

FREE

Kuwait Times

www.kuwaittimes.net



Min 36°
Max 50°

NO: 16939- Friday, July 22, 2016

'Kuwait's
superhero'
showcases
rare talent

4



'Salalah city'
Oman's main
touristic
destination

23



CAS rejects
Russia appeal,
bars athletes
from Olympics

44



Kuwait e-visa service launched at Airport

See Page 9

Local Spotlight

WALKING IS DANGEROUS



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

Walking in Kuwait can be life-threatening for sure. I keep wondering why we don't have a culture of respect for pedestrian rights and the fact that they are humans too. Just because they can't afford a car or a decent means of transport doesn't mean they are less human and don't deserve respect by motorists or have no rights.

Go to the heart of Kuwait City on Fahd Al-Salem Street at any day of the week and not necessarily on a weekend. There is a bus depot which is a hub of all buses and taxis. When one tries to cross the street, one can face several threats. First, there is no pedestrian bridge for the people to use in order to avoid moving in front of cars, which might be speedy, so everyone is forced to cross the road.

Second, crossing the street is extremely dangerous because most drivers neither slow down nor allow people to cross, which isn't right. I know that

They think that the people who use public transport are poor expats, so who cares to stop for them or even care about their rights.

the Ministry of Interior (Mol) has put some speed bumps to force speeding drivers to slow down, but not everyone cares to do so. Instead of speed bumps, a pedestrian bridge or traffic light is the answer to end this hassle and chaos.

The bus depot is also crowded with taxis. There isn't a decent location for those taxis. If there was one, this tiny area wouldn't look so packed all the time. This area is a complete mess and needs a new structure and system by the Mol and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. A quick visit to this area on any Friday afternoon will make you feel how we have completely forgotten this area, despite the fact that it is in the heart of the capital. It is indeed a shame. I urge an official to try and get out of his car and live the experience of crossing that road, and he will see how dangerous it turns out to be.

Now, if we have to ask why drivers don't slow down or stop when they see pedestrians, the answer is that there is no culture for this kind of attitude. They think that the people who use public transport are poor expats, so who cares to stop for them or even care about their rights. It is shameful to watch people waiting near the signal with no shade or decent waiting area. Many people end up waiting without any protection during the summer or winter. The media should support community awareness. There might be laws for pedestrians, but if these laws are not being carefully implemented or observed, then it is just ink on paper. This area needs a new layout - it can't wait anymore.

The Photographer's Eye

IN FOCUS: PHOTOJOURNALIST JOSEPH SHAGRA



Safat Square

Kuwait Time is lucky enough to employ several highly qualified and talented photojournalists. In this occasional series, we would like to highlight some of our staff's best work and thank them for their continuous efforts and professional endeavors. Joseph Shagra is a veteran photojournalist who has worked for the Kuwait Times for 16 years. He has photographed VIPs, important and historical moments in Kuwait's recent history as well as captured the unique, interesting and beautiful in the daily life of the state. This collection of some of his recent work illustrates his diversity of talent and the depth of his photographic eye. — All photos by Joseph Shagra



Vegetable market



Naif Palace



Murgab Mosque



Mubarakiya Market



Sharq Mall



Khazaal Palace



Pearl Diving



Al-Jahra Gate



Dates market



Construction Development in Kuwait



Liberation Tower



Liberation Day

KUWAIT: This is a collection of some of Joseph Shagra's recent work - illustrating his diversity of talent and the depth of his photographic eye.

Eating 'the weirdest of things'



Fahd Sayed Mohammed, aka Shamshun (Samson) eats red-hot coal and glass and also bends metal with his teeth in these photos. — Photos by Joseph Shagra

'Kuwaiti superhero'

Shamshun showcases rare talent

By Faten Omar

People eat the weirdest of things, like munching on bars of soap, gobbling handfuls of sand and eating sponges, but Fahd Sayed Mohammed, aka Shamshun (Samson), can actually eat red-hot coal and glass. He can also bend metal and pull vehicles with his teeth. Kuwait Times spoke with Shamshun to know more about his "supernatural" strength.

The Kuwaiti trainer and javelin thrower is 38 years old. He has broken the record of pulling vehicles weighing 9,000 kg. He pulled a small pickup weighing 1,800 kg, a bigger pickup weighing 2,700 kg and a truck weighing 5,000 kg in March. Although he is a peaceful person, Shamshun can bite 5-cm-thick glass and swallow live embers. He can also bend metal with his teeth and do many other superhuman activities.

Mohammed started eating glass when he was five. At first his family thought that he had accidentally broken a glass. "My mother thought that I broke a glass and beat me before she discovered what I really did," he said. He kept secret from his family his passion of eating glass like candy and crushing its shards like soft sugar. At the age of 17, his family discovered his strange appetite.





It's not a career everyone dreams of, but for Mohammed, this was apparently the best way to achieve his goal of setting a world record for Kuwait. Mohammed wants to honor Kuwait by becoming a famous "Kuwaiti Shamshun", but the government does not support his talents. "There is no appreciation for my achievements. As a Kuwaiti, my country should support me without any wasta. The UAE asked me to represent them under the name of the Emirates, but I refused," he said.

Shamshun says that his mouth and stomach do not suffer as a result of his eating habits. He said it does not cause him any pain because of God's grace, and he will always try to remain strong in order to fulfill his dream of becoming a record setter. He told Kuwait Times that his doctors told him that he is in good health. "My dentist was shocked! He said I have strong teeth. Simple wounds heal fast, but no bruises or burns remain," he said.

Mohammed's children are not like his father, but he told Kuwait Times that he will support his children in doing whatever they want. "I would love to support them because I feel happy when my fans support me. When my friend appreciates my efforts, he gives me the courage to do more. I was happy to know that the minister of information watches my videos," he beamed.

Mohammed revealed that he will pull a plane at his own expense soon. "I will pay more than KD 1,500 per hour just to prove that I can and deserve to do it," he vowed. On Aug 6, 2016, Shamshun will display his abilities at Olympia Mall in Salmiya. Looking at Mohammed as he bit and chewed a burning piece of hot coal and ate glass at Kuwait Times' offices, one can tell that he is no ordinary man.



AL-KATATIB - KUWAIT'S EARLIEST FORM OF SCHOOLING

KUWAIT: The early 1900's were trying times for Kuwait, demanding much effort from this country's men and women. Men were out enduring the unkindness of the sea for months at end while women were in their homes single-handedly managing the household and the extended family. With such realities being part of daily life, Al-Katatib, a traditional form of schooling, took center stage in the social and educational development of the country.

Heading these fine educational establishments were 'Al-Mutawas' and 'Mullas' (teachers) who taught basic arithmetic and science in addition to the Quran, the Arabic language, as well as the Hadiths (sayings and traditions) of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH). These traditional schools were run from either the teacher's home or from a rented one. Students were taught while seated on the ground with their teachers ensconced on a wooden box at the head of the classroom.

A typical lesson would have Al-Mutawa loudly repeating verses from the Quran and the students would repeat the same verses until they memorize them. Upon the completion of the Quran's study and memorization, the students were honored with the "Khatmah," an event commemorating the end of this noble task. While both boys and girls were allowed to attend Al-Katatib, the boys were taught various subjects by a male instructor in contrast to the girls who were taught by a female teacher with the apt title of "Mutawa'a".

Back then, girls' education was limited to memorizing the Quran as it seemed useless or unnecessary to learn anything else. A student's tuition was a mere 'Baizah or Baiztain,' a very small amount of money in addition to 'Al-Khamisiyah' collected weekly on a Thursday. Considering how revered a teacher was, Al-Mutawa was gifted money during holidays such as the Islamic New Year, the Prophet's Birthday(PBUH), or even on the Eid occasions. An additional cost of 20 to 100 rupees was paid upon the completion of memorizing the Quran, depending on the financial capabilities of that student.

In addition to the fees, the financially able students presented gifts to their teachers and in return the students expected gifts from the teachers on special occasions. In order to encourage the students to pursue further education and better their quality of life, members of society would collectively pitch in and pay for those students incapable of funding themselves. A form of recurring disciplinary actions in schools was corporal punishment. It was incorporated in the education system back in the day.



Kuwaiti student are pictured while studying during the early 1900's. — KUNA photos



Punishing a student was the consequence of bad behavior, absence, or neglecting homework.

Parents condoned their punishment through an old saying that goes, "the bones are for us, while the meat is for you," signifying to the teacher that while the child belongs to us, their rearing and discipline fall on the teacher. Al-Katatib helped promote

an understanding and awareness of the importance of thought and intellect in society which led to the establishment of educational institutions with formal curriculums. Al-Mubarkiya was the first school founded in 1911 while the second was Al-Ahmadiya in 1921. Kuwait now has much more than a thousand schools with thousands of students attending each year. — KUNA

in my view

INSPIRATION COMES FROM EVERYONE

By Ramona Crasto

local@kuwaittimes.net

When I was young I was always asked who my inspiration was and what I wanted to be. I always thought of the young models and how amazing they were at what they do. But as time passed I lost trace about what to become and got engrossed in a life that I was only living for the sake of it. Machines are what we have become struggling through our lives and forgetting what we really are and what we wanted to become once upon a time. It's summer, that time of the year when we can join classes, play and do things that we say we don't have time for. But what we do instead is sit in our pajamas and watch TV or fiddle with our cell phones.

It was a normal day when I got a call from my sister-in-law who is the mother of two children to come over as she wanted me to be with her baby for an hour. So when I reached there to my utter amazement she was playing for a local cricket team named Salmiya friends. WOW! There she was practicing while her kids cheered for her and I stood there with my eyes wide open thinking why am I not playing with her. She asked me to join the team, but I guess I was too shy to do that.

She in her 30's played stunningly the previous year and was awarded as the new

emerging player. This year again she competed against teenagers and without a sigh she just played like no one was watching her. Ask me to do that and I would freeze and embarrass myself. That's when I realized, Girl.. you're young and amazingly fit. What is it that's stopping me from letting my heart and doing what my heart truly wants?

The answer I got was I don't know. Of course you don't know. Precilla D'souza, a housewife said, "Doesn't really matter to me if we lose, I played and that's what makes me happy." Her daughter exclaimed how proud she was watching her mother play and that she would never let age or time stop her from doing what she likes. There are so many things we enjoy doing and yet we bury ourselves with infinite reasons to get away from those things.

And there they are those normal, not so famous amazing locals who inspire us to give things a try. Age and time has nothing to do with passion and fun. So to everyone out there, regardless of age, this is it, this is the time you have. Cherish it while it's there. It's never too late to follow your heart. You just need to press the GO button within yourself and there you are smiling and doing what you want to.



Kuwaiti divers cleaning Umm Al-Naml Island — KUNA photos

KUWAIT DIVERS CLEAN UMM AL-NAML ISLAND

KUWAIT: Kuwait Dive Team (KDT), affiliated with the Environmental Voluntary Foundation (EVF), has continued waste clear-up around Umm Al-Naml island surrounding - which is a main habitat for marine creatures in the national sea waters. In their latest mission, the divers picked plastic items littering the seabed around the 568,000-sq-m island, which also attracts various species of birds, said the team chief, Walid Al-Fadhel, in remarks to KUNA.

The team, using small boats, has collected more than 12 tons of waste from Kuwait Bay, he said, indicating that discarded items hampered navigation and harmed the marine creatures. Umm Al-Naml, located 650 meters from Ras Ushairej, is distinguished with a light-house and contains relics dating back to the ancient Dilmun civilization. There are oth-



er islands in the territorial waters—namely Boubyan, Failaka and Warba. The Kuwaiti divers have been working arduously for years to clean up waste littering the marine environment. They have removed tons of abandoned fishing nets and other items from the shores and the sea-bed. — KUNA



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah arrives for a meeting of the defense ministers of the anti-IS coalition states held Wednesday in Andrews Airbase in the US state of Maryland. — KUNA

KUWAIT EMPHASIZES COMMITMENT TO ANTI-ISLAMIC STATE CAMPAIGN

WASHINGTON: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah reaffirmed Kuwait's supportive stance to international efforts to counter the so-called Islamic State (IS) militant group. "Kuwait strongly supports all international efforts and measures to defeat and eradicate terrorist organizations on all levels," said Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah, who headed Kuwait's delegation to the meetings of the defense ministers of the anti-IS coalition states held Wednesday in Andrews Airbase in the US state of Maryland.

Sheikh Khaled Al-Jarrah will also head Kuwait's delegation to a joint meeting of the defense and foreign ministers of the anti-IS

coalition states yesterday at the US Department of State headquarters to coordinate military and diplomatic efforts to counter IS. The anti-IS meeting today tackled progress in military operations to date, the essential next steps in the campaign and how the coalition can accelerate the drive to deal IS a lasting defeat. During the meeting, the conferees recommitted themselves to the objectives of the military campaign to eradicate the militant group and restore stability in the region. They agreed on expanding their cooperation and contributions to the military operations against the group. Some 27 nations plus NATO partook in the second meeting of defense ministers of contributing nations to counter-IS coalition. — KUNA



Saudi Deputy Crown Prince and Defense Minister Prince Mohammad Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz and Qatar's Foreign Minister Khaled Bin Mohammad Al-Atiyah arrive for the meeting. — KUNA

WORLD PRAISES KUWAIT'S EFFORTS IN YEMEN TALKS

LONDON: A number of world countries have praised the efforts exerted by Kuwait in hosting the intra-Yemeni peace talks, and providing UN Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed with political support. A definite agreement must be reached in Kuwait in order to end the multidimensional crisis in Yemen, foreign ministers of US, UK, Saudi Arabia and UAE said in a joint statement Wednesday following their meeting in London.

The foreign ministers voiced their deep concern over recent deterioration of humanitarian and economic situations in Yemen, reiterating their solid support of the UN envoy's efforts and UN's mediation to find a political solution based on UNSC resolutions, national dialogue conference's results, and GCC's initiative. The best exit for the crisis is the withdrawal of all armed groups from Sanaa and other surrounding areas, in addition to reaching a political solution that would re-launch the comprehensive transitional stage in Yemen, said the statement.

The ministers also stressed the importance of preventing the ongoing conflict in Yemen from reaching GCC States, calling for

the release of all political prisoners without conditions. Forming a national government in Yemen would be successful in enabling the country to face the terrorist threats posed by Al-Qaeda and the so-called Islamic State (IS), the ministers said, adding that such a government would also solve the humanitarian and economic crisis in the country.

Strike a deal now!

Kuwait, which is hosting troubled Yemen peace talks, has urged the warring parties to strike a deal within 15 days. Three months of UN-brokered talks in Kuwait have failed to make headway as with both parties holding firm to their positions. "We have given 15 days for Yemeni sides taking part in the talks to resolve all the issues," Kuwait's deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah told Dubai-based Al-Arabiya news channel late Wednesday.

The talks resumed in Kuwait on Saturday after a 15-day break. UN special envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said on Saturday that the negotiations would last for two weeks and warned that

News

i n b r i e f

PAS discusses enforcement of new sports institutions law

KUWAIT: The Public Authority of Sports (PAS) convened Wednesday evening under chairmanship of Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. In a press statement following the meeting, PAS said that the meeting reviewed the sports institutions law No 34 of 2016 which was approved by the National Assembly on June 19 and endorsed by the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and published in the Official Gazette on July 12. The board members mulled the required measures to put the provisions of the new law into effect, noted the statement. The conferees also discussed and took several decisions regarding the organizational, financial and technical issues on the meeting's agenda.

CAEU lauds Amir's initiative on SMEs

NOUAKCHOTT: Senior officials of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) has extolled the initiative of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on funding small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Arab world. This came in a statement by Kuwait's Permanent Delegate to the Arab League Ahmad Al-Bakr, at the conclusion of a preparatory meeting for the 27th Arab Summit due in Mauritania's capital of Nouakchott on Monday, July 25. Al-Bakr said that the total sum of initiative hit \$1.3 billion, while the accumulated loans reached \$1.1 billion in 12 Arab countries. During the meeting, the conferees discussed the agenda's items, which pay much attention to Arab social and economic action, mainly economic summit, Arab food security, sustainable development, housing and urban development, he said. They further discussed the possibility of holding economic summits every four years instead of every two years. The meeting also dealt with means of promoting the Arab joint social and economic action, the Arab Free Trade Zone and developments of the Arab Customs Union, in addition to developing a mechanism for the implementation of the Arab initiative for agro-investment in the Sudan in a bid to bridge the food gap in the Arab countries.

KFAED lends Tunisia KD 22 million for water projects

TUNIS: The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed yesterday a loan agreement for KD 22 million with the Tunisian Ministry of Development, Investment, and International Cooperation to fund a number of water projects in Tunisia. KFAED's funding of vital infrastructure projects in Tunisia goes back at least three decades, said the fund's Director General Abdulwahab Ahmad Al-Bader, in press remarks he made at the signing ceremony. Agreeing with him was Tunisian Minister of Development, Investment, and International Cooperation Yassin Ibrahim, who noted that KFAED had financed about 33 infrastructure projects in Tunisia valued at about KD 173 million since 1963, including those having to do with irrigations systems, drinking water, sewage systems, and dams. Today's loan agreement will address rehabilitating drinking water projects in Tunisia for the foreseeable future, right up through the year 2030, said Ibrahim. religious heritage.

they may be Yemen's last chance for peace. "It's time for decisive decisions that will prove your true intentions and national responsibilities to Yemenis," he told a meeting of the two delegations. The envoy said the discussions between the Houthis and their allies on one side and the government of President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi on the other would focus on strengthening a ceasefire that came into effect on April 11 but which has been repeatedly violated.

They would also deal with "forming the military committees that will supervise the withdrawal and handover of weapons... and opening safe passages for humanitarian aid," he said. But the two-week deadline by the United Nations angered the Houthis who reiterated their demands for a national unity government ahead of any other solution. The government is calling for implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2216 which requires the rebels and their allies to withdraw from areas they have occupied since 2014, including the capital Sanaa, and to hand over heavy weapons. — Agencies

KUFPEC SIGNS NEW PRODUCTION SHARING CONTRACT

KUWAIT: Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Company (KUFPEC), a subsidiary of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC) yesterday announced that its subsidiary KUFPEC MALAYSIA (SK-410B) Ltd (KUFPEC Malaysia) signed a new Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Malaysia's Block SK410B. Under the contract, KUFPEC Malaysia has a 42.5% working interest under the PSC.

The remaining working interests are held by: (1) the operator, PTTEP HK Offshore Ltd (a subsidiary of PTTEP Thailand), with a 42.5% working interest; and (2) PETRONAS Carigali Sdn Bhd (a subsidiary of PETRONAS), with a 15% working interest, the KUFPEC said in a release. The SK410B Block is located offshore Sarawak. Under the PSC, the parties are committed to carrying out exploration activities that include acquiring and processing new 3D seismic data, reprocessing existing 3D seismic data and drilling 1 exploration wildcat well, it added.

KUFPEC is an international upstream company, which is currently active in 14 countries, with a portfolio of 63 projects spanning 5 continents. KUFPEC is headquartered in Kuwait, and its subsidiaries have nine regional offices, located in Australia, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt, Norway, the Netherlands and Canada. KUFPEC has been participating in Malaysia's exploration and production projects since 1998 and, through its subsidiaries, currently holds working interests in two exploration blocks (SB312 and DW3E) and one producing asset (PM304). — KUNA

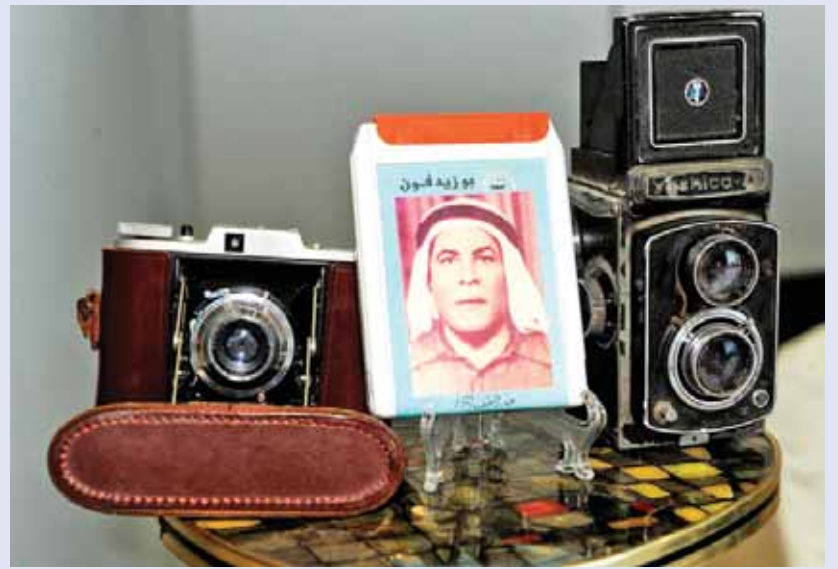


KUFPEC officials sign new production sharing contract. — KUNA



GCC CITIZENS COLLECT ANTIQUES TO PRESERVE REGION'S HISTORY

KUWAIT: A number of Kuwaitis and GCC citizens are very keen on collecting antiques and items belonging to the previous generations in an effort to preserve the history of the region. Holding regional and international exhibitions and seeking antiques wherever they may be, these collectors will stop at nothing in acquiring these pieces for reasons of documentation and historical integrity. — KUNA



Crime

Report

KUWAITI THREATENS
10-MONTH-OLD SON

KUWAIT: A man who was discharged from the army became furious and climbed on the roof top of his house - holding his 10-month-old son dangling and threatening to throw him from the roof. Policemen and detectives rushed to the scene and found the toddler's mother shaken in fear. Officers moved quickly to the roof with the help of the child's grandfather, and apprehended the man who resisted strongly. Detectives saved the child and took his father to Taima police station. Initial report showed that he was under the influence of drugs.

'Enjoy now and pay later'

"Enjoy it now... and pay later as long as you are our client..." - a slogan adopted by 31 Ethiopian prostitutes seeking for clients in flats located in Mahboula and Abu Halaifa. Their activities came to an end when vice detectives stormed the apartments. According to a security source, an Ethiopian pimp usually makes the agreement with clients in exchange of money. Security operatives received information about the illegal activities going on in that area and mounted surveillance - after which they raided the flats - arresting 31 Ethiopian girls and their pimp. The suspects confessed that they reduced their 'prices' because many people have traveled abroad. Also regular clients were told to pay later in case they don't have money.

Filipina try to abort baby

Hawally police have arrested a Filipino and his girlfriend for attempting to abort a baby using some medications. The Filipino felt severe pain and was rushed to Mubarak hospital. Security officials received a call from Mubarak hospital about a Filipina trying to abort her pregnancy, so policemen rushed to the scene. The lady identified the man as her boyfriend. She said she ingested pills to abort her pregnancy.

Stolen equipments

Thieves stole the equipments of a company run by a Syrian in Sulaibiya area. The Syrian told police that his company which is located in Sulaibiya farms area was broken into, so police and criminal detectives went to the company for the finger prints. Investigation is underway.

Accident kills one

An unknown person was killed when he was run over near Adan and Qusoor areas. In another development, a car flipped over - off the limit area along the border injuring a Colombian and an Egyptian. Both are engineers who are permitted to get into such areas. Also, a young man died when his motorcycle flipped over in Mubarak Al-Kabeer.

Police attacked

A citizen was taken to Maidan Hawally police station after threatening four policemen and refusing to come out of his car. When the patrol policemen asked the man to leave his car, he said "let me see the donkey who will impound my car." He was forced out of the car after he attacked the policemen. Meanwhile, Jahra police found a knife and sent it to criminal department for the finger prints in order to identify the person who used it. A security source said a Kuwaiti lady called police informing them about an unknown person who was knocking at her door. Policemen went to the house in Doha area, they found a knife but no suspects, who seem to have escaped. — Al Rai, Al Anbaa

APPEALS COURT UPHOLDS DEATH
SENTENCE IN TERROR CELL CASE

By Meshal Alsalama

KUWAIT: The Appeals Court yesterday upheld the death sentence of the first suspect in Abdaly cell, in which 25 citizens and an Iranian were charged for spying for Hezbollah and Iran.

The Court of Appeal re-established the death sentence to one of the 26 defendants in the terrorist cell case No 302/2016. The other accused defendants received sentences from five to 15 years in prison. One of them was fined about KD 5,000 while another was acquitted of all charges.

INTERIOR MINISTER LAUNCHES
VISA SYSTEM AT KUWAIT AIRPORT
KUWAIT E-VISA SERVICE LAUNCHED

KUWAIT: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday inaugurated the electronic-visa system at Kuwait International Airport; whereby applicants can obtain the entry visa online ahead of arrival in the country. Speaking upon the inauguration of the e-visa service at the air facility, Minister Sheikh Mohammad advised staff and personnel to subject the new system to regular check-up and maintenance, cautioning that any glitch would impair the service, thus tarnishing Kuwait image abroad.

Qualified national manpower should be assigned to run the system, he instructed. Minister Sheikh Mohammad, who oversaw successful test of the system, urged the concerned personnel to maintain such excellent performance round the clock. "Real operation of the system should be equally effective and I will not accept anything less than that," he stressed.

The system is part of a wide-scale strategy to upgrade to speed up the state services for all people, namely citizens and expatri-

ates. Security personnel should perform effectively, security wise, and provide good treatment to departing and arriving people at the same time, he said. Ali Al-Muaili, in charge of the technological sector in the Ministry of Interior, addressed the minister and other attendees, saying that the e-visa system provides the visa to people abroad via the MoI website, www.moi.gov.kw, thus they will be spared the energy-time wasting at Kuwait airport.

For his part, Major General Talal Maarefi, the Director General of Residency Affairs, said the applicant, via the new service will get an immediate online reply, explaining that the instant visa is granted to citizens from 52 states, including expatriates in the GCC countries, who have a residency visa valid for no less than six months, also indicating that the special service is given to people of 13 professions. The minister, who was received by senior security officials at the airport, toured various sectors of the facilities and gave instructions to ensure that effective and speedy service is provided for the travelers. — KUNA

Friday Times International

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2016

**Turkish MPs give
Erdogan sweeping
new powers**



**Trump faces an
uphill battle at
raw convention**



**Philippines'
former leader
Arroyo freed**



DOUMA, Syria: Five-year-old Syrian girl Rima lies in a hospital bed yesterday as she undergoes treatment at the Department of Care in the Unified Medical Office for Douma, three days after she was wounded in shelling by Syrian government forces in the village of Al-Rehan, near Douma, a rebel-held town east of the capital Damascus. — AFP

77 CIVILIANS KILLED IN MANBIJ CITY

SYRIAN OPPOSITION CALLS FOR SUSPENSION OF US-LED AIR STRIKES

BEIRUT: The head of the opposition Syrian National Coalition called for a suspension of the US-led air campaign against Islamic State in Syria while reports of dozens of civilian deaths from air strikes around the northern city of Manbij are investigated. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 56 civilians were killed in air strikes north of Manbij on Tuesday, a day after it said 21 civilians were killed in a northern district of the besieged, Islamic State-held city.

SNC president Anas Al-Abdah said the strikes should be halted while the incidents were investigated, and warned that the killing of civilians by US-led aircraft would "prove to be a recruitment tool for terrorist organizations". "It is essential that such investigation not only result in revised rules of procedure for future operations, but also inform accountability for those responsible for such major violations," Abdah wrote in a letter to foreign ministers of countries in the anti-Islamic State alliance. US Defense Secretary Ash Carter said on Wednesday the US-led force would look into the reports of civilian casualties around Manbij.

The Observatory said the dead from Tuesday's air strike

included 11 children. The United Nations children's agency UNICEF said it had been told that families were preparing to flee when the villages they were in came under air attack. "UNICEF estimates that 35,000 children are trapped in and around Manbij with nowhere safe to go," the agency's representative in Syria, Hanaa Singer, said. The Syrian foreign ministry said Tuesday's air strike on the village of Toukhar north of Manbij was carried out by French forces, while Monday's strike was by US jets.

"(Syria) condemns, with the strongest terms, the two bloody massacres perpetrated by the French and US warplanes and those affiliated to the so-called international coalition which send their missiles and bombs to the civilians instead of directing them to the terrorist gangs," it said in a letter sent to the United Nations this week, according to state news agency SANA. French President Francois Hollande said he had no precise information on whether French planes were responsible for the Toukhar air strike. "We are striking in the framework of the coalition and are very careful in our strikes," he said.

A spokesman for the US-led alliance said there were "multiple national aircraft providing strikes in Manbij. So how the

Syrian government knows who conducted what strike, I question." The air strikes in the area are aimed at supporting a ground operation by the Syria Democratic Forces, a Kurdish and Arab alliance which is trying to drive Islamic State out of Manbij. A local military council allied to the SDF, which has captured part of Manbij after weeks of fighting, gave Islamic State fighters a 48-hour deadline yesterday to leave the city. Manbij is in the northern province of Aleppo, which forms a theatre for several separate battles between multiple warring sides in Syria's five-year-old conflict.

Kurds who already control an uninterrupted 400 km (250 miles) stretch of Syria's northern border with Turkey form a dominant force in the SDF, which is battling Islamic State for control of the city. Kurdish gains have alarmed rebel forces battling President Bashar Al-Assad, who say they will respond with force to any attempt to break up Syria. The rebels are also battling the army and its militia allies around the city of Aleppo, where around 300,000 people living in rebel-held neighborhoods have been cut off since pro-government forces seized the last road out of the city.— Reuters

THE 'GULENISTS' ERDOGAN BLAMES FOR TURKEY COUP

ISTANBUL: Since surviving last week's coup attempt, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has escalated his battle against his arch-enemy, US-based Muslim preacher Fethullah Gulen whom he accuses of orchestrating the failed putsch. Once close allies, the two fell out several years ago, and Erdogan now labels Gulen's supporters "terrorists" who run a shadowy "parallel state" in Turkey and tried to bring him down with military force.

Erdogan has demanded the extradition of the 75-year-old from the United States, where he lives in a wooded compound in Pennsylvania and, Gulen's followers say, leads a humble life, using nothing but a bedroom and a desk. The usually-reclusive Gulen has emerged to condemn the coup and reject the accusations he was behind it as "ridiculous, irresponsible and false". Erdogan has launched a sweeping purge of alleged "Gulenists", detaining or sacking over 50,000 soldiers, police, teachers and officials to cleanse the system of the Gulenist "virus".

What is Gulenism?

Gulen is the spiritual leader of the Hizmet (Service) movement, which is based on Sufi mysticism and promotes a moderate, tolerant Islam. Gulenists, known for their piety and business acumen, say their faith advocates peace and harmony through hard work and altruism, and to merge a "civil Islam" with modernity, education and science. The foundation runs private schools in Turkey, the US and some 150 other countries as well as a range of businesses, media outlets, cultural centers and think-tanks. Gulen fled to the US in 1999 to escape charges of "anti-secular" activities, under what was then a secular administration that drew a strict line between mosque and state. His followers, including loyal alumni from his schools, have been prominently placed in Turkey's military, police, justice apparatus and bureaucracy—a group Erdogan now labels the "Fethullah Terrorist Organisation".

How did Erdogan and Gulen fall out?

Erdogan and Gulen were once close Islamic-conservative allies who transformed a political landscape that had for decades been the domain of secularists and coup-happy generals. As Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) rose, Gulen's movement provided many of the technocrats to staff the bureaucracy. But Erdogan became increasingly distrustful of Gulen, who has in turn accused Erdogan of seeking one-man rule. The power struggle came to a head in late 2013 after judicial officials thought to be close to Gulen brought corruption charges that implicated some of Erdogan's inner circle, including his son Bilal. Erdogan accused Gulenists of releasing embarrassing wiretaps and spreading them on social media. In a series of counterattacks, he purged hundreds of army and police officers, and shut down thousands of Hizmet schools and newspapers believed to be sympathetic to his bitter rival.

How much power do Gulenists have?

Followers of Gulen have held prominent positions in Turkey's security and civil services, media and business—although less so after the purges of recent years. The extent of their influence and whether they work toward a common goal, however, remains subject of fierce debate. Turkish state media Wednesday published what it said was the confession of a highly-placed Gulenist putschist, Lieutenant Colonel Levent Turkkan, who was the aide of Chief of General Staff Hulusi Akar. The Anadolu news agency said Turkkan had admitted to being a member of Gulen's group, quoting him as saying: "I have obeyed the orders and instructions of the big brothers exactly."

Turkkan also said he had placed a recording device in the office of Akar's predecessor, Anadolu said. The confession was deemed plausible by Jean-Francois Perouse, co-author of an Erdogan biography and researcher at the French Institute of Anatolian Studies in Istanbul. He said Gulen had thousands of supporters in the administration but cautioned that the question is "to what extent that presence is accompanied by a very clear objective" with political ends.

How sweeping is the purge?

Since the failed coup, the government has arrested about 10,000 people and sacked or suspended tens of thousands more across the civil infrastructure, from army generals down to sports ministry officials and teachers.

Given the huge numbers, Perouse said those caught up must include a mix of "non-active supporters or alumni of the schools, for example, and people who are at the heart of the movement". He said that, after the "cleansing" of the media and police, an army purge had been scheduled for early August, a threat that may explain the timing of the failed coup. — AFP



ANKARA: Pro-nationalist university students shout during a protest against US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen and his followers during a demonstration in Ankara yesterday. Turkish authorities on July, 21 imposed a three-month state of emergency, strengthening powers to round up suspects accused of staging the failed military coup despite global alarm over a widening purge. — AFP

TURKISH LAWMAKERS GIVE LEADER ERDOGAN SWEEPING NEW POWERS OPPOSITION WARNS OF DANGER FOR ABUSE

ISTANBUL: Turkey sought to assure its citizens and the outside world yesterday that there would be no return to the deep repression of the past, even as President Tayyip Erdogan imposed the first nationwide state of emergency since the 1980s. With authorities cracking down on tens of thousands of people in the judiciary, education, military and civil service after last weekend's failed military coup, a lawmaker from the main opposition party said the state of emergency created "a way of ruling that paves the way for abuse".

Germany called for the measure to be ended as quickly as possible, while an international lawyers' group warned Turkey against using it to subvert the rule of law and human rights, pointing to allegations of torture and ill-treatment of people held in the mass roundup. Announcing the state of emergency late on Wednesday, Erdogan said it would last at least three months and allow his government to take swift measures against supporters of the coup, in which 246 people were killed and hundreds wounded.

It will permit the president and cabinet to bypass parliament in enacting new laws and to limit or suspend rights and freedoms as they deem necessary. For some Turks, the move raised fears of a return to the days of martial law after a 1980 military coup, or the height of a Kurdish insurgency in the 1990s when much of the largely Kurdish southeast was under a state of emergency declared by the previous government. About 60,000 soldiers, police, judges, civil servants and teachers have been suspended, detained or have been placed under investigation since the coup was put down.

Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek,

who previously worked on Wall Street and is seen as one of the most investor-friendly politicians in the ruling AK Party, took to television, Twitter and news conferences in a bid to calm nervous financial markets and dispel comparisons with the past. "The state of emergency in Turkey won't include restrictions on movement, gatherings and free press etc. It isn't martial law of 1990s," he wrote on Twitter. "I'm confident Turkey will come out of this with much stronger democracy, better functioning market economy & enhanced investment climate."

Markets were less than confident. The lira currency was near a new record low yesterday, while the main stock index tumbled 4.4 percent. The cost of insuring Turkish debt against default also surged. Simsek tried to play down the losses. "In circumstances like this, there is a knee-jerk reaction, it's typical. I know that because I come from that business," he told reporters. "I need markets to understand that we are going to survive this shock."

Justice Minister Bekir Bozdogan said the state of emergency was aimed at averting a possible second military coup. Another deputy prime minister, Numan Kurtulmus, was quoted by broadcaster NTV as saying Turkey would invoke its right to suspend its obligations temporarily under the European Convention on Human Rights. Turkey's Western allies have expressed solidarity with the government over the coup attempt but have also voiced alarm at the scale and swiftness of the response, which includes a purge in universities and travel ban on academics.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier warned the government against extending the state of emergency

beyond three months, saying this "would exacerbate tensions inside Turkey". Speaking in Washington, he also expressed doubt about the legality of banning university professors from teaching and preventing researchers from leaving the country. The Geneva-based jurists group ICJ weighed in, with its secretary general, Wilder Tayler, saying in a statement: "There are human rights that can never be restricted even in a state of emergency." "The current allegations of torture and ill-treatment of detainees and arbitrary arrests already point to serious violations of human rights," he said.

Tayler gave no details of the allegations but noted that Erdogan has raised the possibility of reinstating the death penalty, responding to supporters' demands for the coup leaders to be executed. The European Convention on Human Rights allows signatory states, which include Turkey, to suspend some of its stipulations temporarily in times of emergency but abolition of the death penalty cannot be repealed. Simsek ruled out the use of torture or curfews, but added that the government would need to "double and triple check" the central bank and Treasury for coup plotters.

Officials in Ankara say former air force chief Akin Ozturk, who has appeared in detention with his face and arms bruised and one ear bandaged, was a co-leader of the coup. Turkish media have reported that he denied this to prosecutors and that he said he tried to prevent the attempted putsch. Some detained soldiers have been shown in photographs stripped to their underpants and handcuffed on the floors of police buses and a sports hall. — Reuters

THE MURKY ROLE OF MENTAL ILLNESS IN EXTREMISM, TERROR

PARIS: After family members of the driver who slammed a truck into a holiday crowd in the French city of Nice said he suffered from depression, questions have been raised again about the links between mental illness, extreme ideology and mass violence. Mental illness cannot be blamed for terror attacks, experts say. The overwhelming majority of people with mental illness never turn violent. But mental health disorders may make some people more susceptible to extremist ideology, and in rare cases that ideology can lead to horrific acts. "People who are loners and who become angry and resentful can easily be drawn to extremist ideologies," said Dr Raj Persaud, a psychiatrist and professor at London's Gresham College.

"They begin to dehumanize others and may not need much more motivation before deciding to commit a terrorist attack." It is not known for sure that the Nice attacker, 31-year-old Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, was mentally ill. It is also unclear whether he was acting out of personal impulse or was driven by ideology. But the Nice attack and other recent ones, like the attack at a nightclub in Orlando, have involved a murky mix of extreme ideology and hints of mental illness. "Terrorist acts are not caused by mental illness but mental illness can provide a background that's receptive to terrorist activity," said Persaud.

Innocent people

Relatives of Bouhlel say he was once prescribed anti-psychotic medication. They describe an angry young man estranged from his wife and withdrawn from society. Bouhlel's uncle in Tunisia, Sadok Bouhlel, told The Associated Press that his nephew's family problems made him vulnerable to an Algerian recruiter for the Islamic State group who converted him in just two weeks. Still, there are angry men estranged from their wives and withdrawn from society around the world who will never feel the impulse to slaughter a crowd of innocent people.

Paul Gill, a senior lecturer in security and crime science at University College London, says mass attacks are often triggered by a constellation of problems and do not depend on a mental health disorder. "Just because you have psychological issues, it doesn't mean you will turn to violence," he said. He said there's a higher rate of mental health issues among "lone wolf attackers" as opposed to people involved in a terrorist network, according to his study of more than 100 such assailants. Among those in his research were the 2005 London suicide bombers and Anders Breivik, the right-wing Norwegian who killed 77 people in a shooting-and-bombing rampage.

Anger and frustration

Other experts said the decision of some attackers to align themselves with an extremist ideology can be driven more by opportunism than beliefs. "The driver in Nice is better thought of as a spree killer than a terrorist," said David Canter, director of the International Research Centre for Investigative Psychology at Huddersfield University in Britain. "For these killers, like the German pilot who drove his plane into the Alps or the Columbine schoolboys, their acts are really despairing suicides," he said in an email. "Mentally ill killers will hook onto whatever is in the wind at the time they want to express their anger and frustration." The potential link between mental health problems and terror attacks has also been raised as a possible motive for Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski, who was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. And after Omar Mateen killed 49 people at a gay nightclub in Orlando, he was described by his ex-wife as "mentally unstable and mentally ill," according to press reports.

Orlando nightclub attack

Still, the vast amount of research on people with mental health problems and violence suggest that they are much more likely to pose a danger to themselves than to others. "It would be stigmatizing to say that we should focus on people with mental health problems as vulnerable and potential risks for radicalization," said Ariane Bazan, a professor of clinical psychology at the Universite Libre in Brussels. — AP



RIYADH : A Saudi man plays with the Pokemon Go application on his mobile in the capital Riyadh. — AFP

SAUDI DENIES ISSUING NEW FATWA AGAINST POKEMON

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia denied yesterday that the conservative kingdom's top clerical body had renewed a 15-year-old edict declaring that the Pokemon game was un-Islamic. Saudi media reports said on Wednesday the General Secretariat of the Council of Senior Religious Scholars had revived a 2001 decree against a Pokemon card game in response to queries from Muslims, although it made no mention of the new Pokemon GO mobile game.

Users of the game walk around their real-life neighborhoods in search of scores of "pocket monsters", which emerge superimposed on the phone screen via its camera. The 2001 fatwa said the card game contained elements prohibited by Islamic law such as gambling. However, Saudi authorities said the social media reports were unfounded. "The Council of Senior Religious Scholars denied that it issued a new fatwa

about the Pokemon game, and the media reports of that are not accurate," said Abdulmohsen Alyas, undersecretary for international communication and media at the Ministry of Culture and Information.

"We ask international media to call the ministry to verify information for their reports." On its Twitter account, the Council said no fatwa had been issued for the new Pokemon game. In conservative Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's two holiest sites, cinemas are banned and women's sports are discouraged as promoting sin. Middle Eastern states are often wary of social media use by their growing youth populations. Authorities in Kuwait and Egypt have already warned that Pokemon players might be tempted to point their smartphones at restricted locations such as royal palaces, mosques, oil facilities or military bases. — Reuters

IS-INSPIRED ATTACKS AID JIHADISTS AT LOW COST

BAGHDAD: The Islamic State group has claimed several high-profile attacks in the West that it appears to have inspired rather than planned, sowing fear and boosting its profile at low cost. Such attacks require far less effort than planning and financing an operation in Europe or the United States and dispatching IS jihadists to carry it out, and also leave fewer signs for authorities trying to foil them.

And they allow IS to portray itself as being on the offensive against its foes, even as the group has suffered a string of defeats inside the cross-border "caliphate" it proclaimed in Iraq and Syria two years ago. "They help to create a climate of fear and reinforce the idea that IS remains a potent force despite territorial losses," said Aymenn Al-Tamimi, a jihadism expert and research fellow at the Middle East Forum.

But "the way IS has claimed the attacks suggests (a) lack of direct operational involvement". Encouraging attacks in Western countries is a deliberate part of IS strategy, something indicated by "the fact that they are willing to claim most of them", said Will McCants, also an expert on jihadists and a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. The strategy of inspiring attacks contrasts with many IS operations in Iraq, Syria and elsewhere in the Middle East that the group directly plans and for which it trains and arms militants.

The language used in claims for attacks in Germany on Monday and France last week pointed to an inspirational rather than operational role for IS. The jihadist-linked Amaq agency said the axe-wielding teenager who attacked passengers on a train in southern Germany "carried out this operation responding to calls to target countries of the coalition fighting" IS. And it used much the same language after a man in a truck ploughed through a crowd of Bastille Day revelers in the city of Nice on the French Riviera. Both attackers were described as IS fighters, but the term does not necessarily mean they had any direct ties to or training from the jihadist group.

Call for impromptu attacks

In 2014, IS spokesman Abu Mohammed Al-Adnani called for attacks on citizens of Western countries and gave instructions on how they could be carried out without military equipment, using rocks or knives, or by running people over in vehicles. The group has since released a constant stream of propaganda pictures, videos, articles and radio broadcasts lauding its activities and calling for Muslims to join it. Such propaganda provides a framework for attacks by individuals who are psychologically troubled or otherwise prone to acts of violence, regardless of whether or not they have longstanding ties to Islamic extremism. — AFP

UKRAINE REBELS TRAIN LOCALS TO FIGHT 'ARMED OSCE FORCE'

SHAKHTARSK: Pro-Russian insurgents in war-torn eastern Ukraine have staged sabre-rattling training exercises in preparation for the possible deployment of an armed international police force in rebel-held areas. The simulated street fighting Wednesday in the rebel-controlled town of Shakhtarsk saw around 100 camouflaged fighters armed with thick metal shields training cheering crowds how to form lines to push back against advancing troops. One rebel held up a banner reading "No to a foreign armed mission" while several others tried to overturn a car.

Kiev is pressing for an international armed police presence in the region so that it can be brought under control and seal Ukraine's porous eastern border with Russia—allegedly used by rebels to smuggle in weapons and supplies. The Organization of Security of Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) - the group that would be responsible for policing the conflict zone—has 580 unarmed staff based in the region and recently had its mandate to monitor the shaky truce extended to the end of March 2017. The idea of arming that mission does not sit well with the self-proclaimed "people's republics" in the industrial regions of most Russian-speaking Lugansk and Donetsk.

"We will repel the Ukrainian junta and the armed mission at the very border of the People's Republic of Donetsk," one camouflaged fighter who refused to give his name shouted out while a mock street revolt unfurled behind him. A separate exercise saw about 1,000 civilians get into a fight with the imitation OSCE force in order to disarm them. They pelted them with bottles of water and rocks and eventually succeeded in taking control of an insurgent tank that was playing the role of an OSCE tank vehicle. The OSCE press office tried to calm the waters by noting that no decision on arming their monitors was imminent and would need prior approval from the European security body's 57 members. — AFP

TOP REPORTER'S MURDER SENDS SHIVERS THROUGH UKRAINE MEDIA

KIEV: The brazen murder of a prominent independent reporter in a Kiev car bombing has sent chills through Ukraine's tight-knit journalistic community at a time when it already faced grave threats. Wednesday's death of Ukrainska Pravda reporter Pavel Sheremet came 16 years after the beheading of Giorgi Gongadze—the news site's founder, who appeared to probe too deeply into the dark side of what was then a Russian-backed state. Ukraine's 2014 pro-EU revolution that culminated in the ouster of Moscow-backed president Viktor Yanukovich had spawned new hopes and expectations for journalists in the former Soviet nation. The newly elected authorities promised that heavyweight politicians and powerful tycoons would lose their grip on the media—but that vow was never kept.

"The threat was always there and still remains," Ukrainska Pravda reporter Mariana Pietsukh told AFP. "Everything depends on which topic you work on and whose affairs you pried into." No motive has yet been established for Wednesday's car bombing but officials have said the attack may have been staged to destabilize Ukraine—a veiled reference to Kiev's sworn foe Moscow. President Petro Poroshenko described the death of Sheremet—a 44-year-old Russian national born in Belarus—as a "terrible tragedy" that would see the guilty punished.

But journalists like current Ukrainska Pravda editor Sevgil Musaieva-Borovyk do not appear to put too much trust in Ukrainian officials' words—and she said that Sheremet's death follows a pattern of intimidation. Musaieva-Borovyk told AFP that she first felt the sense of danger when the site's co-founder Olena Prytula and her partner Sheremet found themselves being followed late last year. "Our emails were hacked, our phones were tapped," Musaieva-Borovyk said. "Once, I received a copy of all the investigations planned by Ukrainska Pravda and our personal correspondence with colleagues."

She did not know who broke into the site's computer system—but the list of potential suspects is long. These include not only corrupt officials and oligarchs but also pro-Kiev hackers who have already revealed the personal details of thousands of reporters accredited with the rebels to work in Ukraine's eastern war zone. "They wrote to me: 'I want you dead', 'your reputation is tarnished', and other awful things," Musaieva-Borovyk says.

Other independent reporters agreed that life for the media has not improved much since Ukraine's break with Russia and its hope to



KIEV: People hold pictures of slain Belarus-born journalist Pavel Sheremet during a memorial meeting on Independence Square in Kiev.— AFP

anchor its future with the West. "I do not think that this country has changed that much," Hromadske.ua executive director Kateryna Gorchynska said during one of the web channel's broadcasts. "There are not enough changes in our government and in the institutions that should stop them from doing illegal things".

The Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine said Sheremet's murder "proved that journalists are in mortal danger not only in the combat zone, but also in their own homes". The list of reporters killed of Ukraine includes the 32-year-old Vesti newspaper reporter Vyacheslav Veremiy during the three days of carnage that claimed more than 100 lives in the February 2014 pro-Western revolt.

Pro-Russian journalist and blogger Oles Buzyna was shot dead in a playground outside his home in Kiev in April 2015. The 45-year-old was a critic of the new government and his death sparked fierce condemnation from Moscow. The Independent Media Trade Union of Ukraine lamented that the problems facing journalists were not treated seriously and were given little attention. "The low level of attention of public opinion that verged on indifference are among the factors that make these criminal attacks repeated over and over again," it warned. — 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 style="text-align: center;"> <p>MSTF-24CRI</p> <p>24000 BTU/hr</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>3D Air Flow Golden Fin Compound Filter</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>MSTF-30CRI</p> <p>30000 BTU/hr</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>3D Air Flow Golden Fin Compound Filter</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>CS-YC18MKF</p> <p>18000 BTU/hr</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;"> </div> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Airflow Direction Control (Up & Down) Blue Fin Condenser</p> </div>
--	--	--

best
AL-YOUSIFI

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

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khaldon 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)

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

'MISSION IMPOSSIBLE': TIGHT BREXIT TIMELINE UNSETTLES THE GERMANS

TOUGH STANCE ON ARTICLE 50 MUST CHANGE

BERLIN: German Chancellor Angela Merkel and fellow European leaders are pressing the new British government to trigger divorce proceedings with the European Union as soon as possible. But behind the scenes, senior German officials who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue, say they fear a swift move by London to invoke Article 50 of the EU treaty risks creating an impossibly short window for negotiating Britain's departure. Further complicating the task, EU leaders have rejected the possibility of any negotiations before Britain moves on Article 50, a step which would start a two-year countdown to Brexit.

Behind their stance is a desire to send a message to Britain that it cannot hold the EU hostage by horse trading on the terms of an EU exit before it commits to leave. But six top officials in Berlin and Brussels described this position as problematic, with one dismissing it as "absurd". Some believe Europe's hard line on the sequencing of Brexit talks will need to be revised, perhaps as early as October, when new British Prime Minister Theresa May is due to attend her first meeting of EU leaders in Brussels.

The comments reveal the depth of anxiety in Europe's key capitals about how both sides in the Brexit showdown have positioned themselves in the weeks after the shock June 23 vote to leave the bloc. "It was not wrong to send a tough message after the Brexit vote but I don't think the current stance is sustainable," said one official. "You need to start some sort of process as soon as possible, whether you call it negotiations or not."

A second senior official said: "It's absurd to think that we won't negotiate on anything before Article 50 is invoked." May, on her first foreign trip since replacing David Cameron as prime minister last week, visited Berlin on Wednesday for talks with Merkel before travelling to Paris yesterday to discuss Brexit with French President Francois Hollande.

At a news conference in Berlin, she said Britain needed time to agree on its objectives for the talks and would not trigger Article 50 this year. Merkel said it was understandable that Britain would take a few months to figure out its negotiating strategy, but added: "Nobody wants a prolonged period of limbo." The French have taken a tougher line, pressing Britain to move fast, and launching an open campaign to woo London-based financial firms to Paris.

Far too short

Behind the concern of the German officials is a creeping realization that the two-year window for negotiating a Brexit, as set out in Article 50, is far too short. An extension of the period is possible, but it would require the unanimous agreement of the remaining 27 EU member states, and is therefore seen as unlikely, or at best unsure. Berlin is also skeptical about the possibility of Britain revoking Article 50 once it has been triggered. This means that something will have to give, German officials say. They spell out two possible scenarios.

Under the first, the EU would revise its position and agree to a prolonged period



BERLIN : This combo of photos shows German Chancellor Angela Merkel (right) and British Prime Minister Theresa May addressing a press conference after talks at the chancellery in Berlin. —AFP

of negotiations before Article 50 is invoked. That would win both sides extra time before the clock starts ticking, but it would represent a climbdown and probably provoke outrage in some EU capitals, notably Paris. The second option, in the event May triggers Article 50 early next year, would be for Britain to settle for a very basic framework for its future ties with the EU, based on an existing model similar to that of Norway or Switzerland. Even then, the deadline of two years is widely viewed as a stretch.

A third senior official said it took the EU three years to seal its divorce from Greenland, a negotiation that was focused almost exclusively on fishing rights. That official estimated that the EU and Britain, because of the complexity of their relationship, needed at least twice that time—six years—to seal their separation, describing two years as "mission impossible".

Adding to the muddle is the heavy election calendar in Europe next year, which officials fear could lead to paralysis. Germany, France and the Netherlands are all holding elections in 2017, Spain is still struggling to form a government after two inconclusive votes, and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has said he will resign if he loses a referendum on constitutional reform in the autumn. Leaders in these countries will be focused on their campaigns. If there are changes in power, new governments will need time to settle in. "Do you really think that Europe will be in a position to focus on Brexit talks next year if its five biggest countries are in the mid-

dle of elections or dogged by political uncertainty?" a senior Brussels-based official said.

Down to earth

Even if formal negotiations do not start for half a year or more, the official said it was important that Britain and the EU converge on a "corridor of principles" for Brexit talks in the months ahead. One of the big worries in Berlin and other capitals is that London has unrealistic expectations about what it can secure from the Brexit negotiations, particularly on the tradeoff between access to the EU's single market and respect for the bloc's core principle of free movement. British diplomats also acknowledge that the team May has put together to steer Brexit talks has a starry-eyed view of what concessions London can win from the EU and say their European counterparts need to deliver this message to them directly.

"A lot of people have 'climbed up trees', people like David Davis and Liam Fox," said one of the German officials, referring to the new Brexit and trade ministers in London. "They need time to climb down." The problem is not just on the British side. It remains unclear who will take the European lead in negotiations, although officials say the aim is to clear this up by September. Berlin is reluctant to hand over responsibility to the executive European Commission, its president, Jean-Claude Juncker, and his chief of staff Martin Selmayr, out of fear they could take an overly confrontational stance towards Britain. —Reuters

HOBBLING MOBSTER NABBED

ROME: Italian police slapped cuffs on a fugitive yesterday after a high-speed chase turned into a hobble when the mobster broke his ankle. Giuseppe Alvaro, 33, a member of the powerful 'Ndrangheta crime syndicate in southern Italy, was surprised by police as he hid in an olive oil mill near Monterosso Calabro in the Calabria region. Alvaro, who had been on the run since 2007 and was wanted for money laundering and possessing illegal arms, gashed his leg throwing himself out of a window and broke his ankle on landing, police said in a statement. He was easily apprehended, clapped in irons, and taken to hospital for his injuries.

Alvaro had taken over command of a 'Ndrangheta clan following the arrest of his father, a known criminal boss, in 2005, and his orders were followed to the letter by his footsoldiers, police said. Italy's Interior Minister Angelo Alfano congratulated officers on a successful sting on the acting head of "one of the 'Ndrangheta's most powerful clans". Notoriously ruthless, the 'Ndrangheta has surpassed the Sicilian Mafia and the Naples-based Camorra thanks to the wealth it has amassed as the principal importer and wholesaler of cocaine produced in Latin America and smuggled into Europe.

That trade is worth billions and previous police operations have indicated that the 'Ndrangheta has well-established links with Colombian producer cartels, Mexican crime gangs and mafia families in New York and other parts of North America. The organization is made up of numerous village and family-based clans based in Calabria, the rural, mountainous and under-developed "toe" of Italy's boot. —AFP

FAILED BY COURTS, CHILDREN BEAR THE BRUNT OF RAPE IN IVORY COAST

DAKAR: Children in Ivory Coast bear the brunt of sexual violence in a culture where rape is widely considered "insignificant" and perpetrators usually go unpunished, activists say. Two in three rape victims in the West African nation are young girls, according to a recent UN report, which recorded some 1,130 cases of rape between 2012 and 2015. Yet the number of rape cases is likely to be far higher, the UN's Ivory Coast mission (UNOCI) said, as many victims do not come forward due to the fear of retaliation and stigma within their communities and a lack of confidence in the legal system.

While Ivory Coast has recovered from two civil wars, in 2002 and 2011, to boast one of Africa's fastest growing economies, years of conflict have fuelled a culture of violence, where rape is rife, according to the UNOCI. "Rape is considered banal by a lot of people, they claim sex is an obligatory rite of passage for every woman," said Jean Claude Kobena of the Abidjan-based group SOS Violences Sexuelles. "They think no one should be imprisoned for an act they see as so insignificant," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Children are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence because so many roam the streets, out of school and forced to work because of widespread poverty, child rights experts say. Almost half of the 20 million population of Ivory Coast live in poverty, and six out of every 10 children of secondary school age are not in education, according to data from the World Bank. "Millions of kids are out of school and on the streets, relying on odd jobs to survive, which exposes them to abuse and rape," said Save the Children's country director Famari Barro.

No more 'misdemeanors'

Rape victims and their families are often not aware of how to report the crime, or cannot afford to do so, activists say. Victims may have to travel far to a court, and they must first obtain a medical certificate - which can cost up to 50,000 CFA francs (\$85) - to prove they have been raped before pressing charges, said the United Nations children's agency (UNICEF). Most rape cases in Ivory Coast are therefore settled out of court, usually without the victim's consent, with the intention of avoiding stigma and preserving peace within communities, and sparing the suspected rapist from jail, the UNOCI's report said. —Reuters

IN HOT ACAPULCO, TOO MANY BODIES IN MORGUE'S FRIDGES

ACAPULCO: Morgue workers lifted a man's dismembered body that was dumped on the street of a poor Acapulco neighborhood in broad daylight, then picked up his severed leg and a bag containing his head. They placed the body parts in the back of a van and drove toward the Mexican Pacific resort's only coroner's office, a place overcrowded with scores of unclaimed corpses.

Inside the morgue's cold chambers, bodies lay in pairs side by side on shelves meant to hold just one—a grim symbol of the drug cartel-related killings swamping the authorities in Mexico's murder capital. Officials granted AFP journalists last week a rare visit to the morgue, where a worker opened some refrigerator doors: Most bodies were inside grey body bags, but bare feet stuck out on a shelf. One red bag was marked "fetus." A cockroach scurried at the bottom of a fridge.

In all, there are 174 bodies in the five chambers, which have a total capacity for 95. Three have languished there since 2012. Flies buzzed around the three autopsy tables and the stench of death hung in the warm air half an hour after another decapitated body was examined. The morgue is "saturated because of the issue of violence and the bodies are not claimed," said Carlos de la Pena, head of Guerrero state's health department, which oversees the region's three overcrowded morgues.

Daily deaths

Ten doctors work at the morgue in a once-glamorous city where 902 people were murdered in 2015 and 461 more in the first half of this year, according to official figures. With a population of 810,000, that's a rate of 111 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2015, ranking Acapulco among the most violent cities in the world outside war zones. Most bodies that go through the morgue are claimed.

But the fridges contain 53 murder victims and the bones of 16 others found in clandestine graves or remote parts of the city. The others are natural deaths, accident victims and remains from a crematorium that closed last year. "There are relatives who know the bodies are here but they don't claim them. We don't know why," said Carlos Estrada, the morgue's coordinator. Estrada, 61, said the morgue handled two to three bodies, mostly accidents, per day 20 years ago. Now it's three to five, mostly murders. "It's shocking because many times, we work on a body that's unknown," he said. "But it's a job that has to be done."

Officials are waiting for investigators to finish a backlog of paperwork to begin burying the unclaimed corpses in two months. The bodies pile up despite the deployment of thousands of soldiers and police on the streets and beaches. At least 10 murders were reported during a five-day visit by AFP journalists last week. A woman was killed near the morgue. Two people were killed in a drive-by shooting at a strip bar. Three decapitated bodies were found. "I've had shifts where I've had six, seven, eight bodies," said Jose Esteban Anzastiga, a morgue van driver.

Roberto Alvarez, Guerrero state's security spokesman, said 95 percent of Acapulco's murders are linked to gang conflicts. The main groups battling for control of the local drug trade are the Beltran Leyva gang and the Independent Cartel of Acapulco, Alvarez said. Both are also plagued with internal strife. He acknowledged that troops are not enough to solve the "security crisis" in Acapulco, saying that the economy needs to improve and that people must participate by reporting crimes.

The struggle to get witnesses to testify was evident at the July 14 crime scene of the dismembered body. The body parts lay behind a stolen taxi. It was abandoned with its trunk open on an avenue of the crime-ridden San Agustin neighborhood. — AFP



ACAPULCO, Mexico: A forensic staffer shows the morgue's cold chambers full of body bags in Acapulco, Mexico. — AFP



CLEVELAND, Ohio: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump (left) stands with his daughters Ivanka Trump (center) and Tammy Trump (second right), and daughter-in-law Lara Yunaska (right) during the third evening session of the Republican National Convention at Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland, Ohio. — AFP

TRUMP FACES UPHILL BATTLE AT RAW REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

CLEVELAND: Donald Trump delivered the speech of his life yesterday, outlining his vision for America and seeking to salvage a fractious Republican convention after his chief rival declined to endorse him in his run for the presidency. The most controversial US presidential contender in modern times will accept the nomination of a Republican Party set up to abolish slavery and which has guided more candidates to the Oval Office than any other.

Nationwide polls put the New York billionaire, who has never held elected office, and Hillary Clinton neck and neck with the former secretary of state heavily criticized over an email scandal. The four-day Republican convention in Cleveland, which braced for mass and potentially violent protests, has so far passed off with little more than scuffles and a handful of arrests in the streets outside. But inside the halls, the convention itself has been anything but uneventful. Public spasms of disunity aside, there was the embarrassing revelation that a prime-time speech by Trump's wife Melania had plagiarized remarks made by First Lady Michelle Obama.

When Trump takes center stage, watched by millions of Americans on prime-time television, he will need to prove that he is worthy of the White House and capable of being commander-in-chief. He will have to attempt to heal deep party divisions, laid bare late Wednesday when his chief rival was booed off stage, and somehow overcome concerns about the divisive campaign he has run so far, which has alienated minority voters, women, Muslims and Latino immigrants.

His campaign defied political norms—fueling racial tensions, offending key vot-

ing blocs, eschewing big-spending advertising campaigns and relying on media coverage above campaign structure. "Mr Trump's speech will focus on his vision," his campaign manager Paul Manafort told reporters yesterday, and "deal with current affairs such as the crisis facing cities and terrorism."

NATO questions

In an interview with The New York Times, published Wednesday, Trump qualified normally sacrosanct support for NATO allies, warning it would depend "if they fulfill their commitments to us." Trump's roller-coaster campaign defeated 16 rivals and steamrolled stubborn party opposition after being written off as a joke. But he now faces the gargantuan task of trying to unify a party torn apart.

On Wednesday, the convention's rapturous welcome for arch conservative Senator Ted Cruz turned into deafening boos after he provocatively told delegates to "vote your conscience" in November. Eric Trump, the nominee's second son, told CBS television that he thought the speech was "classless." "I've never seen boos like that, I never heard boos like that," he said. "The whole auditorium was literally shaking with boos. I mean, how do you get booed out of your own convention? It was unbelievable."

But Cruz was unrepentant, defending himself at a breakfast meeting with Republicans from his home state of Texas. "We're not going to win this election by yelling and screaming and attacking people," he said to applause. Trump and Cruz were at loggerheads on the campaign trail: Cruz complaining that Trump was not

a proper conservative and about his allegedly liberal "New York values" while the tycoon savaged Cruz as "Lyn' Ted" and posted a deeply unflattering photograph of his banker wife, Heidi.

'Puppy dog'

"That pledge was not a blanket commitment that if you go and slander and attack Heidi, that I'm going to nonetheless come like a puppy dog and say thank you very much for maligning my wife," said Cruz yesterday. But the Trump campaign has been quick to try to minimize Cruz's disloyalty and exploit outrage in the hall to their advantage.

"The party is definitely more unified," Manafort said. "A number of Cruz delegates... unprompted were coming up to us saying this wasn't right... and they are supporting the Trump-Pence ticket." It was left to Trump's pick for vice president, the socially conservative Indiana Governor Mike Pence, to try to overcome the Cruz debacle in delivering a speech introducing himself to voters. He fed the crowd self-deprecating jokes and a clear conservative message, defending Trump as a man "who never quits, who never backs down" in a message given a standing ovation.

Yesterday, Trump's daughter Ivanka will try to soften his brash public image. But the most unifying aspect of the convention has been savage assaults on Clinton, portraying her as a criminal and a liar who should be jailed, with cries of "lock her up, lock her up." Clinton, who will formally accept the Democratic nomination at her own convention next week, is expected to steal the limelight on Friday or Saturday by announcing her vice presi-

WASTE FEARS AS AFGHAN SOLDIERS CASH IN ON SPENT AMMUNITIONS

KABUL: Zahir Jan, a scrap metal dealer in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, pays about 175 Afghani (\$2.55) per kilo of spent cartridge casings and has no trouble finding supplies from poorly paid soldiers and policemen looking for extra cash. If they don't have enough on hand, he says they're happy to fire off their weapons for 5-10 minutes until he has what he needs. "This is a good business now and there are buyers waiting in different areas," he said.

Along with official and media reports that some soldiers and police even sell weapons and ammunition to the Taliban, the issue illustrates a problem for commanders trying to improve controls on vital supplies like fuel and ammunition. A senior Afghan officer in the army's technical and weapons branch, who didn't want to be named as he is not authorized to speak publicly, said troops in Helmand and the northern province of Kunduz fired 7,000 artillery shells in May alone.

"We asked army commanders about it and said if each shell killed only one person, we should have 3,500 Taliban

dead in each province," he said. "It's very clear they fire aimlessly and collect the shell casings for copper and sell them." Another officer, a commander in Helmand who arrived in the province six months ago following a clearout of senior officers in the army's 215th corps, estimated that up to 8 out of every 10 soldiers sold ammunition casings.

"One hundred percent, it happens," he said, also speaking anonymously as he was not authorized to talk to the media. "The reason is the lack of a proper logistics system as well as insufficient pay and leave." Despite recent efforts to improve pay and conditions for Afghan soldiers, morale remains a problem, with many serving for months or even years without leave, earning around \$200 a month. The clearout of senior officers in Helmand was prompted by reports of abuse and corruption, including cases where officers stole soldiers' pay or demanded bribes to allow them to go on leave.

Assessing just how widespread ammunition misuse is and how far the sale of cases involves deliberately or

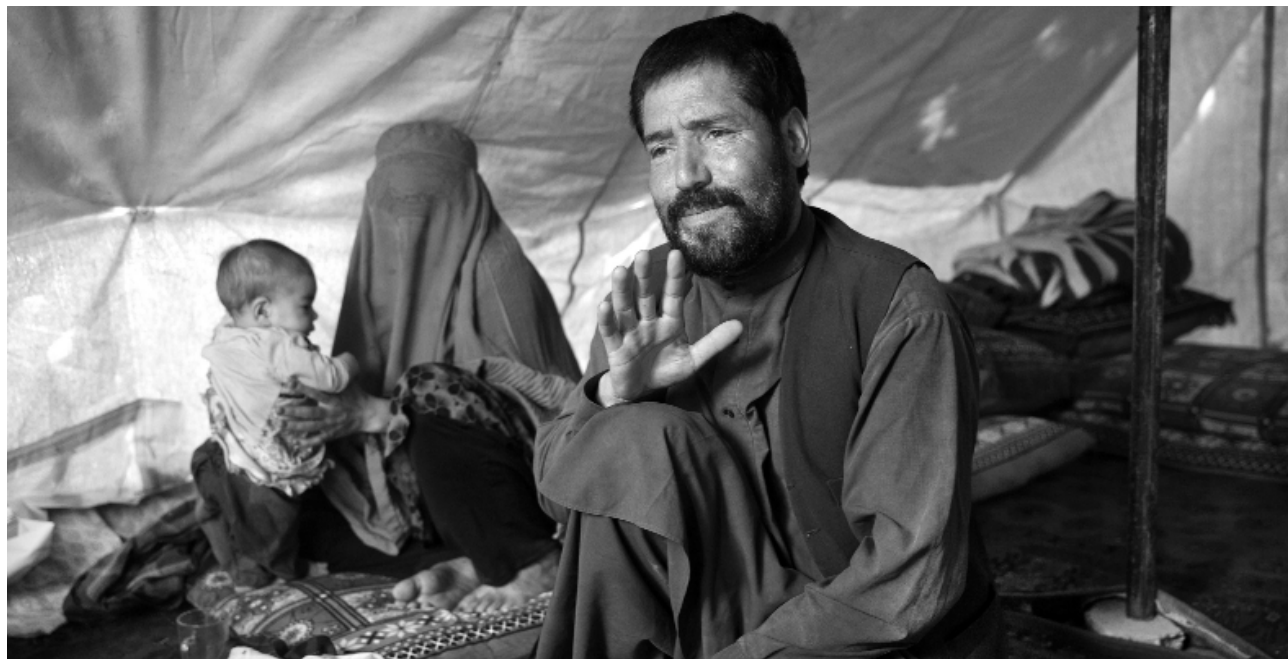
wastefully firing off ammunition rather than collecting spent cartridges from normal operations remains difficult. The defense ministry declined to provide ammunition usage figures. But at least seven officials in different parts of the government and military said soldiers discharging their weapons purely in order to produce saleable scrap metal was a problem.

The United States spent more than \$300 million from its Afghanistan Security Forces Fund on ammunition for Afghan army and police last year, Department of Defense figures show. In a report from February, Pentagon inspectors said the systems for supplying and maintaining equipment for police and army units were "immature and unreliable". Lack of proper controls raised the likelihood of "misuse, theft, and diversion to unauthorized purposes." A scandal last year involving rigged fuel contracts increased the pressure for improvements, and more attention is being given to keeping track of ammunition, which NATO officials say is a "top priority". "Reporting has been sketchy,"

said Australian army Brigadier Scott Hicks, deputy director of the logistics and maintenance operation within the NATO-led Resolute Support training and assistance mission. "We're getting better at it with fuel and we're working on ammunition at the moment," he said.

Forms and papers

Afghan officials acknowledge there have been cases of ammunition misuse, but deny the problem is widespread. "Several forms and papers have to be filled out to obtain ammunition and there has to be accountability for everything," said Mohammad Radmanish, a defense ministry spokesman. NATO officers have, however, been trying to move the Afghan army to overhaul its logistics with new computerised systems and more timely reporting from the field that would enable unusual patterns of ammunition use to be spotted more quickly. In particular, they are trying to get away from Soviet-era supply doctrine, in which supplies are "pushed" out based on centralized estimates of likely needs. —Reuters



AFGHANISTAN: An Afghan man, Mohammad Azam, 45, and father of Zahra, 14, who died after she was set on fire in her husband's home, talks during an interview in a tent in Kabul. —AP

PREGNANT AFGHAN TEEN'S DEATH SPARKS CALL TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

'THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL BREACH OF A CHILD'S BASIC RIGHTS'

KABUL: Right groups Wednesday called on the Afghan government to end the scourge of child marriages, after a 14-year-old pregnant girl was burned to death in the latest case of violence against women. The family of the girl, Zahra, says she was tortured and set alight by her husband's family, according to reports citing local officials in central Ghor province, where the incident occurred. Relatives of the teenager's husband insist her death was by self-immolation. Zahra, four months pregnant, was also said to be a victim of "baad", the forced marriage of a girl to a family to settle a dispute, a practice prevalent in rural Afghanistan.

Her death last week has sparked shock waves in Afghanistan, with rights groups demanding that the Afghan government bring an end to child mar-

riages. "This is a truly heartbreaking situation in which Zahra faced suffering beyond comprehension," Save the Children said in a statement. "Zahra's is an extreme case of what can happen when a child is forcibly married off, however we know her marriage was not unique-the practice is all too common in many parts of the country."

Child marriages are on the rise in Afghanistan, according to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). "In some regions because of insecurity and poverty the families marry off their daughters at a very early age to get rid of them," AIHRC chief Sima Samar told reporters this week. Afghan civil law sets the legal age of marriage at 16 for girls, yet 15 percent of Afghan women under 50 years old were married before their 15th birthday

and almost half were married before the age of 18, according to Save the Children.

"This is such a fundamental breach of a child's basic rights," the charity said. "Zahra and so many other children who are married off at a young age are deprived of their right to education, safety and the ability to make choices about their future."

Zahra's death comes after a young woman was stoned to death in Ghor last November after being accused of adultery. And in March last year a woman named Farkhunda was savagely beaten and set ablaze in central Kabul after being falsely accused of burning a Koran. The mob killing triggered angry nationwide protests and drew global attention to the endemic violence facing Afghan women. — AFP

INDONESIA REJECTS THE PEOPLE'S COURT RULING ON 1960S KILLINGS

JAKARTA: Jakarta yesterday rejected the findings of an international panel of judges that declared Indonesia had committed crimes against humanity in anti-communist killings during the 1960s in which it claimed the US, Britain and Australia were complicit. At least 500,000 people died in the months-long purge across the Southeast Asian archipelago that started after General Suharto put down a coup blamed on the communists on October 1, 1965. Suharto took power on the back of the killings and then ruled Indonesia with an iron fist for three decades, during which the onslaught was presented as necessary to combat the communist threat.

Even since his 1998 downfall, successive governments have refused to apologize for the killings. Set up by activists, the International People's Tribunal on 1965 Crimes Against Humanity in Indonesia (IPT 1965) was overseen by seven international judges in November in The Hague and its findings were read on Wednesday. Chief judge Zak Yacoob, a South African former top justice, announcing the tribunal's findings, described a "systematic attack against the (Indonesian Communist Party)... its affiliate organizations, its leaders, members, supporters and their families".

As well as the killings, he said alleged communists and others suffered imprisonment, enslavement, torture and sexual violence in the tumultuous period. The court carries no legal weight but activists hope it will pressure Jakarta to do more to come to terms with one of the worst mass killings of the 20th century. Yacoob urged the Indonesian government—which did not answer an invitation to attend the hearings—to issue an apology, investigate alleged crimes against humanity and compensate victims.

Foreign ministry spokesman Arrmanatha Nasir said Indonesia was under no obligation to follow the recommendations of the tribunal as they were "not legally binding". Security Minister Luhut Panjaitan criticized its conclusions, saying the killings were "none of their business, they are not our superiors and Indonesia has its own system". The tribunal also accused the US of being complicit in the massacres by providing lists of alleged communist party officials to the Indonesians, and said Britain and Australia had recycled the Indonesian army's propaganda. A spokesman for Australia's foreign affairs ministry said the court was "not a formal international court or tribunal, but a human rights NGO" and that Canberra rejected "any suggestion that it was complicit in any way in those events of 50 years ago". The British embassy in Jakarta declined to respond to the accusation of complicity in the killings and the American legation could not immediately be reached for comment. President Joko Widodo, seen as a break from a string of rulers with roots in the authoritarian past, has backed public discussions about the killings, but has also refused to apologize on behalf of the state for them. — AFP



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani civil society activists carry placards during a protest in Islamabad against the murder of social media celebrity Qandeel Baloch by her own brother. —AFP

PAKISTAN PARLIAMENT TO VOTE ON HONOR KILLING, RAPE LAWS

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's law minister yesterday announced that bills aimed at tackling "honor killings" and boosting rape convictions would soon be voted on by parliament, days after the murder of a social media star by her brother. Rights groups and politicians have for years called for tougher laws to tackle perpetrators of violence against women in Pakistan and the move follows a slew of high-profile killings in the country. The perpetrators of so-called honor killings in which the victim, normally a woman, is killed by a relative often walk free because they can seek forgiveness for the crime from another family member.

Rape conviction rates meanwhile are close to zero percent, largely due to the law's reliance on circumstantial evidence and a lack of forensic testing. A committee comprised of lawmakers from both lower and upper houses of parliament unanimously approved the two bills yesterday, meaning they could be voted on within weeks. Law minister Zahid Hamid, who chaired the committee, said: "We have plugged all loopholes in the anti-honor killing legislation, which will be put up for approval at a joint sitting of parliament soon."

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's ruling PML-N party has a large majority of seats in the lower house and the bills are believed to have enough backing from opposition parties to pass in the senate too. A 2005 amendment to the law pertaining to honor killings prevented men who kill female relatives pardoning themselves as an "heir" of the victim. But punishment was left to a judge's discretion when other relatives of the victim forgive the killer—a loophole which critics say is exploited. According to Hamid, under the new law relatives of the victim would only be able to pardon the killer of capital punishment, but they would still face a mandatory life sentence of twelve-and-a-half years.

In the anti-rape bill, "a provision to conduct DNA tests on both the alleged victim and perpetrator has been added for the first time," he said. Rape of minors, as well as the mentally and physically ill, would become punishable by death. Commenting on the move, Sugra Imam, a former senator from the opposition Pakistan People's Party who first tabled both bills said: "No law will eradicate a crime entirely but the law should be a deterrent. Laws are supposed to guide better behavior, not allow destructive behavior to continue with impunity." Yesterday's development came just six days after Social media starlet Qandeel Baloch was strangled to death by her brother once again casting a spotlight on honor killing murders which claim around a thousand lives in Pakistan every year. —AFP

INDIA LAMBASTS PAKISTAN; TENSIONS FLARE IN KASHMIR

AT LEAST 45 PEOPLE KILLED IN CLASHES

NEW DELHI: India lashed out at Pakistan yesterday, accusing its arch-rival of "supporting terrorism" after it held a day of solidarity with Kashmir following deadly violence in the disputed region. At least 45 people have been killed in clashes in Indian-administered Kashmir following the death of popular young rebel commander Burhan Wani in a gunfight with security forces on July 8. Tensions flared after Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced a "black day" to show solidarity with Kashmir residents living under Indian rule. Thousands of people marched in cities across Pakistan Wednesday to protest against the recent violence, chanting slogans condemning Indian rule and the actions of security forces.

"We once again ask Pakistan to stop inciting and supporting violence and terrorism in any part of our country and refrain from its deplorable meddling in our internal affairs in any manner," Vikas Swarup, a spokesman for India's foreign ministry told reporters. New Delhi also complained of Islamabad's inaction over "UN-designated terrorists" who were seen leading protests. They include fire-brand Pakistani cleric Hafiz Saeed, the alleged mastermind of deadly attacks in Mumbai in 2008. "India strongly condemns the encouragement and support

which such terrorists and their activities receive from Pakistan's state," Swarup said in New Delhi.

Large parts of Indian-administered Kashmir have been under curfew for nearly two weeks and authorities have imposed a sweeping clampdown on media and the internet. Burhan Wani was the commander of the region's biggest separatist group Hizbul Mujahideen, one of several fighting for decades against Indian troops deployed in the territory. The clashes are the deadliest in Muslim-majority Kashmir since 2010 when massive demonstrations were held against Indian rule. Kashmir has been divided between rivals India and Pakistan since independence in 1947, but both claim the territory in full.

Alternatives to pellet gun

Meanwhile, India plans to reconsider the use of pellet guns by security forces when controlling crowds, its Interior Minister said yesterday, after widespread resort to the weapons caused multiple casualties and stirred public anger. Interior Minister Rajnath Singh told lawmakers the government would set up a panel to look for an alternative to the pellet gun in response to questions about responses to a recent surge

of violence in the Kashmir region.

Dr Kaisar Ahmad, Principal at Government Medical College Srinagar, told Reuters that over 280 people had been treated for pellet injuries since July 9 when violence broke out in Kashmir during protests sparked by the death of a separatist militant. In his talk with lawmakers, Singh said one person had been killed from pellet shots in the most recent violence in India's only Muslim-majority state, bringing the total number of deaths from the weapon in Kashmir to seven since 2010.

In addition, 53 had suffered eye injuries in the past six years, Singh said. "It is a fact that people were injured by the use of non-lethal weapons," Singh told lawmakers. "We will form an expert committee on this that will give its report in two months so that such incidents are not repeated in future." Amnesty International this week asked the Indian government to prohibit the use of pellet-firing shotguns during street demonstrations, saying that police should look for "less harmful" devices. Though meant to be a non-lethal weapon, a senior police officer told Reuters that security forces are often forced to use pellet guns at close range to protect themselves against mob attacks. —Agencies

INDIANS HELP BUILD CUBA HOTELS AS FOREIGN LABOR BAN WEAKENS

HAVANA: French construction group Bouygues is employing more than 100 Indian laborers to work on a hotel it is building in Cuba, breaking a taboo in the Communist-run country on hiring foreign labor in order to meet increased tourism demand. The Cuban government removed a key barrier to hiring foreign workers with the passage of a 2014 foreign investment law that authorized "special regulations" concerning foreign workers under "exceptional circumstances." Cuban government officials did not immediately respond to requests for comment about the influx of foreign workers, several dozen of whom spoke to Reuters in Havana. But the Bouygues move, which was also confirmed by a company spokesman, is the first time a firm has bypassed Cuba's state-run labor halls to hire foreign workers en masse. For a country struggling to prop up export revenue in the face of low commodity prices, foreign workers on the Caribbean island signal how critical tourism is now in Cuba and how market forces are transforming its once tightly controlled economy.

Already popular as a low-cost beach resort for Europeans and Canadians, Cuba is seeing a surge in American visitors since the United States and Cuba announced in December of 2014 that they would work to normalize relations. Tourism increased 17 percent in 2015 and was up over 11 percent through June this year, official data shows. It generated \$2.8 billion in revenue last year. Meanwhile, the trade deficit in goods widened by \$1.5 billion last year.

At least three new hotels are under construction in Havana, the first new five-star hotels to be built there in a number of years. Another dozen under negotiation with potential investors, according to the Cuban tourism industry. One reason Bouygues is turning outside of Cuba for labor is because Cuban skilled tradesmen are opting to work in the private sector where they can earn much more than from the state.

'little motivation' for Cubans

The Indian tradesmen, who are being housed together

east of the capital, are part of a much broader trend of such workers who emigrate to various work sites - especially in the Middle East - in search of higher wages than they can get in India.

The practice, however, has not been widespread in Latin America or the Caribbean. Bouygues has already brought 200 Indian workers into Cuba and plans to bring more in the coming months, according to diplomats familiar with the situation and a Havana-based company employee who asked for anonymity due to restrictions on talking with the media. "It is true that the group is bringing in Indian workers trained in various parts of Bouygues ... throughout the world," a Paris-based spokesman for the company said.

The Indians would be training local tradesmen in Cuba in addition to working directly on the projects themselves, he said. The laborers are working on two hotels in Havana and another at the Varadero tourism resort, the sources said. While Bouygues is co-managing the projects, foreign firms are required to partner with state-run construction companies that have strict limits on how much they can pay Cubans. They can pay foreign workers more, however. "The Cuban workers are not paid well so there is little motivation," a western diplomat familiar with the pay differential said, requesting anonymity due to diplomatic protocol. "The Indian workers are being paid around 1,500 Euros a month, more than 10 times what their Cuban counterparts receive."

'We like spicy food'

A few dozen of the skilled tradesmen, wearing orange jump suits, said they were happy to be in Cuba for at least a year. The Indian workers were emerging for lunch from the Manzana de Gomez, an ornate building being converted into a luxury hotel in downtown Havana. Inderjeet Singh Chopra, a bearded, slim electrician wearing a turban that is seldom seen in Havana, said there were more than one hundred of his countrymen working on the project as electricians, carpenters, plumbers and masons. —Reuters

PHILIPPINES' FORMER LEADER ARROYO FREED

MANILA: Former Philippine president Gloria Arroyo was released from detention yesterday following nearly five years in a military hospital after the Supreme Court dismissed her corruption charges, her lawyer said. The 69-year-old, who suffers from a spinal illness, was accused of stealing 366 million pesos (\$8.8 million) in state lottery funds meant for charity programs while she was in office between 2001 and 2010.

The Supreme Court threw out the case Tuesday, citing insufficient evidence, but her release was delayed for procedural reasons. "It's a happy day today because she has just been freed," said Laurence Arroyo, who is also a distant relative through marriage.

"Finally justice has been done." A convoy of vehicles carrying Arroyo, her supporters and lawyers left the suburban hospital compound near Manila but she could not be seen from her car's tinted windows.

Outside the gates of the hospital, supporters drenched by rain cheered Arroyo's release and carried placards reading: "We love Gloria." Arroyo returned to her home in a smart area of the capital minutes after her release. Laurence Arroyo said she may now seek medical treatment abroad for her disease. In a statement issued by her lawyers Wednesday, Arroyo thanked the Supreme Court and newly-installed President Rodrigo Duterte for not standing in the way of her release.

Government Ombudsman Conchita Carpio-Morales defended the decision to charge Arroyo for plunder, and said on Wednesday she was preparing another corruption charge against her.

The former leader was jailed in 2011 under the administration of arch critic, then-president Benigno Aquino. Aquino questioned the ruling to free Arroyo yesterday, saying she should be held accountable for the mismanagement of funds that were supposed "to alleviate the suffering of many of our countrymen". Duterte succeeded Aquino in June, and said he was willing to pardon Arroyo. Another of Arroyo's lawyers, Estelito Mendoza, had suggested that the Supreme Court waited until Aquino stepped down before

issuing its ruling as a "courtesy" to Aquino.

Arroyo was initially arrested on charges of electoral sabotage for allegedly conspiring with election officials to rig 2007 senatorial polls. Because of her illness, the government allowed her to be detained in a military hospital. She was granted bail for the vote-rigging case in July 2012 after the court while not dismissing the charge-ruling evidence against her was weak. But the corruption case against Arroyo was lodged the same year, keeping her in detention. Despite being detained, Arroyo has won a seat in the House of Representatives in the past three elections, serving as a congresswoman while being held in the hospital. —AFP

HONG KONG 'UMBRELLA REVOLUTION' KEY FIGURE CONVICTED FOR PROTESTS

HONG KONG: A key figure in Hong Kong's 'Umbrella Revolution' was convicted yesterday of participating in a protest that sparked mass pro-democracy rallies, in a prosecution blasted as a "chilling warning" by rights campaigners. Joshua Wong—who led the demonstrations that paralyzed the city for months—could be jailed for up to two years following the verdict, which comes as tensions remain high in the semi-autonomous city with fears growing that Beijing is tightening its grip.

The 19-year-old has always said the various protest-related cases against him were political persecution. Rights group Amnesty International described cases against peaceful protesters as intimidation yesterday in the wake of the verdict. Wong was convicted for taking part in an unlawful assembly after he and others climbed over a fence into a government complex forecourt known as Civic Square on September 26, 2014, triggering wider rallies that exploded two days later when police fired tear gas to disperse crowds.

Fellow student leaders Alex Chow and Nathan Law were also convicted over the same protest yesterday—Chow for taking part and Law for inciting others to do so. "No matter what is the penalty... we will still continue to fight against suppression from the government," Wong said after the ruling. "We know facing the largest communist regime in the world is a long-term battle for us to fight for democracy." The three defendants, who smiled in resignation at the verdict, were released on bail and are due back in court on August 15 for sentencing.

The charge of participating in an unlawful assembly has a maximum sentence of up to five years, but the magistrates court where the trio were tried can only give a maximum jail term of two years per offence due to its status as a lower court. Political analyst Ivan Choy said the public may have an "antagonistic attitude" towards the government if the trio receive a heavy sentence, while Amnesty said that "vague charges" against student leaders "smacked of political payback". "The Hong Kong authorities' prosecution of three pro-democracy student leaders sends a chilling warning for freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in the city," Amnesty said in a statement. It added the city's public order laws failed to meet international standards and were being used "in an attempt to intimidate people from exercising their right to peaceful assembly".

Interference by Beijing

Wong was at the forefront of the 'Umbrella Movement', which brought parts of Hong Kong to a standstill for more than two months in 2014 as residents called on Beijing to allow fully free elections of future leaders. Young campaigners were left angry and frustrated after the rallies failed to win political reform, with Wong and Law since founding a new political party, Demosisto, campaigning for self-determination for Hong Kong. Law is also a candidate for the city's upcoming legislative council election, but he will not be able to stand if his prison sentence is over three months. Wong has been in and out of court hearings for the past year after being charged with multiple offences linked to various protest actions. —AFP



KUALA LUMPUR: Relatives of passengers missing on Malaysia Airlines MH370 hold placards during a press conference after meeting with the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) and Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) at a hotel in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. —AFP

'DON'T ABANDON SEARCH', MH370 FAMILIES PLEAD

'NO LIGHT ON THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH'

KUALA LUMPUR: Families of those lost on flight MH370 pleaded yesterday for authorities to continue hunting for the Malaysia Airlines jet on the eve of a meeting that could decide how much longer the frustrating deep-sea search continues. The appeal by an international group of MH370 next-of-kin, Voice 370, called on "Malaysia, Australia and China not to abandon the search" if the current zone being trawled for the wreckage is found to be empty, a statement by the group said. "If for any reason an immediate extension of search activities cannot be carried out, then the search should merely be suspended, not abandoned in totality," Voice 370 said.

The statement was released at a press conference in Kuala Lumpur in which a dozen grim-faced next-of-kin held up placards pleading with authorities not to give up the search. The

Boeing 777 vanished March 8, 2014 en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people aboard, mostly Chinese nationals, in what remains one of the greatest mysteries in aviation history. The Australian-led operation is scouring the seafloor within a 120,000-square-kilometre (46,000-square-mile) belt of remote Indian Ocean where authorities believe the passenger jet went down.

The Voice 370 statement was issued as transport ministers from Australia, China and Malaysia prepared for a meeting today that may dictate how much longer the search continues. That area currently being surveyed is expected to be fully searched possibly in the next few weeks. The three countries have said the hugely expensive high-tech sonar operation far off western Australia will not be further expanded without "credible" new evidence pointing to a

crash site. Australian Transport Minister Darren Chester said this week that today's meeting in Malaysia would be an opportunity to "discuss next steps" as the search nears completion.

Many families are skeptical the search is in the right place, and Voice 370 has previously called for a full public double-checking of data used to determine the suspected crash region. Its statement yesterday also repeated calls for a concerted international effort to find and study more debris in the western Indian Ocean.

Several pieces of debris that apparently drifted thousands of kilometers toward the African coast have been identified as definitely or probably from the Boeing 777. Those finds have confirmed the plane went down but have so far shed no light on the cause of the crash. —AFP

Salalah city: Oman's chief touristic destination

Page 23

An Emirati woman carries a basket of dates during the annual Liwa Date Festival in the western region of Liwa, south of Abu Dhabi. There are five types of dates grown in the UAE which will be displayed over the coming days at the festival with judges checking the quality of the dates and later visiting the date farms before a final winner is chosen. —AFP

Spaghetti Squash versus regular spaghetti



Spaghetti squash is a long, oblong vegetable that measures between 8 and 14 inches in length, weighs 2 to 3 pounds, and has flesh that is a very pale yellow color. Spaghetti squash can be added to a variety of dishes, such as soups and stews, or eaten raw. If you enjoy spaghetti, but are attempting to limit your pasta intake due to calories or carbs, then spaghetti squash may be a



great alternative for you. Spaghetti squash is nutritionally superior to regular pasta, which doesn't contain any vitamin and has very limited nutritional content. This squash contains about 457 percent of the recommended daily intake of Vitamin A and 52 percent of Vitamin C, which can help prevent free radical damage to cells. Spaghetti squash is also rich in the B vitamins, which promote optimal cellular function - this is an ideal food for pregnant women! It is high in its omega-3 and omega-6 fats content, which help with prevention of inflammation, heart disease and arthritis.

Taste like spaghetti
SO what does this all really mean? If you're a big eater like me who thinks, loves and cares more about food than almost anything else, it translates to: I can have THREE CUPS of spaghetti squash for the same calories as ONE CUP of regular spaghetti. The question that I'm sure many of you have is this: do I really want to have three cups of the fake diet spaghetti that doesn't reaaaally taste like spaghetti? My answer would be yes.

With the right spices and sauces, you will want all three cups (if not more). Are you going to get the full, buttery, rich, spaghetti experience? Well no of course not - but do you really need clogged up arteries and a self-induced carb-coma? Nope. And if you still feel betrayed by it tasting like a vegetable and not actual spaghetti, think about that one person who has the ideal body of your dreams. Do you think they're shoving spaghetti in their mouths now? Probably not, my friend.

Be creative
Now how do we cook this thing? There are different ways to do it, but my favorite requires use of the oven. Heat the oven to 375 degrees. While you're waiting, go ahead and cut the squash in half. This is a bit tricky and will require a really sharp knife so cut carefully. Use a spoon to scoop out all the seeds from the middle of each half. Once its thoroughly de-seeded, spice the flesh the way you like. I usually drizzle some olive oil (don't go wild with the olive oil - 1 tablespoon per half is enough), put lots of salt,

pepper, cayenne pepper and oregano. I also sprinkle some cinnamon because it helps speed up the metabolism. Basically, you can spice it whichever way you want to and to your taste. Put it in the oven for about 35-40 minutes. [If you keep it in for too long, it will get a little bit too soft and mushy.] Once you take it out, use a fork to scrape out the noodles. It will be really hot at this



point so be careful. Add whatever it is that you would usually add to your spaghetti, and garnish it as you wish. If you're not wanting to eat it as a spaghetti (with tomato sauce or some pesto), you can treat it as a replacement for rice, like a side dish or the side salad to your main dish! For my fettucine alfredo lovers, don't get carried away with all the butter and cream. Just because the squash is healthy, doesn't mean you can make up for it with an unhealthy sauce. Get creative with it and experiment with the flavors to find one that works best for you.

Entertaining ideas for summer block parties

There's never a bad season to reconnect with neighbors at a block party. Some neighborhoods get together at Halloween. Others bring out the fire pits and snowball shields when winter comes. But summer's long, lazy days make it prime time for block parties. Some tips for a fun and easy gathering with neighbors:

Organization
Many towns require a consent form signed by all the neighbors to hold an event, so assign someone to round up signatures. Invite fire fighters and the police, too; they might bring a vehicle for the kids to sit in. Danielle Blundell, senior home editor for Family Circle magazine, says the best way to wrangle a block party is digitally: Send email invites. Collect money for equipment rental and other expenses via sites like Paypal or Venmo. But make sure less tech-savvy neighbors are included, too. At a block party in Evanston, Illinois, "someone made name tags for everyone with their name and a photo of their house," recalls one neighbor, Roxanne Went.

You can also have a block or hall party in an apartment building. Take advantage of public spaces like a

rooftop or courtyard. You might play up the number of the floor you live on in the decor to give the gathering a theme, suggests Blundell. If you're lucky enough to have teenagers on your block, consider hiring them to help with clean up. And with a party hashtag, everyone can share photos of the festivities on social media. Place a few signs around so people know the tag. Or create a private storage file on a site like Dropbox where photos can be accessed after the party.

Decorations
Janice Simonsen, a Philadelphian for the past 15 years, says her community takes block parties pretty seriously. "No block party's complete without white lights strung from the rooftops of the little brick row homes," she says. "There's chalk art and beanbag toss for the kids. A big common food tent - everyone brings their specialty - and there's always one of the older Italian men manning a grill. Someone's grandfather brings a gallon jug of homemade wine." Those of us creating new traditions might consider a themed party. "Summer makes me think of camp, so why not riff off that as your theme?" says Blundell, of Family Circle. She suggests play tents for the

younger set, relay races and s'mores. This summer's Olympic Games in Brazil could provide another theme, says Elizabeth Graves, editor in chief at Martha Stewart Living magazine. Hold street games, and craft "medals" for the winners out of baked clay, metallic paint and ribbon. If your party goes into the evening, set out a bag of glow sticks or inexpensive flashlights. They're not just fun; they help people see.

Food
"Put together simple decor and a fitting menu around it," advises Graves. Her magazine offers recipes for easy finger food like grilled skewers of meat or vegetables, and for desserts, in a feature called "What Can I Bring?" Encourage everyone to bring favorite family recipes, Graves says. "This is something I grew up doing. My mother used to make a chocolate Texas sheet cake - it was simple and delicious and people adored it," she says. "The year she contemplated bringing something else, there was near revolt!" If your gang's not into baking, consider ice cream sundae-making.

You can reduce waste by providing Sharpies to personalize plastic cups. Or if you're eschewing plastic



This photo provided by Martha Stewart Living and from the June 2016 issue of the magazine, shows various kebabs. — AP photos

for glass, buy a box of canning jars that can be personalized. Keep bugs out of beverages by replacing lids with muffin cups and fun straws. And you can also use muffin liners as a little-bite holder for foods, Graves says. Pick just a couple of colors to keep things cohesive. Label all foods, so those with sensitivities are aware of ingredients. — AP



In this image released by HBO, Lena Headey appears in a scene from "Game of Thrones." — AP photos



In this image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment, cast members, clockwise from left, Margot Robbie, Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje, Joel Kinnaman, Will Smith, Jai Courtney and Karen Fukuhara appear in the film, "Suicide Squad."

Comic-Con launches with preview night, 'Trek' premiere

The hordes of zombies, legions of Stormtroopers, leagues of superheroes and crews of Starfleet officers have already begun crawling, marching, flying and beaming into San Diego for that other big convention this week: Comic-Con International. The pop-culture celebration kicked off last night with the

festival's preview night, where congoers with four-day passes have first crack at the collectables, free swag and photo opportunities on the San Diego Convention Center floor.

Outside the sprawling bayside venue, the world premiere of "Star Trek Beyond" was held last night at the Embarcadero Marina Park. The sci-fi

sequel's US debut will mark the first-ever outdoor Imax screening. Comic-Con is expected to draw more than 160,000 fans for high-energy sessions featuring casts and crews from such films and TV shows as "Game of Thrones," "Star Trek," "Suicide Squad," "South Park," "Teen Wolf," "Aliens" and "The Walking Dead." "I think the most

important thing is for all of us to be there and acknowledge the fans' support and passion," said "Aliens" and "The Walking Dead" producer Gale Anne Hurd. "Obviously, we'll have a ("Walking Dead") promo and will premiere it in San Diego, but it's that connection to the fans that Comic-Con is really all about." The

festival will likely provide attendees with some never-before-seen surprises, as well as exclusive glimpses at such upcoming entertainment entries as "Wonder Woman," "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 2," "Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets," "Riverdale" and a new "Star Trek" show. — AP



In this file photo, Shoshanna Lonstein Gruss attends a special screening of "Desert Dancer" hosted by The Cinema Society, at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. — AP

Jerry Seinfeld's ex is victim of \$1.5 million burglary

Police say thieves broke into the New York City home of the fashion designer, who gained fame when she dated comic Jerry Seinfeld, and stole \$1.5 million worth of jewelry.

Shoshanna Lonstein Gruss tells the New York Post she is heartbroken and feels "beyond violated" by the burglary. The 41-year-old Gruss discovered the break-in Tuesday when she returned to her

Manhattan home from a weekend at the beach.

She says she lost "lots of sentimental stuff that can't be replaced." Gruss and Seinfeld were involved in a four-year relationship that started in 1993 when she was 17 and he was 38. Gruss went on to a career as a designer of swimsuits and dresses. She married Round Hill Music CEO Joshua Gruss in 2003. They divorced in 2014. — AP

Filmmaker Michael Moore: 'Sorry,' but Trump likely to win

Filmmaker Michael Moore is causing a stir with his comments about Donald Trump. The famously liberal Moore says he's sorry to say it, but he thinks the Republican could win the presidency. In a Wednesday night appearance on an online edition of HBO's "Real Time with Bill Maher," Moore said he thought the verbal attacks on Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton at this week's

Republican National Convention play to "a lot of people" Trump has to win over to become president.

"I think Trump is going to win. I'm sorry," he said. "People are in denial of this, but the chance of winning is really, really good." The director of "Bowling for Columbine" and "Fahrenheit 911" compared Trump's strategy to the successful campaign for Britain to leave the European Union. — AP



Gervais selected for Charlie Chaplin Award by BAFTA/LA

The British Academy of Film and Television Arts Los Angeles will honor Ricky Gervais with the Charlie Chaplin Britannia Award for Excellence in Comedy. The annual celebration will take place on Oct 28 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, hosted by British actor and comedian Jack Whitehall. Ang Lee will be honored with the John Schlesinger Britannia Award for Excellence in Directing and Samuel L. Jackson will be honored with the Albert R. Broccoli Britannia Award for Worldwide Contribution to Entertainment.

"Ricky Gervais is a comic genius. He is provocative, edgy, and his observations on life have brought us some of the best comedy moments ever in television and film," said BAFTA Los

Angeles CEO Chantal Rickards. "He crosses the pond with consummate ease, continues to push the comedic boundaries, and we're looking forward to raising a glass to his incomparable talents at the Britannia Awards."



Ricky Gervais

Gervais has won three Golden Globes, two Primetime Emmys and seven BAFTAs. The organization noted that "The Office," which Gervais created with Stephen Merchant and launched on BBC in 2001, is the most successful British comedy of all time, shown in more than 90 countries with seven remakes.

Gervais hosted the Golden Globes in 2010, 2011 and 2012, and was invited back for a fourth time in January. Most recently, Gervais starred in "Special Correspondents," which debuted worldwide on Netflix earlier this year, and will be seen in the upcoming fake documentary comedy film "David Brent: Life on the Road," which he wrote, directed and produced. — Reuters



A woman looks at a painting by Damien Hirst in front of a portrait of David Bowie at Sotheby's in London. — AP photos



Sotheby's employees lift the painting 'Air Power' by Jean-Michel Basquiat at Sotheby's.



A woman sits on the iBig Suri sofa designed by Peter Shire.

Sotheby's to exhibit Bowie's art collection ahead of sale

More than 200 pieces from David Bowie's extensive art collection, including works by Damien Hirst and Jean-Michel Basquiat, are to go on public display before being sold at Sotheby's in November. Bowie, a musical and sartorial chameleon, died in January aged 69. He was an avid collector of contemporary and modern art, and served on the editorial board of *Modern Painters* magazine. The sale - which will be preceded by a public exhibition - includes works by British artists Henry Moore, Graham Sutherland and Frank Auerbach, as well as pieces by African and Italian artists.

The top lot is Basquiat's "Air Power," valued at between 2.5 million pounds (\$3.3 million) and 3.5 million pounds (\$4.6 million). Bowie played Andy Warhol in "Basquiat," Julian Schnabel's 1996 biopic of the troubled American artist. The sale, of 400 items in all, also includes pieces of furniture and design from Bowie's collection. "David's art collection was fueled by personal interest and compiled out of passion," Bowie's estate said, and his family is "keeping certain pieces of particular significance." The "Bowie/Collector" exhibition is at Sotheby's London showrooms Nov 1-10, following smaller preview shows in London, Los Angeles, New York and Hong Kong starting Wednesday. The sale will be held Nov. 10-11. — AP



A woman looks at the bronze statue 'Family Group' by Henry Moore.



The bronze figure lying on its side by Kenneth Armitage R.A. is on display.



A woman reads a catalogue beside the painting 'Foyer' by Patrick Caulfield.



Known for its breathtaking beaches, mesmerizing mountains, and ancient history, Salalah city in Oman is considered one of the chief touristic attractions in the region.

Salalah city: Oman's chief touristic destination

Photo feature by Ahmad Al-Rebai'e



Omani heritage is seen in the Frankincense land Museum.

Known for its breathtaking beaches, mesmerizing mountains and ancient history, Salalah city in Oman is considered one of the chief touristic attractions in the region. The Frankincense land Museum, part of Al-Balid Archaeological site, is

also amongst the most visited locations in Salalah. The city, during certain seasons, is transformed into a beautiful oasis with green landscapes and a diverse ecosystem. — KUNA



Known for its breathtaking beaches, mesmerizing mountains, and ancient history, Salalah city in Oman is considered one of the chief touristic attractions in the region.



Omani heritage is seen in the Frankincense land Museum.

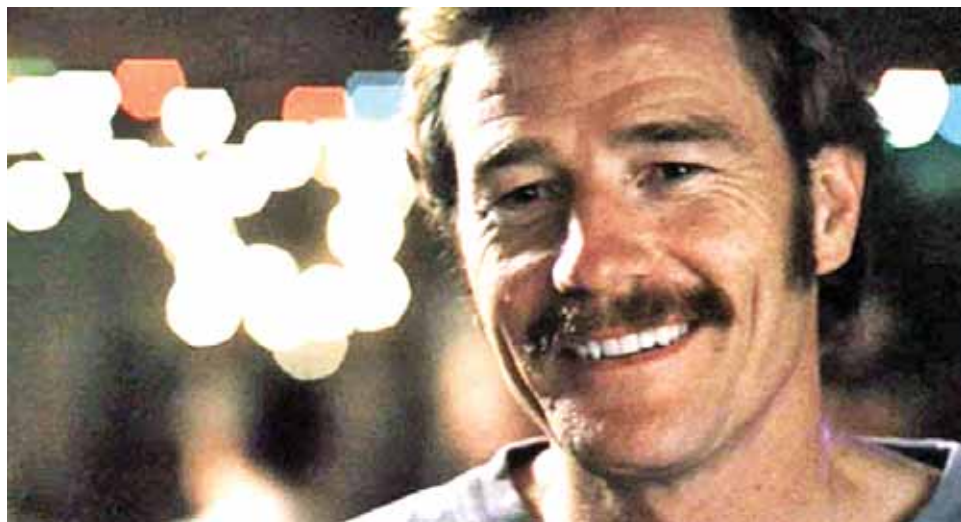


Photo shows a scented wood (Boukhoor) which is part of the Omani heritage. — KUNA photos

Entertainment

Bryan Cranston's most memorable roles in TV and film

Bryan Cranston brings a true story to the screen with this weekend's *The Infiltrator*, and in appreciation for his efforts, we decided to dig into his extensive filmography and select some of our favorite roles. Sure, you'll find a nod to Walter White in here, but Mr. Cranston's career is a heck of a lot more than *Breaking Bad*; from comedy to award-winning drama, there's truly something for everyone in here.



Tim Whatley in Seinfeld

Seinfeld's comedy largely derived from the sturdy dynamics between the show's central foursome, which meant there wasn't much need for a lot of recurring characters - and as a result, the ones who did manage to return more than a time or two were generally pretty memorable. Case in point: Jerry's dentist Tim Whatley, played by Cranston over a

handful of episodes throughout the show's run - some of which were among its most memorable. Aside from giving him a chance to show off his comedic chops, Cranston's *Seinfeld* spots put him down in sitcom history as one of the people who helped bring the world "re-gifter" and "anti-dentite."



Lance in Last Chance

In a 2009 interview, Cranston pointed to this little-seen 1999 drama - which he produced, directed, wrote, and starred in - as the one project from his filmography that he didn't think had gotten the attention it deserved. "I think *Last Chance* was an interesting tale," he mused. "It's the story of someone who doesn't believe that they have any hope left in their life, and

when an opportunity presents itself, will you even recognize it? Do you take advantage of it? Do you ignore it? So it was all about that, and about hope, and taking your last chance if it's offered."



Shannon in Drive

After a few seasons of *Breaking Bad*, Cranston's Hollywood stock had risen to the point where he was being actively sought out for movie roles - for example, Nicolas Winding Refn's *Drive*. Cranston was Refn's first choice for Shannon, the body shop owner whose lucrative side business involves hiring out his star employee (Ryan Gosling) as a no-questions-asked getaway driver, and even though Cranston's plate was already

pretty full - and the part was far from the movie's showiest - he was sufficiently intrigued to sign on. The result? Screen time in one of the year's most critically adored movies. "This," wrote *Deadspin*'s Will Leitch, "is pop art of the highest degree."



Jack O'Donnell in Argo

Like a lot of characters in Argo, Cranston's character was an amalgam of actual individuals involved in the movie's real-life story - and like many of the incredible actors assembled for the Oscar-winning drama, he didn't have an overwhelming amount of screentime. But as Jack O'Donnell, the boss of CIA exfiltrator Tony Mendez (Ben Affleck) during the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979, Cranston plays a crucial role - both for Mendez, who

relies on O'Donnell as his lifeline back to the States during his mission in Iran, and for the audience, who feel the tension and urgency of the situation back home through his increasingly strained efforts to pull the whole thing off. "Is it me," wondered the San Diego Reader's Scott Marks, "or should Bryan Cranston be in every film released?"

Hal Wilkerson in Malcolm in the Middle

Long before he stripped down to his briefs for Breaking Bad, Cranston made a habit of it on Malcolm in the Middle, the long-running Fox sitcom about a quirky suburban family rounded out by a brood of boys and led by a no-nonsense mom. As the father, Cranston was often just as much of a kid as his onscreen sons - and twice as afraid of their

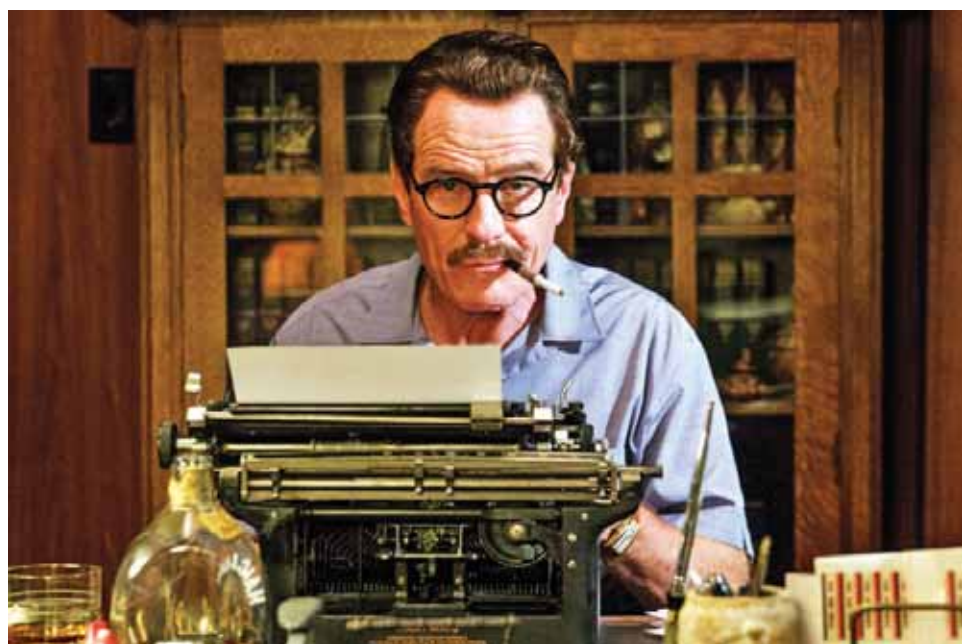
mother (Jane Kaczmarek) - adding yet another sweetly clueless sitcom dad to an already lengthy list. Yet while Malcolm didn't exactly reinvent the TV comedy wheel, it did what it set out to do consistently well, and earned Cranston a passel of Emmy nominations along the way.



Dalton Trumbo in Trumbo

Cranston's piled up a lot of screen credits over the years, but relatively few have been leading roles. One notable exception is 2015's Trumbo, in which he portrays the legendary screenwriter during and after his politically motivated fall from professional grace. Delivering a full-bodied performance that neither lionized nor demonized Trumbo, Cranston proved he was more than capa-

ble of carrying a movie - even one that, as critics reluctantly pointed out, wasn't necessarily up to its subject's impeccable standards. "Cranston's performance is the motor that runs Trumbo," wrote Ty Burr for the Boston Globe. "And that motor never idles, never flags in momentum or magnetism or idealistic scorn."



Walter White in Breaking Bad

Cranston's done a lot of fine work throughout his career, but he'll probably always be most closely identified with Breaking Bad. It makes sense, really - how often does an actor get the chance to star in a hit series about a high school chemistry teacher who turns to manufacturing and selling his own meth in order to shore up funds for his family after learning he's dying of cancer? Critically acclaimed and consistently successful in the ratings, Breaking Bad was also an awards magnet - not least for Cranston,

whose depiction of Walter White's descent into the criminal underworld netted him four Lead Actor Emmys during the show's run. "One way or another, you've got to figure Walt is going down," wrote the Cleveland Plain Dealer's Mark Dawidziak during the final season. "And, thanks to Cranston, he's going down in TV history as one of the medium's most fascinating, memorable and grandly tragic characters." (www.rottentomatoes.com)

COOKING ON DEADLINE

Herbed salmon over a green, herby salad

By Katie Workman

It's amazing how the weather dictates what we want to eat, isn't it? Even if you're not consciously trying to cook with the seasons, you want braises and stews when it's cool out, and food that is lighter and brighter when it's warm. This decidedly warm-weather salmon is

bathed in an olive-oil-and-herb mixture and cooked at a fairly low temperature to let it cook through without browning, and give it a very tender texture. Then it's perched on a pile of spring-y greens - you can use any baby lettuce mix you like, or create your own. Mix that with a pile of additional fresh herbs, toss with some fresh lemon juice and good olive oil, and the

whole thing tastes like late spring has willed itself into a meal. Would I eat this in November? Sure. But I am craving it now. Sometimes I like salmon to be browned and crispy, but in this case I was going for a more delicate, poached texture so the herbs would retain their color, and the whole dish would be soft and gentle. Summer is peak season for wild Alaskan salmon,

which has a more pronounced salmon flavor than farm-raised; I used Coho salmon here, with a deep, rich, reddish-orange color. Grab it when you see it. You could cook the salmon ahead of time and let it cool to room temperature. Then dress and assemble the salads just before cooking, which makes this a great recipe for a relaxed summer lunch.

Ingredients

Start to finish: about 35 minutes

Servings: 4

Salmon:

4 6-ounce salmon fillets

5 scallions, white and light green parts only, cut into 1-inch pieces

1/3 cup extra virgin olive oil

3 tablespoons fresh dill sprigs

1/4 cup fresh parsley leaves

1/2 teaspoon coarse or kosher salt, plus more to taste

Salad:

2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil

Kosher salt to taste

6 cups baby salad mix, or a mix of purslane, butter lettuce, Boston lettuce and mache, for example

1/2 cup whole fresh parsley leaves

1/4 cup sliced chives

**Preparation**

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees Fahrenheit. Spray a baking pan with nonstick spray, or lightly oil the pan. Place the salmon filets in the pan.

In a small food processor, blend together the scallions, 1/3 cup olive oil, dill, 1/4 cup parsley leaves, and 1/2 teaspoon salt. Spread the mixture over the salmon, and bake for about 16 to 18 minutes, just until the salmon is barely

cooked through and flakes easily. Let cool for a few minutes in the pan, until just warm. For the salad, in a large bowl, mix together the lemon juice and 2 tablespoons of olive oil, plus salt to taste. Add the lettuces, 1/2 cup parsley leaves

and chives, and toss. Divide the salad between 4 plates and place a piece of salmon atop each pile of greens, removing the skin if you wish. Serve while the salmon is warm, or at room temperature if you prefer. — AP



Zucchini flowers are perfect for stuffing

By Sara Moulton

Zucchini flowers are perfect for stuffing. In the following recipe, the flowers are filled with cheese before frying. The result is a creamy, flavorful filling and a supercrisp crust. For years, my go-to deep-frying batter has been made of roughly equal parts beer and flour. But I wanted the batter for this dish to be crisper, more like tempura, so I added seltzer and baking soda and swapped out half of the flour for cornstarch. Unlike flour, cornstarch has no gluten, which ensures a thinner, more delicate coating that nonetheless holds its shape.

You'll want to mix the batter just before using it to prevent the bubbles from evaporating. Combine the dry ingredients and park them on the counter while you prep the blossoms and begin to heat the oil. When the oil is almost up to temperature, add the liquid ingredients to

the dry ingredients and mix the batter quickly. Take care not to rip the petals while stuffing the flower with cheese, then close the open end of the flower by twisting the petals like a New Year's Eve party popper. The cheese should stay put and not leak into the oil.

Choose a pan with deep sides and fill it with no more than 1 1/2 or 2 inches of oil. Make sure the oil has a high smoke point. Use a deep-fat thermometer to keep track of the temperature and try to maintain it at a constant 365 F. Depending on the size of your pan, fry no more than three or four stuffed blossoms at a time. This will ensure that the temperature of the oil neither drops nor bubbles over the top. If the temperature begins to creep up, pull the pan off the flame and/or add a little cool oil. Transfer each batch of fried blossoms to a paper towel-lined sheet pan, sprinkle lightly with salt and keep warm in the oven while you fry the rest.

CHEESE STUFFED ZUCCHINI BLOSSOMS

Ingredients

Start to finish: 30 minutes

Servings: 4

12 squash blossoms

1/2 ounce coarsely grated Parmigiano-Reggiano

1 ounce mozzarella, cut into 12 cubes

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour (2 3/8 ounces)

1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons cornstarch

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/4 teaspoon salt

1/2 cup ice-cold beer

1/2 cup ice-cold seltzer

Vegetable oil for deep frying

1 cup marinara sauce (homemade or your favourite store brand), heated

Basil sprigs for garnish

Preparation

Preheat oven to 200 F. Line a rimmed sheet pan with a double layer of paper towels. Working with one blossom at a time, carefully separate the petals to expose the inside of the flower and the central sta-

men (on a male plant) or pistil (on a female plant). Using small sharp scissors cut out as much of the stamen or pistil as possible to make room for the cheese. Put about 1 teaspoon of the Parmigiano-Reggiano in the cavity; top with a chunk of mozzarella. Twist the petals gently to enclose the filling; set aside the stuffed blossoms.

In a medium bowl combine the flour, cornstarch, soda and salt. In a large, deep saucepan heat 1 1/2 to 2 inches of oil over medium high heat to 365 F. When the oil is at around 325 F, combine the dry ingredients in the bowl with the beer and the seltzer; stir the mixture until it is combined well but with a few lumps remaining.

Working with three or four blossoms at a time, dip them in the batter, coating them well and letting the excess drip off. Add them gently to the 365 F oil; let cook for 30 seconds. Using tongs, gently turn them over. Cook until they are golden, about 1 to 1 1/2 minutes, turning them once again. Transfer the blossoms to the rimmed sheet pan using a slotted spoon, sprinkle with kosher salt and keep warm in the oven while you batter and fry the remaining zucchini blossoms. — AP



Friday Times Travel

9 must-see natural wonders in **Indonesia**



With more than 17,000 islands - ranging from palm-fringed islets to the leviathan bulk of Sumatra - Indonesia's natural diversity is showcased amid more than 1.9 million sq km straddling the equator and stretching from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific. Volcanic peaks rise from lush jungle, the underwater world is revealed in the planet's finest diving locations, and surprising wildlife ranges from giant reptiles to gentle denizens of the forest.



Raja Ampat Islands

Remote near the northwestern tip of far-flung Papua Island, the scattered waters of Raja Ampat host the world's greatest diversity of marine life. Above a translucent ocean, rounded hills enrobed in tropical forest surround a labyrinth of compact coves and improbably small islets, providing sublime diversion to the underwater spectacle. Manta rays and epaulette sharks drift through a technicolour seascape of pristine coral, while shoals of barracuda and parrotfish patrol the diverse marine terrain punctuated with underwater walls, peaks and ridges. Snorkelling, kayaking and birdwatching are all essential attractions for non-divers, and live-aboard boat cruises - often on Bugis-style heritage schooners - are the best way to explore Raja Ampat.



Harau Valley

Easily reached from the Sumatran mountain town of Bukittinggi, the Harau Valley is fringed by soaring limestone cliffs up to 100 metres high and enlivened by the Lemba Harau waterfalls. Rock-climbers negotiate careful routes up the cliffs, while walking trails meander through emerald-green rice paddies to the valley's quicksilver cascades. Comfortable homestay accommodation in the architectural style of West Sumatra's Minangkabau people sits amid cooling lotus ponds. Transport and accommodation for the Harau Valley can be arranged with Lite 'N' Easy Tour in Bukittinggi.

Mt Rinjani

Soaring to 3726m, Mt Rinjani is Indonesia's second tallest volcano, and the mountain's majestic profile dominates northern Lombok. Sacred both to Lombok's Sasak people and to the Hindu residents of nearby Bali, Rinjani's finest feature is a 6km-wide lake of shimmering cobalt blue encompassing the summit's huge caldera. Conquering Rinjani is most usually achieved on a three-day/two-night excursion. Rudy Trekker in the nearby village of Senaru has experienced guides.





Komodo National Park

Sunbaked and barren, Komodo stands apart from other more verdant Indonesian islands, and the island's most celebrated species is also singular and surprising. The world's biggest lizard can grow up to three metres-long, and Komodo dragons are often seen lumbering along the beach by visitors arriving at the national park's main camp at Loh Liang. Guided walks with national park staff continue for 30 minutes to a dry riverbed at nearby Banu Nggulung where the huge monitor lizards are often seen. Two-day/one-night boat trips to Komodo depart from raffish Labuanbajo on nearby Flores, and day trips to Rinca - where the dragons also roam - are possible from Labuanbajo.

Mt Bromo

In a country studded with volcanoes, the surreal beauty and immense scale of Java's Mt Bromo is one of Indonesia's most epic natural spectacles. A vast crater - 10km across and created by the violent volcanic history of the ancient Tengger caldera - is punctuated by the oft-smouldering peak of Bromo. Immense plains of ash and volcanic sand extend to the crater's towering cliffs, and the nearby peaks of Kursi and Batok stand as sinister companions to Bromo's bulk. Sunrise is when the horizon-filling crater is seen at its best, and 4WD excursions leave from the nearby town of Cemoro Lawang at around 3:30am to capture a terracotta landscape infused with the bronzed half-light of a Javanese dawn.

Kelimutu National Park

Best discovered at sunrise after a meandering minibus journey from nearby Moni, three intensely coloured volcanic lakes sit atop the summit of Kelimutu on the eastern island of

Flores. Two of the exceptionally deep crater lakes regularly change colour - driven by the continuous leaching of different minerals - and the indigo smudge of a Flores dawn illuminates contrasting hues ranging from brown and orange through to black and red. All the while, Kelimutu's third lake is daubed an iridescent shade of turquoise, glowing through the half-light slowly revealing Kelimutu's sparse lunar landscape.

Pulau Gunung Api Banda

With a perfectly conical profile - resembling Japan's Mt Fujiyama, but only 666m high - the compact island peak of Gunung Api in the remote Banda Islands is one of Indonesia's most picturesque volcanoes. The challenging slope of volcanic scree can be conquered in around three hours, perfect timing to witness another spectacular Indonesian sunrise. Later in the day, submerged lava flows off Gunung Api's northern coast provide another opportunity for good snorkeling. — www.lonelyplanet.com

Tanjung Puting National Park

Wildlife watching and river adventures combine in this massive 4150 sq km park in central Kalimantan, the Indonesian southern part of Borneo. Rustic but comfortable river boats travel up the Sungai Sekoneyer, stopping at orangutan feeding stations during a three-day journey en route to Camp Leakey, a rehabilitation centre where orphaned and formerly captive orangutans are trained to live in the wild. Stellar birdlife including darting kingfishers and regal hornbills is often revealed along the river's banks, and local operators including Borneo Orangutan Adventure Tour can arrange private trips on the Sekonyer's signature two-storey teak houseboats dubbed klotok.



Lake Toba

Located amid northern Sumatra's volcanic peaks at a height of 1130m, Danau Toba encompasses the caldera of a super-volcano known to be the world's largest volcanic lake. Intense ocean-blue waters cover an expanse 100km in length, framing the wedge-shaped island of Pulau Samosir, home to the region's

Batak people. Sleepy roads perfect for biking fan throughout the island and along the lake's edge, making Toba a favourite for travellers taking time out from exploring other parts of Indonesia.



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Hard work is the order of this day. A determined effort helps you make great headway. You have insight into your emotions and drive and you can talk about your feelings with great insight and fluidity. Thinking, learning and communicating with style is the pattern of energy present just now. Intellectual creativity is highlighted and your social connections are exciting. Winning the admiration of others for the things you say or write and the way you do it takes on more importance in your life. Even the most hardnosed of us have moments of real understanding when things are seen as linked together and in one piece. A friend may share a fun recipe and you will want to share some game ideas for group gatherings in the future.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today you are able to tackle tasks that require real discipline. You find yourself in a very practical mood today. You realize that you have learned many things and may be at a crossroad to learning new things . . . A step-up-the-ladder, so to speak. You may have some serious or contemplative moments. Learning and communicating with an open mind help you make a great deal of progress. Intellectual creativity is accented now and you may find a bit of drama in your descriptions or instructions-careful. Winning the admiration of others for the things you say or write takes on more importance in your life. A friend will enjoy your company on a shopping trip tonight. There may be a movie in it if you stop shopping in time.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

This is a good workday; much can be accomplished. There are imagination and creativity when it comes to ideas and turning difficult situations into positive results. This, coupled with the ability to put your thoughts into words, allows you to hold the attention of others. This is a good time, when your efforts really pay off and things seem to run well. You are able to coordinate and organize like never before. You work to bring an end to some uncompleted task. Conversations of an inspiring kind may be in order with younger persons or others around you. Obtaining and exchanging information takes on importance now. You are learning that your capacity to be happy and useful cannot truly be hampered by external conditions.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You are very motivated to get unfinished business completed and your desk clear of old business. Not only are you jubilant over this day of celebration, but you can see and appreciate the progress you have been working towards in your life. You may feel compelled to request a raise or promotion. You avoid the commonplace with great determination. Your drive to find new ways to use things is both well coordinated and intense. You could be an excellent teacher and innovator in areas connected to electronics, computers and communications. You may be traveling more in the next couple of months regarding business. Active and fun interactions can be enjoyed with your friends this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You could find yourself engaged in nonconformist causes, always ready to promote what is forward moving. You like far-reaching approaches and find yourself in support of whatever new-wave product or breakthrough advance is next in line. In other words, you do not accept the mundane, you stretch beyond your capability so that you will learn and grow. Others learn from watching you and they may take on your forward-moving attitude. You have an ability to work with the imagination, reaching beyond the routine to potentials beyond. Today there is a hint of loneliness-you are moving into new work situations that could mean taking more chances. You are successful with your determination to progress and tonight it could be fun to celebrate.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Experiencing dissatisfaction with what you have or find around you is an indication that a change is needed. This change could either be in attitude or in physical moves. Now is a time to think about instigating one of these changes. It really would be a good idea to consider a vacation soon. At the least, you should plan future trips to the country for inspiration. Inner searching and a sense of being vulnerable and exposed could tempt you to drop your responsibilities and spend more time on personal growth. It may be difficult to concentrate on your duties when outside interference occurs. Continual discovery, persistent search and continual change and transformation keep you on the move and growing. Any interference will eventually pass.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Intellectual creativity is highlighted and your social connections have a flair of drama to them. Winning the admiration of others for the things you say or write and the way you do it, takes on more importance in your life just now. Today you are able to tackle the tasks that require real discipline or organization. You find yourself in a very practical mood, working with the flow of energy today. Working on a long-term project, you may find yourself being persuasive and encouraging to others for their continued good works. You can really get your thoughts and ideas across. A visit with co-workers during the noon break will help to keep good communication strong. You may soon find someone to publish something you wrote.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You can expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you today. You have great insights into what motivates the public, the crowds and the mind in general. You can work with sensitive and vulnerable psychological areas without batting an eye and you would be good at instructing others in these areas. There is more concentration with thinking, learning and communicating. Write down the most outstanding ten moments that made you who you are today and you will have some insight about what needs changing and what needs praise in your life. Writing, music, art and other creative tools will give you the open door to a more expressive and successful you. Remember: you help others through your own actions.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You have the mind of a lawyer, always able to size up a problem and come up with a solution. Using your mind to negotiate obstacles and handle dilemmas will find you completing tasks and creating new business. You have an innate ability to guide and lead others and your enthusiasm inspires and motivates others. You could be very much in demand to lend a helping hand as a counselor or instructor. Expressing yourself with others may also include a good sense of humor, and with this humor, you will find it easier to teach the more difficult personality. Making things work and increasing business can be very rewarding. A new couple in the neighborhood has your attention this afternoon and you may decide to drop by to introduce them to your family.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

In some sense, just being you is both the goal and the means of traveling to that goal. Others sense that your life is important. You, as a being, are at the heart and center of all your inner activity. Today, as usual, you will have an uncanny ability to get beyond the status quo-always coming up with new ways of doing things. When others seek your advice, you could come up with new solutions or inventions that will also help you. You can take the most mundane stuff and find a new angle. Ideas and thoughts will have greater meaning and form. You may be very eloquent or forceful in speaking or communicating. People will understand just what you mean. Meditation helps you create a peaceful mind-give yourself time to meditate each day.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You have an almost fierce sense of pride and are very dramatic and expressive, sometimes forceful. You will not put up with something you do not believe is productive. If you can remove the extreme expectations you hold regarding others and stop to help them occasionally, you could be most persuasive and helpful about particular styles, methods or issues. Winning the admiration of others takes on great importance in your life. You are psychologically and physically healthy; others are impressed by your flexibility. Planning your extracurricular activities to help you with some physical training may involve some resilience activity in the country or in the gym. You must make up your mind about a relationship very soon.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You may feel blocked or frustrated emotionally by a co-worker or friend this morning. Careful, as arguments of an emotional kind could be easy to find. This is only a misunderstanding and seems to be caused by trying to accomplish things faster than nature will comfortably allow. Problems can be solved quickly. Keeping abreast of current events will help you gain insight into the trends of business and the sensitive areas of financial concerns. Stop, look and listen. Some social event, perhaps entertaining a new business associate, will keep you busy later this afternoon and all worries about business can be set aside. Intellectual creativity is highlighted. A relationship grows closer and you think about making a long-term commitment to this person.

COUNTRY CODES

Afghanistan	0093	Kuwait	00965
Albania	00355	Kyrgyzstan	00996
Algeria	00213	Laos	00856
Andorra	00376	Latvia	00371
Angola	00244	Lebanon	00961
Anguilla	001264	Liberia	00231
Antiga	001268	Libya	00218
Argentina	0054	Lithuania	00370
Armenia	00374	Luxembourg	00352
Australia	0061	Macau	00853
Austria	0043	Macedonia	00389
Bahamas	001242	Madagascar	00261
Bahrain	00973	Majorca	0034
Bangladesh	00880	Malawi	00265
Barbados	001246	Malaysia	0060
Belarus	00375	Maldives	00960
Belgium	0032	Mali	00223
Belize	00501	Malta	00356
Benin	00229	Marshall Islands	00692
Bermuda	001441	Martinique	00596
Bhutan	00975	Mauritania	00222
Bolivia	00591	Mauritius	00230
Bosnia	00387	Mayotte	00269
Botswana	00267	Mexico	0052
Brazil	0055	Micronesia	00691
Brunei	00673	Moldova	00373
Bulgaria	00359	Monaco	00377
Burkina	00226	Mongolia	00976
Burundi	00257	Montserrat	001664
Cambodia	00855	Morocco	00212
Cameroon	00237	Mozambique	00258
Canada	001	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Cape Verde	00238	Namibia	00264
Cayman Islands	001345	Nepal	00977
Central African Republic	00236	Netherlands (Holland)	0031
Chad	00235	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Chile	0056	New Caledonia	00687
China	0086	New Zealand	0064
Colombia	0057	Nicaragua	00505
Comoros	00269	Nigar	00227
Congo	00242	Nigeria	00234
Cook Islands	00682	Niue	00683
Costa Rica	00506	Norfolk Island	00672
Croatia	00385	Northern Ireland (UK)	0044
Cuba	0053	North Korea	00850
Cyprus	00357	Norway	0047
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Oman	00968
Czech Republic	00420	Pakistan	0092
Denmark	0045	Palau	00680
Diego Garcia	00246	Panama	00507
Djibouti	00253	Papua New Guinea	00675
Dominica	001767	Paraguay	00595
Dominican Republic	001809	Peru	0051
Ecuador	00593	Philippines	0063
Egypt	0020	Poland	0048
El Salvador	00503	Portugal	00351
England (UK)	0044	Puerto Rico	001787
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Qatar	00974
Eritrea	00291	Romania	0040
Estonia	00372	Russian Federation	007
Ethiopia	00251	Rwanda	00250
Falkland Islands	00500	Saint Helena	00290
Faroe Islands	00298	Saint Kitts	001869
Fiji	00679	Saint Lucia	001758
Finland	00358	Saint Pierre	00508
France	0033	Saint Vincent	001784
French Guiana	00594	Samoa US	00684
French Polynesia	00689	Samoa West	00685
Gabon	00241	San Marino	00378
Gambia	00220	Sao Tone	00239
Georgia	00995	Saudi Arabia	00966
Germany	0049	Scotland (UK)	0044
Ghana	00233	Senegal	00221
Gibraltar	00350	Seychelles	00284
Greece	0030	Sierra Leone	00232
Greenland	00299	Singapore	0065
Grenada	001473	Slovakia	00421
Guadeloupe	00590	Slovenia	00386
Guam	001671	Solomon Islands	00677
Guatemala	00502	Somalia	00252
Guinea	00224	South Africa	0027
Guyana	00592	South Korea	0082
Haiti	00509	Spain	0034
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Sri Lanka	0094
Honduras	00504	Sudan	00249
Hong Kong	00852	Suriname	00597
Hungary	0036	Swaziland	00268
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Sweden	0046
Iceland	00354	Switzerland	0041
India	0091	Syria	00963
Indian Ocean	00873	Taiwan	00886
Indonesia	0062	Tanzania	00255
Iran	0098	Thailand	0066
Iraq	00964	Toga	00228
Ireland	00353	Tonga	00676
Italy	0039	Tokelau	00690
Ivory Coast	00225	Trinidad	001868
Jamaica	001876	Tunisia	00216
Japan	0081	Turkey	0090
Jordan	00962	Tuvalu	00688
Kazakhstan	007	Uganda	00256
Kenya	00254	Ukraine	00380
Kiribati	00686	United Arab Emirates	00976



03:25 Wildest Africa
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
06:12 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
08:40 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
13:15 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Wildest Africa
17:25 Big Fish Man
18:20 River Monsters
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Saving Africa's Giants With Yao Ming
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 River Monsters
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 Big Fish Man
00:45 I'm Alive
01:40 River Monsters
02:35 Tanked



03:50 I Want My Wife Back
04:15 Doctors
04:45 Eastenders
05:15 Sinbad
06:00 Holby City
07:00 Doctors
07:30 Eastenders
08:00 Eastenders
08:30 Call The Midwife
09:25 Death In Paradise
10:20 Dickensian
12:40 Casualty
13:35 Holby City
14:35 Doctors
15:05 Eastenders
15:35 Doctor Who
18:15 Doctors
19:15 Father Brown
20:10 Orphan Black
21:50 The Fear
22:40 I Want My Wife Back
23:05 Ideal
23:35 Doctors
00:35 Father Brown
01:25 Orphan Black
02:15 Orphan Black



03:40 Extreme Collectors
04:05 Auction Hunters
04:30 Dallas Car Sharks
05:00 How Do They Do It?
05:30 How Stuff's Made
06:00 Mythbusters
06:50 Man vs Expert
07:40 Incredible Engineering
Blunders: Fixed
08:30 Diamond River Hunters
09:20 Venom Hunters
10:10 Dive Wars Australia
11:00 What On Earth?
11:50 Ed Stafford: Into The Unknown
12:40 Mega Shippers
13:30 Fast N' Loud
14:20 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
15:10 Street Outlaws
16:00 Impossible Engineering
21:00 Fast N' Loud
21:50 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
22:40 Street Outlaws
23:30 Sherpa
01:10 Fast N' Loud
02:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
02:50 Street Outlaws



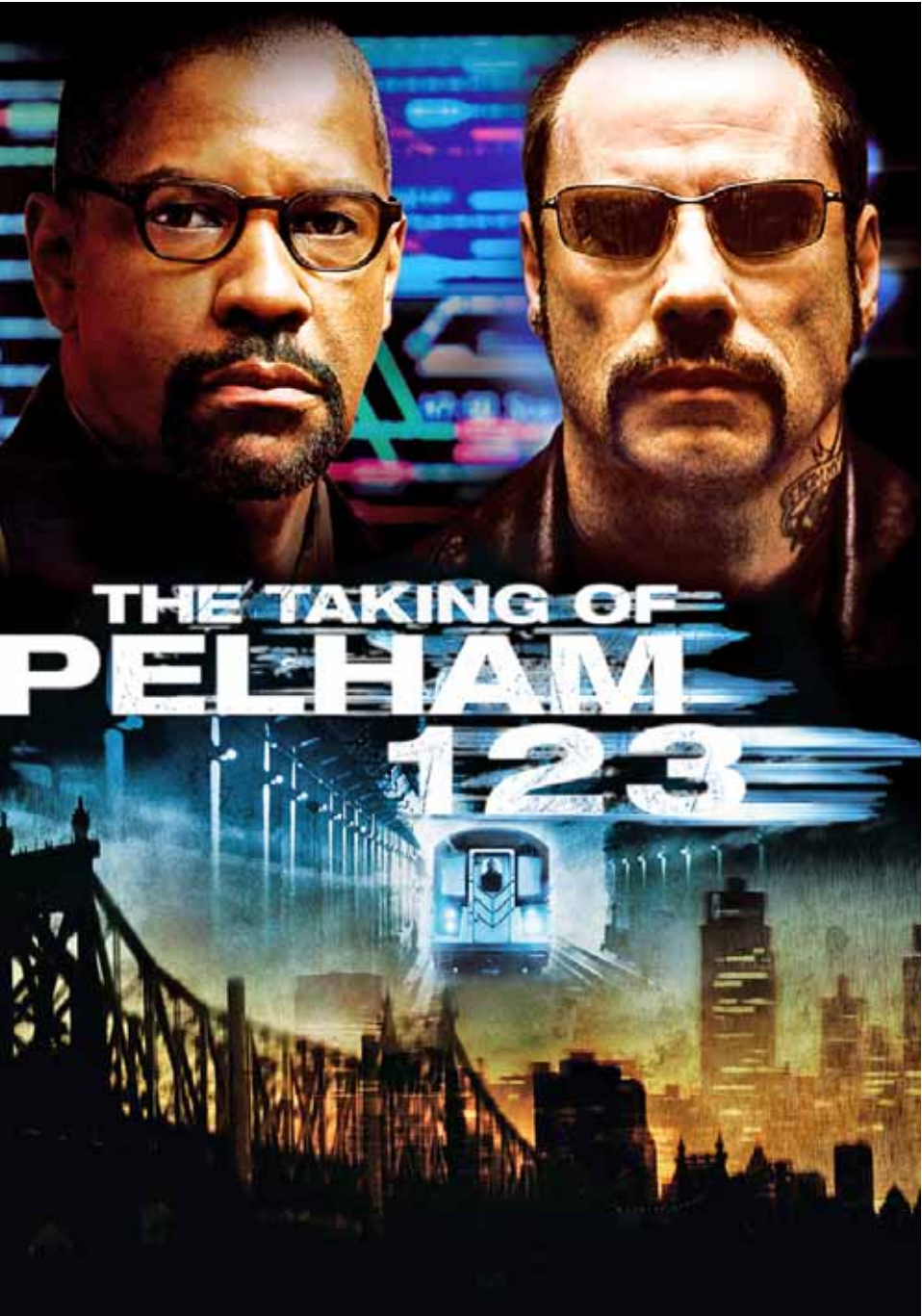
03:01 Paw Patrol
03:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:35 Dora The Explorer
03:59 Max & Ruby

04:07 Bubble Guppies
04:29 Little Charmers
04:41 Shimmer And Shine
05:05 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
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
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: Into The City!
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
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
00:03 Max & Ruby
00:26 Wanda And The Alien
00:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
01:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:45 Zack & Quack
02:05 Team Umizoomi
02:28 Louie
02:35 Louie



03:00 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
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 The Loud House
08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Get Blake
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 Harvey Beaks
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
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
21:24 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn



THE TAKING OF PELHAM 123 ON OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

32 TV LISTINGS

00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants



03:00 Untamed & Uncut
03:50 Ultimate Survival
04:40 How It's Made
05:05 How It's Made
05:30 Dirty Jobs
06:20 Mythbusters
07:00 Doki
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 My Cat From Hell
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
11:35 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 Troy
17:50 Race To Escape
18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Troy
22:00 Race To Escape
22:50 What Happened Next?



03:00 Murder Among Friends
03:48 Disappeared
07:00 I'd Kill For You
07:50 I'd Kill For You
08:40 I'd Kill For You
09:30 I'd Kill For You
10:20 Southern Fried Homicide
11:10 Heartbreakers
12:00 Disappeared
12:50 Disappeared
13:40 Disappeared
14:30 Disappeared
15:20 Southern Fried Homicide
16:10 Murder Comes To Town
17:00 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
17:50 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
20:20 Southern Fried Homicide
21:10 A Crime To Remember
22:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
22:50 Sex Sent Me To The Slammer
23:15 Sex Sent Me To The Slammer
23:40 Vanity Fair Confidential
00:30 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
01:20 Obsession: Dark Desires
02:10 Sex Sent Me To The Slammer
02:35 Sex Sent Me To The Slammer



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopdidoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopdidoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopdidoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopdidoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear

10:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
13:55 Miles From Tomorrow
14:25 The Lion Guard
14:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:20 Doc McStuffins
15:45 Jake And The Neverland Pirates
16:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
16:30 Doc McStuffins
16:55 Sofia The First
17:25 Goldie & Bear
17:50 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
18:20 The Lion Guard
18:45 Miles From Tomorrow
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:30 PJ Masks
22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
22:45 Unbungalievable
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopdidoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero
01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopdidoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopdidoo



06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Phineas And Ferb
08:40 Camp Lakebottom
09:10 Gravity Falls
09:35 Lab Rats
10:00 Rocket Monkeys
10:25 Ultimate Spider-Man
10:50 Boyster
11:20 Boyster
11:45 Pair Of Kings
12:10 Pair Of Kings
12:35 Lab Rats
13:00 Lab Rats
13:30 Phineas And Ferb
13:55 Phineas And Ferb
14:20 Kickin' It
14:45 Kickin' It
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Mighty Med
15:40 The 7D
15:50 The 7D
16:05 Lab Rats
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Supa Strikas
18:15 Lab Rats
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Phineas And Ferb
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Pickle And Peanut
21:45 Lab Rats
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
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 Cutthroat Kitchen
22:00 Chopped South Africa
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
02:00 Chopped South Africa



03:40 American Restoration
04:05 American Restoration
04:30 Pawn Stars
05:00 Grave Trade
06:00 The Curse Of Oak Island
06:50 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
07:40 Battle 360
08:30 American Restoration
08:55 Mountain Men
09:45 Ax Men
10:35 Swamp People
11:25 American Restoration
12:15 Counting Cars: Best Of
12:40 Counting Cars
13:05 American Pickers
13:55 Grave Trade
14:45 Pirate Treasure Of The Knights Templar
15:35 Battle 360
16:25 Counting Cars: Best Of
16:50 American Restoration
17:40 Down East Dickering
18:30 Duck Dynasty
19:20 Ax Men
20:10 Swamp People
21:00 Storage Wars Miami
21:25 Storage Wars
21:50 Criss Angel: Mindbreak
22:15 Barry'd Treasure
22:40 Battle 360
23:30 Inside Alcatraz: Legends Of The Rock
00:20 Grave Trade
01:10 Counting Cars: Best Of
01:35 Counting Cars
02:00 American Pickers
02:50 Down East Dickering



03:25 Don't Tell The Bride
04:20 The Syndicate
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
07:05 Chopping Block
08:00 Don't Tell The Bride
08:55 The Syndicate
09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40 The Chase
11:35 Chopping Block
12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Coronation Street
15:10 Tracey Ullman's Show
15:35 Chopping Block
16:30 Don't Tell The Bride
17:25 Together
17:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Eggheads
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Chopping Block
20:30 Don't Tell The Bride
21:25 Together
21:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Coronation Street
23:15 Emmerdale
23:40 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:35 Emmerdale
01:00 Emmerdale
01:25 Emmerdale



JUPITER ASCENDING ON OSN MOVIES HD



03:00 Two And A Half Men
03:30 Two And A Half Men
04:00 The Goldbergs
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 The Goldbergs
08:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
09:00 Two And A Half Men
09:30 Suburgatory
10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
10:30 The Bernie Mac Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 George Lopez
12:30 The Goldbergs
13:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
13:30 The Bernie Mac Show
14:00 Two And A Half Men
14:30 Suburgatory
15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
15:30 Dr. Ken
16:00 Last Man Standing
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
18:30 Cooper Barrett's Guide To Surviving
19:00 2 Broke Girls
19:30 New Girl
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Dr. Ken
21:30 Last Man Standing
22:00 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia
22:30 Louie
23:00 Web Therapy
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Dr. Ken
01:00 Last Man Standing
01:30 It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia
02:00 Louie
02:30 Web Therapy



03:00 The Leftovers
04:00 Carnivale
05:00 Warm Springs
07:00 RKO 281
08:30 For Love Or Country: The Arturo Sandoval Story
10:30 Game Change
12:30 Prom Night In Mississippi
14:30 My Zinc Bed

16:00 Game Change
18:00 Any Given Wednesday With Bill Simmons
18:30 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
19:00 11.22.63
20:00 Six Feet Under
21:00 True Blood
22:00 Vinyl
23:00 Tell Me You Love Me
00:00 11.22.63
01:00 Six Feet Under
02:00 True Blood



03:00 Second Chance
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 The Art Of More
07:00 Devious Maids
08:00 The Blacklist
09:00 The Flash
10:00 Second Chance
11:00 Devious Maids
12:00 The Blacklist
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Second Chance
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 The Blacklist
19:00 The Flash
20:00 Shark Tank
21:00 Suits
22:00 Downton Abbey
23:00 Outlander
00:00 Devious Maids
01:00 Suits
02:00 Downton Abbey



03:45 The Taking Of Pelham 123
06:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
08:00 Armored
10:00 Jurassic Attack
12:00 Edge Of Tomorrow
14:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
16:00 Armored
18:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
20:00 Robot Overlords
22:00 AWOL 72
00:00 Stung
02:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles



04:00 Se Puder... Dirija!
06:00 Father Of The Bride Part II
08:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
10:00 Se Puder... Dirija!
12:00 The Bounty Hunter
14:00 The Trip To Italy

16:00 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
18:00 Chef
20:00 Wild Hogs
22:00 Role Models
00:00 Save Your Legs!
02:00 Chef



03:00 Mr. Magoo
05:00 G-Force
07:00 Mulan
09:00 Wall-E
11:00 Mars Needs Moms
13:00 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
15:00 A Bug's Life
17:00 Penguins Of Madagascar
19:00 Mighty Joe Young
21:00 White Fang
23:00 Penguins Of Madagascar
01:00 Mighty Joe Young



04:00 The Doctor
06:00 Les Miserables
09:00 Beyond The Edge
10:30 The Doctor
12:30 Les Miserables
15:15 Secret Window
17:00 Beyond The Edge
19:00 What Maisie Knew
20:45 Wall Street
23:00 Maps To The Stars
01:00 I Will Follow You Into The Dark



04:00 Inside Out
05:45 Some Girls
07:30 Madoff Part 1
09:00 Madoff Part 2
10:30 Inside Out
12:30 Dolphin Tale 2
14:30 Peter Pan Live!
16:45 Jupiter Ascending
19:00 Pixels
21:00 Everest
23:00 Terminator Genisys
01:15 Out Of The Dark



04:30 Worms
06:00 Looney Tunes Rabbit's Run
08:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
10:00 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery
11:30 Curious George: Back To The

Jungle
13:00 Yellowbird
14:30 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
16:00 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
18:00 Scooby-Doo! And Kiss: Rock And Roll Mystery
20:00 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend
22:00 True Story Of Puss'n Boots
23:30 Tom And Jerry: Spy Quest
01:00 The Adventures Of Don Quixote
02:30 Mostly Ghostly: Have You Met My Ghoulfriend



04:45 The Duff
06:30 Trigger Point
08:15 Brick Mansions
10:00 Next Goal Wins
12:00 Pompeii
14:00 The Song
16:00 Brick Mansions
18:00 The Imitation Game
20:00 Serena
22:00 The Homesman
00:15 The Drop
02:15 The Imitation Game



05:00 Escobar: Paradise Lost
07:00 Sunshine On Leith
09:00 Fast Girls
11:00 Escobar: Paradise Lost
13:00 Late Bloomers
15:00 I'll Follow You Down
17:00 Fast Girls
19:00 The Selfish Giant
21:00 Cake
23:00 Cold In July
01:00 Fast Girls



04:30 From Dusk Till Dawn
06:15 The Hurricane
08:45 Carjacked
10:30 The Faculty
12:15 Venom
14:00 Pearl Harbor
17:00 Scary Movie 5
18:15 Coyote Ugly
20:00 Real Steel
22:15 Unbreakable
00:00 The Horse Whisperer
02:45 Ladder 49



03:00 Private Practice
04:00 Making Mr.Right
05:00 Fit For Fashion
06:00 The Simpsons
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Bones
08:00 American Idol
09:00 American Idol
10:00 Private Practice
11:00 Private Practice
12:00 Making Mr.Right
13:00 Fit For Fashion
14:00 The Simpsons
14:30 The Simpsons
15:00 Bones
16:00 American Idol
17:00 Cougar Town
17:30 Cougar Town
18:00 Desperate Housewives
19:00 Desperate Housewives
20:00 Fit For Fashion
21:00 American Idol
22:00 American Idol
23:00 American Idol
00:00 Private Practice
01:00 Making Mr.Right
02:00 Desperate Housewives



03:15 Your Style In His Hands
04:00 Belief
04:45 Little People, Big World
05:10 Little People, Big World
05:35 Cake Boss
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Cake Boss
06:50 Cake Boss
07:15 Cake Boss
07:40 Cake Boss
08:05 The Face UK
08:55 The Face UK
09:45 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
10:35 Nida'a
11:25 Say Yes To The Dress
11:50 Say Yes To The Dress
12:15 Say Yes To The Dress
12:40 Say Yes To The Dress
13:05 Say Yes To The Dress
13:30 Oprah's Master Class
14:20 Belief
15:10 Little People, Big World
15:35 Little People, Big World
16:00 Little People, Big World
16:25 Little People, Big World
16:50 Little People, Big World
17:15 Mormon Half Love
18:05 Designer Darlings
18:55 Cake Boss
19:20 Say Yes To The Dress ,Ai Bridesmaids
19:45 Say Yes To The Dress ,Ai Bridesmaids
20:10 Kate Plus 8
21:00 Jill & Jessa: Counting On
21:50 Kate Plus 8
22:40 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
23:30 Breaking Amish
00:20 My Giant Life
01:10 My 600-Lb Life: Where Are They Now?
02:00 Outrageous 911
02:50 Monsters Inside Me



04:00 The Fits
05:10 In Conversation With
05:40 Christmas, Again
07:00 The Journey
08:40 Welcome To Pine Hill
10:05 The Trip To Bountiful
13:10 The Strongest Man
14:50 The Journey
16:30 Welcome To Pine Hill
17:55 Miss Firecracker
19:35 Above Freezing
21:00 Cathedrals Of Culture
21:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
22:00 Detroit Unleaded
23:30 The Strongest Man
23:50 Banksy Does New York
01:10 Miss Firecracker
02:50 Detroit Unleaded

WORD SEARCH

Fantasy 3

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

O F E D K Y S H I E L D Q Q H E H
D N L U X Y T E L B O G T M S P K
Q Z T J D A E M C O U R T I Q H Y
F X T Q M A G I C S P E L L G Q O
P Z A F S R F L C F F V J P O K I
T E B J M X O B Z R E Q L A L C Y
V L A I Z R T W L R O E Z L D O D
Z A F S D D X G P E R W W A C L K
D N R S A E S R U T N R N C O R Q
R C K Q T N E R S A A O N E I A P
A E Q I D W T N A I R R R O N W X
B O R G O W I S T E G D Y H S O D
Z P O T E M A H V C P S S L T B S
S S Y J W E W Q N A M S D A E H Q

BARD
BATTLE
COURT
CROWN
GOBLET
GOLD COINS
GUARDS
HEADSMAN
LANCE
LORDS
MAGIC SPELL
MEAD
MINSTREL
PALACE
PEASANTS
SHIELD
SILVER
SPEARS
SPRITE
THRONE
TOWER
WARLOCK
WRAITH

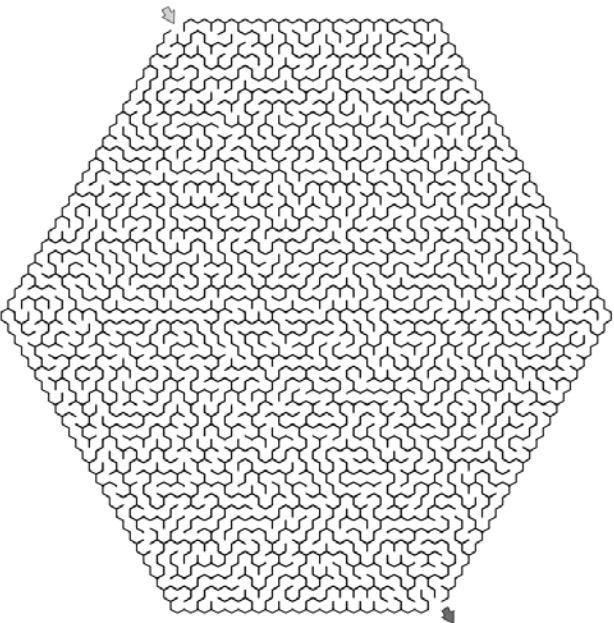
Yesterday's Solution

Fantasy 2 - Solution

O S J L J E O B G E R G O T D G C
R K M U T X Y F N G N T P W U O Z
K S R E H C R A Q C S O I T N L T
P R I N C E F L W E R T S C G D T
E S S E O F E T R U C O E I E U L
L H N K G E U O A H G N S H O C O
T U O B W D F J F O T W E S N P N
S O P R L I I Q R A M R K E B L Q
A E A F S E O R U N O N C S S O D
C I E K C E N R B B C I J Q E Y W
G R W A X J K B Y W L F V U V E I
I E M O N G N M I A A W F E L T L
W I N E Z F N O H J N R V S E N J
M D A G G E R C O Q R N D T P S D

ARCHERS
CASTLE
CENTAUR
CHALICE
CROSSBOW
DAGGER
DRAWBRIDGE
DUNGEON
ELVES
FOREST
GNOME
GOLD
HERO
HORSE
MACE
MOAT
OGRE
POISON
PRINCE
QUEST
WEAPONS
WINE
WITCH

CHALLENGING MAZE



CROSSWORD 1319

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15			16								17		
18			19								20		
21			22				23				24		
		25			26	27							
28	29		30		31					32	33	34	35
36		37			38					39			
40				41			42		43				
44			45	46		47		48		49			
50			51					52		53			
54					55	56		57				58	
			59			60				61	62		
63	64	65			66					67		68	69
70				71		72			73		74		
75				76	77						78		
79				80							81		

ACROSS

1. A bachelor's degree in theology.
4. An underground tunnel with recesses where bodies were buried (as in ancient Rome).
12. An undergarment worn by women to support their breasts.
15. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring on the sea or ships.
16. Youthful appearance in an old person.
17. The sense organ for hearing and equilibrium.
18. The elementary stages of any subject (usually plural).
19. Relating to or lying near the palate.
20. An anticipated outcome that is intended or that guides your planned actions.
21. A summary that repeats the substance of a longer discussion.
23. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Fornax and Cetus.
25. A sweetened beverage of diluted fruit juice.
26. Exacting especially about details.
28. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.
30. A public promotion of some product or service.
31. Squash bugs.
32. Highly excited.
36. The act of scanning.
39. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
40. Any of several plants of the genus Camassia.
43. Involving the entire earth.
44. (Informal) Of the highest quality.
45. A resource.
49. The cry made by sheep.
50. 17th and 18th-century movement in the German Lutheran Church stressing personal piety and devotion.
52. Accumulate on the surface.
54. Worn or shabby from overuse or (of pages) from having corners turned down.
55. The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
58. A state in midwestern United States.
59. A soft silvery metallic element of the alkali earth group.
60. Experiencing or showing fear.
63. A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
67. Similar to the giraffe but smaller with much shorter neck and stripe on the legs.
70. Any tropical African shrub of the genus Protea having alternate rigid leaves and dense colorful flower heads resembling cones.
72. Essential oil or perfume obtained from flowers.
74. Thigh of a hog (usually smoked).
75. Aromatic bulb used as seasoning.
76. Cause of e.g. European and African relapsing fever.
78. A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
79. The airforce of Great Britain.
80. Resembling a bladder.
81. The most common computer memory which can be used by programs to perform necessary tasks while the computer is on.

DOWN

1. A male monarch or emperor (especially of Russia prior to 1917).

2. (Greek mythology) The goddess of youth and spring.
3. An indehiscent fruit derived from a single ovary having one or many seeds within a fleshy wall or pericarp.
4. Used especially of front teeth having artificial crowns.
5. Title for a civil or military leader (especially in Turkey).
6. Send something via a facsimile machine.
7. A constellation in the southern hemisphere near Telescopium and Norma.
8. A chain of connected ideas or passages or objects so arranged that each member is closely related to the preceding and following members (especially a series of patristic comments elucidating Christian dogma).
9. God of the underworld and judge of the dead.
10. (British) A minicar used as a taxicab.
11. English monk and scholar (672-735).
12. Any of various edible seeds of plants of the family Leguminosae.
13. Radioactive iodine test that measures the amount of radioactive iodine taken up by the thyroid gland.
14. Weapons considered collectively.
22. A city in southern Turkey on the Seyhan River.
24. The mission in San Antonio where in 1836 Mexican forces under Santa Anna besieged and massacred American rebels who were fighting to make Texas independent of Mexico.
27. A unit of length (in United States and Britain) equal to one twelfth of a foot.
29. Any of various spiny trees or shrubs of the genus Acacia.
33. United States film actress (born in Sweden) known for her reclusiveness (1905-1990).
34. A Dravidian language spoken in south central India.
35. A member of an agricultural people in southeastern India.
37. An independent ruler or chieftain (especially in Africa or Arabia).
38. Goddess of fertility.
41. The main city of ancient Phoenicia.
42. A unit of magnetomotive force equal to 0.7958 ampere-turns.
46. A doctor's degree in dental medicine.
47. Used of syllables.
48. A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
51. The fourth month of the civil year.
53. An open-air market in an Arabian city.
56. Regional and archaic.
57. The back of a saddle seat.
61. A sudden short attack.
62. An avalanche volcanic water and mud down the slopes of a volcano.
64. An elaborate song for solo voice.
65. Norse chieftan who became the first duke of Normandy (860-931).
66. A correctional institution used to detain persons who are in the lawful custody of the government (either accused persons awaiting trial or convicted persons serving a sentence).
68. A metabolic acid found in yeast and liver cells.
69. (Islam) The man who leads prayers in a mosque.
71. A gradual decline (in size or strength or power or number).
73. Relating to or characteristic of or occurring in the air.
77. An intensely radioactive metallic element that occurs in minute amounts in uranium ores.

Yesterday's Solution

E	B	N		P	E	R	F	U	M	E		S	K	I	M
A	L	I		I	L	E	I	T	I	S		T	I	N	E
S	A	C		N	I	S	S	A	N			A	R	E	T
T	H	A	W	E	D		H		A	K	V	A	V	I	T
			D	O	S	E	D		C	H	E	A	T		
D	B		L	A			E	A		B	H	U	T	A	N
E	U	R	O	P	A	N				R	A	I	S	I	N
C	L	E	F		T		B	I		B				L	A
A	B	C		I	A	E	A		C		O	B	E	S	E
M	A	C	A	B	R	E			G	A	D	I	D	A	E
P	R	O	T	E	A		F	A	S	C	I	A			
			L	X	X	X	I	V		A	N	S	A	I	D
A	G	H	A				T	R	E	A	D		E	T	N
F	R	I	S	C	H				S	T	E	N	D	H	A
A	A	R			H	E	M	A	T	O	M	A		O	N
R	Y	E			I	N	F	L	A	M	E	D		S	E

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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

SHORTAGES DOG INDIA'S BLOOD SUPPLY

BLOOD CONTAMINATION, BLACK MARKET HARMING RURAL AREAS

NEW DELHI: Every month, Seema Mishra and her daughter make the trip to an Indian hospital, praying the blood transfusion the youngster needs to keep her alive will not make her sicker. But Mishra's fears were realized last month when seven-year-old Aarushi, who was born with a rare blood disorder, was diagnosed with hepatitis C from a contaminated transfusion. "She has suffered so much already, how come she has to suffer more?" Mishra said as she watched her daughter practice her dance steps.

Experts say blood is not always properly screened and there is a black market supplied mainly by poor Indians who are paid for their blood, especially in rural areas. Government documents released in June showed more than 2,000 people said they had contracted HIV from transfusions in the 17 months to March. The government says some probably falsely blamed transfusions, a more socially acceptable way of contracting HIV than sexual contact. But blood specialist JS Arora said infection figures among India's 150,000 thalassaemia sufferers such as Aarushi, who require transfusions for life, are worrying.

Arora, head of India's thalassaemia welfare society, estimated up to 40 percent of sufferers have contracted hepatitis B or C, many more than in other countries. Some have also contracted HIV. Sufferers cannot produce enough haemoglobin, the substance in red blood cells that transports oxygen, a genetic disorder most common in Asia and the eastern Mediterranean.

'Overhaul system'

Contaminated blood donations have dropped significantly in recent years thanks to concerted efforts to improve regulation, but experts still hold concerns about the safety and security of supplies. India has 2,760 licensed blood banks run by gov-



NEW DELHI: In this photograph taken on July 1, 2016, a worker separates bags of donated blood at a camp organized by the Rotary Blood Bank.—AFP

ernment and private hospitals and charities. They must screen for HIV, hepatitis viruses, syphilis and malaria, but the standard of testing varies. The more sophisticated methods reduce the period when an infected donor does not test positive, but they are expensive and not used everywhere.

Experts say India needs a central collection agency-common in many countries-with rigorous and standardised testing. "India is a massive country and the range of services is huge, from extremely good to extremely poor," said Shailaja Tetali, who has studied blood supplies in India's south. "There needs to be an overhaul of the system because the way in which blood services are carried out in India

is haphazard," Tetali, from the Indian Institute of Public Health in Hyderabad, told AFP.

In western Gujarat state, families are fighting for a fresh probe into how 32 children, all suffering from thalassaemia, contracted HIV from transfusions in 2011. Eight have since died of AIDS, their lawyer Paresh Vaghela told AFP. Police closed the original case, saying there was no criminal intent, while the hospital allegedly involved says the children received transfusions from more than one place.

The government says thalassaemia sufferers are at higher risk than the general population of contracting an infection because they need so much blood. "There is no guarantee of a 100 percent clean

blood supply in any country," deputy director general of blood transfusion services, R.S Gupta said.

Paying for blood

India has long suffered from severe blood shortages, according to the World Health Organization, which says countries should have blood in reserve from at least one per cent of the population. Fear of falling ill from donating along with taboos about swapping blood with those of different social castes are blamed for the shortage of volunteer donors. The shortfall of several million units a year is exacerbated by needless transfusions ordered by doctors which expose patients to unnecessary risk of infection.

As a result patients needing blood at many hospitals have to first provide donors from among friends and family for each unit required. But experts said some have no choice but to pay people to donate blood-mainly poor Indians desperate for money. "If relatives don't want to donate, are not fit to donate or are not there to donate, then how do you get the blood? You pay someone," the head of one blood bank said. In her research, Tetali said she found families hiring donors, including an impoverished father who travelled to a city with his daughter suffering leukaemia. He was forced to borrow money to pay touts for a donor so she could receive hospital treatment.

Vinod Bansal, president of the nonprofit Rotary Blood Bank in Delhi, whose donors are all volunteers, said the replacement system bordered on coercion. Bansal said more properly-screened volunteers are needed to regularly give blood to ensure all Indians, rich and poor, have good access to clean supplies. Mishra, whose family struggles to pay for Aarushi's treatment, wants that too, along with better testing technology at government hospitals. "I'm shocked and I'm scared," she said. — AFP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
THE LEADING INDEPENDENT DAILY IN THE ARABIAN GULF





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



SHARQIA-1
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 11:30 AM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 1:45 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 4:00 PM
THE CONJURING 2 6:45 PM
THE CONJURING 2 9:30 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 12:15 AM

SHARQIA-2
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 12:30 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 2:45 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 5:00 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND -3D 7:15 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 9:45 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 12:05 AM

SHARQIA-3
THE CONJURING 2 12:30 PM
FINDING DORY 3:15 PM
FINDING DORY 5:30 PM
ABU SHANAB 7:45 PM
ABU SHANAB 10:00 PM
THE CONJURING 2 12:15 AM

MUHALAB-1
SULTAN- HINDI 12:30 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 3:45 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 6:00 PM
ABU SHANAB 8:15 PM
ABU SHANAB 10:30 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 12:45 AM

MUHALAB-2
THE CONJURING 2 11:45 AM
FINDING DORY 2:30 PM
FINDING DORY 4:45 PM
THE CONJURING 2 7:00 PM
THE CONJURING 2 9:45 PM
THE CONJURING 2 12:30 AM

MUHALAB-3
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 12:00 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 2:15 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 4:30 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND -3D 6:45 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 9:30 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 11:45 PM

FANAR-1
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 12:30 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 3:00 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS 5:15 PM
ABU SHANAB 7:30 PM
ABU SHANAB 9:45 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 12:05 AM

FANAR-2
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 12:45 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 3:15 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND -3D 5:30 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 8:00 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND -3D 10:15 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 12:45 AM

FANAR-3
SULTAN- HINDI 12:45 PM
FINDING DORY 1:45 PM
FINDING DORY 4:00 PM
FINDING DORY 6:15 PM
KABALI - Tamil 8:30 PM
THU+FRI+MON 8:30 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 8:30 PM
NO THU+FRI+MON 11:45 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 11:45 PM

MARINA-1
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 1:00 PM
FINDING DORY 3:15 PM
FINDING DORY 5:30 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 7:45 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 10:15 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 12:45 AM

MARINA-2
FINDING DORY 11:45 AM
THE CONJURING 2 2:00 PM
THE CONJURING 2 4:45 PM
ABU SHANAB 7:30 PM
THE CONJURING 2 9:45 PM

THE CONJURING 2 12:30 AM

MARINA-3
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 12:00 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 2:15 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 4:30 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 7:00 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 9:15 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 12:05 AM

AVENUES-1
SULTAN- HINDI 11:45 AM
SULTAN- HINDI 3:00 PM
KABALI - Tamil 6:15 PM
KABALI - Tamil 9:15 PM
DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic 12:15 AM
DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic 6:15 PM
DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic 8:45 PM
DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic 11:15 PM

AVENUES-2
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -4DX 12:30 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS -4DX 3:00 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -4DX 5:30 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -4DX 8:00 PM
GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX 10:30 PM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS -4DX 1:00 AM

AVENUES-3
FINDING DORY 1:30 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 4:00 PM
KABALI - Tamil 4:00 PM
KABALI - Tamil 7:00 PM
KABALI - Tamil 10:00 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 10:00 PM
MARAUDERS 1:15 AM

360°- 1
STAR TREK BEYOND -3D 1:00 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND -3D 3:30 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 6:00 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND -3D 8:30 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 11:00 PM

360°- 2
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 11:30 AM
SULTAN- HINDI 1:45 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 5:00 PM
SULTAN- HINDI 8:15 PM
INDEPENDENCE DAY: RESURGENCE 11:30 PM

360°- 3
FINDING DORY 12:45 PM
FINDING DORY 5:15 PM
FINDING DORY 7:30 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 9:45 PM
NOW YOU SEE ME 2 12:30 AM

AL-KOUT.1
DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic 11:30 AM
THE CONJURING 2 2:00 PM
THE CONJURING 2 4:45 PM
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE 7:30 PM
THE CONJURING 2 9:45 PM
THE CONJURING 2 12:30 AM

AL-KOUT.2
FINDING DORY 1:00 PM
FINDING DORY 3:30 PM
ABU SHANAB 5:45 PM
ABU SHANAB 8:00 PM
ABU SHANAB 10:15 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 12:45 AM

AL-KOUT.3
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 12:45 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 3:15 PM
FINDING DORY -3D 5:30 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D 7:45 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 10:00 PM
ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS 12:15 AM

AL-KOUT.4
STAR TREK BEYOND 11:30 AM
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS 2:00 PM
DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic 4:15 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 6:45 PM
STAR TREK BEYOND 9:15 PM
DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic 11:45 PM

REQUIRED URGENTLY

A reputable sports company is in need of highly qualified individual with a minimum of 3 years experience for the position of:

- 1- Adminstrator (Male / Female - Full Time)
2- Cashier (Male / Female - Full Time)

All Candidates must be based in Kuwait and have a transferable Visa (Article No.18)

Attractive package awaits successful candidates

Interested applicants may send C.V.'s to
hr@proformanceaquatic.com

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hemant, holder of Indian Passport No Z1886428, resident of Gali No 3, HNo 2559b, Rampura Mohalla, Hisar, Haryana, India, have changed my name from Hemant to Hemant Mehta. In future, I will be known as Hemant Mehta. (C 5191)
21-7-2016

MISCELLANEOUS

Wanted Immediately Toyota Corolla or Camry, models: 2008 to 2012, ready to buy. Please call: 60747748. (C 5192)
21-7-2016

EMERGENCY
112

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr: 03:31
Shorook 05:02
Duhr: 11:54
Asr: 15:29
Maghrib: 18:46
Isha: 20:15



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

Friday Times BUSINESS

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2016

US HOMES SALES IMPROVE, BEST PACE SINCE Q1 2007

PAGE 41



Asia markets rally resumes on fresh stimulus hopes

Page 40



FRANKFURT: The headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) is pictured in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. — AFP

ECB PRIMED TO ACT AFTER BREXIT SHOCK

‘FINANCIAL MARKETS HAVE WEATHERED UNCERTAINTY SPIKE’

FRANKFURT: The European Central Bank is ready, willing and able to help put the Eurozone economy back on its feet, if needed, even if financial markets have held up so far to the shock of the Brexit referendum, president Mario Draghi said yesterday. “If warranted to achieve its objective, the governing council will act by using all instruments within its mandate. I would stress our readiness, willingness, ability to do so,” Draghi said.

Nevertheless, the ECB opted to keep key interest rates unchanged at its policy meeting, despite the shock left by the British vote last month to quit the European Union. Draghi said the markets had held up well so far to the shock decision. “After the UK referendum, euro area financial markets have weathered the spike in uncertainty and volatility with encouraging resilience,” he said. But it was still too early to gauge the full economic impact of the seismic vote, Draghi said.

“Over the coming months, when we have more information, we will be in a better position to reassess the underlying macroeconomic conditions, the likely paths of inflation and growth, and the risks around those paths,” Draghi said. The ECB is scheduled to draw up its latest staff economic projections in time for its next meeting in September.

Beginning to work

Already, the ECB has rolled out a raft of different measures to help get the Eurozone economy back on its feet. It has

slashed interest rates to all-time lows, pumped vast amounts of liquidity into the financial system via cheap loan schemes to banks, and embarked on an asset purchase program to try and drive up chronically low inflation in the single currency area. But Eurozone inflation stood at a mere 0.1 percent in June, far below the level of just under 2.0 percent that the ECB regards as conducive to healthy economic growth.

Nevertheless, there are signs that the ECB measures are beginning to work. In its latest quarterly bank lending survey, the ECB found that banks are easing credit standards for loans to companies, an encouraging sign, since the chronic weakness of credit activity in the euro area has previously been blamed for the absence of any noticeable recovery. Furthermore, demand for loans is also increasing, the survey showed.

Italian banking fears

Draghi tried to assuage fears that a new banking crisis might be brewing in Europe. Fears are rife on the financial markets that Italy, in particular, could cause a return of the Eurozone debt crisis if it does not address the 360 billion Euros (\$398 billion) in bad debt sitting in its national banks. Markets have turned sour on several Italian banks, most notably Italy’s number-three lender and the world’s oldest bank, Banca Monte Paschi. But banks are generally in much better shape than in 2009 and have substantially strengthened their capital buffers, Draghi said.

Their average core capital ratio—the amount of funds they can call upon to absorb losses—has increased from around nine percent to 15 percent, thanks to robust supervisory systems and regulations that have since been put in place. Nevertheless, bad debt, or so-called non-performing loans (NPLs), posed a “significant problem for the future ability and the capacity the banks have of lending,” Draghi said. “It’s a problem that needs to be addressed because it’s an obstacle to the transmission of monetary policy,” Draghi said.

Waiting until September

Analysts were divided about whether the ECB really would embark on fresh stimulus measures at its next meeting in September. “After leaving policy on hold today, the ECB also stopped short of promising imminent policy easing,” said Capital Economics Jennifer McKeown. “But Draghi reiterated that the bank is ready to act and we believe that it will up the pace of asset purchases and possibly cut interest rates at its next policy meeting in September.”

ING DiBa economist Carsten Brzeski was not so sure. “Draghi’s comments during the press conference did not give any hint on possible next ECB steps. (He) kept all of his cards to his chest,” the expert said. For Natixis economist Johannes Gareis, the “ECB is still in a wait and see mode.” “While we think that the ECB has to tweak its QE parameters sooner rather than later, we do not expect significant easing action,” the analyst said. — AFP

GULF FALLS ON OIL, EARNINGS

DUBAI: Most Gulf stock markets fell yesterday amid soft oil prices and mixed corporate earnings, while Egypt was hit once again by concern about instability in the country's currency. Dubai's index edged down 0.1 percent. Dubai Parks & Resorts surged 3.8 percent but real estate stocks were weak, with Deyaar Development dropping 1.1 percent after reporting a 17.8 percent fall in second-quarter net profit.

Blue chip Emaar Properties, which had been rallying strongly for the past two weeks, lost steam. It edged down 0.3 percent to 7.00 Dirhams, failing to break major technical resistance on its October 2015 peak of 7.01 Dirhams. A few small speculative stocks rose sharply including Al Salam Group Holding, which gained 10.6 percent. In Kuwait, where its shares surged 5.8 percent, the company issued a statement saying it knew of no material reason for the unusual trade in its shares.

Saudi Arabia's index fell 0.5 percent as Yamama Cement tumbled 5.2 percent after reporting a 14 percent year-on-year drop in second-quarter profit to 150.5 million riyals (\$40.1 million), and slashing its second-quarter dividend to 0.25 riyal per share from 0.75 riyal. Petrochemical shares were strong, however. Yanbu National Petrochemical Co (Yansab) rose 2.8 percent in its heaviest trade since January after its second-quarter net profit trebled to 689.3 million riyals (\$183.8 million) because of higher production and sales analysts had on average forecast 446.2 million riyals. Petrochemical heavyweight Saudi Basic Industries gained 0.6 percent.

Abu Dhabi's index fell 0.5 percent, dragged down by profit-taking in merger candidates First Gulf Bank, down 1.2 percent, and National Bank of Abu Dhabi, off 2.0 percent. Qatar also dropped 0.5 percent because of widespread selling in banks. Commercial Bank of Qatar, which slumped 6.6 percent on Wednesday after it missed second-quarter earnings forecasts by a large margin, fell a further 2.0 percent. The Egyptian index sank 0.9 percent as the gap between Egypt's official and unofficial U.S. dollar rates hit its widest ever because of speculation that the country's endemic foreign exchange shortage could force another devaluation. Traders told Reuters they sold dollars at record highs between 11.85 and 12.05 pounds, more than 35 percent above the central bank's official rate of 8.78.

An initial devaluation in March prompted a strong rally in the stock market because of hopes it would encourage capital inflows, but this did not happen, and investors are now worried about the risk of a disorderly depreciation accompanied by punishing interest rate hikes. The central bank governor said after the close on Wednesday that the time was not right to float the Egyptian pound but he left the door open to a possible devaluation. — Reuters

UNION PACIFIC 2Q PROFIT FALLS

OMAHA: Union Pacific's second-quarter profit fell 19 percent as the railroad hauled 11 percent less freight. CEO Lance Fritz said yesterday that volumes are likely to remain weak through the rest of the year because of the soft global economy, strong US dollar and weak consumer demand. Its shares fell more than 3 percent in premarket trading.

The Omaha, Nebraska-based company reported net income of \$979 million, or \$1.17 per share. That's down from \$1.2 billion, or \$1.38 per share, a year ago. The 14 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research predicted earnings of \$1.17 per share on average. The railroad's revenue declined 12 percent to \$4.77 billion. Five analysts surveyed by Zacks expected \$4.79 billion. Union Pacific said shipments slowed in every category except agricultural goods. Coal again led the declines with a 21 percent drop in shipments.

Union Pacific shares fell \$3.22, or 3.4 percent, to \$90.90 in premarket trading about a half-hour ahead of the market open. Its shares have increased 20 percent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has increased slightly more than 6 percent. The stock has decreased slightly more than 4 percent in the last 12 months. — AP



FRANKFURT: The headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) is pictured in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany. — AFP

GERMAN FIRMS HOLD OFF UK INVESTMENTS

SMALLER FIRMS MORE CAUTIOUS, BIG FIRMS TO WAIT

BERLIN: Some German companies are holding off making investments in Britain until they know more about the relationship the country will forge with the rest of Europe following the Brexit vote. While big companies like Siemens and Bosch have the deep pockets to take a longer-term view about one of Europe's most lucrative markets, and weather uncertainty about how the divorce will play out, smaller firms are more cautious.

Britain is a major market for Germany, accounting for around 7 percent of its exports, and is likely to remain so regardless of Brexit. But Germany's VDMA association, which represents thousands of firms in the engineering industry, said many of its members were unwilling to make any financial commitments. "Companies want to continue to do good business in Britain and most are likely now waiting to see how the exit negotiations go, once they start," said its head Thilo Brodtmann.

Family-owned industrial manufacturer Kemper, for example, has shelved plans to expand its British business. Before the Brexit vote the company, which makes air filter systems and fume extraction units for the car and construction industries, had planned to invest in its UK marketing and servicing operations this year. "We definitely won't do that now," CEO Bjoern Kemper told Reuters from his office in Vreden, close to the Dutch border in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. He said Kemper's British sales have fallen this year, partly because customers had put off spending decisions ahead of the June 23 referendum, and that he saw little prospect of a rebound in the short term following the decision to leave the EU. The company, which has overall annual turnover of about 40 million euros (\$44 million), said it expects to lose around 1 million euros in UK sales this year as a result of economic uncertainty before

and after the Brexit vote.

Complex talks

Little is clear about how Brexit will affect the British and German economies. The Bank of England said on Wednesday it saw "no clear evidence" that a sharp economic slowdown was yet under way in Britain after last month's vote, though there were signs investment and hiring were being put on hold. New Prime Minister Theresa May says her government is formulating its position for talks that will determine the country's relationship with the EU, and has appealed for time to work out how best to approach the complex Brexit negotiations.

British officials have stressed they believe investment will flow again once foreign businesses can see how Britain's post-Brexit ties with the EU are starting to shape up. "People are not disinvesting, they are just on hold ... if by December or March they can see a decent landing point, they'll move ahead again," one senior economic official told Reuters. Kemper is more exposed to Britain than most German companies, with the country accounting for a tenth of its turnover, but its experience nonetheless reflects some of the challenges the Brexit vote poses to Germany's economy.

In the first five months of 2016, German exports to Britain stagnated on the year, official data shows. The slowdown contrasts sharply with last year, when German shipments to Britain surged almost 13 percent to just under 90 billion euros, a record for German exports to Britain. In 2015, Germany sold more goods only to the United States and France. The VDMA engineering association said German exports from the sector to Britain fell by 4.2 percent in the first quarter, year-on-year.

In a further sign that political uncer-

tainty has harmed economic ties, German foreign direct investment to Britain fell 6 percent on the quarter in the first three months of 2016, Bundesbank data show. Markus Kerber, managing director of the BDI Federation of German Industries, told Reuters it expected a significant deterioration in economic relations with Britain in the coming months. "When it comes to new German foreign direct investment, it's looking bad," he said.

Market access

The immediate uncertainty is perhaps less problematic for big companies whose size and financial muscle allows them to plan further ahead. Siemens said late last month that it was not scaling back investment in a British wind power factory due to go into production in a few months. German car parts maker Bosch, which employs 5,300 people in UK factories, told Reuters last week that it was sticking to its plans and intended to invest 20-25 million euros in Britain this year, about in line with last year. Much of the negotiations between London and Brussels, when they come, are likely to boil down to a trade-off between Britain's controls on immigration and its access to the EU single market. Tougher immigration controls will likely mean less market access.

Reduced market access for Britain could be damaging for trade flows between Britain and the EU. However, some German companies could profit from such a scenario. Stephan Gais, CEO of German firm Mahr, which makes high-end measuring tools used in the auto and chemicals sectors, said uncertainty caused by Brexit was hurting his business. But he also scented opportunity should trade between Britain and the EU become more complicated as a result of the divorce. "There are a few British competitors and if they have difficulties in Europe that would of course help us." — Reuters

CAPITAL FLOWS OUT OF CHINA SLOWING

BEIJING: The flood of billions of dollars out of China slowed dramatically in the second quarter, official figures showed yesterday, despite the yuan's persistent weakness making it less attractive to hold. "Cross-border capital outflow pressures have gradually eased," Wang Chunying, spokeswoman for the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), said at a briefing.

Foreign exchange settlement data showed Chinese banks sold \$49.0 billion more in foreign currency than they received between April and June. That "narrowed sharply" from \$124.8 billion in the January-March period, she said.

The monthly figures were even more dramatic, with \$12.8 billion leaving in June, down from \$54.4 billion in January, she added. Money has been flowing out of China in recent years as its growth has slowed, adding to downward pressure on its currency and making Yuan-denominated assets less attractive to hold, in a vicious cycle for the world's second-largest economy.

Authorities have tightened restrictions on cross-border money flows, including capping cash withdrawals overseas using domestic bank cards at 100,000 Yuan (\$15,000) per year from January and requiring banks to pay a 20 percent deposit on forward sales of foreign exchange to stem speculation.

A forward sale is a commitment to sell at a predetermined price and date. Chinese firms have embarked on a string of high-profile overseas acquisitions, and Wang insisted that capital was leaving mainly because of "continued expanding overseas investment" by Chinese firms, rather than "foreign capital withdrawing from China".

SWIFT, the global provider of financial messaging services, said this week that the Yuan's share of global payments slid to 1.72 percent in June, down from 1.90 percent in May.

But the unit, also known as the renminbi (RMB), remained in sixth place as a world payment currency in June, behind the Canadian dollar, where it has stood since April, SWIFT said. "Offshore RMB usage has most likely been negatively impacted by the volatility in the Chinese market and the slowdown of (the) Chinese economy," said the report, issued Wednesday.

Beijing rattled global investors with a surprise devaluation last August, when it guided the normally stable Yuan down nearly five percent over a week, in a move largely perceived by analysts as an attempt to boost exports as economic growth slowed.

China's gross domestic product expanded 6.9 percent last year, its slowest in a quarter of a century, and growth further weakened to 6.7 percent in the first half of this year. China's foreign exchange reserves, the world's largest, declined for months before unexpectedly increasing in June by \$13 billion to \$3.21 trillion, although they are still down 20 percent from their \$4 trillion peak in 2014. — AFP



FRANKFURT: The President of the European Central Bank (ECB) Mario Draghi arrives to address the media during a press conference following a meeting of the ECB's Governing Council. — AFP

DRAGHI DISAPPOINTS MARKETS

LONDON: Investors failed to get a hoped-for signal from the ECB about a quick shot of stimulus, leaving markets mixed yesterday, while the airline sector took a hit following a bleak outlook from EasyJet. As expected, the European Central Bank did not announce any new measures at its regular policy meeting yesterday. However, investors had been looking to ECB chief Mario Draghi to hint strongly at a further loosening in monetary policy in September to deal with any slowdown caused by uncertainty after Britain's shock vote on June 23 to quit the European Union.

Draghi signaled the "readiness, willingness, ability" of ECB policymakers to use all the central bank's tools if needed, but also praised the resilience of the markets following the Brexit vote. Matt Weller at Faraday Investment Research said Draghi struck a "slightly-less-dovish than expected tone" during his press conference. Meanwhile, Joshua Mahony at financial derivatives trading house IG said the "key takeaway is that Draghi needs more data" before stepping up stimulus.

"Sufficient data may not be available

by the next meeting, pointing towards longer delay," he tweeted.

Frankfurt's DAX 30 stock index added 0.2 percent but in Paris the CAC 40 dipped 0.3 percent. The euro briefly spiked higher during Draghi's speech, but then fell back. Expectations of further stimulus have led stocks to recover much of their losses following the surprise British vote to leave the EU. Outside the Eurozone, London's benchmark FTSE 100 stock index slid 0.3 percent in afternoon trading. Sentiment was hit also by official data showing British retail sales sank in June by the heaviest amount in six months-though on poor weather rather than uncertainty in the run-up to the Brexit vote.

Flying low

On the corporate front, shares in EasyJet fell 5.3 percent to 1,067 pence, as the boss of the British no-frills airline warned that carriers are facing one of their most challenging periods "for a long time", with peak summer bookings hit by terror attacks and Brexit uncertainty. EasyJet chief executive Carolyn McCall's

comments to reporters came after the airline published a third-quarter trading update that failed to provide a full-year profits forecast.

The airline's update weighed also on rivals, with shares in British Airways owner IAG shedding 3.5 percent to 406.2 pence and German carrier Lufthansa sliding 2.8 percent to 10.39 Euros. The absence of annual profits guidance "is not reassuring and highlights the wide range of potential outcomes, even at this late stage of the year", said Gerald Khoo, analyst at broker Liberum. Asian stock markets mostly rose Thursday following a fresh record on Wall Street on Wednesday. After a slight stumble Tuesday and Wednesday caused by profit-taking, the equities rally resumed with Tokyo again leading the pack following a report that Japan is planning a new, giant stimulus program.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is eyeing a package of at least 20 trillion yen about double the size initially expected to kick start the economy from years of slumber and light a fire under torpid inflation, Kyodo News agency said. —AFP

SWATCH PROFITS SLOW AS ATTACKS HIT KEY MARKETS

ZURICH: Swatch Group, the world's largest watchmaker, posted a 52-percent fall in first-half profits yesterday, with sales hurt by declining tourism after attacks in France and Belgium. The Swiss-based company also said revenues were down in its crucial market of Hong Kong. The entire luxury watch sector has seen trimmed sales in Hong Kong since Chinese authorities introduced new anti-corruption measures in 2013 that included curbs on extravagant gifts.

A company statement put first-half profits at 263 million Swiss francs (\$267 million,

242 million Euros), 52 percent lower than during the same period of 2015. Sales dropped by 11.4 percent to 3.7 billion Swiss francs. "The situation in France and Belgium will remain difficult," with fewer tourists travelling to the key markets following deadly attacks in Paris, Nice and Brussels, Swatch said. But the company claimed the outlook for the second half of 2016 was promising, pointing to "clear signs of tourism revival," in Spain and Italy.

Swatch's Omega brand is also a flagship sponsor of the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro,

which start on August 5. The company said it was expecting a "boost" during the Games. The first three weeks of July saw strong sales in mainland China, further fuelling hopes that the company could record "an annual result closer or equivalent to the previous year," the statement added. But Patrik Schwendimann, an analyst at Zuercher Kantonalbank in Zurich, told Bloomberg that "to achieve last year's results for the full year would require a bigger miracle."

Swatch's slowdown in sales comes as

exports of all Swiss watches fell by their fastest rate yet this year in June, plunging by 16 percent to 1.6 billion francs, according to data from the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry.

Experts to Hong Kong fell by 29 percent. In Europe, exports to Italy fell by 28 percent, to France by 21 percent and by 15 percent to Germany. Exports of watches in the 200-500 Swiss franc segment fell by nearly 20 percent in volume and value terms, while those above 3,000 Swiss francs dropped a similar amount in value. — AFP

BANK OF JAPAN RULES OUT 'HELICOPTER MONEY'

LONDON: Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda ruled out the idea of using "helicopter money" - or directly underwriting the budget deficit - to combat deflation, as policymakers in Tokyo gear up to expand existing stimulus programs. Japanese markets have risen this month on speculation that authorities, battling to revive an economy dogged by decades of anaemic inflation, will resort to using helicopter money, possibly issuing perpetual bonds to underwrite public debt. But in a BBC interview broadcast on Thursday, Kuroda said the central bank already had mechanisms in place to ease

policy further if needed, and that Japan should not forfeit a clear separation between fiscal and monetary institutions. "I don't think at this stage we should abandon this institutional setting. No need and no possibility for helicopter money," Kuroda told the radio documentary. The yen shot up after Kuroda's comments, hitting a high of 116.44 yen per euro, up 1 percent on the day.

A BOJ spokesman said Kuroda was reiterating his usual stance. The date of the interview was not clear.

Last week a senior advisor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told Reuters that

Japan should not resort to helicopter money. A majority of economists polled by Reuters this week expected the BOJ to ease policy later this month, forecasting a combination of measures in another attempt to kick-start inflation.

Kuroda, who was interviewed in his office in Tokyo, said the BOJ had three existing policy options: quantitative and qualitative easing, and negative interest rates. "If necessary, we can change the quantity, as well as further change and expand the quality (of assets purchased), and also we can further deepen (into) negative territory of interest imposed on

part of the current account deposits (from) commercial banks," he said.

"We have very powerful policy framework, and I don't think there's any significant limitation of further easing of monetary conditions in Japan, if necessary."

Speaking on the same BBC program, Bank of England Chief Economist Andrew Haldane said low interest rates and bond-buying schemes since the financial crisis might have led to some markets overheating sometimes, but there was no evidence this had become widespread. Haldane was interviewed on June 28. — Reuters

NIGERIA'S FINANCE MINISTER DENIES RECESSION FEARS

ABUJA: Nigeria's finance minister yesterday played down an International Monetary Fund forecast that the country's growth would shrink this year, seeking to allay fears of recession in Africa's top economy. The IMF said on Tuesday it expected Nigeria's economy to contract by 1.8 percent in 2016 after having forecast a 2.3-percent expansion in April.

But Kemi Adeosun said she was "not too worried" about the prediction, as the world body monitors global trends and had also warned about the impact of Britain's vote to leave the European Union. "I don't think we should panic. I think we need to be confident around what we are doing and where we are going," she told a Senate committee hearing in Abuja. "I remain extremely confident about Nigeria. The IMF has given their projection, which is that we may continue into negative territory. I'm not sure that what we are seeing suggests that."

Recession? Technically

Nigeria-on paper Africa's biggest economy-depends on oil sales for 70 percent of government revenue but that has been slashed by low prices worldwide in the last two years. The situation has complicated the task for the government, which has complained of being left a "virtually empty" treasury by the previous administration and the theft of vast sums of public money.

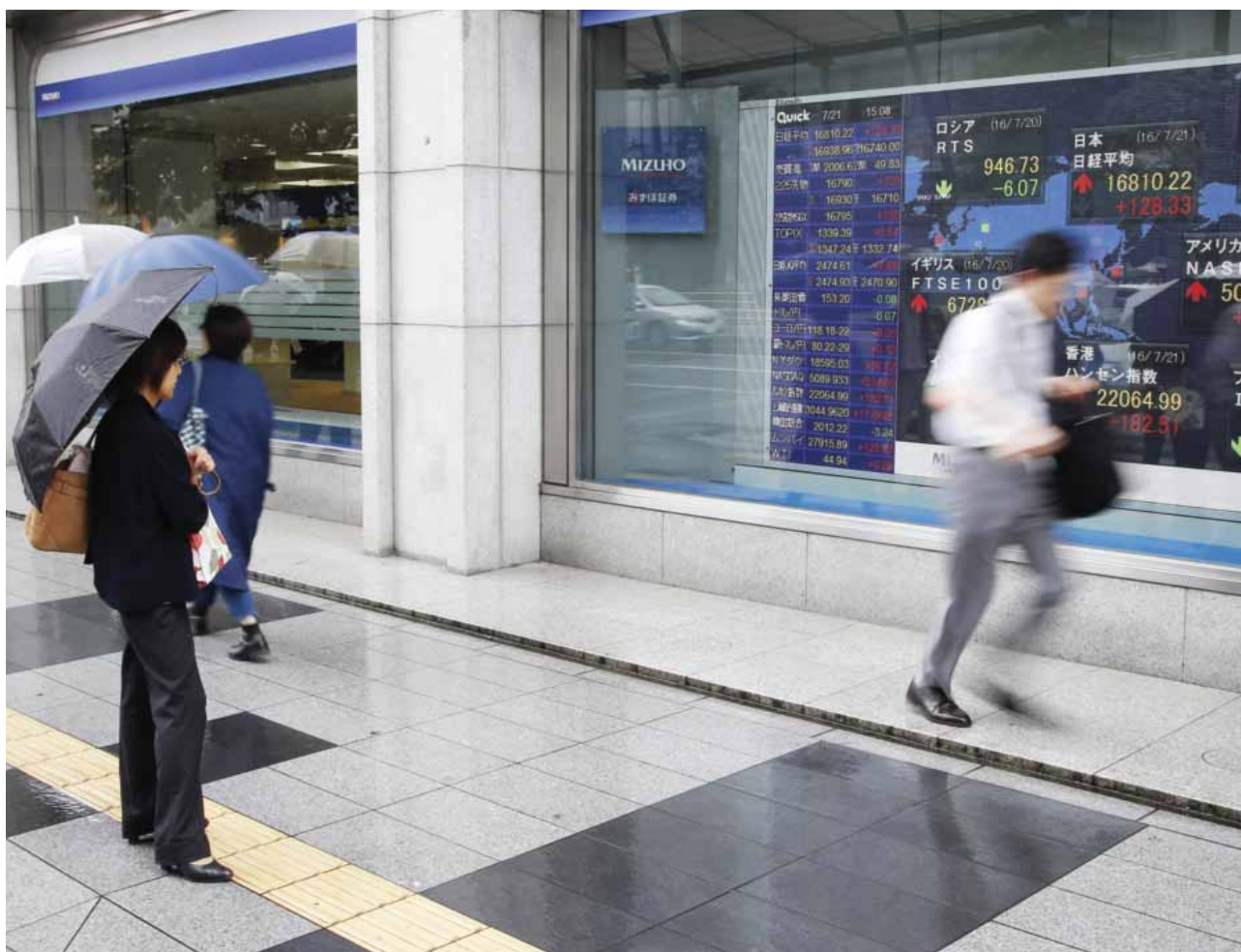
It has struggled to pay public sector wages, while the naira currency has weakened, foreign exchange dried up and investment stalled. The National Bureau of Statistics said this week that inflation rose to 16.5 percent in June-the highest for nearly 11 years-with predictions it could reach 20 percent by the end of the year. The central bank in May said recession was "imminent" after negative growth in the first quarter of this year. Figures for the second quarter are expected soon.

Asked whether Nigeria was already in recession, Adeosun replied: "Technically. If you go into two quarters of negative growth, technically you are in recession. "But I don't think we should dwell on definition. I think we should really dwell on where we are going," she added, predicting any recession would be "very short". "The policy that we have will ensure that we don't go below where we need to go," she told senators.

Right direction

Adeosun said she was encouraged by agricultural output and that despite the high headline inflation year-on-year, the rate had slowed month-on-month. "That tells you that things are moving in the right direction," she added. Nigeria's economic woes have been exacerbated by sabotage to oil and gas facilities in the oil-producing south by militants wanting self-determination for the delta region.

That and the forex shortage has hit fuel supplies, driving up costs of imported petrol, diesel and electricity. But Adeosun said the government decision in May to effectively abandon the fuel subsidy on petrol, which saw prices go up 67 percent per litre, had helped cut government expenditure. "If you look at what happened in the petroleum sector, before, we were subsidising around 45 million litres of fuel per day and now without subsidy, it has dropped to 26 million litres," she said. "That tells you that all the smuggling that was going out of the country based on the subsidy that we were providing has stopped. "These are real savings to the economy which we are now re-directing into the essential infrastructure that will keep the economy going." — AFP



TOKYO: A woman looks at an electronic stock indicator of a securities firm. — AP

ASIA MARKETS RALLY RESUMES ON FRESH STIMULUS HOPES

HONG KONG: Asian markets mostly rose yesterday following a fresh Wall Street record as traders are pumped up by strong corporate results and expectations of fresh stimulus. After a slight stumble Tuesday and Wednesday caused by profit-taking, the equities rally resumed with Tokyo again leading the pack following a report that Japan is planning a new, giant stimulus program.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is eyeing a package of at least 20 trillion yen about double the size initially expected-to kickstart the economy from years of slumber and light a fire under torpid inflation, Kyodo News agency said. The likelihood of more yen flooding financial markets sent the currency tumbling, which in turn boosted stocks, particularly exporters who benefit from a weaker unit. The Nikkei ended 0.8 percent higher, with the dollar climbing to 107.22 yen from 106.87 yen in New York, and well up from the 100 yen levels seen before the US released blockbuster jobs data at the start of the month. The euro rose to 118.37 yen from 117.72 yen.

Other stock markets followed suit, with Hong Kong up one percent in the afternoon, wiping out all the losses suffered since the tumultuous start of the year. Shanghai climbed 0.4 percent, Sydney added 0.4 percent and Wellington added 0.6

percent while Taipei was 0.5 percent higher. However, Seoul eased 0.2 percent. The advances follow a positive lead from Wall Street, where the Dow and S&P 500 closed at all-time highs on the back of a string of upbeat earnings reports and outlooks from big-name firms such as Microsoft, Intel and Morgan Stanley.

"We have better corporate earnings, likely bold fiscal stimulus in Japan, zero interest rates helping to absorb every macro shock we hear about and broad monetary easing," Chris Weston, chief market strategist at IG Ltd in Melbourne, told Bloomberg News. "If equity markets can't rally in this environment they never will and really the key concern holding back fresh capital is significantly elevated valuations."

Next on the agenda is the European Central Bank's policy meeting later in the day, after which boss Mario Draghi is expected to promise to provide back-up in the event of any fallout from Britain's decision last month to leave the EU. The meeting comes days after the International Monetary Fund cut its global growth forecast, citing the uncertainty created by the shock European Union exit vote. In early European trade London dipped 0.1 percent but Frankfurt added 0.5 percent and Paris rose 0.1 percent. — AFP

ABB HIT BY DROP IN BIG ORDERS, OVERHAUL COSTS

ZURICH: Swiss-Swedish engineering giant ABB said yesterday that first-half net profits fell by around one fifth, weighed down by restructuring costs. ABB said net profit dropped by 21 percent to \$906 million (821 million Euros), on a six-percent fall in sales due to fewer big orders. The group, which produces items ranging from electrical transformers to ship propulsion parts, said that sales stood at \$16.5 billion for the first six months of this year.

For the April to end-June period alone, large contracts fell 41 percent, it said. Smaller orders-below \$15 million-were steady, but were down by 3 percent when converted into dollars. "Base order demand was strong in Germany, Spain, Sweden and Denmark, and weak in the UK amid uncertainties around Brexit," ABB said in a statement.

ABB said utilities remained "cautious but continued to make selective investments to integrate renewable energy and enhance energy security". The company however won orders of more than \$300 million in China for an ultra-high voltage power link. "Automotive and consumer industries continued to drive demand," ABB said. Looking ahead, the group sees a "mixed picture with continued uncertainty," it said.

"Some macroeconomic signs in the US remain positive and growth in China is expected to continue, although at a slower pace than in 2015. "The market remains impacted by modest growth and increased uncertainties relating to Brexit in Europe, and geopolitical tensions in various parts of the world," it added. The group has said it wants to focus on its most profitable sectors and has embarked on a vast restructuring program, including of its energy division hit by postponements of wind and solar projects. It announced last year a one-billion-dollar cost-cutting plan by the end of 2017 by increasing the productivity of its white-collar staff. — AFP

BRAZIL CENTRAL BANK HOLDS STEADY ON INTEREST RATE

BRASILIA: Brazil's central bank left unchanged Wednesday its benchmark interest rate as Latin America's largest economy remains mired in recession and high inflation.

The central bank, as expected, kept the key Selic rate at 14.25 percent, where it has been pegged for a year to support the flailing economy. The meeting of the Central Bank Monetary Policy Committee (Copom) was the first one headed by the new market-friendly central bank governor, Ilan Goldfajn. Goldfajn has made reining in spiraling prices his top priority. Markets expect the central bank to cut the Selic rate by a full percentage point by the end of the year.

Copom has kept the rate unchanged for eight consecutive sessions. The last rate hike was in July 2015. Latin America's biggest economy has been in recession since the second quarter of 2015. The three main credit rating agencies have lowered their Brazil rating to junk status. The central bank expects prices will head lower through next year to below its 6.5 percent inflation ceiling target. It forecasts an inflation rate of 6.9 percent this year and 4.7 percent in 2017.

Brazil has been hit hard by a worldwide slump in oil and other commodity prices, as well as the fallout from a massive corruption scandal centered on state oil company Petrobras and political paralysis as opponents of suspended president Dilma Rousseff seek her impeachment. Goldfajn was appointed by the country's new interim president Michel Temer. — AFP



ANDOVER: This Tuesday, May 24, 2016, file photo shows a home for sale. — AP

US HOMES SALES IMPROVE, BEST PACE SINCE Q1 2007

WASHINGTON: Americans bought more homes in June, the fourth straight monthly gain as the sales rate reached its highest level in more than nine years. The National Association of Realtors said Thursday that sales of existing homes rose 1.1 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.57 million, the best performance since February 2007. Buyers are quickly making offers amid tight supplies of homes on the market, boosting prices as the traditional buying season reached its crescendo. The solid job market and mortgage rates near historic lows have kept demand steady, even though the number of listings on the market has dropped.

But continued sales gains appear to be limited this year because of the acute shortage of listings. The meager supplies have fueled price growth that has eclipsed wage gains while forcing buyers to either save more for down payments or borrow more heavily. The result is that sales likely peaked in June, as data from the Realtors show the pace of signed contracts and open house visits have slipped. Sales rose in the Midwest and West last month, while staying unchanged in the South and slipping in the Northeast.

The median home sales price was

\$247,700 in June, up 4.8 percent from a year ago. That increase is roughly double the pace of average hourly wage gains. Individual investors are retreating from the housing market, being replaced by first-time buyers. First-timers comprised 33 percent of June sales, their highest share of the market in four years. Despite the improving prices, the number of listings on the market has fallen over the past year. Many homeowners are still rebuilding equity that vanished when the housing bubble began to burst almost a decade ago. Even though prices are within striking distance of their peaks, these homeowners would be unable to generate enough of a profit from a sale to pay for the expense of purchasing a new home. The number of listings has fallen 5.8 percent from a year ago to 2.12 million.

Remodeling activity

Many current homeowners are choosing to update their current properties, a possible sign of either their desire to stay put or their plans to list the property for sale in the future. Interest in bathroom and kitchen renovations have picked up this year, according to an index released this week by the remodeling firm Houzz based on the business seen by archi-

itects, interior designers and contractors. A separate indicator on remodeling activity by the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University is also accelerating at a pace above its historical average.

"By the middle of next year, the national remodeling market should be very close to a full recovery from its worst downturn on record," said Abbe Will, research analyst at the Joint Center. "Annual spending is set to reach \$321 billion by then, which after adjusting for inflation is just shy of the previous peak set in 2006 before the housing crash." Builders have increased the pace of home construction, yet that has done little to relieve supply pressures. The Commerce Department said Tuesday that June housing starts rose 4.8 percent from a month ago to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.19 million.

The employment outlook has also given more Americans the confidence to buy. Hiring rebounded strongly in June to 287,000 jobs added, relieving fears after job growth came close to stalling in May. Mortgage rates near all-time lows have helped increased demand. Mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said the average 30-year fixed-rate mortgage was 3.45 percent this week, down from 4.05 percent last year. —AP

HOMER-HAPPY HANLEY POWERS BOSTON TO WIN

BOSTON: Hanley Ramirez homered three times and drove in a career-high six runs, helping the Boston Red Sox hold on for a 11-7 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday night even though newly acquired starter Drew Pomeranz struggled to protect an eight-run lead. Boston won for the eighth time in nine games and moved into first place in the AL East, a half-game ahead of the Baltimore Orioles.

Ramirez also reached base when he was hit by a pitch in the fourth, glowering at Giants reliever Albert Suarez before the umpire quickly warned both benches. With the crowd chanting Ramirez's name for his final at-bat in the eighth, he grounded out weakly to the pitcher. Ramirez began the day with eight home runs this season before connecting for his first three-homer game. He hit two-run drives in the second, third and sixth inning. The major league record for home runs in a game is four. It's been done 16 times, most recently by Josh Hamilton for Texas in 2012. Travis Shaw and Sandy Leon also homered for Boston, and Mookie Betts had three hits. Matt Barnes (3-3) was awarded the victory as the first effective Red Sox pitcher, coming on with a one-run lead and the bases loaded in the sixth and pitching out of it. Giants starter Matt Cain (1-6) gave up three homers and five runs in 2 1/3 innings.

CUBS 6, METS 2

Anthony Rizzo homered twice off Bartolo Colon and Kyle Hendricks pitched 6 1/3 scoreless innings as Chicago beat New York to take two of three in the rematch of last year's NL Championship Series. Rizzo pulled a slider to right for a solo homer in the third. Two innings later with a runner on, he sent a fast-ball into the right-field bleachers. Rizzo also hit a two-run homer Monday in a victory as the Cubs rebounded from a four-game sweep in New York this month. Chicago has won five of its last seven overall. Hendricks (9-6) gave up seven hits and hasn't allowed an earned run in his last three appearances. He lowered his ERA to 2.27, third best in the majors. Colon (8-5) gave up six runs and eight hits in 4 1/3 innings. Wilmer Flores hit his fifth home run in eight games, a two-run drive off Travis Wood in the eighth.

CARDINALS 4, PADRES 2

Jedd Gyorko homered for the fifth straight game off San Diego pitching, connecting twice and driving in all three RBIs in a 3-2 victory to give St. Louis a doubleheader sweep. Gyorko, dealt by the Padres in the offseason for outfielder Jon Jay, is 13 for 21 (.619) against his old team with six homers and 10 RBIs. He has 11 homers and 27 RBIs on the year with 40 starts spread across the infield. He started at third base in both games of the doubleheader. He has four consecutive three-hit games against San Diego and four career multi-homer games, with both long balls in Game 2 off Paul Clemens (1-1). Carlos Martinez (9-6) was dominant after a shaky first inning and a nosebleed in the second, and the Cardinals took the opener 4-2. Gyorko, Matt Holliday and Yadier Molina homered off Colin Rea (5-4). Ryan Schimpf homered in both games for San Diego. Jaime Garcia (7-6) allowed a run in 5 2-3 innings in the second game, and Seung Hwan Oh earned his fourth save in five chances, and second of the day.

NATIONALS 8, DODGERS 1

Bryce Harper led an offensive outburst with a home run into the third deck in right field and Washington beat Los Angeles. Harper's 20th home run of the season, a two-run blast, traveled an estimated 451 feet (137

meters) off Bud Norris in the first inning. The National League MVP later walked and scored on Wilson Ramos' RBI double. Ben Revere, Jayson Werth and Anthony Rendon also hit home runs and Trea Turner had an RBI triple and stole home for Washington. Gio Gonzalez (6-8) had one of his best starts of the season, allowing one run on three hits and striking out six in six innings. Norris (5-8) gave up six runs on seven hits in five-plus innings before giving way to the bullpen.

INDIANS 11, ROYALS 4

Tyler Naquin hit two of the Indians' five homers and had a career-high six RBIs, helping Cleveland rout Kansas City. Carlos Carrasco (7-3) only allowed one hit in six shutout innings, a one-out double by Cheslor Cuthbert in the fourth walked two in the sixth for his only other baserunners. Naquin had his first multi-homer game, while Mike Napoli went deep for the second straight day. Jason Kipnis and Carlos Santana also hit home runs.

TWINS 4, TIGERS 1

Max Kepler and Eddie Rosario homered off Francisco Rodriguez in the ninth and Minnesota Twins scored three runs in the inning to beat Detroit. Detroit wasted a fine start by Justin Verlander, who gave up a run and two hits in eight innings. Rodriguez (1-1) retired the first two batters of the ninth before Kepler sent a drive to right field to break the 1-all tie. Rodriguez then made a throwing error and appeared to be shaken up, but after a conference at the mound he stayed in the game and allowed a two-run shot by Rosario. Ryan Pressly (3-5) was the winner, and Brandon Kintzler pitched the ninth for his sixth save. Minnesota's Joe Mauer and Detroit's Ian Kinsler homered in the first inning.

YANKEES 5, ORIOLES 0

Michael Pineda pitched six innings, Mark Teixeira homered in his return from his latest injury, and New York beat Baltimore to move two games above .500 for the first time since

two-run homer in seventh, and tied it on Adam Lind's solo shot in the eighth. Seattle ace Felix Hernandez, activated off the disabled list earlier in the day, allowed five runs on 10 hits in 6 2/3 innings. He struck out two and walked two in his first start since May 27. Todd Frazier hit a three-run homer in the first off Hernandez. Frazier's 28th home run tied him for the major league lead with Baltimore's Mark Trumbo.

REDS 6, BRAVES 3

Tucker Barnhart and Joey Votto hit two-run homers, and Cincinnati rallied to beat Atlanta to win the season series between the NL's worst teams. Barnhart's homer completed a four-run rally in the sixth off Lucas Harrell (1-2). Votto extended his post-All Star break surge with his 16th homer off Ian Krol in the seventh. Votto is 11 for 20 in the last six games with two homers, a double and six walks. Anthony DeSclafani (5-0) kept up his streak of solid starts since returning from a strained oblique



BOSTON: Boston Red Sox's Hanley Ramirez follows through on his third, two-run home run of the baseball game against the San Francisco Giants during the sixth inning at Fenway Park. — AP

The first four homers were off Ian Kennedy (6-8), whose bizarre line included eight strikeouts and only one walk. But it was the ninth straight game Kennedy has served up a homer, and he has allowed 26 of them this season, tied with teammate Chris Young for most in the majors.

BLUE JAYS 10, DIAMONDBACKS 4

Josh Donaldson and Edwin Encarnacion each hit two-run homers and Toronto beat Arizona. Donaldson's homer off Patrick Corbin (4-9) landed in the Chase Field swimming pool in the first inning. Encarnacion's soaring shot off Daniel Hudson, projected at 471 feet, landed far down the walkway beyond the left field seats in the eighth. It was Encarnacion's 26th home run of the season and ninth in his last eight games at Chase. Marcus Stroman (8-4) allowed only an unearned run on eight hits in eight innings to help the Blue Jays sweep the two-game series. Tuffy Gosewisch hit a three-run homer in the ninth for Arizona.

April. Pineda (4-9) had six strikeouts with runners in scoring position and didn't allow a run for the first time all season. New York has won the first three of the four-game series to improve to 38-36 - the last time the Yankees were two games over .500 was April 12 when they were 4-2. A stomach bug has been ravaging Baltimore's clubhouse and claimed two more victims in third baseman Manny Machado and manager Buck Showalter. Bench coach John Russell filled in for Showalter. First baseman Chris Davis missed his third straight game with flu-like symptoms. Yovani Gallardo (3-2) was the loser.

MARINERS 6, WHITE SOX 5

Leonys Martin hit his second home run of the game, a solo shot with one out in the 11th inning that sent Seattle past Chicago. Martin hit a two-run drive in the second inning. He then drove an 0-2 pitch from Dan Jennings (3-2) over the wall in right for his 13th homer. Vidal Nuno (1-1) pitched one inning for the victory. Seattle pulled to 5-4 on Mike Zunino's

that sidelined him for most of the first half. The right-hander gave up eight hits, including Freddie Freeman's homer, in eight innings. DeSclafani is 5-0 in his last six starts with a 2.61 ERA. Adonis Garcia led off the ninth with a homer off Ross Ohlendorf, the 68th homer allowed by Cincinnati's bullpen - by far the most in the majors.

PHILLIES 4, MARLINS 1

Jeremy Hellickson struck out eight in eight innings, Tyler Goeddel hit a two-run homer and Philadelphia beat Miami. Hellickson (7-7) allowed one run and five hits, improving his value as the Aug. 1 trade deadline approaches. Miami's Wei-Yin Chen (5-4) gave up four runs and 11 hits in 5 1/3 innings. Chris Johnson hit a solo homer in the fifth for the Marlins. Goeddel ended a 0-for-16 slump with an opposite-field shot to right to give the Phillies a 2-0 lead in the first. He lined an RBI single to right to make it 3-0 in the second. Jeanmar Gomez finished for his 26th save in 29 tries. — AP



MANCHESTER: England cricket captain Alastair Cook takes part in a practice session on the eve of the second test match between England and Pakistan at Old Trafford Cricket Ground.— AFP

ENGLAND AXE FINN, BALL FROM 2ND TEST SQUAD

MANCHESTER: England captain Alastair Cook announced yesterday that the hosts had reduced their squad for the second Test against Pakistan from 14 to 12 after dropping Steven Finn and Jake Ball. The fast bowlers, who both played in England's 75-run defeat by Pakistan in the first Test at Lord's, were released ahead of the second Test, which starts at Old Trafford today.

Now fit-again paceman James Anderson (shoulder), England's all-time leading wicket-taker, and all-rounder Ben Stokes (knee), who both didn't play at Lord's, are set to make their Test return in Manchester. England's decision means they could give a home debut to leg-spinner Adil Rashid, all of whose three Test appearances to date were away to Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates last year, in support of off-spinner Moeen Ali.

"We're going to name a 12 — Steven Finn and Bally are missing out," Cook told reporters at Old Trafford on Thursday. "That means, obviously, Ben Stokes and Jimmy Anderson are back in - and Adil's going to be in the 12, just depending on what happens to that wicket by tomorrow (Friday)." Ball took just one wicket on his Test debut while Finn was below his best on his Middlesex home ground, with pace bowling all-rounder Chris Woakes taking 11 wickets in the match.

"It's tough on Jake and Steven. Jake on debut bowled better than just taking one wicket (suggests)," said Cook. "But in the overall picture, it's another person we can call upon and add in competition for places ... and keep people on their toes." There was suggestions hat Anderson, who will now make his Test return at his Lancashire home ground, had declared himself fit to play at Lord's.

Cook and England coach Trevor Bayliss reportedly wanted him to play at Lord's, the first of a four-Test series, but were said to have been over-ruled by the selectors. Cook, however, defended the decision by saying: "It's great to have Jimmy back. He's an outstanding bowler, (and) it's great to have him fully fit. "If he'd bowled 30 overs (at Lord's) and really hurt his shoulder, and was out again, we'd all be sitting here and be disappointed with that decision. "We probably erred on the side of caution, and have to hope we now have him for three games."

'Bounce back'

For all the debate about Anderson, it was England's batting—particularly their struggles against Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah, who took 10 wickets in the match—that was behind their defeat at Lord's. "No one really put their hand up with the bat in that second innings," said Cook. "In the first innings, no one went on and got close to that (big) score," added opener Cook, who led the way for England with 81. "It would be wrong to sit here saying if you're 1-0 down you're in a better place than if you're 1-0 up. "But we've got some really good cricketers in that team, who will be hungry to bounce back. "We have lost before, and put in a very good performance a week later." — AFP

ENGLAND TURN TO SAQLAIN TO HELP WITH SPINNERS

MANCHESTER: England are in a spin in more ways than one as they head into the second Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford today looking to level the four-match series at 1-1. Alastair Cook's men suffered a 75-run defeat inside four days in last week's first Test at Lord's, with Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah taking 10 wickets. Now England will hope to play Shah better at Old Trafford, where the pitch is likely to offer more turn.

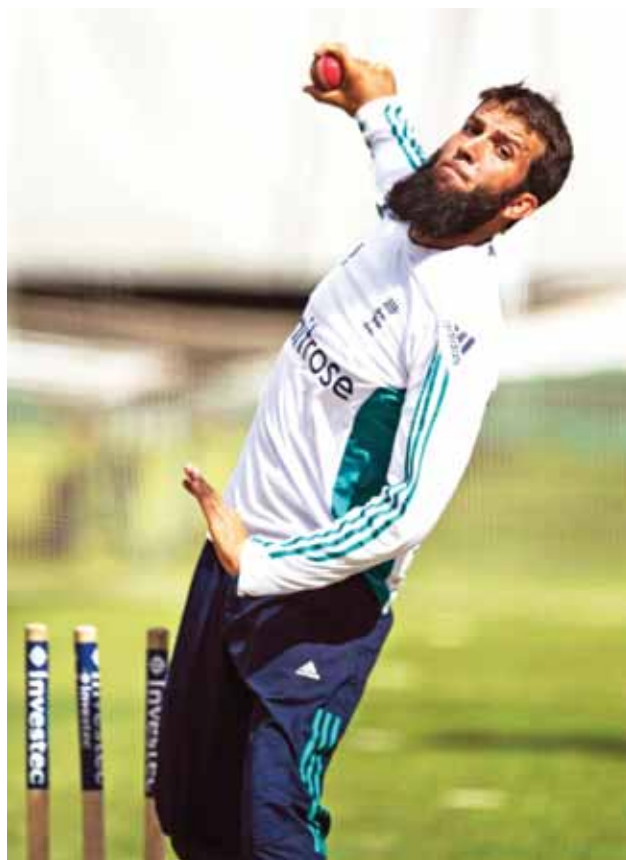
They also have to decide whether to give a home debut to leg-spinner Adil Rashid, either in support of, or as a replacement for, Moeen Ali. Not only was off-spinner Ali, who has spent the bulk of his career as a top-order batsman, out-bowled by Shah at Lord's, he also fell to him in the second innings when recklessly charging down the pitch.

England have now called in former Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq as a coaching consultant at Old Trafford. While they will hope he can advise Ali and Rashid, his greatest short-term benefit may lie in tips about how to play spin.

England have been without a specialist spin coach since former Pakistan leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed, now in the tourists' camp, returned home in 2014. Having picked a 14-man squad, England could field two spinners especially as both all-time leading wicket-taker James Anderson (shoulder) and all-rounder Ben Stokes (knee) have been passed fit after they each missed the first Test. Anderson is due to return on his Lancashire home ground amid suggestions that Cook and coach Trevor Bayliss were happy to accept his assurances that he was fit for Lord's, only for the pair to be over-ruled by the selectors. Meanwhile Stokes was looking forward to working with Saqlain, who took four for 74 when Pakistan beat England by 108 runs in the second Test at Old Trafford in 2001.

Brains trust

"You've got to use the knowledge of the people you're lucky enough to have come in and work with you," said Stokes. "It would be silly if the batsmen didn't try to get anything out of him, pick his brains and ask how the guys



MANCHESTER: England's Moeen Ali bowls in the nets during a practice session on the day before the second Test cricket match between England and Pakistan at Old Trafford Cricket Ground.— AFP

who were successful against him played." So keen are England to play 'positive' cricket that several batsmen gave their wickets away at Lord's.

Stokes hinted at a more refined approach by saying: "Old Trafford is known to spin, and obviously that's going to favour (Shah). "So we might have to change where you have to think 'I can do this but no, I can't do that', if it's spinning and bouncing. "It will just be working out a game-plan in terms of how to score, but not giving your wicket away." As England, who also have question marks over top order batsman James Vince, ponder their options, it looks as if Pakistan will field the same side, although openers Mohammad Hafeez and Shan Masood may be looking over their shoulders after poor returns at Lord's.

Having come through all the hype surrounding Mohammad Amir's return to Test cricket for the first time since his 2010 spot-fixing crime at Lord's, they gave fans at the 'home of cricket' much else to talk about last week. Misbah-ul-Haq marked his first Test at Lord's with a fine hundred which saw the 42-year-old perform a series of press-ups in celebration. The captain's gesture in thanking military staff for the squad's pre-tour boot camp was echoed by the team after Amir had sealed victory by bowling last man Jake Ball.

But in pure cricket terms it was Shah who stole the show, and Pakistan fielding coach Steve Rixon was not surprised by England's struggles. "I think most countries around the world play 'wristies' (wrist-spinners) quite poorly," he said. "To see someone master it and play them well is a treat to see, but I haven't seen a lot that do it yet," the former Australia wicket-keeper added. — AFP

STARC CAN SURPASS 300 WICKETS: MCDERMOTT

NEW DELHI: Former Australia cricketer and bowling coach Craig McDermott has heaped praise on Mitchell Starc ahead of a Test series in Sri Lanka, predicting the pacer will easily cross the 300-wicket mark. Starc has bagged 91 wickets from 25 Tests so far in his international career, and Australian coach Darren Lehmann is among those who have already said the 26-year-old can eventually reach the milestone.

"I think that's underselling him," McDermott told AFP this week in New Delhi where he is promoting his sports academy. "I think Mitchell can certainly sail past the 300-wicket mark and can get many more." "And I would love to be there to shake his hand when he passes 300 because it's a hell of a milestone for any bowler," said McDermott, who recently quit as Australia's bowling coach. The lanky pacer, who missed the second half of Australia's Test summer and the World Twenty20 in India with an ankle injury, will be looking to get his rhythm back in the first Test inallekele starting on July 26.

Starc made an impressive one-day comeback in the recent West Indies tri-series, with eight wickets in five games, helping Australia to clinch the title. The New South Welshman is just two shy of 100 one-day international scalps from 51 matches, with an impressive average of 19.79 and an economy rate of 4.82. "I think he is getting one-day wickets for fun. Certainly his Test bowling is improving every time he takes the field for Australia," said McDermott, who himself just fell short of the 300 milestone, claiming 291 Test wickets during his 12-year career for Australia. — AFP



ZHUKOVSKY: Russia's Maria Kuchina speaks to the press during the Russian Athletics Cup yesterday. — AP

RUSSIAN STARS WHO WILL MISS OLYMPICS

MOSCOW: The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) yesterday dismissed an appeal against a ban on Russia's track and field team for the Rio Olympic Games over state-run doping. Here are some of the star athletes who will now miss out on the Olympics starting on August 5:

Isinbayeva, the pole vault tsarina

The grande dame of Russian athletics, star pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva, 34, had set her sights on ending her stellar career with a third Olympic gold medal at her fifth and final games in Rio. The world record-holding pole vault tsarina, the first woman to clear the 5-metre bar, has not been implicated in the doping scandals that have engulfed many of her teammates during her glittering career.

Sharp-tongued Isinbayeva furiously lobbied against Russia's suspension, decrying the blanket ban as a breach of her human rights and taking a lead role in pleading Russia's case at the CAS. "Thank you all for this funeral for athletics," Isinbayeva told TASS news agency in the wake of the ruling. "This is a blatant political order." She herself sparked controversy for backing a much-criticized anti-gay law in Russia at the 2013 Moscow World Championships. Her comments sent shockwaves through the athletics world and saw some Swedish track and field stars at the event paint their nails in rainbow colors.

Shubankov, the Siberian sensation

The Rio Games could have offered redemption for 25-year-old world champion hurdler Sergey Shubankov, who was eliminated in the semi-finals of his first Olympics last time round in London. Shubankov, who clocked 12.98 seconds to win gold in the 110m hurdles at the 2015 World Championships, trains mainly at a run-down facility in his Siberian hometown of Barnaul even though he has been offered to relocate to Los Angeles. The exclusion of Russian athletes from Rio sees Shubankov become the second member of his family to miss out on a chance of Olympic glory. His mother, Soviet heptathlete Natalya Shubankova, was sidelined from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics after the Soviet Union and its Communist allies boycotted the Games—a tit-for-tat move for the West's snub of the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

Kuchina, the future of Russian athletics

High jumper Mariya Kuchina, 23, has an impressive medal collection—gold from the 2015 World Championships and the 2014 World Indoor Championships, and a silver from the 2014 European championships—but has yet to compete in an Olympic Games. At the 2015 World Championships Kuchina defeated her more senior competitors. She is viewed as a leader in Russia's new generation of elite athletes, which the Russian government has promised to educate about the harms of doping in a bid to repair its tarnished image. — AFP

SPORTS TRIBUNAL KEEPS RIO BAN FOR RUSSIA ATHLETES

LAUSANNE: The international sports tribunal yesterday rejected an appeal by Russian athletes against a Rio Olympics ban amid mounting pressure for action over state-run doping in Russia. The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruling on track and field is seen as a key indicator as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) debates whether to order a blanket ban on Russia from the Rio Games that start August 5.

The IOC executive is to hold more talks on Sunday and a decision on a ban could be announced after, an Olympic spokesperson said. The heads of international federations for the sports in Rio held their own talks yesterday. Russia reacted angrily however. It is a sporting powerhouse whose absence from Rio would create the biggest crisis in decades for the Olympic movement. But there have been widespread calls for exemplary sanctions against the state-orchestrated campaign.

"This will scare a lot of people, or send a strong message that the sport is serious about cleaning up," six-time Olympic sprint title winner Usain Bolt of Jamaica said of the CAS ruling. Russia's Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko called the CAS ruling "politicized" and illegal however. CAS said it had unanimously "dismissed" an appeal by the Russian Olympic Committee and 67 athletes against an International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) ban.

Athletics 'funeral'

The 67 included two time Olympic pole vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva and world champion men's 110m hurdler Sergey Shubankov. The IAAF ban covers all international competition and follows an investigation by the World Anti-Doping Agency last year which found widespread "state-sponsored" doping. Isinbayeva slammed the CAS ruling as a "funeral for athletics" and "a blatant political order."

The Kremlin expressed "deep regret" over the decision and said it had "no legal basis." Russia has denied any state involvement in the doping crisis.

Originally, 68 Russians had appealed against the IAAF ban but the governing body has cleared US-based long jumper Darya Klishina to compete in Rio. An IOC ethics commission is to rule on the case of Yuliya Stepanova, an 800m runner who turned whistleblower on the doping.

The IAAF welcomed the CAS tribunal ruling. "Today's judgment has created a level playing field for athletes," said an IAAF statement. "The CAS award upholds the rights of the IAAF to use its rules for the protection of the sport (and) to protect clean athletes." The CAS ruling has been the focus of Olympic attention, however, since an independent WADA report this week said Russia ran a "state-dictated failsafe system" of drug cheating in 30 sports at the 2014 Sochi Games and other major events. IOC president Thomas Bach has called Russia's actions a "shocking and unprecedented attack on the integrity of sport and on the Olympic Games."

According to a report released this week by Canadian lawyer Richard

McLaren, the doping included the switching of Russian samples by secret service operatives at the 2013 world championships in Moscow. It said the operation was directed by the sports ministry, with help from the FSB intelligence agency. WADA, backed by the United States and other nations, has called for Russia to be completely banned from the Rio Games. The IAAF suspended Russia in November after an inquiry which first spoke of "state-sponsored" doping. It refused to lift the suspension last month, meaning no Russian athletes could take part in Rio.

Russia was the second most successful athletics nation at the 2012 London Olympics, behind the United States, with seven gold medals, four silver and five bronze. Originally, Russia had 17 medals. But several have already been lost or are at risk because of doping failures. Olympic 3,000 meter champion Yulia Zarapova has tested positive for anabolic steroids and will almost certainly be stripped of her gold medal. — AFP



CHEBOKSARY: This file photo taken on June 21, 2016 shows Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva reacting during a national Athletics Championship. — AFP

FORMER WADA HEAD: RUSSIA SHOULD NOT GO TO OLYMPICS

MOSCOW: Former World Anti-Doping Agency president John Fahey says a "clear-cut" decision is required: Russia should not be allowed to compete at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Fahey told The Associated Press yesterday that Russia should "definitely not be going" to Rio and said the integrity of the 2016 Olympics and future games is in jeopardy.

"This is widespread corruption, not individual, not a group, not one sport," Fahey said during a telephone interview. "It's a conspiracy of the state through the ministry of sport, the anti-doping organization and their security service and the previously accredited Moscow lab. They have all conspired to bring this about. The only way you can support the clean athletes who will

be competing is to make it known that widespread cheating will not be tolerated." The International Olympic Committee's executive board will meet via teleconference Sunday to consider whether Russia, host of the Winter Games at Sochi in 2014, will compete at the Summer Games next month. The IOC is examining the legal options of a blanket ban following a report by WADA investigator Richard McLaren that accused Russia's sports ministry of overseeing doping of athletes.

State-run doping scheme

McLaren's report uncovered a state-run doping scheme that implicated 28 sports, both summer and winter, and ran from 2011 to 2015. The investigation told of 312 positive tests that

Russia's deputy minister of sport directed lab workers not to report to WADA. Russia's intelligence service was also involved, the report said. It also provided further details of the swapping of samples to protect Russian dopers, including medalists, at the Sochi Games.

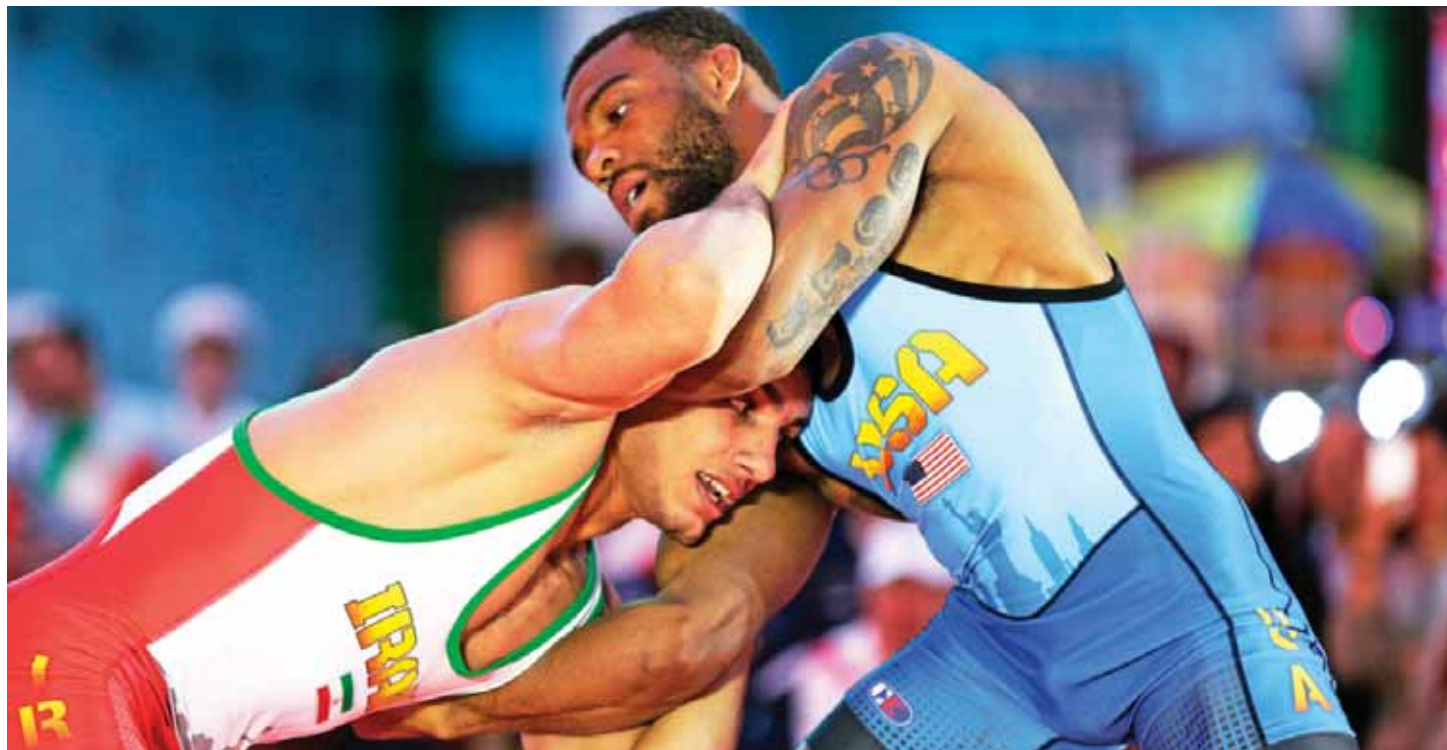
Yesterday, the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled against Russia's appeal to overturn an IAAF ban on 68 track and field athletes imposed by the IAAF for the Rio Games. The IOC will likely take that ruling into account before making its own decision on Sunday. "But really, it never should have gotten that far based on what Russia has been accused of the past two years," Fahey said in the interview before the CAS decision was released. — AFP

BOLT READY FOR KEY TEST AHEAD OF RIO

LONDON: Usain Bolt insists he is ready for his first 200 meters of the season in the Anniversary Games today as the star sprinter tests his fitness ahead of the Rio Olympics. Bolt, a six-time Olympic champion, faces a key stage of his fitness recovery when he races for the first time since pulling out of the Jamaican trials with a hamstring strain. "I'm good, I'm feeling good, been training good now, I'm happy with where I am," Bolt told reporters in London on Thursday. "My hamstring is good, I have no issue right now. I know I'm in good shape."

Bolt's outing at the Olympic Stadium, the scene of his three Olympic gold medal wins at London 2012 in the 100m, 200m and sprint relay, will be his last before the Games. The 29-year-old has set his sights on an unprecedented 'triple triple' of Olympic crowns in what will likely be his last Games. "I'll definitely be there, I'm excited to go," Bolt said of the Olympics, which get underway in Brazil on August 5. "This is where history is going to be made, I'm excited to put on a show for the entire world to see. This is my final Olympics, it's a big one."

Despite doubters questioning his fitness, Bolt points to his triumph at last year's World Championships in Beijing when he trailed Justin Gatlin in the 100m and 200m world rankings, only to leave China with the complete set of gold medals. "I'm definitely a tough competitor," Bolt said. "Last year Gatlin was just not ready, it was the first time he was being chased. "It was hard for him, but this year is not going to be the same, I am in much better shape, so I won't leave it to the last second." — AFP



NEW YORK: In this May 19, 2016, file photo, Iran's Pehman Yarahmadi, left, grapples with Jordan Burroughs of the United States in a 163-pound match during the Beat the Streets wrestling exhibition. — AP

STAR JORDAN BURROUGHS KEY TO WRESTLING'S POPULARITY PUSH

LINCOLN: Jordan Burroughs used his gold-medal moment at the 2012 Olympics in London to emerge as one of wrestling's biggest stars. A year later, the world's oldest sport turned to Burroughs to help save its future. "They needed someone who was consistent, who was marketable, who was eloquent enough in their speech and articulate enough to engage with the media, and who was interested in engaging with the fans via social media," Burroughs said. "It was amazing timing for me."

Burroughs' charismatic personality, electric wrestling style and savvy use of social media has made him the face of the sport and one of the biggest stars the US will send to next month's Rio Games. In fact, he's become the rare wrestler to transcend a sport that in the past often closed itself off to outsiders. Burroughs has even garnered media attention and endorsements typically reserved for gymnasts, swimmers and track stars - just three years after wrestling briefly was booted from future Olympic games by the IOC in part because it was seen as unappealing to modern viewers.

Burroughs is indeed a whiz online, with over 230,000 followers on Instagram, 170,000 on Facebook and over 140,000 on Twitter attracted in part to his family-friendly persona. The fact that Burroughs always seems to be smiling in a sport where intimidating stares are ubiquitous has only added to his appeal. He's especially popular in

wrestling-mad Iran, which sent him a traditional Persian blanket after the recent birth of his second child - even though Iranian Hassan Yazdani is one of Burroughs' biggest rivals.

It's a gift that Burroughs keeps on the mantle of his fireplace in his home in Lincoln, Nebraska. "We respect his personality, and that's just as important as his athletic skills," United World Wrestling president Nenad Lalovic said. "He became a superstar. He's a great fighter, and he deserves all the plaudits that he gets." While Burroughs' persona made him a hit outside of wrestling, those within the sport have long been drawn to his perseverance and grit.

Classic underdog

Burroughs was a classic underdog, a scrawny high schooler from New Jersey who signed with Nebraska after being overlooked by bigger-name programs. It took a few years for Burroughs to grow into his body and refine a style highlighted by his "double-leg" takedown, akin to a sack in football. As a junior, Burroughs hit his stride and cruised to his first NCAA title. He returned two years later, following a serious knee injury, as the best wrestler in the country, going 36-0 while earning universal respect from a wrestling community with a soft spot for kids who emerge from less traditional powers.

Burroughs earned the world's respect just six months later by winning a world championship in his first try. In 2012, the Olympic spotlight allowed Burroughs' personality to emerge. He adopted the

Twitter handle @alliseeisgold, a cocky moniker more suited for a boxer. But Burroughs backed it up, later joking that he'd "double-leg the Queen" after winning gold in London. Burroughs' budding popularity proved crucial during the sport's biggest crisis. Burroughs learned that the IOC had dropped wrestling from the Olympic program starting in 2020 while in an airport in Germany. He took to Facebook that day to share his thoughts in a post that soon helped crystallize the hastily-assembled "Save Olympic Wrestling" movement.

"If wrestling is axed, it will be tough to look kids in the eye for the rest of my life and tell them that they can't follow their dreams anymore, they're no longer Olympic hopefuls. They've lost to an opponent that they've never had a shot against," Burroughs wrote. The movement brought the international wrestling community together like never before. It worked: The IOC reinstated wrestling seven months later.

Still, the near-Olympic death sentence forced the sport to confront some problems that weren't easy to solve, chief among them a lack of marketable athletes. Burroughs, who's as popular on Instagram in Tehran and Moscow as he is in New York City, was clearly the guy who could change all that. But the newly-married star knew he had to keep winning, even though having two kids between London and Rio forced him to cut down his travel schedule and re-work his training routines.—AP

KOREA'S LEE'S WEIGHT MAY COST A TAEKWONDO GOLD

SEOUL: South Korea's two-time world taekwondo champion Lee Dae-Hoon has a weight problem when it comes to securing the Olympic title he craves. And it's a conundrum that has only two solutions: slim down or bulk up. A quirk of taekwondo is that its Olympic weight classes are different from those that feature in the Asian Games and World Championships.

Lee's natural fighting weight of 63 kilograms fits the latter, but for the Olympics he must choose to shift up or down. In London in 2012, he opted to shed five kilos and compete in the 58-kilogram division—a decision he now regrets and partially blames for his silver-medal finish. The rationale for dropping down was that his height would give him an advantage in the 58kg class, but the regimen sapped his energy and Lee says he ran out of power following two overtime bouts.

Most of his training for the London Games had been focused on making the chosen weight, which meant a sacrifice in terms of strength. "Even after I gained my weight back after the Olympics, I struggled because I had lost a lot of muscle," Lee, 24, told AFP following a training session at the Korea National Training Center in Seoul. With his sights firmly on gold in Rio, Lee and his trainers decided to make 68 kilos his "new normal" and he is currently ranked number one in the world at that weight division.

Lee admits the weight changes have been a challenge, but says he has "gained a lot of confidence" competing against and beating powerful fighters in the higher class. Lee was barely more than a toddler when he first tried out the sport at his father's taekwondo academy in Seoul 20 years ago. By the time he was 18, he was the youngest taekwondo fighter on the South Korean national team when he clinched a gold medal at the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, China.

With two world titles, two Asian Games gold medals and two Asian championships under his belt, the quest for gold in Rio is about securing his legacy as one of the sport's greats. The Korean martial art only became a full-time Olympic medal sport at the 2000 Games in Sydney, and South Korea currently tops the accumulated medal table with 10 golds. The sport's growing popularity has resulted in stronger competition, with fighters from Mexico and Iran among those grabbing top honors.

Lee knows there is a lot of pressure for him to deliver the country's first men's taekwondo Olympic title since 2008. "Many say I'm the number one Olympic gold hopeful, but I could lose and not bring home any medals," he said. "I will bring my best to each match, but at the same time I want to enjoy the Olympics to the fullest." — AFP



WIGAN: Manchester United's executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward (C) listens as Manchester United's Portuguese manager Jose Mourinho (L) talks with former Manchester United player Bobby Charlton following the pre-season friendly football match between Wigan Athletic and Manchester United at the DW stadium. — AFP

ALL EYES ON POGBA AS UNITED CHASE WORLD RECORD SWOOP

LONDON: Manchester United have stepped up their world record chase for Paul Pogba by reportedly thrashing out a huge financial package with his agent while the Juventus midfielder eagerly awaits developments in sun-kissed Miami. United manager Jose Mourinho has made Pogba his top transfer target as he bids to make a big impact in his first season at Old Trafford and a record-breaking £100 million (\$130 million, 119 million Euros) deal looks to have moved closer on Wednesday.

British media reported United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward pulled out of the club's pre-season tour to China to meet Pogba's agent Mino Raiola on Wednesday, when the pair negotiated a prospective five-year contract worth £220,000-per-week after tax. Although United are believed to have had an opening bid of £86 million rejected by Juventus, they are certain to test the Italian champions' resolve with an improved offer that would easily shatter the previous world record fee of £85 million paid by Real Madrid for Gareth Bale in 2013.

While Pogba's future is debated by some of football's leading powerbrokers, the man himself appeared completely unflustered by the hype while on holiday with Everton striker Romelu Lukaku, who is another of Raiola's clients. A series of social media posts by the star show Pogba soaking up the sunshine and working out in Miami, where he has also been pictured playing basketball while wearing a jersey of the recently crowned NBA champion Cleveland Cavaliers.

Determined to restore United to their former glory as he tries to erase the stain of his sacking by Chelsea last season, Mourinho has already spent more than £50 million on defender Eric Bailly from Villarreal and midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan, as well as recruiting former Paris Saint Germain forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic on a free transfer.

Courtship

But it is Mourinho's expensive courtship of Pogba which has developed into the most high-profile transfer saga of the close-season. While his capture would be a major coup, it would also be a source of a few rueful looks at Old Trafford after the 23-year-old was allowed to leave for Juventus on a free transfer just four years ago.

The Turin giants persuaded Pogba to turn his back on United in 2012 after he made just a handful of appearances in England and fell out with then manager Alex Ferguson, who slammed him for showing no respect to the club. Pogba has since emerged as one of the top midfielders in Europe, playing an integral part in the France side that reached the Euro 2016 final and helping Juventus win four successive Serie A titles. Juventus won't make the same mistake as United and have made it clear they want at least £100 million, plus £8 million in add-ons for Pogba.

Complicating matters for United and increasing their desire to tie up the transfer quickly is a potential bid from Real Madrid, whose French manager Zinedine Zidane is a confirmed admirer of Pogba. But Juventus boss Massimiliano Allegri insisted Pogba had a difficult decision to make because United can't match his club's domestic dominance at present and also don't have Champions League action to offer. "Anyone who has the opportunity to leave Juventus has to consider things very carefully, because right now Juve are among the top four European clubs," Allegri was quoted as saying by the Italian media. "This is not a selling club that just lets its players go. Pogba belongs to Juve and at the end of the day he too will want to win another Scudetto and hopefully the Champions League."

Mourinho tight lipped

Manchester United manager Jose

Mourinho admitted yesterday the club needs one more signing before the season starts but would not confirm it would be record target Paul Pogba. Media reports in the UK Wednesday suggested United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward had pulled out of the club's pre-season tour to China so he could meet and agree personal terms with Pogba's agent Mino Raiola.

Mourinho was asked directly at a news conference in Shanghai whether he could confirm the reports. "I don't confirm and I don't deny. I cannot tell you," Mourinho said on the eve of the International Champions Cup match against Borussia Dortmund in Shanghai today. "I don't think it's correct to speak about players of other clubs, and he's a Juventus player and not a Manchester United player."

"The only thing I can tell you is that my board, my directors they did fantastic work to do 75 percent of the job I asked them to do," said Mourinho. "I asked them for four players. To be more accurate I asked them for four or five players I need. I gave them a few options and they did for me 75 percent of the job with (Zlatan) Ibrahimovic, (Henrikh) Mkhitaryan and (Eric) Bailly and they have just 25 percent to do until the 31st of August. We are calm. We have three faces to fill the profile. I am confident Mr Woodward will get the player we need to get a good balance."

Mourinho has reportedly made French international Pogba his top transfer target as he bids to make a big impact in his first season at Old Trafford but it could cost the club a record-breaking £100 million (\$130 million, 119 million Euros) to land the midfielder. United are believed to have had an opening bid of £86 million rejected by Juventus and an improved offer could shatter the previous world record fee of £85 million paid by Real Madrid for Gareth Bale in 2013. —AFP

SHAW DUBS COMEBACK 'BEST FEELING EVER'

SHANGHAI: England defender Luke Shaw yesterday described his "emotional" comeback after 10 months out with a career-threatening injury as the "best feeling ever". The Manchester United left-back returned from a double leg fracture to play 45 minutes during last weekend's friendly at Wigan Athletic.

The 21-year-old is now looking forward to playing a full part in the club's pre-season tour of China and getting his career back on track under new Old Trafford boss Jose Mourinho. The tour kicks off with an International Champions Cup clash against Borussia Dortmund in Shanghai tomorrow and concludes against bitter derby rivals City in Beijing on Monday. Shaw sustained the horror injury against PSV Eindhoven in September 2015.

Speaking at a press conference in Shanghai yesterday, Shaw described how incredible it felt to play again. "It is the best feeling ever," Shaw told reporters before training with the United squad at the 80,000-capacity Shanghai Stadium in 38 Celsius (100 Fahrenheit) temperatures and high humidity. "When I had my first game on Saturday against Wigan, I felt so emotional. 'The way the crowd were with me, the cheers when I first had my first touch... you know that meant a lot to me. Obviously my family were there to see it and like I said it was the best feeling.'"

Shaw admitted at first he had feared he might never play again. "The first thoughts that went through my head were: 'Am I going to play football again?' and 'How long am I going to be out for?' 'Obviously as I was going through (rehabilitation) I knew I was coming back. I'm just going to look forward now and obviously my leg feels great and you know I just want to push on in this pre-season and get fully fit.'"

Meanwhile Mourinho defended his decision to let star striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic go on holiday to the USA instead of travelling with the rest of the squad to China. The Swedish hitman exited Euro 2016 earlier than many of his teammates who were training in the searing Shanghai sunshine yesterday. Mourinho said that all players had to be assessed differently as to how much of a summer break they needed. "The best suits are the suits by measure," said the Portuguese manager. "That's better than going to a shop and buying a suit that might fit you or might not. 'The players are the same. No two are the same. My decision with Zlatan is down to hours of study of him, with my coaches,'" added Mourinho. "He was out (of Euro 2016) one match before the English guys. The body and mind is different. Players prepare in a different way. 'I am trying to change the profile (of the team). The striker is the easy one to finish the puzzle.'" — AFP

MARIO GOETZE HEADS BACK TO DORTMUND

BERLIN: Germany's World Cup winning goalscorer Mario Goetze has returned to Borussia Dortmund after a frustrating three seasons with Bayern Munich, the clubs announced yesterday. The 24-year-old has never established himself with the German champions. The clubs did not give a transfer fee but Bild newspaper said Dortmund paid between 22 and 25 million Euros.

That would mean Bayern have booked a loss of about 13 million Euros on the price they paid for Goetze. Bayern president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge called the deal "a good solution for all sides". Goetze scored the winning goal in Germany's World Cup final triumph over Argentina in 2014. But under Pep Guardiola, he was often on the Bayern substitutes' bench. He was also often among the replacements for Germany at Euro 2016.

Bayern's new coach Carlo Ancelotti had hinted in recent weeks that he has told Goetze to find a new club. Dortmund fans repeatedly jeered Goetze when he appeared for Bayern against his old team. The player said he now has "a different view" of his decision to move. "I want to try to convince everyone with my performances, especially those who are welcoming me with open arms," he said. In recent weeks, Dortmund have lost defender Mats Hummels to Bayern, midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan to Manchester United and defender Ilkay Gundogan to Manchester City. — AFP

RODGERS HAILS CELTIC VICTORY

GLASGOW: Celtic manager Brendan Rodgers said he was delighted with his players after they sealed their place in the Champions League third qualifying round with a 3-0 victory over Gibraltar part-timers Lincoln Red Imps on Wednesday. Trailing 1-0 from the first leg following arguably their worst ever defeat, the Scottish champions turned the tie around thanks to three goals in six first half minutes from Mikel Lustig, Leigh Griffiths and Patrick Roberts to secure a 3-1 aggregate win.

The result helped make amends for last week's humiliating defeat in Gibraltar against a side that contained just five full-time professionals alongside a customs officer, fireman, a policeman and taxi driver in what was Rodgers' first competitive game in charge of the Hoops. And the former Liverpool boss insists he's happy with the steady improvement of his players.

"As I said last week and I know it might have sounded strange after losing the game I've been delighted with the players since I walked in," the Celtic manager said. "They've had to take in a lot in terms of training and I can see each day they're getting better in their fitness and technical approach to the game. "They've played a number of different structures already within pre-season which tells me they're coping well with what I'm giving them. "It certainly wasn't perfect there's a way to go for us in terms of where I want us to be. "But certainly I think there's some fluency and structural things within the team that were very pleasing. "It's just going to come through time. That cohesion within the team will get better once the fitness comes. "As I say they're not perfect but they're doing everything they can to improve and that's something that's really pleasing at this stage."

Tricky tie

Celtic, who are aiming to return to the Champions League group stages for the first time since 2013/14, now face a 6000-mile round trip to face Astana in the third round after the Kazakh side needed a late goal for a 2-1 win against Lithuanian side FK Zalgiris. Astana made the Champions League group stage for the first time last season and were unbeaten at home against Benfica, Galatasaray and eventual runners-up Atletico Madrid.

Rodgers said it was likely he would rest some key players for this weekend's match against English champions Leicester City in the International Champions Cup with the tricky tie in Kazakhstan in mind. "We have a game on Saturday and then we'll look forward to the trip next week which will be another difficult tie for us on a plastic pitch but we'll be ready for it," Rodgers said. "It's a case of trying to make sure the players recover. We have to be careful as we're trying to develop and improve the fitness and physical base but also respect we have some really important games. "We have to keep being relentless in our attempt to get physically strong and fit and that means work. "Apart from the six-hour flight, the five-hour time difference, the 35 degree heat and the plastic pitch with no water then it should be alright. "It's what's been thrown at us and we just have to adjust. We'll look to fly out on the Monday with the game on the Wednesday and just prepare ourselves the best we can. "It will be trying conditions but we have to find a way to get a performance and a result." — AFP

PEP'S REIGN STARTS WITH 1-0 DEFEAT AT BAYERN

MUNICH: Pep Guardiola's reign as Manchester City boss started with a 1-0 defeat in a friendly at his former club Bayern Munich on Wednesday in a game watched by 68,000 fans. Erdal Ozturk scored the only goal of the game in the 76th minute although both sides were under-strength and undercooked at the Allianz Arena with many of the leading players enjoying longer summer vacations following Euro 2016 and the Copa America.

Belgian international Vincent Kompany was an unused substitute for City after recovering from the thigh surgery which kept out of the Belgium team at the Euros. "I had a special feeling it was like coming home once again," said Guardiola who has been replaced at Bayern by Carlo Ancelotti. "I had three really great years here and it was great to come back. You've got a great manager and so many great players and I'm going to enjoy your matches on TV-all the best." — AFP



SUNDERLAND: In this Saturday, Nov 7, 2015 file photo, Sunderland's manager Sam Allardyce awaits the start of their English Premier League soccer match between Sunderland and Southampton at the Stadium of Light. — AP

BIG SAM SET FOR ENGLAND JOB CONFIRMS FA CHAIRMAN DYKE

LONDON: Sam Allardyce is set to be hired as the new England manager at a Football Association board meeting at Wembley yesterday, FA chairman Greg Dyke said. Allardyce has been selected by a three-man panel who decided the Sunderland boss was the best bet on a short-list that also included Hull manager Steve Bruce, Bournemouth chief Eddie Howe and USA coach Jurgen Klinsmann.

It has been reported that the FA's first choice was Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, but when he snubbed their approach, Allardyce, who had received a strong recommendation from former Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson, shot to the top of their list of candidates to replace Roy Hodgson.

Dyke is due to step down after three years as FA chairman yesterday but, although he was not involved in the head-hunting process, he will be present as FA chief executive Martin Glenn and vice-chairman David Gill present their reasons for nominating Allardyce. Asked if Allardyce was the man to take over from Hodgson, who quit after

England's humiliating Euro 2016 defeat against Iceland, Dyke told Sky Sports News: "Clearly the three-man group are convinced he's the right man and I go along with that, yes.

"We appointed a three-man committee to go out and look at all the candidates, come back with a recommendation who they thought was the best man. They've taken that decision and obviously we'll agree with them. "I think you'd have to ask them but as far as I understand it that's the discussion." Once that is ratified the business of finalizing the details will take precedence - with personal terms still to be settled and a compensation package for Sunderland among the outstanding issues.

Longer partnership

All parties would prefer for a swift resolution, with the new Premier League season on the horizon and England's World Cup qualifying campaign beginning on September 4, but it is possible an official announcement on Allardyce's appointment may could be held up by

negotiations. The Black Cats have already made their unhappiness clear and could hold out for a sizeable pay-off. Allardyce took charge of Sunderland for what should be the final time during a 3-0 friendly win over Hartlepool on Wednesday, but did not re-emerge for the second half as news of his impending appointment broke. It is thought Allardyce will be offered an initial two-year deal up to the end of the 2018 World Cup campaign.

But Glenn is hoping for a longer partnership and intends to integrate Allardyce into the wider FA system, working alongside coaches of the national age-group sides from Under-16s upwards. Sven-Goran Eriksson was the last England manager to enjoy a run of relative success and the Swede has backed Allardyce to get the national team back on track after the last two miserable tournaments under Hodgson.

When the Swede left his post 10 years ago, Allardyce came second to Steve McClaren in the race to succeed him but is now within touching distance of his dream job. —AFP

SPAIN APPOINTS NEW MANAGER

MADRID: Former Porto boss Julen Lopetegui was appointed manager of Spain yesterday, replacing World Cup and European championship winning head coach Vicente del Bosque. "The Royal Spanish Football Federation has named Julen Lopetegui as new national manager," the national team announced on its official website in a brief statement. The former goalkeeper, who achieved lukewarm success on the pitch, retired from professional football in 2002.

He became coach of Rayo Vallecano-a team in Spain's second tier division where he had last played before retiring. He then moved on to Real Madrid where he coached its

reserve team Castilla, the same post that Zinedine Zidane held before moving on to managing the A-team. The 49-year-old subsequently coached the national team's under-19s, under-20s and under-21s. And then he moved to FC Porto where he remained until January this year, when he was sacked for not getting good enough results. The post became vacant after Del Bosque resigned following Spain's defeat to Italy in the Euro 2016 last 16. Former Real Madrid boss Del Bosque led Spain to the 2010 World Cup and Euro 2012 titles, after taking over from Euro 2008-winning coach Luis Aragones. — AFP



www.kuwaittimes.net

Sports

FRIDAY, JULY 22, 2016

BEIJING: In this Aug 19, 2008 file photo Russian pole vaulter Yelena Isinbayeva shows her gold medal during an awarding ceremony of the women's pole vault in the National Stadium at the Beijing 2008 Olympics. — AP

Sports tribunal keeps Rio ban for Russia athletes