Division						
Texas	55	39	.585	-	San Francisco	57	36	.613	-		
Houston	50	43	.538	4.5	LA Dodgers	52	42	.553	5.5		
Seattle	47	46	.505	7.5	Colorado	43	49	.467	13.5		
LA Angels	41	52	.441	13.5	San Diego	41	52	.441	16		
Oakland	41	52	.441	13.5	Arizona	40	53	.430	17		



CHICAGO: Yoenis Cespedes #52 of the New York Mets drops his bat after being hit in the back by a pitch in the 8th inning against the Chicago Cubs at Wrigley Field in Chicago, Illinois. The Cubs defeated the Mets 5-1. — AFP

Madson pitched the ninth for his 20th save. Starter Mike Fiers (6-4) allowed six runs over 3 2/3 innings to remain winless in five career starts against Oakland.

MARINERS 4, WHITE SOX 3

Adam Lind hit a three-run pinch-hit homer in the ninth inning to give the Mariners an improbable comeback victory over the White Sox, handing Chicago its fifth consecutive loss and wasting a dominant performance by Chris Sale. Seattle, which had managed just one hit in eight innings off Sale, rallied against closer David Robertson (0-2), who had recorded 13 straight save opportunities. Sale, bidding to become the first 15-game winner in the majors, allowed just a first-inning single en route to eight scoreless innings. David Rollins (1-0) pitched the ninth inning for the win.

ANGELS 9, RANGERS 5

Mike Trout hit a three-run homer to help

the Angels rally from four runs down and beat the Rangers. With the score tied 5-5 in the seventh, Jeff Bandy was hit by a pitch from Keone Kela (1-1) to start the bottom of the inning and moved to third on Simmons' double. One out later, Calhoun hit a fielder's choice to second, driving in Bandy with the go-ahead run, and Trout followed with his homer over the left-field fence. J.C. Ramirez (2-3) pitched 1 2/3 innings for the win, and Cam Bedrosian got the last three outs.

ROCKIES 7, RAYS 4

Trevor Story hit a two-run homer in the fifth while Colorado's bullpen stranded the tying run on third in two straight innings as the Rockies held off Tampa Bay 7-4, extending the Rays' road skid to 11 in a row. Story's 22nd homer of the season gave the Rockies a 5-1 lead. The bullpen made it hold up to make a winner out of Tyler Anderson (2-3), who ran into trouble in the seventh and surrendered three of his four runs. — AP

MOUSE HOLE AND ‘MAGICIANS’ - HOW RUSSIA DOPED

MONTREAL: A discreet “mouse hole” through a wall, surreptitiously tampered samples using table salt and night-time visits by Russian secret service agents dubbed “the magicians.” The revelations detailed in a damning 100-page report released Monday, alleging Russian state-run doping at the 2014 Sochi Winter Games and other major sports events, read like a Cold War thriller.

The probe by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren for the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) found that the FSB-the successor to the notorious KGB-helped “the state-dictated failsafe system” carried out under the Moscow sports ministry and covering 30 sports.

Homing in on the Sochi Games-President Vladimir Putin’s chance to

show the world that Russia was a sporting great just like old Soviet times-McLaren’s report states: “The FSB was intricately entwined in the scheme to allow Russian athletes to compete while dirty.” Central to the plan was destroying the supposedly tamper-proof urine samples that would have seen a Russian athlete caught doping and swapping them for clean ones.

The play involved a “clean urine bank” that was full of Russian competitors’ samples and later secretly transported by the FSB from Moscow to an FSB building located handily next to the Sochi Olympic testing laboratory, the report said. “The bank of clean urine sat in storage awaiting the swapping programme at Sochi when required.” The

report said it had credible evidence from Moscow’s former anti-doping laboratory director Grigory Rodchenkov about what happened next-it was his allegations that sparked the investigation.

Rodchenkov is now in hiding in the United States and wanted by Russian authorities.

‘UNIQUE SITUATION’

According to him, samples provided by athletes would pass through the “mouse hole” around midnight inside the supposedly secure Sochi laboratory into an adjacent “operations” room outside the secure perimeter.

From there an FSB agent disguised as a sewer engineer who had security clearance to enter the laboratory stepped in.

The agent would dispose of the dirty urine and replace it with a clean sample taken from the FSB freezer next door, the caps and stoppers screwed back into place, before returning it back through the hole for testing the next morning-what the report dubbed a “quaint solution.” Rodchenkov’s role included manipulating the substituted sample-including by using salt-so the ruse would not come to light. “The Sochi sample swapping methodology was a unique situation, required because of the presence of the international community in the laboratory,” the report said, adding that forensic examinations confirmed sample bottles had been tampered with.

“It enabled Russian athletes to compete dirty while enjoying certainty that

their anti-doping samples would be reported clean.” No Russians were caught doping in Sochi.

The investigation also alleged how, as part of the wider subterfuge, thousands of dirty samples were hastily destroyed to avoid detection. Rodchenkov also held an urgent meeting with deputy sports minister Yuri Nagornykh-accused of being central to the Sochi cover-up-over athletes whose samples were “potentially a problem if another accredited laboratory were to analyse them”.

“The upshot of that meeting was that deputy minister Nagornykh resolved to call in the ‘magicians,’ the report said. “That night the FSB visited the laboratory and the next day samples were in the laboratory without their caps.” — AFP



HOULGATE: French judokas train during a training session before the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, yesterday in Houlgate, northwestern France. — AFP

AGE IS NO BARRIER FOR OLYMPIC GYMNAST WARRIOR CHUSOVITINA

TASHKENT: Oksana Chusovitina is training for a record-breaking seventh Olympic Games that will see the Uzbek star become the oldest woman gymnast to compete at the age of 41. Chusovitina’s qualification for the Rio Games extended a staggering career that has seen her represent three different countries over a quarter of a century in a sport dominated by teen prodigies.

Chusovitina, whose son is as old as many of her rivals for Rio medals, said she does not deprive herself to maintain her muscular 1.50 meter (5 feet) tall, 43 kilogram (95 pound) frame.

“I just train and perform because doing so brings me pleasure,” Chusovitina told AFP during a break in recent training at the vast Gymnastics Palace in Tashkent.

Chusovitina started her career competing for the Soviet Union. After it collapsed, she went to the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona for the Confederation of Independent States, a unified team of former Soviet states. There she scooped gold in the gymnastics team event but she had to wait another 16 years for an individual Olympic medal. That came when she won silver on the vault in Beijing in 2008. By then Chusovitina was representing Germany, a country she moved to in 2002 to get her son Alisher, born in 1999, successfully treated for leukaemia. Now she is back representing her Central Asian homeland of Uzbekistan-a nation of 30 million people where she is so revered she has figured on postage stamps.

“It is too early to make any sort of predictions,” Chusovitina added when asked about her medal hopes.

‘EVERYTHING IN MODERATION’

Chusovitina admitted that it is sometimes tough keeping up with the rigors of a sport where she is often competing against gymnasts less than half her age.

“Gymnastics has become much more difficult, but at the same time much more dramatic and



Oksana Chusovitina

beautiful,” she says. But it appears that her longevity is down to constant training and hard work rather than any special dietary secret.

A person “can eat everything in moderation,” she said in Tashkent just ahead of her departure for a sports camp in Germany. While Chusovitina might be coy about her achievements her coach Nikolai Pak is much more forthcoming as she gears up to break the record for Olympic appearances by a gymnast.

“She has raised the bar,” Pak told AFP “Modern gymnastics is changing rapidly and Oksana is right up there with it. She doesn’t stand still, and

is always developing herself.” That admiration for an athlete who has won the World Championship gold for Uzbekistan on the vaults runs deep among her younger colleagues as well. Several junior athletes training in the Tashkent Gymnastics Palace cited Chusovitina as an inspiration. “She used to coach me sometimes and help me out with some things,” Elena Rega, an 18-year-old who has already represented Uzbekistan, told AFP.

“It is everything about her character, her warrior spirit. When she enters the gymnastics hall, it lifts your mood.” —AFP

VISITING RIO FOR OLYMPICS? GET YOUR PORTUGUESE READY

RIO DE JANEIRO: If English is the language of world commerce, Brazil hasn’t gotten the memo - only a small fraction of its 200 million people have a basic proficiency. Fluency is also rare for other languages such as German, French and even Spanish, despite Brazil being bordered by seven Spanish-speaking countries.

Many of the hundreds of thousands of tourists expected to descend on Rio de Janeiro for the Olympics in a few weeks could frequently find themselves in a linguistic muddle. Vanderlei Silva Santos, who sells caipirinha, Brazil’s national cocktail, says he struggles to communicate with foreign tourists who stop at his stand on Copacabana Beach, so he uses his fingers and toes to write prices and shapes in the sand. Most of the time it works, but trying and funny moments are common, like the time a woman made chomping gestures to ask where she might find fresh corn on the cob, or the time a man seemed to be urgently asking to use a “banho” but really was trying to figure out where to shower.

“Communicating is tough. We move our hips, we smile, which tourists like. We find a way,” said Santos, a 39-year-old who hopes to one day take a basic English course, something that until recent years generally was available only for wealthy Brazilians and is still not widely offered.

Attempting over the last year to bridge the language gap for the Summer Games, Rio de Janeiro state, the Olympic Committee and several companies have offered in-person and online English courses to several thousand service industry workers, Olympic volunteers and police - those most likely to come in contact with tourists. “Do you know the meaning of ‘I’m going to kick your butt?’” teacher Rafael Vianna asked this week to a dozen tourist police in an advanced course aimed at preparing them to help English speakers sort through any issues that come up, from harassment to robbery. “It’s often used in sports and can be interpreted in different ways depending on the context.”

IN DISTRESS

On the blackboard, Vianna wrote and defined some words that tourists in distress may use, such as “mace, malice, mayhem and nuisance.”

Vinicius Lummertz, the president of Embratur, a government agency that promotes Brazil overseas, said Rio will be ready. And he argues that any linguistic struggles will be part of the experience.

“A lack of English is a problem, but trying to communicate with Brazilians who only speak Portuguese becomes a flavor,” Lummertz said. “Do you want a world that is exactly the same everywhere?”

Latin America’s biggest country is roughly the size of the continental United

States, which has tended to insulate its people. And vast inequalities permeate every walk of life, including education, and most Brazilians have never had a chance to study other languages.

Virginia Garcia, former head of the British Council in Brazil, said research by the council a few years ago found that only 5 percent of Brazilians spoke English at a proficient level.

Garcia said English instruction in public schools is limited, although several big events hosted by Brazil in recent years, including the Pan American Games, the World Cup and a visit by Pope Francis, have slowly pushed the country to expand language teaching.

DEMOCRATIC

“Twenty years ago, only people coming from the high classes could learn other languages in Brazil,” Garcia said. “It’s slowly getting more democratic.”

Antonio Carlos de Moraes Sartini, director of the Sao Paulo-based Museum of the Portuguese Language, said Brazil’s intense focus on Portuguese dates to 1750, when the Portugal’s monarchy made teaching the language mandatory to create a national identity different from the surrounding Spanish-speaking colonies.

At the time, only about 20 percent of people in Brazil spoke Portuguese, while more than 1,000 indigenous languages prevailed. A few hundred of those languages are still spoken, mostly in the Amazonian region, but the vast majority of indigenous peoples now also speak Portuguese.

“The language spoken here today expresses Brazilians’ expansive, affectionate nature,” said Sartini.

That nature often includes having a good laugh when it comes to foreign languages. Joel Santana, a former soccer player and coach, has parlayed his halting English into a second career in television advertising. In 2010, while coaching South Africa’s national team, he gave an interview in English that was so indecipherable that it became an internet sensation. Since then, he has pitched products such as Pepsi and Head & Shoulders shampoo in commercials, throwing in barely understandable words in English.

Jens Heftoy, a journalist from Norway who has visited Brazil several times in the last decade since marrying a woman from Rio, said that in his experience even Brazilians who have a decent level of English prefer not to speak it unless they work in the tourism industry.

“Three blocks from here, you’ll have problems” in communicating, Heftoy said while walking on the tourist mecca of Copacabana Beach. “It works out, but you have to be patient.” — AP

RODGERS FACES UP TO TASK OF TURNING ‘BHOYS’ INTO MEN

GLASGOW: If Brendan Rodgers had wondered about the size of the task that lies in front of him at Celtic then last week’s 1-0 defeat to Gibraltar part-timers Lincoln Red Imps would have left him in no doubt.

When the former Liverpool boss was paraded at Parkhead back in May as the high-profile replacement to Ronny Deila it was a signal from the board Celtic would be getting down to serious business again to coincide with the return of bitter rivals Rangers to the Scottish top flight. Instead, the “Bhoys” have started their season in the worst possible of fashions as they suffered a humiliating defeat against a side that contained just five full-time professionals alongside a customs officer, a fireman, a policeman and a taxi driver.

The shock in Gibraltar, arguably the club’s worst ever result, came in Rodgers’ first competitive game in charge. Before the match against the Imps, the self-declared Celtic supporter spoke of his pride of taking charge of the former European champions for the first time in their Champions League second-round qualifier. However, Lee Casciaro’s second-half goal condemned Rodgers to the most embarrassing defeat of his career, despite what he said to the contrary at full-time.

“There is no embarrassment. We understand what we need to get to for what we want to achieve,” he said. “We didn’t take our chances, they took their chance. “It was a game we dominated and had enough chances to score. Sometimes it can happen.”

While that may be the case, Rodgers knows his side’s performance will count for nothing with the directors who made him the highest-paid manager in Scottish football history if the Hoops crash out of European competition at the first hurdle.

Outside of the Old Firm fixtures, European performances will be the yardstick by which Rodgers is judged, with Champions League qualification defeats against Malmo, Maribor and Legia Warsaw casting a heavy shadow over predecessor Deila’s two years in charge.

The humbling defeat to the Imps came just 20 days after Celtic started their pre-season training but the manager insisted his side had prepared properly and hadn’t underestimated the minnows.

‘NO PANIC’

If not complacency, then the result can maybe be explained by the fact the Celtic boss has been slow to stamp his authority on the club, with Rodgers making just one addition to the imbalanced squad he inherited. However, he believes the current crop are good enough to get through in the second leg on Wednesday-but admitted he will need to make changes if they are to have any hopes of getting near the Champions League group stages. “It’s one that was always the case. We know where we need to strengthen the squad.

“It’s obviously disappointment straight after when you lose a game like that. “But no panic. We know the quality we need to get in to help the side. “In the meantime we have enough quality to get through the tie.” Big things are expected from the man who took Liverpool to the verge of their first title win in over 20 years.—AFP



FLORENCE: Runners react after competing in Florence yesterday, during the first World Trisome Games, dedicated exclusively to athletes with Down syndrome. The World Trisome Games runs for the first time in Florence from July 15 to 22, featuring athletes from 35 nations that compete in events such as swimming, synchronized swimming, athletics, tennis, table tennis, judo and gymnastic sports. — AFP

LAST SEASON’S FAILURES PREPARED TO KILL TO WIN TITLE: RANIERI

LONDON: Claudio Ranieri, manager of shock Premier League champions Leicester, believes sides like Chelsea and Liverpool who failed to even make the Champions League will be prepared to kill all opposition in the forthcoming season.

The 64-year-old Italian added the pressure was not on him but his rivals like old foe Jose Mourinho at Manchester United and Antonio Conte at one of his former clubs Chelsea. Both of them like Manchester City’s Pep Guardiola have taken on new challenges although Mourinho and Conte like Jurgen Klopp at Liverpool don’t have Champions League campaigns to be concerned about.

“Everything’s different now. You imagine the big teams who didn’t win last season, who didn’t make the Champions League,” Ranieri told The Sun.

“They are going crazy now. They want to kill now-not just us but all the other teams,” added Ranieri who succeeded in keeping talismanic striker Jamie Vardy but lost French midfield enforcer N’Golo Kante at the weekend to Chelsea.

Ranieri, who suggested his side should be 6000/1 to defend their crown as opposed to the 5000/1 they were for last season’s title, said the managerial talent, all

of it foreign, coming into the Premier League was fantastic but only one could emerge a winner.

“Antonio Conte is fantastic, Jose (Mourinho), everybody knows Jose,” said Ranieri, who once was sneeringly dismissed by Mourinho as having only won one small trophy. “Pep Guardiola is an amazing person and a good manager.

“I’m laughing because at the end of the season only one will win and the pressure is not on me, it’s on them!” Ranieri admitted the odds were loaded in favour of one of the big beasts of the Premier League regaining the title given the disparity in transfer funds they had.

The Italian has been pretty busy in the transfer market beating the club record outlay twice in a week to secure former France Under-21 midfielder Nampalys Mendy for £13million, and then Nigerian forward Ahmed Musa for 16.6 million (\$22 million, 20 million euros). “The big clubs are spending a lot of money and for this reason they must win,” said Ranieri. “Leicester City? People are just curious. “What will happen with Leicester next season? Will it be a repeat? “I say to them we can repeat the level of performance but not to win. To win again is a dream.” — AFP

Sports

US Basketball team
opens camp in Las
Vegas with new
faces



Age is no barrier
for Olympic
gymnast
warrior
Chusovitina



WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 2016

DOZENS OF WRESTLERS SUE WWE OVER NEUROLOGICAL INJURIES Page 17



This combination of pictures created yesterday shows some of the top Russian athletes that may miss the upcoming 2016 summer Olympics in Rio as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) said yesterday it will study "legal options" on banning all Russian athletes from the Rio Games and also ordered a disciplinary commission to look into the role of Russian officials in a state-run doping system. The IOC executive held emergency telephone talks yesterday after a World Anti-Doping Agency commissioned report said there had been state-sanctioned doping at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics and other major events. Top row, from left: Sergey Shubenkov (men's 110 metres hurdles), Yelena Isinbayeva (women's pole vault), Vladimir Morozov (men's 50-metre freestyle swim), and Yuliya Efimova (women's 100m breaststroke swim). Above row, from left: Sofya Velikaya (Women's sabre), Aliya Mustafina (Artistic Gymnastics), Dmitriy Muserskiy (L) and Dmitriy Ilinykh (men's volleyball), and Evgenia Kanaeva (Rhythmic Gymnastics). — AFP

IOC WEIGHS RUSSIA RIO GAMES BAN

LAUSANNE: The International Olympic Committee held emergency talks yesterday on whether to ban Russia from the Rio Games after an investigation found rampant state-run doping at the 2014 Sochi Winter Games and other events.

A damning report commissioned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) detailed an elaborate cheating scheme that affected 30 sports with help from the FSB state intelligence agency. After the report was released by lead investigator Canadian law professor Richard McLaren, top sport figures from across the globe called for all Russian competitors to be banned from Rio Games which start on August 5. IOC president Thomas Bach said Russia's actions were "a shocking and unprecedented attack on the integrity of sports and on the Olympic Games." He said the organisation "will not hesitate to take the toughest sanctions available against any individual or organization implicated," including with respect to Rio de Janeiro.

Bach led a phone conference on Tuesday with the IOC's powerful executive board. If the panel calls for Russia's exclusion from Rio, it would mark the first time a country has been banned from an Olympic Games over doping.

DEBATING COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

WADA led calls in support of Russia's ban, a position backed by the German Olympic body (DOSB) as well as anti-doping institutions from Canada to New Zealand.

But others called for caution, pointing to the ethical issues of punishing aspiring Olympians who have never tested positive for drug use. Bach raised those concerns himself over a ban previously imposed against Russia by international athletics governing body IAAF because of doping in the country's track and field programme.

The Olympics chief and some international federations have called for a way for Russian athletes proved to be clean to compete in Rio. Reacting to the McLaren report, the Association of Summer Olympic Federations said it was "important to focus on the need for individual justice" while noting "the gravity and extent" of the alleged cheating. In China, the state-owned Global Times newspaper took the view

that "Banning Russia will tarnish Olympic spirit".

The Russian Olympic Committee (ROC) vowed to fight to "protect the rights of clean athletes," while seeking to undermine the credibility of McLaren's key witness, the dismissed former boss of Russia's anti-doping lab Grigory Rodchenkov, who admits he was central to the cheating scheme. The ROC insisted that collectively punishing all Russian competitors based on Rodchenkov's evidence left "the integrity of the Olympic Movement...endangered."

'FAILSAFE' CHEATING

McLaren said his team uncovered forensic evidence that proved Rodchenkov's claims. The Canadian lawyer said the coverup started in 2010 after Russia's "abysmal" results at the Vancouver Winter Olympics and continued until 2015 after the Sochi Games. It included the 2013 World Athletics Championships in Moscow and 2013 World University Games in Kazan. At Sochi, the FSB helped Rodchenkov's staff destroy supposedly tamper-proof urine samples that would have seen a Russian athlete caught doping and swapping them for clean ones, according to the report.

The play involved a "clean urine bank" that was full of Russian competitors' samples and later secretly transported by the FSB from Moscow to an FSB building located handily next to the Sochi Olympic testing laboratory, the report said.

McLaren said Russia's sport ministry "directed, controlled and oversaw" the scheme, which he termed "state-dictated failsafe system" designed to let the country's competitors cheat.

The Kremlin said officials named in the report would be suspended, but also denounced the "dangerous" interference of politics in sport. Deputy sports minister Yuri Nagornyykh, who was mentioned prominently in the report, was the first official to be suspended, the Kremlin confirmed Tuesday. However, Moscow has taken no action against his boss, sports minister Vitaly Mutko.

Russian media appeared resigned to a blanket ban in Rio. "The WADA report makes Russia's disqualification very probable," the Kommersant newspaper suggested, while Gazeta.ru headlined their story "why Russia has already lost the Games". — AFP

RIO FOCUS ON UCHIMURA, BILES IN OLYMPIC GLAMOUR SPORT

RIO DE JANEIRO: Key points on the Olympic gymnastics competition in Rio:

Gymnastics is one of the Olympic glamour sports where breathtaking acrobatic skills, gravity-defying displays of control, strength, flexibility, balance, and graceful choreography always prove popular. With its roots in ancient Greece, gymnastics has a military background with the use of modern apparatus developed in Germany and France in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Artistic gymnastics has been a fixture at every Games since the first modern Olympics in Athens in 1896, with female gymnasts allowed to compete from 1928. Rhythmic gymnastics was introduced in 1984 and Trampoline in 2000.

Japan's Kohei Uchimura and American Simone Biles are the stars to watch in Rio. Uchimura, 27, became the first gymnast to win a sixth consecutive world all-around title last year and is bidding to become the first man to defend his Olympic crown since compatriot Sawao Kato in 1972. Japan will also be bidding to topple two-time champions China in the team event, after breaking their rivals 12-year domination at the world championships in Glasgow last year. Uchimura's long-held ambition is to outshine the legendary Vitaly Scherbo. The Belarusian won six out of the eight men's events at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics — the greatest haul of gold medals won by any gymnast at a single Games. "I want to work hard and see the Japanese flag rising more than three times. But it is not going to be easy," said Uchimura, a five-time Olympic medallist, who is bidding for a first team title in his third Games after twice winning silver. It will be the first Olympics for Biles, 19, who has dominated the women's sport for the past three years, and wants to help keep the women's team title in US hands.

The sport was popularised in the 1970s by pixie stars such as Olga Korbut and Nadia Comaneci. Former gymnastics powerhouse Romania, the country of Comaneci, who landed the first perfect 10.0 score at the 1976 Montreal Games, failed to qualify for the 12-nation team event in Rio. Romania had won a women's team medal at every

Olympics since 1976 including gold in 1984, 2000 and 2004. Comaneci was 14 when she starred in Montreal, but the age limit has since been raised and female athletes must turn 16 in the Olympic year. Chinese gymnast Dong Fangxiao was stripped of a bronze medal after it was found she was 14 at the 2000 Games. This year Uzbekistan's Oksana Chusovitina will compete in a record-breaking seventh Olympics that will see her become the oldest female gymnast to perform at the age of 41.

In the early 20th century Triathlon (swimming, cycling and running), rope climbing and club swinging were included in gymnastics. Nowadays the difference between the men's and women's events are the apparatus. From 1936, in addition to the team and all-around, the men compete on six apparatus-floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars and high bar. The women also have the team and all-around and from 1952 have competed on four apparatus-vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor where they perform to music. Rhythmic gymnastics, with its origins in Ancient Egypt, is confined to women and combines ballet, gymnastics and dance. There are two titles, the all-around and team where competitors manipulate apparatus-rope, hoop, ball, clubs and ribbon. Russia have won the last four individual and all-around titles. China are strong in trampolining which involves somersaults, spins and twists for a total of 10 routines.

The scoring system in artistic gymnastics is complicated with competitors no longer achieving a perfect 10.0. Revamped after a scoring controversy at the 2004 Athens Games gymnasts have since been awarded points starting at an initial 10-point score with deductions made for faults in execution, composition and artistry of presentation. Gymnasts are also given scores based on the difficulty of their routine. The highest and lowest judges' scores are dropped. All events will be staged at the 14,981-capacity Rio Olympic Arena at Barra, built for the 2007 Pan American Games, from August 6-21. A total of 54 medals are up for grabs. — AFP



RALLY FATIGUE SAPS STOCKS; GOLDMAN PROVIDES HOPE



DOHA: A woman runs at the corniche seaside in this file photo. Like other Gulf states heavily dependent on energy sales, Qatar has sought to cushion the impact of lower oil prices on its finances by raising utility bills and slashing spending. — AP

EXODUS OF PROFESSIONAL WORKERS RESHAPING QATAR
AFTER LAYOFFS, MALLS, HOTELS FACE SHRINKING CLIENTELE

DOHA: Five years ago Samer Habib left the United Arab Emirates and moved to Qatar where he opened a restaurant that turned a profit serving Lebanese salads and sandwiches to expats. In June, the business folded. The European lawyers and Indian clerks who for years frequented Habib's restaurant have been leaving the country in recent months, he said, many laid off in sweeping cuts to public and private companies hastened by a fall in energy prices. "Customers keep coming to me and saying: 'Samer, this is my last sandwich,'" he said. "They say it's been a tough year."

Like other Gulf states heavily dependent on energy sales, Qatar - the world's top liquefied natural gas exporter - has sought to cushion the impact of lower oil prices on its finances by raising utility bills and slashing spending. Many of the foreign workers who make up the bulk of the 2.5 million-strong population have been affected. Companies in Qatar that rely on government contracts are feeling the pinch and are freezing salaries and terminating contracts of expatriate engineers, lawyers and consultants from countries including Britain, France, the United States and India.

This trend risks increasingly polarizing the country between wealthy Qataris at the top and Asian blue-collar workers at the bottom. Businesses that rely on the custom of professional foreign workers with their tax-free salaries and

disposable income, including restaurants like Habib's, private schools, car dealerships and shopping malls, could struggle to survive. In 2015 state-run Qatar Petroleum let more than 1,000 foreign workers go as part of restructuring, according to the energy minister. Al-Jazeera, the pan-Arab satellite news network owned by Qatar, closed its American channel in April and has laid off 500 staff, most of them in Doha. Vodafone's Qatar subsidiary said in May it would cut about 10 percent of its workforce.

Facebook group

It is unclear exactly how many of Qatar's 1.6 million foreign workers are departing, and the country's population is still growing due to an influx of Asian workers building highways and stadiums for the 2022 soccer World Cup. But industry sources, including three company CEOs, told Reuters that job cuts were widespread and tens of thousands of white-collar workers had been laid off in the last two years. A Facebook group set up in March for departing expatriates in Qatar selling cars and second-hand furniture has over 50,000 members and is updated hourly.

The small country is astonishingly wealthy - one of the richest in the world per capita - but faces a \$12.8 billion budget deficit this year, its first in over a decade. The government in

December halved its forecasts for economic growth and last month said it expects to run a deficit for at least three years as low natural gas and oil prices strain revenues. The layoffs could further weigh on the economy. Hotels, malls and private schools - projects conceived when oil prices were high and Qatar's winning of the 2022 World Cup was driving infrastructure and population growth - now compete for the custom of a dwindling middle class of professionals.

Mohammed al-Emadi, a real estate tycoon who has developed a \$1 billion luxury shopping centre in Doha that will open in September, said the mall's cafes and fashion boutiques will have no trouble drawing customers. But he concedes were it not for the project's eye-catching design - a marble structure modeled on a 19th century Italian galleria with shops tailored to super-rich Qataris, whose jobs have survived the austerity - his business might be in trouble. "Ten to 12 malls are currently being built in Qatar and soon they will open," Emadi said, adding that some mall owners were having to drop rent prices to attract tenants. "This is not a good sign. In the current economy ... the market can't handle any more malls."

'Building to drive demand'

Two other malls are set to open later this year - the Doha

Festival City and the Mall of Qatar, a building equivalent in size to 50 football pitches with over 500 stores. Both projects have delayed their opening dates. Hotel owners, too, have concerns about an oversupply with government spending cuts affecting business tourism and leading to a 19 percent decline in hotel room prices in dollar terms this year, according to Ernst and Young. Qatari politicians dismiss as scaremongering the notion of a capital flight. They say new facilities, including Doha's Hamad International Airport, US university campuses, and world-class swimming pools and stadiums, will continue to lure residents and visitors to the country, regardless of oil prices.

"Building will drive demand. We are thinking long term, beyond 2022 (World Cup), and looking at areas of growth like regional tourism from the Gulf. Of course there is still room for malls and hotels ... these things are encouraging people to visit and work here," said a Qatari government official. Some businesses, though, spy an opportunity in the exodus of workers. Second-hand car dealers in Doha run a lucrative trade buying used sports cars from foreigners departing in a hurry, which are then shipped and sold in Asian markets. "Bentleys, Porsche GTs, SL63 Mercedes ... pretty much every day we see one brought in," said a Western businessman who has run a car dealership in the city for over a decade. — Reuters

HAULING CASH, REPLACING CARDS AND FIXING ATMS: STUBBORN COSTS BANKS CAN'T ERASE

NEW YORK: Even after years of lean times, big US banks are coming under new pressure to cut costs. But management teams are finding some expenses simply won't budge - like the \$1 billion a year it costs Bank of America Corp to shuffle papers around and transport money in armored trucks. Other stubborn costs - ranging from mailing paper account statements to replacing lost credit cards and repairing broken ATMs - show just how hard it will be for banks to boost earnings in the near-term if interest rates do not rise.

They also show how long it might take to reach the digital banking revolution that bank executives and consultants speak about optimistically. After years of reducing staff in branches and bragging about technology that allows consumers to bank by smartphone or ATM, JPMorgan Chase & Co recently had to start hiring tellers because of customer complaints. "There are fundamental costs associated with running a broad retail franchise," said Bob Hedges, who leads consulting firm A.T. Kearney's financial institutions practice. "You can move to part-time help, you can let the carpet get a little more worn, but these are just short-term tactics."

Over the past week, the country's four biggest banks - JPMorgan, Bank of America, Wells Fargo & Co and Citigroup Inc - each reported profit declines, ranging from 1 percent to 19 percent, because low interest rates put pressure on how much revenue they can produce from lending or investing deposits in "safe" securities like Treasury bonds. That top-line challenge has created pressure to cut costs to bolster profits.

At least five analysts prodded Wells Fargo executives about its operating expenses on a conference call



ATHENS: A man withdraws cash from an ATM machine in Athens yesterday. — AFP

last week. Bank of America, whose expenses are higher relative to revenue, avoided some of that scrutiny by saying it would reduce annual expenses by roughly \$3.3 billion. Big banks started announcing multi-billion-dollar expense initiatives in 2011, and some have since expanded them.

Bank executives and consultants say the first wave of cost cuts was straight-forward: layoffs, bonus reductions, curbing employee travel, reducing excess real estate, renegotiating vendor contracts. Some banks have started making employees pay for their own mobile phones and have cut back on perks like free food for those who have to work late.

But as time marches on, it's become increasingly difficult to find fat to trim. Long-suffering shareholders have gotten excited about these initiatives only to find they do not move the needle much. Banks are still

struggling to meet targets they set, ranging from net interest margins to efficiency ratios and returns on equity. "It's tough to take out costs meaningfully from here," said Patrick Kaser, a portfolio manager at Brandywine Global who invests in bank stocks.

As a result, bank executives are being forced to fundamentally rethink the way they operate and staff their businesses to make them less expensive - without also limiting the amount of revenue they can produce. As they hold the magnifying glass up to the expense ledger - especially in retail banking - they are finding some costs to be particularly rigid. "Near as we can tell, we spend about \$1 billion a year just moving cash around in our company," Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan said on a conference call earlier this year.

BofA executives describe that cost as a particularly frustrating one. In a world where digital banking is possible, moving paper around should be a thing of the past, they say. But many customers are resisting the shift, as JPMorgan found out the hard way. The bank had to add branch employees in response to negative customer feedback about long waits. "We're paying attention to what our customers are telling us about the experience in branches," JP Morgan CFO Marianne Lake told reporters last week. "We've added some tellers there, and a few bankers." Stiff costs go beyond employees. Each lost, stolen or corrupted debit or credit card costs 20 cents to replace, according to AT Kearney. Sending out paper checking account statements for one customer costs \$9 a year. ATM maintenance runs \$165 a month, according to Deloitte. —Reuters

BREXIT TO DRAG ON GLOBAL GROWTH - THROUGH 2017

WASHINGTON: The uncertainty created by Britain's vote to leave the European Union will slow the global economy into next year, the International Monetary Fund predicted yesterday. Last month's populist victory in the British referendum has darkened the skies in that country and across the euro area, according to the global crisis lender, forcing it to cut April's growth forecasts and rattling what had already been a fragile recovery. Britain's relations to the 28 member EU single market were thrown into confusion following the June 23 vote, raising the possibility of sudden, new trade barriers and at least initially causing a selloff in global financial markets.

Analysts have predicted this will weigh on consumption and investor confidence. In an update to its April forecast, the IMF said global economic growth was likely to be 3.1 percent this year and 3.4 percent in 2017, a downward revision of 0.1 percent for both years. Brexit was liable to cost the British economy nearly a full percentage point of growth in 2017 as demand will likely be significantly lower than it would have been had the remain camp been victorious. "Continuing uncertainty is likely to weigh on consumption and especially investment," the IMF said.

Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, saw unusually painful revisions as dropping oil prices have hurt oil revenues, power production and investor confidence. Its economy is now expected to contract by 1.8 percent rather than grow by 2.3 percent, a sharp revision that has followed the steep devaluation of the country's currency. In announcing yesterday's revised forecasts, Maury Obstfeld, the IMF's research director, called on Turkey to preserve its democratic institutions following the weekend's bloody failed coup.

"We are seeing some volatility in financial markets," said Obstfeld. "The Turkish authorities, particularly the central bank, have stepped in very effectively to provide liquidity and we would anticipate in our baseline that things will settle down." In a bright spot, stronger activity in the euro area has seen this year's growth forecast revised upward by 0.1 percent to 1.6 percent. But possible drops in consumer and business confidence as well as strain on banks means 2017 will likely see a slowdown after the Brexit referendum. Brexit's consequences for the United States were likely to be "muted," with growth steady at 2.2 percent this year and next, representing a downward revision of 0.2 percent for 2016. —AFP

OIL TRADERS LOSE MILLIONS; LPG GLUT SHOCKS MARKET

MAJOR COMPANIES TRADERS FACE DISPUTES WITH ASIAN FIRMS

LONDON: Traders in the liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) market face a "career-ruining" glut that has led to millions of dollars in losses as Chinese buyers, far from coming to the rescue, are in a stand-off with oil companies to cancel deals. LPG, a historically niche and dislocated market, has ballooned with the advent of US exports due to the shale boom. The United States went from an importer to the largest single exporter of propane in just a few years, rivalling the Middle East Gulf producers. "I can't remember it being this bad. There was massive new production out of the US and people hoped the Chinese market might absorb it," one LPG trader said.

"There was strong buying in the first four months of the year with low oil prices but that stopped and the market is now a few million tons long." A glut was expected, but its severity caught most by surprise and will likely serve as a warning to those trading liquefied natural gas, which is increasingly oversupplied. LPG is the collective term for propane and butane. The United States exports mostly propane used for heating and in the petrochemical industry to make propylene, a base for plastics manufacturing. Traders have been left scrambling to mitigate losses as China has failed to be the driver of demand.

At least five companies - Vitol, Gunvor, Shell, BP and EDF Trading - cancelled July-loading cargoes out of the two major Texas LPG terminals, preferring to pay penalties of up to \$1 million per cargo. Many

LPG traders signed up for multi-year contracts but premiums to the US benchmark on a spot basis sunk by about \$40 a ton this year, undercutting the term lifters. The contracts were also signed when the US benchmark was around a \$150 to \$200-per-tonne discount to the European benchmark and Saudi Arabia's official selling price. But spreads shrunk dramatically in 2016, making US exports suddenly unappealing to Asia.

Chinese end-users are now cancelling or renegotiating their term contracts, taking advantage of product overhangs in the Middle East and a cheaper alternative feedstock, naphtha. Asian demand slowed earlier this year on weak propylene margins, which led to run cuts and delayed new plant start-ups. After hitting a trough, the market is expected to rebalance by the year-end though supply will continue to outpace demand. "Non-associated gas output means there will be a steady rise in natural gas liquids output despite the oil price doldrums. This trend will continue in the medium term," Al Troner, head of Asia Pacific Energy Consulting in Houston, said.

Showdown in court

The disputes have in some cases devolved into open altercations and tanker stand-offs. At an LPG conference earlier this year in China, one trader said he saw "serious arguments between the

Chinese and the US suppliers outside the hall at the cafe ... Everyone pretended not to be eavesdropping but stopped chatting and just stood still". Targa Resources, operator of an export terminal in Texas, has been stung by contracts with Chinese buyers and is seeking "damages in excess of \$1,000,000" from China Soft Packaging Group, documents filed by Targa at a Texas county court showed. China Soft Packaging declined to comment and Targa did not respond to requests for comment. "The US suppliers already made fat margins earlier (in 2015) and they should be ready for price negotiations," a senior source with one of the east China-based LPG buyers said.

Hong Kong-based Oriental Energy International Trading has also had disputes with Targa and Greek LPG trader Naftomar. Targa let Oriental's Kiky tanker languish for weeks offshore Texas in June. Naftomar's Constellation ship is now stuck outside China's Ningbo port, a senior trader at Naftomar said. Singapore-based SK Chemical Trading recently cancelled contracts with Naftomar, Petredec and Shell after its end-user Zhejiang Shaoxing Sanyuan Petrochemical Co renewed on its orders. The companies did not respond to requests for comment. One trader said the price rout was ruining careers and had "gunfight at the O.K. Corral-type implications", referring to one of the most famous shootouts from the days of the American Wild West. — Reuters

QATAR BULLISH AFTER TECHNICAL BREAKOUT

MIDEAST STOCK MARKETS

DUBAI: Qatar's stock market rose yesterday after breaking major technical resistance, but other markets in the region were sluggish, held back by soft oil prices and mixed corporate earnings. The Qatari index climbed 0.6 percent to 10,649 points in a broad-based rise, with nine of the ten most heavily traded stocks gaining. Trading volume fell from Monday's high level but remained active. On Monday the index had broken above its December and March peaks at 10,490 and 10,502 points, triggering a "reverse head and shoulders" pattern formed by the highs and lows since December and pointing up in the long term to around 12,600 points.

Qatar Islamic Bank surged 3.9 percent after reporting a second-quarter net profit of \$62.6 million riyals (\$154.5 million); the 13.7 percent year-on-year advance beat the \$24.3 million riyals average forecast of analysts polled by Reuters. Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ) initially fell after Turkish conglomerate Anadolu Industry Holding decided to exercise a put option to sell CBQ the 25 percent of Turkey's Alternatifbank that it does not already own. But the bank, which was due to report quarterly earnings after the close, rose in late trade to end up 1.4 percent.

Qatar International Islamic Bank rose 2.0 percent after it said profit in the first half of this year edged up to 443 million riyals from 438 million riyals a year earlier. However, United Development fell 1.8 percent after it said first-half profit dropped to 332 million riyals from 557 million riyals. Saudi Arabia's stock market was dampened by some weak earnings. The Saudi stock index <.TASI lost 0.5 percent as Saudi Arabian Mining Co (Ma'aden) slid 3.9 percent. It posted a 51 percent year-on-year drop in quarterly net profit as sales revenues were hit by low commodity prices, although the profit was at the high end of analysts' estimates.

Saudi Airlines Catering fell 1.6 percent after announcing a 17 percent decline in quarterly profit. Al Rajhi Bank, the kingdom's second-largest lender by assets, reported a 5.7 percent rise in second-quarter net profit that was broadly in line with analysts' forecasts. Its shares fell 0.4 percent. Dubai's index fell 0.3 percent in a broad-based decline, although Emaar Properties added 0.7 percent. The shares began rising on Monday after a local consultancy report suggested the emirate's real estate market might recover in the second half of this year.

The Abu Dhabi index edged down 0.1 percent, but Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank gained 1.5 percent after slightly exceeding analysts'

forecasts with a 12.3 percent drop in second-quarter net profit. It earned 1.13 billion dirhams (\$307.7 million); analysts had forecast 1.07 billion dirhams. Egypt's index slipped 0.4 percent. Sentiment remains depressed by slow

economic growth and the country's hard currency shortage. The Egyptian arm of Emirates NBD said it was suspending use of debit and credit cards abroad to keep hard currency inside the bank. — Reuters

TURKISH AIRLINES RESUMES NORMAL FLIGHTS TO THE US

KUWAIT: Turkish Airlines media relations office announced that FAA removed the recent order of all airline carriers, regardless of the country of registry, who were prohibited from flying into the United States from Turkey either directly or via third country. Accordingly, all scheduled Turkish Airlines flights to the US resumed starting as of yesterday with Turkish Airlines Istanbul - NYC flight at 06:45 am. Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee Ilker Ayci

stated that; "Earlier today I had stated that we saw no reason for the ban as all precautions were in line with the norms. Following our recent report and dense meetings, FAA removed the ban as expected." Following the illegal failed coup attempt in Turkey, on July 16th 2016 at noon hours FAA had issued a ban of "All airline carriers, regardless of country of registry, are prohibited from flying into the United States from Turkey either directly or via third country."



EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

ASIAN COUNTRIES

Japanese Yen	2.872
Indian Rupees	4.517
Pakistani Rupees	2.895
Srilankan Rupees	2.083
Nepali Rupees	2.827
Singapore Dollar	225.810
Hongkong Dollar	39.096
Bangladesh Taka	3.865
Philippine Peso	6.485
Thai Baht	8.680

GCC COUNTRIES

Saudi Riyal	80.883
Qatari Riyal	83.317
ani Riyal	787.812
Bahraini Dinar	805.500
UAE Dirham	82.580

ARAB COUNTRIES

Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.950
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.530
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.218
Tunisian Dinar	138.110
Jordanian Dinar	427.970
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.021
Syrian Lira	2.0162
Morocco Dirham	31.447

EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES

US Dollar Transfer	303.150
Euro	337.100
Sterling Pound	403.190

Canadian dollar	235.270
Turkish lira	105.330
Swiss Franc	310.290
Australian Dollar	231.910
US Dollar Buying	301.950

GOLD

20 Gram	268.660
10 Gram	137.250
5 Gram	69.470

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	303.350
Canadian Dollar	233.935
Sterling Pound	401.710
Euro	337.005
Swiss Frank	299.150
Bahrain Dinar	801.930
UAE Dirhams	82.820
Qatari Riyals	84.035
Saudi Riyals	81.615
Jordanian Dinar	427.665
Egyptian Pound	34.064
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.083
Indian Rupees	4.511
Pakistani Rupees	2.890
Bangladesh Taka	3.862
Philippines Peso	6.471
Cyprus pound	159.865
Japanese Yen	3.960
Syrian Pound	2.400
Nepalese Rupees	3.820

Malaysian Ringgit	77.355
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.765
Thai Bhat	9.650
Turkish Lira	105.120

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
British Pound	0.394287	0.409287
Czech Korune	0.004384	0.016384
Danish Krone	0.040991	0.045991
Euro	0.031786	0.036986
Norwegian Krone	0.031786	0.036986
Romanian Leu	0.074681	0.074681
Slovakia	0.009039	0.019039
Swedish Krona	0.031366	0.036366
Swiss Franc	0.301598	0.312598
Turkish Lira	0.099566	0.109866

Australasia

Australian Dollar	0.221703	0.233703
New Zealand Dollar	0.208613	0.218113

America

Canadian Dollar	0.228640	0.237640
Georgina Lari	0.136895	0.136895
US Dollars	0.299000	0.304000
US Dollars Mint	0.299500	0.304000

Asia

Bangladesh Taka	0.003393	0.003977
Chinese Yuan	0.043974	0.047474

Hong Kong Dollar	0.037000	0.039750
Indian Rupee	0.004372	0.004782
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002788	0.002968
Kenyan Shilling	0.002984	0.002984
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.072364	0.078364
Nepalese Rupee	0.002858	0.003028
Pakistan Rupee	0.002726	0.003016
Philippine Peso	0.006377	0.006677
Sierra Leone	0.000052	0.000058
Singapore Dollar	0.219183	0.229183
South African Rand	0.015062	0.023562
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001676	0.002256
Taiwan	0.009358	0.009538
Thai Baht	0.008354	0.008904

Arab

Bahraini Dinar	0.797409	0.805909
Egyptian Pound	0.027114	0.032232
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000181	0.000241
Jordanian Dinar	0.424408	0.433408
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019337	0.043337
Nigerian Naira	0.000469	0.001104
Omani Riyal	0.780853	0.786533
Qatar Riyal	0.082443	0.083893
Saudi Riyal	0.079740	0.081040
Syrian Dinar	0.001285	0.001505
Tunisian Dinar	0.134034	0.142034
Turkish Lira	0.099566	0.109866
UAE Dirhams	0.081098	0.082798
Yemeni Riyal	0.001370	0.001450

National Bank of Kuwait

Financial Markets

Daily Report

At 02:00 PM Previous Day

الوطني

NBK

Global Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Dow Jones	18,516.55	18,533.05	16.50	▲	0.09
NASDAQ	5,079.59	5,055.79	26.20	▲	0.52
S&P 500	2,161.74	2,166.89	5.15	▲	0.24
Financial Times	6,695.42	6,668.03	27.39	▼	0.41
DAX	10,063.13	9,943.67	119.51	▼	1.19
CAC 40	4,357.74	4,311.47	46.27	▼	1.06
Swiss	8,161.60	8,087.65	73.95	▼	0.97
Nikkei 225	16,497.85	16,773.31	225.46	▲	1.37
Iopix	1,317.10	1,331.39	14.29	▲	1.08
Hang Seng	21,803.18	21,673.20	129.98	▼	0.60
Straits Times	2,928.76	2,919.54	9.22	▼	0.31

MENA Stock Indices

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait	5,380.45	5,370.83	9.62	▼	0.18
Saudi Arabia	6,681.97	6,652.54	29.43	▼	0.44
Dubai	3,535.20	3,526.16	9.04	▼	0.26
Abu Dhabi	4,586.05	4,583.41	2.64	▼	0.06
Bahrain	1,164.03	1,162.56	1.47	▼	0.13
Qatar	10,585.08	10,648.58	63.50	▲	0.60
Oman	5,847.77	5,839.28	8.49	▼	0.00
Lebanon	1,157.11	1,164.70	7.59	▲	0.66
Jordan	2,112.57	2,117.34	4.77	▲	0.23
Egypt	7,678.64	7,606.86	71.78	▼	0.29
Morocco	9,784.18	9,763.59	20.59	▼	0.21
Tunisia	5,379.65	5,374.46	5.19	▼	0.10

Global Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	Kuwaiti Dinar	Saudi Riyal	US Dollar	Euro	Sterling Pound	Swiss Franc	Japanese Yen	Australian Dollar
Kuwaiti Dinar		12.2930	3.2916	2.9767	2.4976	3.2350	349.18	4.3912
Saudi Riyal	0.08135		0.2670	0.2421	0.2032	0.2632	28.40	0.3572
US Dollar	0.30300	3.7346		0.9043	0.7500	0.9020	106.08	1.3340
Euro	0.33594	4.1297	1.1050		0.0393	1.0071	117.34	1.4762
Sterling Pound	0.40030	4.9210	1.3179	1.1915		1.2956	139.84	1.7585
Swiss Franc	0.30912	3.8000	1.0175	0.9199	0.7710		107.96	1.3574
Japanese Yen	0.00286	0.0352	0.0094	0.0085	0.0072	0.0093		0.0126
Australian Dollar	0.22773	2.7995	0.7496	0.6774	0.5607	0.7367	79.52	

MENA Currencies Exchange Rate

Currency	US Dollar	Kuwaiti Dollar	Saudi Riyal	Bahraini Dinar	Qatari Riyal	Omani Riyal	Umarates Dirham	Egyptian Pound
US Dollar		0.30300	3.7346	0.3745	3.6270	0.3032	3.6573	0.7700
Kuwaiti Dinar	3.2916		12.2930	1.2327	11.9300	1.2612	12.0385	20.8677
Saudi Riyal	0.2670	0.08135		0.1003	0.9712	0.1026	0.9793	2.3483
Bahraini Dinar	2.6702	0.11121	9.9722		9.6049	1.0231	9.7658	23.4179
Qatari Riyal	0.2757	0.08376	1.0297	0.1033		0.1056	1.0084	2.4180
Omani Riyal	2.6099	0.79290	9.7771	0.9774	9.6663		9.5753	22.8892
Umarates Dirham	0.2734	0.08307	1.0211	0.1024	0.9917	0.1040		2.3979
Egyptian Pound	0.1140	0.03464	0.4250	0.0427	0.4136	0.0437	0.4170	

Global Interest Rates

Currency	1 Week	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.00	1.19	1.44	1.63	1.94
US Dollar	0.43	0.40	0.49	1.00	5055.00
Euro	0.38	0.36	-0.30	-0.19	-0.06
Sterling Pound	0.40	0.40	0.57	0.61	0.83
Swiss Franc	0.81	0.80	-0.76	-0.68	-0.55
Australian Dollar	1.01	1.90	1.75	1.69	1.61
Canadian Dollar	0.00	0.07	0.88	1.02	1.11

Global Bond Yields

Country	2-Year	5-Year	10-Year	30-Year
United States	0.67	1.10	1.55	2.77
Europe	-0.67	-0.57	-0.04	0.49
United Kingdom	0.16	0.38	0.80	1.66

Commodities

Index	Previous Close	Last Price	Change	Daily Performance %	Yearly Performance %
Kuwait Oil	41.35	41.41	0.06	▲	0.15
Brent	45.31	45.47	0.11	▲	0.24
West Texas	45.78	45.18	0.10	▼	0.22
Gold	1328.39	1331.20	2.81	▲	0.21
Silver	20.02	19.97	0.05	▼	0.26

Sources: National Bank of Kuwait

Source: National Bank of Kuwait

YAHOO REPORTS ANOTHER BIG LOSS, WRITES DOWN TUMBLR VALUE

SAN FRANCISCO: Yahoo's latest earnings report leaves no doubt the internet company is stuck in a downward spiral. The company managed to beat Wall Street's limited expectations for revenue in the April-June quarter. But after subtracting commissions paid to its partners, Yahoo said its revenue fell 19 percent from a year earlier, while its loss widened to \$440 million. Yahoo also reported Monday that it's writing down \$482 million in charges related to the declining value of Tumblr, the social-blogging service that Yahoo acquired for \$1.1 billion in 2013.

Combined with an earlier write-down of \$230 million, that indicates Tumblr's value has plunged by almost two-thirds. What remains unclear is whether Yahoo will abort its long-running turnaround attempts and sell its operations in a move that would likely end the four-year reign of CEO Marissa Mayer. Mayer had little to say about a possible sale on Monday, as she released the latest in a succession of dismal earnings reports. She told investors the company is carefully evaluating bids but added, "We have no announcement today." The Sunnyvale, California, company began soliciting bids five months ago.

A decision may come soon, though. Monday was the deadline for final offers. The list of prospective buyers includes two telecommunications providers, Verizon Communications and AT&T Inc., which are hoping to broaden their array of digital services. Also in the running is a group led by Quicken Loans founder Dan Gilbert with the backing of billionaire investor Warren Buffett. Several private equity firms



WASHINGTON: Photo shows a billboard for the technology company Yahoo in Washington, DC. Yahoo said its loss in the second quarter widened to \$440 million from \$222 million a year earlier, while offering no definitive news on efforts to sell its core Internet business. — AFP

that specialize in buying troubled companies are also believed to be in the running.

Investors have been betting a deal will get done, partly because Yahoo recently added a sale proponent,

Jeffrey Smith, and three of his allies to its 11-member board. It's the main reason that Yahoo's stock has climbed 14 percent so far this year, even as the company's fortunes have faltered. Yahoo shares rose 22

cents, or half of one percent, in after-hours trading Monday after closing at \$37.95. Analysts have estimated Yahoo will fetch \$4 billion to \$8 billion for a lineup that includes its email service and popular sections devoted to news, sports and finance. Most analysts expect the offers to come in the middle of the projected range.

Yahoo's recent financial performance is unlikely to drive the bidding upward. In the most telling sign of the company's deterioration, Yahoo's net revenue - after subtracting ad commissions - fell from slightly more than \$1 billion a year ago to \$842 million in the latest quarter. That's the steepest decline yet under Mayer. Mayer has cut spending and staff at the company, which now has about 8,800 employees. But Yahoo's loss widened to \$440 million and amounted to 46 cents a share, compared with a loss of \$22 million, or 2 cents a share, a year ago. After adjusting for one-time charges, Yahoo said it earned 9 cents a share in the latest quarter - short of the 10 cents that analysts surveyed by FactSet were expecting.

The eroding revenue comes as advertisers have been pouring more money into digital marketing as consumers spend more time living their lives online. Most of the advertising, though, has been flowing to internet search leader Google and social networking leader Facebook Inc. If Yahoo jettisons its struggling internet operations, it will still retain prized stakes in Yahoo Japan and Chinese e-commerce leader Alibaba Group. Yahoo's investment in Alibaba alone is currently worth \$32 billion, before taxes. — AP

News

in brief

Saudi British Bank's net profit edges up

DUBAI: Saudi British Bank (SABB), the kingdom's fifth-largest bank by assets, posted a 1.2 percent increase in its second-quarter net profit yesterday, in line with analyst forecasts as earnings from special commissions rose. The bank, an affiliate of HSBC Holdings, said it made 1.15 billion riyals (\$306.6 million) in the three months ending June 30, compared with 1.14 billion riyals in the same period a year earlier, according to a bourse filing. Four analysts surveyed by Reuters on average expected the bank to post a net profit of 1.11 billion riyals for the quarter. The main driver for the earnings gain was a 10.8 percent increase in profits from special commissions to 1.18 billion riyals, which helped boost total operating income by 5.1 percent. This helped to offset a 7.1 percent jump in total operating expenses, where a reduction in impairments for bad loans was overshadowed by higher salaries. Saudi companies issue brief earnings statements early in the reporting period before publishing more detailed results later.

British inflation rate climbs to 0.5 percent

LONDON: Britain's annual inflation rate rose last month from May, official data showed yesterday, and faces further gains as a weak pound caused by the Brexit vote raises import prices. The 12-month Consumer Price Index rose by 0.5 percent in June, the Office for National Statistics said in a statement. CPI had risen by 0.3 percent in the year to May, the ONS added. "Rises in air fares, prices for motor fuels and a variety of recreational and cultural goods and services were the main contributors to the increase in the rate," the ONS said. "These upward pressures were partially offset by falls in the price of furniture and furnishings and accommodation services." Howard Archer, chief UK economist at IHS Markit, said the pound's weakness appeared "set to increasingly feed through over the coming months to markedly push inflation higher as it raises prices for imported goods and services, oil and commodities". The pound slumped to 31-year lows against the dollar after Britain voted on June 23 to exit the European Union. The currency has since recovered slightly.

Goldman Sachs earnings jump on lower expenses

NEW YORK: Goldman Sachs reported a big jump in second-quarter earnings yesterday as a decline in expenses more than compensated for sluggish activity in merger advising and some other areas. Earnings jumped 78.4 percent to \$1.6 billion, while revenues fell 12.5 percent to \$7.9 billion. The results for the big US investment bank reflected gains from lower expenses for staff pay and for mortgage-related litigation compared with the year-ago period. Total staff on the bank's payroll decreased five percent compared with the year-ago period. Revenues were down for financial advisory services due to a decline in advising for mergers and acquisitions. Revenues for equity underwriting fell sharply, but rose for debt underwriting as some companies took advantage of low interest rates to refinance. "Despite the uncertainties created by Brexit, we achieved solid results by continuing to serve our clients across our diversified franchise and by managing our business efficiently," said chief executive Lloyd Blankfein. Results translated into \$3.72 per share, compared with \$3.00 expected by analysts.

Qatari bank CBQ misses profit estimates - 62.9%

DUBAI: Commercial Bank of Qatar (CBQ), the Gulf Arab state's third-largest lender by assets, posted a 62.9 percent slump in second-quarter net attributable profit yesterday, missing analysts' forecasts. The bank earned a net profit attributable to equity holders of 212.3 million riyals (\$58.3 million) in the three months to June 30, it said in a statement. That compares with a profit of 572.3 million riyals in the same period a year earlier. The average of five analysts quoted by Reuters had forecast CBQ would make a quarterly profit of 339.5 million riyals. CBQ posted a 64.7 percent drop in net profit for the period, falling to 208.2 million riyals, from 589.1 million riyals in the three months to June 30, 2015.

Nigeria pipeline bombed causing 'massive spills'

LAGOS: Militants bombed a state-run oil pipeline in southern Nigeria Monday causing massive spills, in the latest attack on the country's oil infrastructure, said an industry official. "The pipeline is operated by the Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC) at Batan near Warri. It was blown up early yesterday (Monday)," a senior official of a major oil firm said yesterday. PPMC is a subsidiary of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, which runs a joint venture with firms such as Anglo-Dutch giant Shell, US firms Chevron and Exxon, Italy's Eni and France's Total. The official, who asked not to be identified, said the pipeline was repaired only recently after it was bombed last month. The latest attack had caused "massive spills of crude in the area", said the official who called on the authorities to launch a clean-up.

BREXIT WORRIES PUSH GERMAN INVESTOR MORALE TO 'LOWEST' INVESTOR MORALE HIT BY BRITAIN'S 'LEAVE' VOTE

BERLIN: Unease about Britain's EU farewell sent the mood among German investors plunging in July to its lowest since November 2012, according to the first major sentiment snapshot of the post-Brexit era in Europe's largest economy. The Mannheim-based ZEW institute said yesterday its economic sentiment index sank to -6.8 points in July from 19.2 in June. That reading compared with a Reuters consensus of 9.0 and was lower than any of the economists polled had predicted.

"Uncertainty about the vote's consequences for the German economy is largely responsible for the substantial decline in economic sentiment," ZEW President Achim Wambach said. The plunge in morale to a level not seen since the euro zone was in the throes of economic crisis prompted some concerns that German growth could weaken at a time when the traditionally export-oriented economy is already having to increasingly rely on domestic demand. Worries about the stability of the banking and financial system following the 'Leave' vote in the June 23 referendum in Europe's main financial centre could also take their toll on Germany, Wambach said.

The ZEW index was based on a survey of 220 analysts and investors conducted from July 4 to 18, giving participants time to make an initial assessment of the impact Brexit could have. Britain is Germany's fifth-biggest trading partner for goods and the German chamber of commerce has cut its forecasts for exports there, while the VDMA engineering association expects Brexit uncertainty to reduce demand for German goods. The ZEW separate gauge of current conditions fell to 49.8 points from 54.5 in June - also below the Reuters consensus forecast for a reading of 51.8.

Overdone?

A broader take on fallout from Brexit will emerge on Wednesday, when euro zone con-



FROYELLES: A French farmer harvests flax with a combine in Froyelles, northern France. Flax represents less than 1 percent of the world textile fibre, but 80 percent of the production comes from Europe. France is the world first producer of flax and 80 percent of the fibre is sold in Asia. — AFP

sumer confidence data is due. Economists polled by Reuters have forecast a decline. Florian Hense, economist at Berenberg in London, said while post-Brexit market movements had been "relatively orderly" so far, the weak ZEW survey would worry policymakers at the European Central Bank.

President Mario Draghi would probably "take a dovish tone" at the bank's news conference after its rate-setting meeting tomorrow, Hense said. But he also cautioned that

sentiment data could "overreact to uncertainty more than hard economic data", and the euro zone economy should emerge relatively unscathed "as long as the contagion risk is contained".

Thomas Gitzel, economist at VP Bank, agreed yesterday's headline ZEW reading might be disproportionate.

It was yet to be seen whether the German economy would be hit hard by Brexit this year and the indicator could rise again next

month. "It's conceivable that the German economy will get off lightly," he said. The Economy Ministry in Berlin has expressed concern about increasing economic risks for Germany in view of Brexit but has declared Europe's economic powerhouse is still in good shape while the Bundesbank has said for now it only sees a limited near-term impact. A survey by Frankfurt-based Sentix had already shown sentiment and expectations in Germany falling in July. — Reuters

SOFTBANK PLUNGES AFTER \$32 BILLION ARM PURCHASE

TOKYO: SoftBank plunged more than 10 percent yesterday as investors gave the thumbs down to the Japanese mobile giant's whopping \$32 billion purchase of British iPhone chip designer ARM Holdings. The sharp drop bucked an upward trend in the broader market after a public holiday, with the benchmark index rising for the sixth straight session. SoftBank dropped 10.32 percent to 5,387 yen after the £24.3 billion (\$32 billion) deal was announced Monday - meaning it lost around \$7 billion in market value.

The firm said it would offer £17 for each ARM share, a premium of around 43 percent compared with Friday's closing price, sending ARM rocketing more than 40 percent in London. The Japanese market was closed Monday. But Softbank's stock took a pummeling at the open as the deal aggravated concerns about the Japanese firm's balance sheet after a string of earlier acquisitions - including its 2013 purchase of still-unprofitable US mobile giant Sprint. SoftBank has been selling off some assets, including gamemaker Supercell and trimming its investment in China e-commerce company Alibaba to raise cash. But it had more than \$100 billion in debt at the end of March.



TOKYO: File photo shows Masayoshi Son, president of Japan's telecom and internet group SoftBank Group, speaking during a press conference in Tokyo. — AFP

"The ARM deal caused (the shares plunge), as the price was rather expensive which led to concerns over interest-bearing debt and a possible downgrading of SoftBank's credit rating," Hiroaki Hiwata, strategist at Toyo Securities said. The all-cash offer was unanimously backed by ARM management, and British Prime Minister Theresa May declared that the record Asian investment proved "Britain is open for business", just weeks after the country voted to leave the European Union. ARM develops and licenses technology central to digital electronic devices, including those made for Apple and South Korea's Samsung.

'Highly inconsistent'

Analysts said a sharp plunge in the pound, in particular against the dollar, since the referendum result is making British companies attractive for foreign groups. Flamboyant SoftBank founder Masayoshi Son has led the firm on a string of acquisitions big and small, with many showing themselves to be ahead of their time, including the firm's early investment in Alibaba. The company - often described as China's equivalent to eBay - dominates online commerce in the country.

But SoftBank's ARM deal left some analysts scratching their heads, as it lay well outside its previous investments. "This is not internet, this is not e-commerce, this is more on the chip design licensing which is completely divergent from (SoftBank's previous deals) so it is highly inconsistent with what it has done so far," Atul Goyal, senior equities analyst at Jefferies, told Bloomberg TV.

"Masayoshi Son is someone who has made things work in the long term. So, on a very long term, it could still make sense but in the near to medium term for most shareholders it does not seem to make the sense."

Despite the tumble, the wider market ended higher with the Nikkei 225 index up 1.37 percent, or 225.46 points, at 16,723.31. The broader Topix index of all first-section shares increased 1.08 percent, or 14.29 points, to finish at 1,331.39. A broadly weaker yen helped exporters. The dollar was at 105.92 yen in Tokyo, against 106.14 yen in New York but well up from the levels around 100 yen seen at the start of the month. Nintendo soared 14.36 percent to 31,770 yen, becoming more valuable than Sony. Its shares have doubled since July 6 at the time of the release of the wildly popular Pokemon Go smartphone game. — AFP

EU SLAPS RECORD 3 BILLION EURO FINE ON TRUCK CARTEL

BRUSSELS: The EU slapped a record fine of nearly three billion euros on Europe's biggest truckmakers, accusing them of colluding to fix prices and dodge the costs of stricter pollution rules. Senior managers from Daimler, DAF, Iveco, MAN and Volvo/Renault hatched the plan in a "cosy" Brussels hotel and kept it going for 14 years, EU Competition Commissioner Margrethe Vestager said.

"We are imposing the highest fine ever for a single cartel, but there are good reasons for this," Vestager told a press conference. "In particular this cartel involves a very large market and continued for a very long time." Germany's MAN tipped off the European Commission about the collusion at the highest level, triggering an investigation that began with raids on large truck manufacturers in 2011. The five manufacturers account for nine out of every 10 trucks sold in Europe, meaning that the case had a major bearing on the operation of the free market in the EU, Vestager said.

"Our investigations showed that a meeting in Brussels was the start of this long-lasting truck cartel," Vestager said. "The first meeting... was organized right here in January 1997 in what seems to be a cosy hotel and it was the beginning of a 14-year collusion," she said, adding that "senior managers" ran the cartel until 2004 when it was organized at a lower level. The commission's previous record of a 1.5-billion-euro (\$1.7 billion) fine dates back to 2012 when seven TV and computer screen makers, including LG Electronics and Philips, were found guilty of running a decade-long price-fixing scheme.

The charge sheet includes accusations of price-fixing, but also alleges the existence of a secret agreement by the companies to delay and then pass on the costs of anti-pollution technology to consumers. This accusation is particularly embarrassing in the wake of revelations last year of pollution test cheating by Volkswagen that has rocked the auto industry. The commission said its investigation found no connection to the Volkswagen case.

Germany's Daimler received the biggest fine of 1 billion euros, followed by DAF of the Netherlands at just above 750 million euros. The fines were in fact reduced from original estimations due to the companies' cooperation and "take into consideration turnover of companies, length and size of the market," Vestager said. — AFP

RALLY FATIGUE SAPS STOCKS BUT GOLDMAN PROVIDES HOPE

EUROPE FALLS 1% AFTER GERMAN, UK, ECB DATA

LONDON: World shares dipped for only the second time in nine days yesterday, sapped by a drop in oil prices and data that showed Britain's vote to quit the European Union has done some serious damage to German economic confidence. European stocks fell 1 percent as a slide back below \$47 a barrel for oil sent commodity firms down 1.5 percent. Investors winced as the closely followed ZEW German sentiment indicator plunged to its lowest level since late 2012 in its first post-Brexit reading.

Wall Street, which is in the thick of the second-

quarter earnings season, was expected to ease back from Monday's latest record high when it reopens. Housing market data is in focus although a leap of nearly 80 percent in Goldman Sachs' quarterly profit is likely to hog the spotlight. The IMF is also due to update its World Economic Outlook in Washington later, which will set the tone for a meeting of the world's top 20 economies (G20) in China later in the week. Rally fatigue had already set in overnight in Asia where, with the exception of Tokyo, stocks had failed to build on Wall Street's record grind higher.

The safe-haven yen, government bonds and gold had also begun to make ground again, against background murmurings of more central bank stimulus. Turkey's central bank cut its interest rates for a fifth straight month, sending the lira a shade lower as the dust continued to settle after Friday's failed coup attempt. The Australian dollar fell 1 percent to a 11-day low and the New Zealand dollar hit a three-week trough of \$0.7014, as investors ramped up bets that both their central banks could cut interest rates too.

Australian central bank meeting minutes left the door open for a move in August, while New Zealand's Reserve Bank took steps to cool its red hot housing market, a move traders suspected could then give it the necessary cover to chop rates. "The Aussie and Kiwi dollar are providing a bit of interest but the rest of the market is pretty moribund," said Saxo Bank head of FX strategy John Hardy, adding investors were now waiting for clearer signals on the health of the global economy.

Ahead of the weekend G20 meeting, the yuan nudged back up, having been allowed to drop below the psychologically important 6.7 per dollar for the first time in over five years on Monday. Sterling, one of the biggest FX market movers in recent weeks, barely budged meanwhile after British inflation rose more than expected in June thanks to a surge in airfares. Prices are expected to continue to rise follow the post-Brexit slump in the pound.

Crude moves

Pressure remained on crude oil prices after a number of heavy falls over the last month, as rising stockpiles of crude and refined fuel intensified fears of another major supply glut. Brent crude was 0.2 percent lower at \$46.86 a barrel, after shedding 1.4 percent the previous session. US crude was also down 0.2 percent at \$45.16, after dropping 1.6 percent overnight. "Traders and investors are torn which way

prices are going to break. It's a knife edge between optimism and pessimism," said Ben Le Brun, market analyst at Sydney's OptionsExpress.

In bond markets, benchmark US Treasury and German Bund yields, which move inversely to prices, were easing again as the appetite for more rewarding but riskier assets like stocks faded. Investors are waiting to see what signals the stimulus-happy European Central Bank sends at a meeting on Thursday. Morgan Stanley meanwhile predicted Treasury yields will be back at record lows again by the end of the year. Bucking the wider trend among the big bourses, Japan's Nikkei ended up 1.4 percent as it played catch-up to stimulus speculation after a public holiday on Monday.

Sources told Reuters that Japanese policymakers will not go as far as funding government spending through direct debt monetization, but might pursue a mix of aggressive fiscal and monetary expansion to try and lift the economy. The dollar was on the climb again ahead of US trading. It hit a four-month high against a basket of six other major currencies as it squeezed up to 106.09 yen and \$1.3138 per pound after a mostly subdued morning. The euro in contrast was firmer against the dollar at \$1.1028. Ahead of the ECB's meeting tomorrow its published lending data showed credit demand is expected to continue to creep up. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report



Tuesday 19 July 2016

Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low
Price index	▼ -9.62	5,370.83	5,380.45	5,383.41	5,370.12
Weighted Index	▼ -2.50	348.51	351.01	352.14	348.51
KSX 15	▼ -6.02	800.53	806.55	810.36	800.53

Volume	60,952,072
Value (KWD)	7,861,854
Number of Trades	1,789

Security	Trades						
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	91	91	15000	1,365	3	91	▲ 5.0
IKARUS	39.0	39.0	64,414	2,512	6	39.0	▼ -0.5
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	— 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	780	— 0.0
ENERGYH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	47.0	— 0.0
GPI	40.0	39.5	60,000	2,373	4	40.0	— 0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			139,414	6,250	13	773.16	▲ 4.36

KFOUC	166	164	75,000	12,400	9	166	— 0.0
BPCC	500	495	148,015	73,956	11	495	— 0.0
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	— 0.0
ALQURAIN	196	190	75,402	14,507	33	190	▼ -4.0
Basic Materials			298,417	100,863	53	954.63	▼ -5.42

KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	— 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	— 0.0
CABLE	385	385	2,600	1,001	1	385	— 0.0
SHIP	164	158	80,348	12,866	21	164	▲ 6.0
PCEM	940	940	402	378	1	940	— 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	— 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	59	— 0.0
AGICO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	255	— 0.0
GMCM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	250	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	140	— 0.0
KBMMC	230	230	255	59	1	230	▼ -10.0
NICBM	204	204	110	22	1	204	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	66	63	4,698,421	302,299	87	63	▲ 1.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	— 0.0
GYPSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0
SALBOOKH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	67	— 0.0
AGLTY	480	475	122,725	58,402	16	475	▼ -5.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0
CLEANING	39.0	39.0	21,700	846	3	39.0	— 0.0
KGIL	45.5	45.5	500	23	1	45.5	▲ 0.5
KPCPC	174	174	1,158	201	1	174	▼ -2.0
HUMANISOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,400	— 0.0
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	— 0.0
SAFVAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	— 0.0
GFC	30.5	29.0	6,656	197	7	29.0	▼ -2.0
MAYADEEN	26.5	26.0	1,668,060	43,372	29	26.5	— 0.0
CGC	650	650	6,600	4,290	2	650	▼ -40.0
MTCC	60	59	26,000	1,535	2	60	▲ 1.0
UPAC	690	690	35,000	24,150	1	690	— 0.0
ALAFCO	206	206	8,100	1,669	4	206	▲ 4.0
MUBARRAN	61	58	112,190	6,619	6	61	▲ 2.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	— 0.0
SCCM	80	80	410,000	32,800	5	80	▼ -1.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0
RCWM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0
FCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	91	— 0.0
SPEC	77	77	1,000	77	1	77	▲ 4.0
Industrials			7,201,825	490,805	190	1055.62	▼ -0.65

KSH	160	160	100	16	1	160	▲ 10.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0
PAPCO	108	108	100	11	1	108	▲ 8.0
CATTL	210	210	5,000	1,050	1	210	▼ -4.0
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	— 0.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	— 0.0
FOOD	2,480	2,460	28,625	70,918	7	2,460	— 0.0
Consumer Goods			33,825	71,994	10	1196.17	▲ 16.00

MHC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	200	— 0
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0
YIACO	230	210	20,569	4,330	3	230	▲ 10
Health Care			20,569	4,330	3	1027.79	▲ 7.19

KCIN	1,580	1,580	1,000	1,580	2	1,580	▼ -100
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0
SULTAN	60	58	415,870	24,553	21	58	— 0
CABLETV	17.5	17.5	293	5	1	17.5	▼ -3
EYAS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	385	— 0
IFAHR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	198	— 0
OULAFUEL	110	108	15,559	1,691	18	110	— 0
MUNTAZAHAT	89	89	40,000	3,560	3	89	▲ 1
JAZEERA	900	880	365,370	326,376	21	890	▼ -10
SOOR	114	112	6,792	765	11	112	▲ 2
FUTUREKID	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0
ALRAI	162	156	120,000	19,336	8	162	▲ 8
ZIMAH	42.5	41.5	1,440,396	60,444	46	42.0	▼ -1
UFIG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	— 0
Mezzan	1,100	1,060	504,425	545,317	25	1,100	▲ 20
Consumer Services			2,909,705	983,627	156	976.83	▼ -5.32

ZAIN	330	320	3,789,875	1,224,523	135	325	▼ -5
OOREDOO	1,100	1,100	52	57	1	1,100	▼ -40
HITSTELEC	40.0	39.0	1,400,350	54,903	19	39.0	▼ -1
VIVA	940	930	97,585	91,146	59	930	▼ -10
Telecommunications			5,287,862	1,370,630	214	596.32	▼ -9.62

NBK	600	590	2,115,852	1,253,282	96	590	— 0
GBK	234	232	250,656	58,599	14	232	▼ -2
CBK	405	380	15,097	5,746	2	380	— 0
ABK	320	320	15,954	5,105	1	320	▼ -10
ALMUTAHED	400	395	118,366	47,312	13	395	▼ -5
KIB	188	186	975,739	181,820	29	186	▼ -4
BURG	325	320	305,775	99,190	26	325	— 0
KFIN	455	445	2,909,232	1,309,716	81	445	▼ -10
BOUBAYAN	385	380	128,977	49,387	26	380	— 0
AUB	192	190	315,534	60,522	15	190	— 0
ITHMR	35.0	34.5	208,000	7,177	7	35.0	— 0
WARBABANK	172	170	232,677	39,880	58	172	▲ 2
Banks			7,591,859	3,117,737	368	782.90	▼ -5.46

KINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	290	— 0
GINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	710	— 0
AINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	465	— 0
WINS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	104	— 0
KUWAITRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0
FTI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	50	— 0
WETHAQ	30.5	30.5	500	15	1	30.5	▲ 0.5
BKIKWT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	355	— 0
Insurance			500	15	1	1025.82	▲ 1.92

Security	Trades						
	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
SOKOUK	34.5	34.0	73238	2,490	4	34.0	— 0.0
KRE	53	52	1,026,425	54,386	17	52	▼ -2.0
URC	100	99	45,495	4,505	13	100	▼ -2.0
NRE	88	85	862,224	73,550	42	85	— 0.0
SRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	380	— 0.0
TAM	550	550	1,745	960	1	550	— 0.0
AREEC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	132	— 0.0
MASSALEH	41.0	41.0	70,000	2,870	5	41.0	▼ -2.5
ARABREC	32.0	32.0	662,000	21,184	10	32.0	▼ -1.0
ERESCO	50	49.0	707,500	34,998	9	50	— 0.0
MBANEE	770	760	280,519	215,340	32	760	▼ -10.0
INJAZZAT	70	69	40,280	2,795	9	70	▼ -1.0
INVESTORS	22.0	21.5	1,904,058	40,940	20	21.5	— 0.0
IRC	30.0	29.0	386,110	11,256	16	30.0	— 0.0

ALTUJARIA	76	75	166,960	12,524	11	75	▼	-1.0
SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	—	0.0
AAYANRE	64	64	500	32	1	64	▼	-1.0
AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	—	0.0
ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	23.0	—	0.0
MAZAYA	116	114	203,425	23,578	5	114	▼	-4.0
ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	—	0.0
THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	—	0.0
TIJARA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	39.0	—	0.0
TAAMEER	21.5	21.5	150,000	3,225	2	21.5	—	0.0
ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	—	0.0
ARGAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	152	—	0.0
ABYAR	23.0	22.5	115,000	2,620	3	23.0	—	0.0
MUNSHAAT	54	53	91,500	4,910	4	53	▼	-1.0
FIRSTDUBAI	65	65	246,709	16,036	10	65	—	0.0
KBT	39.0	39.0	95,000	3,705	4	39.0	—	0.0
REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	166	—	0.0
MENA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	20.0	—	0.0
ALMUDON	29.0	28.5	54,000	1,540	6	28.5	▼	-0.5
MARAKEZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	21.0	—	0.0
REMAL	34.0	34.0	1,000	34	1	34.0	▲	0.5
AWJ	67	67	1,323	89	1	67	▼	-5.0
Real Estate			7,185,011	533,565	226	831.08	▼	-6.9%

MENA MARKETS MIXED POST-BREXIT

Markaz Monthly Market Research Report

KUWAIT: Kuwait Financial Centre ‘Markaz’ recently released its Monthly Market Research report. In this report, Markaz examines and analyzes the performance of equity markets in the MENA region as well as the global equity markets for the month of June. The report stated that June was a mixed month for MENA indices, with most markets ending the month in red, barring Abu Dhabi (5.8%), Qatar (3.6%), Saudi Arabia (0.8%) and Bahrain (0.6%).

Trading activity was relatively quiet as the month of Ramadan witnessed a lull, and anticipation regarding the Brexit outcome led to investors observing from the sidelines. Kuwait price and weighted index ended the month in red, with the former losing 0.7%, and the latter declining 1.7%, and Kuwait stock market’s weak performance continued in the second quarter of 2016, as the country’s trade surplus continued to be squeezed by low oil price. Egypt was the worst performer in June, losing 6.5% over previous month’s close, as the currency crisis continues to plague the country.

S&P GCC rose marginally by 1.1% in June, to close at 91 points. Global investor reaction to the Brexit outcome had unnerved GCC investors, and speculation over a possible contagion in Europe had led to panic driven trading in the last two weeks of June. Investors have become more risk averse as uncertainty continues to plague global markets. In terms of valuation, P/E of Morocco (16.8x), Jordan (14.2x) and Kuwait (13.5x) markets were the premium markets in the MENA region, while the markets of Dubai (8.2x), Bahrain (9.2x), and Egypt (9.6x) were the discount markets.

Blue Chips had a mixed June, with National Bank of Abu Dhabi (UAE) and Saudi Electric Co. (SEC) end-

ing the month at the top, gaining 23.8% and 18.3%, respectively. National Bank of Kuwait and Kingdom Holdings (KSA) witnessed a slump, losing 6.3% each in June. The boards of directors at National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank have recommended merging the two lenders, which will create a regional powerhouse with \$175bn in assets.

as 50 megawatts using photo-voltaic technology, which produces power directly for solar cells.

Brexit and the GCC

The outcome of the vote and the resultant decision of Britain to leave the European Union (EU) caught the financial markets by surprise. The broad

tourism and real estate witnessed a fall as British pound lost 7.2% in value against UAE Dirham.

Impact on oil would be minimal since Britain consumes only 1.6% of global consumption and ranks 15 among global consumers. The more serious impact would be if there is contagion to the rest of the European Union. Imports from the UK will become cheaper, such as cars, capital equipment etc. Sovereign Wealth Funds (SWFs) and HNIs in GCC are known to invest heavily in London’s real estate. Investors from the UAE accounted for more than 20% of buy-to-let property sales in the UK in 2015.

On the other hand, a steep fall in real estate prices in Britain (especially London) may also see fresh investments from GCC into the country because of bottom fishing. GCC region has been in talks with EU region for over 25 years and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the regions is still pending. Having lost of access to EU, Britain to sustain its exports would be aggressive to sign bilateral trade deals. This presents an opportunity for GCC regions, especially Dubai, as it acts as a trading hub for MENA region as well as a gateway for African continent.

Oil market review

Brent crude remained flat in the month of June, closing at USD 50 per barrel; marginally lower than May’s close (-0.02%). Earlier in the month, Brent crude dropped down to a seven-week low of USD 47.16 per barrel, as the aftershocks of the Brexit decision continued to ripple through the financial markets. Speculation regarding other EU members following suit affected markets worldwide, but this did not prevent oil prices registering their biggest quarterly gain (25.5%) in seven years.

MENA Market Trends – June 2016								
Index	M. Cap (USD Bn)	Last close	2015 %	Jun’16 %	YTD %	S&P correlation*	P/E TTM	Div. Yield
S&P Pan Arab								
LargeMid Index	109.7	135	-17.0	1.1	-0.3	0.164	9.94	5.13
Saudi Arabia	397.7	6,500	-17.1	0.8	-6.0	0.176	11.87	4.60
Qatar	122.0	9,885	-15.1	3.6	-5.2	0.113	13.32	4.08
Abu Dhabi	119.1	4,498	-4.9	5.8	4.4	0.118	10.66	5.56
Kuwait Price	79.2	5,365	-14.1	-0.7	-4.5	0.078	13.45	4.05
Kuwait Wt.ed	79.2	351	-13.0	-1.7	-7.9	0.045	13.45	4.05
Dubai	79.7	3,311	-16.5	-0.1	5.1	0.121	8.16	4.82
Egypt	42.3	640	-24.4	-6.5	1.5	0.077	9.63	2.96
Morocco	49.0	9,506	-7.2	-2.6	6.5	-0.022	16.83	4.37
Jordan	22.1	3,946	-0.2	-1.5	-6.7	0.010	14.24	4.74
Bahrain	17.2	1,118	-14.8	0.6	-8.0	0.026	9.20	4.44
Oman	16.4	5,777	-14.8	-0.6	6.9	0.097	9.99	6.43

Source: Reuters, Zawya, * - 3-year daily return correlation

The merger is part of Abu Dhabi’s plan to create a bank that could compete in size with regional giants, such as Qatar National Bank. Saudi Arabia’s state electricity utility, SEC, sought bids from international developers to build two solar-power plants in the kingdom’s northern region. The plants will each generate as much

sell-off across continents and asset classes could be because of misplaced initial expectations for a “Remain” victory.GCC markets remained relatively unscathed except for UAE markets; Dubai index lost 3.3% while Abu Dhabi lost 1.8%. Dubai being largely a service economy driven by trade & services,

GM CHINA HAS HEAD-START IN GROWING NO-FRILLS CAR MARKET

BAOJUN SALES LIKELY TO TOTAL 600,000 CARS THIS YEAR

LIUZHOU: General Motors has enjoyed first-mover advantage in China’s cheap, no-frills car market as foreign rivals focused on selling higher-end cars in the country’s wealthier megacities. But now, with sales growth in Beijing and the biggest cities stalling, other global car makers are looking more closely at selling affordable, basic cars in smaller cities and rural areas where local brands such as Geely and Great Wall Motor, and GM, dominate.

GM has been almost alone among the big foreign car makers to see the potential for selling passenger cars to the developing so-called tier-three, -four and -five cities where buyers can now afford to upgrade from noisier, uncomfortable, rear-wheel drive vans. It estimated several years ago that China’s entry car segment could grow to 7 million cars a year - some way bigger than Japan’s entire autos market.

GM’s China chief Matt Tsien said some automakers are seeing “negative growth” in some of China’s bigger cities. “But when you go into tier-three and -four cities, we saw double-digit growth for the whole of last year. It’s still growing at double-digits this year and will continue,” he said. GM launched its low-end Baojun brand in 2011, catering to the needs of rural and smaller city Chinese, often buying their first car. This was no accident, Tsien says, as GM aimed to be in all corners of China, “a market of many markets,” from the get-go. Baojun looks on track to sell more than 600,000 vehicles this year.

Others launched basic brands around the same time, but for most this was a half-hearted effort in part to meet a Chinese government requirement that they set up brands with local partners. After several years, BMW, Toyota Motor and Honda Motor have each launched just one

or two models. That is now changing. Nissan Motor China chief Jun Seki told Reuters in April the company is putting more effort into its Venucia brand, with some big design changes. Nissan launched Venucia in 2012 with its China partner, but mainly sold retired Nissan models with few significant changes as ‘new’ Venucia cars. It sold 122,000 cars last year.

Volkswagen plans to launch budget cars in the 80,000-100,000 yuan (\$12,000-\$15,000) bracket, including two SUVs, by 2018-19. “They will be built in China and very possibly under its own brand,” VW said in a statement. “Global automakers have largely focused on more expensive segments instead of the no-frills market that local Chinese brands have targeted,” said James Chao, Asia-Pacific managing director at consultant IHS. “Now, the lower-cost market is taking off and some global makers are finding their more premium products poorly positioned for this growth shift. And the worse news is that their product pipelines for the no-frills market is, with only a few exceptions, empty.”

Front-seat view

Baojun’s inception owed much, Tsien says, to the 2002 creation of SAIC-GM-Wuling Auto (SGMW), a venture between GM, SAIC Motor and Guangxi Automobile Group, formerly Wuling. Headquartered in the southern city of Liuzhou, SGMW gave GM a front-seat view of China’s smaller, lower-tier cities, largely overlooked by mainstream rivals. “In the 2000s, all the action was in tier-one and tier-two cities like Beijing and Shanghai where growth was mostly double digit,” Tsien said. “But because of SGMW ... we had a window into tier-three, -four and -five cities. That helped convince us Baojun was a

genuine play.” GM used existing technologies for its Baojun brand, but, unlike its rivals, it gave them a China makeover, such as beefing up suspension and axles to make them more durable for poorer road conditions.

“Our design is a little conservative, but we’re creating a certain fundamental base - a root we can build on,” says design chief Steve Eum, a GM veteran. Baojun now offers six models including a multipurpose minivan and sport-utility vehicle starting from 61,000 yuan and 78,000 yuan, respectively. A hatchback will be launched this year. Gustavo Cespedes, SGMW executive vice president, says Baojun is profitable enough to fund growth on its own, without relying on GM, SAIC or Guangxi Auto for capital. “We have aggressive growth plans (and) can fund our own growth, while providing good returns for all the shareholders,” he told Reuters.

Pet project

Fuelling that growth are customers like 37-year-old Zhang Tao, a pet shop owner in Linyi, a lower-tier city in Shandong province. In 2010, Zhang quit his low-paying factory job and took a chance on opening a pet shop - just in time to ride China’s domestic pet boom. Within two years, and with a second child on the way, Zhang and his wife upgraded from their Suzuki minicar to a Wuling commercial microvan, swayed by its popularity among his friends. With his annual net income now topping 100,000 yuan, he last year traded in his Wuling for a new Baojun minivan. “My business does very well these days ... I can take my two sons, my wife, and even my parents on family outings, all sitting comfortably in this Baojun van,” he said. — Reuters



SINGAPORE: A Singapore Airlines Airbus A380 passenger aircraft takes off from Changi international airport as the Singapore city skyline is seen yesterday. — AFP

MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE TEAM UP ON BULLET-TRAIN PROJECT

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia and Singapore signed an agreement yesterday to pursue an ambitious high-speed rail link touted as a first for Southeast Asia that would knit the historically fractious neighbors more closely together. The 350-kilometre bullet-train line from the regional financial hub of Singapore to Malaysia’s capital Kuala Lumpur is expected to slash travel times to 90 minutes from the five or more hours by road today. The price tag is not yet known but analyst estimates have been as high as \$15 billion, a potential bonanza for foreign railway contractors and other businesses expected to feed off development spurred by the project.

At a meeting in Malaysia’s administrative capital Putrajaya, officials from each side signed a non-binding memorandum to pursue the project, which paves the way for detailed talks and a call for international tenders. Authorities hope to get trains rolling by 2026. The signing was overseen by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and his Singapore counterpart Lee Hsien Loong, who proposed the idea together in 2013. “One can have breakfast in Kuala Lumpur, lunch in Singapore, and be back in time for dinner in Kuala Lumpur,” Najib said in a joint news appearance.

Singapore was booted from the Malaysian Federation in 1965 over ethnic issues, and relations in subsequent decades

were punctuated by occasional bickering. But they have remained important economic partners and relations have warmed significantly in recent years under Najib and Lee. The rail proposal has already sparked interest among major Chinese, Japanese, and Korean rail firms. But speculation has mounted that Chinese national rail operator China Railway Corp has the inside track, which would be the latest sign of Beijing’s rapidly growing economic clout in Southeast Asia.

China’s chances of landing a chunk of the project are seen as having been boosted after its largest nuclear energy producer last year came to the rescue of a scandal-tainted Malaysian state fund. The fund, 1Malaysia Development Berhad, or 1MDB—which was launched by Najib—faces allegations that billions were pilfered from it by politically connected Malaysians and Middle Eastern figures. Multiple investigations are under way overseas. But last year 1MDB sold its power assets to China General Nuclear Power Corporation for \$2.3 billion.

That gave 1MDB a lifeline in its struggle to stay solvent after running up debts of nearly \$12 billion and missing previous debt repayment deadlines. 1MDB has also sold land in Kuala Lumpur where the bullet train terminus is expected to be built, to a consortium including China Railway Engineering Corp. — AFP

BRAZILIAN EXPORTS TO ARAB WORLD ‘VIBRANT’

DUBAI: The Arab Brazilian Chamber of Commerce has recently noted thriving trade between Brazil and the Arab World as attested to by the impressive numbers issued by the organization covering Brazilian exports to Arab countries during the first half of 2016. These positive numbers reflect the great



Dr Michel Alaby

strides that companies across various sectors are making towards strengthening communications between the two countries. According to the Chamber’s statistics, Arab countries had a \$5,242.71 billion from January to June 2016. Saudi Arabia accounted for the most shares at 23.71 per cent at a value of \$1,242.91 billion, followed by the

United Arab Emirates at 17.36 per cent, Egypt at 16.65 per cent, Qatar at 2.33 per cent, and Kuwait at 2.08 per cent.

Among the exports, meat posted the most shares during the period at 34.88 per cent, accounting for \$1,828.40 billion of exports to the Arab World. Sugar took second place at 26.62 per cent with \$1,395.47, billion followed by cereals at 6.52 per cent with \$341.64 million; ores, slag and ash at 4.63 per cent with \$242.73 million, inorganic chemicals and rare earth metals at 6.61 per cent with \$189 million, and miscellaneous grain seeds and fruits at 3.03 per cent with \$158.94 million. Of all goods, cereals marked the most growth over 2015, at an increase of 113.94 per cent followed, by sugars which registered a growth of 10.09 per cent.

“We are very optimistic about the state of trade between Brazil and the Arab World. We believe these numbers reflect the strong relations both economies have with each other and we hope it will serve as further encouragement for businesses to explore the infinite potentials that the business environment has to offer. We look forward to many more fruitful exchanges in the future that will benefit our respective economies and the community at large,” concluded Dr Michel Alaby, Secretary General and CEO, Arab-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce ABCC.

WASHINGTON: US housing starts rose more than expected in June as construction activity increased broadly, but downward revisions to the prior months’ data pointed to a sector treading water in the second quarter. Groundbreaking surged 4.8 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual pace of 1.19 million units, the Commerce Department said yesterday. Starts for April and May were revised lower, taking some shine off the report.

Economists polled by Reuters had forecast housing starts rising to a 1.17 million-unit pace last month. Housing starts in the second quarter were a touch higher than the average for the first three months of the year, suggesting that residential construction was probably a small boost to gross domestic product in the second quarter. Still, the report added to data on employment, industrial production and retail sales in suggesting the economy gained speed in the second quarter after growth sputtered early in the year. The Atlanta Federal Reserve is currently forecasting GDP rising at a 2.4 percent annualized rate in the second quarter.

The economy grew at a 1.1 percent rate in the January-March period. The dollar rose to a four-month high against a basket of currencies after the report, while prices for US government bonds pared gains. US stock futures were mixed. The housing market is being supported by a strengthening labor market and demand for rental accommodation, but homebuilding is being constrained by labor and land shortages.

A survey of homebuilders published on Monday showed scattered softness in some markets, with builders citing regulatory challenges as well as shortages of lots and labor. Groundbreaking on single-family homes, the largest segment of the market, increased 4.4 percent to a 778,000-unit pace in June. Single-family starts in the South, where most home



VIRGINIA: Workers construct a new home in Ashburn, Virginia. New home construction in US picked up in June to the highest pace in nine months, erasing worries about a slowdown, Commerce Department data showed yesterday. — AFP

building takes place, gained 0.5 percent. Single-family starts jumped 31.6 percent in the Northeast and climbed 3.1 percent in West. Groundbreaking on single-family housing projects increased 7.3 percent in the Midwest. But single-family home construction continues to run ahead of permits, which could limit gains in the near term.

Housing starts for the volatile multi-family segment rose 5.4 percent to a 411,000-unit pace. The multi-family segment of the market continues to be supported by strong demand for rental accommodation as some Americans

remain wary of homeownership in the aftermath of the housing market collapse. But economists see limited scope for further increases, saying that much of the demand has already been met. Rent increases for apartments have started to moderate in some cities and vacancy rates are edging up. Building permits increased 1.5 percent to a 1.15 million-unit rate last month. Permits for the construction of single-family homes increased 1.0 percent last month to a 738,000-unit rate, while multi-family building permits advanced 2.5 percent to a 415,000-unit pace. —Reuters

SAMSUNG DECLARES A NEW ERA OF TV

SUHD TVS WITH QUANTUM DOT DISPLAY HAS LAUNCHED

KUWAIT: Samsung, the number one TV manufacturer worldwide for the past 10 years, has launched its latest line-up of SUHD TVs at a media event held at the Burj Al Arab in Dubai. Samsung's 2016 range of SUHD TVs offer unparalleled picture quality, featuring Quantum dot display, the world's first bezel-less curved design and the smartest user interface to deliver a state-of-the-art hub for home entertainment content.

Speaking at the launch event to guests and regional media, Sangin Ha, Head of Visual Display Group, Samsung Gulf Electronics said, "Our new SUHD TVs represent our singular focus on innovation that matters most to consumers, by providing the most true-to-life picture quality, with the most lifelike colors, stunning brightness and exceptional contrast. The exclusive content partnerships that we have on offer are primed to deliver our customers the very best audiovisual experience."

Quantum dots are nano-sized crystals made of semiconductor materials. With over 150 patents on the technology, Samsung is currently the only company that produces cadmium-free quantum dot displays. Giving off pure colors, the technology ensures that

primary colors can be more clearly distinguished in comparison to conventional TVs. Each quantum dot shows precise colors while the light from conventional displays mixes with adjacent colors.

Compared to phosphors in conventional TVs, not only are they able to produce more colors, but their photo-active property allows for better light efficiency. By leveraging this advantage, Samsung engineers were able to increase the maximum brightness of the latest range to 1,000 nits and higher, opposed to the standard of 400 nits found in conventional TVs. Regardless of the lighting environment, the SUHD TVs deliver the optimum viewing experience, with the 1,000 nit high dynamic range (HDR) offering an extraordinary level of contrast between light and dark images.

The Ultra Black technology also significantly reduces light reflection, further enhancing picture quality with minimal glare. Inspired by nature, Ultra Black absorbs natural light the same way that a moth's eye enables it to see better at night. The range is headlined by the world's first bezel-less Curved TV, the KS9500 SUHD TV. With no bezel that normally functions as the border, the viewer's attention is focused purely on



Haris Munef, Head of Marketing and Retail - CE Division of Samsung Gulf Electronics addresses the audience during the launch of the 4K SUHD TV.



Guests are pictured during the launch of the 4K SUHD TV in Burj Al Arab in Dubai.

what matters most - captivating content on the screen. In keeping with this design ethos, Samsung has sought to eliminate all unnecessary elements, even removing screws from the rear of the TV, to create an elegant product that is beautiful from every

angle. Built on the Tizen operating system (OS), the SUHD TVs make it easier for consumers to discover and access all their favorite content and services, from broadcast TV and movies to games and program information, all in one place.

New Smart Hub
The 2016 Smart Hub is designed to provide users with simple access to their favorite content all in one place. Live TV, over the top (OTT), games and even the menu that appears on the home screen of the Samsung Smart TV allows users to access their favorite programs as soon as they turn on the TV.

Samsung Smart Control remote
The new Samsung Smart TV eliminates the need to juggle multiple remote controls. The Samsung Smart TV will automatically recognize the type of game console, OTT box or home theater system that is connected to the TV. This allows users to control such devices with the Smart Control remote - with no setup required.

Smart view
The Samsung Smart View mobile app allows users to share their favorite content instantly with their family. The upgraded Smart View is now available beyond Samsung Galaxy devices, supporting Android and iOS devices, as well as Windows PCs.



AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND DOLLARS SLIDE ON RATE CUT BETS

KIWI SLIDES AS HOUSING CURBS RAISE RATE CUT CHANCES

LONDON: The Australian dollar fell more than 1 percent to a 11-day low yesterday while the New Zealand dollar hit a three-week trough, as investors ramped up bets that both central banks could ease monetary policy as early as next month. The Australian dollar fell after minutes from the latest central bank meeting left the door open for a possible interest rate cut in August. New Zealand's currency was dented after the Reserve Bank proposed ways to curb a house price boom, a move also seen as paving the way for a rate cut.

The kiwi hit a three-week low of \$0.7011, and was last trading at \$0.7030, down 1.1 percent on the day. With lower risk appetite hitting higher-yielding currencies amid a pull-back in oil prices, the Australian dollar also fell, dipping to \$0.7488. "The RBA minutes further supported our expectations for a rate cut on Aug 2, where the markets are pricing a

55 percent probability," said Hans Redeker, head of currency strategy at Morgan Stanley. "The rhetoric in the minutes was similar to the statement but kept the door wide open for a cut.

Currency markets will now be focused on the second-quarter inflation data on July 27, which if it undershoots as it did in New Zealand, would put the Australian dollar under selling pressure." In Britain, a higher than forecast rise in June inflation pushed the pound above \$1.32 but the currency went back to trading at around \$1.3175, down 0.6 percent on the day. The euro slipped after German investor morale fell to its lowest since November 2012, amid unease about Brexit.

Expectations that the European Central Bank could sound dovish when it meets later in the year also kept the euro 0.2 percent against the dollar at \$1.1055. The dollar eased a tad after hitting a 3-1/2-

week high of 106.33 yen, marking a gain of more than 6 percent from its July 8 low of 99.99 yen. It rallied from that low as the yen buckled under growing expectations of more monetary easing by the Bank of Japan, a broad recovery in risk appetite and speculation about M&A-related yen selling.

"The dollar is holding up well at the moment so clearly the Bank of Japan monetary policy expectations are baked in," said Geoffrey Yu, currency strategist at UBS Wealth Management. "This actually leaves the market exposed to disappointment further down the line if the BoJ don't deliver." Speculators have been betting that the Bank of Japan will further ease policy at its July 28-29 meeting, as the government prepares new fiscal stimulus to boost the economy. The dollar was flat at 106.10 yen after hitting 106.33 yen, its highest level since June 24. — Reuters

ENI IRAQ BV AWARDS DRAKE & SCULL AED 226 M CONTRACT

DUBAI: Drake & Scull International PJSC, (DSI PJSC), a regional market leader in the integrated design, engineering and construction disciplines of General Contracting, Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP), Rail & Infrastructure, Oil & Gas, and Water & Wastewater Treatment, has announced that it has been awarded a AED 226 million engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract for the construction of a water injection network installation project at the Zubair oil field in Basra, Iraq by ENI Iraq BV (EIBV) a subsidiary of the Italian oil and gas multinational firm ENI SpA.

EIBV is the Lead Contractor of the Zubair Project consortium which currently comprises EIBV, Occidental of Iraq LLC and KOGAS Iraq BV which is undertaking the redevelopment of the Zubair Oil Field. Under the terms of the agreement, Drake and Scull Oil & Gas (DSOG) will oversee the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) of a gas supply pipeline system to a power plant in addition to water injection systems consisting of flow lines, trunk lines, manifolds stations and wellheads hook-up work to enhance oil recovery.

Mobilization activity on the project has commenced with a scheduled completion of early 2018. Commenting on the project award, Wael Allan, Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Drake & Scull International PJSC, said: "Drake & Scull Oil and Gas continues to achieve substantial progress and has gained a noticeable foothold in the oil and gas infrastructure construction sector in the MENA region in short period.

The contract award has also raised DSI's total project wins to AED 570 million in



very challenging circumstances. We are confident that our high margin businesses including Oil & Gas, Rail & Infrastructure and Engineering will significantly contribute to our sustainable growth, in line with our strategy of focusing on profitability and cash generation." Fares Khatib, Managing Director of Drake and Scull Oil & Gas added, "The Zubair oilfield contract is a positive development for DSOG, particularly as it represents our second collaboration with EIBV.

EIBV had previously awarded DSOG the EPC pipeline installation contract for the Zubair oil field in 2012 which was successfully completed in 2015 on the strength of our in-house engineering management, procurement and construction capabilities. Our prior experience with EIBV in Zubair oil field will prove invaluable in ensuring the successful execution of project delivery on the new project award. We are committed to leveraging the skill set and experience of our teams in Iraq & Abu Dhabi to achieve scheduled project progress and meet our completion target."



YOKOHAMA: Photo shows costumed performers dressed as Pikachu, the popular animation Pokemon series character, attending a promotional event at the Yokohama Dance Parade in Yokohama. Nintendo shot past Sony in market value yesterday after the videogame giant's stock more than doubled since the release of the wildly popular Pokemon Go game. — AFP

NINTENDO WORTH MORE THAN SONY AFTER POKEMON RALLY

TOKYO: Nintendo yesterday shot past Sony in market value after shares in the video game giant more than doubled following the release of its wildly popular Pokemon Go game. The shares surged more than 14 percent to end at 31,770 yen (\$300), up 120 percent from their July 6 close. That put Nintendo's market capitalization at 4.5 trillion yen (\$42.5 billion), - making it more valuable than Sony, one of Japan's best-known companies, by about 400 billion yen. On Friday Nintendo, creator of the 20-year-old Pokemon franchise, set a record for the most shares ever traded daily in Japan.

Since its launch two weeks ago, the game for mobile gadgets has sparked a worldwide frenzy among users who have taken to the streets with their smartphones. The free app uses satellite locations, graphics and camera capabilities to

overlay cartoon monsters on real-world settings, challenging players to capture and train the creatures for battles. Investors are betting its popularity is a good sign for Nintendo's nascent push into mobile gaming, a major U-turn for a company that long insisted on a consoles-only policy.

The Pokemon craze has also boosted other shares in Tokyo. McDonald's Japan which has been struggling to get past a series of food safety scandals-soared as much as 23 percent in the morning after it started on Friday giving away with some meals figurines based on the game's characters such as Pikachu. It ended up 5.26 percent at 3,200 yen. "Investors are flocking to Pokemon-related stocks and McDonald's Japan is one of those benefiting from the boom," said Mitsushige Akino, executive officer at Ichiyoshi

Asset Management. "The boom came at a time when McDonald's business has already started recovering and there's expectation that the Pokemon toy offering will further increase customer traffic to their shops."

The game was launched in the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Since the weekend it has been released in more than two dozen more countries but has yet to be available in Japan. Nintendo declined to say when the app would be released in its home market, and Niantic-which developed the game for Nintendo-did not reply to requests for comment. Forbes cited Niantic chief executive John Hanke as saying the reason for the delay is that Japan's server capacity is not powerful enough to keep up with expected demand. — AFP

KUWAIT APPROVES LAND REQUEST FOR JAZEERA AIRWAYS TERMINAL BUILDING

KUWAIT: Jazeera Airways yesterday announced that its request for land to build a terminal at Kuwait International Airport has been approved by the Kuwait Council of Ministers. The terminal is a solution proposed by the airline to help ease the congestion at Kuwait International Airport, the country's only primary airport, which is currently operating over capacity. The airline said it received yesterday a letter from Kuwait's Directorate General for Civil Aviation notifying the airline of the Cabinet's approval for designating land for construction and operation of a dedicated passenger terminal and car park buildings.

The project's investment value is KD14 million, and its total construction time frame is 15 months, including the permits acquisition phase. The terminal is part of the airline's 'Next Big Thing' series of value boosting projects and initiatives tasked with creating a better travel experience on ground and in the air. Other initiatives include a remote check-in facility, in-flight broadband internet, a business class lounge, and long-haul flights.



CISCO ROADMAP TO DIGITAL VALUE IN THE RETAIL BANKING INDUSTRY

KUWAIT: Cisco announced a new research titled "Roadmap to Digital value in the Retail Banking Industry"; which reveals that retail banks have the potential to realize \$405.3 Billion from 2015 to 2017 as the Digital Value at Stake. Yet, in 2015, financial services as a whole captured just 29 percent of that opportunity. Of the challenges slowing growth and innovation, cyber security weakness is certainly at the forefront. Cyber security concerns have prevented retail banks from adopting digital technologies and business models. And this has contributed to them missing out on more than 70 percent of the potential revenue opportunity.

"With the pressing realities of agile 'Fintech' disruptors, digital consumer demands, and complex regulatory hurdles, the question of how retail banks can compete and capture the revenue opportunity at hand has come to the fore," says Mike Weston, Vice President, Cisco Middle East. "As the largest segment of financial services, retail banks play a critical role in any economy. The ability for digital technologies to create and drive new revenue opportunities, combined with the ability to lower operational costs through digitized business processes, brings tremendous opportunity. But, too many banks are moving slowly or not at all.

By waiting to digitize their businesses, or by delaying new technology initiatives, banks risk not only missing out on the potential Value at Stake, but are actually at risk for being put out of business altogether." The new



research, "Roadmap, outlines the Digital Value at Stake for retail banking - as well as a digital roadmap for success. The study reveals digital use cases that drive the fastest value and return on investment for retail banks. With the right technology investments such as analytics, mobility, video, and virtualized delivery models - and with a plan for navigating security risks - retail banks can create a blueprint for capturing their share of the hundreds of billions in Digital Value at Stake.

Retail Banks Must Accelerate
"Fintech" startups are disrupting retail banks by

unbundling their products and services. By doing this, they're able to seize a share of the banks' most profitable business while avoiding the barriers to entry that naturally come with being a full-service bank. These start-ups are digitizing their offerings. Retail banks that fail to drive their digital transformation may be put out of business completely. According to a 2015 study by the Global Center for Digital Business Transformation (DBT Center), an IMD Business School and Cisco initiative, 4 out of the top 10 retail banks will be displaced by digital disruption in the next three years.

However, only 27 percent are taking a proactive approach by disrupting their own businesses. Cisco's research identified key digital use cases in the retail banking industry that drive more than 90 percent of the \$405.3 billion opportunity. These digital solutions include video-based advisors, workforce transformation, mobile payments, virtual tellers, information-based consulting, white-label services, connected ads, marketing, and more. A critical foundational element across all the use cases? Cyber security. Cyber security Weakness is Slowing Digital Innovation in Retail Banking: Despite the tremendous opportunity and competitive pressures that come with digital transformation, retail banks are still slow to digitize.

A recent Cisco study, "Cyber security as a Growth Advantage" surveyed 1,014 senior finance and line-of-

business executives globally and found that 71 percent agreed that cyber security risks and threats hinder digital innovation in their organizations. Another 39 percent of respondents said they've halted mission-critical initiatives due to these concerns. Sixty percent admitted their organizations are reluctant to innovate in areas such as digital products and services because of the perceived risks.

Specific digital initiatives delayed potentially include Omni channel capabilities, wealth management and asset transfers, mobile banking and mobile payment capabilities, self-service and virtualized delivery models. Cisco's economic analysis estimates that by not digitizing more fully, incumbent retail banks missed out on \$144 billion globally from 2011 to 2015. Bottom line - cyber security concerns do not need to be a hindrance to digital innovation.

Retail banks can transform cyber security from a liability into an asset that supports customer trust, innovation, and growth. All of these digital solutions depend on a robust cyber security foundation. "By assessing, adopting and combining the right digital use cases for their needs, and doing it securely, retail banks will capture their share of the Value at Stake and be in a position to operate more agilely and compete. By innovating and driving relevant new products and experiences to the market quickly, they can be the new disruptors," Weston concludes.

'POKEMON' NO: TRYING, BUT FAILING TO GET THE SMARTPHONE GAME

MADISON, Wisconsin: No one, it seems, can escape "Pokemon Go." Not the kids who slouch along my neighborhood sidewalks with their faces buried in their phones. Not the chic twenty-something who shuffle along Madison, Wisconsin's Capitol square like they're scanning a beach with metal detectors. Not even my fellow reporters, who are supposed to be working on Very Important Stories but are actually searching the Capitol corridors for deranged virtual chickens with a bad case of hemorrhoids.

Don't get me wrong. I played my share of "Galaga," "Pac-Man" and "Tempest" as a kid. I've got an email address, a Twitter handle, a Facebook page. I'm even on Instagram. But I'd be the first one to tell you it's all a sham. I'm 44 years old and can barely work any of it. Heck, until just last week I thought "meme" was pronounced "mime." I tried to ignore the Pokécraze. I really did. But when my son's little league sent out a message warning kids to be careful when searching for Pokemon in the middle of games, I had to find out what the big deal was.

Dr Willow presents

On starting the app, an animated dude named Dr Willow greeted me. He looks like a teenage version of Doc Brown from "Back to the Future," with spiky white hair, a lab coat and Spandex tights. The game asked me to access my location, briefly triggering visions of black helicopters and agents ransacking my house in the dead of night. But it's hard to play a map game without being on the map, so after a few tense moments of indecision, I threw caution to the wind.

Back to Dr Willow, who delivered a warning that I should be aware of my surroundings at all times. Thanks, Dr Willow. Next he ordered me to create an avatar of myself. This was actually fun - I gave my character hair. That might be the most satisfying part of the whole experience, given that I'm what some people would call follicly-challenged.

Squirrels under the dome

Suddenly my character was standing in a

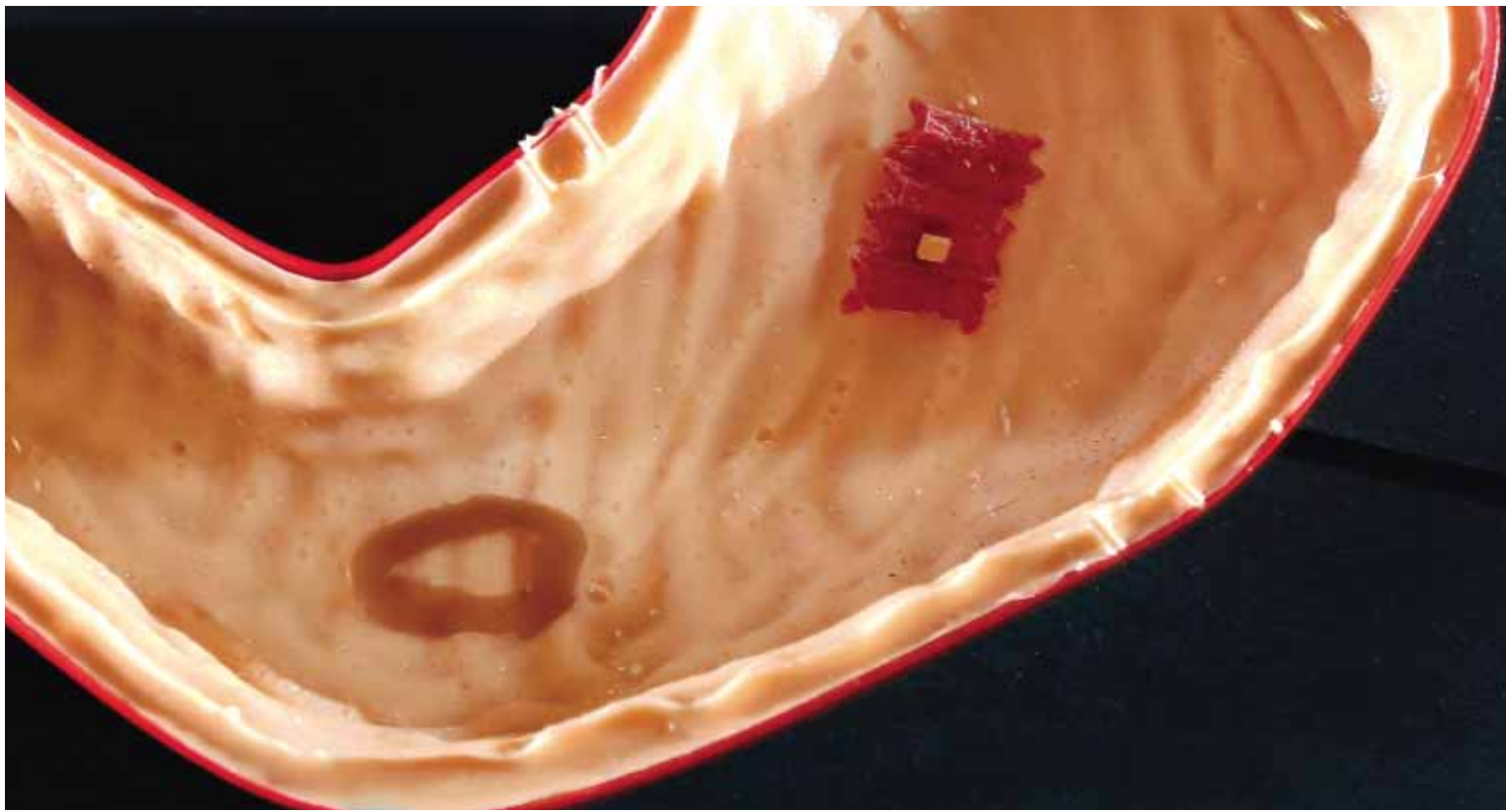
map of the state Capitol. A clawed squirrel with a tail that ends in a ball of fire appeared in the Capitol press room. "See your little Poke Ball?" Capital Times reporter Jessie Opoien screamed. "Launch it at him!" It took three tries, but I got him. Dr. Willow re-appeared and ordered me to travel the world searching for these things. I started wandering the Capitol's corridors, and soon captured something called a Rattata, an angry purple rat with huge buck teeth.

But the pickings seemed slim, so outside I went, waving the phone in front of my face as if I were warding off evil spirits. Next to fall was a Spearow, a cross between a chicken and hawk, that appeared at the base of the Hans Christian Heg statue. Hans Christian Heg was a Norwegian-American Civil War soldier from Wisconsin. He died a hero at the Battle of Chickamauga. Now's he's a virtual reality roosting spot. The rest of the Capitol square was largely Pokemon free, although another Spearow did turn up on the east lawn. I failed to hit it before the app died. I'm sure I looked ridiculous, though not as bad as the nearby fitness class doing jumping jacks in the 86-degree heat.

Close encounter with a bus

The next morning in downtown Madison, it quickly became clear that the app is about as stable as the San Andreas fault; it froze nearly a half -dozen times. I also had a close encounter with a bus and developed an awful kink in my neck from constantly peering down at my phone. Chiropractors, rejoice. On the plus side, I became a stone-cold hunter. New creatures fell to my deadly aim, the strangest being an Oddish, a racquetball with legs and palm fronds for hair. — AP

Every time I looked up I noticed other players on the sidewalk. They were impossible to miss, clumped into groups of twos and threes, staring at their phones, stopping on a dime and pointing. By the end of the outing I'd accumulated enough experience points to enter a "gym," a virtual arena where Pokemon fight. I lost five straight times to a Flareon, a fire-breathing Chihuahua. So went the Great Pokemon Experiment of 2016. — AP



MASSACHUSETTS: In this July 13, 2016 photo, a tiny 'origami robot' floats, at right, towards a 'wound' in a stomach model at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. — AP

HAVING STOMACH TROUBLES? TRY SWALLOWING AN ORIGAMI ROBOT

'BIG PROBLEM: WHAT IF IT GETS STUCK?'

CAMBRIDGE: Has your child swallowed a small battery? In the future, a tiny robot made from pig gut could capture it and expel it. Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are designing an ingestible robot that could be used to patch wounds, deliver medicine or dislodge a foreign object. They call their experiment an "origami robot" because the accordion-shaped gadget gets folded up and frozen into an ice capsule. "You swallow the robot, and when it gets to your stomach the ice melts and the robot unfolds," said Daniela Rus, a professor who directs MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory.

"Then, we can direct it to a very precise location." It's still a long way before the device can be deployed in a human or animal. In the meantime, the researchers have created an artificial stomach made of silicone to test it. Rus said one of the robot's most important missions could be to save the lives of children who swallow the disc-shaped button batteries that increasingly power electronic devices. If swallowed, the battery can quickly burn through the stomach lining and be fatal. The robots could seek out and capture the battery before it causes too much damage, pushing it down through the

gastrointestinal tract and out of the body.

The robot's flexible frame is biodegradable, made of the same dried pig intestine used for sausage casing. The researchers scoured markets in Boston's Chinatown before finding the right material to build an agile robot body that could dissolve once its mission was accomplished. "They tried rice paper and sugar paper and hydrogel paper, all sorts of different materials," Rus said. "We found that sausage casing has the best properties when it comes to folding and unfolding and controllability."

Nifty idea

Embedded in its meaty body - it wouldn't be hard to make a kosher version, Rus said - is a neodymium magnet that looks like a tiny metal cube. Magnetic forces control its movement. Researchers use remote-control joysticks to change the magnetic field, allowing the robot to slip and crawl through the stomach on the way to the object it is trying to retrieve or the wound where it must deliver drugs. Would it hurt to ingest a robot? Probably not, said research team member Steven Guitron, an MIT graduate student in mechanical engineering.

"I'm sure if you swallowed an ice cube accidentally,

it's very similar," he said. MIT's team has a patent pending and presented its research at a robotics conference in Sweden this spring. Rus said medical companies have expressed interest in clinical applications, which require going through the regulatory process of conducting animal and human studies. "It's a nifty idea," but it could be a decade or so before hospitals could use such a device, said William Messner, a professor of mechanical engineering at Tufts University in Massachusetts who is not involved with the project.

He said it could also have promise in performing biopsies. The US Food and Drug Administration "has to get involved with anything like this and they're rightfully very careful about any kind of medical instrument," Messner said. "The big problem is: What if it gets stuck? Now you've really got a problem." The multidisciplinary project fits into the growing field of soft robotics that coalesced with the 2013 founding of the peer-reviewed Soft Robotics Journal, based at Tufts. The Boston region is a hub for research into the moving machines made of flexible materials that can change shape and size, making them useful for surgery and other complex environments. — AP



URGE TO CONNECT AT ANY COST IS PUTTING TRAVELERS AT RISK

The urge to go online the moment they reach foreign soil sees a high proportion of people connecting to unsecured Wi-Fi networks, putting their personal data at risk, according to a study by Kaspersky Lab. The research, which polled 11,850 people globally, found that cyber-crime is commonplace when abroad. However, as ever more essential travel information - from maps and hotel confirmations to check-in details and boarding passes-is stored online, international travelers often have no choice but to connect upon arrival.

Many will be keen to use Wi-Fi rather than incur roaming charges, despite the fact that doing so will expose them to risk. On leaving the airport, 44% of travelers are already online, with 69% connecting in order to let family and loved ones know they have arrived safely, and nearly 39% saying they connect mainly to download travel information. Pressure from work is also a strong factor with 38% feeling obligated to stay connected, as is the desire to get up to speed on social media, conveyed by 34% of the survey respondents. 34% simply state that it is instinctive to go online as soon as possible.

We are so used to being connected when we are at home, that when we are abroad, we hardly give a second thought to where we connect, how we connect or who

might be 'listening' in. 82% of the people connect to unsecured, free-to-use public access Wi-Fi networks in airport terminals, hotels, cafes or restaurants. But away from home, and trusted networks, the lack of regard for network security plays into the hands of cybercriminals. Almost one in five travelers has been a victim of cybercrime while away from home, compared to 6% of those who have faced real-life crime.

This is not surprising if you consider the fact that our digital habits barely change while we're abroad, even though we may be more exposed to unsecure public networks. 61% of the survey's respondents say they bank and 55% claim to shop online over Wi-Fi while abroad. Eugene Kaspersky, chairman and CEO of Kaspersky Lab, said: "I travel a lot. My business schedule is all about meetings, conferences and negotiations right around the globe.

More than 100 flights a year is the norm for me. And of course I use various public Wi-Fi networks to access the Internet all the time. The first thing I do after connecting to the net is connect to a VPN (in my case the Kaspersky Lab VPN), and that is pretty much the best precaution I'd recommend anyone. That and, of course, keeping all your software - including your security suite - up-to-date, and not trusting anyone on the Internet."

WASHINGTON: Experts say the development of self-driving cars over the coming decade depends on an unreliable assumption by many automakers: that the humans in them will be ready to step in and take control if the car's systems fail. Instead, experience with automation in other modes of transportation like aviation and rail suggests that the strategy will lead to more deaths like that of a Florida Tesla driver in May.

Decades of research shows that people have a difficult time keeping their minds on boring tasks like monitoring systems that rarely fail and hardly ever require them to take action. The human brain continually seeks stimulation. If the mind isn't engaged, it will wander until it finds something more interesting to think about. The more reliable the system, the more likely it is that attention will wane.

Automakers are in the process of adding increasingly automated systems that effectively drive cars in some or most circumstances, but still require the driver as a backup in case the vehicle encounters a situation unanticipated by its engineers. Tesla's Autopilot, for example, can steer itself within a lane and speed up or slow down based on surrounding traffic or on the driver's seat speed. It can change lanes with a flip of its signal, automatically apply brakes, or scan for parking spaces and parallel park on command.

Relying on automation

Joshua Brown, a 40-year-old tech company owner from Canton, Ohio, who was an enthusiastic fan of the technology, was killed when neither he nor his Tesla Model S sedan's Autopilot braked for a

truck making a left turn on a highway near Gainesville, according to federal investigators and the automaker. Tesla warns drivers to keep their hands on the wheel even though Autopilot is driving, or the vehicle will automatically slow to a stop. A similar self-driving system Audi plans to introduce in its 2018 A7 monitors drivers' head and eye movements, and automatically slows the car if the driver's attention is diverted.

But Brown's failure to brake means he either didn't see the truck in his path or saw it too late to

respond - an indication he was relying on the automation and his mind was elsewhere, said Missy Cummings, director of Duke University's Humans and Autonomy Laboratory. The truck driver said he had heard a Harry Potter video playing in the car after the crash. "Drivers in these quasi- and partial modes of automation are a disaster in the making," Cummings said. "If you have to rely on the human to see something and take action in anything less than several seconds, you are going to have an accident like we saw." — AP



VIRGINIA: Kaushik Raghu, Senior Staff Engineer at Audi, takes his hands off the steering wheel while demonstrating an Audi self driving vehicle on I-395 expressway in Arlington, Virginia. — AP

CHINA HIV LEAK VIOLATES PATIENTS' RIGHTS: WHO

BEIJING: A leak of HIV carriers' identities in China was a violation of their "fundamental right", the World Health Organization said, after reports that hundreds of infected people were approached by telephone swindlers.

A total of 313 HIV-positive people have been contacted by callers claiming to be government officials offering financial allowances in exchange for their banking information, the Southern Weekly newspa-

per reported Monday, citing campaign group Baihualin. The bank details were used to steal money from their accounts, while those who identified the offer as attempted fraud were threatened with the online publication of their details, the report said. China has a long history of ostracism of HIV/AIDS patients, making the disclosure particularly sensitive. HIV-positive individuals have faced discrimination in the Chinese job market for years, and for-

signers with the virus were banned from obtaining visas until 2010.

In December 2014 more than 200 people signed a petition to expel an HIV-positive eight-year-old boy from their village, prompting a national debate and highlighting the stigma involved. "They called me by name and know my identification card number, company, home address, marital status, even the time of my diagnosis and the hospital I go to," an unnamed Beijing

carrier told the Southern Weekly.

The World Health Organization blasted the leak as an infringement of patients' rights and warned it could deter people from getting tested for HIV and from accessing treatment and prevention services. "The confidentiality of the personal and health information of anyone seeking HIV or other medical services must be safeguarded," it said in a statement late Monday. "The leak of personal information

of people living with HIV is a violation of this fundamental right to patient confidentiality."

Chinese health authorities said they have reported the incidents to police and upgraded their encryption technology. "The personal information of people infected with HIV/AIDS is protected by the law," the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement, vowing to "harshly crack down" on the crime.—AFP

INDONESIA MORATORIUM ON NEW PALM PLANTING TO INCLUDE EXISTING PLANTATIONS

JAKARTA: Indonesia plans to issue in August a five-year moratorium on new palm plantations that will include a halt to approvals to extend planting into forested areas inside existing concessions, threatening output growth and palm oil investment. The moratorium will cover around 3.5 million hectares, according to the Environment and Forestry Ministry, starting with 950,000 hectares that are being proposed by plantation companies for expansions.

Indonesia, the world's top producer of palm oil, currently has about 11.4 million hectares devoted to palm plantations. Plantation areas that not used according to what is stipulated on their concession permits, and those indicated to have been transferred to new owners may be subjected to the moratorium, San Afri Awang, director general of forestry spatial planning at Environment Ministry told reporters. "Existing palm plantation concessions which have productive forested areas will also be subjected

to the moratorium," Awang said.

Indonesia's palm association said the move is inconsistent with a strong commitment to investors and introduces uncertainty into the regulations governing plantations. "If plantations that already have a decree to clear forested areas are included in the moratorium, it shows that legal certainty in Indonesia is not good, and this is a bad image," Eddy Martono, an executive at Indonesian Palm Oil Association (GAPKI), told Reuters yesterday.

In April, Indonesian President Joko Widodo said the areas already issued to palm oil growers could be more than twice as productive "provided they use the right seeds". Gamal Nasir, director general at Agriculture Ministry told Reuters yesterday that no decision has been made yet on including forested areas inside palm concessions in the moratorium plan. GAPKI's Martono said instead of a moratorium the government should help farmers increase productivity. — Reuters



NIGERIA: In this file photo a doctor attends to a Malnourished child as women and children rescued by Nigerian soldiers wait to receive treatment at a refugee camp in Yola, Nigeria. — AP

49,000 KIDS DYING OF MALNUTRITION: UN

'DOCTORS WARNED OF A CATASTROPHIC HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY'

LAGOS, Nigeria: Some 49,000 children will die of malnutrition in areas once cut off by northeastern Nigeria's Islamic extremist uprising if they don't get treatment, the UN children's agency warned yesterday. UNICEF called on charities and donors to respond quickly to avert a tragedy in Borno state, where nearly a quarter of a million children are severely malnourished.

Most of the children are in areas that had been inaccessible before a multinational force

liberated them from Boko Haram extremists earlier this year.

"Some 134 children on average will die every day from causes linked to acute malnutrition if the response is not scaled up quickly," the agency's regional director, Manuel Fontaine said. Children already are dying.

Doctors Without Borders has warned of a "catastrophic humanitarian emergency" unfolding in the city of Bama, where it said 200 people had

died in June and where refugees spoke of children dying of hunger every day.

The seven-year Boko Haram insurgency, which pledged support for the Islamic State group last year, has killed more than 20,000 people and spread across Nigeria's borders, forcing about 2.7 million people from their homes. UNICEF said the agency has received less than half of the \$55.5 million it appealed for earlier this year, and now the needs are even greater. —AP

UNIQUE ZIKA CASE OF UTAH CAREGIVER UNDER INVESTIGATION

SALT LAKE CITY: Health authorities in Utah are investigating a unique case of Zika found in a person who had been caring for a relative who had an unusually high level of the virus in his blood. Exactly how the disease was transmitted is still a mystery, though the person has since recovered. The elderly relative who died after contracting Zika abroad had amounts of the virus in his blood more than 100,000 times higher than other samples of infected people, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Though the tropical mosquito that mainly spreads Zika isn't typically found in Utah, officials haven't ruled out the possibility that the man brought a mosquito back with him from an area where he caught the virus, perhaps in a suitcase, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "The new case in Utah is a surprise, showing that we still have more to learn about Zika," CDC medical epidemiologist Dr Erin Staples said. Authorities did not give further details about either patient, citing health privacy laws.

The new case was discovered after a doctor noticed the caregiver's Zika-like symptoms, which include rash, fever and pink eye, officials said. He or she had cared for the older man both at home and in the hospital.

That man died in late June and was the first death of a Zika-infected in the continental US His age and another health condition made his exact cause of death unclear. The caregiver did not travel to an affected area. Health workers are testing other people who had contact with the first patient.



SALT LAKE CITY: Gary Edwards, executive director, Salt Lake County Health Department, looks on during a news conference in Salt Lake City. — AP

Mystery case

Officials are trapping mosquitoes in Utah to test them, though the species that spread the disease don't usually live in the state's high altitude and cold winters. The CDC did not immediately revise its advice to health care workers or caregivers after

the new case emerged. "Based on what we know so far about this case, there is no evidence that there is any risk of Zika virus transmission among the general public in Utah," said Dr Angela Dunn, deputy state epidemiologist at the Utah Department of Health. Signs of Zika have been found in blood, urine, semen and saliva.

There's no evidence yet that the Zika infection in this case is an unusual mutation, but researchers are exploring that possibility through genomic analysis. The virus causes only a mild illness in most people. But during recent outbreaks in Latin America, scientists discovered that infection during pregnancy has led to severe brain-related birth defects. No cases of mosquito-spread Zika have been reported in the continental United States, according to the CDC. Health experts think mosquito transmission probably will occur in the US, but the expectation is that it will be in low-elevation, sweltering places where the insect has been a steady problem - such as southern Florida or southern Texas.

More than 1,300 Zika illnesses have been reported in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, including eight in Utah, according to health officials. Almost all were people who had traveled to Zika outbreak countries and caught the virus there. Fourteen were people who had not traveled to Zika zones but had sex with someone who had. The CDC has also been tracking pregnant women infected with Zika, and says they have five reports of pregnancy losses because of miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion.—AP



CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida: The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket lifts off from space launch complex 40 at Cape Canaveral, Florida with a Dragon CRS9 spacecraft.— AFP

HIV INFECTIONS LEVEL OFF AT WORRYING 2.5 M A YEAR

DURBAN, South Africa: Some 2.5 million people are still becoming infected with HIV every year even as drugs have slashed the death rate and patients live longer than ever, a global AIDS study said yesterday. New infections have plateaued after a steep dip from the peak rate of 3.3 million in 1997, said the authors of a comprehensive analysis in The Lancet HIV journal. It was published to coincide with the International AIDS conference underway in Durban, South Africa to assess progress in stemming an outbreak that has killed more than 30 million people since the 1980s.

The report paints "a worrying picture of slow progress in reducing new HIV infections," according to lead author Haidong Wang from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington,

Seattle. Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and founding executive director of UNAIDS, said the figure was "staggering" and "means that AIDS is not over." "New infections of HIV in the world is probably the most disturbing factor that has been announced here at the conference," he added.

The situation could be worsened by funding shortages for HIV/AIDS programs and medicines. "In 2015, (funding) fell below the level spent in 2014, and in many low-income countries, resources for health are scarce and expected to grow slowly, if at all," said Wang at a press conference in Durban. "We must slow rates of new infection." IHME director Christopher Murray said in a statement a massive increase in effort from governments and

international agencies was necessary to meet the estimated \$36 billion (33 billion Euros) needed every year to realize the goal of ending AIDS by 2030. Over the past 15 years, countries have contributed \$110 billion in "development assistance" for HIV/AIDS programs.

Dramatic change required

Today, there are some 38.8 million people living with the AIDS-causing virus, a steady increase from 28 million in 2000 thanks to the advent in 1996 of life-prolonging antiretroviral therapy (ART). Annual AIDS deaths have declined from a peak of 1.8 million in 2005 to 1.2 million in 2015. There is no AIDS cure or vaccine. ART cocktails suppress the virus, enabling people to live long lives, though the drugs are expensive and can have side effects.

Use of antiretroviral, for long the preserve of the rich, grew from 6.4 percent of infected men in 2005 to 38.6 percent ten years later, and from 3.3 percent to 42.4 percent for women over the same period, the study found.

Another factor that has helped cut the death rate was education and medicines to prevent infected women passing the virus onto their unborn children. The study saw researchers collate HIV data recorded from 1980 to 2015 for 195 countries. In spite of advances, most countries are still far from achieving the UNAIDS goal of ensuring that by 2020, 90 percent of infected people will know their status, and 90 percent of those will receive ART. In 2015, 41 percent of HIV-infected people received ART, said the report.

"More than 60 percent of men and more than 57 percent of women living with HIV are not on medication," said Wang. The picture varied vastly between countries and regions. In 2015, 1.8 million new HIV infections, some 75 percent, were in sub-Saharan Africa, followed by 8.5 percent in south Asia. "The highest rates of infection were in southern Africa, with more than one percent of the population per year becoming infected in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland," said the report. In Europe, the highest rate of new infections was in Russia and Ukraine. "Global efforts have had less impact on the incidence of new infections than on HIV mortality," concluded the report. "Ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 will require a dramatic change in how HIV prevention is pursued."—AFP

CAN WE FEED THE WORLD WITHOUT CUTTING FORESTS?

ROME: Agriculture is the biggest driver of deforestation globally fuelled by a growing demand for food, yet it is possible to feed the world without cutting forests, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on Monday. Most forest loss occurs in the world's tropical regions, which lost 7 million hectares of forest a year between 2000 and 2010, while gaining 6 million hectares per year in agricultural land, FAO said in a report.

Some countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America have managed to change this pattern by improving land rights, boosting agricultural production and protecting forests, FAO said.

"There has always been the thinking that in order to produce more food to feed the growing population you need to clear more land for agriculture," said Eva Muller, director of the Forestry Policy and Resources Division at FAO. "(But) it is possible (to produce more food without cutting forests)," she said in an interview.

The United Nations estimates that by 2050 the world will need to feed a population of more than 9 billion, up from 7.4 billion today. Yet 80 percent of arable land is already in use globally. Chile, Vietnam, Gambia and Ghana were among more than 20 countries that in the past two decades improved their food security by increasing

agricultural production, while maintaining or increasing forest cover, FAO said. One of the key factors, Muller said, was investment in agriculture to boost production. "The investment in agriculture was mainly to increase agriculture productivity through intensification rather than in clearing new land for agriculture," she said.

Better land planning and improved land rights, which contribute to better protection of forests, and improved coordination between forest and agriculture policies, were also important, she said. "Secure and clear land tenure is key because if people have the right to land they will treat the land differently than if they don't," Muller said. Forests are important for agriculture because they protect soil against erosion, conserve water and reduce flood risk, FAO said.

"In the past agriculture was focused on producing food, and forestry was focusing on something else, they were never talking to each other so sometimes their policies ended up being even contradictory," Muller said. "If you're really looking at sustainable development, and this is what everybody wants, we need the forests because they are essential for regulating water flows, storing carbon and preserving soils," Muller said. "Without forests you will not have those benefits anymore and that will in a longer term create even more problems." — Reuters

RESEARCHERS WARN NO QUICK HIV CURE

DURBAN, South Africa: Researchers yesterday praised progress made towards developing an HIV cure, but said it was impossible to tell when or even if a cure for the devastating epidemic would be found. Some 18,000 delegates from around the world have converged on the coastal city of Durban for the 21st International AIDS Conference where the latest advances in research are being presented.

Last week, scientists unveiled an aggressive strategy to develop an outright cure, but many of those in Durban warned it was still a young field of research. "A true cure is an aspirational goal," said principal author of the strategy Professor Sharon Lewin. She said remission—the ability of a patient to stop taking anti-retroviral treatment and remain healthy—was the intermediate goal. "We don't know when we will have a cure and if we will have a cure," said Nobel Medicine laureate Francoise Barre-Sinoussi, who in 1983 helped identify the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) that causes AIDS. "We really believe that we will be able to have sustainable remission," she said.

"That's not to say a cure is impossible, it's just to say to have a real cure is very, very hard."

In 2004, AIDS deaths peaked at more than two million. Last year, the toll was around 1.2 million lives—a decline attributed in large part to the success of anti-retroviral drugs, which reduce the symptoms of people carrying the virus. Scientists increasingly understand how HIV remains barricaded in tissues—such as the lymph nodes and the gut—after being beaten back by anti-retroviral therapy, the standard drug cocktail given to HIV patients.

"We still need a lot more basic research about where and why virus persists and how to harness immune response to eliminate it," said Lewin. Research has also found starting therapy early limits the ability of the virus to establish a stronghold. But less than half of an estimated 37 million people worldwide living with HIV receive therapy. Over \$200 million was invested in cure research last year, up from just \$88 million invested in 2012. "That trend needs to continue," said Barre-Sinoussi. —AFP

NASA'S KEPLER DISCOVERS MORE THAN 104 NEW EXOPLANETS

WASHINGTON: An international team of researchers announced Monday the discovery of 104 new planets outside our solar system, including four that could have Earth-like, rocky surfaces. Scientists discovered the exoplanets using the Kepler space telescope as well as ground observations by Earth-based telescopes, including four on the summit of Mauna Kea in Hawaii.

The \$600 million Kepler mission has allowed scientists to discover more than 4,600 planets — 2,326 of them confirmed—since it launched in 2009. "The diversity of planets is astounding," said Evan Sinukoff, an astronomer at the University of Hawaii who contributed to the research. "We discovered many planets about twice the size of the Earth orbiting so close to their host stars that they are hotter than 1000 degrees." The latest

trove includes 21 situated within their sun's habitable zone—the distance from a star that could permit liquid water to exist and support life. The four potentially rocky planets—ranging from 20 to 50 percent larger than Earth—orbit tightly around the same star in a planetary system about 400 light-years from Earth. Though the planets rotate around their star even closer than Mercury orbits the sun, two of the planets may have surface temperatures similar to Earth's, as their star is cooler than our sun, astronomers said.

The unmanned Kepler mission has been scanning 150,000 stars in the Cygnus constellation for signs of orbiting bodies, particularly those that might be able to support life. It works by observing a dimming in the light of a star, known as a transit, each time an orbiting planet passes in front of it. — AFP



MALAWI: In this photo, an elephant is measured after being shot by a dart in Lilongwe, Malawi, in the first step of an assisted migration of 500 of the threatened species. — AP

500 ELEPHANTS FIND NEW HOME IN MASSIVE AFRICAN RELOCATION

LIWONDE NATIONAL PARK, Malawi: Half a dozen African elephants lay strewn on a riverside plain in Malawi, immobilized by darts fired from a helicopter in a massive project to move 500 elephants, by truck and crane, to a sanctuary for the threatened species. As development squeezes Africa's wildlife areas, this kind of man-made animal migration is increasingly seen as a conservation strategy in Malawi, one of the continent's most densely populated countries, and beyond.

Conservationists flipped the prostrate elephants' large ears over their eyes to block out light, and propped open the tips of their trunks with twigs to ensure unimpeded breathing. Then the multi-ton elephants, hanging upside down from ankle straps, were loaded by crane onto trucks for a road trip of about 185 miles (300 kilometers) to a safer, more spacious area. African elephants are in particular peril from human encroachment, while poachers have slaughtered them in the tens of thousands to meet demand for ivory, mostly in Asia.

The Malawi elephant project differs from other wildlife relocations because of its large scale. "This is very much the way that we'll have to manage things in the future," said Craig Reid, manager of Malawi's Liwonde National Park, which is run by African Parks, a non-profit group based in Johannesburg. Reid described Liwonde as "an ecological island in a sea of humanity." African Parks is relocating hundreds of what it calls "surplus" elephants from Liwonde and Majete, another park, to Nkhosakota, a third reserve where poachers have virtually wiped out the elephant population.

African Parks, which manages all three Malawian reserves, is moving the 500 elephants this month and next, and again next year when vehicles can maneuver on the rugged terrain during southern Africa's dry winter. The Dutch Post Code Lottery and the Washington-based Wyss Foundation are key funders of the \$1.6 million relocation. An Associated Press team witnessed a day of catching elephants in Liwonde. Dr Andre Uys, a wildlife veterinarian, rode in a helicopter that flushed elephant families from woods onto a floodplain, where he darted them in their hindquarters. Then capture teams in vehicles raced across the rutted earth toward the prone elephants' dark silhouettes.

A win-win

The immediate priority was to check the health of the elephants before they were hoisted, trunks dangling, onto flatbed trucks. Monitoring included the intimate act of placing a hand over an elephant's

trunk to feel the hot blast of exhaled air every few seconds. Teams rounded up 24 elephants, including a gargantuan bull, in a day's haul that they described as a record. In one case, an immobilized calf struggled to breathe, and conservationists funneled oxygen up a tube in its trunk and measured vital signs. Uys speculated that the calf had river water in its sinuses.

"Those little guys actually can't walk along the bottom, they have to swim across the channels when we push them out into ground where we can catch them," he said. "In that process, with all the splashing from the

wildlife management that "will likely become the new norm in many places in Africa," said Bas Huijbregts, African species expert for the WWF conservation group. While disease transfer is a concern, species restocking in Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park and South Africa's Addo Elephant National Park has been successful, said George Wittemyer, an African elephant expert and associate professor at Colorado State University. "I see it as something that's here to stay, for better or worse," Wittemyer said.

African Parks hopes elephants in Malawi can eventually serve as a reservoir to restore other



MALAWI: In this photo, an elephant is lifted by a crane in an upside down position in Lilongwe, Malawi, in the first step of an assisted migration of 500 of the threatened species. — AP

mothers and everything, they get a lot of water up the nasal cavity." The elephants were revived with injections in "wake-up" crates, and cattle prods were used to maneuver the animals onto vehicles bound for their new home. There is some risk and stress in drugging and moving the animals, though South African conservationists and the commercial wildlife industry have refined and shortened the process over the years. Many animals can adapt to a new habitat if it is roughly the same as the old one. The Malawi relocation is "a win-win for elephants and people" and an example of

African elephant populations. One estimate says Africa has fewer than 500,000 elephants, down from several million a century ago. A South Africa-based company, Conservation Solutions, is contributing to the Malawi relocation project. Its leader, Kester Vickery, said the key to successful relocations of what he called a "higher-thinking kind of animal" is to keep tightly knit elephant families together. Unlike many other species, Vickery said, the first thing that a darted mother elephant does on recovering is look for her calf. —AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

Stunning European Cities To Visit



Stockholm, Sweden

Hip, exciting and undeniably beautiful, Stockholm should be high on your bucket list. Summer is the ideal time to visit, when the skies are extra blue and you can spend the day wandering the cobblestone streets of Gamla Stan. Explorers can make an excursion to some of roughly 30,000 islands that make up the skagard archipelago.

From major metropolises to charming, overlooked locales, Europe is brimming with cities everyone should visit. But where does a penny-pinching, adventure-seeking twenty something even begin when it comes to traveling Europe? The big players - London, Paris, Amsterdam - are great. Those should be on everyone's bucket list. For millennial, these cities offer delicious street food, hip hostels, cozy cafes and many glimpses into new cultures. And there's a bonus - these beautiful cities are even worth visiting if you're not exactly in your 20s anymore.



Berlin, Germany

By day, Berlin is a cultural wonderland, with an impressive roster of museums, art galleries and historic neighborhoods to explore. By night, Berlin boasts some of the best

nightlife Europe has to offer - whether you want to listen to some low-key live music the night away, there's a club for every style.

The "hipster capital of Europe" is also possibly the most beautiful spot on the continent. The "playground of twentys omethings" is, clearly, perfect for young travelers looking for cultural

enrichment and some uber-cool nightlife. Check out District VII's offbeat shops and cafes, pop into a "ruin pub," visit a few museums and ogle the city's gorgeous architecture.



Budapest, Hungary



Copenhagen, Denmark

The capital of Denmark is possibly one of the most charming, friendliest cities on Earth. Hop on a bicycle and explore the historic canals and squares while admiring the city's eye-catching architec-

ture. Be sure to pay a visit to Tivoli Gardens, the nearby amusement park that's more than 170 years old. And, of course, get cozy at a bar or cafe and chat up those friendly locals.

Riga was named a 2014 European Capital of Culture for good reason. There's iconic architecture, museums, the historic center (which is also

a UNESCO World Heritage Site) and lots of festivities to attend.



Riga, Latvia

For labor-related inquiries
and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlās Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

STATE OF KUWAIT DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw



Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours

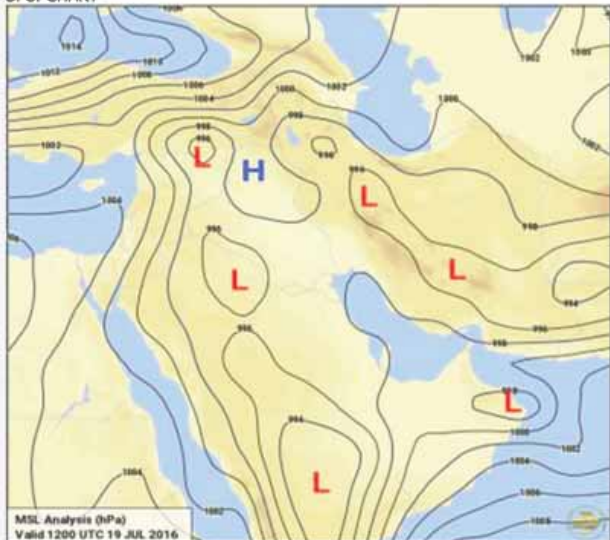
Issued 19/07/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 33 °C

By Night :Humid weather especially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly changing to south westerly wind, with speed of 10 - 30 km/h

By Day : Very hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h

SFC. CHART



Four-Day Forecast

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Expected Weather	very hot + relatively humid specially over coastal areas	very hot + high clouds	very hot + raising dust	very hot + raising dust
Min Temp °C	33	34	34	35
Max Temp °C	49	50	49	50
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	north westerly changing to south easterly	northerly to north westerly	north westerly to northerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	12 - 35	15 - 40	15 - 40

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	36	45
KUWAIT AIRPORT	33	48
ABDALY	32	49
BUBYAN	34	39
JAHRRA	33	49
FAILAKA ISLAND	35	43
SALMIYAH	33	39
AHMADI	33	41
JAL ALIYAH	33	50
QAROH ISLAND	35	39
UMM AL-MARADEM	35	38
NUWAISIB	34	48
WAFRA	35	49
MANAGISH	35	50
SALMY	35	49
MUTRIBA	35	51

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	48
Min Temp (°C)	33
Max Rel Hum (%)	25
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 NE
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Sunrise	05:01
Sunset	18:47

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:29
Sunrise	05:01
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:29
Sunset	18:47
Isha	20:16

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Nigar	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

PRIVATE CLINICS



Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abidallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaizeem	22636920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadad	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoubi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abidallah Al-Refae	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abidallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr. Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliytami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gajare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abidallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abidallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foad Abidallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center Te: 2575077 Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists
/Psychotherapists

Soor Center
Tel: 2290-1677
Fax: 2290 1688

info@soorcenter.com
www.soorcenter.com

Kaizen center
25716707

Noor Clinic
23845955

William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677
Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677

ANIMAL
PLANET HD

03:25 Wildest Africa
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Bondi Vet
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 Bondi Vet
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 Bondi Vet
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Wildest Africa
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 The Wild Life Of Tim
Faulkner
18:45 The Wild Life Of Tim
Faulkner
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Wildest Africa
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 The Wild Life Of Tim
Faulkner
22:25 The Wild Life Of Tim
Faulkner
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters: Lair Of
Giants
00:45 Monsters Inside Me
01:40 The Wild Life Of Tim
Faulkner
02:05 The Wild Life Of Tim
Faulkner
02:35 Tanked

BBC
FIRST

03:25 Bedlam
04:15 Doctors
04:45 Eastenders
05:15 Sinbad
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Doctors
07:30 Eastenders
08:05 Father Brown
08:55 Upstairs Downstairs
09:50 Sinbad
10:40 Doctors
11:10 Eastenders
11:40 Father Brown
12:30 Upstairs Downstairs
13:25 Sinbad
14:15 Doctors
14:45 Eastenders
15:20 Father Brown
16:15 Call The Midwife
17:10 Sinbad
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Holby City
21:00 I Want My Wife Back
Rev.
22:30 The Living And The Dead
Hebburn
23:00 Hebburn
23:30 Doctors
00:00 Eastenders
00:30 Holby City
01:00 Holby City
01:55 I Want My Wife Back
Rev.
02:20

07:00 Doki
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 My Cat From Hell
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 What Could Possibly Go
Wrong?
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 My Cat From Hell
12:50 Ultimate Survival
13:40 How It's Made
14:05 How It's Made
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Doki
16:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
17:00 Deadliest Space Weather
17:25 Deadliest Space Weather
17:50 NASA's Unexplained Files
18:40 What Could Possibly Go
Wrong?
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Deadliest Space Weather
21:35 Deadliest Space Weather
22:00 NASA's Unexplained Files
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Ultimate Survival
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Deadliest Space Weather
01:45 Deadliest Space Weather
02:10 NASA's Unexplained Files



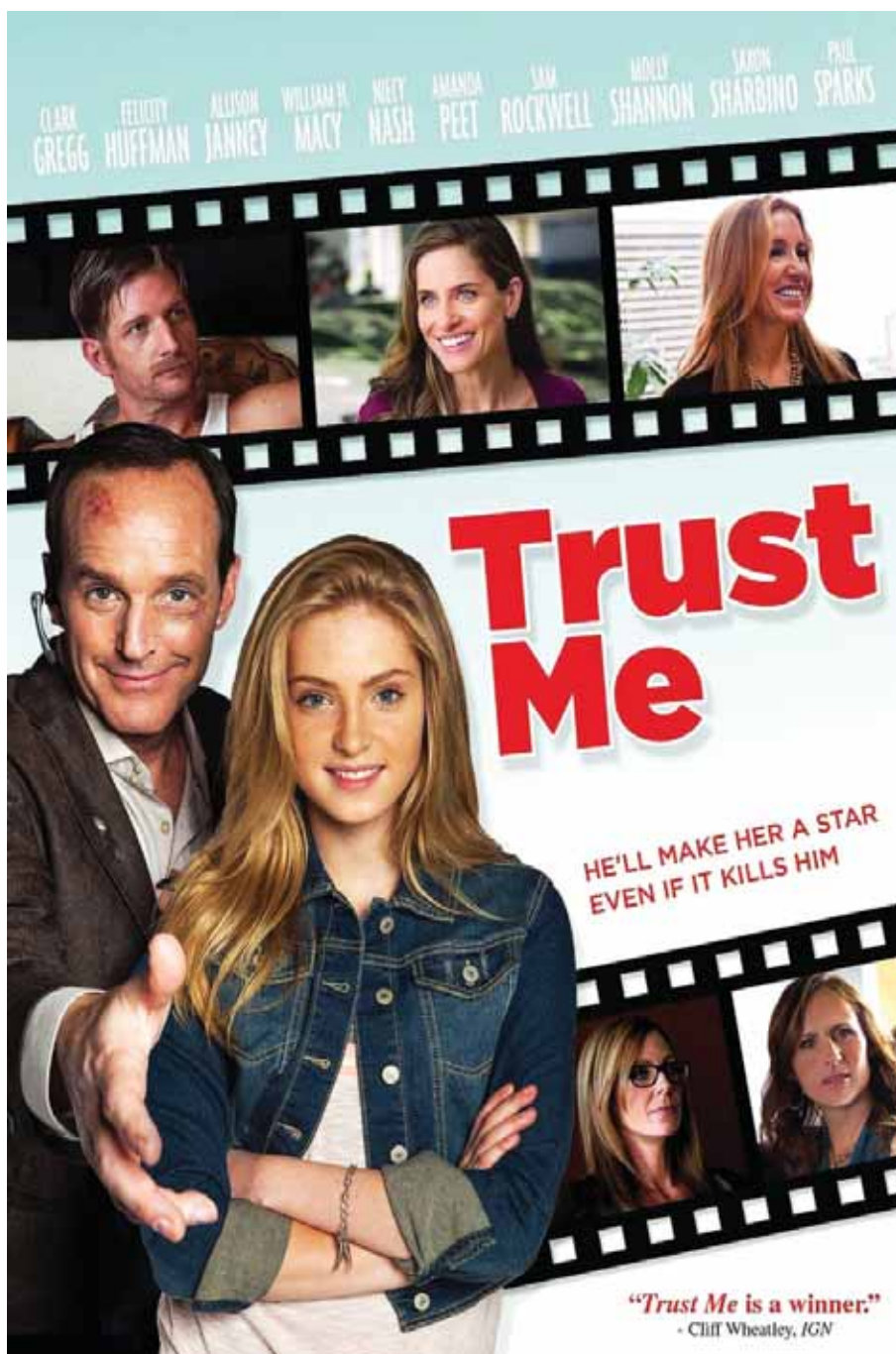
03:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
03:48 Nowhere To Hide
04:36 Nowhere To Hide
05:24 Nowhere To Hide
06:12 Nowhere To Hide
07:00 Tabloid
07:50 Tabloid
08:40 Tabloid
09:30 Tabloid
10:20 Love The Way You Lie
11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron
Hall
12:00 Nowhere To Hide
12:50 Nowhere To Hide
13:40 Nowhere To Hide
14:30 Nowhere To Hide
15:20 Love The Way You Lie
16:10 True Crime With Aphrodite
Jones
17:00 Murder Comes To Town
17:50 Murder Comes To Town
18:40 Murder Comes To Town
19:30 Murder Comes To Town
20:20 Love The Way You Lie
21:10 California Investigator
21:35 California Investigator
22:00 Vanity Fair Confidential
22:50 Murder Among Friends
Disappeared
00:30 Redrum
01:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
02:10 Murder Among Friends



03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A

23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta

03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopydoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopydoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopydoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopydoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Jake And The Never Land
Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
13:55 Miles From Tomorrow
14:25 The Lion Guard
14:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:20 Doc McStuffins
15:45 Jake And The Never Land
Pirates
16:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
16:30 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:25 Goldie & Bear
17:50 Jake And The Never Land
Pirates
18:20 The Lion Guard
18:45 Miles From Tomorrow
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land
Pirates
21:30 PJ Masks
22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopydoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero



TRUST ME ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA



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

13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples
15:35 Masterpiece With Alan
Titchmarsh
16:30 Code Of A Killer
17:25 It's Not Rocket Science
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Eggheads
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Masterpiece With Alan
Titchmarsh
20:30 Code Of A Killer
21:25 It's Not Rocket Science
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:10 The Chase
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries



03:01 Paw Patrol
03:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:35 Dora The Explorer
03:59 Max & Ruby
04:07 Bubble Guppies
04:29 Little Charmers
04:41 Shimmer And Shine
05:05 Dora And Friends
05:27 Zack & Quack
05:38 Blaze And The Monster
Machines
06:00 Paw Patrol
06:13 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
06:36 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Wanda And The Alien
07:11 Zack & Quack
07:22 Dora And Friends: Into The
City!
07:46 Blaze And The Monster
Machines
08:10 Paw Patrol
08:35 Shimmer And Shine
08:58 Dora The Explorer
09:22 Little Charmers
09:32 Paw Patrol
09:57 Bubble Guppies
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Roary The Racing Car
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Louie
11:22 Louie
11:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
11:53 Olive The Ostrich
11:58 Olive The Ostrich
12:03 Max & Ruby
12:26 Wanda And The Alien
12:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:00 Blaze And The Monster
Machines
13:22 Blaze And The Monster
Machines
13:45 Zack & Quack
13:55 Zack & Quack
14:05 Team Umizoomi
14:28 Louie
14:35 Louie
14:40 Olive The Ostrich
14:44 Olive The Ostrich
14:49 Paw Patrol
15:01 Paw Patrol
15:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
15:35 Dora The Explorer
15:59 Max & Ruby
16:07 Bubble Guppies
16:29 Little Charmers
16:41 Shimmer And Shine
17:05 Dora And Friends
17:27 Zack & Quack
17:38 Blaze And The Monster
Machines
18:00 Paw Patrol
18:13 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
18:36 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Wanda And The Alien
19:11 Zack & Quack
19:22 Dora And Friends: Into The
City!
19:46 Blaze And The Monster
Machines
20:10 Paw Patrol
20:35 Shimmer And Shine
20:58 Dora The Explorer
21:22 Little Charmers
21:32 Paw Patrol
21:57 Bubble Guppies
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Roary The Racing Car
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Louie
23:22 Louie
23:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
23:53 Olive The Ostrich
23:58 Olive The Ostrich
00:03 Max & Ruby



03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 The Loud House
08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Harvey Beaks
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Get Blake

14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 100 Things To Do Before
High School
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 The Loud House
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 Harvey Beaks
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 The Loud House
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before
High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants



03:00 Living With Fran
03:30 Mad Love
04:00 Better With You
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring
Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Hank
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Better With You
08:30 Hank
09:00 Living With Fran
09:30 The Last Man On Earth
10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
10:30 The Bernie Mac Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring
Jimmy Fallon
12:00 George Lopez
12:30 Better With You
13:00 Hank
13:30 The Bernie Mac Show
14:00 Mad Love
14:30 The Last Man On Earth
15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
15:30 Dr. Ken
16:00 Modern Family
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Living With Fran
18:30 Mad Love
19:00 Suburgatory
19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring
Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Dr. Ken
21:30 Modern Family
22:00 Ballers
22:30 Bordertown
23:00 Life In Pieces
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Dr. Ken
01:00 Modern Family
01:30 Ballers
02:00 Bordertown
02:30 Life In Pieces



03:00 The Night Of
04:30 How To Make It In America
05:00 Introducing Dorothy
Dandridge
07:00 Hello Ladies: The Movie
08:30 Public Speaking
10:00 Bette Midler: The Showgirl
Must Go On
11:30 An American Girl: Chrissa
Stands Strong
13:00 When Trumpets Fade
14:45 Sometimes In April
17:15 An American Girl: Chrissa
Stands Strong
19:00 The Wire
20:00 John Adams
21:00 True Blood
22:00 Preacher
23:00 Entourage
23:30 Entourage
00:00 The Wire
01:00 John Adams
02:00 True Blood



03:00 Better Call Saul
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Marvel's Agents Of
S.H.I.E.L.D.
07:00 Rosewood
08:00 The Whispers
09:00 Code Black
10:00 Stitches
11:00 Rosewood
12:00 The Whispers
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Marvel's Agents Of
S.H.I.E.L.D.
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 The Blacklist
19:00 Supergirl
20:00 Marvel's Agents Of
S.H.I.E.L.D.
21:00 Castle
22:00 Lucifer
23:00 Better Call Saul
00:00 Rosewood
01:00 Castle
02:00 Lucifer



04:30 Batman Unlimited: Animal
Instincts
06:00 Faster
08:00 Batman Unlimited: Monster
Mayhem
09:30 The League Of Extraordinary
Gentlemen
11:45 Age Of Dinosaurs
13:30 Faster
15:30 Crimson Tide
17:30 Sword Of Vengeance
19:00 Transformers: Age Of
Extinction
22:00 Running Scared
00:00 Get Lucky



03:00 Night At The Museum: Battle
Of The Smithsonian
05:00 Earth To Echo
07:00 Frankenweenie
09:00 Toy Story 3
11:00 Clockstoppers
13:00 Flubber
15:00 Inside Out
17:00 Dinosaur Island
18:45 Into The Woods
21:00 Night At The Museum: Secret
Of The Tomb
23:00 Dinosaur Island
00:45 Into The Woods



04:00 Bad Parents
06:00 Krippendorf's Tribe
08:00 Father Of The Bride
10:00 Bad Parents
12:00 Cas & Dylan
13:45 The Preacher's Wife
16:00 Father Of The Bride
18:00 At Middleton
20:00 Trust Me
22:00 This Is 40
00:15 Nothing To Lose
02:00 At Middleton



03:30 Low Down
05:30 God Help The Girl
07:30 Mandela: Long Walk To
Freedom
10:00 Second Coming
12:00 Grand Central
14:00 Hitting The Apex
16:30 Ed Wood
19:00 The Sixth Sense
21:00 Inside Llewyn Davis
23:00 Carlos
02:00 Masaan



04:30 Transcendence
06:45 Miss Julie
09:00 Barely Lethal
11:00 Drumline: A New Beat
13:00 Imogene
15:00 Interstellar
18:00 Hotel Transylvania 2
20:00 Ant-Man
22:00 Unfinished Business
23:45 This Is Where I Leave You
01:30 Last Knights



FASTER ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



03:15 Wheels That Fall
03:40 Extreme Collectors
04:05 Auction Hunters
04:30 Storage Hunters UK
05:00 How Things Work
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 Storage Hunters UK
09:45 How Things Work
10:35 Mythbusters
11:25 Man vs Expert
12:15 Incredible Engineering
Blunders: Fixed
13:05 Extreme Collectors
13:30 Auction Hunters
13:55 Storage Hunters UK
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 Junkyard Empire
16:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling
Thunder
16:50 How Things Work
17:40 What On Earth?
18:30 Marooned With Ed Stafford
19:20 Kings Of The Wild
20:10 Auction Hunters
20:35 Storage Hunters UK
21:00 What On Earth?
21:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford
22:40 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
23:30 Fat N' Furious: Rolling
Thunder
00:20 Junkyard Empire
01:10 What On Earth?
02:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
02:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert

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 Jessie
09:00 Jessie
09:25 Liv And Maddie
09:50 Liv And Maddie
10:15 Austin & Ally
10:40 Dog With A Blog
11:05 Dog With A Blog
11:30 Girl Meets World
11:55 Girl Meets World
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug
And Cat Noir
12:45 Shake It Up
13:10 Shake It Up
13:35 Jessie
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Austin & Ally
14:50 Austin & Ally
15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:20 Gravity Falls
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug
And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
16:10 Backstage
17:00 Alex & Co.
17:25 Alex & Co.
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Liv And Maddie
18:40 Best Friends Whenever
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Bunk'd
19:55 Jessie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A
Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer

01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopydoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopydoo
02:45 Art Attack



06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Supa Strikas
08:40 Mighty Med: There Is A
Storm Coming
09:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
10:00 K.C. Undercover
10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 Supa Strikas
11:20 Supa Strikas
11:45 Kirby Buckets
12:10 Kirby Buckets
12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty
Much Everything
13:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty
Much Everything
13:30 Mighty Med: There Is A
Storm Coming
14:20 Phineas And Ferb
14:45 Phineas And Ferb
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
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 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
18:15 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Anneandroids
19:35 Phineas And Ferb
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty
Much Everything
21:20 Pickle And Peanut
21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
09:30 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Andy Bates American Street
Feasts
20:30 Andy Bates American Street
Feasts
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man v Food
22:30 Man v Food
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man v Food
02:30 Man v Food



03:25 Together
03:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
04:20 Don't Tell The Bride
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan
Titchmarsh
08:00 Together
08:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40 The Chase
11:35 Masterpiece With Alan
Titchmarsh
12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries



MISS JULIE ON OSN MOVIES HD

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (14/07/2016 TO 20/07/2016)

SHARQIA-1
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 11:30 AM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 1:45 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 4:00 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 6:15 PM
INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE 9:30 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 12:05 AM

SHARQIA-2
GHOSTBUSTERS 1:00 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 3:30 PM
FINDING DORY -3D 5:45 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 8:00 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 10:15 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 12:45 AM

SHARQIA-3
FINDING DORY 12:45 PM
FINDING DORY 3:00 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 5:30 PM
ABU SHANAB 7:45 PM
ABU SHANAB 10:00 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 12:30 AM

MUHALAB-1
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 11:30 AM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 1:45 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 4:00 PM
ABU SHANAB 7:15 PM
ABU SHANAB 9:30 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 11:45 PM

MUHALAB-2
FINDING DORY 12:45 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 3:00 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 5:15 PM
FINDING DORY 7:30 PM
INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE 9:45 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 12:15 AM

MUHALAB-3
FINDING DORY -3D 11:30 AM
GHOSTBUSTERS 1:30 PM
FINDING DORY -3D 3:45 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 6:00 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 8:15 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 10:30 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 12:45 AM

FANAR-1
GHOSTBUSTERS 12:00 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 2:45 PM
ABU SHANAB 5:15 PM
ABU SHANAB 7:30 PM
ABU SHANAB 9:45 PM
ABU SHANAB 12:05 AM

FANAR-2
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 11:45 AM

NOW YOU SEE ME 2 2:30 PM
INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE 5:15 PM
FINDING DORY -3D 7:45 PM
INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE 10:00 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 12:30 AM

FANAR-3
FINDING DORY 12:45 PM
FINDING DORY 3:00 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 5:15 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 8:30 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 11:45 PM

FANAR-4
GHOSTBUSTERS 1:00 PM
MARAUDERS 3:15 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 5:30 PM
MARAUDERS 8:00 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 10:15 PM
MARAUDERS 12:45 AM

FANAR-5
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 11:30 AM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 1:45 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 4:00 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 6:15 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 8:30 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 10:45 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 1:00 AM

MARINA-1
GHOSTBUSTERS 12:15 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 2:30 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 4:45 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 7:00 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 9:15 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 12:05 AM

MARINA-2
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 12:45 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 3:30 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 5:45 PM
ABU SHANAB 8:00 PM
ABU SHANAB 10:15 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 12:30 AM

MARINA-3
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 1:00 PM
FINDING DORY 3:15 PM
FINDING DORY 5:30 PM
FINDING DORY 7:45 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 10:00 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 12:15 AM

AVENUES-1
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 11:45 AM
SULTAN- HINDI 2:00 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 5:15 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 8:30 PM

REQUIRED

A mini-Market
Requires Salesman/Saleswoman
Filipino National

- Fluent in Arabic (speaking)
- Experience is a must
- Presentable.
- Transferable Visa (article 18)

Send CV to email
quickbasket1@gmail.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Shaik Madar** (old name),
Passport No. P0377626, R/o,
D.No. 28/83, Bhavani Nagar,
Bethal Colony, Rayachoty
Town & Mandal, YSR
Kadapa Dist., A.P. hereby
changed my name as
Pathan Haroon Khan S/o
P.Azeez Khan (new name).
(C 5190)
16-7-2016

I, **Jayaraman Sekar** holder
of Indian Passport No.

EMERGENCY
112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:28
Shorook 05:00
Duhr: 11:54
Asr: 15:29
Maghrib: 18:48
Isha: 20:17

K7934219, residing at D.No.
215 a Middle street,
Thevarkan Danallur Village
Kulikarai Post Kudavasal
Taluk, Tanjore district, here-
by changed my name to
Jayaraman Ravichandran.
(C 5188)

I, **Nagarajan Arumugam**
Shetty, Passport No.
H0113366, issued at Kuwait
on 26.11.2008. Father
name: Arumugam Marudan
Shetty, residing at Post Box
No. 28506, Safat 13146
Kuwait. Shall henceforth be
known as Nagarajan
Arumugam.
(C 5189)
14-7-2016

JOB VACANCIES

Al-Khadda International General Trading &
Contracting Company is certainly hiring for
the following positions:

- Excavator Operators
- JCB Backhoe Operators
- Crane Operators
- Side Boom Operators
- Labor
- Gardner
- Cleaners (Males and Female)
- Safety Engineer
- Polisher
- Painter
- Mason
- Carpenter
- Electrical Mate
- Pickup driver
- Electricians

Interested candidates please submit updated CV to

recruitment@alkhadda.net
or visit our office directly.

WANTED

For ladies salon in Salmiya

- 1) Lady hair dresser
- 2) Lady cleaner
- 3) Lady receptionist (Arabic/English)
- 4) Driver

Send your resume on **lafemkwt@gmail.com**

Or call: **66711141 / 66733222**

JOB VACANCY

A leading Engineering and Contracting Company in
Kuwait has the following requirement:

- 1) Electrical Engineer
- 2) Instrumentation Engineer
- 3) Mechanical Engineer

Candidates should be familiar with following:
a. Cable glanding, termination, instrument impulse line, tubing and piping.
b. Good experience in the day to day plant activities like Predictive, Breakdown
and corrective maintenance.
c. Skilled to read engineering drawing, loop diagram, logic and hook up drawing.

CV's should be mailed to: **doulahest@gmail.com**



Flight Schedule

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

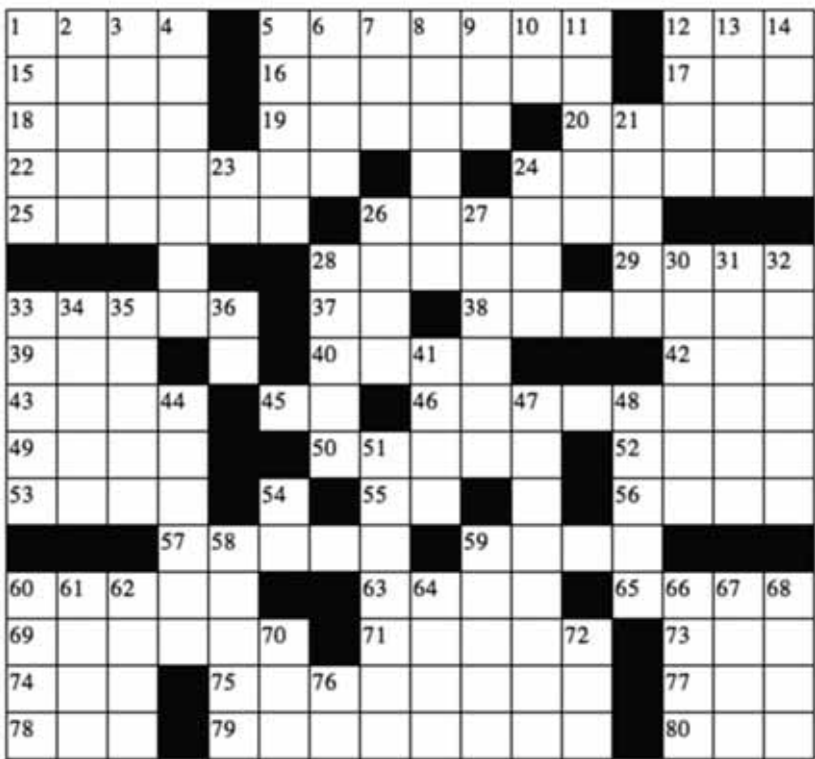
Arrival Flights on Wednesday 20/7/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	QTR	1078	Doha	14:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	MSR	575	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:15
JZR	239	Amman	00:20	FDB	057	Dubai	14:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	KAC	512	Mashhad	14:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	KAC	540	Sharm el-Sheikh	14:50
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	KAC	788	Jeddah	15:00
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	KNE	683	Madinah	15:05
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	KNE	529	Jeddah	15:05
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	OMA	645	Muscat	15:10
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	ETD	303	Abu Dhabi	15:10
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	ABY	127	Sharjah	15:35
KKK	750	TXZ	01:50	UAE	857	Dubai	15:45
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	NIA	251	Alexandria	15:50
GFA	211	Bahrain	02:15	RJA	640	Amman	16:00
CEB	018	Manila	02:20	TBM	6313	Mashhad	16:05
UAE	853	Dubai	02:25	FDB	051	Dubai	16:10
MSC	405	Sohag	02:30	QTR	1072	Doha	16:15
THY	1404	AYT	02:30	JZR	535	Cairo	16:20
THY	768	Istanbul	02:50	MSC	507	HRG	16:30
ETD	305	Abu Dhabi	03:05	JZR	787	Riyadh	16:45
OMA	643	Muscat	03:05	IRC	526	Mashhad	16:50
RJA	644	Amman	03:10	KAC	562	Amman	16:55
FDB	067	Dubai	03:15	SAW	705	Damascus	17:05
MSR	612	Cairo	03:15	SVA	510	Riyadh	17:15
QTR	1076	Doha	03:25	JZR	357	Mashhad	17:30
PGT	860	Istanbul	03:30	GFA	215	Bahrain	17:30
KAC	544	Cairo	03:40	JZR	177	Dubai	17:45
JZR	555	Alexandria	04:15	JZR	777	Jeddah	17:50
FEQ	931	Alexandria	05:00	QTR	1080	Doha	17:55
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	JZR	483	Istanbul	18:20
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	MSR	620	Cairo	18:30
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KAC	786	Jeddah	18:35
BAW	157	London	06:40	KAC	774	Riyadh	18:35
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	KAC	502	Beirut	18:35
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	SYR	341	Damascus	18:45
JZR	503	Luxor	07:25	KAC	742	Dammam	18:50
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	KAC	542	Cairo	18:55
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	KAC	618	Doha	18:55
KAC	204	Lahore	07:40	KAC	166	Paris/Rome	19:05
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	UAE	875	Dubai	19:05
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	GFA	217	Bahrain	19:05
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	FDB	063	Dubai	19:10
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	KAC	614	Bahrain	19:10
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	ABY	123	Sharjah	19:15
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	MSR	606	Luxor	19:30
KAC	344	Chennai	08:15	CLX	792	Luxembourg/Amman	19:30
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	JAI	572	Mumbai	19:35
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	KAC	674	Dubai	19:45
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	KAC	154	Istanbul	19:45
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	FDB	059	Dubai	19:50
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	KAC	102	New York/London	19:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	DLH	634	Frankfurt	20:05
IRC	6511	ABD	09:15	KNE	381	Taif	20:10
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	MEA	402	Beirut	20:15
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	OMA	647	Muscat	20:20
IRM	1188	Mashhad	09:40	JZR	189	Dubai	20:25
FDB	055	Dubai	09:50	QTR	1088	Doha	20:35
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	FDB	5053	Dubai	20:55
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	ETD	307	Abu Dhabi	21:05
AXB	890	Mangalore/Bahrain	10:55	UAE	859	Dubai	21:15
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	JAD	309	Amman	21:20
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	ALK	229	Colombo	21:20
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	THY	764	Istanbul	21:30
IAW	157	Al Najaf	11:55	QTR	1082	Doha	21:55
ETD	9819	Abu Dhabi	12:10	GFA	219	Bahrain	22:00
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	KAC	564	Amman	22:05
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	ETD	309	Abu Dhabi	22:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	JZR	125	Bahrain	22:15
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	AIC	975	Chennai/Goa	22:25
FEQ	953	Asyut	12:55	MSC	501	Alexandria	22:30
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	BBC	043	Dhaka	22:40
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	JZR	185	Dubai	22:55
IRC	6521	Lamerd	13:35	MSC	403	Asyut	23:10
KAC	792	Madinah	13:45	RBG	555	Alexandria	23:15
KNE	231	Riyadh	14:00	JAI	574	Mumbai	23:20
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	JAI	614	Cairo	23:30
JZR	563	Sohag	14:05	FDB	071	Dubai	23:35
				KLM	411	Amsterdam/Dammam	23:40

Departure Flights on Wednesday 20/7/2016

Airlines	Flt	Route	Time	ETD	9819	BRU	14:10
AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05	THY	767	Istanbul	14:10
MSC	404	Asyut	00:10	UAE	872	Dubai	14:15
JZR1	540	Cairo	00:20	IRC	6512	ABD	14:25
JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25	KNE	382	Taif	14:55
JAD	302	Amman	00:25	MSR	576	Sharm el-Sheikh	15:00
MSR	615	Cairo	00:30	KAC	773	Riyadh	15:00
FDB	072	Dubai	00:30	GFA	222	Bahrain	15:05
JZR	502	Luxor	01:15	FDB	058	Dubai	15:05
FDK	804	Damascus	01:35	KAC	673	Dubai	15:05
THY	773	Istanbul	01:40	QTR	1079	Doha	15:15
DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00	KAC	617	Doha	15:15
ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45	KAC	741	Dammam	15:30
THY	765	Istanbul	02:45	SVA	503	Madinah/Jeddah	15:45
PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55	JZR	188	Dubai	15:50
KKK	751	TXZ	02:55	KNE	530	Jeddah	15:55
MSC	406	Sohag	03:30	KNE	684	Madinah	16:00
UAE	854	Dubai	03:45	KAC	613	Bahrain	16:00
THY	769	Istanbul	03:45	OMA	646	Muscat	16:10
RJA	645	Amman	03:55	ABY	128	Sharjah	16:15
KAC	417	Manila	03:55	ETD	304	Abu Dhabi	16:20
OMA	644	Muscat	04:05	KAC	563	Amman	16:30
FDB	068	Dubai	04:05	NIA	252	Alexandria	16:50
ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10	RJA	641	Amman	16:55
MSR	613	Cairo	04:15	TBM	6314	Mashhad	17:00
KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20	FDB	052	Dubai	17:00
PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30	JZR	266	Beirut	17:10
QTR	1077	Doha	04:35	QTR	1073	Doha	17:25
CEB	019	Manila	04:50	MSC	508	HRG	17:30
JZR	560	Sohag	05:00	UAE	858	Dubai	17:40
THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00	IRC	527	Mashhad	17:50
FEQ	954	Asyut	06:00	SVA	511	Riyadh	18:15
RJA	643	Amman	06:25	SAW	706	Damascus	18:20
QTR	1087	Doha	06:30	GFA	216	Bahrain	18:20
THY	771	Istanbul	06:45	JZR	184	Dubai	18:20
GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50	JZR	538	Cairo	18:30
JZR	240	Amman	06:55	JZR	238	Amman	18:45
FDB	070	Dubai	07:05	KAC	1801	Cairo	18:55
JZR	164	Dubai	07:15	QTR	1081	Doha	19:05
FDB	5062	Dubai	07:15	JZR	124	Bahrain	19:20
JZR	562	Sohag	07:55	MSR	621	Cairo	19:30
BAW	156	London	07:55	SYR	342	Damascus	19:45
FDB	054	Dubai	08:25	GFA	218	Bahrain	19:50
KAC	511	Mashhad	08:30	FDB	064	Dubai	19:50
KAC	539	Sharm el-Sheikh	08:40	ABY	124	Sharjah	19:55
KAC	791	Madinah	08:50	KAC	361	Colombo	19:55
KAC	117	New York	08:55	MSR	619	Alexandria	20:30
JZR	534	Cairo	09:00	FDB	060	Dubai	20:30
KAC	671	Dubai	09:30	Dhaka	283	Dubai	20:30
KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30	UAE	876	Dubai	20:35
JZR	482	Istanbul	09:30	JAI	571	Mumbai	20:35
ABY	126	Sharjah	09:40	CLX	792	Hanoi	20:45
UAE	856	Dubai	09:45	KAC	331	Trivandrum	20:45
ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	09:50	DLH	634	Doha	20:50
IRC	6522	Lamerd	10:00	KAC	343	Chennai	20:55
IRA	664	Shiraz	10:05	KAC	543	Cairo	21:00
QTR	1071	Doha	10:25	KAC	351	Kochi	21:00
FDB	056	Dubai	10:35	KNE	232	Riyadh	21:10
IRM	1189	Mashhad	10:40	JZR	554	Alexandria	21:15
KAC	153	Istanbul	10:55	MEA	403	Beirut	21:15
KAC	501	Beirut	11:00	OMA	648	Muscat	21:15
KAC	175	Frankfurt/Geneva	11:00	QTR	1089	Doha	21:45
KAC	561	Amman	11:15	DHX	171	Bahrain	21:50
GFA	214	Bahrain	11:20	FDB	5054	Dubai	21:55
JZR	356	Mashhad	11:35	ETD	308	Abu Dhabi	21:55
AXB	890	Mangalore	11:40	JAD	300	Amman	22:00
MEA	405	Beirut	11:55	ALK	230	Colombo	22:20
KAC	541	Cairo	12:00	UAE	860	Dubai	22:25
UAE	874	Dubai	12:05	THY	1413	TXZ	22:25
KAC	103	London	12:10	KAC	381	Delhi	22:25
JZR	776	Jeddah	12:10	KAC	301	Mumbai	22:30
IAW	158	Al Najaf	12:15	KAC	345	Ahmedabad	22:55
KAC	785	Jeddah	12:55	GFA	220	Bahrain	23:00
JZR	176	Dubai	13:00	KAC	205	Islamabad	23:00
FDB	076	Dubai	13:10	ETD	310	Abu Dhabi	23:05
JZR	786	Riyadh	13:10	JZR	528	Asyut	23:15
SAW	702	Damascus	13:20	QTR	1083	Doha	23:20
FEQ	932	Alexandria	13:35	MSC	502	Alexandria	23:30
MSR	611	Cairo	13:55	KAC	203	Lahore	23:40
			14:00	RBG	556	Alexandria	23:55

CROSSWORD 1317



ACROSS

- 1. Lacking or deprive of the sense of hearing wholly or in part.
- 5. A mark or flaw that spoils the appearance of something (especially on a person's body).
- 12. A mature blood cell that contains hemoglobin to carry oxygen to the bodily tissues.
- 15. A former copper coin of Pakistan.
- 16. Parasitic on the digestive epithelium of vertebrates and higher invertebrates.
- 17. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- 18. Unusually great in size or amount or degree or especially extent or scope.
- 19. The space between two lines or planes that intersect.
- 20. An Indian side dish of yogurt and chopped cucumbers and spices.
- 22. A large mass of ice floating at sea.
- 25. A pattern forming a unity within a larger structural whole.
- 29. (of molten metal or glass) Formed by pouring or pressing into a mold n 1.
- 33. Any of several short-billed Old World rails.
- 37. A white trivalent metallic element.
- 38. American politician and lawyer.
- 39. Lap that forms a cloth border doubled back and stitched down v 1.
- 40. One of the two main branches of orthodox Islam.
- 42. The month following March and preceding May.
- 43. A ballistic missile that is capable of traveling from one continent to another.
- 45. A radioactive transuranic element which has been synthesized.
- 46. Moth whose larvae are flour moths.
- 49. City in southwestern Colombia in a rich agricultural area.
- 50. Swedish oceanographer who recognized the role of the Coriolis effect on ocean currents (1874-1954).
- 52. A natural protective covering of the body.
- 53. An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- 55. A Russian river.
- 56. A written agreement between two states or sovereigns.
- 57. Battles in World War II in the Pacific (November 1943).
- 60. Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- 63. A dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain.
- 65. (Babylonian) God of wisdom and agriculture and patron of scribes and schools.
- 69. A medicinal drug used to evoke vomiting (especially in cases of drug overdose or poisoning).
- 71. The basic unit of money in Sweden.
- 73. The act of slowing down or falling behind.
- 74. A container.
- 75. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
- 77. United States liquid unit equal to 4 quarts or 3.785 liters.
- 78. The administration of a strong electric current that passes through the brain to induce convulsions and coma.
- 79. A large estate in Spanish-speaking countries.
- 80. American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).

DOWN

- 1. English navigator who explored the Arctic while searching for the Northwest Passage (1550-1605).
- 2. Order by virtue of superior authority.
- 3. Typical geese.
- 4. Salt pork from the back of a hog carcass.
- 5. The hair growing on the lower part of a man's face.
- 6. Water chestnut whose spiny fruit has two rather than 4 prongs.
- 7. A graphical record of electric currents associated with muscle contractions.
- 8. South American herb with sticky glandular foliage.
- 9. A strong emotion.
- 10. A complete metric system of units of measurement for scientists.
- 11. Living quarters reserved for wives and concubines and female relatives in a Muslim household.
- 12. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.
- 13. A Chadic language spoken south of Lake Chad.
- 14. A capacity unit used for measuring fresh herring.
- 21. Having the wind against the forward side of the sails.
- 23. Half the width of an em.
- 24. A South American shrub whose leaves are chewed by natives of the Andes.
- 26. United States writer (born in Poland) who wrote in Yiddish (1880-1957).
- 27. A small tent used as a dressing room beside the sea or a swimming pool.
- 28. An important question that is in dispute and must be settled.
- 30. A state in northwestern North America.
- 31. Containing or resulting from disease-causing organisms.
- 32. A dictator or dictatorial person.
- 34. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
- 35. A leisurely walk (usually in some public place).
- 36. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
- 41. A metrical unit with unstressed-stressed syllables.
- 44. A member of the Algonquian people formerly inhabiting the Maritime Provinces of Canada.
- 47. A bee that is a member of the genus Andrena.
- 48. Made of wood of the aspen tree n.
- 51. A port and the capital of Guinea.
- 54. A radioactive transuranic element.
- 58. Cause to be embarrassed.
- 59. Something that causes irritation and annoyance.
- 61. Surpassing the ordinary especially in size or scale.
- 62. Altered from an originally straight condition.
- 64. A member of an Algonquian people living in central Canada.
- 66. Primitive chlorophyll-containing mainly aquatic eukaryotic organisms lacking true stems and roots and leaves.
- 67. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
- 68. Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
- 70. An accountant certified by the state.
- 72. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- 76. A radioactive element of the actinide series.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

You have an almost reckless faith in the life process. You sense a change and you are a natural supporter of change. Enthusiastic feelings for others and deep running emotions are present in all of your relationships. You have great personal intensity, even power. There is a love of animals, children and change. Everything conspires to reveal you at your most elegant, particularly in social situations this afternoon. Again-conversations along the line of psychic visions and spiritual ideas seem to dominate the conversations. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on more emotional significance for you. Being more involved with neighbors or siblings satisfies a deep emotional need this evening. Support and harmony make this a happy time.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You are full of significant insight today with regard to solving any problems. This could be a time for real breakthroughs in the idea department. You are in top form when it comes to mental activity. You are a good worker, always thinking and caring for people and things. You are naturally service-oriented and will handle business formalities successfully. By having a good eye for quality, you can sort out the good apples from the bad. You may be given the job of pinpointing a particular error today. You are skilled at using your mind in an analytical manner, always discriminating. Higher-ups depend on your input. This evening you and a family member may decide a celebration is in order and perhaps a get-together can be planned.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A drive to probe and penetrate may find you examining and working through some strong internal changes. Push too hard and you could lose your momentum. It is important to know when to be dominating and when to let another take the lead. There are calls today requesting you to take the lead in some sort of planning committee. There is a desperate need to have your organizational abilities. You are popular with almost everyone and you will have plenty of support. You may find yourself in a health-food store later today-learning about the new products on the market and purchasing healthy foods and vitamins. You have an interest in health improvements of all kinds. You may learn new ways to relieve stress and build stamina.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You may find that you go out of your way to be fair with a customer, client or co-worker this morning. There will be an opening, during some dispute, to hear what is incorrect and point out the mistake. Others appreciate your candor as well as your wisdom. Instead of others feeling stupid, you add a bit of humor that smooths over any embarrassments. Later this morning, a bit of research may bring you in touch with people in power whether they are politicians, officials, etc. Today you may gain better insight into how to work with and guide others in making certain decisions. You understand the choices and can spot the right ones. Friends, group projects and community concerns play a key role in your career direction.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You are in a good position to make life more pleasant for others. A volunteer group looks forward to your visit this afternoon and your friends at work just might join you in this volunteer endeavor. You may have several items that you have collected over the last few weeks that this group really needs. In the workplace you may have questions of attitude but after people discover what you do with your afternoon, your day seems to become easier to handle. Travel and other contacts with faraway people and places will play a bigger role for you soon and travel keeps coming up in your plans again and again. Socializing reigns tonight as an impromptu dinner springs up with all your work friends. A radio station advertisement gives you some fun ideas.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Others may resist your ideas and thoughts. Outwardly, you are intense and passionate. This quality is so essential to your character that all else revolves around it. However, your current situation may demand some reevaluation or otherwise challenge your ideas. Your ability to cut through the superficial and get to the real heart of things comes through loud and clear. There are no secrets with you. It is just that sometimes others do not want to deal with the truth. Patience; do not lose your cool now. You will get the response you want soon enough. Your career, sense of judgment and solving problems are at the top of the list as the key components to look out for whenever you feel stuck in a situation. You find unique ways to relax this evening.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

This day moves along at an easy pace and you should find everything running in a smooth manner. Ideas and interaction with authority figures or older people may, however, be in the forecast. Working with the energies today should be easy to accomplish-everyone seems to be going in the same direction. This is an excellent time to make decisions and take care of any mental work. In a word, it is your emotions that hold your innermost self together. Your feelings are not just important-they are essential in getting to know you. A strong devotional nature is apparent and you may find that people navigate toward you in times of stress as you are the one that speaks calmly and clearly to assuage any fears. You enjoy a little quiet time this evening.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

Anyone who tries to get you to play with words today is in for a big surprise. Your mind will quickly cut right through all the window dressing and get right down to the quick. Before anyone knows it, you have the heart of a matter out front for everyone to see. In case you were wondering, yes... You could apply for detective or research work. Your ability to get to the point is all but phenomenal. Because you value fairness you may find yourself volunteering to coach or tutor before school begins. You may also be put in the position to make a fair decision call today. You appreciate others who have been successful and are encouraged to attend group meetings or gatherings that show off the individuals' talents: art, entertainment, skills, etc.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

Sharp and penetrating insight into your own inner workings may surface now. Others praise your determination. The word for today is accomplishment. If there is a job, you can do it. As a conscientious worker, you pour yourself into any task with absolute determination. You are responsible to the extreme and take on obligations as though you just cannot get enough. You enjoy discipline-there are no limitations as far as you are concerned-where there is a will, there is a way. It may be time to start an exercise club-perhaps meeting with co-workers before work to walk and exercise at least three days a week. This is a time of much energy and drive, perfect for starting something out or taking care of business. A romantic evening is possible.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may find that your personal growth and your career may depend upon how you can handle the very sensitive psychological material that may be coming up now. You benefit from logical insights, getting to the heart of things. Group meetings can be a problem for some of your co-workers but as you keep to your notes and acknowledge others, they will respond favorably. You will see some positive results as you keep to your plans as much as possible. At home today you may be considering some change to your everyday routine. Being on the go and keeping in touch with people you enjoy being around is something that you greatly take pleasure in. Some elder friends may take pleasure in your smiling face this evening.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You busy yourself before work this morning with lots of conversations only to have to stop and meet up again later so as to discover more about the many subjects you have in common. The interesting part about your job is that when you work for a particular company that requires people with talent in certain areas, the people working together will have similar interests. Your co-worker friends compliment and encourage you. This could be anything with an artistic vent or in some profession serving others. Tonight there are much laughter, ideas and conversations that would benefit all the working staff. Now there might be a good discussion toward having regular bull sessions. Perhaps once a month, a bull session could be fun, and productive.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You could find yourself being misled or getting too carried away with some plan or idea today-take your time and think things over. You have a fantastic appetite for the fine details that must be included in some legal work or color display. You are responsible and always ready to unravel. You could find that you are appreciated by many. Happiness is the result of making things work and... Being appreciated. This afternoon may bring opportunities to express your witty side. As time goes on, any anxieties vanish and co-workers are happily waiting for the next project. This evening is a great time to hang out with friends. A social get-together shows you as the life of the party. You are spontaneous. Don't forget an animal friend.

WORD SEARCH

Fantasy 1 - Word Search
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

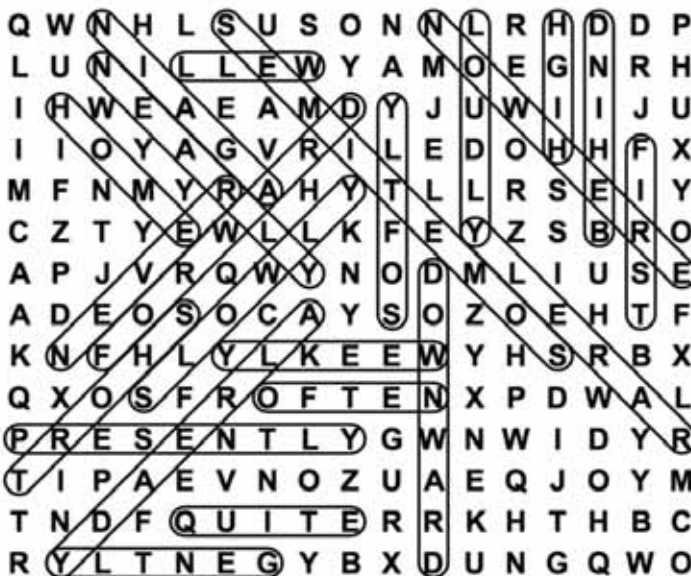


ALE
ARMOR
ARROWS
AXE
BLACKSMITH
CRYSTAL BALL
DRAGON
DWARF

ELF
EVIL
FAIRY
GOOD
KING
KNIGHT
MAGIC
POTION

PRINCESS
SPELL
SWORD
TROLL
UNICORN
WAND
WIZARD

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
Adverbs 2 - Solution

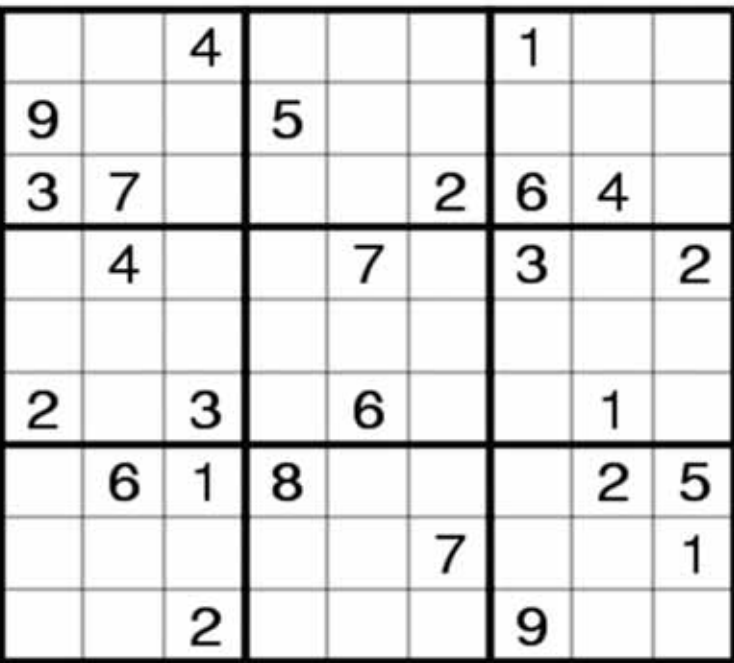


AGAIN
ALREADY
BEHIND
DOWNWARD
FIRST
FORWARD
GENTLY
HIGH

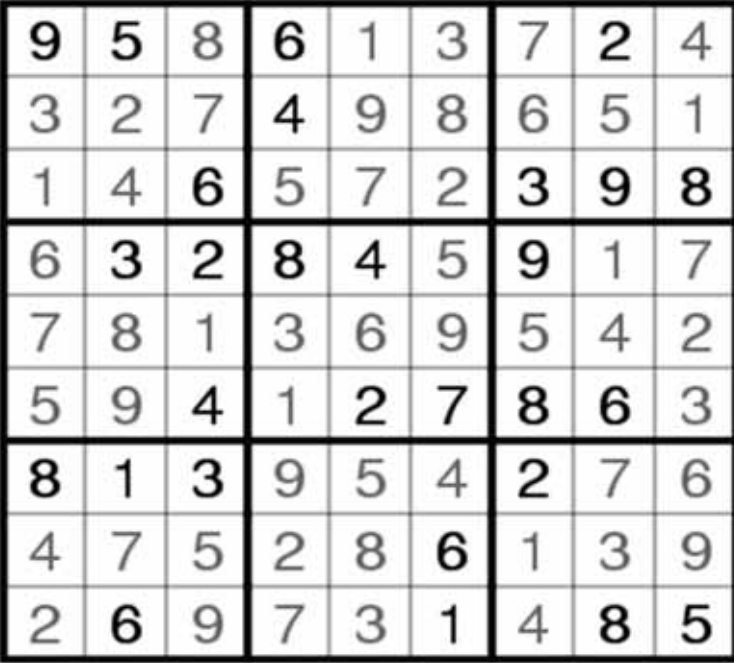
HOME
LOUDLY
NEARLY
NEVER
NOWHERE
OFTEN
PRESENTLY
QUITE

RARELY
SHORT
SLOWLY
SOFTLY
SOMETIMES
WEEKLY
WELL

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





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

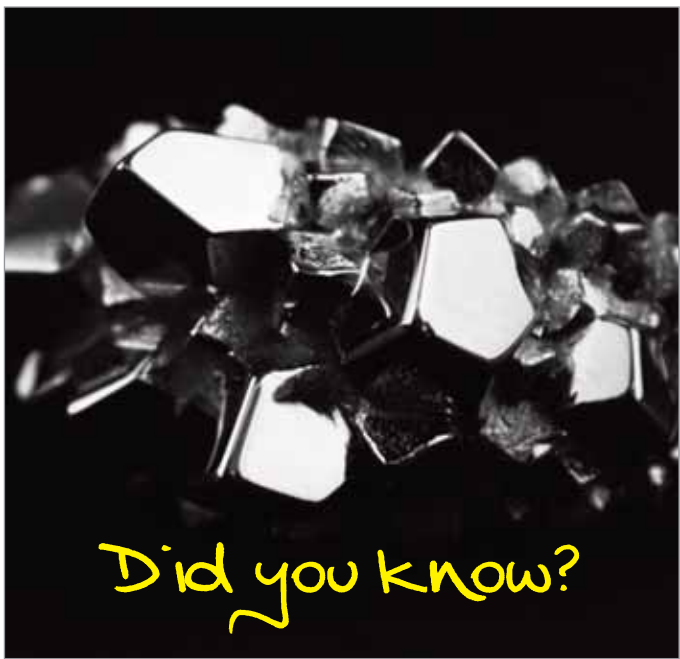
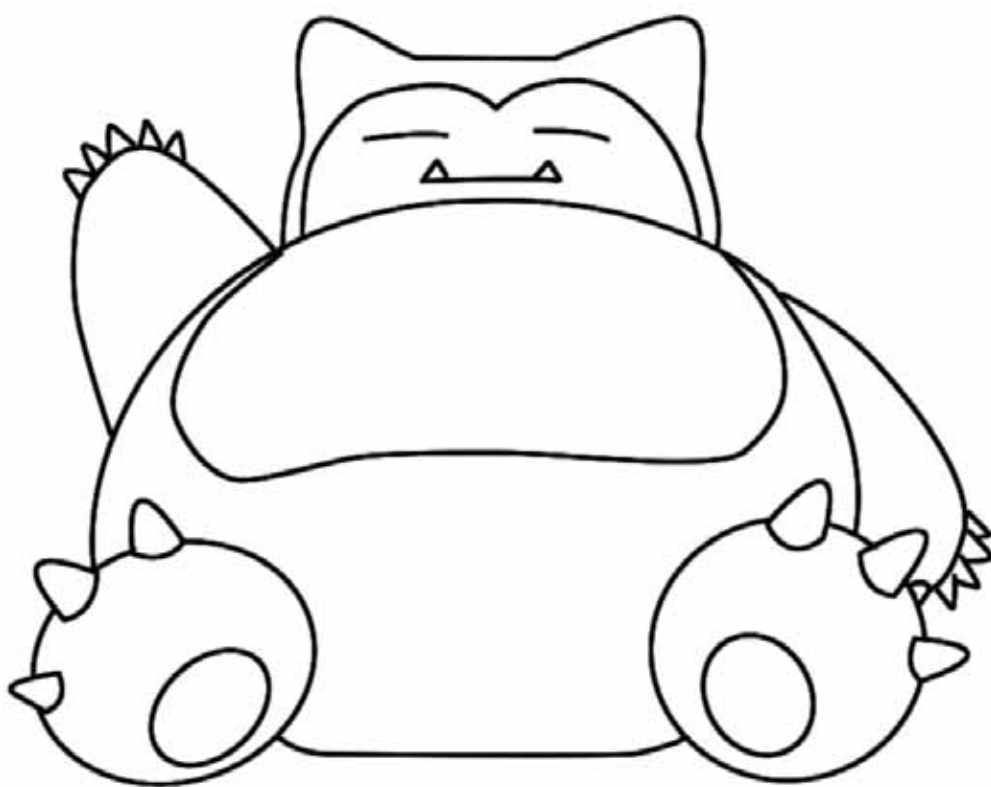
SUDOKU

Solution

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



Color me!



Did you know?

- Platinum is a chemical element with the symbol Pt and atomic number 78.
- The name platinum comes from the Spanish word 'platina' which means "little silver".
- Platinum is a dense, malleable (can be thinned), ductile (can be stretched), shiny gray-white transition metal that is rare enough to be deemed a precious metal.
- Platinum can be found chemically un-combined in its native form. Because of this pre-Columbian South American natives used platinum found in the alluvial sands of various rivers to produce artifacts of a white gold-platinum alloy.
- Platinum was first mentioned in European writings by Italian Julius Caesar Scaliger in 1557. He described an unknown noble metal found near Mexico, "which no fire nor any Spanish artifice has yet been able to liquefy".
- The melting point of platinum is 3,215 °F (1,768.4 °C) and the boiling point is 6,917 °F (3,825 °C).
- Native deposits of platinum are rare and difficult to locate, South Africa accounts for 80% of the worlds production. Alluvial deposits are also mined from the Ural Mountains, Russia.
- Platinum can also be produced commercially as a by-product of nickel refined from copper and nickel ores.
- Nearly half of all platinum produced is used in catalytic converters, these are devices which control harmful vehicle emissions.
- Platinum's resistance to tarnish and corrosion as well as its silver-like shine and extreme rarity make it ideal for making jewelry (its second largest usage).
- Watchmakers such as Vacheron Constantin, Patek Philippe, and Rolex, use platinum for producing limited edition watch series.
- Like the other main precious metals gold and silver, platinum is used as currency and investment. The commodity is traded and collected in the form of coins, bars, ingots and jewelry.
- Other uses of platinum include in oxygen sensors, spark plugs, turbine engines dentistry equipment and dental crowns, as an anti-tumor agent, to make standard weights and measures, and to make powerful magnets.
- Platinum's rarity as a metal means the word is often associated with wealth, value and exclusivity making it a very marketable word widely used by advertisers. "Platinum" awards, credit cards and music album sales are seen as of a higher rank than "gold", "silver" and "bronze" but lower than "diamond".
- Meteorites and our moon have a higher percentage of platinum than Earth.

JOKES

- Q: What has four wheels and flies?
A: A garbage truck!
- Q: What kind of car does Mickey Mouse's wife drive?
A: A minnie van!
- Q: Why don't traffic lights ever go swimming?
A: Because they take too long to change!
- Q: Why did the man run around his bed?
A: To catch up on his sleep!
- Q: Why did the robber take a bath before he stole from the bank?
A: He wanted to make a clean get away!
- Q: How do you cure a headache?
A: Put your head through a window and the pane will just disappear!

ACTIVITY



Egg carton turtle

What you need

- 1 x egg carton cup
- Free turtle body printable
- Green construction paper
- 2 x small googly craft eyes (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paint

Activity

- First cut out one egg carton cup and trim it down.
- Now paint it green with some yellow spots.
- Using your construction paper, trace out a little turtle shape for his body. You'll find a turtle body template here (insert printable) Just print it onto your green construction paper and cut it out.
- Now give him some eyes: you can use googly craft eyes, or you can just draw them on.
- Glue his shell to his body.

RECIPES FOR KIDS



Hawaiian pizza twists

Ingredients

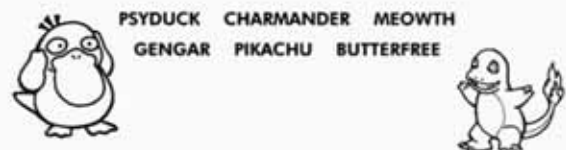
- 1/2 x 440g can crushed pineapple, drained well
- 1 1/2 cups self-rising flour
- 1 teaspoon dried Italian herbs
- 50g butter, chopped
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon no-added-salt tomato paste
- 70g sliced leg ham
- 1/2 cup pizza cheese

Method

- Preheat oven to 200C/180C fan-forced. Line a large baking tray with baking paper. Place pineapple on a plate lined with paper towel. Pat dry with paper towel.
- Sift flour into a large bowl. Stir in dried herbs. Add butter. Using fingertips, rub butter into flour until mixture resembles coarse bread-crumbs. Make a well in centre. Add

- Using a butter knife, stir until mixture forms a dough. Turn onto a lightly floured surface. Knead for 1 minute or until smooth.
- Roll half the dough out to a 15cm x 20cm rectangle. Leaving a 1cm border, spread tomato paste over rectangle. Top with ham, pineapple and pizza cheese.
- Roll remaining dough out to a 15cm x 20cm rectangle. Place dough on top of cheese. Press down gently to compact. Pinch edges to seal. Cut crossways into six 15cm-long strips. Carefully twist each strip to form a spiral effect. Place on prepared tray, 3cm apart.
- Bake for 13 to 15 minutes or until golden. Stand on tray for 2 minutes. Transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Refrigerate in an airtight container until required.

Find the Pokemon



C P I K A C H U W E
Y H M L R A Z Y E M
D L A X V D B R S E
G P I R E T F V G O
E R H N M R A I S W
N Y P Y E A N O S T
G J I T K C N W N H
A C T R N Y B D R R
R U T S G B F O E N
B W P S Y D U C K R



DISNEY

THE QUIZ

- What Disney film released in 2010 retells the classic fairytale Rapunzel?
- What is the name of Woody's owner in Toy Story?
- In which Disney film will you hear the song 'Zero To Hero'?
- Whose tea party does Alice attend?
- The villain, Sid Phillips, appears in which 1995 Disney film?
- What Disney film released in 2007 was half animated and half acted by real actors, featuring Susan Sarandon?
- Name the Disney character that sang, 'One Day My Prince Will Come'?
- What puts Snow White into a deep sleep?
- What type of animal is a Flounder?
- What helps the medicine go down, in Mary Poppins?



ANSWERS

- Pinocchio
- Toy Story
- Hypnotizes
- Pumbaa
- Jane
- Dumbo's Mum
- Jasmine
- Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs
- Mulan
- Kiss her



Pippa Middleton

has confirmed her engagement

The sister of Duchess Catherine and 40-year-old James Matthews have revealed they are to tie the knot in 2017 after he popped the question on Sunday. The happy couple said in a statement: "Miss Pippa Middleton and Mr James Matthews are delighted to announce they became engaged on Sunday 17th July and plan to marry next year." Hedge fund manager James is said to have asked 32-year-old Pippa to be his wife after going down the traditional route and asking her father, Michael Middleton, for permission. A source said: "James is a traditionalist and very much wanted to do things properly. That meant getting his future father-in-law's consent." Another source added that both Michael and Pippa's mother Carole are thrilled, saying: "Mike and Carole are very happy. They like James and they are sure he will make Pippa very happy." James is the brother of 'Made in Chelsea' star Spencer Matthews but is a self-made man, despite coming from a wealthy family. An insider said: "He worked very hard from an early age. "He's a smart chap but also the sort of bloke you would be proud to call a friend "He made a huge amount of cash from hedge funds and some more from the London property market. We're talking millions here and you don't do that by the age of 40 unless you are a sharp cookie. And James is very bright." Pippa and James dated in 2012 but split before getting back together last year following the brunette beauty's split from financier Nico Jackson after three years. She shot to fame after being maid of honor at her sister Catherine's royal wedding to Prince William.

Nathan Sykes is 'terrible' at Tinder

Nathan Sykes has tried Tinder - but was "terrible" at it. The 'Kiss Me Quick' hitmaker doesn't get time to date due to his music career, so he decided to try out the popular dating app while in the studio recording his debut solo LP but he found it difficult to



convince girls it was really him. Speaking exclusively to Yahoo! the former Wanted band member said: "When I was writing the album one of the producers tried to get me on Tinder, he was like, 'Mate it will be hilarious.' So I signed up and the girls were like, 'You're not Nathan Sykes.' I was like, 'Brilliant.' I can't be arsed with dating apps I

would be terrible." Nathan previously dated Ariana Grande from August 2013 to December the same year but admits it's hard for him to devote enough time and energy to make a relationship really work. He explained: "I certainly can't (find time for a relationship). But it's one of them things, if you go looking for it, you'll never find it! It always happens in the most unexpected of places. I am just not going to look and then it might happen!" Nathan, 23, went solo after the boy band split in 2014, and dating woes aside he admits he feels very lucky to be in the position he is with his career. He explained: "I feel very fortunate, I have friends at home who are just leaving University and getting into their first job. It is really good to say that I have already travelled the world and had some incredible experiences. I am bringing out my second debut album which is cool." And Nathan has his eye on breaking the US and matching the success The Wanted achieved as a solo star. He said: "Everyone dreams of making it all around the world so I am concentrating worldwide. In America I have had some great support from the radio stations. We are just about to release my new single 'Over and Over' there; it's got a lot of airplay in the US already, which is incredible."

Justin Bieber's fan of 'Pokemon Go'



Justin Bieber went unrecognized in New York's Central Park as he played 'Pokemon Go'. Despite being one of the most famous people in the world, nobody paid the 'Love Yourself' singer any attention as he joined dozens of other people as he tried to catch a rare Pokemon through the hugely popular mobile augmented reality game. His manager Scooter Braun posted a video of Justin as he ran into a huge swarm of people and everyone can be heard yelling about the rare Gyarados creature as they tried to capture him. Scooter wrote: "This is amazing. @justinbieber and @alfredoflores in nyc looking for Pokemon and no one looks at who is next to them. (sic)" He finished the post with lost of crying laughing emojis. Justin isn't the

Khloe Kardashian gets new lip filler

Khloe Kardashian has got new lip fillers to boost her pout. The 'Keeping Up with the Kardashians' star underwent the procedure which was filmed by her half-sister Kendall Jenner, 20, and streamed on the raven-haired model's Snapchat. She captioned one screenshot from clip: "This is the craziest thing ever." In the picture, Khloe, 32, is seen with her mouth wide open while she is being injected. This comes after the brunette star admitted last November that she was planning to get fillers when the time was right. She wrote at the time: "Let me set the record straight, once and for all: I haven't had any fillers or done any plastic surgery. "I'm going to get fillers eventually - that's the procedure I want to do when it's time - but I don't think I have wrinkles right at this moment. When I do get fillers, I want some normalcy to my face because you are supposed to have expressions! "I don't need work on my face just yet because I have an amazing makeup team. Their contour game is so on point that I feel like I get a nose job every single day - and I love it!" Last week,

Khloe's half-sister Kylie Jenner, 18, admitted she made her lips "too big at one point" and feared she would have to go on US reality TV series 'Botched', which sees doctors attempt to fix procedures gone wrong. She said: "Well, I definitely made my lips a little too big at one point." "I got excited and felt like I needed to do a lot. And then you guys were like, 'Kylie, you need to chill.' And then I had to go back and have it fixed, and it was a crazy process. Thank God I didn't end up on 'Botched.'" Khloe has come under fire this week for hitting out at Chloe Grace Moretz after the 19-year-old actress appeared to blast Kim Kardashian West for posting audio of a conversation between her husband Kanye West and Taylor Swift. She shared two pictures, one of Chloe in a red bikini and another explicit image of a woman resembling the actress in a similar bathing suit and wrote: "Is this the a hole you're referring to @ChloeGMoretz ??? (sic)."



Sigourney Weaver set for San Sebastian Donostia Award

Sigourney Weaver will receive the 2016 Donostia Award at the 64th San Sebastian Festival. The 66-year-old actress - who has recently been seen and heard in a couple of high-profile cameos in 'Ghostbusters' and 'Finding Dory' - will accept the prestigious prize for her career achievements when the event takes place between September 18 and September 26 at the Basque resort city. A statement read: "The festival's most important honorary award acknowledges the career of the North American actress whose name has presided over some of the biggest productions in the last few decades, under the direction of movie makers such as Sir Ridley Scott, Peter Weir, James Cameron, Mike Nichols, Roman Polanski, Ang Lee and David Fincher." Sigourney's most famous role has been as heroine Ellen Ripley in the 'Alien' franchise - a part she first played in Scott's 1979 sci-fi horror classic and is reprising for a fifth time in Neill Blomkamp's take on the killer Xenomorph extra-terrestrial species. The festival will also be showing an out-of-competition screening of Sigourney's latest movie 'A Monster Calls' and she will receive the honour at the showing. 'A Monster Calls' is due for release on October 21 this year, and the Spanish/British fantasy drama film directed by J. A. Bayona is based on the 2011 novel of the same name by Patrick Ness. Sigourney stars in the film as the grandmother of a little boy, Conor, who encounters a monster, played by Liam Neeson, 64, who is made of leaves and sticks in a human shape that tells him stories.



Karlie Kloss: The 'girl squad' has given me confidence

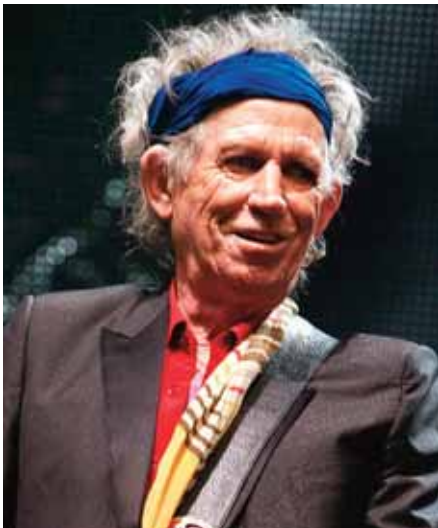
Karlie Kloss says the 'girl squad' has helped her regain her confidence. The 23-year-old former Victoria's Secret model is a member of Taylor Swift's group of famous friends, made up of the likes of Cara Delevingne, Ruby Rose and Gigi Hadid, and she finds their support invaluable after being bullied over her distinctive appearance when she was younger. Speaking to the new issue of Grazia magazine, she said: "I grew up being the tallest in my class and was always teased for being skinny. Whether it was because of those people at school or people online now, I had to develop a thick skin. "You have to learn to cope with people's opinions - it is so important for women to be surrounded by people who truly support them. You have to have a core support group." Despite accusations the group is elitist, Karlie insists her friends are all very "kind and caring" and she loves the fact they will always try and make time for one another, no matter how busy their schedules are. She shared: "My

friends are kind, caring, thoughtful people. I think that's what draws everyone in the group together. We are all very supportive of each other. We're a big network of really great friends who all have very international schedules and lives. We try to get together as much as possible, even if we're all travelling in different places." The New York University student has set up scholarships and a summer school to help women learn how to computer code and she hopes she can use her profile to inspire and influence other young females to get educated in tech. She said "I recognize that I am in a position to influence other people and I do not take that lightly. "I want to use my influence to inspire people to push themselves. "In two weeks we're completely changing these young ladies' knowledge of this technology. A lot of them leave transformed. That, to me, is success."

Keith Richards believes his mother killed his cat

Keith Richards believes his mother drowned his pet cat. The 72-year-old Rolling Stones guitarist has revealed, as a child, he developed a real love of animals, but his late mother Doris was not a fan of pets in their home. Keith had a pet mouse and a cat and to this day he is convinced his mum sent his beloved pussy to a watery grave. Speaking to the Radio Times magazine, the 'Gimme Shelter' rocker said: "It must have been p***ing her off more than I realized. She just said, 'It's gone away.' I did a painting of the cat and wrote MURDERER under it and put it on her door. I called it Gladys. It was a traumatic time." Despite the trauma, Keith is still a big animal lover and continues to keep dogs but two of his canine pals have died. The musician - who now has two mutts - said: "At the moment I only have two, because two died. They reached the end of their string; and they looked at me and said, 'I'm leaving now.' I did love them. "You know, you cuddle up if you find yourself alone or whatever." The Rolling Stone guitarist believes that pets are a natural addition to a home and that they give him a healthy sense of space and time. He explained: "I've always thought animals are a natural part of a house. But you also have to know that ... I mean, you know me, I'm going to hang on forever! But you need to know, 'I'm going to see this pup die.' It gives you a sense of space and time." Keith and his mother Doris were very

close throughout his life and he can remember vividly the moment she died and his struggle to come up with something poignant to say to her. Recalling her passing: "She said, 'Why me Keith?' And I said, 'You're 93, Mum.' That was the best line I could come up with. And she said, 'This morphine's not bad, you know. And those were her last words to me.'" Keith is the star of a new BBC Two documentary, 'Keith Richards: The Origin Of The Species', which will be aired on 9pm on Saturday about his life growing up in post-World War II Kent with his mother and father Herbert.





Chairman Andrew Kluger looks over 'The Bridgeworkers' by Diego Rivera, from 1930, at the Mexican Museum currently located at Fort Mason in San Francisco. — AP photos



Kluger holds brushes used by Diego Rivera at the Mexican Museum.



Kluger looks over a painting of founder Peter Rodriguez by Alfredo Arreguin.



Artwork by Geri Montano is seen in background with wares for sale in the La Tienda of the Mexican Museum.



Registrar Wendy Niles holds a Day of the Dead sculpture 'La Soldadera' by Alvaro de la Cruz being stored in a vault at the Mexican Museum.

World-class Mexican Museum being built in San Francisco

San Francisco is getting another cultural treasure - a world-class museum to showcase the largest collection of Mexican and Latino art in the nation. Groundbreaking was set for yesterday for the new Mexican Museum - the realization of a dream by Mexican-American artist Peter Rodriguez, who opened the city's first museum for Latino art in a Mission District storefront in 1975. Rodriguez started a collection that now has more than 16,000 pre-Columbian, colonial and contemporary works of Mexican and Latino art.

Rodriguez, who died July 1 at 90, never lost hope the unique museum would be built, his family said. "My uncle worked tirelessly, and with passion and drive, to personally demonstrate that, as a Mexican-American, we can achieve any dream by ourselves," said Irene Christopher, his niece. The 60,000-square-foot Mexican Museum will be the downtown home of the collection that includes 800 works of Mexican folk art

donated by the family of Nelson Rockefeller and pieces by Mexican muralist Diego Rivera and painter Miguel Covarrubias.

The new museum is set to open in the spring of 2019. Most of the art is now in storage, though some pieces are exhibited at the tiny current site in the Fort Mason area of San Francisco. The museum moved there after the Mission District storefront closed. With 39 percent of California's population identifying as Latino, the museum will be a place where they can learn about their culture, said Andrew Kluger, who became chairman of the museum board five years ago and helped raise \$30 million needed for the building.

"The new museum will allow us to educate second- and third-generation Chicano, Latino children about their heritage, which is quite important because many of them don't know about it," Kluger said. The four-story Mexican Museum will be housed at the bottom of a luxu-

ry condo tower in Yerba Buena Gardens, nestled between historic St Patrick's Church and the Contemporary Jewish Museum.

One of 11 children, Rodriguez was born in Stockton in 1926 and later moved to San Francisco, where he worked in the advertising and fashion industries. He was a self-taught artist who found his calling in abstract art and traveled to Mexico for the first time after he was invited to show his work there in the 1960s. Kluger said Rodriguez's vision will be reflected in the new museum. "We want to honor him always for his inspiration to start this museum 40 years ago," Kluger said. The Mexican Museum will be an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution. One of its first exhibits will be "Frida and I," a children's exhibition about the life of Frida Kahlo. — AP



An exterior view of the Mexican Museum presently located at Fort Mason in San Francisco.



An ink drawing of Jose Limon by Miguel Covarrubias is seen at the Mexican Museum.

Hector Babenco will be best remembered for just two movies, but he was a poet of the Downtrodden

The late Roger Ebert called the cinema "a machine that generates empathy," and that's as good a definition of the power of movies as you're likely to hear. The director Hector Babenco, who died last week at 70, made a dozen films in his lifetime, and it's fair to say that he'll be best remembered for just two of them: "Pixote" (1981), his ripped-from-the-gutter drama of Brazilian street kids stealing and whoring and murdering to survive, and "Kiss of the Spider Woman" (1985), a tale of two accused criminals-one a macho political prisoner, the other a drag queen who doesn't think about politics but, in a different way, is even more of a political prisoner-who fight and talk and bond after being thrown together into the same jail cell. The first film was a scalding cry of agony and ecstasy from what used to be called the Third World; the second film was Babenco's audacious entry into the Hollywood mainstream (it won William Hurt the Academy Award for Best Actor).

Yet what marked both movies, and united them as the work of a daring poet of lyrical squalor, is the wellspring of empathy they demanded and, in so demanding, created. For a lot of viewers, to experience a Babenco film was to enter the lives of people who weren't just different from them (the definition of empathy). It was to peer through a great divide, a wall of fate and opportunity and desire that was social, economic, sexual, spiritual. Babenco was a bard of the outcast, and that's why he never sentimentalized the lives that he showed us. At moments, he wanted you to cry for them, but mostly, he wanted you to see them. Liberal cinema is often about fighting for the "decency" and "dignity" of people. Babenco insisted that you behold his characters' decency and dignity even when their decency and dignity had been stripped away. That was the radical power of his filmmaking.

Violent brutes

He made "Pixote" with a cast that included a number of real street kids from Sao Paulo, notably the film's 12-year star, Fernando Ramos da Silva, who was killed by Brazilian police six years later. The casting was anything but a stunt. In the history of movies, there have been a handful of performances that indelibly put on screen the experience of people who become violent brutes because all the feeling has been crushed out of them. One thinks of the young Robert Cobo in Bunuel's "Los Olvidados," of Robert De Niro in "Taxi Driver" and of Fernando Ramos da Silva in "Pixote." He plays the title urchin as a haunted blank, a child whose desolate stare and downturned mouth are a sign of all the abuse he's absorbed. Yet he'll do whatever it takes to hold onto life-and who of us wouldn't?

"Pixote" was the first film to capture how children can be brainwashed, by the exploitative adults around them, into becoming walking zombies of the underworld: kids who grow up yearning to be hard, ice-cold, gangster. If you watch it now, 35 years later, it speaks more scaldingly than ever to a world in which African teenagers are trained to be guerrilla

fighters, and the epidemic of sex trafficking reduces children to disposable human crops. In "Pixote," the young hero's response to the cruelty around him is to squash any vestige of his sensitivity (even as da Silva's performance shows us that he remains, deep down, a little boy). The late Brazilian actress Marilia Pera makes the streetwalker Sueli the most seethingly angry and flawed mother figure in the history of cinema, but the film's most haunting performance is that of Jorge Juliao,



This file photo taken on August 30, 2014 shows Argentinian director Hector Babenco posing during the photocall of the movie "Words with Gods" presented out of competition at the 71st Venice Film Festival at Venice Lido.

Prison drama

"Pixote," which Babenco, standing on the outskirts of a tin-roof ghetto, introduces on-camera as if it were a documentary, is one of the seminal films of the last 40 years. It's a movie that asks, "What is happening to our world?" a cri de coeur that demands our answer in the very act of watching it. One way to measure how world cinema has evolved since "Pixote" is that today, a comparable filmmaker probably wouldn't have the red carpet rolled out for him in Hollywood; Alejandro G. Iñarritu may be the last one who took that kind of leap. But when Babenco, on the strength of "Pixote," made "Kiss of the Spider Woman," a prison drama set during Argentina's "dirty wars" of the '70s, it was an indie movie that had the karma of a mainstream event.

I first caught it at a weekend matinee in New York City, and the line snaked around nearly four blocks. The excitement was all about the novelty of seeing William Hurt play a wispy-

voiced gay movie queen who swans about like William Holden channeling Jean Harlow, and Hurt was probably miscast-too WASPy (especially in contrast to Raul Julia's Valentin), and too stoic to seem a florid creature of fantasy. Yet he and Babenco turned that very miscasting into a quixotic expression of not belonging.

Hurt's Molina, thrown into prison for having sex with a young man, wants no part of a society that wants no part of

another film,

"At Play in the Fields of the Lord," adapted from a dated Richard Matheson novel, and the less said about this allegory of missionaries, drugs, ecology, insanity, and bad acting the better. It was Babenco's ticket out of Hollywood. When an internationally acclaimed filmmaker falls off the grid, it's often not because he has failed. It can be because he no longer has the will to stay on the grid. That, in essence, is what happened



This file photo taken on October 25, 2007 shows Argentinian director Hector Babenco promoting 'El Pasado' at the second annual film festival in Rome. — AFP photos

Two extraordinary films

Babenco tried to climb into the Hollywood pantheon with "Ironweed," his 1987 adaptation of the William Kennedy novel, starring Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep as drunken homeless vagabonds- in theory, an organic American extension of Babenco's cinema of the down-and-out. The film received several awards for its acting, yet it failed to connect with audiences, and their impatience was understandable: "Ironweed" was an earnestly inert movie that, for all the talent that went into it, seemed less and less alive as it went along. One admired the performances without loving them. In the end, it had everything but what the other Babenco films had: that holy fusion of degradation and transcendence that lights the characters from within. It would be four years until he made

to Hector Babenco, but there's no judgment tucked inside that assessment. Like any fan of his two extraordinary films, I wish that he'd found a way to make more of them; I understand why he didn't. He struggled with illness, and by the time he made "Carandiru" (2003), an epic tale of life inside the largest

prison in Latin America, his reach had exceeded his grasp. Yet Babenco was a major artist whose films marked a moment of transition, and he now seems infinitely ahead of his time because of it. The stories he told flowed back and forth between innocence and criminality, male and female, gay and straight, tragedy and romantic dream. To apply those labels to his work, though, for even a single sentence feels reductive, because he could not-would not-be defined in that way. The humanity of his characters spilled over the sides of those boundaries. — AFP



Ben Blaque, a crossbow sharpshooter, stands still after firing a crossbow wearing a hood, that then triggered a series of pre-set crossbows culminating in an arrow piercing the apple above his head, during media event to promote the magic show, The Illusionists 1903, at the National Auditorium in Mexico City. — AP photos



Cast members of The Illusionists 1903 take the stage at the start of a teaser event for the press at the National Auditorium in Mexico City.



This undated photo provided by Julien's Auctions shows locks of Marilyn Monroe's hair obtained from her hairdresser. — AP photos

Marilyn Monroe's tresses and dresses going up for auction

Gentlemen prefer blondes - but will auction-goers? Two locks of Marilyn Monroe's hair, among a trove of memorabilia from the estate of an ardent fan-turned-friend, are going on the auction block in the fall and could sell for as much as \$8,000. The hair is from the estate of Frieda Hull, who had wide access to Monroe and obtained the locks from the actress' hairdresser. Julien's Auctions is offering the items on Nov. 19-20 in Los Angeles. They're among selections from the auction that will be exhibited aboard the Queen Mary 2 during its weeklong crossing from New York to Southampton, England, beginning Aug 9.

The locks of hair, contained in an ultraviolet-protected case, are in a single lot, with a presale estimate of \$6,000 to \$8,000. Hull asked Monroe's hairdresser for them before Monroe died in 1962, and Monroe gave the OK, Julien's said. The auction house said the two women had a long-lasting friendship, and Hull had remarkable access to Monroe's personal and professional life.

The buyer will receive authentication papers from the Hull estate and the auction house. The auction also will feature other Monroe memorabilia from the estate of Actors Studio artistic director Lee Strasberg and from David Gainsborough-Roberts, a British collector believed to own the largest private collection of the star's costumes. The items range from \$3,000 to \$600,000. They include a sheer black beaded and sequined dress from the movie "Some Like it Hot" and a pink linen halter dress from the thriller "Niagara." Other artifacts include a large collection of photos of Monroe at the 1955 premiere of "East of Eden." Monroe would have turned 90 last month. Hair from other celebrities has gone up for auction previously, including Elvis Presley's and David Bowie's. — AP



Charlie Frye, 'The Eccentric,' performs with metal hoops.

Cast members of 'The Illusionists 1903' took the stage at the start of a teaser event for the press at the National Auditorium in Mexico City. During the event, a crossbow sharpshooter in Mexico City triggered a series of pre-set crossbows culminating in an arrow piercing the apple above his own head to promote the magic show. 'The Illusionists 1903', evoking the "golden era" of magic shows, will be performed in Mexico City from July 13 to 24. — AP



An arrow fired from a crossbow by Ben Blaque bursts a balloon held over the head of an assistant, as cast members of The Illusionists 1903 perform during a teaser event for the press.

Interesting and unusual tent designs



This undated photo provided by the UK-based company Field Candy shows their silhouette couple kissing themed tent design. The company is known for its interesting and unusual tent designs. — AP photos



A watermelon themed tent design.



An open book themed tent design.



This photo provided by the UK-based company Field Candy shows their quilt themed tent design.



An American flag themed tent design.



Photo shows a sign for 'Sweep the Country,' an exhibition at the Heritage Center of the Union League in Philadelphia. — AP photos



Photo shows Betsy Cook in the 323 Arch Street Fashion Collective in Philadelphia, holding up a 'Hilladelphia' shirt she made.



A donkey outside the Union League in Philadelphia.

Presidential footsteps in Philadelphia? They're everywhere



Photo shows life-size bronze sculptures of the signers of the US Constitution in the Signers' Hall at the National Constitution Center.



Photo shows life-size bronze sculptures of the signers of the US Constitution in the Signers' Hall at the National Constitution Center.



Visitors pose for photos with the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia.



Photo shows a cut-out paper silhouette of George Washington on display at the Powel House, a historic site in Philadelphia, with site manager Jennifer Davidson reflected in the glass.

Philadelphia has a long history as a center of politics, going back to the 18th century when the Founding Fathers met here to sign the Declaration of Independence and write the US Constitution. Even presidential conventions are nothing new: The 2016 Democratic National Convention is the city's 12th since the Whig Party met here in 1848. Visitors can sample Philly's political history any time at landmarks like Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell (still cracked!). But special exhibitions themed on conventions and campaigns are also on view this summer, including shows at the Heritage Center of the Union League, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and National Constitution Center.

And while you're at the Constitution Center, don't miss Signers' Hall, a recreation of the room where the Constitution was written. It's crowded with 42 life-size bronze statues of the Founding Fathers. You can shake their hands, whisper in their ears or pose for selfies.

There's also something to be said for simply wandering the streets of Historic Philadelphia, the neighborhood around Independence Hall. You'll find pennies on Ben Franklin's grave, the story of a president's runaway slave, and the house where George and Martha Washington danced the night away.

Convention City

"Sweep the Country," an exhibition at the Heritage Center of the Union League, surveys Philadelphia's history as a convention host through stories, images, and objects like an 1858 campaign handkerchief and a 1936 board game. The Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts hosts "Happiness, Liberty, Life? American Art and Politics," with 100 works exploring themes like the cult of presidential personality and art as protest. Artists include Gilbert Stuart, Andrew Wyeth and Kara Walker.

At the National Constitution Center's interactive "Headed to the White House" exhibition, you can practice your presidential handshake, listen to speeches and contemplate artifacts like mac-and-cheese with "Democrats in 2008" printed on the box. The Constitution Center is also the hub for "PoliticalFest," a festival of exhibits, games and theater celebrating American history, and running from July 22-27. Donkeys have symbolized the Democratic Party since Andrew Jackson's enemies called him a jackass in 1828. Look for 57 fiberglass donkeys on the streets of Philadelphia through the end of July.



Visitors walk in view of Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Presidential footsteps

Independence Hall is an essential stop for history buffs, but you can only go inside on a National Park Service tour; free tickets are distributed each morning at the visitor center, or reserve online for \$1.50. But even outside the building, you'll be standing in impressive footsteps. Plaques show where Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy delivered speeches. Other visitors have included Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Jimmy Carter, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton and Gerald Ford.

Elsewhere, Philadelphia has hosted numerous presidents. Every president from Theodore Roosevelt through Ronald Reagan stayed at the Bellevue Hotel, now a Hyatt, at 200 S

Broad St. The National Constitution Center's famous visitors have included Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush. And Donald Trump graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

Hidden stories

You don't have to walk far from Independence Hall to find fascinating but less familiar stories. An open-air site called the President's House on Market Street, marked by brick walls and white columns, reveals the foundation of the official presidential residence where Washington and his successor, John Adams, lived. Washington's household included nine slaves, two of whom ran away. One escapee, Oney Judge, fled with the help of Philadelphia's free black community and lived out her life in New Hampshire.

At Christ Church Burial Ground on Fifth Street, Franklin's grave is strewn with pennies in homage to his famous saying, "A penny saved is a penny earned." Christ Church also offers a "Founding Mothers" tour, celebrating colonial heroines buried there, July 22-30, every half-hour, 11 am-3:30 pm, \$7, and Fridays in July, 5:30 pm, \$10.

One of those "Founding Mothers" is Elizabeth Powel, who hosted salons, dinners, and other social gatherings for colonial-era movers and shakers in her home at 244 S Third St, now a historic site called the Powel House. Powel's husband was Philadelphia's mayor; they were the power couple of their day, and she helped persuade Washington to serve a second term. Artifacts include a letter describing a night of dancing at a 20th wedding anniversary party for George and Martha Washington in 1779, and framed party silhouettes that guests made of each other - including one of Washington.

At the Betsy Ross House, 239 Arch St, a costumed re-enactor tells her story: Ross, an upholsterer by trade, was persuaded by Washington and others to sew an American flag. But she had to work in secret because British colonial officials would have considered that treason.

A block away from the Ross House, another story unfolds: A modern-day seamstress named Betsy Cook channels the spirit of her famous namesake at the 323 Arch Street Fashion Collective, selling handmade clothing like a T-shirt that says "Hilladelphia 2016." Introducing herself to visitors, Cook says simply: "I sew. My name is Betsy." — AP



Photo shows a display that tells the story of Oney Judge, who was one of nine slaves who worked at the President's House in Philadelphia, which was the official residence of George Washington when he was president.

Rado expands its collection of open heart timepieces

Swiss watchmaker Rado is gladdening the hearts of fashion and watch aficionados alike with its latest creation, the Centrix Open Heart. A collection of decorative diamond-studded ladies' models now follows on the heels of the open heart gents' Centrix pieces that debuted late last year. Three standout pieces from the ladies' Centrix Open Heart collection merit a closer look. Two of the watches feature polished high-tech ceramic middle links in white or brown - perfect for a boho chic look - while those aiming for more understatement may opt for the model with a classic brown leather strap. The striking 33 mm dial is enclosed in a gold-coloured case and studded with 12 Top Wesselton diamonds.

However, as the name suggests, the real star of this watch is its pulsating open heart. The stuff of legends The upside-down crescent-shaped dial of the ladies' Centrix Open Heart leaves the bottom half of the timepiece's mechanics completely exposed, revealing the intricate sunray guilloché pattern of the decorated Swiss movement below. A stylized keyhole at noon further reveals the beating heart of the automatic movement, adding depth and mystery to the look. The

unique shape of the dial was inspired by imagery of the romantic legend behind Chinese Valentine's Day, also known as the Night of Sevens or the Magpie Festival.



According to legend, two lovers separated by a cruel fate are able to meet once a year, on the seventh night of the seventh moon, when all the world's magpies fly together and form a bridge to reunite the star-crossed lovers for just one night. The spirit of this legend comes to fruition on the dial of ladies' Centrix Open Heart: The stylized keyhole is the seventh moon under which the lovers meet, and the upside-down crescent is the bridge of magpies upon which they stand.

For gents, the Rado Centrix family offers two equally legendary open heart models - one with chocolate brown high-tech ceramic middle links, and the other with a sumptuous chocolate-coloured leather bracelet. Turning exquisite engineering and craftsmanship into works of art, the gents' Centrix models feature cut-out dials that strategically reveal key elements of the pulsating Swiss movement inside. For both models, the handsome horological package is tidily enclosed in sleek 38 mm case.





In this Oct 25, 2005 file photo, Younis Al-Mulla, General manager of Mall of the Emirates & Ski Dubai stands (with back to camera) viewing the snow covered slope at Ski Dubai complex as they have started to make real snow to prepare for the launch of first ski season in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Dubai too hot for you?

Stay overnight on its snowy slopes

Visitors to Dubai have a new way to keep cool during the scorching Mideast summer. The company behind the city's indoor ski slope plans to let guests stay overnight in tents on the man-made snow on Fridays starting from July 29. For 750 dirhams (\$204) a person, campers will get after-hours access to the slopes and refreshments including hot chocolate before bedding down in tents and sleeping bags to keep out the artificial chill. Breakfast is in an adjacent Alpine-

themed cafe. The man-made Ski Dubai attraction opened in 2005 in the Mall of the Emirates shopping complex. Its operator says overnight visitors can expect temperatures of -4 degrees Celsius (25 F). Weather outside Monday was a fairly typical 43 C (109 F). — AP



In this file photo dated Thursday, Aug 2, 2012, people dine at a Lebanese restaurant overlooking to indoor ski slope in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. — AP photos

Exhibit features furniture from trees destroyed during storm

Furniture designer Harold Greene grew up making toys out of reclaimed scraps of wood in his Southern California neighborhood. So when a windstorm pummeled Los Angeles County on Nov. 30, 2011, destroying thousands of trees, he and nine other members of the LA - based Box Collective, a group of environmentally conscious furniture makers and designers, did what came naturally. They set about collecting wood from the fallen trees to make furniture and art. Their efforts, including the 63-year-old Greene's poolside-perfect, streamlined "Chaise Lounge," have been gathered in the "Windfall" exhibit at the Craft and Folk Art Museum here. The show, which opened in late May and runs until Sept 4, features an array of works, from benches and end tables to bowls.

"This exhibit is important because it's dedicated to sustainable materials and educating the public about what is possible with trees growing in front of their place, in their own front yard," said Greene, a one-time firefighter who has designed and built furniture full-time since 1979. When the 2011 windstorm swept through the West, it caused an estimated \$34 million in damage, and hit northeastern Los Angeles County especially hard. Uprooted trees and tangled branches crushed homes and cars. The community of Arcadia alone lost roughly 2,000 trees, including hundreds at its Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden.

'Chaise Lounge'

The wood for Greene's "Chaise Lounge" - a beige cedar that he cut into thin strips, which he laminated and layered on a curved form - came from trees destroyed at the Arboretum. "This storm was a literal windfall of material for us if we could find a way to capture it

before it was thrown away, which is the fate of most, if not all, of the wood from the urban forest," said furniture designer Cliff Spencer, 43, who recently moved from Los Angeles back to Birmingham, Alabama, where he grew up doing woodworking.

Using paulownia wood from the Arboretum, Spencer created three pieces for the exhibit, including a beehive. His "Sound Diffuser for a Noisy City" consists of small pieces of wood and boxes layered into a large, square sound-diffusion board, covered with colorful doodles. His "Red Yellow Blue Wood" panel is a medley of geometric shapes. "You're making use of a resource that was otherwise overlooked ... so it feels good not to just create more waste," said Spencer.

For beginners wanting to make furniture out of sustainable wood, both Spencer and Greene suggested working with someone who is already doing it. Greene recommended finding a community college class taught by furniture makers, and local wood at wood-working stores. If there's a fallen tree you want to use, you have to mill it. Milling is the process of cutting wood into thicknesses of different dimensions, making it easier to work with. And you can't rush it. The wood has to dry one year for every inch of thickness that you cut, Greene said. Once it's dry, test the moisture level. Wood that isn't dry enough will shrink and move after you make something with it.

Wind-damaged trees

Furniture designer RH Lee, 38, who teaches woodworking and design at California State University, Long Beach, said her students work with slabs milled in previous years. Her dark brown "End Tables" with San Francisco-based collaborator JD Sassaman, which incorporates paulownia wood from the

Arboretum as well as black walnut and claro walnut, have a unique twist: granite spires pounded into the wood. The tables were inspired by a backpacking trip the pair took through the Sierra Nevada mountains, through snowy granite peaks, wind-damaged trees and the Devils Postpile National Monument.

"The story that a fallen tree tells is much more interesting and varied than the industrially harvested and milled boards you have access to at a lumber yard," Lee said. Designer Casey Dzierlenga created her round "Lorca Coffee Table" from a maple tree that fell in her friend's backyard. One part of the table looks like it was bitten into, revealing the tree's nat-

ural grain and shape. For designer and Box Collective co-founder Robert Apodaca, 38, who now lives in Philadelphia, the story behind his three "Blackout Bowls" is very personal. When the 2011 storm downed a huge eucalyptus tree on the off-ramp of a freeway near his former Los Angeles home, he waited until city workers cut it into smaller pieces. Then he pulled his truck up to the freeway shoulder and loaded up. After waiting for the wood to dry, he milled it and hand-scraped it, then used a blowtorch to give the sides a blackened finish. "You're turning something that would have gone into a landfill into something beautiful," he said. — AP



Photo shows furniture made out of wood sourced from trees in Los Angeles County destroyed in the overnight Nov 30, 2011 windstorm, and designed by members of the LA.



Photo shows 'Red Yellow Blue Wood' by designer Cliff Spencer, part of the exhibit 'Windfall' at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles, which runs until Sept 4, 2016. — AP photos



Photo shows "Sound Diffuser for a Noisy City" by designer Cliff Spencer, part of the exhibit 'Windfall' at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles.



A beehive prototype by designer Cliff Spencer, part of the exhibit 'Windfall' at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles.



This photo shows the 'Lorca Coffee Table' by designer Casey Dzierlenga, part of the exhibit 'Windfall' at the Craft and Folk Art Museum in Los Angeles.