

Playing cricket in open yards legal: Municipality



Defiant Turkey extends police powers, shuts schools after coup



Russian balloonist sets world record for circumnavigation



Bolt eases to victory, Harrison hurdles to glory



KUWAIT BEING SWEEPED BY 'ABNORMAL' HEAT WAVE

MITRIBAH RECORDS HOTTEST EVER TEMPERATURE OF 54 C



Min 35°
Max 47°
High Tide 03:05 & 14:13
Low Tide 08:44 & 20:23



40 PAGES

AMIR COMMENDS OFFICIALS OVER HUGE DRUG BUST

KUWAIT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah on Friday sent a cable to acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah, congratulating him and ministry officials on thwarting an attempt to smuggle a huge amount of Captagon pills into the country. The Amir praised Sheikh Mohammad, the ministry undersecretary and officials at the Drugs Control General Department for the diligent and sincere efforts that led to a successful operation.



HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

The Amir also sent a cable to Deputy Prime Minister, Finance Minister and acting Oil Minister Anas Al-Saleh, congratulating him and finance ministry officials on contributing to thwart the smuggling attempt. He also praised Saleh and officials at the General Administration of Customs for their diligent and sincere efforts.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: Pedestrians brave the blazing sun amid a heat wave that has raised temperatures to unprecedented levels. A recent international report identified Kuwait as one of the hottest spots on earth this year. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KUWAIT: The northwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula was swept by an abnormal heat wave during the past two days, particularly in Kuwait and Iraq, with temperatures soaring over 50 degrees Celsius, a senior meteorologist said yesterday. These unprecedented temperature levels are most likely caused by the El Nino phenomenon's recent impact on air masses in the atmosphere, Essa Ramadan, meteorologist and consultant at the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), told KUNA.

Temperatures in Kuwait reached 54 degrees Celsius last week, making Thursday the hottest day ever recorded. The blistering temperature was recorded in Mitribah in Kuwait. Weather historian Christopher C Burt, with the private Weather Underground, said the temperature is the hottest "ever reliably measured air temperatures on Earth". Kuwait's reading ties Death Valley's 54 degrees Celsius (129.2 Fahrenheit) one, which was measured on June 30, 2013 as the hottest reliably measured on Earth, Burt added. Many other higher temperatures have been reported in the past but none are credible, he said.

El Nino has affected the region significantly in the past, Ramadan noted yesterday, pointing out the heavy rains in 1997 and the abnormal heat wave in 1998 with 51.4 C recorded at Kuwait International Airport at that time.



Essa Ramadan

Continued on Page 13



MUNICH: People take shelter as armed police officers are on the hunt for possible fugitives after a shooting in a shopping mall on Friday. — AP

MUNICH GUNMAN 'OBSESSED' WITH MASS KILLINGS: POLICE

GERMAN-IRANIAN HAD NO IS TIES

MUNICH: The teenager who shot dead nine people in a gun rampage in Munich was "obsessed" with mass killers like Norwegian rightwing fanatic Anders Behring Breivik and had no links to the Islamic State group, police said yesterday. Europe reacted in shock to the third attack on the continent in just over a week, after 18-year-old David Ali Sonboly went on a shooting spree at a shopping center on Friday in what appears to have been a premeditated attack, before turning the gun on himself.

Officials said Sonboly, a German-

Iranian student, had a history of mental illness. Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said the teenager had likely hacked a girl's Facebook account and used it to lure victims to the McDonald's outlet where he began his rampage. "There is absolutely no link to the Islamic State," Munich police chief Hubertus Andrae said, with prosecutors describing the assault as a "classic act by a deranged person". Investigators see an "obvious link" between Friday's killings and Breivik's massacre of 77 people

Continued on Page 13

TWIN IS BLASTS KILL 80 IN KABUL

ERDOGAN'S MASS APPEAL SAVED HIM ON NIGHT OF COUP

ISTANBUL: More than his security forces, what saved Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the night of the coup attempt was the extraordinary devotion the charismatic strongman inspires among his followers. In the tense hours when rebel troops attacked with fighter jets and tanks, and commandos were closing in on him, Erdogan called directly on the Turkish people to resist the mutineers. Using the social media he previously despised, and sometimes blocked, he mobilized the citizens who confronted and stopped the plotters.

"What makes Erdogan different is that he knew the people would move when he asked them to," said Can Acun, a researcher with Turkish think-tank SETA. "He was aware of the strong linkage between him and the people that he had strengthened through long years." Having risen from working-class roots, Erdogan served as Istanbul mayor and went on to lead the nation, as premier and then president, in a success story celebrated by his loyal Muslim conservative base.

The surreal turning point of the coup for millions of stunned TV viewers therefore came when the strongman appeared pale-faced on CNN television, from the seaside resort of Marmaris where he was holidaying with his family. Speaking via the FaceTime app on a smartphone held up to the TV camera by star presenter Hande Firat, he implored the Turkish people to "take to the streets" and defend democracy.

Continued on Page 13

KABUL: Islamic State militants claimed responsibility for twin explosions yesterday that ripped through crowds of Shiite Hazaras in Kabul, killing at least 80 people and wounding 231 others in the deadliest attack in the Afghan capital since 2001. The bombings during a huge protest over a power line mark the first major IS assault on Kabul, apparently aimed at sowing sectarian discord in a country well known for Shiite-Sunni harmony. Charred bodies and dismembered limbs littered the scene of the attack,

with ambulances struggling to reach the site as authorities had overnight blocked key intersections with stacked shipping containers to control movement of the protesters.

"As a result of the attack 80 people were martyred and 231 others were wounded," the interior ministry said. "The attack was carried out by three suicide bombers... The third attacker was gunned down by security forces." The wounded overwhelmed city hospitals,

Continued on Page 13



KABUL: An Afghan protester screams near the scene of a suicide attack that targeted crowds of Hazaras during a demonstration at the Deh Mazang Circle yesterday. — AFP



MIAMI: Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and her running mate Sen Tim Kaine arrive at a rally at Florida International University Panther Arena yesterday. — AP

CLINTON PICKS KAINE AS RUNNING MATE

MIAMI: Hillary Clinton and newly-named running mate Tim Kaine hit the campaign trail together yesterday in the first test of the Democratic presidential team as the battle to beat Donald Trump in November enters its final stretch. The former first lady tapped Kaine, 58, late Friday in what was widely seen as a safe but wise choice in a brutal election race: The popular Spanish-speaking senator from the swing state of Virginia is a political veteran and foreign policy hand who ticks a lot of boxes.

Kaine himself jokes that he is "boring" - but the senator could help Clinton lock in two key voting blocs: Hispanics and his battleground home state. With working-class roots and a spotless record both as governor and senator, he is also seen as helping Clinton garner support among reluctant independent male vot-

ers - although at risk of alienating the party's progressive left wing. The two rallied supporters in Miami yesterday afternoon. Fellow Democrats widely applauded Clinton's choice of a man who she said has "devoted his life to fighting for others".

The Democratic Party sent out a fundraising appeal yesterday signed by US President Barack Obama, calling Kaine an "optimist" and "progressive fighter". "He's the son of a teacher and an iron worker who's always got working families on his mind," the letter said. "And when a gunman killed 32 people on the campus of Virginia Tech (in 2007), Tim knew he had a responsibility as governor to offer more than thoughts and prayers to the community he mourned with - and as a gun owner, he stood up to the gun lobby on their behalf."

Kaine also has strong ties to the African-

American community, dating back to his work as a civil rights lawyer. Major labor and pro-Democratic groups also praised the Kaine pick, including Planned Parenthood, AFL-CIO and other big unions, and the Sierra Club. Clinton "understands how important that dynamic is between the vice president and the president, and I don't think she wants to saddle herself with someone who might be helpful for the next four months and unhelpful for the next four or eight years," former Obama advisor David Axelrod told CNN.

"He also is a United States senator who serves on both the Foreign Relations Committee and the Armed Services Committee, and is very fluent in national security issues which is going to be increasingly important apparently in this election."

Continued on Page 13



NOUAKCHOTT: Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Sabah heads the Kuwaiti delegation at a preparatory meeting of Arab foreign ministers held ahead of the 27th Arab Summit. — KUNA

AMIR HEADS TO MAURITANIA FOR 27TH ARAB SUMMIT

SYRIAN CONFLICT TAKES CENTER STAGE

KUWAIT/NOUAKCHOTT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and the accompanying delegation will leave Austria today, heading to Nouakchott, Mauritania, to partake in the 27th Arab summit. The Syrian conflict, which erupted in 2011, will be heavily focused upon in the upcoming summit.

With the Syrian regime continuing to use unjustified force against civilians and Russia carpet-bombing and killing many innocent people, Syria's conflict continues to be the most prominent matter that Arab leaders need to address until a resolution is reached.

Situation in Syria

In the Arab summits held in Baghdad, Doha, Kuwait, and Sharm El-Sheikh between 2012 and 2015, Arab leaders called for the end of the situation in Syria through regional and international efforts led by the UN. The right of the Syrian people to choose their government was also an issue that most Arab leaders raised during the previous summits. They called on the international community to recognize the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces as the sole representative of the people. The Arab leaders took note of the generous initiatives launched by His Highness the Amir through the various donors' conference for Syrian organized in Kuwait and elsewhere. The upcoming summit in Nouakchott will be yet another chance for the Arab leaders to address this grave matter in hopes that the Syrian people will finally have peace in their country.

Preparatory meeting

The preparatory meeting of Arab foreign ministers began yesterday ahead of the summit. Kuwait's First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah heads the Kuwaiti delegation to the ministerial meeting which will prepare all the paper work needed for the summit, including the final communique.

Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit indicated in remarks yesterday that among the agenda topics which will be discussed by the foreign ministers will be fighting terrorism, the Syrian crisis, the Palestinian conflict, the situations in Iraq, Yemen, and Libya. Moreover, he

stressed the importance of implementing reforms that support joint Arab cooperation, particularly at this juncture in the history of the region where the threat of terrorism has become palpable. Regarding the Palestinian problem, he said it was high time that new fundamentals be reached to coax ahead the peace process and the realization of a two-state solution. He



His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah

warned that the Syrian crisis, with its myriad complications, was in a great part directly responsible for disconcerting regional peace and stability. Further, he underscored the urgent need for speedy political solutions to the turbulent situations in Iraq, Yemen, and Libya.

Joint action

Meanwhile, Mauritania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Isselkou Ould Ahmed Izid Bih said that the Arab summit would be distinguished with activation of pan-Arab cooperation and dealing with the nation's crises.

Minister Izid Bih, whose country chairs the current summit, said in a statement at the preparatory ministerial meeting that among the most major problems that need to be addressed at the gathering is violence spread "targeting

the unguarded minds," in addition to mushrooming sectarianism, arms proliferation and collapse of States' institutions.

"Such a situation warrants that we revise current policies and seek conciliations, cordially, for the sticking issues," he said. He called on Arab states to map out strategies "that address social, cultural and economic dimensions for man's security," urged for boosting cooperation with regional and international organizations and states, namely the African countries.

Palestinian cause remains the top priority for the Arab League, Izid Bih said, affirming that the Arab organization relentlessly seeks to reach a just and viable peace in the region, based on ending Israeli occupation of Palestinian and Arab territories. He expressed hope that the new summit would launch a new phase for inter-Arab action based on solidarity, renouncing differences and realizing national conciliations.

In the meantime, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shukry said his country is looking forward to bolstering joint Arab action to face current challenges namely terrorism. He called on the Arab states to boost common action at the political, social and economic levels.

The ministers discussed a 16-topic agenda, including the Palestinian question, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, the Iran-occupied UAE islands, Turkish forces' breach of Iraqi territories, combating terrorism, overhauling the Arab League, joint social and economic action.

Egyptian revolution

In other news, His Highness the Amir yesterday congratulated Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi on the advent of the July 23rd revolution anniversary. His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah and National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem sent similar cables.

Separately, His Highness the Amir Friday extended condolences for Mahmoud Abbas, President of Palestine and PLO's Executive Committee Chairman, for the passing away of his brother, Omar. His Highness the Crown and His Highness the Prime Minister also sent cables of condolences to Abbas. —KUNA

AMIR CONDEMNS MUNICH SHOPPING MALL SHOOTING

KUWAIT/BERLIN: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah Friday strongly condemned the shooting in a shopping mall in the German city of Munich, which reportedly killed and wounded a number of people. His Highness the Amir, in a cable to German Chancellor Angela Merkel, said the shooting targeted innocent civilians and was in contradiction with human values.

His Highness the Amir reiterated Kuwait's support to the German government's measures against these criminal acts, in order to restore security and stability. He expressed the State of Kuwait's solidarity with the international community to confronting all forms of terrorism and addressing its finances. His Highness the Amir extended condolences for families of the victims, and wished speedy recovery for the injured.

His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah condemned the shooting in the shopping mall. His Highness Sheikh Nawaf, in a cable to Merkel, extended condolences for families of the victims and wished rapid recovery for the wounded. His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent a similar cable.

Heinous assault

Meanwhile, National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanem has strongly condemned the deadly shooting attack at a shopping mall in Munich. In a cable sent to President of the Bundestag (the German parliament) Norbert Lammert, Ghanem expressed condolences and sympathy with the relatives of the innocent victims of the heinous assault. Such an act runs counter to all religious teachings and humanitarian values, he stressed.

The chief lawmaker voiced Kuwait's people solidarity with the German people in their fight against terrorism or any act that aims to destabilize their country or jeopardize their safety. He reiterated that the recent spate of terror attacks which hit several parts of the world shows that terror groups have become more organized and their menace is growing and threatening the whole world. The international community has to intensify its efforts and coordination and prioritize global security issues to eliminate the terror threat, he added. At least eight people have been killed and several others injured in Munich.

The State of Kuwait had strongly condemned on Friday the 'criminal act' of shooting which targeted innocents in Munich. A source at the Foreign Ministry expressed in a statement Kuwait's strong

condemnation and denouncement of the shooting incident which killed and wounded several people.

This 'heinous' crime reflects the brutality of terrorist organizations which target humanity security and the world's stability, it said, stressing the importance of concerted international efforts to fight this 'dangerous' scourge. The source reiterated Kuwait's support for Germany in all measures taken to maintain its security and stability. The source expressed sincere condolences to Germany, wishing the injured a speedy recovery.

Kuwaitis safe

Kuwait's Ambassador to Germany Munther Al-Essa reassured yesterday that all Kuwaiti citizens in Munich are safe and sound. "After consulting with the German authorities, we can verify that no Kuwaitis were amongst the fatalities of this criminal attack," Essa said in a statement. "We remain in contact with the authorities to ensure the safety of our citizens," he added. The Kuwaiti diplomat deplored the 'criminal' attack, as he wished a speedy recovery for those wounded.

Avoid crowds

In the meantime, Kuwait's Foreign Ministry urged citizens in Munich to stay away from crowds and abide by instructions issued by the official authorities, following a shooting incident in a shopping mall Friday. A ministry source urged citizens who needed assistance to contact Kuwait's Consulate General in Frankfurt on: (+49) 915-208-001-100. They can also contact the ministry's emergency numbers: (+965) 9800-7999 and (+965) 9800-7888.

The foreign ministry also urged citizens who needed assistance to contact Kuwait's embassy in Berlin on: (+49) 162-166-677-9, (+49) 160-717-777-9, (+49) 160-897-300-0. They can also contact Kuwait's Consulate General in Frankfurt on: (+49) 915-208-001-100, (+49) 162-866-661-6, (+49) 163-944-494-4. They can also contact ministry's emergency numbers: (+965) 9800-7999 and (+965) 9800-7888.

Furthermore, Kuwait's Embassy in Germany advised Kuwaiti nationals residing or visiting Germany to be vigilant and stay indoors following the attack. In a press statement, the embassy also urged nationals to follow up local Germany media, especially Deutsche Welle and official local social networking sites. The embassy also urged nationals to abide by instructions of security and other local authorities for their safety. If they want help, they can call the embassy on the following number: (+49) 160-897-300-0. —KUNA



MUNICH: In this Friday, July 22, 2016 photo provided by Wael Ladki, people take shelter as armed police officers are on the hunt for possible fugitives after a shooting in a shopping mall in Munich, southern Germany. — AP



KUWAIT: Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait Yasser Atif hosted a ceremony recently to celebrate the July 23rd Egyptian revolution's anniversary. Government officials led by Minister of Education and Minister of Higher Education Dr Bader Al-Essa, diplomats and other dignitaries attended the event. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



PLAYING CRICKET IN OPEN YARDS LEGAL: MUNICIPALITY NO INTENTION TO TERMINATE EXPATS AT PAAET

By A Saleh

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi said fields used by the Asian community in open sandy areas to play cricket are not in violation and are OK to exist. He said these pitches are the same as football grounds in open sandy areas used by youth to play, provided that rules are adhered to. Meanwhile, Manfouhi sent the answer of the legal department to a question of member Mane Al-Ajmi that the municipal council decision is in effect and is being applied, and that complaints mentioned in the municipal

council letter that included claims that licenses are not being issued are untrue, and the legal department answered all appeals and complaints.

Expat workers

Director General of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training (PAAET) Ahmad Al-Athari said there is no intention to terminate expatriates working in administrative affairs at the authority to make room for Kuwaitis. He said the number of expats at PAAET is small and recruitment will open after the budget of appointments is approved. He said the authority will

select around 150 teachers out of 3,000 who applied to join the training faculty since applications opened in Ramadan, adding that PAAET will check the names of applicants to start holding interviews at the start of the school season.

Meanwhile, the Dean of Admissions and Registration at PAAET Rabah Al-Najda said the number of those admitted for the physical education major will be increased from 300 to 700 students. She said this comes at the request of the physical education department at the Basic Education College. She said that the number of female seats have been increased in PE

from 150 to 250 students because of the high number of applicants for this major.

Gold market

Commerce and Industry Minister Yousuf Al-Ali is considering several designs related to develop the gold market in Kuwait, to select one of them to start the development process. The proposed development according to the engineering designs include having the gold market building integrated with the gold kilns, which requires increasing the market's area from 1,200 sq m to nearly 2,000 sq m.



KUWAIT INTERIOR PERSONNEL ARREST 4 PERSONS WITH ARMS

KUWAIT: Ministry of Interior (MoI) personnel have detained four persons with guns and ammunition concealed at their houses, the MoI said in a statement yesterday. The personnel raided the house after examining authenticity of some certifications

granted to individuals and companies. During the search, it was revealed that a citizen had falsified permit for purchasing bullets. Inspectors searched the suspects' homes where they found caches of ammunition and an unlicensed pistol. —KUNA

NEW VIOLATIONS DISCOVERED IN SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SCAM

By Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: Minister of Social Affairs and Labor and State Minister for Planning and Development Affairs Hind Al-Subaih said the task force following up with the social assistance scam at the ministry, which previously discovered violations worth millions of dinars, continued checking violations and discovered new ones estimated at thousands of cases where money is paid undeservedly.

Subaih said the newly-discovered cases include several categories that deserve aid including divorced women, university students, families of students abroad and rent allowance, besides discovering thousands of cases who were asked to update their records to make sure they still deserve aid but did not respond within the two-month period given to them, which is a clear indication that these cases are receiving aid unlawfully. Subaih said the number of new suspect cases is over 1,075, where doubts have been raised about them because of the presence of more than nine divorced women and other categories in one family, and these cases are repeated in more than 200 families, where the number of those who deserve aid in them varies between 4 to 9 divorced women, and these cases are being examined to make sure they deserve aid or not.

She said among the new suspect cases are nearly 2,000 cases of university students and families of students abroad and locally, because it was discovered that large number of students have dropped out of schools and others whose study period



Social Affairs Minister Hind Al-Subaih

ended over eight years ago. Procedures to stop the aid are being taken.

Shrimping season

Kuwait Fishermen Union said the shrimping season in international waters will start on Aug 1, adding that the union took undertakings from license owners and boat skippers to comply with the laws and Amiri decrees. The union's chairman Thaher Al-Suwayan said the union is keen on caring for the interests of all fishermen. Therefore, he asked customs officials to allow fishermen enter the sea from Shamlan and Fahaheel bays, because half of the boats are in Fahaheel Bay and belong to the union. He added that there are around 120 boats there, and demanded that they be allowed to enter Shuaiba port instead of Doha at the start of the season, because Fahaheel has a fish market that covers the southern areas.

MUNICIPALITY, INTERIOR DISCUSS LEGAL COORDINATION

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Kuwait Municipality Director General Ahmad Al-Manfouhi held a meeting with Major General Dr Fahad Al-Dousari, Director General of the Interior Ministry's Criminal Investigations Department. Legal advisors and others officials from both state departments attended the meeting, which took place last Thursday. The two sides discussed the current mechanism in regards to municipal violations, which are sent from the legal department in the municipality to the investigations department to carry out general prosecution. Discussions further covered some legal loopholes that violators take to their advantage.

Law amended

Interior Ministry Undersecretary Lieutenant General Suleiman Al-Fahad issued a circular to amend law number 35/2016, which includes the period that arrested suspects can be remanded in custody in felony and misdemeanor cases, as well as explaining the procedures to jail the suspect on precautionary basis as far as the length of detention and the authority to do so goes. Following the amendment, the first item in the second paragraph in article 60 of the law now reads "it is not allowed to keep the arrested person detained for more than four days in felony cases and 48 hours in misdemeanor cases, without a written order from the investigator."



HUMAN RIGHTS IN BALANCE

Local Spotlight



By Muna Al-Fuzai

muna@kuwaittimes.net

The world is too busy confronting terrorism these days, whether internal or external, so the issue of preserving human rights is no longer a top priority. In fact, it has become a source of contradiction among governments in the East and West. Reality confirms that people follow news of coups, but it does not take a lot of time for the world to forget the event and leave it to the authorities to punish those who were involved or eliminate opponents, whether guilty or not.

Last week, the world became occupied with the coup attempt in Turkey, especially after having raised many concerns over human rights. Many countries have called on the Turkish authorities to preserve the rights of the arrested people, whether investigations prove that they were part of the attempt or not, as they are entitled to their human rights. Turkey's deputy prime minister said on Thursday that Ankara will suspend the European Convention on Human Rights temporarily as France did, after declaring a state of emergency in the country.

The chaos in any system in the world after a coup makes it difficult to identify the masterminds, and because of this, many innocent people fall victim to injustice. The repeated political and military coup attempts in the Arab and Islamic world have made talk about killing people seem normal, which shouldn't be so.

Syria, a close neighbor of Turkey, has been conducting daily massacres for years. The UN envoy in Syria warned about the deterioration of the situation there, particularly about 300,000 civilians who are in need of assistance. This number seems very small to those who have been murdering or torturing people over the past years, and warnings mean nothing to them.

For example, a few days ago, some human rights activists broadcasted a video of one of the Syrian opposition militias slaughtering a teenager, which led to a large wave of condemnation. Heads of these militias said that they will prosecute the perpetrators of the crime and condemned such acts as against the principles of the Syrian revolution, human rights and heavenly laws. Moreover, they will punish the offenders, but how? By killing them too? The result is the same - more death and violation of human dignity.

On Friday in Munich, a German man of Iranian descent killed nine innocent people in a shooting at a shopping center at the Olympia mall in the city and injured 16 others, including three who are in serious condition and two children. The shooter later killed himself, but people were killed for no reason, including kids.

All these crimes of terrorism, regardless of their intent, provoke fear within people and the recurrence of such incidents on a daily basis has turned it to normal news. This can get dangerous in the long run, because the number of dead people, whether innocents or criminals, will keep increasing, especially during wars.

Solutions are not impossible because controlling refugees from war zones in the Arab world is possible if they are free from psychological and mental illness regardless of age, sex and gender. Terrorism needs a new perspective and vision. It is becoming a cycle of sudden and random killings by people who may not be criminals but suffer from mental illness. They are like walking time-bombs ready to violate others' rights at any moment.

E-STAMPS BRING IN KD 17 MILLION: FINANCE MINISTER

KUWAIT: Sales of the e-stamps have brought in some KD 17 million (about \$56.21 million) for the Ministry of Finance since the service was introduced last year, according to a ministry statement yesterday.

Up to five million e-stamps have been sold since the ministry was tasked with implementing the cabinet resolution 13/2015, committing government bodies to applying the e-stamps system in all their activities, it added. Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry has recently launched the e-visa service as part of the efforts to provide the infrastructure for e-payment, to streamline obtaining government dues electronically.

The service is completed and fees are paid through e-stamps, in cooperation with the Shared Electronic Banking Co. (KNET), the statement noted. As of the FY 2017-2018, fees on all government services are to be paid through e-stamps. According to the relevant resolution. The service is now applied in 34 government bodies. —KUNA



KUWAIT: UN envoy for Yemen Ould Cheikh Ahmed meets with the Yemeni Government delegation. — KUNA

UN ENVOY HOLDS TALKS WITH YEMENI GOVT OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: The UN envoy for Yemen Ould Cheikh Ahmed held talks yesterday with the Yemeni Government delegation taking part in the peace consultations. The discussions are expected to focus on cessation of combat action in full in Yemen, activating the pacification committee, forming military committees that would be tasked with overseeing gunmen's withdrawal, guns' handover and opening safe passageways for delivering humanitarian supplies to

those in need. Cheikh Ahmed later met Kuwaiti diplomats to discuss the Yemeni issue. He also met the prisoners' committee and a team of the International Committee of the Red Cross to discuss relevant topics. The UN troubleshooter, expected to depart to Mauritania to attend the Arab summit due on Monday, will be back in Kuwait on Tuesday to pursue the UN-sponsored consultations involving representatives of the Yemeni parties. — KUNA



KUWAIT: The National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) held the first course of its 2016 summer training program, which is dedicated to university and school students aged between 14 and 21 years.

In Brief

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS IN UAE REACH KD 82 MLN

DUBAI: Kuwaiti investors had pumped more than one billion dirhams (KD 82 million) in UAE real estate market during the first half of 2016, Dubai Land Department report said yesterday. Kuwaiti investments came second with 743 deals on the Gulf level after Saudi Arabia which came first place, the report added. The report added that the total value of foreign investments from 127 different nationalities reached more than AED 28 billion during the first half of 2016, with more than 14,000 deals. — KUNA



ARAB LEAGUE COMMENDS AFESD

NOUAKCHOTT: Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) was commended Friday on its keenness to implement His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's initiative to finance Arab private sector and SMEs. This came during preparatory meeting of the Arab League's Economic and Social Council ahead of the 27th Arab Summit. A draft resolution of the meeting noted that the total sum of initiatives hit \$1.3 billion, while the accumulated loans reached \$1.1 billion in 12 Arab countries. — KUNA



ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

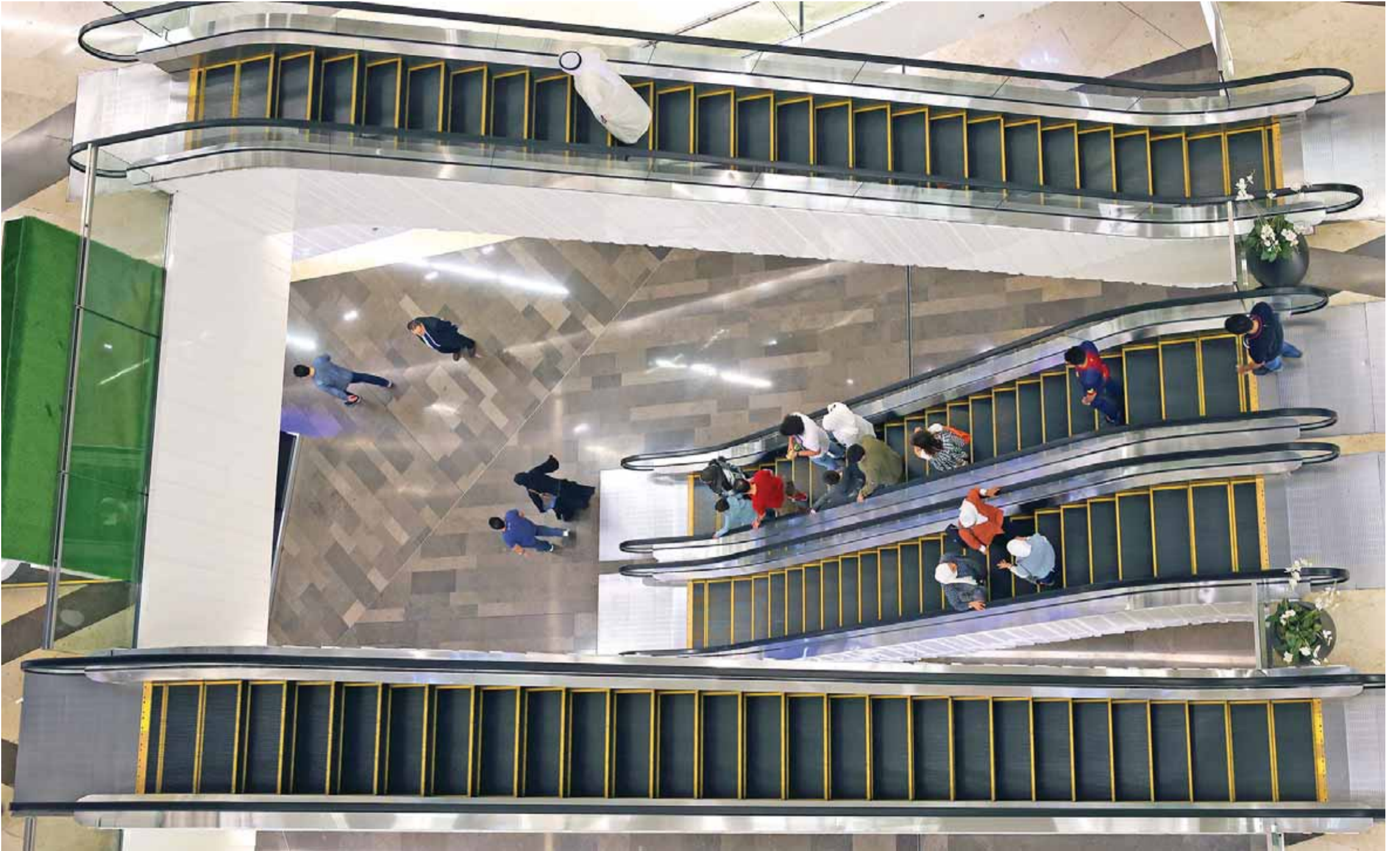
TANZANIAN MINISTER CALLS FOR COOPERATION

KUWAIT: Tanzanian Minister of Home Affairs Mwigulu Nchemba lauded cooperation with Kuwait, calling for boosting ties within the security domain, said a statement by the Embassy of Kuwait in Tanzania yesterday. According to the embassy, Minister Nchemba delivered this statement during his meeting with Ambassador Kuwait to Tanzania Jassem Al-Najem. Meanwhile, Najem lauded the level of cooperation with Tanzania, affirming that both nations were eager to pursue the development of ties within the security level. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: People use the escalators at Al-Hamra Mall in Kuwait City. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KRCS AIDS DISPLACED PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN IRBIL MORE AID DISTRIBUTED TO SYRIANS IN LEBANON

IRBIL/BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has handed out 800 food parcels to people with special needs in Irbil city, in Kurdistan region, Iraq. Charge d'Affaires of Kuwaiti consulate in Irbil Musaed Al-Kleb said yesterday that the consulate has initiated its 8th KRCS campaign under the guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and in line with his humanitarian initiative in aiding Iraqi people.

Earlier last week, Kuwait handed out 5,000 food rations for the displaced Iraqis in Kurdistan, through the KRCS, where international and local organizations predict that more replacement of civilians will occur due to military actions to liberate Mosul city.

Syrians in Lebanon

Meanwhile, KRCS has continued delivering relief supplies to Syrian families in a number of Lebanese regions. Anwar Al-Ali, the KRCS field team's leader, said yesterday that the aid was given to 250 families in Al-Rafid village, in the Western Bekaa, south-east of Beirut. The supplies included food, detergents, sweets and gifts for children.

Meanwhile, Yousef Boutros, operations coordinator of the Lebanese Red Cross (LRC), said the KRCS relief contributions have largely alleviated plight of hundreds of Syrian families that have set-

led up in Lebanese regions. He conveyed the refugees' gratitude to His Highness the Amir, the Kuwaiti Government and people for all what they have given. There are at least one million Syrian refugees in Lebanon, living in shanty towns in the eastern Bekaa valley and northern areas.

1,000 families

On Friday, KRCS launched a new relief campaign aimed at providing 1,000 Syrian refugee families with food and other necessities. Ali explained that the society gave supplies to 250 Syrian families in

Al-Muhammara in Akkar, northern Lebanon. The materials included detergents, gifts and sweets to children. He affirmed that the society is pursuing the operation of aiding the Syrian refugees, who have been enduring hard living conditions.

The Kuwaiti society started launching such campaign to relieve the Syrians shortly after flare-up of the Syrian crisis in 2011. Lebanon, a Mediterranean country with limited resources, hosts more one million Syrian refugees, many subsists on meager resources. — KUNA



IRBIL/BEIRUT: These handout photos released by the Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) shows KRCS workers deliver aid to displaced people with special needs in Irbil, Iraq, as well as Syrian refugees in Lebanon. — KUNA

kuwait digest

OBESITY MESSAGE

By Dr Ahmad Al-Saleh

Countries are keen on being advanced in the fields of science, literature and arts. The news item that we received from health organizations was that Kuwait topped in obesity rates, and this was not something we are keen to receive. Kuwait was number one with 42.8 percent, which means that 4 out of 10 Kuwaitis suffer from some form of obesity. We hoped to top in science, intellect, literature or art, but to the contrary we stood first in laziness.

Obesity is stored energy inside our bodies, and truthfully reflects the extent of our laziness, and this is what we were warned against for a long time. The welfare country is no longer good in the civilization race. It is no longer useful for the newborn Kuwaiti to be wrapped in a blanket provided by the government, and for a Kuwaiti to be buried in a shroud also provided by the government. It is time that we burn the accumulated fats and make the people of Kuwait taste work instead of sitting on chairs.

Kuwaitis complain about the increase of expats, and also complain about street congestions due to competition in health, jobs and even education. The arrival of most workers was to fill a void that was to be filled by Kuwaitis themselves. If we go 100 years back in history, we would find that the people of Kuwait, who did not have oil, used to practice all types of jobs, as there was no one to compete with, yet today, the bounty of oil became an indignation that we won't discover until we go through financial crises or shrinking of oil production. That's when Kuwaitis will discover that they are unable to swim in the global sea where people compete to get an opportunity.

Obesity does not only cause diseases, but is also responsible for the spread of diabetes, cancer, heart disease and others, it is also a strong indicator for our need for work and exerting efforts, and it should not annoy any of us about the marketplace not employing Kuwaitis, as the government is full of citizen workers and has not succeeded in dispensing expats, because Kuwaitis have become obese, with great regret.

If the government pledges to fight obesity to reduce the burden of diseases, then it must evaluate the work systems and change the civil service laws that prevent the Kuwaitis from working. Solutions must not be far from reality, and our reality says most of our problems today, even the political ones, are because of less work.

People talk, discuss, visit diwanis and move from one gathering to another, but regretfully they do not work. Our throats got stronger and fat accumulated in our bodies. We succeeded in disputes, criticism and ideologies. If everyone believes in working seriously to develop our country, we might reduce the fat in our bodies. This is the message of obesity - I hope it is clear to all.

kuwait digest

DON'T CATCH FIRE!

By Dr Ahmad Meshari Hamada*

On the 15th of July, around 11:15 pm, social media worked its magic, and news of the attempted coup d'État started to mushroom around the digital ether. As is customary with unofficial news sources manned and circulated by the thumb, the situation did not fully crystallize until much later in the evening. The black mirrors on our phones started pasting together Frankenstein-esque half stories about low flying military jets, the sound of gun shots, and the closure of the Bosphorus Bridge.

I was working on my next lecture when my fingers froze on the keyboard, and my mind drifted towards my family, who were spending their summer vacation in Turkey. Ironically, they were in the exact same position when the Iraqi army invaded Kuwait twenty six years ago, isolated either within the chaos or away from it, but always in Turkey.

I made several phone calls with various degrees of success in connectivity, while my overly stimulated imagination was filling up the gaps regarding what would happen to them? Will they avoid the line of fire? Or, in a more docile scenario, are they going to run out of food? I went home and phoned a Turkish friend, who answered the call from his Harvard campus in Boston. I asked him what could happen to my family, and saw my own image on the videophone screen shaking due to my inability to control my hand. He was in utter disbelief. "Although it is a liberal coup" he said, "it's still not the answer." Throughout the years I've known him in grad school, he openly discussed his dissatisfaction with the Islamic surge that Turkey has been witnessing. I contacted another friend from Turkey, whom I met in Mecca during a pilgrimage trip, and his main concern was sympathizing with Erdogan. Between two polarized views, the Turks were haunted by anticipation.

For the next three hours or so, I was glued to the

screen, while around me, every social media outlet was teaming with the ideological contributions that Kuwaitis have now decided to bestow on the rest of the world, those who hail the coup, and those who are praying for Erdogan in limbo. Soon afterwards, insults were exchange in heated debates between those who were listing previous incidents in Turkey's political history, and those who were quoting Qur'anic texts. Melodramatic terms like "heroism", "dignity", and "cowardice" were being tossed around generously in an environment of self-appointed experts who were eager to identify with one camp or the other.

Political inclinations

While I was thinking of my family, it seems that most Kuwaitis received the news with one initial, almost instinctive reaction. "How does it sync with my political inclinations?" "How do these recent events further advance or set my cause back?" "And how to properly and quickly program a response that parallels the rest of my group?"

When the Italian Marxist philosopher Antonio Gramsci theorized the idea of cultural hegemony, he spoke of the way a certain dominant ideology can dominate our perceptions of the world. This is an easy way in which we make sense of world events today, to find personal alliances in them, to create emotional investments out of them, to argue about things we do not fully understand, to identify with geographically distanced regions, to shares pictures of the dead elsewhere on social media, to sculpt an identity for one's self through the news. Some Kuwaitis treated it as an attack on Islam, while others saw it as a much needed cry against political oppression.

I look at all that and I envy those who can feel confident about their political or social stance with such ease. I am often plagued by the anxiety of try-

ing to identify with it all on the political spectrum, and coming out of it understanding nothing. I am often guilty of trying to spread myself too thin ideologically, until almost nothing makes sense. In my mind, doubt seems to be the default state when it comes to who's right and who's wrong. I often find myself asking, why do we emotionally invest ourselves in debate so easily? How can we be so sure of what we are so fanatically preaching? When does endorsement become conformity? Why do liberals or conservatives simultaneously agree with their own on the smallest details while situated on different points of the globe? When have we sacrificed our individual perceptions of life, in order to belong to a certain sect?

I have no answers, nor am I eligible to offer advice. But, if I had to, my advice would be to question everything, starting with your own convictions. If you are not daring enough to do so, then at least remember that others are just as afraid to confront their deeply-rooted beliefs as you are, and by respecting that, a more diverse conception of this world will start to form, one that seems to be drifting further and further away recently. While I am indeed aware of the clichéd nature of this statement, it still strikes me as a profound truth, probably the only one that I know for certain. This comes at the risk of being the outcast kid in the school of thought, and at the risk of being labeled as a pacifist. Whatever it takes, when the whole world catches fire, try as hard as you can not to be an inflammable object.

"And We have certainly diversified in this Qur'an for the people from every [kind of] example; but man has ever been, most of anything, [prone to] dispute." The Holy Qur'an, Surat Al-Kahf, Verse 54

*Assistant Professor of Visual Communication
Kuwait University



CEO NAHEDH HONORS KFH VOLUNTARY TEAM

KUWAIT: Group Chief Executive Officer at Kuwait Finance House (KFH), Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh honored KFH voluntary team in recognition of their exerted efforts during the holy month of Ramadan that had been culminated in successfully concluding the Ramadan campaign 2016. This confirms KFH's leadership in achieving the corporate social responsibility, yet reiterates its firm belief in encouraging volunteerism, raising the awareness of philanthropy and charity, while boosting the community-oriented initiatives within society.

KFH organized and participated in a wide range of activities and events tailored to reach out across the community and within the institution. The activities were internal at the level of employees and external to target sev-

eral segments of the society and to confirm the bank's Islamic identity and distinguished social role.

KFH is keen on assuming its corporate social responsibility by focusing on the fields of health, education, sport and the youth in a manner that reflects the bank's endeavors to reinforce communication with all segments of the society, yet to sponsor events and activities, and organize purposeful visits to increase awareness in many fields.

KFH has a proven track record of social responsibility programs. It focuses on improving interaction with the society in many occasions, mainly those of social nature, through the contribution fostering volunteerism and philanthropy at many occasions.



KUWAIT: The Commercial Bank of Kuwait (CBK) concluded the first stage of its summer training program for university students, as well as employees' children aged between 15 and 20 years. The program took place at the CBK Academy in the bank's Faiha branch.



eeZee
IN YOUR HANDS

Design the prepaid plan
that suits your lifestyle



Send "Go" to 999
or call 107
to learn more

Crime

Report

DRUG ADDICTED APE TO BE 'DEPORTED'

KUWAIT: An ape faces deportation after being caught for addiction, and was sent to the zoo in preparation for his expatriation. Sources at the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) said the orangutan was brought to them by the Interior Ministry over drug addiction caused by his owner. The simian was with his owner two months ago when he was involved in a traffic accident. The man was found under the influence of drugs, and the monkey seemed in an abnormal condition too. His owner said he turned the animal into an addict so he could 'have fun'. PAAAFR contacted the Indonesian embassy and asked the orangutan be sent to Indonesia because its natural habitat is there, and is threatened with extinction.

Smuggling foiled

Kuwait International Airport customs officers foiled an attempt by an African man to smuggle 35 bags of qat in his suitcase. Roaming customs officers at the airport suspected the man who arrived at the airport, so he was searched and the qat was found. The man was arrested and he along with the qat were sent to the Drugs Control General Department.

Fake doctor arrested

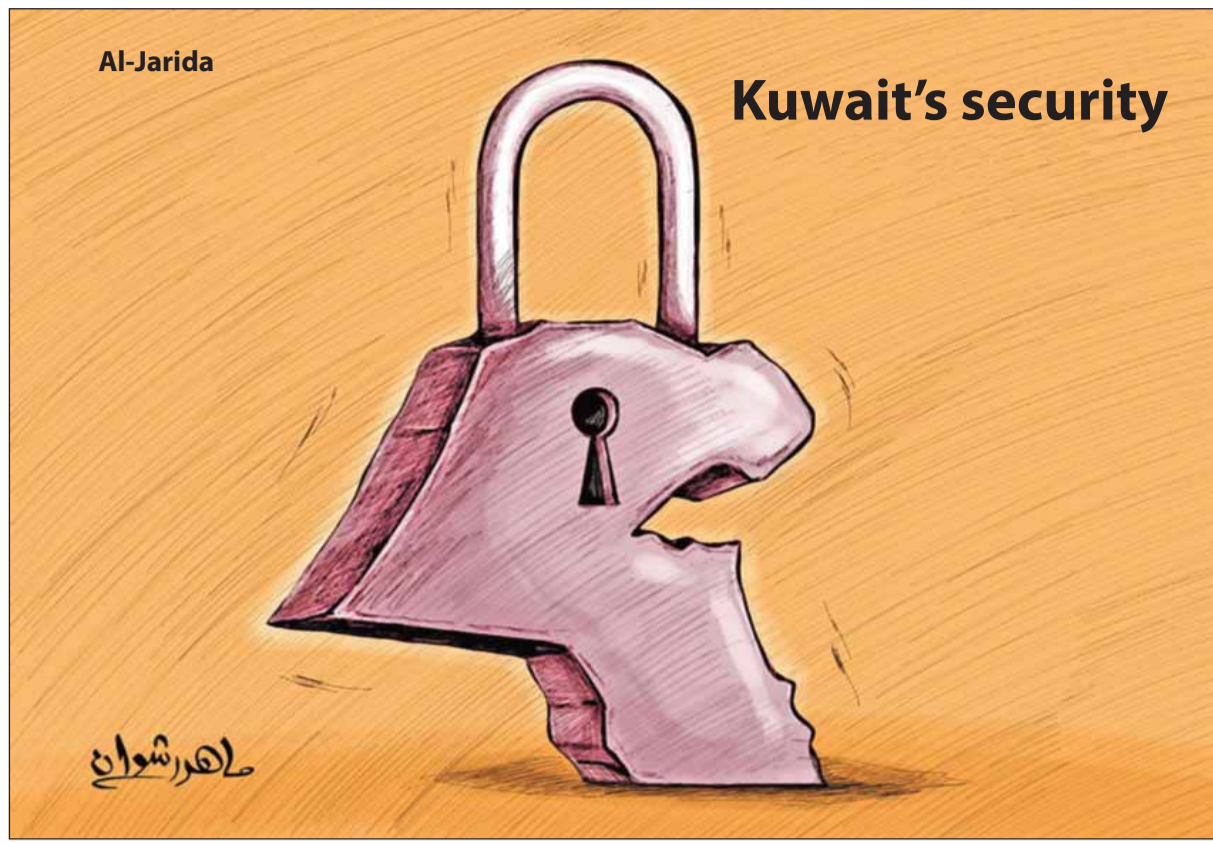
An Indian man posed as a doctor although he does not have a medical degree, and treated criminals and law violators with fake or expired medicine. Security men in Farwaniya learned about him from a secret source, so a team was formed and he was arrested, and the medicine was found with him. Interrogations revealed that the suspect acted as a doctor without a degree, and the majority of those he treated were criminals and violators who cannot go to health ministry centers and hospitals. He was sent to concerned authorities.

Motorist mugged

A citizen was beaten and robbed at gunpoint by three persons in a car with tinted windows in Taima. The trio took his money and mobile phone. A security source said a citizen sought police help and told them while he was driving in Taima, he was surprised by three persons driving an SUV who forced him to stop, then beat him at gunpoint before taking his wallet and mobile phone. The victim gave police a medical report and provided them with the SUV's license plate number. Detectives are working on the case.

Banned fireworks

A company's mandoub (representative) tried to get in a large quantity of banned fireworks, but Shuwaikh customs officers foiled his attempt. A customs source said a container arrived at Shuwaikh port with documents stating that it had children's clothes, then when searched, they found huge quantities of banned fireworks, estimated at 2.5 million pieces with a market value of KD 1 million. The mandoub was sent to criminal detectives along with the confiscated material. — Al-Rai



NO NEAR SOLUTION FOR TRAFFIC JAMS: OFFICIAL

KUWAIT: Interior Ministry's Assistant Undersecretary for Traffic Affairs Major General Abdullah Al-Muhanna does not see a solution in the near future for traffic jams on Kuwait roads, especially since cars are on the increase while roads remain the same. Muhanna believes that overcoming the traffic jam issue needs modification projects on the side, main and ring roads, starting with Fahaheel, King Abdulaziz, King Fahd, Maghreb, Riyadh and Ghazali expressways, in addition to the First Ring Road all the way to Seventh Ring Road. He said without the modifications and corrections on these roads, the congestions will not be solved, adding that the bridge network being built now will partially contribute to reducing congestion.

He said there is a project to renew driving licenses through machines at cooperative societies, like the civil ID machines. He said the machines enable a person to pay his traffic fines, place his data, a copy of the civil ID and driving license and pay the fees,

then go to the traffic department only to receive the license. He said the problem is in locked violations, where the violator must go to the department to lift the restriction.

Muhanna said the department has deported 788 expats for driving without a license since the decision to implement this procedure was issued. He said this matter is a grave violation for all and that a Kuwaiti minor who is caught will be detained and sent to the juvenile court, his car will be impounded and he will face a block if he repeats his violations in a way that shows disregard to traffic laws.

He also mentioned a project is under study to make the car title a magnetic card with a chip storing the data of the car and its owner. He said the only obstacle facing the project is the continued sale and purchase of cars, which change ownership more than once in a month. The second issue is the financial cost of the magnetic card, as its cost will be more than KD 5, which affects those with low income.



Lieutenant General Abdullah Al-Muhanna

Muhanna criticized the issue of stray and loose camels, and considered it an old issue that causes car accidents. He believes a reflective collar may be one of the solutions, in addition to changing grazing areas away from the roads. — Al-Rai

Al-Qabas

KUWAITI MEDIA IN RAMADAN

By Baheja Behbehani

Information Minister and State Minister for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah is one of the distinguished ministers in their performance of their duties. His Excellency follows events and government achievements and is always present at events. Credit goes to him in transforming all plans to enhance and develop national media from studies into achievements, and the development of the human element and qualifying it to help Kuwait's information.

He lately commissioned four live transmission vehicles, 10 TV production units and tens of cameras and new equipment. The capabilities of this fleet are important to activate the role of television coverage for ministry sectors, be it the news on television or even radio and events, besides satellite linkage, better equipment and the most modern technical tools in the world. It is supposed for all workers in information and those dealing with it to follow the example of His Excellency the minister in the fantastic achievement and fruitful contribution, which forms a bright image of Kuwait.

This is the positive information for those who love Kuwait and are keen to keep its bright face in front of the world. The media, especially the video part of it, is the state's means to announce its achievements in all fields such as education, health, child and youth care and others, yet some of what was shown during Ramadan destroyed all the positive efforts of the ministry of information, as some episodes contained offensive behaviors and social events alien to Kuwaiti society which has many more positives than negatives.

The majority of Kuwaiti families are cohesive, and there are no dialogues that include offensive words, screams, slaps or men kissing women's feet, as the series show. The Kuwait family is not a prison that keeps the deviant in their behavior as these series imply, and keep in mind that all countries around the world have deviant behaviors in a few families, but they do not show them on TV, because this is considered an insult to the state and defamation of its citizens.

Why do not the TV series show events such as iftar meals in all governorates for laborers and the poor, projects in many countries in the world held with Kuwaiti money or the volunteering of many Kuwaitis to serve in poor countries as preachers and doctors? There are Kuwaiti youth who volunteer at charity societies to serve their country. We appeal to the information minister to review and study the issue of showing these series that insult Kuwait and its people.

— Translated by Kuwait Times



SABAH AL-AHMAD CENTER WELCOMES CHAMPION STUDENTS BACK HOME

KUWAIT: The Sabah Al-Ahmad Center for Giftedness and Creativity (SACGC) welcomed Kuwaiti students who returned home from Thailand, where they participated in the 'Smart Brain' International Mental Match Championship.

The Kuwaiti students have won the first

place in the group category. They have also performed well in the individuals categories winning the first and second places in level 1. The Kuwaiti students have snatched the first places in levels 3 and 4 and the fourth place in level 5.

Over 1,465 students from across the

world took part in the competition which started Sunday. The students were challenged by complicated math equations.

SACGC General Director Dr Omar Al-Bannai led the team that welcomed the students at Kuwait International Airport Friday night. He spoke highly of the stu-

dents' achievement, adding that it was the fruit of their hard labor and preparations throughout the past three years.

Smart Brain is part of the global Smart Brain Franchise, which spans over 20 countries and teaches over 275,000 children every year. It seeks to bring the international-

ly renowned Abacus Mental Arithmetic and Whole Brain Development Program to every child, thereby instilling a powerful learning tool that will aid the child in overall learning abilities such as reading comprehension, math, memory recall and concentration.





Munich pulls together after mall shooting

CLASHES ROCK MANBIJ AS IS IGNORES ULTIMATUM

TURKEY EXTENDS POLICE POWERS AFTER COUP

ISTANBUL: Turkey pushed yesterday with a sweeping crackdown against suspects accused of taking part in the failed coup against President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, extending police powers to hold people in detention and shuttering over 1,000 private schools. A week after renegade soldiers tried to oust him with guns, tanks and F16s, Erdogan's government has rounded up or sacked tens of thousands of perceived state enemies, including almost 300 officers of the guard shielding his Ankara palace. But in its first major release of suspects amid global criticism of the crackdown, Turkey set free 1,200 low ranking soldiers in Ankara.

Under heightened police powers, suspects can now be held without charge for one month, up from four days, the official gazette announced on the third day of what Erdogan has said would be a three-month state of emergency. Fears that the strongman will seek to further cement his rule and muzzle dissent through repression have strained ties with Western NATO allies and cast a darkening shadow over Turkey's long-standing bid to join the European Union.

After Brussels issued stinging criticism and warned Erdogan that bringing back the death penalty would end the membership bid for good, Erdogan fired back that the EU had taken a "biased and prejudiced" stance on Turkey. He added bitterly that "for the past 53 years Europe has been making us wait" and that no EU candidate country "has had to suffer like we have had to suffer." "They are making statements that are contradictory," he told France 24 television. "They are biased, they are prejudiced and will continue to act in this prejudiced manner towards Turkey."

Cleansing the state

Strains have also grown with the United States, which relies on Turkish bases to launch airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. The man Erdogan accuses of orchestrating the plot against him, the reclusive 75-year-old Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, has long lived in a secluded compound in Pennsylvania, and Ankara is pushing for his extradition. President Barack Obama said Friday the US would take seriously any "evidence" of wrongdoing by the preacher, whose followers, including alumni of his foundation's schools, have long had a strong presence in Turkey's police and civil service.

Obama also flatly rejected claims that the US had prior intelligence of the July 15 putsch attempt, calling such suggestions "unequivocally false". Erdogan has insisted that, despite the new emergency powers and the mass purges, Turkey will not "compromise on democracy", as Ankara has said its measures are no different to those France has taken since a series of bloody jihadist attacks. Prosecutors said Turkey had set free 1,200 soldiers, all privates, detained in Ankara after the military coup, as authorities were seeking to swiftly sort out those who had fired on the people from those who did not.

Plotters and martyrs

To root out what Erdogan labels the "virus" of Gulen's clandestine "terrorists" and their sympathizers, his government has sacked thousands of state teachers and university lecturers, who have also been barred from overseas travel. In the latest move targeting the education sector, 1,043 private schools and 1,229 associations and foundations will be shut down, said yesterday's Gazette statement.

The steps were just some of the seismic changes that

have rocked Turkey since the shock of the July 15 coup attempt that claimed 246 lives. The night of violence left 24 rebel soldiers dead and killed 179 civilians, 62 police and five soldiers who opposed them and have been hailed as "martyrs". Since the coup, massive crowds of flag-waving Erdogan supporters have taken to the streets night after night to celebrate their leader. But rights activists and opposition groups, including from Turkey's Kurdish minority, fear a widening witchhunt of government critics.

According to the authorities, 10,410 people have been detained—mainly soldiers, including 283 Presidential Guard officers, but also police, judges and civil servants. Of these, 4,500 have been formally placed under arrest. The Turkish government has also cancelled over 10,000 passports, mainly of state officials, "due to flight risk with the holders either in custody or on the run".

Aside from the detentions, more than 50,000 other civil servants, down to the family and sports ministries, have been sacked or suspended—in a purge whose speed and scale suggested to many observers that their names were on pre-existing lists. The government also plans more far-reaching institutional changes, said the interior minister, Efkan Ala. Crucially, he said, control of the gendarmerie, in charge of domestic security, will be wrested from the army and placed under the interior ministry. — AFP



ANKARA: In this Friday, July 22, 2016 photo, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, acknowledges the crowd as he arrives at the parliament. — AP

OFFICIALS ASK NICE TO DELETE ATTACK IMAGES

PARIS: Authorities in Nice are protesting against a request from French anti-terror police to delete surveillance camera images of last week's deadly truck attack, amid growing questions over the scale of the police presence at the time. The city received a letter this week from the SDAT anti-terrorism agency, obtained by The Associated Press, saying images of the July 14 attack should be destroyed.

An official with the national police said the request was motivated by concern that the images could leak and be used for jihadi propaganda. The official was not authorized to be publicly named. A lawyer for the city submitted a protest letter Friday saying Nice officials would not comply for legal, administrative and technical reasons. But the lawyer also notes that the images are scheduled to be automatically deleted anyway today, according to Nice City Hall practice of deleting CCTV images after 10 days. Investigators will keep copies of the images.

The dispute comes as the government faces growing criticism over security measures the night of the attack, and the cameras could show where and how police were deployed. Top regional official Christian Estrosi, of the conservative opposition Republicans party, had argued for tougher security for Nice's Bastille Day fireworks celebrations. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve acknowledged Thursday that only lightly armed local police were guarding the entrance to a pedestrian zone on the Nice beachfront when driver Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel sped past a barricade and ran over people, killing 84. Cazeneuve had previously said national police were guarding the closed-off boulevard.

An internal police investigation into the security measures has been launched, and President Francois Hollande is holding a special security meeting Friday. Five people were handed preliminary terrorism charges late Thursday night in the case. The Paris prosecutor says Bouhlel had accomplices and appears to have been plotting his attack for months, citing text messages, more than 1,000 phone calls and video of the attack scene on the phone of one of the suspects. Nice City Hall has put up the names of all 84 people killed in the attack on two black banners. The victims were of several nationalities, as were the more than 300 people wounded in the attack. — AP

ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

COROLLA, MADE FOR ALL WITH A SELECT, COMPLIMENTARY PACKAGE

For 50 years the Corolla has been providing the finest driving experience in its class. Quality, durability and reliability have always been a given but the new 2016 Corolla takes the experience to another level. The innovative (MultiDrive 7S) technology, complete exterior design and improved interior spaciousness means you'll experience a more assured drive on each and every journey. **LIVE EVERY MILE.**

(MultiDrive 7S) Advantages:

- Much smoother than an automatic transmission
- No shift clunk
- Engine torque always in optimum condition
- Economical and efficient fuel consumption

HURRY NOW! LIMITED STOCK AVAILABLE

MULTI DRIVE 7S

500 Liters Fuel

Power Bank

Canon Camera IXUS 170

Caribou Coffee Voucher

Plus Additional Gifts

FLEET OFFER GIFTS: PERFUME BOX + 500 LITRES FUEL

COROLLA

- 5 Years Warranty Unlimited Mileage
- 3rd Party Insurance
- Car Registration
- T-connect service for one year
- Musaada roadside assistance

Mohamed Naser Al-Sayer & Sons Est. Co. W.L.L.
ONE OF THE AL-SAYER GROUP HOLDING COMPANIES.

T-connect

2016

Tel: 1803803
toyota.com.kw
toyotakw

AL-RAB 4th Ring Road - AL-AHMADI Eastern Area - AL-JABRA Industrial Area - SHUWAIKH Al-Tar Showroom FLEET SALES - AL-RAB Est. 2102/5/16/19

TOUGHER EUROPE BORDERS PUSHING MIGRANTS TO US

PENAS BLANCAS, Costa Rica: Europe's toughened borders are prompting migrants to switch focus to the United States, but their trek is being thwarted in Central America, where a bottleneck has formed, according to the International Organization for Migration. In Costa Rica, a makeshift camp has sprung up housing hundreds of Africans and Haitians. Elsewhere in the country smaller numbers of Afghans and Pakistanis are biding their time to head north. They are being stalled by Nicaragua, which strictly closed its border eight months ago to migrants without visas, mainly to stop the flow of thousands of US-bound Cubans through its territory. But that closed-door policy has also trapped what are called "extra-continental" migrants-those coming from outside Latin America. There are an estimated 2,000 such migrants in Costa Rica.

Their number has increased since March, since the EU did a deal with Turkey to send back migrants trying to

reach Europe through Greece and eastern European states built barriers across their borders. "We have documented cases of people telling us they chose this route to the United States or Canada because they felt that getting to Europe was too dangerous, that it was too difficult to enter Europe or the conditions in Europe weren't what they hoped for," said the IOM's representative in Costa Rica, Roeland de Wilde. "Most of them seem to be coming through from Brazil and other South American countries that are facing declining economic situations." The Pakistanis and Afghans, accounting for around 10 percent of the migrants, are well-organized and often lay up in basic hotels, de Wilde said. Most of the ones saying they are from Africa are making do with plastic sheets strung up as shelter by the roadside.

Haitians pretending to be Africans

Not all of the latter are "extra-continental," although many pretend to be.

"More than half" the migrants presenting themselves as Africans are from Haiti, an impoverished Caribbean country with a predominantly black population that speaks French, de Wilde said. "They say they are Congolese, but when questioned they don't know from which part of Congo they come from," he said. "Sometimes they say Kinshasa or Brazzaville, mixing up one Congo for the other. When asked which ethnicity they belong to, they have no idea."

The Democratic Republic of Congo, whose capital is Kinshasa, and the Republic of Congo, ruled from Brazzaville, are neighbors in central Africa. While both use French, the former is riven by deadly ethnic violence in its east, increasing the odds of emigrants from there receiving asylum. In northern Costa Rica close to the border with Nicaragua, near the town of Penas Blancas, African and Haitian migrants try to get by in rudimentary conditions while hoping they will be allowed to continue north to America.

"We can't stay here. No human being can live in these conditions," complained Alin Treme, a 31-year-old who said he was from Congo. "It rains every day, we're always in mud, the water pours into the tents and we sleep soaked," he said, speaking a mix of Portuguese, French and Spanish. Near him, a man cut garlic under the burning sun, preparing an improvised soup for his wife and one-year-old son.

Trash from the camp piled up not far away, raising a cloud of stink, flies and mosquitoes in the tropical air. "Our destiny isn't in Costa Rica or Nicaragua or Honduras. Why won't they let us pass?" asked Wilson Joseph, a migrant who said he was from French-speaking Senegal though he spoke Spanish with an accent from the Dominican Republic, Haiti's neighbor.

Brazil's downturn

When questioned by AFP, many in the camp claiming to come from the

Democratic Republic of Congo or Senegal were unable to give precise details about those countries. They often communicated in languages and accents suggesting they were Haitians trying to hide their nationality. Most said they had worked in Brazil for several years, but decided to leave when that country's economy dived into recession. "When I arrived in Brazil, it was great: there was a lot of work in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Things got difficult in 2014, the economy got worse, and in 2016 I could no longer support my wife and my kid," said Eddie Miche, a 27-year-old wearing the blue-and-red of Haiti's flag though he said he was from Congo.

Miche's lot was better than the others. He was staying in a shelter set up by the Costa Rican government in community centers and sports halls. But there was not enough room to accommodate all the migrants. In any case, all were determined to find a way to get through the closed borders, to America. — AFP



ALEXANDROUPOLIS: A Turkish military officer is transferred to a court hall. — AP

TURKS WHO FLED TO GREECE A DIPLOMATIC 'HOT POTATO'

ATHENS: The Turkish military helicopter that landed in the Greek border city of Alexandroupolis just as an attempted coup was being quashed in Turkey has turned into one of the toughest diplomatic challenges to date for Greece's relatively inexperienced government. On board were eight Turkish military personnel - all unarmed helicopter crew members, it later turned out - who issued a mayday signal and were granted permission for an emergency landing.

The eight immediately surrendered to Greek police. They insist they were not involved in the attempted coup, had been tasked with transporting wounded soldiers and civilians and had fled for their lives after coming under fire from Turkish police. Turkey disputes their claim, and has demanded their return to stand trial for alleged participation in the violent attempt to overthrow the government.

But the eight have applied for political asylum in Greece, saying they would be in danger if returned to Turkey amid President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's widespread purges of the military and civil service in response to the failed coup. Greece is now obligated to go through the asylum procedure, which can take weeks.

Asylum applications

Their arrival on board a Black Hawk helicopter on July 16 - and their asylum applications in particular - have created a diplomatic headache for Greece, which has a long history of delicate relations with its much larger and more powerful eastern neighbor. The two countries last came to the brink of war 20 years ago over a territorial dispute in the Aegean Sea that separates them, and while they have since enjoyed far warmer ties, tensions are never far away. Greece often complains of Turkish fighter jet violations of its airspace in the Aegean.

The Turkish helicopter case will also test

the country's relatively new coalition government, which came to power last year and consists of the left-wing Syriza party, which had never been in government before 2015, and the small nationalist Independent Greeks party, whose leader is the defense minister. "This was a hot potato that literally landed on Greek territory," said Thanos Dokos, director of the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy think tank. The government "is torn between the sensitivities of the Syriza party on human rights and asylum issues on the one hand, and on the other the cynicism of any governing party when it comes to issues affecting the country's foreign policy." Greek officials quickly returned the helicopter, and have suggested they would like to return the eight as well.

"What must be implemented is Greek and international law," Deputy Defense Minister Dimitris Vitsas said on private Mega television, adding "but I must say that the argument in favor of extradition from the Turkish side is quite strong." But complicating matters are frequent comments by Turkish officials, including Erdogan himself, about reinstating the death penalty. If such talk gathers pace, or if death penalty legislation is introduced in Turkey's parliament, Greece or any other European Union member would struggle to extradite someone to a country where they might be executed. "The key question will be the death penalty. That's a red line not just for Greece but for the whole European Union," said Dokos.

Widespread purges

The widespread purges in Turkey, which in a week have led to about 10,000 people being arrested and about 50,000 others being fired or suspended from their jobs, has fueled the argument that the eight would not face a fair trial at home. Turkey, however, has made no bones about how important it considers their return to be. — AP

LIBYA ISLAMISTS URGE FIGHT AGAINST FRENCH

TRIPOLI: Armed groups including Islamists have urged Libyans to mobilize against French and other foreign troops deployed in the country, denouncing their presence as a "blatant aggression". The call by militias in the second city of Benghazi came after French President Francois Hollande confirmed on Wednesday that his country has soldiers in Libya.

Hollande made the announcement after three French troops were killed in Libya during a mission to gather intelligence. His remarks sparked anti-French protests in several Libyan cities, while the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) said the presence of foreign troops was a "violation" of Libya's sovereignty. A military commander allied with a rival government based in eastern Libya has said that French troops along with US and British soldiers were in Libya to "monitor" Islamic State group jihadists.

The extremist group seized the Libyan coastal city of Sirte in June last year, raising fears that it is establishing a new stronghold on Europe's doorstep. The armed groups, known as the Revolutionary Shura Council of Benghazi, urged Libyans to rise up against the deployment of foreign troops in the chaos-ravaged country. "We call on all the Libyan people to mobilize

and defend their (Muslim) religion... and expel" all foreign troops from Libya, a statement said. The French military presence in Libya is tantamount to a "crusader's invasion", it added.

Dozens of protesters rallied Friday outside the GNA's former headquarters in a Tripoli navy base and called on authorities to boycott French firms. The Pentagon said in May that it had a "small presence" in Libya tasked with trying to identify which groups might be able to assist the United States in its mission to combat IS. British media reported in May that British special forces had taken part in combat missions against IS in the country's northeast.

Rival militias in Libya have been vying for power since the overthrow of veteran dictator Moamer Kadhafi in 2011. Amid the chaos, the GNA, which is the result of a UN-backed power-sharing agreement in December, has been striving to assert its authority. Troops loyal to the unity government are battling to recapture Sirte from IS. Benghazi meanwhile has seen bloody battles for more than two years between armed groups, including jihadists, and forces loyal to the internationally recognized parliament, which has yet to endorse the GNA. — AFP

CLASHES ROCK MANBIJ AS IS IGNORES ULTIMATUM

FEARS GROWING FOR TRAPPED CIVILIANS

BEIRUT: Islamic State group militants clashed yesterday with US-backed fighters in the Syrian town of Manbij, pursuing their fierce defense of the jihadist stronghold and ignoring a deadline to leave. There are growing fears for the fate of civilians trapped in Manbij, formerly a key stop along IS's supply route from neighboring Turkey into its self-styled Islamic "caliphate" in Syria. The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) penetrated the town one month ago but have since been hindered by a bloody IS counter-offensive and concerns about the civilian population.

Yesterday, IS jihadists appeared to ignore a 48-hour ultimatum to leave issued by the Manbij Military Council, a key member of the SDF. "The 48-hour period is over, and there will be no more opportunities like this one for Daesh (IS)," a commander from the council told AFP on condition of anonymity. IS has "not responded" to the SDF's offer and had instead "attacked our positions" in the town, he said. The ultimatum came after at least 56 civilians, including children, were reportedly killed Tuesday in US-led coalition air strikes near Manbij.

The commander pledged that his forces would "intensify our attacks on their remaining positions" there while working to "secure safe passages" for civilians looking to flee. Thousands of civilians have already fled Manbij, which lies in Syria's northern Aleppo province. More than half of Syria's population has been displaced since the country's conflict erupted five years ago, and at least 280,000 people have been killed.

'Fight like we haven't seen'

An SDF field commander inside Manbij told AFP that clashes were rocking the flashpoint town yesterday, with "the main battles near the security quarter in the centre of the town." The civilian deaths in Tuesday's raids sparked an intense backlash from activists and rights groups, as well as a call from a prominent Syrian opposition body for the coalition to halt its air campaign until a thorough investigation is completed. The coalition has said it is investigating the reports of civilian fatalities in the town of Al-Tukhar, 14 kilometers from Manbij. Bombing raids have meanwhile continued unabated, with the Pentagon reporting nine strikes near Manbij on Friday.

Coalition spokesman Colonel Chris Garver



QAMISHLI, Syria : Syrian-Kurdish women carry the coffin of a female fighter in Syria's north-eastern city of Qamishli on July 21, 2016 during the funeral of sixteen fighters killed battling the Islamic State (IS) group in Manbij. - AFP

said on Friday that IS was mounting an exceptionally tough fightback. The battle has grown more intense as SDF units move deeper in the town, he said, "which is sort of different than what we saw in Ramadi and what we saw in Fallujah," two Iraqi cities from which jihadists were ousted this year. "It's a fight like we haven't seen before," said Garver. He estimated that the SDF had taken back roughly half the town, an area still housing at least 2,000 civilians.

IS use 'human shields, bait'

IS was using residents of Manbij "as human shields and as bait" in order to draw the fire of the SDF towards civilians, Garver added. Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, accused IS of "pushing children towards the frontlines" as it tried to defend its positions. Garver said that Tuesday's controversial air raid was called after the SDF "observed a large group of Daesh (IS) fighters in a convoy who appeared to be readying for a counterattack." "The strike was against both buildings and vehicles," but the coalition later received reports

that there may have been civilians mixed in among IS militants, he added. Earlier this year, the coalition said 41 civilians had been killed in its bombing raids in both Iraq and Syria since August 2014. But the Britain-based Observatory says that in Syria, 594 civilians across the country have been killed in coalition raids-more than 100 of them in Manbij alone. IS and its jihadist rival Al-Nusra Front are not included in global efforts to put an end to fighting in war-ravaged Syria.

Repeated attempts by Washington and steadfast regime ally Moscow to reinforce a nationwide ceasefire have largely failed, with violence continuing across the country. Dozens of civilians died in bombardment across the country yesterday, the Observatory said, with 10 killed in raids by unidentified warplanes in eastern Deir Ezzor province and eight dead in suspected Russian strikes in Syria's northwest. Another seven civilians from a single family, including four children, were killed in raids in central Hama province, and two civilians died in barrel bomb attacks in besieged parts of northern Aleppo city, the monitor added. — AFP

WEST BANK PALESTINIAN VILLAGERS IN LEGAL LIMBO

KHIRBET ZANUTA, Palestinian Territories: A tiny Palestinian village in the Hebron hills could soon cease to exist after a nine-year legal battle with Israeli authorities who say its 167 residents live on an archaeological site. Israel's supreme court is expected to make a final decision on the fate of Khirbet Zanuta soon. The village in the south of the occupied West Bank, around 20 kilometers from the Israeli city of Beersheba, includes makeshift homes made of stones, metal, clay and even tyres.

Caves in the area have also been used as homes in the past, and its residents farm the hundreds of hectares of surrounding land, raising sheep and goats. "I was born here before 1967," said village head Rashad Al-Tal, 65, referring to the

year when Israel's occupation of the West Bank began. "We lived in a cave and we walked seven kilometers to go to school in Dahriya," the closest city, he added as his daughter stirred milk behind him to make curd.

He said villagers began to build houses in the 1970s without having permits from the Israeli authorities and were fined for doing so. Such permits are extremely difficult to obtain for Palestinians living in most of the West Bank. "We showed them all the ownership papers for our land and asked for construction permits," said Tal.

Building in Area C

While Israeli authorities say structures in the village are illegal and are built on an archaeological

site, the villagers themselves suspect other motives. They allege that Israel wants to clear more space for settlers, since a settlement industrial zone called Meitarim is located less than a kilometer away. Villagers say explosives were used to develop the industrial zone and question why this would have been done if the nearby area was archaeologically important. Khirbet Zanuta is in what is known as Area C, the part of the West Bank under complete Israeli control.

Around 60 percent of the Palestinian territory falls under that classification, originally set up under the 1990s Oslo accords in an arrangement meant to be temporary. Israel's military decides on construction permits in Area C, and they are rarely granted to Palestinians. The military demolishes structures it deems illegal. That process, along with Israel's continuous settlement building in the West Bank, has been strongly criticised internationally as contributing to the erosion of the possibility of a two-state solution.

The court case involving Khirbet Zanuta is reaching its conclusion as debate over Israeli demolitions of Palestinian structures in the West Bank intensifies. In 2015, Israel demolished 548 structures in the West Bank, displacing 787 Palestinians, according to UN figures. But during the first four months of this year alone, 598 were demolished, displacing 858 people.

'They must leave'

The legal battle over Khirbet Zanuta has been waged since 2007. With the two sides unable to settle,

Israel's supreme court is expected to issue a ruling soon. Israeli authorities have said in court filings that "Khirbet Zanuta is an archaeological site and residents' presence in the area can have an impact on the site. "As a result, they must leave the area."

Israeli authorities declined further comment when contacted by AFP, saying their case was being presented in court. Rights activists who support the villagers and their legal battle say claims about the area's importance as an archaeological site are exaggerated. "We have consulted Israeli archaeological experts who say that the presence of the residents does not interfere with that of the historical remains," said Sharona Eliahu-Chai of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

Yoni Mizrahi of the Emek Shaveh NGO said that "every West Bank village contains remains", adding that those in Khirbet Zanuta are "neither very important nor very extensive". "This is a political issue," he said. "When they want to expel residents, they say that it is an archaeological site." Mizrahi said the village does indeed contain remains dating to the Iron Age and spanning the Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods. But he also alleged that there have been no excavations there since it was declared an archaeological site in 1968, while arguing that in any case the remains "do not belong to Israel, but to Palestine". Others have pointed out that Jewish construction is allowed on much more important archaeological sites. — AFP



KHIRBET ZANUTA, Palestinian Territories : Shafiq Al-Tal (C) stands with his family outside his tent in the Palestinian village of Khirbet Zanuta, located in the hills south of the West Bank city of Hebron. — AFP

SCANDALS LINGER AS PHILLY READIES FOR CONVENTION

STATE'S POLITICAL IMAGE TARNISHED BY CORRUPTION

PHILADELPHIA: The streets are freshly swept, the hotel rooms are pristine, the party invitations have gone out and extra police patrols are assigned. Philadelphia is ready for the Democratic National Convention. Tougher to clean up and shine, however, is the state's political image, tarnished by recent political corruption cases that have implicated many Democrats across the state. In June, a longtime Philadelphia congressman, Chaka Fattah, was convicted of laundering federal grants and non-profit funds to repay an illegal \$1 million campaign loan and help family and friends.

Last year, former state Treasurer Rob McCord left office and pleaded guilty to attempted extortion in a campaign fundraising scandal. Attorney General Kathleen Kane is awaiting trial on charges that she unlawfully leaked secret grand jury material to a newspaper and then lied about it under oath. And those are just the high profile cases. The former sheriff of Philadelphia has been charged with conspiracy; traffic judges have been convicted of ticket-fixing; state lawmakers have admitted taking bribes.

Jeff Jubelirer, a communications consultant who has worked on Republican campaigns, said these cases send a message about this overwhelmingly Democratic city, which could provide grist for presidential nominee Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans as the general election draws near. "From a messaging standpoint, it lines up well for the Trump forces to say crooked Hillary and crooked Philadelphia," Jubelirer said. "I think we will absolutely see that as we head into the fall." Democrats can't afford a diminished turnout in Philadelphia.

Highly competitive

Pennsylvania is shaping up as highly competitive in the race between Trump and presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, who will need a sizable vote in greater Philadelphia to put her over the top. After the convention concludes, Clinton is planning a rally on Independence Mall, seeking to excite voters as she shifts to the general election. Former Gov Ed Rendell, D-Pa, said he wasn't worried about the scandals. "We had corruption in 2012 and Barack Obama carried the city by 468,000 votes," Rendell said. He said some of this was what you get in "big city politics," adding that the one-party dominance in Philadelphia can

breed corruption. Philadelphia is no stranger to political malfeasance. It's where congressmen and other elected officials were caught taking illicit cash payments in the Abscam sting operation in the 1970s. During that investigation, then-Rep. Michael "Ozzie" Myers was caught on tape, saying: "Money talks in this business and bull—walks."

A state where the Constitution and Declaration of Independence were produced is now so rife with political scandal that it scored an F grade in the 2015 State Integrity Investigation. Over the past decade, former state Sen. Vince Fumo, a Democrat, went to prison for defrauding the state Senate, a South Philadelphia nonprofit and a seaport museum of millions of dollars. Former City Councilman Rick Mariano got prison time for taking bribes. Jubelirer said that it may seem like political infractions are on the rise, but that's only because "everyone's a journalist. All the coverage and the videos and the bloggers." Still, he added, "when you have someone as high up as Chaka Fattah, that levels a boom." To be sure,

the city is cracking down.

Michael Nutter made city government ethics a priority when he was mayor, installing a "chief integrity officer" in an office near to his. Mayor Jim Kenney has continued the practice. "We try to and insist on the most ethical and transparent government we can do," Kenney said, expressing confidence that these issues will not overshadow the convention. "Democracy was started here," Kenney said. "The first fire department, library, the first woman president is going to be nominated and elected from Philadelphia."

At the end of the day, David Thornburgh, president of the nonpartisan good government group Committee of Seventy, said there was simply a certain amount of acceptance of corruption in Philadelphia.

"It's not like we were moving along at one level and all at once there was a huge spike (in corruption)," Thornburgh said. "Partly because of the one party dominance there's a tolerance. Somebody called it the Philly shrug. 'Eh, it's Philly.'" — AP



CLEVELAND: Sen Ted Cruz, R-Texas, addresses the delegates during the third day session of the Republican National Convention. — AP

TRUMP'S CRUZ CRITICISM RENEWS QUESTIONS ABOUT TEMPERAMENT

CLEVELAND: Donald Trump followed the script in his big speech to the Republican National Convention. Less than 12 hours later, he was free-form again, Trump being Trump, resurrecting a conspiracy theory linking the father of his chief rival from the primaries to John F Kennedy's assassination. Trump's plunge into a lengthy litigation of past spats with Ted Cruz - even bringing up his retweet of an unflattering photo of Cruz's wife, Heidi - did nothing to assuage Republican fears about their standard bearer after a national convention complicated by unforced errors.

The episode raised questions, too, about how he might govern inside the White House, having so far led a scattershot campaign marked by a short temper and a seemingly improvised approach to policymaking. Presidential candidates typically come out of their conventions looking ahead to the general election and intent on expanding their appeal beyond the partisans who showed up. Trump took a bizarre look backward at what was billed as a post-convention thank you reception Friday for supporters and staff at his Cleveland hotel.

Ugly chapters

Reviewing one of the ugliest chapters of the nomination contest, Trump mentioned Cruz's father, saying "All I did was point out the fact that on the cover of the National Enquirer there was a picture of him and crazy Lee Harvey Oswald having breakfast." There is no evidence linking Rafael Cruz to JFK's murder. Republicans lustily cheered their nominee on the convention's closing night but not all can figure out what he'd be like in the Oval Office.

"It remains a mystery how exactly he will govern other than through platitudes and statements like, 'The violence will end,'" said Ari Fleischer, White House press secretary under President George W Bush. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Trump supporter who was on the short list for running mate, said: "Trump tends to take, very personally, attacks and he tends to counterattack very aggressively. That's a fact. And it doesn't seem to be changeable." He went on: "He would govern with great intensity. He would push the margins on many things." Gingrich said Trump would make mistakes, "Yes. But he would do something."

Earlier in the week, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who supported Trump at the convention, told The New York Times that Trump made a "rookie mistake" when he questioned a core commitment to NATO allies. Trump's NATO comments sent shockwaves across Europe and the diplomatic world, only a taste of what the response would be if Trump had been

musings from the Oval Office. Convention misfires began before the gathering itself. Former NFL quarterback Tim Tebow was billed on the convention speaking program released by the campaign last week, but described his appearance as a rumor and didn't come.

Cruz missile

On the convention's opening night, most delegates left after Melania Trump's address, and Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst, a rising Republican star, spoke to an overwhelmingly empty convention hall. Mrs Trump's speech was well-received - for a few hours. But striking similarities were uncovered between portions of her speech and the one delivered by Michelle Obama at the 2008 Democratic convention. The fallout dragged on as campaign chairman Paul Manafort repeatedly insisted there was no plagiarism. Finally on Wednesday, the campaign released a statement blaming a writer for unknowingly lifting passages from the speech.

Then came the Cruz missile. Trump's team allowed him to take the prime-time stage, despite knowing he would not explicitly endorse Trump. The Texas senator's speech sparked a torrent of boos. It was another setback for a convention that aimed to unify the party. Trump repeatedly stepped on his own messaging, for example phoning in to Fox News just as the mother of an American killed during the attack in Benghazi, Libya, was speaking powerfully onstage. His lengthy interview with The New York Times on foreign policy robbed attention from running mate Mike Pence hours before his keynote address.

Manafort rejected the idea that the campaign's message had been muddled. "The speeches have all been well-received," he said Friday. "And that's the bottom line: People are hearing the message. He predicted a bump in the polls next week. Fleischer said that by conventional standards, he'd grade the convention a C-plus or B-minus, but this isn't a conventional campaign. The political class "will judge those things and call it poorly done, and for good reason," he said. "But most of the voters just focus on what Trump says and what he represents."

Henry Barbour, a Republican national committeeman from Mississippi, was willing to forgive the Trump's campaign mistakes. "Every convention, every campaign has mistakes, and that's OK," he said. "It's July. There is ample time for folks who need time to understand why Donald Trump is a better pick than Hillary Clinton. He's not George Washington, not Abraham Lincoln, but he's a heck of a lot better than Hillary Clinton." — AP

JAILED VENEZUELAN OPPN LEADER APPEALS SENTENCE

CARACAS: Jailed Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez appealed his 14-year sentence during a marathon hearing that stretched into early yesterday, declaring himself innocent of inciting violence at anti-government protests in 2014. Following the hearing, which lasted 12 hours, the court has 10 days to decide whether to accept the appeal.

Lopez, who calls himself a political prisoner, transferred to the court in Caracas from a military prison on the outskirts of the capital. "I am innocent of the crimes for which I am accused," Lopez said. "I assume full responsibility for having convened the peaceful protest, under the terms established by the constitution, as is my right and the right of all Venezuelans to do," he said. Dozens of supporters rallied outside the courthouse holding pictures of Lopez with the messages "Free Leopoldo Now" and "Wanting a better Venezuela is not a crime."

Lopez's family and an opposition lawyer confirmed his presence at the hearing. He was apparently ushered into court out of view of journalists waiting outside. A 45-year-old US-educated economist, Lopez was arrested in February 2014 amid a wave of pro- and anti-government

protests that swept Venezuela and left 43 people dead. The government accused Lopez, one of leftist President Nicolas Maduro's most headline opponents, of inciting the violence.

He denies the charge, calling his arrest an act of political repression. His sentence, handed down in September after a closed-door trial, was strongly condemned by the United Nations, the United States and the European Union.

Lopez's mother and lawyers were allowed into Friday's hearing, but not the two Spanish advisers helping prepare his defense. One of the advisers, former Spanish justice minister Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon, called the court's handling of Lopez's case "arbitrary" and "unjust."

His defense lawyers say Venezuela's court system is beholden to Maduro's government. The head of the Organization of American States, Luis Almagro, wrote on Twitter that "the OAS is closely watching" the appeal, saying judicial impartiality was "key." Lopez's wife, Lilian Tintori, said her husband had been held in solitary confinement for weeks and that the documents for his appeal were removed from his cell. "Despite that, they don't know him," she said. "He won't break." — AFP

EX-KKK LEADER TRIES POLITICAL COMEBACK

BATON ROUGE: A quarter century after his credible run for governor of Louisiana rattled the national political establishment, white supremacist David Duke has jumped into the crowded competition for a US Senate seat in his home state, receiving rebuke from Republicans who don't want him running on a ballot as a member of their party. Duke - once an avowed Nazi sympathizer who headed a Ku Klux Klan group - fell back into relative obscurity after losing a 1991 runoff to scandal-scarred Democrat Edwin Edwards.

A follow-up presidential run from Duke went nowhere, and 10 years later, he pleaded guilty to bilking supporters in 2002 and spent a year in federal prison, although he later declared he did nothing wrong. He had occasional run-ins with authorities in Europe, such as the time he was detained by Czech authorities in 2009 on suspicion of denying the Holocaust.

On Friday, however, he declared "the climate of this country has moved in my direction," as he registered to run on the Nov 8 ballot as a Republican for the Senate seat being vacated by David Vitter. Duke said he was partially spurred by the recent shooting deaths of three law enforcement officers by a black man. "I believe my time has come," he said after submitting his paperwork. He added: "The people of this country, the patriotic, decent, God-fearing people of this country are now right with me."

Duke said he's espoused principles for years that are similar to the themes Republicans are now supporting in Donald Trump's campaign, on issues such as immigration and trade. He said Americans are "embracing the core issues I have fought for my entire life." Earlier, his announcement had appeared on his website, nudging down links to pages

decrying "Zionist terror" and the "Jewish Supremacist Role in anti-European Movements."

'White unity group'

Duke, 66, was associated with neo-Nazi groups as a student at LSU. He was grand wizard of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in the 1970s and headed a "white unity group" - the National Association for the Advancement of White People - in the 1980s. He is registered with the GOP, but Republicans at the state and federal level quickly denounced his Senate bid. Roger Villere, chairman of the Republican Party of Louisiana, said in a statement the party "will play an active role in opposing" him, calling Duke a "hate-filled fraud who does not embody the values of the Republican Party." Ward Baker, with the National Republican Senatorial Committee, said Duke will not have the support of his organization "under any circumstance."

The launch of Duke's campaign comes as Louisiana grapples with deep racial tensions after the shooting death of a black man by white police officers and the killing of three law enforcement officers. Duke said he was "shattered" by the slayings of police. In a lengthy speech, Duke talked of the "massive racial discrimination going on right now against European Americans," and what he called a biased media working against him. He called the Black Lives Matter movement a "terrorist organization" and said he wanted equal rights for everyone.

"You don't come together by a narrative in the controlled media that white people are evil and black people are faultless. You come together on the idea that every people in this country have a right to respect, every people have a right to fairness," he said. — AP



BATON ROUGE: Former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke shakes hands with qualifying officer Joe R Salter, right, after registering his candidacy for the November 8 ballot as a Republican at the Louisiana Secretary of State's office. — AP



PHILADELPHIA: In this June 21, 2016, file photo, Rep Chaka Fattah, center, leaves the federal courthouse. — AP

TRUMP PACS LEAVE WITH FAT WALLETS

CLEVELAND: After a slow start, big money is flowing toward efforts to help Donald Trump. Super PAC side meetings during the Republican National Convention have yielded millions of dollars in financial commitments, their leaders said, although some of the wealthiest and best-known donors remain uncomfortable with a presidential nominee whom they call divisive and light on policies.

A group called Rebuilding America Now landed a \$3 million donation on Monday and made a pitch to about 25 donors Wednesday at a Ritz Carlton gathering that featured Trump campaign officials, said Laurance Gay, the group's director. With the fresh infusion of cash, the group is set to air anti-Hillary Clinton and pro-Trump television advertisements next week during the Democratic National Convention. "Donors left our event feeling much less confused about the super PAC situation," Gay said. "If there's a time to begin giving, it's now."

Another super PAC, Great America PAC, has been working in Cleveland to woo donors, including multimillionaire investor Foster Friess and oil and gas billionaire Harold Hamm. Trump advocates Ben Carson and Dorothy Woods, a widow of one of the four Americans killed in the Benghazi, Libya, attacks, spoke to about 100 people who attended a Great America PAC meeting on Monday, said the group's co-founder, Eric Beach.

Both groups need new money: They're facing pro-Clinton efforts with more than \$130 million. And FEC filings in recent days showed Great America PAC began the month with less than \$1 million in available cash, and Rebuilding America Now with just over \$500,000. Donors have been slow to engage with pro-Trump super PACs partly because the candidate spent months criticizing such groups as "corrupt" and ridiculing those who give money to politicians as puppet masters. Others aren't sure yet where he stands on policies they care about.

Major donors

One holdout is the DeVos family, major Republican donors in Michigan who founded Amway. Betsy DeVos, in Cleveland as a delegate, said that while her family wouldn't "preclude" helping Trump, they're concerned they haven't heard more from him on issues such as school choice. They're also not happy with his tone and language. "A lot of the things he has said are very off-putting and concerning," DeVos said. Another complication has been the pileup of potential groups to help Trump - with at least six super PACs in the mix. The uncertainty has left some, including oil billionaire T. Boone Pickens and gaming mogul Sheldon Adelson, holding off.

"He's not giving to any of them right now," said Andy Abboud, Adelson's political adviser, who posted on Twitter a photograph of Trump with Sheldon and Miriam Adelson Wednesday night at the convention arena. Abboud said seemingly all of the groups have made a pitch to Adelson. That includes Rebuilding America Now. Gay said he and Trump friend Tom Barrack, who helped land the group's seed money, met with the Adelsons in early June in Los Angeles. Rebuilding America Now's biggest donor so far has been Los Angeles developer Geoffrey Palmer, who gave \$2 million. But on Monday a \$3 million donation from Home Depot co-founder Bernie Marcus arrived, according to two sources familiar with the donation who requested anonymity because they weren't allowed to discuss it. Marcus' spokesman could not be reached for comment.

Gay is a longtime friend of Paul Manafort, Trump's campaign chairman, and said he and Barrack started the super PAC at Manafort's behest. And Trump's campaign has made it clear to donors that they like what Rebuilding America Now is doing; Manafort called into the group's Wednesday meeting, and new vice presidential candidate Mike Pence has circulated a statement praising it. Federal rules prohibit Trump and his campaign from coordinating the pro-Trump spending done by super PACs. New money is enabling Rebuilding America Now to air ads next week nationally and in key states such as Ohio and Florida. — AP

HUNGARY PM BECOMES FIRST EU HEAD TO ENDORSE TRUMP

BUDAPEST: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban yesterday became the first European leader to endorse US presidential candidate Donald Trump, calling him a "better option" for the bloc than his rival, Hillary Clinton. "I am not a Donald Trump campaigner. I never thought it would occur to me that of the available options, he would be the better one for Europe and for Hungary", Orban said in an annual speech at a summer school in Baile Tusnad in Romania.

The right-wing leader said he was

swayed by security proposals Trump had made in his acceptance speech as the Republican Party's presidential nominee on Thursday night.

Depicting America as a country mired in violence, Trump had vowed to increase intelligence efforts, suspend immigration from nations "compromised by terrorism", and stop a "failed policy of nation-building and regime change" in places like Syria and Iraq. Orban is also a fervent opponent of immigration-particularly from Muslim nations-and has blamed recent terror attacks in Europe

on the bloc's refugee crisis, which erupted last summer.

'Kindling insecurity'

"(Trump) has made some proposals about stopping terrorism, that I as a European couldn't have said better regarding what would be best for Europe", Orban said. Orban stressed Europe had to create a network of national intelligence agencies that matched "the world's best". He also supported Trump's push to "abandon the policy of exporting democracy". Orban

said the West's toppling of authoritarian "but stable" regimes in Libya, Syria and Iraq had sparked chaos and unleashed the influx of migrants from the Middle East and Africa.

"If we prioritize democracy-building rather than stability in those regions where stability is more important, then we are kindling insecurity," he said. Orban warned the same applied to current events in Turkey, which has declared a state of emergency and launched a mass crackdown after a failed coup on July 15. "If Turkey

becomes unstable, then many tens of millions of people could turn toward Europe," he said.

Around 400,000 migrants and refugees passed through Hungary in 2015 before the government sealed off its southern borders with razor-wire fences in autumn and brought in tough new anti-migrant laws. Earlier this month, the government announced it would hold a referendum on October 2 on the EU's troubled plan to share 160,000 migrants around the 28-nation bloc via mandatory quotas. — AFP



MYRTOU: In this photo taken on Monday July 18, 2016, a Turkish Cypriot worker works at the Agios Panteleimonas monastery, which is under restoration in Myrtou in the Turkish Cypriot northern part of the Mediterranean island. — AP

CYPRUS RESTORES DERELICT CHURCHES AND MOSQUES

MYRTOU: Seyfi Tunelci long watched in sorrow as the derelict Orthodox Christian monastery at Myrtou in Cyprus' overwhelmingly Muslim north crumbled before his eyes. Now he's part of an island-wide team toiling to repair the medieval building and dozens of other Christian and Muslim sites that fell into ruin during decades of ethnic division. "Every stone that fell off the church hit a nerve inside me," Tunelci said beside the scaffolding-encased monastery of Agios Panteleimonas, where he and around 20 other Turkish Cypriot townfolk have spent months working to shore up the chapel walls, roof and belfry, stone by stone.

Like many Turkish Cypriots, 62-year-old Tunelci fled north in 1974 when Cyprus was divided amid a Turkish invasion into a breakaway north and an ethnically Greek, internationally recognized south. The construction worker sees today's European Union-funded cultural reclamation efforts as important to rebuild a sense of cross-community tolerance, common heritage - perhaps even eventual reunification. Since 2008 a committee drawn jointly from both parts of Cyprus has identified monuments of cultural significance, mostly deserted centers of worship, to be resurrected. "It must be like this, because if they collapse, we would be angry at one another," Tunelci said. "But if we rebuild them, we will be friends again."

Cultural heritage

The monastery, named after an early Christian saint renowned as a faith healer, traces its foundation to the 5th century. After its monks and parishioners joined thousands of Greek Cypriots fleeing south in 1974, a Turkish army garrison moved in, followed by legions of pigeons and snakes. Agios Panteleimonas became one of hundreds of Christian sites, including cemeteries, abandoned to vandals in the north, while scores of abandoned mosques and other Islamic sites in the south fell into a similar state of decay.

"These monuments should not be the monuments of the other ethnic group anymore," said Ali Tuncay, a Turkish Cypriot businessman on the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage, as the project organizers are known. "They are our common heritage which should be protected and preserved for future generations." Tuncay says their crowning achievement so far has been an inter-faith agreement to restore the Apostolos Andreas Monastery on Cyprus' northeast Karpas Peninsula. The site honors St. Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, who reputedly brought forth a miraculous spring on the spot for the salvation of passing sailors.

ZIMBABWE GOVT THREATENS 'TRAITOROUS' WAR VETERANS

HARARE: Zimbabwe's government denounced leading independence war veterans as traitors yesterday for an unprecedented attack on ageing President Robert Mugabe and vowed to identify its unnamed authors and put them on trial. Veterans who fought against white minority rule in the former British colony turned on their long-time ally and commander on Thursday, calling him a dictator in a jolting rebuke highlighting political maneuvering over his succession and mounting anger over economic woes.

Mugabe abruptly cancelled a hastily arranged news conference on Friday evening meant to respond to the veterans. State-owned newspapers reflected the power struggle yesterday with a highly unusual 12-page supplement praising his wife Grace on her 51st birthday. War veterans have accused her of having too much influence over her 92-year-old husband.

"Government ... dismisses the said traitorous so-called communique, which is reasonable in the constitutional democracy that Zimbabwe is," Retired Brigadier-General Asher Tapfumaneyi, the most senior civil servant in the veterans ministry, said in a statement yesterday. "Multi-agency investigations are underway to establish its origins, authorship, ownership and purpose," he said, adding the government would "bring all associated with it to justice".

The Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association (ZNLWVA) issued its allegations of corruption and economic mismanagement by Mugabe in its own name, without individual signatures, after a seven-hour leadership meeting. Tapfumaneyi expressed dismay at the statement and said the government was working to address most of their grievances by April 2017, a year before the next presidential election. —Reuters

MUNICH PULLS TOGETHER AFTER MALL SHOOTING INSTILLS ALARM

CITIZENS OFFER SHELTER THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

MUNICH: In the chaos sparked by the Munich mall shooting, city residents spontaneously opened their doors to people unable to get home-a move hailed for its courage and solidarity. Almost as soon as police shut down Munich's entire public transport system on Friday evening in an effort to prevent suspects from slipping through their net, people took to social media to offer a roof to anyone stranded.

Under the hashtag #offenueer ('open door'), anyone who found themselves with no safe place to go to could seek refuge until the transport network was back up and running-an approach also seen in France after the Paris and Nice attacks. "We have beer and a place to sleep near Prinzregentenplatz/Max Weber Platz. DM me!" tweeted one user, @JoTaucher. Munich, Germany's third-largest city, was reeling yesterday after an 18-year-old German-Iranian student killed nine people and injured 19 others in a busy shopping mall, before committing suicide.

Initially there had been reports of three possible attackers, but by Friday night police had ruled that out and said the shooter acted alone. The generosity of people's response to the attack found immediate praise among the authorities. "How Munich's population reacted, the initiatives that were there to offer people protection and help, this solidarity impressed me deeply. It was a good sign of a civil society," Bavaria's finance minister Markus Soeder told a news conference. "Amongst all the shock and mourning, there is still hope." The local daily Abendzeitung was similarly moved.

Descend into panic

"On an evening where the city descended into panic and Munich's population fled in sheer terror from public spaces, restaurants and beer gardens, a great many spontaneously offered them refuge," it wrote in a leader column. A young woman who gave her name as Tamara told AFP that she and her family were shopping in the OEZ mall when the shooting began. She and her Turkish husband, with their two children aged two and four, found themselves with nowhere to go because the nearby street where they lived had been cordoned off.



MUNICH: A little boy puts down flowers near a mall where a shooting took place leaving nine people dead the day before. — AP

"We'd been shopping at C&A. We didn't actually hear any of the shots fired," Tamara said. "It all happened so quickly. We only realised what was going on when we saw the TV reports. We were ordered to leave the mall as quickly as possible and we first thought it was a false alarm," she explained.

"But then we saw everyone else running, too." When the young family realised they could not go home, they took shelter in a nearby tower block. "We got into the lift and rode up to the 14th floor and rang on the doorbell. There was a pram in front of the door, so we thought, OK, if someone's going to open the door, it'll be another family. We've got children, too, as you see. But we didn't know them." The family invited them in and let them stay.

In the city centre, hotels also offered shelter to anyone stranded, allowing them to remain in the lobby if all the rooms were booked. The OEZ

mall was still heavily cordoned off yesterday as forensic experts continued to scour the site for clues. Crowds of onlookers mingled among a mass of television crews and journalists at the police line. But people were already laying flowers and lighting candles next to the mall for those killed or injured during the shooting. One hand-written placard asked simply "Why?".

Another bystander, a 78-year-old Hungarian man who gave his name as Meszaros, said he had lived in the area for more than 40 years. "What goes through the mind of someone like that," he asked. "What are his friends and family feeling and thinking?" He had heard reports that the 18-year-old gunman had dual German and Iranian nationality. "That means he grew up here. Did he just flip or were there political reasons?" Meszaros asked. "Nothing like that has ever happened here before. It's inconceivable." —AFP



INDJIJA: Migrants march by the side of a road in the town of Indjija, some 40 kilometers northwest of Belgrade, Serbia. — AP

MIGRANTS BRAVE HEAT AT SERBIA-HUNGARY BORDER

INDJIJA: Around a hundred migrants and asylum seekers braved scorching heat yesterday to continue a march toward Serbia's border with Hungary meant to draw attention to the plight of thousands of people facing closed borders after fleeing war and poverty. Some wore towels on their heads to ward off the sun as they slowly moved, stopping occasionally to rest in the shade along the road leading north toward the European Union. Their feet bruised from walking, dozens have given up and stayed behind.

Some 300 young men and boys set off Friday from Belgrade toward the Hungarian border 200 kilometers away, to protest its decision to keep the border closed for most of the asylum seekers, which has left a few thousand stranded in Serbia. Hungary has recently strengthened anti-migrant controls on its southern border with Serbia, admitting about 30 people a day, mostly families with small children, and pushing back those caught trying to cross illegally. Hundreds of migrants have been staying in make-shift camps along the border with

almost no facilities. Some of those marching to Hungary wore T-shirts reading: "Stop the war if you want to stop refugees," or "Open borders." Most said they were from Afghanistan and Pakistan, and stand little chance of crossing the Hungarian border into the European Union. Some said they will stage a hunger strike once they arrive at the border. "We want to be in the limelight so we could deliver the messages to the global leaders what is happening with the refugees," said Roohul Amin Afridi, 33, from Afghanistan.

Faced with a pileup of refugees, Serbian authorities also have announced stricter joint army and police border controls with Bulgaria and Macedonia, where migrants mostly enter Serbia. Most of the people stranded in Serbia have refused to apply for asylum there, fearing it would ruin their chances of one day reaching any EU nation. International medical aid agency Doctors Without Borders on Friday warned of a "sharp increase" in violence against migrants and refugees since the Balkan borders were closed in March. — AP

UN DELIVERS FOOD TO THOSE DISPLACED BY BOKO HARAM

KANO, Nigeria: The United Nations has made the first food aid delivery to thousands of people displaced by Boko Haram Islamists in the Nigerian town of Banki, where hundreds have starved to death since March, the UN said on Friday. Officials from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) delivered 30 tons of "various lifesaving food items" transported from neighboring Cameroon, the OCHA said in a statement.

The convoy reached Banki on Thursday and distributed food to the more than 25,000 people in the town, it said. "An additional 700 kilograms of supplementary food for malnourished children was airlifted from the state capital Maiduguri to Banki on the same day". It was the first aid delivery to the thousands of internally displaced in the northeast region in the last four months following deadly Boko Haram raids. They have been without food and basic supplies and relied on paltry food handouts from soldiers who have been sharing their rations.

Last month a soldier and a vigilante assisting the military in fighting Boko Haram told AFP at least 10 people were dying from hunger every day, highlighting warnings about a food crisis in the Sahel region. The vigilante said the cemetery in Banki, some 130 kilometers southeast of the Borno state capital Maiduguri, was dotted with 376 graves of displaced people who died of starvation. The soldier said people had been reduced to "walking corpses" facing imminent death without food aid. When Boko Haram intensified attacks on villages in the area, residents fled to Banki where a military detachment has been based since they retook it in September.

Millions in need of food

The United Nations said in May that 9.2 million people living around Lake Chad, which forms the border of Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger, were in desperate need of food. According to the OCHA aid distribution in Banki and other areas recently liberated by the Nigerian military was "scaling up" but more funds were needed to meet the "lifesaving needs" of people affected by Boko Haram violence in northeast Nigeria.

Only 28 percent of the \$279 million required by the UN to help those affected by the violence has been realized, leaving a \$200 million shortfall. The Borno state government and aid agencies have warned about acute food shortages in the Lake Chad region as a result of seven years of violence. Boko Haram's insurgency has left at least 20,000 dead in Nigeria and devastated infrastructure in the impoverished northeast. The unrest has also displaced more than 2.6 million. Nigeria's government has been encouraging people to return home since the recapture of swathes of territory lost to the Islamist militants in 2014 but most are still largely reliant on food handouts. —AFP



DAKAR: This file photo taken on April 15, 2016 shows a young Senegalese boy, locally called talibe, begs for ailments in a street in Dakar on April 15, 2016. — AP

SENEGAL AUTHORITIES SWEEP CHILD BEGGARS OFF STREETS

DAKAR: In recent weeks, packs of shoeless boys and girls have been coaxed off the streets where they have spent their childhoods, crying and frightened as they are loaded onto buses in the Senegalese capital Dakar. The crackdown on child begging comes after years of inaction and is praised by children's groups but greeted with anger by powerful Islamic figures in the West African nation.

The children are from a mix of poor or homeless families and others known as "talibes"-boys sent out to beg by Islamic tutors to make money for their boarding schools. They are brought to Guinddi Children's Centre in the capital accompanied by social workers, where they are interviewed and checked for signs of maltreatment and disease. "The children are generally unaccompanied. When they come here we ask them for the telephone number of their tutor or Koranic teacher and they give it to us," explained Maimouna Balde, director of the Guinddi centre.

Parents, or Islamic teachers known as "marabouts", will generally come and pick up the children themselves, Balde said, whereupon the centre's staff explain that if their charges are found on the streets again they will be prosecuted. The operation will continue "for as long as there are children on the streets," she said.

Profitable system

With 270 street kids picked up in the first two weeks of July in Dakar, according to the authorities, the initiative is a long way from dealing with the 30,000 talibes estimated to be begging daily. Often from poor rural families, the talibes are sent to Dakar and other Senegalese cities nominally to memorise the Koran, but are often left vulnerable to abuse and receiving little education. Sometimes the journey home is long: on July 11 nine children were repatriated to neighboring Guinea after being collected from the streets, according to one Guinean charity.

The current crackdown is the first time a decade-old law has been firmly applied, with parents or guardians of child beggars potentially facing two to five years in jail and fines of up to 2,000,000 CFA (\$3,355). "There are fattened calves hidden behind

this education system to exploit children through begging, which is an easy and profitable business," Niokhobaye Diouf, national director of child protection services.

Parents of street children should be assessed to see if they could benefit from state welfare and health programs to deter them from relying on their children's labor, he said. Talibes are told to beg for food and money and not to return to their "daara"-Islamic school-until they have collected enough. Even late at night in Dakar children only visibly out of kindergarten can be seen shaking empty tins of food, trying to get enough to be allowed to finish up for the day.

Power of tradition

Dealing with the systematic slavery of children in Senegal in this way has been attempted and then abandoned by the state several times before. Until now, the power of tradition means few have been willing to challenge the marabouts, given their status and the respect they are afforded as Islamic scholars. Muslim elder Sidi Lamine Niassé told journalists the government "doggedly pursued daaras" to "stigmatize and demonize" them.

But the schools have a long history of abuse: in February, the Senegalese authorities found 20 boys aged between six and 14 kept in chains by their marabout-resulting in a rare prosecution. Mustapha Lo, president of the national federation of Koranic schools, said the street sweep was taken without consulting Muslim educators and downplayed the concerns relayed by children's charities.

"The majority of us manage our Koranic schools without making the children beg on the streets. Some Koranic teachers do that because they lack any other financial means," Lo said.

Countering their arguments, Diouf said the government hopes to reform the daaras' curriculum while giving them a better level of financial support. More than their education is at stake: the authorities want to avoid children falling prey to jihadist recruiters in the region, who are luring young men away with promises of riches and glory. — AFP

INDIA WIDENS SEARCH FOR MISSING MILITARY PLANE

CHENNAI: India yesterday stepped up a major search operation for an air force plane that disappeared over the Bay of Bengal the day before with 29 people on board, as the defense minister headed to the region. The AN-32 military transport plane was on a routine flight from the southern city of Chennai to Port Blair, capital of the remote Andaman and Nicobar islands, on Friday morning when it vanished from radar screens.

Twenty-one of the passengers on board were defense personnel, including six crew members, while eight others worked for the military in non-uniform roles, an IAF source told AFP. On its official Twitter account the Indian navy said 18 navy and coastguard ships were now deployed in the search operation, along with six aircraft and a submarine. "#SAROps 18 Naval & ICG ships (+15m) deployed with various aircraft... to locate missing AN 32" the navy tweeted.

Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar travelled to Tambaram air base on the outskirts of Chennai yesterday morning, where he was briefed by military officials before departing for an aerial survey to monitor the ongoing operation.

"It lost contact with the radars approximately 150 nautical miles east of Chennai," IAF Wing Commander Anupam Banerjee told AFP. Several reports said weather in the Bay of Bengal had been rough owing to the southwest monsoon.

An IAF source said Friday radar data from the missing aircraft showed it making a sharp left turn before rapidly losing altitude. The Russian-built AN-32, equipped with navigational aids, is the IAF's workhorse aircraft and capable of flying for up to four hours without refueling. Experts have warned India's outdated fleet-some of which dates back to the 1960s-is a threat to national security, with some aircraft virtually on their last legs. — AFP

KASHMIR RESIDENTS STRUGGLE UNDER SECURITY LOCKDOWN

SHOPS ARE SHUTTERED, PUBLIC MOVEMENT RESTRICTED

SRINAGAR: Sheikh Naseer Ahmed is getting married, yet his home looks like anyone else's. There are no floral or light decorations, no hustle and bustle. Only close relatives are invited to the modest meal that is being prepared. His unusually humble nuptials reflect how ordinary life is muted in Srinagar, the urban heart of Indian-controlled Kashmir, as authorities attempt to quash protests against Indian rule. An eerie silence engulfs downtown, home to half a million people. Shortly after dawn, police and paramilitary soldiers, in full riot gear and armed with automatic rifles, swiftly occupy the roads and streets. They set up checkpoints, and lay steel barricades and razor wire at all the entry and exit points.

Like much of the rest of Kashmir, the sprawling, densely populated neighborhoods have been under curfew since July 9, a day after Indian government forces killed a popular leader of the region's largest rebel group. Yet public defiance has persisted, sparking deadly clashes between Kashmiris and Indian government forces that left dozens dead and hundreds injured. Separatist leaders have called general strikes. Shops are shuttered and public movement restricted. Getting food and medicine is a struggle. Dozens of feasts and celebrations have been canceled.

Curfew wedding

Ahmed's marriage date was fixed months back, with elaborate celebration plans. He intended to have more than 500 guests fed by 20 chefs cooking more than 500 kilograms of mutton and chicken for the multi-course Kashmiri meal known as wazwan. A principal part of Kashmiri marriage, the wazwan consists of seven to 20 dishes, and is accompanied by a religious ritual solemnizing the nuptial khatta. Those invitations, as well as mutton and chicken orders, have been canceled. The atmosphere is quite subdued. About two dozen women circled inside a hall to sing few traditional folk songs.

"How can we feast and celebrate when so many people are being killed?" Ahmed said in downtown neighborhood of Nowhatta, which houses the city's historic main mosque of Jamia Masjid. "I'm just managing to solemnize my nuptial knot." At a nearby community hall, few hundred meters away from Ahmed's modest three-story house, there are just two chefs at an open-air kitchen cooking 30 kilograms of mutton. The meal will be an ordinary, single meat dish and a vegetable. "The entire population is undergoing a grind," said Mohammed Munnawar, the head

chef. "It feels sinful to pound and grind meat for rista" or minced mutton balls. "This is a peak marriage season here. But this how we've been doing it in these conditions," Munnawar said.

After the Thursday's wazwan, Ahmed, accompanied by four relatives, traveled 5 kilometers (3 miles) to another neighborhood in Srinagar to bring his bride home late Thursday night, after government troops had withdrawn from the pitch-dark streets. Under normal circumstances, the feasting would continue after the bride has

stop activists from organizing protests. Life may be toughest for the sick.

Suffer the little children

Not far from Ahmed, cancer patient Haleema Bano twice ran short of her medicine, but managed to get it. Now, however, she's due for her follow-up examinations. To get to the hospital, she will need her son's help to walk a long distance, through a network of interior alleys away from police and paramilitary soldiers. She's fearful. "I don't know how long this will go

between the archivals. The Indian side has seen several separatist movements since then, including a bloody armed rebellion launched in 1989 to demand independence or a merger with Pakistan. More than 68,000 people were killed in that uprising and the subsequent brutal military crackdown by hundreds of thousands of Indian forces deployed across the region. But the latest rage surprised authorities, who did not expect rebel killings to be a trigger for a renewed public insurrection. The state administration has so far done little more than



SRINAGAR: An Indian Paramilitary soldier stops a Kashmiri Muslim man. — AP

been brought home, but this, as Ahmed said, was a "curfewed marriage." Restrictions and security lockdowns are nothing new for Kashmiris. The region witnessed months of clampdown during massive public uprisings against Indian rule in 2008 and 2010. Frequent separatist calls for shutdown and protests too are routinely met with security lockdowns. Residents say they've figured out ways to mitigate the hardships of being prisoners inside their homes.

For fresh vegetables and milk, they must leave home before dawn and walk a few kilometers to reach farmers; they can be home by 6 a.m. They buy other essentials, and smokers can get cigarettes, at the home of a neighborhood grocery store owner who had stockpiled goods there. But communication and information blackout has added to the hardships. Authorities suspended most cellular and internet services and temporarily banned newspaper publication to

Von," said Bano as she wiped sweat from her 3-year-old granddaughter, sleeping next to her. "I don't want my son to be in harm's way." Her son, Reyaz Ahmed Bhat, said a cousin in a neighboring locality ran out of prescription medicine for chronic depression. Living on a roadside in the gaze of patrolling soldiers, his condition worsened as he could not even venture out of his home to take strolls.

"Sometimes he would become violent, hitting his head against the wall. Then he would go quiet for hours. His wife and parents and two little kids were so terrified," Bhat said. "For three days he and his family suffered before his medicine could be organized." Kashmir's fury at Indian rule is not something new. Its roots lie in a broken promise of referendum guaranteed shortly after India and Pakistan gained independence from Britain. The two countries were unable to resolve their competing claims on the stunning mountain territory divided

let the police and paramilitary quell the deadly unrest. Yet every new killing has further enraged residents, sparking more protests and clashes. Separatist politicians, most of them under house arrest or inside police lockups, have channeled the uprising by repeatedly calling for protest demonstrations and strikes.

On Wednesday night, separatist politicians appealed to residents to stock up for a long struggle. The strike was relaxed Thursday and resumed Friday. Earlier in the week at sunset, as soldiers in Nowhatta began to withdraw for the day, a group mostly of young men barged them with stones and bricks. Soldiers responded with pepper gas and, tear gas, and threw stones as well. The muezzin call for evening prayer from the nearby mosque established a sort of ceasefire. Both sides withdrew. The next day is the same routine: Soldiers patrolling silent, deserted streets, and residents caged in their homes. — AP

INDIAN CHARITY WORKER RESCUED IN AFGHANISTAN

KABUL: An Indian charity worker kidnapped from Kabul has been rescued, officials said yesterday, more than a month after she was taken at gunpoint in the latest abduction of foreigners

in the war-torn country. Judith D'Souza, a 40-year-old staff member of the Aga Khan Foundation, a prominent NGO that has long worked in Afghanistan, was abducted near her

residence in the heart of Kabul on the night of June 9.

"I am happy to inform you that Judith D'Souza has been rescued," India's Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said on Twitter. "D'Souza is with us safe and in good spirits... I have spoken to Judith. She is reaching Delhi this evening." An Afghan security official told AFP that D'Souza was rescued in an operation in a district of Kabul on Friday and no ransom was paid. He added that a criminal gang, and not militants, were behind the abduction, which had prompted desperate pleas from D'Souza's family to Indian officials on social media.

"Judith has been rescued by the Government. Our family's joy knows no bounds. Gratitude to (the Indian government)," Jerome D'Souza, a family member, said on Twitter yesterday. D'Souza's abduction came after Katherine Jane Wilson, a well-known Australian NGO worker, was kidnapped on April 28 in the city of Jalalabad, close to the border with Pakistan. Wilson, said to be aged 60, ran an organization known as Zardozi, which promotes the work of Afghan artisans, particularly women.

The United States warned its citizens in Afghanistan in May of a "very high" kidnapping risk after an American citizen narrowly escaped abduction in the heart of Kabul. Aid workers in particular have increasingly been casualties of a surge in militant violence in recent years. In April last year the bullet-riddled bodies of five Afghan workers for Save the Children were found after they were abducted by gunmen in the strife-torn southern province of Uruzgan. — AFP



NEW DELHI: Judith D'Souza, an Indian charity worker kidnapped in Kabul last month, walks out of the airport as she returns to India upon her release. — AP

FIVE YOUNG INDIANS DIE IN SUSPECTED 'HONOR' KILLINGS

NEW DELHI: Five young people in northern India are believed to have been murdered by their families or partner's relatives in suspected honor killings, in three separate incidents this week, police said yesterday. Police arrested the father and brother of a 19-year-old Hindu woman Friday on suspicion of murdering her and her 23-year-old lover, both from the lowest Dalit caste. The relatives allegedly strangled the couple after catching them having sex at their home in Shamli district in Uttar Pradesh state, police said.

"We have arrested the father and brother of the girl. They told us they

killed them because she had brought disrepute to the family," Bhusan Verma, investigating officer in Shamli, told AFP. "We are investigating to see if there were more relatives involved. Both were strangled to death." It came after another Hindu couple in their 20s were Thursday found dead in nearby Saharanpur district, also in Uttar Pradesh, after their families allegedly objected to their relationship. Police have not ruled out suicide after the couple were found hanging inside the man's house. "It could be honor killing or suicide. We are waiting for the post

mortem reports to confirm the cause of death," Pradeep Kumar Yadav, police chief of Saharanpur, told AFP.

Yadav said the couple were in a three year relationship and wanted to marry but faced resistance from both families. Both of the deceased couples were biologically unrelated to one another. However, in each case, the couples belonged to the same "gotra"-or kinship group-something considered incestuous by many Hindus despite the lack of biological links, and which can be a cause for such killings.

In a third case, police on Thursday

found the body of a 16-year-old Muslim boy buried near an edible oil factory in neighboring Muzaffarnagar district, after he earlier went missing from his home. Police said the teenager was in a relationship with the niece of the factory's Hindu owner, adding her relatives strangled him to protect the "honor of the family".

"We have arrested the girl's brother, uncle and cousin for the murder," Deepak Kumar, police chief of Muzaffarnagar district, told AFP. Marriages outside one's caste or religion still attract censure across India.

Honor killings-which often see couples targeted because their families or communities disapprove of their relationship-have been carried out for centuries in the country, especially in rural areas. They are typically enacted by close relatives or village elders to protect what is seen as the family's reputation in a hereditary caste system. United Nations statistics suggest 1,000 out of the 5,000 such murders that occur worldwide every year are in India. India's Supreme Court ruled in 2011 that those found guilty of the killings should face the death penalty. — AFP

CHINESE WORKERS DISMANTLE TIBETAN STUDY, EVICT PEOPLE

BEIJING: Chinese government workers are dismantling buildings and evicting residents at Larung Gar, one of the world's largest centers of Tibetan Buddhist learning, according to overseas-based Tibetan groups, though a local official said the site was being renovated. London-based Free Tibet said government workers began removing residential buildings and evicting people who live at the academy in western Sichuan province on Thursday morning. Several exile Tibetan groups have said local authorities distributed an order in June to reduce the number of monks and nuns living there by half to 5,000, citing overcrowding concerns.

The order also sought a clear separation between genuine monks and nuns studying at the site and lay people residing there, according to pro-Tibetan groups, which have characterized the government move as an attempt to better manage religious activity in the area. A Serdar County government official said by telephone Thursday that police were not demolishing buildings but rather ren-

ovating them, but gave no further details. The official gave only her surname, Zhang, because she was not authorized to speak to the media. The county's press office was "not reachable" on its telephone line on Friday, according to a recorded message.

One within the iris

Founded in 1980, the academy attracts Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns for short- and long-term study in the religion's more esoteric aspects. They typically stay in a sprawling mountainside settlement made of thousands of log cabins. Government teams previously evicted thousands of monks in 2001, but the site has swelled significantly in the years since. Tsering Tsomo, director of the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Dharamsala, India, said monastery leaders including the abbot Tsultrim Lodro have opted to keep a low media profile while appealing for "restraint and sobriety" among their followers for fear of escalating tensions with

authorities. "The gist of what they (monastery leaders) are calling for is to let the authorities proceed with the partial demolition, as it would only cause loss to some practitioners and their dwellings," Tsering said. "Because the continued survival of the Larung Gar itself is more important."

The expulsions came on the day that China's hand-picked Panchen Lama, the second-highest figure in Tibetan Buddhism, presided over a four-day Buddhist ritual called the Kalachakra initiation at his home monastery in southwestern Tibet. It was the first time the ritual was carried out in Tibet in 50 years and attracted 50,000 Buddhists, according to the official Xinhua news agency. Tibetan groups this week condemned the ceremony as a sham orchestrated by Beijing to assert its authority. China picked its own Panchen Lama in 1995, rejecting a boy chosen by the Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhism's highest ranking figure, who lives in exile in India and is regarded by Beijing as a separatist. — AP



XIGAZE: In this Thursday, July 21, 2016 photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Tibetan monks take smartphones pictures during the Kalachakra ritual in Xigaze, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region. — AP



SHENYANG: In this Thursday, July 21, 2016 photo, a man sits outside of a flooded shop. — AP

FLOODS KILL AT LEAST 154 ACROSS CHINA, LEAVE SCORES MISSING

VILLAGERS COMPLAIN ABOUT LACK OF ANY WARNING

BEIJING: Torrential rains that have swept through China have killed at least 154 people and left 124 missing, officials said yesterday, with most of the casualties reported from a northern province where villagers complained about lack of warning before a deadly flash flood. The rains, which began on Monday, have flooded streams, triggered landslides and destroyed homes across the country. Most of the fatalities were reported in the northern province of Hebei, where the provincial Department of Civil Affairs said 114 people were killed and 111 others were missing.

More than 300,000 people were evacuated in Hebei, and the province made another round of appropriations of tents, blankets, rain boots and generators, the department said. In the Hebei city of Xingtai alone, 25 people were killed and another 13 were missing.

The Xingtai village of Daxian was swamped by a flash flood early Wednesday as residents were asleep. Eight people, including three children, were killed and another was missing in the flood, according to the Xingtai government.

But the tragedy did not surface until Friday, when accounts, purportedly by local residents, began surfacing on Chinese social media of angry villagers blocking roads, accusing the local authorities of failing to notify them in time for evacuation when an upstream reservoir discharged the floodwaters. The online posts - accompanied by photos of drowned victims - also accused local officials of covering up the tragedy by lying about having no deaths in the area. State media later confirmed that a local official had said Wednesday afternoon that the flash flood caused no fatalities.

Drowned children

Some of the accompanying photos showed images of apparently drowned children lying in mud, their bodies swollen and their skin pale. In another photo, local villagers and an official knelt before each other, with state media reporting that the official was trying to console the grieving family members. Although removed from social media yesterday morning - apparently by censors - the posts had already caused a national uproar, with members of the public demanding accountability from local authorities. Chinese journalists rushed to the village Friday night and reported on the disaster.

In response, local authorities started to release casualty figures and offered explanations late Friday. Yesterday night, Xingtai Mayor Dong Xiaoyu made a public apology and bowed at a news con-

ference for the mishandling of the flash flood. He said that the danger of the flood was underestimated, and that local officials erred in failing to confirm and report casualties in a timely and accurate fashion. He promised a thorough investigation and to hold negligent officials responsible.

Authorities blamed extraordinary rainfall and a failure of a river levee near the village for the sudden water surge. Local media reported that the river channel is particularly narrow near the village of Daxian and has been blocked by pipes from a heating utility, as well as mud. Qiu Wenshuang, a vice mayor of Xingtai, said yesterday that the flood was sudden and that the village was already flooded when officials arrived there to evacuate residents on Wednesday morning, according to state media reports. — AFP

ANGER ERUPTS OVER GOVT HANDLING OF CHINA FLOOD

BEIJING: Anger erupted yesterday over floods in northern China left more than 100 people dead or missing, with media and internet users accusing officials of negligence. Torrential rain has lashed northern China this week, and a flashflood near the city of Xingtai in Hebei province, which left nine dead and 11 missing, has become a focus of the public's dissatisfaction with the government's response to the disaster.

Angry villagers have blamed local officials for failing to warn them of the impending deluge, with Hebei Satellite TV showing one resident saying water had reached chest-level before an alarm was raised. Photos of the aftermath showed telephone poles toppled and homes completely collapsed, and debris submerged in a tide of brown mud. Local deputy Communist party secretary Wang Qingfei drew ire for earlier comments that there had been "no casualties" in the flood, the Beijing News said. A video of him kneeling before distraught, wailing relatives who lost family members was spread on social media, showing three distraught women clutching at his arm while asking how many had died.

Other online footage showed locals clashing with phalanxes of police, with one video showing police lining up to form a road blockade that the person filming

claimed was intended to stop residents from travelling to Beijing to report the incident. Public skepticism towards officials is common following disasters in China, as authorities seek to control information and their lack of openness can raise doubts about their trustworthiness. It remained unclear whether the flood, which struck early Wednesday while villagers slept, was the result of the levee of a nearby river breaking, a release of water from a local reservoir, or a combination of the two, the Beijing News said.

"Not to notify villagers about the Xingtai flood wasn't just an abandonment of the officials' duty-it was essentially manslaughter," wrote one incensed user of China's Twitter-like Sina Weibo microblog yesterday. Between Monday and Friday evening, rainstorms left 36 people dead and 77 missing across Hebei, with 230,000 people relocated and more than 29,000 homes collapsed, the province's civil affairs department said on an official social media account. Flooding is not uncommon during the summer monsoon season in northern China, but rains have been unusually heavy across the country this summer. Heavy downpours have already wreaked havoc in central and southern China, flooding several major cities and causing over 200 deaths, state media has said. — AFP

MH370 MYSTERY SPURS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE AIRCRAFT TRACKING

HONG KONG: As investigators prepare to wind down the Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 search after more than two fruitless years, the airline industry is still working to raise safety standards to prevent another plane from going missing. The disappearance of the Boeing 777-200, which went missing March 8, 2014 with 239 people aboard, left families of the crew and passengers in limbo. The unsolved mystery also spurred airlines and aircraft makers to devise better ways to track flights, locate wreckage and retrieve data from flight data recorders, or "black boxes."

Authorities said Friday that they'll suspend the hunt after they finish scouring more than 100,000 square kilometers (38,610 square miles) of seabed in the Indian Ocean later this year. Earlier this year, the International Civil Aviation Organization, spurred by MH370, moved to tighten up safety standards. ICAO, a United Nations agency that sets global aviation standards, approved a requirement for all airlines flying over open ocean to report their position every 15 minutes, which will take effect November 2018. Until now, pilots have typically done this every half hour.

I've got you in my sights

In another move that could help searchers locate crashes, planes in "distress" will have to automatically report their position and other critical information at least every minute. However, only planes built

on or after Jan 1, 2021 will be required to have this capability. Minute-by-minute reports would help searchers zero in on a search area of about 100 square miles. The agency also strengthened standards for the flight data recorders that investigators use to piece together what has happened in aviation disasters.

Beginning in 2018, the ICAO will require that flight data recorders be equipped with underwater locator beacons that can last at least 90 days. MH370's beacon was designed to last 30 days. The agency will also require new aircraft designs approved as of 2021 to include a way to retrieve the recorders or their information before they sink to the seabed. One possibility is an ejection system, another is relaying the data via satellite to ground stations. But deployment of such new systems could take a decade because of the lag between aircraft designs and certifications.

As for Malaysia Airlines, the disaster forced it to carry out a sweeping restructuring that analysts said was needed to keep the state-owned carrier afloat after it was shunned by travelers and teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. A new CEO, Christoph Mueller, cut unprofitable routes, grounded jets and axed 6,000 workers from Malaysia's bloated workforce in a \$1.7 billion overhaul that helped the company turn a monthly profit in February, its first in years. But in a sign of lingering turmoil at the company, Mueller abruptly resigned in April. — AP

PHILIPPINES REVIEWING 'CRAZY' CLIMATE PLEDGES, SAYS DUTERTE

MANILA: The Philippines is reviewing its "crazy" commitment to severely cut greenhouse-gas emissions in the Paris climate deal, new President Rodrigo Duterte has warned. The government of predecessor Benigno Aquino had pledged to the United Nations to cut the Asian country's emissions by 70 percent by 2030 from 2000 levels if it got support from developed nations to convert to clean technologies.

"I have misgivings about this Paris (climate deal)... The problem is these industrialized countries have reached their destination," Duterte said in a series of speeches during a visit to the southern island of Mindanao on Friday. The international deal aimed at curbing emissions was signed in Paris in December last

year, but only 19 countries including France and island-states threatened by rising sea levels have so far ratified the agreement. It cannot become effective until 55 countries accounting for 55 percent of global greenhouse-gas emissions have fully approved it.

"There is no treaty to honor. We have not signed the treaty," Duterte said, according to transcripts of his comments released by the presidential palace Saturday. Duterte, who was elected to a six-year term in May, also said poor countries such as the Philippines should be allowed to pursue industrialization to improve the lives of their people. "My plan is to put up industrial zones everywhere," said Duterte, with China an "easy market" for such a move. "If you will not allow us to reach parity, you are already

there and we are still here, then I'm saying that's crazy. I will not agree to that."

Duterte said the treaty restrictions would be difficult to implement and the legislature was already reviewing the document. The previous government had said the reductions were conditional on sufficient financial resources, technology development and transfer being made available to Manila. The Paris pact calls for capping global warming at well below two degrees Celsius, and 1.5 Celsius if possible, compared with pre-industrial levels. The accord-which could enter into force later this year, far sooner than expected-sets ambitious goals for capping global warming and funneling trillions of dollars to poor countries facing an onslaught from climate damage. — AFP



In this March 22, 2014 file photo, flight officer Rayan Gharazeddine on board a Royal Australian Air Force AP-3C Orion, searches for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in southern Indian Ocean, Australia. — AP



Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo poses next to a wax statue of himself during a visit to the new location of the CR7 museum dedicated to his professional career at Funchal, on the Portuguese island of Madeira yesterday. — AFP

MUNICH GUNMAN 'OBSESSED' WITH MASS...

Continued from Page 1

in Norway exactly five years earlier, Andrae added. Chancellor Angela Merkel, in her first reaction to the carnage, said Munich had suffered a "night of horror". Most of the victims in Friday's attack were young people, with three aged just 14, police said. Munich prosecutor Thomas Steinkraus-Koch said Sonboly had suffered depression, but voiced caution over reports he may have undergone psychiatric treatment. The teenager had 300 rounds of ammunition in a rucksack when he targeted the busy Olympia shopping mall, just minutes away from the flat he shared with his family, according to authorities. Police are investigating how he managed to obtain his weapon, a 9mm Glock pistol with a defaced serial number.

Grieving Munich residents laid roses and lit candles in memory of the victims, with one placard bearing the simple plea: "Why?" "Bloodbath in Munich," was the headline on the best-selling Bild newspaper. Sixteen people were wounded in the attack, three of them critically. A video posted on social media appeared to show a man in black walking away from the McDonald's restaurant while firing repeatedly with a handgun as people fled screaming. A police patrol shot and wounded Sonboly but he escaped before police found his body, after an operation to track down what had initially been thought to be up to three attackers.

Neighbors said Sonboly was born to Iranian parents, a taxi driver father and a mother who worked at a department store. They arrived in Germany as asylum seekers in the late 1990s. Of Shiite Muslim origin, Sonboly appears to have converted to Christianity, hence his first name David. The family lived in the well-heeled Maxvorstadt neighborhood in a tidy social housing block popular with immigrant families.

Neighbour Delfye Dalbi, 40, described Sonboly as a helpful young man who was "never bitter or angry", though others remembered a quiet loner. "All his body language said 'I don't want to talk to you,'" said Stephan, a waiter at the cafe on the ground floor of the housing block. A police source cited by DPA news agency said he

loved playing violent video games and was an admirer of the 17-year-old German who shot dead 15 people at his school near Stuttgart in 2009. Andrae of the Munich police said the teenager had been obsessed with books and articles about mass killings "linked to maniacs".

Survivors described terrifying scenes Friday as shoppers rushed from the area, some carrying children in their arms. "We entered McDonald's to eat... then there was panic, and people ran out," one woman told Bavarian television. Another video appeared to show the gunman on a car park roof in a heated exchange with a man on a nearby balcony. "I'm German, I was born here," the assailant replied after the man fired off a volley of swear words, including an insulting term for foreigners.

De Maiziere told reporters that Sonboly had likely used a hacked Facebook account to lure people to the McDonald's branch, "offering them special reductions." "I will give you whatever you want, for not a lot of money," the online invite read, according to German media reports. The casualties were mostly young, with three aged just 14 and two aged 15. Most of the victims in Friday's attack were foreigners, including three Turkish nationals, three people from Kosovo and a Greek.

US President Barack Obama voiced staunch support for Washington's close ally Germany, while EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said: "Europe stands united." Europe has been on high alert for terrorism after a string of attacks in neighbouring France and Belgium claimed by IS. The attack came just four days after a 17-year-old asylum seeker went on a rampage with an axe and a knife on a train in Bavaria, injuring five people. In France, a Tunisian used a truck on July 14 to mow down 84 people after a Bastille Day fireworks display in Nice, the third major attack on French soil in the past 18 months.

Friday's massacre spurred many in Munich to think the unthinkable. "It has reached us. People in Munich have long had a queasy feeling. Fears grew with every attack in Paris, Istanbul or Brussels," said the Abendzeitung newspaper's editor-in-chief Michael Schilling. "Since Friday it is clear that there can be no security anywhere, not even in the safest German city." — AFP

KUWAIT BEING SWEEP BY 'ABNORMAL' HEAT WAVE...

Continued from Page 1

He added that Kuwait was hit by dusty northwestern winds early yesterday that would gradually diminish by today, adding that temperature is also expected to be lower than 50 C next week. High temperature is to continue until end of August, Ramadan said, adding that it will gradually fall after Sept 6.

Iraq's state-run Meteorological Department said yes-

terday that it had registered the hottest day so far this year, with maximum temperatures hitting 53.9 degrees Celsius in the southern city of Basra. Friday's merciless heat in Basra forced the majority of the residents to almost abandon the streets or to swim in the river. Increasing the residents' suffering were chronic electricity outages, caused mainly by the soaring temperatures and the decline in electricity imported from neighboring Iran. — Agencies

CLINTON PICKS KAINE AS RUNNING MATE

Continued from Page 1

Clinton and Kaine officially joined forces ahead of the Democratic National Convention which kicks off tomorrow in Philadelphia, where they will be elevated as the official nominees to the party's presidential ticket.

Clinton put out a series of tweets heaping praise on the senator. She described him as "a relentless optimist who believes no problem is unsolvable if you put in the work to solve it" saying his guiding principle was "the belief that you can make a difference through public service". One of Clinton's tweets included a five-point graphic highlighting the senator's youthful spell on a Jesuit mission in Honduras as well as his track record in fighting homelessness, discrimination and gun violence, in expanding early childhood education and in fostering a pro-business environment in Virginia. Clinton, 68, had said she wanted a running mate with enough experience to "literally get up one day and be the president of the United States."

Nationwide polls suggest Trump and Clinton are running almost neck and neck. The New York billionaire painted a dark picture of an America mired in poverty and violence as he accepted his party's nomination Thursday night, promising to restore law and order, clamp down on immigration and put America first. Trump's choice of running mate, Indiana Governor Mike Pence who is a conservative evangelical Christian, could serve to reassure voters alarmed by his rhetoric.

As for Clinton's running mate, Trump insinuated Kaine is stained by corruption, posting on Twitter: "Is it the same Kaine that took hundreds of thousands of dollars in gifts while Governor of Virginia and didn't get indicted while Bob M did?" He was referring to former governor Robert McDonnell, a onetime rising star in the Republican Party, found guilty in 2014 of using his influence to help a local business owner in exchange for gifts and loans. Last month, the US Supreme Court vacated the conviction and ordered a retrial. — AFP

ERDOGAN'S MASS APPEAL SAVED HIM ON NIGHT...

Continued from Page 1

"A majority of people were shocked to see the president shocked," said Marc Pierini of the Carnegie Foundation Europe, a former EU ambassador in Ankara. With Erdogan "isolated and far from the centers of power", Pierini said, the live video phone call was "a master stroke". While the putschists were storming TV stations, apparently using "a manual from the '60s," Erdogan's improvised video address "led to direct reaction" on the streets, he said. "It turned around the coup."

In the days since people prevented a military overthrow, at the cost of over 240 lives, Erdogan has used text messages and social media to speak directly to the people. He has implored them to stay on the streets in nightly mass rallies in city squares that have resembled seas of red crescent flags. "Do not abandon the heroic resistance you have put up for your country, homeland and flag," read an SMS by "RTERdogan" sent to every mobile phone in the country. "The owners of our squares are not tanks, but the people."

Erdogan's improvised response to the coup attempt "helped him discover a new technology" to strengthen his rule, said Aykan Erdemir of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington. "The Turkish president, who has been deeply suspicious of social media and new communication technologies, realised that these tools have more potential than simply being

propaganda outlets," he told AFP.

Erdogan dominates Turkish politics like no leader since the republic's founding father, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, having cultivated a deeply passionate relationship with his followers. Such concentration of power by one man is unprecedented in modern Turkey and has raised widespread fears of increasingly autocratic and repressive rule. Youthful urban demonstrators rallied against Erdogan during the 2013 Gezi Park protests, and see the man with the notoriously fiery temper as a despotic autocrat who ruthlessly shuts down criticism.

But in many working-class areas and the vast Anatolian heartland, Erdogan is beloved by millions who celebrate a bigger role for Islam in public life, have benefited from a revitalized economy, and share a new sense of national pride under a potent ruler. Erdogan won the 2014 election with 52 percent of the vote, making him "the first directly elected president of the people, with an added legitimacy," said Pierini.

Critics warn Erdogan's vast personalization of power endangers democracy. "Erdogan now enjoys direct access to his followers via SMS and can mobilize them," without using his party as an intermediary, said Erdemir. This allows Erdogan to "ignite the masses to take the action that he sees fit," he said. "However, he will not have the same capacity to slow things down once his followers get going. So what he has now is both a very potent and risky technique." — AFP

AMIR COMMENDS OFFICIALS OVER HUGE DRUG...

Continued from Page 1

The attempt to bring in 10 million Captagon pills worth KD 25 million into the country was foiled on Friday, as the shipment was professionally hidden in a container coming from Turkey, according to a ministry statement. HH the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and HH the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber

Al-Muabark Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables.

Meanwhile, Speaker of National Assembly Marzouq Al-Ghanem thanked yesterday a number of state bodies for their efforts in thwarting the drug smuggling attempt. Ghanem, in a press release, congratulated ministers Sheikh Mohammad and Saleh for their efforts in the operation, which earned them recognition from HH the Amir. — KUNA

TWIN IS BLASTS KILL 80 IN KABUL

Continued from Page 1

officials said, with reports emerging of blood shortages and urgent appeals for donors circulating on social media.

The Taliban, who are in the middle of their annual summer offensive and are more powerful than IS, strongly denied any involvement in the attack. The Islamic State group claimed the bombings in a statement carried by its affiliated Amaq news agency, calling it an attack on Shiites. "Two fighters of the Islamic State detonated their explosive belts in a gathering of Shiites in... Kabul," Amaq said. The attack represents a major escalation for IS, which so far has largely been confined to the eastern province of Nangarhar.

The National Directorate of Security, Afghanistan's main intelligence agency, said the attack was masterminded by Abu Ali, an IS commander in Nangarhar's volatile Achin district. "It's long been a fear about Afghanistan that IS-aligned forces will try to inject a sectarian dimension into a largely non-sectarian conflict," Michael Kugelmann, an analyst at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, told AFP.

The bombings, which the UN denounced as a "war crime", mark the deadliest single attack in the Afghan capital since the Taliban were toppled from power in a 2001 US-led invasion, the interior ministry said. President Ashraf Ghani vowed

"revenge" against the perpetrators of the attack and announced today as a national day of mourning. The assault came as thousands of demonstrators gathered to demand that a multi-million-dollar power line pass through their electricity-starved province of Bamiyan, one of the most deprived areas of Afghanistan with a large Hazara population.

"The horrific attack on a group of peaceful protestors in Kabul demonstrates the utter disregard that armed groups have for human life," Amnesty International said in a statement. "Such attacks are a reminder that the conflict in Afghanistan is not winding down, as some believe, but escalating, with consequences for the human rights situation in the country that should alarm us all."

The protest was largely peaceful before the explosions struck as the demonstrators sought to march on the presidential palace, waving flags and chanting slogans such as "death to discrimination". The 500-kilovolt TUTAP power line, which would connect the Central Asian nations of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan with electricity-hungry Afghanistan and Pakistan, was originally set to pass through the central province. But the government re-routed it through the mountainous Salang pass north of Kabul, saying the shorter route would speed up the project and save millions of dollars. — AFP

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

<p>SHARP LC-32LE260M</p> <p>العلامة التجارية الأولى في اليابان Japan's No.1 Brand</p> <p>32"</p> <p>السعر Price ك.د. KD 49.990</p> <p>2. HDMI 240 Hz USB</p>	<p>SHARP LC-50LE458X</p> <p>50"</p> <p>السعر Price ك.د. KD 129.990</p> <p>HDMI CI+ USB</p>	<p>SHARP LC-58LE275X</p> <p>AQUOS</p> <p>58"</p> <p>السعر Price ك.د. KD 199.990</p> <p>HDMI 240 Hz USB</p>
---	---	--

Shop Online www.best.com.kw Free Delivery

1809 809

• Kuwait 1 (the New str.) • Kuwait 2 (Panasonic Tower) • Hawalli 1 (Tunis str.) • Hawalli 2 (Bin Khalidon str.) • Shuwaikh (4th Ring road) • Al-Rai (4th Ring road) • Salmiya (Salem Al-Mubarak str.) • Farwaniya (Behind police Station) • Fahaeel (Opp. General Parking) • Jahra (Opp. Main Co-op.) • Airport (Departure Hall)

BOLT ACCUSES RIVAL GATLIN OF 'DISRESPECT'

LONDON: Usain Bolt has reignited his rivalry with fellow sprinter Justin Gatlin, accusing the American of "disrespect," just two weeks before the Rio Olympics. Brushing aside any concerns about the hamstring injury which forced him to withdraw from his country's Olympic trials earlier this month, the Jamaican sprint king ran a solid time of 19.89sec in his first competitive 200m of this season in London on Friday. The 29-year-old Bolt, a six-time Olympic champion, had received a medical exemption to miss the Jamaican trials-sparking claims from Gatlin and a number of United States sprinters who said he had preferential treatment that he would not receive were he American. Bolt laughed off the criticism led by Gatlin, who has served two bans for doping. "For me I felt it was a joke, I felt it was a disrespect they think I'd back out of a trials," he said. "I've proven myself year on year that I'm the greatest. I laughed when I heard it, I was disappointed, especially in Justin Gatlin." Gatlin, 34, who took silver behind Bolt at last year's world championships in the 100m and 200m, has been one of Bolt's most consistent rivals in recent years. —AFP

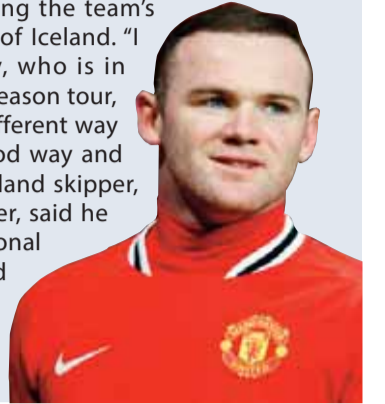


BASKETBALL PLAYER TYREK DIES AFTER TEAM WORKOUT

STILLWATER: Junior college transfer Tyrek Coger died Thursday after collapsing following an Oklahoma State basketball team workout, the university announced. The school said the 21-year-old forward, who had just arrived at Oklahoma State earlier this month, was pronounced dead at Stillwater Medical Center on Thursday night. "Tyrek was excited to be at Oklahoma State and had such passion for the game and was looking forward to being an OSU Cowboy," coach Brad Underwood said. "Losing a member of the team is like losing a member of the family. But we know our loss pales in comparison to the pain his family is going through." Oklahoma State planned to release more details Friday about the death. The Stillwater NewsPress reported (<http://bit.ly/29R36QY>) that emergency crews responded to a heat exhaustion call at Boone Pickens Stadium on Thursday, but it wasn't immediately known whether that case involved Coger. In an interview with the Stillwater paper published earlier this month, Coger spoke of frequent headaches that plagued him during his high school days—AP

ROONEY WELCOMES ALLARDYCE APPOINTMENT AS MANAGER

LONDON: England captain Wayne Rooney has welcomed the appointment of Sam Allardyce as national team manager and confirmed he is not planning on retiring from international football after the country's disappointing showing at the European Championship. Allardyce was appointed England manager on Friday on a two-year contract, replacing Roy Hodgson, who quit following the team's last-16 exit from Euro 2016 at the hands of Iceland. "I think it's a good appointment," Rooney, who is in China as part of Manchester United's pre-season tour, told reporters. "He will probably bring a different way of playing to England. Hopefully it's a good way and we can be successful under him." The England skipper, who is also his country's highest goalscorer, said he had no intention of retiring from international duty. "Am I going to carry on? It was asked of me after the Euros, but yes, I'll be there," the 30-year-old added. —Reuters



FORMER NFL COACH DENNIS GREEN DEAD

MINNEAPOLIS: Dennis Green, the trailblazing coach who led a Minnesota Vikings renaissance in the 1990s before a less successful run with the Arizona Cardinals, has died. He was 67.

Green's family posted a message Friday on the Cardinals website announcing the death. "His family was by his side and he fought hard," the statement said. It did not disclose other details, though the Cardinals said Green had died of a heart attack.

Green was the first black head coach in Big Ten history when he took over at Northwestern in 1981 and was just the third black head coach in the NFL when the Vikings hired him in 1992. Through it all, Green worked hard to provide opportunities for minorities on his coaching staffs and was beloved by his players for the loyalty he showed them. "He was one of the forerunners, standard bearers from an African-American standpoint," Vikings COO Kevin Warren said. "He was there early and won a lot of football games. He not only got in that position as a head coach, he then hired people and gave them opportunities."

Green spent 10 seasons in Minnesota, leading the Vikings to eight playoff appearances and two NFC championship games. He had only one losing season and compiled an overall record of 97-62, a mark second only to Bud Grant in franchise history. That included a 15-1 regular season in 1998 spearheaded by a record-setting offense.

"They were pretty good when he was here," current Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "I'm just trying to get close to him."

Green went out on a limb in the draft before that season, taking Randy Moss at No. 21 after the super-talented receiver fell due to character concerns. Moss was a sensation from the start, teaming with Cris Carter, Jake Reed, Randall Cunningham and Robert Smith to give the Vikings the most dynamic and explosive offense the league had ever seen. The Vikings scored a record 556 points that season, a mark that stood until New England broke it in 2007.

FIRED

But the Vikings were upset at home by the Atlanta Falcons that season and also were embarrassed by the New York Giants 41-0 in their other trip to the NFC title game after the 2000 season.

Green went 4-8 in the postseason, one of the reasons he was fired by Minnesota late in the 2001 season. "Denny made his mark in ways far beyond being an outstanding football coach," the Vikings said. "He mentored countless players and served as a father figure for the men he coached. Denny founded the Vikings Community Tuesday Program, a critical initiative that is now implemented across the entire NFL. He took great pride in helping assistant coaches advance their careers. His tenure as one of the first African American head coaches in both college and the NFL was also transformative. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Green family."

Smith tweeted: "Rest in peace Denny. I lost my mother in April, I feel like I just lost

father." Green's leadership was never needed more than during training camp in 2001 when offensive tackle Corey Stringer collapsed and died from heat illness, but his tenure in Minnesota also was marked by controversy.

He penned a book in 1997 entitled "No Room for Crybabies" in which he threatened to sue the ownership group if he didn't obtain an ownership stake. And at the end of the 2001 season, he was ousted with one game left in the season after losing a power struggle with owner Red McCombs.

Green finished his three years in Arizona with a 16-32 record. Perhaps his biggest accomplishment with the Cardinals was overseeing the drafting of Larry Fitzgerald as the No. 3 overall pick in 2004. Fitzgerald was a ball boy for Green's Vikings.

UNIQUE PHRASES

Of course, many remember Green's final season in Arizona in 2006 for a Monday night loss to Chicago, when the Bears returned two late fumbles and a punt for touchdowns to rally from a 20-point deficit. Afterward, in one of the more memorable postgame rants by an NFL coach, Green pounded the podium and yelled, "The Bears are who we thought they were!" afterward, a line that would be replayed endlessly over the years.

Green was well known for his "Dennyisms," unique phrases like "Plan your work and work your plan," which he would often say during practice. "I still use that 'Dennyism' today," Raiders coach Jack Del Rio said. "Coach Green is going to be missed dearly by everyone that was lucky enough to know him."

Green was also an avid drummer, and Moss said on ESPN's "NFL Live" that "we had a team and one thing he taught us was to play to one beat. His legacy will live on."

Born Feb. 17, 1949, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Green once said he was struck by watching early Big Ten football games and seeing both Minnesota and Iowa putting together successful seasons behind black quarterbacks. Green enrolled at Iowa, too, and played running back for the Hawkeyes from 1968-70. He played for the BC Lions in Canada in 1971 before returning to coach in college, beginning at Dayton in 1973 and gradually climbing to bigger programs. Green was also a head coach at Stanford and served as an assistant to Bill Walsh on the dominant 49ers teams of the 1980s.

"All of us at the Cardinals are incredibly saddened by the news of Dennis Green's passing," Cardinals President Michael Bidwell said. "Coach Green will rightly be remembered as a true innovator, leader and pioneer among football coaches. We express our deepest sympathy to his family and his many friends."

The family asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Boys and Girls Club of San Diego. "He did so much for me," tweeted former coach Tony Dungy, who was a defensive coordinator under Green with the Vikings. "Was looking forward to saying thanks at HOF. Tomorrow not promised." —AP



Lexi Thompson chips the ball up to the 10th green during the first round of the US Women's Open golf tournament. — AP

US, AUSTRALIA REBOUND IN UL INTERNATIONAL CROWN

GURNEE: After a rough first day of the UL International Crown, the United States never considered new pairings. Cristie Kerr and company knew it would work itself out.

Kerr and Lexi Thompson helped the US to three out of four points against Thailand on Friday, and Melissa Reid drew praise for a gutsy effort for England after her partner was sidelined by illness. Kerr and Thompson routed Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn and Porani Chutichai 4 and 3 for the Americans' first two points after they were shut out in the first session of the LPGA Tour event. The US almost got a sweep, but Gerina Pillier and Stacy Lewis each missed a birdie putt on 18 and had to settle for a single point against Moriya Jutanugarn and Pornanong Phatlum. Each of the four players were on the United States' winning team in the 2015 Solheim Cup, and the victory in Germany helped convince them to stay with the same lineup after the opening session at Merit Club about 40 miles northwest of Chicago.

"I mean, we had so much success at Solheim Cup, and I just think we played so much together that why switch it up? It was never discussed," Lewis said. Lewis' putt on 18 skirted the edge of the cup. "I think if it was just a touch slower, 6 inches slower, it probably goes in," she said. "But I thought it was perfect."

With Charley Hull sidelined by a fever and complications from asthma, Reid was all alone for her four-ball match against Japan's Haru Nomura and Mika Miyazato. Reid took it all the way to 18, where Nomura made a matching birdie to close out a 1-up win.

"For me, it's a huge positive," Reid said. "To get anywhere near the 18th was going to be a huge achievement, and I am just really, really pleased I gave the team a huge chance of even a point."

Holly Clyburn and Jodi Ewart Shadoff halved their match against Ai Suzuki and Ayaka Watanabe, helping seventh-seeded England to the Pool B lead. Thailand and Japan were one back with four points apiece, and the US was last after it finished sixth in the inaugural event in 2014. Taiwan topped Pool A with six points after it split its two matches with top-seeded South Korea. Candie Kung and Ssu-Chia Cheng beat Amy Yang and In Gee Chun 2 and 1, but Yani Tseng and Teresa Lu trailed all day long in a 4-and-2 loss to Sei Young Kim and So Yeon Ryu.

PAIRINGS

South Korea was second with four points, and Australia and China were tied for third with three apiece. Australia also was shut out in the first session, but Karrie Webb and Rebecca Artis teamed for a 2-and-1 win over China's Jing Yan and Simin Feng, and Minjee Lee and Su Oh halved their match with Xi Yu Lin and Shanshan Feng. Lin's birdie on 14 gave China a 2-up lead, but Lee birdied 18 to secure the point for Australia. Lee played with Artis on Thursday, and Webb was with Oh. "I think if a few things had gone our way yesterday, we could have gotten points on the board, but it just turned out that these two pairings worked," Webb said.

There are eight more four-ball matches to play. The top two teams in each pool and the winner of wild-card playoff between the third-place teams advance to Sunday's singles matches, with each player from the winning country taking home \$100,000 apiece.

The 20-year-old Hull, who helped England to a sweep of the United States on Thursday, sought medical attention when she arrived at the course. She is hoping to play today. "I really wanted to join my partner Mel at some point during the match, but at the advice of the medical team, the best thing to do was to rest and get healthy for my team for tomorrow," she said

in a statement released by the LPGA Tour.

Reid holed out with a wedge from 70 yards on the par-4 13th, squaring the match. But Nomura birdied the final three holes to help Japan to the win. "They finished birdie-birdie-birdie. I finished birdie-par-birdie," Reid said. "There's nothing you can really do. If you lose to a birdie, it's fine." —AP

KEN GRIFFEY JR, MIKE PIAZZA SET TO ENTER HALL OF FAME

COOPERSTOWN: When they were drafted nearly three decades ago, one was on everybody's baseball radar, the other a blip at best, picked almost as an afterthought in the final round thanks to a recommendation by an important family friend. The Seattle Mariners made Ken Griffey Jr. the first pick of the 1987 amateur draft and a year later the Los Angeles Dodgers selected Mike Piazza on the 62nd round with the 1,390th pick, ahead of only five other players.

Despite the divergent levels of expectation, both left indelible imprints on the game and will be rewarded today with induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. "It's incredibly powerful," said Piazza, by far the lowest draft pick in history elected to the Hall.

"This whole year for me has been so euphoric. It's such an honor." Dubbed "The Natural" for his effortless excellence at the plate and in center field, Griffey becomes the first No. 1 pick to be selected for enshrinement. When he visited Cooperstown in late May for an orientation, Griffey chose not to take the customary introductory tour of the Hall, saying he wanted his first walk through the front doors of the stately building on Main Street to be with his kids.

"I wanted to share the moment with them," Griffey said. "It was important for me to be able to do it with them and not just by myself. I just felt that I wanted to be a member of the Hall of Fame to walk in there."

Induction day promises to be emotional for Griffey because his mother Birdie, and father, former Cincinnati Reds star Ken Sr., both cancer survivors and integral to his rise to stardom, also

will be part of the celebration.

Griffey played 22 big-league seasons with the Mariners, Reds and Chicago White Sox and was named on a record 99.32 percent of ballots cast, an affirmation of sorts for his squeaky-clean performance during baseball's Steroids Era. A 13-time All-Star and 10-time Gold Glove Award winner, Griffey hit 630 home runs, sixth all-time, and drove in 1,836 runs. Griffey also was named American League MVP in 1997, drove in at least 100 runs in eight seasons, and won seven Silver Slugger Awards. In the 1995 ALDS, he became just the second player in major league history to hit five home runs in a single postseason series (Reggie Jackson of the Yankees in the 1977 World Series is the other).

From 2001-04 he averaged fewer than 80 games per year while suffering through hamstring tears, knee problems, a dislocated shoulder, and ankle tendon ruptures.

Healthy again in 2005, Junior slugged 35 home runs and captured the NL Comeback Player of the Year Award. Two years later, he had his last standout season - 144 games, 30 homers, 93 RBIs - and earned his final All-Star Game selection.

For Piazza, selection to the Hall is validation of an awful lot of hard work. Taken in the draft after Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda, a close friend of Piazza's father, put in a good word, Piazza struggled. He briefly quit the game while in the minor leagues, returned and persevered despite a heavy workload as he switched from first base to catcher and teammates criticized his erratic play.—AP



MINNEAPOLIS: Minnesota Vikings coach reacts after being doused after a 27-7 win over the Green Bay Packers at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. Green, a trailblazing coach who led a Vikings renaissance in the 1990s and also coached the Arizona Cardinals, has died. He was 67. Green's family posted a message on the Cardinals website on Friday, announcing the death. — AP



NEW YORK: In this Jan. 7, 2016, file photo, Ken Griffey Jr., left, poses for a photograph with Mike Piazza at a press conference announcing they are both elected into the 2016 National Baseball Hall of Fame, in New York. — AP

OLYMPIC WEIGHTLIFTER MORGHAN KING ROSE QUICKLY TO THE TOP

SEATTLE: Morghan King was interning as a graphic designer and working at an organic breakfast restaurant in Seattle when she put "real life" on hold to become a weightlifter. Four years later, King is heading to Rio de Janeiro to compete in the Olympics. It's been a rapid rise to the top for the 30-year-old strongwoman. "I gave up my whole other life to pursue weightlifting for the dream of making the Olympics," King said. "Once I put my mind to something, I go after it 110 percent. I was fortunate enough to have the support system to allow me to do that." The 5-foot, 106-pound King is one of only four athletes - three female - representing the

US in weightlifting. Kendrick Farris, Sarah Robles and Jenny Arthur also are going to Brazil. King, who grew up in Redmond, Washington, played soccer at Notre Dame de Namur University, where she received a bachelor's degree in graphic design.

She participated in triathlons after college before a friend of a friend suggested CrossFit. That led her to boyfriend Dean Kruse, who introduced her to weightlifting and has coached her along the way. "I realized that I wanted to be very competitive again and when I decided to get stronger for CrossFit, I found weightlifting and fell in love," King said. King and Kruse moved to Charlotte,

North Carolina, three years ago so she could start training for the Olympics. "I tried 'real life' after I graduated college," she said. "I love that side of myself but I am so passionate about athletics and sports that I always kept coming back to them. I now know that being involved in sports is where I'm supposed to be."

King finished fourth in her first national meet at the 2012 American Open. She then dropped down from the 53-kilogram class to 48 kg and soon qualified for the 2013 International Weightlifting Federations World Championships.

Zygmunt Smalcerz, the resident weightlifting team coach at the US

Olympic training center, saw her perform and invited her to train under him in Colorado Springs, Colorado. So King and Kruse packed their bags and moved again. "There is no way I could have done it without Dean," King said. "He has been with me since the beginning. Without his guidance and passion for the sport, my journey would have been pretty lonely." In 2015, Kruse resumed coaching King under the program guidance of Shahin Nasarinia, a former Iranian weightlifting champion. King qualified for the Olympics by lifting a total of 180 kg - 80 kg snatch and 100 kg clean and jerk - at the US trials in May.

She's excited to make it this far but won't be satisfied coming home empty-handed. "It's my goal to have a medal around my neck," King said. "I know I have the capability to do it." No American weightlifter has brought home a medal since 2000, the first year women took part in the Summer Games. Tara Nott (48 kg) won a gold and Cheryl Haworth (75 kg) earned a bronze that year. US men haven't won a medal since 1984. "We have a very competitive women's team going to Rio," King said. "I think not only myself but all of us girls have the capacity of bringing hardware home. I think that's pretty special." —AP

REIGNING CHAMP UCHIMURA EYES BREAKTHROUGH FOR JAPAN

TOKYO: Kohei Uchimura has nothing left to prove. The only question surrounding the effortlessly elegant 27-year-old is if he is the greatest male gymnast of all time.

Another Olympic all-around title to bookend the one the Japanese captured in London four years ago would settle the debate for now and perhaps for good. Yet Uchimura is far less concerned with adding to his ever-growing collection of personal bling - he's won a record six world championships to go with that Olympic gold - and more focused on helping his country return to the top of the podium. Japan ended a lengthy losing streak to rival China when it triumphed at the 2015 world championships. Uchimura - who isn't ruling out sticking around until the 2020 Olympics back home in Tokyo - would love nothing more than to fill the one hole left on his peerless resume. A few other things to look for when the men's competition in Rio de Janeiro gets underway on Aug 7.

MANRIQUE'S MOMENT

Uchimura's biggest challenge may come from 20-year-old Cuban Manrique Larduet. The powerful Larduet was a revelation at worlds last fall, finishing a surprising second behind Uchimura. Heady territory for a kid from Santiago on the southeastern Cuban coast, a good 500 miles from Havana. Cuba has never won a medal at the Olympics in men's gymnastics, a drought Larduet could end if he can back up his bronze-medal winning performance on high bar at worlds. In an event that can best be described as gymnastics' answer to the Slam Dunk Contest, Larduet's daring, high-flying routine is a wonder.

STEADY SAM

Sam Mikulak has spent most of the last four years as easily the best American gymnast, reeling off four straight national titles with relative ease. Yet he's struggled to make an impact on the international level, his only medal coming as part of the US team that won bronze at the 2014 world championships. The 23-year-old moved to the US Olympic Training Center after graduating from Michigan but continues to be bothered by small mistakes - usually early in a competition - that force him to spend most of the

meet playing catch-up. "It's time for me to show what I can do on the international stage," Mikulak said. "I think if I can go out there with my mind clear, I'll be OK."

LONG TIME COMING

Chris Brooks spent the overwhelming majority of his career pushed just off to the side, whether by injury or just enough mistakes in crucial moments to convince the US national team selection committee to look elsewhere for help. Now the 29-year-old is center stage. Brooks put together a surprising run to a spot on the five-man U.S. squad along with Mikulak, Jake Dalton, Alex Naddour and Danell Leyva (filling in for an injured John Orozco) by finishing second at nationals and Olympic Trials. An alternate on the Olympic team that faded to fifth in London in 2012, Brooks heads to Rio as team captain.

STRUGGLING SUPERPOWER

China's lengthy run at the top officially ended last October when it slipped all the way to third behind Japan and rising Great Britain, signaling an end to the Chinese's once easy dominance. "It's a warning for all of us," Zhang Chenglong said. "Because it's a competition, there are always successes and failures. No one can be the forever winner." Zhang is the only returning member of the 2012 team that won gold in London after five-time Olympic gold-medal winner Zou Kai's late bid to make the team was beset by injury.

DON'T MISS

Great Britain's Louis Smith on pommel horse. The event is 45 seconds of lactic-acid producing agony for most but Smith's powerfully graceful set stands out. While some of his competitors move their hands so quickly it's as if they're racing to get done, Smith takes his time. His athletic swoops from one side to the other are a picture of control.

The 27-year-old began the Brits' rise in international competition when he earned bronze on pommel horse in Beijing, the first Englishman to win an Olympic medal in gymnastics in a century. He picked up a silver on pommels in London, capping a triumph meet for the Brits, who edged the Ukraine for bronze in the team event. — AP



BEIJING: In this Aug. 26, 2015 file photo, Kenya's Julius Yego celebrates after winning the men's javelin at the World Athletics Championships at the Bird's Nest stadium in Beijing. Yego wanted to be an athlete, only he couldn't run very fast. That can be a significant setback for a kid growing up in the highlands of western Kenya, where the best distance runners in the pre-eminent distance-running nation are molded. Yego had a different plan to succeed in track and field. With the help of a sharpened stick, an "elastic" right wrist, and, crucially, a selection of YouTube videos that were his coaching manual, he became a javelin world champion instead. — AP

'YOUTUBE MAN' YEGO, KENYA'S SELF-TAUGHT JAVELIN WORLD CHAMP

NAIROBI: Julius Yego wanted to be an athlete, only he couldn't run very fast. That can be a significant setback growing up in the highlands of western Kenya, where the best distance runners in the pre-eminent distance-running nation are molded. When it comes to sport, running is just about all that matters in Kenya.

So Yego had to come up with a different plan to succeed. With the help of a sharpened stick, an "elastic" right wrist, and YouTube videos as a substitute for a coaching manual, he became a javelin world champion instead.

"Javelin is the sport in me, part of my blood," he said. "I can't sprint. I can't compete in the 800 meters or the 100 meters. Javelin is the main talent I had." Yego, a world champion who isn't a distance runner, goes against trends in Kenya and in international track and field in a refreshing way. Forget convention - imagine a Jamaican winning a world title in the 10,000 meters, or an Ethiopian gold medalist in the 100 sprint.

Even that doesn't encapsulate the essence of the journey of a boy from a rural farming village in the Great Rift Valley who practiced with sharpened sticks he cut off trees, and used online videos to teach himself to launch a javelin as far as the best from Scandinavia, Germany and Eastern Europe.

He launched one, a sleek metal one, further than them all last year to win the world championship title in Beijing. When Yego threw 92.72 meters, hurling himself face-first onto the ground as the javelin left that fabulously flexible right hand, he catapulted into the top three best javelin throwers ever. His effort was the eighth furthest in history. Only the great Jan Zelezny (who has six of the top eight throws) and Aki Parviainen have thrown a javelin further.

There isn't another African on that list of leading throws. There isn't another non-European in the top 30. "When I saw the Javelin fly I knew it was a huge, huge, huge throw," Yego said, recalling that effort.

The first Kenyan to win a world title in a field event. An African record. The first man in 14 years to throw more than 92 meters. Only the fifth man ever to top 92 meters. All tremendous achievements, yet it very nearly didn't happen.

In Cheptonon village in the Rift Valley, a young Yego thought he could succeed in javelin, believing he had a gift. "My strength is my hand," he said. "It is flexible and elastic. Very nice."

For years, though, he was the only one who believed it. He got very little help as his career progressed, so he turned instead to the internet. He'd make his way to the closest internet cafe to his village and watch YouTube videos of the great Zelezny, his favorite, and others. Then he'd go home and put into practice what he'd seen. It was still tough. As recently as 2008, Yego, training alone and unnoticed, considered giving up when he was overlooked for the world juniors. "At that point I didn't want to do the javelin because there was no support," he said in an interview with The Associated Press in Kenya. "Support was for the 800 meters ... up to the marathon. They overlooked the field events."

He stuck at it, though, and threw 75 meters in 2010. Encouraged, he kept watching the online videos, tweaking his training and technique. He won the All-Africa Games title in 2011 with a national record. More YouTube.

In the buildup to the 2012 Olympics, Yego

got the chance to go to Finland and work with coach Petteri Piironen. After returning home, he kept in contact with Piironen through Skype. He still consulted his quasi-coach, too: YouTube.

Yego made the Olympic final by going past 80 meters. A Commonwealth Games title came in 2014 with 83.87. And then last year in Beijing, the world championships gold.

People are taking notice now. Yego is a star in Kenya, where he's known as the "YouTube man." He's quite happy with the attention after spending so many years being ignored for the distance

runners. "Being a world champion is a great thing," said Yego, who now wears sponsored training gear emblazoned with "92.72." "Everyone looks at you." The unorthodox throwing style, sometimes flying headlong onto the ground as he releases the javelin to give it every last bit of power and momentum, also makes good viewing. "The falling is not a technique," he said. "Sometimes it happens, sometimes it doesn't." Faced with those options a decade ago, Yego made it happen - with some help from the internet. — AP



GEORGIAN MOTHER AND SON OUT TO MAKE HISTORY IN RIO

TBILISI: The Rio Olympics will be the eighth Games for Georgian shooter Nino Salukvadze, but it will be the first time when she will be joined by a very special team mate - her own son.

It is believed to be the first such case in Olympic history when a mother and her son will compete side by side. "I am very happy and very proud that I will be competing alongside my son. We will do our best to perform well," Salukvadze, 47, told Reuters.

Salukvadze was 19 when she won a gold medal in the women's 25-metre sporting pistol competition and silver in the women's 10-metre air pistol competition at the 1988 Seoul Olympics when she repre-

sented the team of the now defunct Soviet Union. At the 2008 Beijing Olympics she won a bronze medal for Georgia in a 10-metre air pistol event. Salukvadze's 18-year-old son Tsothe Machavariani shot a personal best in the 10-metre air pistol at the European Championship in February to get an Olympic qualifying spot. "It's a double joy for me, because I will participate in the Olympics for the first time in my life and because I will compete in Rio alongside my mother," Machavariani told Reuters. Salukvadze said she believed that family relations do not matter in sports and should not cool sport ardour. "But, frankly speaking, I am a mother after all and will be a fan of my son in Rio," she said. — Reuters



TBILISI: In this photo taken on Thursday April 28, 2016, former champion Nino Salukvadze, left, and her son Tsothe Machavariani pose for a photo during an interview with the Associated Press in Tbilisi, Georgia. — AP

AMERICAN HARRISON WANTS BOTH HURDLES RECORDS

One world record is not enough for Keni Harrison. Hours after breaking the 28-year-old 100 metres hurdles record on Friday to avenge failing to make the US Olympic team, the young American revealed there is another race she wants to conquer.

"(I want to) try to get another record in the 400 hurdles," Harrison told a conference call from London where she ran a record-breaking 12.20 seconds in the 100 metres hurdles. She bettered the record of Bulgaria's Yordanka Donkova from 1988 - four years before Harrison was born-by one hundredth of a second. It came in Harrison's first race since finishing sixth in the cut-throat U.S. Olympic trials where only the top three advance to the Games. "I wanted to come out here with a vengeance to show these girls what I have," said the 23-year-old, who defeated the three women who will represent the United States in Rio. Harrison was a sure-fired favourite before the American trials to make the US team and win gold at Rio after running the second-fastest 100 metres hurdles ever in May. "The pressure got to me," she said of the US trials. "I was really heartbroken. I wanted to give up so bad." But calling it a season was not the answer, she realised. "I knew this was the only way I was going to make myself feel better, to get back to training and go after that world record," she said. Harrison said she was nervous before Friday's preliminary race. "I just

tried to push all of the doubt out of my mind... I just told myself you know that you are the best. I just kept saying that over and over again," Harrison said. A speedy 12.40 seconds in the preliminary restored her confidence. "I'm back," Harrison said to herself. In the final, "I just told myself, keep going, keep going."

She did, becoming the fastest ever in the event. Harrison will next make an unexpected trip home to North Carolina and her family of 11 to watch and cheer on her US team mates in Rio before three more races in Europe. She hopes to wrap up the Diamond League 100 metres hurdles title, ensuring she will have a bye into the 2017 world championships in the event. "If I do that I have a chance to take a break from the 100 hurdles until world championships and try to get another record in the 400 hurdles," said Harrison.

"My main focus (next year) will be the 400 hurdles until the worlds and I will try to do both." She ran both events in college but her best of 54.09 seconds in the longer race is more than a second off the world record. Though heartbroken at missing Rio, the failure has brought a new challenge, she said.

"It is unfortunate I didn't get top three," said Harrison, who is "ok" with the US system. "But once I try again in a few years, I know getting top three is probably going to be the best feeling in the world, knowing that I conquered so much to get there." — Reuters



Kenii Harrison

HORNETS CO-OWNER HITS OUT AT ALL STAR GAME MOVE

CHARLOTTE: Hornets co-owner Felix Sabates has blasted the NBA's decision to move the 2017 All Star Game out of Charlotte, North Carolina due to its objections to a state law deemed as discriminatory against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

The NBA has been opposed to House Bill 2, or HB2, since it was passed in March and tried to work with local governments to change the law before ultimately making a decision of relocating

its mid-February exhibition.

The law made North Carolina the first US state to require transgender people to use restrooms in public buildings and schools that match the sex on their birth certificate rather than their gender identity. In an email obtained on Friday by the Charlotte Observer, Sabates said the decision was "short sighted" and hit out at the city council, who he said was responsible for the game being taken away from Charlotte.

"Shame on those responsible for such a shortsighted decision to take the NBA All Star (Game) away from Charlotte," Sabates wrote. "I always thought this was a country that ALL peoples not just a few can determine our future."

Following Thursday's decision, the Hornets issued a statement saying they understood the decision. "We understand the NBA's decision and the challenges around holding the NBA All-Star

Game in Charlotte this season," it read. "There was an exhaustive effort from all parties to keep the event in Charlotte, and we are disappointed we were unable to do so."

Sabates, however, said the mayor had "opened a can of worms" and that a minority of people had forced "our supposed city leaders into creating a problem that never really existed." "This is plain wrong. This could cause irreparable damages to children that don't

understand why they have to see what God did not mean for them to witness.

"We have some very confused business as well as political humans that frankly have made this a political issue rather than moral issues. SHAME ON THEM." The NBA has said that the All Star Game, which generates millions of dollars in economic activity, could be rescheduled for Charlotte in 2019 if there was an "appropriate resolution to this matter." — Reuters

MLB results/standings

Baltimore 5, Cleveland 1; Philadelphia 4, Pittsburgh 0; San Diego 5, Washington 3; NY Yankees 3, San Francisco 2; Seattle 2, Toronto 1; Cincinnati 6, Arizona 2; Minnesota 2, Boston 1; NY Mets 5, Miami 3; Chicago Cubs 5, Milwaukee 2; Detroit 7, Chicago White Sox 5; Houston 2, LA Angels 1; St. Louis 4, LA Dodgers 3 (16 innings); Kansas City 3, Texas 1; Colorado 4, Atlanta 3; Oakland 1, Tampa Bay 0 (13 innings).

American League				
Eastern Division				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	55	40	.579	-
Boston	54	40	.574	0.5
Toronto	54	43	.557	2
NY Yankees	49	47	.510	6.5
Tampa Bay	38	58	.396	17.5
Central Division				
Cleveland	56	39	.589	-
Detroit	51	46	.526	6
Kansas City	48	47	.505	8
Chicago White Sox	46	50	.479	10.5
Minnesota	36	60	.375	20.5
Western Division				
Texas	55	42	.567	-
Houston	52	44	.542	2.5
Seattle	49	47	.510	5.5
LA Angels	43	53	.448	11.5
Oakland	43	54	.443	12
National League				
Eastern Division				
Washington	57	40	.588	-
Miami	52	44	.542	4.5
NY Mets	51	44	.537	5
Philadelphia	45	53	.459	12.5
Atlanta	33	64	.340	24
Central Division				
Chicago Cubs	58	37	.611	-
St. Louis	52	44	.542	6.5
Pittsburgh	49	47	.510	9.5
Milwaukee	40	54	.426	17.5
Cincinnati	37	59	.385	21.5
Western Division				
San Francisco	57	39	.594	-
LA Dodgers	54	44	.551	4
Colorado	45	51	.469	12
San Diego	42	55	.433	15.5
Arizona	40	56	.417	17



MIAMI: New York Mets second baseman Neil Walker (20) tags out Miami Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton, who tried to stretch a single into a double during the sixth inning of a baseball game, Friday, in Miami. The Mets defeated the Marlins 5-3. — AP

REYES' 3 HITS HELP METS EDGE MARLINS

MIAMI: Jose Reyes had his first three-hit game since joining New York early this month and scored twice to help New York beat the Miami Marlins 5-3 on Friday night. Reyes drove in a run, stole a base and scored on two sacrifice flies by Yoenis Cespedes. The game was Reyes' first at Marlins Park since he played for Miami in 2012. Reyes signed with the Mets after being released by Colorado following a domestic violence suspension. The Mets' James Loney entered the game as a defensive replacement and hit a two-run homer into the upper deck in the ninth inning. Logan Verrett and three relievers combined on a seven-hitter for the Mets. They closed within a half-game of second-place Miami in the NL East. Verrett took a shutout into the sixth for New York but departed after giving up a two-run homer to Christian Yelich, his 10th. Hansel Robles (5-3) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings. Jeury's Familia gave up an RBI single by pinch-hitter Martin Prado in the ninth before retiring Adeiny Hechavarria with two on for his 50th consecutive save, including 34 this season to lead the majors. David Phelps (4-5) took the loss. Florida's Ichiro Suzuki struck out on three pitches in the eighth inning as a pinch-hitter and remained four hits shy of 3,000.

PADRES 5, NATIONALS 3

Matt Kemp homered twice and drove in four runs, rookie Luis Perdomo pitched seven solid innings and San Diego beat Washington to snap a four-game losing streak. Kemp hit a solo shot in the first inning and gave San Diego the lead for good with a three-run homer in the fifth. He has six homers in his last six games and the Padres have homered in 20 straight, the longest streak in the National League this season. Perdomo (4-4) gave up two first-inning runs, then limited the National to two hits over the final six innings of his longest outing. Brandon Maurer pitched 1 1/3 innings for his fourth save. Jayson Werth and Daniel Murphy homered for Washington. The Nationals have lost four of five. Tanner Roark (9-6) was the loser.

CUNTS 5, BREWERS 2

Dexter Fowler led off the first with a homer and drove in three runs in his first game back from the disabled list, powering Chicago past Milwaukee. Fowler went 3 for 4 with a walk and scored twice after being sidelined more than a month with a strained right hamstring. His two-run double to left with the bases loaded in the second drew rousing cheers from the bevy of Cubs fans visiting Milwaukee.

Jason Hammel (9-5) allowed four hits and two runs over five-plus innings for his second victory since the All-Star break for NL Central-leading Chicago. He never trailed after Fowler slugged a 3-1 pitch from Jimmy Nelson (6-8) over the center-field wall to lead off the game. Hector Rondon pitched a scoreless ninth for his 17th save. Hernan Perez had a run-scoring double for the Brewers, and Ryan Braun hit a solo homer.

YANKEES 3, GIANTS 2

San Francisco Gold Glove shortstop Brandon Crawford made three errors for the first time in his career, with his wild throw in the eighth inning helping give New York a victory that sent the Giants to their season-worst sixth straight loss. Masahiro Tanaka shut out San Francisco for six innings, giving up four singles. Giants ace Madison Bumgarner went seven innings, allowing

two runs. The Giants nipped Dellin Betances in the seventh, pulling within 2-1 on a walk, a double by Denard Span and a wild pitch. That ended a streak of 31 scoreless innings by Yankees relievers. A double by Giants pinch-hitter Mac Williamson off Andrew Miller (6-1) tied it in the eighth. Chase Headley opened the eighth with a swinging bunt for a single off Josh Osich (1-2), and Mark Teixeira walked. Austin Romine followed with a grounder to Crawford, who tagged second, spun around and made a hard, high throw that glanced off first baseman Brandon Belt's glove. Headley kept running and beat Belt's throw home. Aroldis Chapman closed for his 20th save.

ROYALS 3, RANGERS 1

Danny Duffy scattered four hits while pitching into the seventh inning, and Kansas City scratched out three runs off Texas' Yu Darvish. The only run Duffy (6-1) allowed came on Rowned Odor's homer in the fourth inning. The left hander struck out four and walked two on a steamy evening where the heat index at first pitch was 108 degrees. Luke Hochevar wiggled out of Duffy's jam to end the seventh, Kelvin Herrera pitched a perfect eighth and Wade Davis worked around a two-out single in the ninth for his 21st save. The victory, one day after the Royals (48-47) visited the White House to celebrate their World Series title, kept them from dropping below .500 for the first time since beating Boston on May 17. Darvish (2-2) was making his third start off the disabled list. He allowed single runs in each of the first three innings, struck out 11 and made only one big mistake - Cheslor Cuthbert's home run.

ORIOLES 5, INDIANS 1

Mark Trumbo hit a three-run homer, Manny Machado added a solo shot and Baltimore beat Cleveland for rookie Dylan Bundy's first major league victory as a starter. Trumbo launched his 29th home run in the first inning and Machado made it 5-0 in the third. Both drives came off Trevor Bauer (7-4). Bundy (3-2) allowed five hits and an unearned run in five innings. Odrisamer Despaigne followed Bundy with 3 2/3 innings of three-hit ball before Zach Britton got the final out for his 31st save. The game had a scary moment in the seventh inning when Despaigne's fastball struck Juan Uribe in the batting helmet around the left ear. Uribe stood bent over near the plate for several minutes before leaving. The team said Uribe had a head contusion.

ASTROS 2, ANGELS 1

Lance McCullers struck out 10 in eight-plus solid innings and Will Harris finished off the ninth to lead Houston past Los Angeles. McCullers was lifted for Harris after walking Kole Calhoun and Mike Trout with no outs in the ninth. Carlos Correa saved a run when he dived to stop a grounder hit by Daniel Nava and tossed the ball to second for a force for the second out. An RBI single by Andrelton Simmons came next to get the Angels within one, but Harris struck out Ji-Man Choi for his 10th save. McCullers (5-4) allowed four hits, his 10 strikeouts tied a season-high and he fanned Trout three times in his longest outing of the season. Matt Shoemaker (5-10) took the loss. Los Angeles had won a season-high six straight.

MARINERS 2, BLUE JAYS 1

James Paxton pitched seven strong innings to

win for the first time in three starts, Seth Smith doubled home the go-ahead run in the sixth inning and Seattle beat Toronto. Seattle won consecutive games for the first time since a four-game run from June 30 to July 3. The Mariners have won five straight and 14 of 20 against AL East opponents this season. Paxton (3-4) allowed one run and three hits. He walked one and struck out nine. Edwin Diaz worked the eighth, and Steve Cishek finished for his 23rd save. Paxton retired 16 of the first 17 batters he faced. The only blemish was Michael Saunders's one-out homer in the second.

PHILLIES 4, PIRATES 0

Zach Eflin pitched his first major league shutout in his eighth start and Philadelphia beat Pittsburgh. Eflin (3-3) had six strikeouts, allowed three hits and did not walk a batter as he threw 100 pitches for his second complete game this month. In the majors for just 39 days, the 22-year-old is one of only seven pitchers to have multiple complete games this season. Cameron Rupp had a home run and three RBIs, and Odubel Herrera had three hits and scored twice for the Phillies, who entered having lost four of five. Gerrit Cole (5-6) was the loser.

REDS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 2

Joey Votto extended his post-All Star break surge with a three-run homer, and Dan Straily pitched six innings in Cincinnati's victory over Arizona. Votto connected in the first inning off Archie Bradley (3-6). Votto has hit safely in all seven games since the All-Star break, going 12 for 23 with a double, three homers, eight RBIs and seven walks. Tucker Barnhart added a solo homer in the sixth off Randall Delgado. Brandon Phillips later singled home a run, extending his hitting streak to 10 games. Straily (5-6) gave up five hits in six innings. The Diamondbacks began the day with second-year manager Chip Hale hearing reports that the team had considered changing managers. Arizona has dropped 16 of 20.

TWINS 2, RED SOX 1

Kyle Gibson put an end to Boston's two-game hitting outburst, allowing just a pair of hits in the first inning and none over the next seven in Minnesota's victory. Brian Dozier hit a solo home run for the Twins in the second inning and Miguel Sano added an RBI single in the sixth. It was all the scoring Minnesota needed for Gibson (3-6). The Red Sox got a leadoff homer from Mookie Betts and a one-out single by Xander Bogaerts in the first, then went hitless until the bottom of the ninth against closer Brandon Kintzler. Kintzler got his seventh save, preserving the lead in a wild bottom half of the ninth. Eduardo Rodriguez (2-4) took the loss.

TIGERS 7, WHITE SOX 5

Miguel Cabrera tied a season high with four hits, including a go-ahead two-run single in the seventh, to lead Detroit past Chicago. Cabrera's two-run single against Nate Jones put Detroit back on top after the Tigers blew a three-run lead in the fifth and sent Chicago to its eighth loss in nine games. Ian Kinsler scored three runs, and Kyle Ryan (4-2) pitched a scoreless inning in relief after a rare shaky start by Michael Fulmer. Francisco Rodriguez worked the ninth for his 27th save in 29 chances. Chicago's Justin Morneau hit his first home run in more than 14 months. Carson Fulmer (0-1) struggled in relief.

ROCKIES 4, BRAVES 3

Jon Gray pitched seven strong innings, Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story hit two-run homers off relievers after starter Julio Teheran left because of an injury, and Colorado beat Atlanta. Gray (6-4) allowed one run and six hits with eight strikeouts, helping the Rockies hand the Braves their eighth straight loss at Coors Field. Teheran left the game after facing one batter in the fifth with what the team said was right lat tightness. His status was described as day to day. De La Cruz (0-3) was the loser. Jace Peterson hit a two-run homer for the Braves. Carlos Estevez finished for his eighth save.

CARDINALS 4, DODGERS 3, 16 innings

Matt Adams homered in the 16th to lead the Cardinals to a season-best fifth straight victory. It was the second consecutive game the Cardinals won in their final at-bat. They beat the Padres on Thursday after scoring a run in the ninth inning. Adams' homer came with one out off Bud Norris (5-9), who gave up six runs as a starter in an 8-1

loss at Washington on Wednesday. Seth Maness (1-2) picked up the win with a scoreless inning of relief for St. Louis, which played its longest game of the season. Jedd Gyorko hit a two-out homer off closer Kenley Jansen in the ninth to tie the game 3-3. Justin Turner and Howie Kendrick homered for the Dodgers, who have lost four of six.

ATHLETICS 1, RAYS 0, 13 innings

Oakland's Coco Crisp singled home the winning run in the 13th inning for his eighth career game-ending RBI. Ryan Healy doubled to start the rally against Dylan Floro (0-1), and both Healy and Crisp tossed their batting helmets in the air after the win that took 3 hours, 31 minutes. John Axford (4-3) pitched the 12th and 13th innings for the win. A's rookie Sean Manaea struck out seven and didn't give up a walk in eight innings. Rays starter Jake Odorizzi, who snapped a six-start winless streak last Sunday against Baltimore for his first win since June 8, matched his career high with eight innings. He allowed five hits in eight innings and didn't walk a batter for the third time this year. — AP

KANE CHARGED WITH HARASSMENT AT BAR

BUFFALO: Sabres forward Evander Kane was arrested by Buffalo police Friday, and faces numerous charges for allegedly grabbing three women by the neck, hair and arms during an altercation at a downtown bar last month.

The 24-year-old Kane was handcuffed after turning himself in outside the police department's downtown booking facility. Kane was processed and released, and is scheduled to make his first court appearance on Aug. 1. He faces four counts of non-criminal harassment, one count of disorderly conduct and a count of misdemeanor trespass as a result of the altercation that happened in the early hours of June 24 - the same day the NHL's two-day draft opened in Buffalo. The arrest was made a day after investigators informed the player's lawyer of the charges and requested Kane surrender himself. Buffalo police downtown district chief Joseph Gramaglia said.

Kane's lawyer Paul Cambria told The Associated Press by phone that his client denies the charges. Cambria questioned why Kane was charged with trespassing when he was invited to the bar by the establishment's owner.

Cambria was also surprised police handcuffed Kane outside the facility, when his client voluntarily surrendered. "Obviously, it wasn't necessary," Cambria said. "But we don't govern their actions."

Gramaglia said it is police policy to handcuff all suspects upon entering the secure facility regardless of who they are or the charges. Gramaglia said the charges are based on allegations made by three women, who said they were grabbed by Kane inside and outside the bar. A male bar employee, who forcibly removed Kane from the establishment, also filed a complaint which led to

the disorderly conduct and trespass charges, Gramaglia said. He said no one was injured.

The Sabres and the NHL both issued statements saying they are aware of Kane's arrest. The NHL said it will monitor the legal proceedings before determining whether Kane will face disciplinary action. The league added, if necessary, it could determine to have Kane directed to the NHL/NHL Players' Association's behavioral health professionals for evaluation and counseling.

The arrest is the latest in a string of off-and-on ice troubles for Kane, who has two years remaining on his contract.

In March, prosecutors announced after a three-month investigation that Kane would not face a sexual assault charge stemming from a December incident because there was no evidence to support the allegation.

Kane also ran into trouble with the Sabres, who suspended him for one game in February after he slept in and missed practice. It happened a day after pictures surfaced on social media of Kane celebrating in Toronto after attending the NBA All-Star game. Three weeks ago, Sabres general manager Tim Murray expressed concern about Kane by saying the player needs to behave better.

"He's going to have to pick and choose his spots when he goes out a lot better than he does," Murray said. "Whether he has done these things or not, or he is guilty of these things or not, it's not something I like getting up in the morning and reading about that's for sure."

The fourth player selected in the 2009 draft, Kane completed his first season in Buffalo after being acquired in a multi-player trade with Winnipeg in February 2015. He scored 20 goals and added 15 assists in 65 games last season. — AP

DOPING SCANDAL DERAILS PUTIN'S SPORTS MASTERPLAN

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin has pumped vast sums into sport to refashion Russia's image and bolster his personal prestige, but the scandal over state-run doping threatens to obliterate any successes.

The International Olympic Committee's (IOC) executive board are to hold a conference call today to discuss barring Russia from the Rio Olympics starting on August 5 over jaw-dropping doping revelations. That move comes with Russia's track and field squad already barred from the competition over evidence of state-sponsored cheating. Judo-loving former KGB agent Putin has often lamented the collapse of the Soviet Union and his determination to use sport to harness national pride has echoes in the Communist-era clashes between East and West. "Under Putin the greatness of the country is measured not only in the number of rockets, warheads, tanks and planes, but by the

amount of medals won, champions and victories," Konstantin Kalachev, head of the Moscow-based Political Expert Group think tank, told AFP.

"Russia is rising from its knees, becoming a great power again and that means returning to the things that we were proud of during the USSR." Since coming to power 16 years ago Putin has staked his personal reputation on bringing major sporting events to Russia in a bid to recast the country as a resurgent force on the international stage after the upheavals of the 1990s. In 2007 he flew to Guatemala to personally plead Russia's eventually successful case to hold the 2014 Winter Olympic Games in Sochi and then splurged over \$50 billion on hosting it.

Next up, Russia will be holding the football World Cup in 2018. "Nobody says now that sporting victories are proof of the supremacy of our way of life but winning is a means for increasing

patriotism," says Yevgeny Slyusarenko, deputy editor of Russian sports website Championat.com. "Like during the USSR, sport is used for some internal aims—now it is patriotism, increasing the prestige of the authorities inside the country."

NEW SPORTS COLD WAR?

That may go some way also to explaining the reactions by Russian officials and a large swathe of the population to the latest scandal, which saw Russia accused of state-run doping that included the samples of cheating athletes swapped for clean ones in Sochi.

Ukraine, Syria and now doping: for many in Russia it is just the latest attack by the West.

Rather than focus their ire on the officials accused of systematic cheating, Russians have tended to lash out at the allegations as just the latest move in a broader political campaign to damage the country. With ties with the West

already at their lowest ebb since the collapse of the Soviet Union over the crisis in Ukraine, Putin has also drawn parallels with the Cold War-era confrontation in sport. "Recent events, the difficult atmosphere around international sports and the Olympic movement, unfortunately stirs analogies with the 1980s," Putin warned this week, citing the boycotts of the 1980 Games in Moscow and 1984 competition in Los Angeles.

"Now we are witnessing a dangerous return to political interference in sport."

Others, however, argue that the political meddling in sport is coming mainly from the Russian authorities and desperation for success lies behind the current doping scandal.

A report released by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) this week detailing the "state-dictated" system to hide drug test failures said it was put in place after a dismal showing at the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver. "It was

decided that this could not happen at Sochi and the plan to ensure lots of medal winners was concocted" by the sports ministry, the report cited whistleblower Grigory Rodchenkov as saying.

Russia went on to top the medals table in Sochi—another source of enormous national pride for Putin and many Russians. Only now have the extraordinary lengths they went to get there been revealed.

While Putin has furiously denied that there is any state-run doping programme in Russia, analyst Kalachev said that the Kremlin's thirst for victory was likely fuelling the cheating. "Some here like to say that Putin's ideal is the GDR (former Communist East Germany)," Kalachev said, pointing to the country where the Kremlin leader served as a KGB officer and which ran a notorious doping campaign. "The successes of the GDR in sport relied heavily on doping. History is now repeating itself." —AFP

RATTIN RECALLS MOMENT THAT SPARKED ENG-ARGENTINA RIVALRY

BUENOS AIRES: Diego Maradona's Hand of God goal in 1986 is the stand-out incident in soccer clashes between Argentina and England but the one that sparked an intense rivalry was Antonio Rattin's sending-off at Wembley 20 years earlier.

Rattin, the Argentina captain, was infamously dismissed by German referee Rudolf Kreitlein after half an hour of an ill-tempered 1966 World Cup quarter-final for protesting. "I saw that all his decisions favoured England... corners, fouls, he even invented handballs," said the 79-year-old, recalling the incident on its 50th anniversary on Saturday. "In view of that, I showed his my captain's armband and for several minutes asked for an interpreter to ask for explanations," Rattin told the Argentine daily La Nacion (www.canchallena.com).

"I couldn't believe it (when he sent me off)," Rattin added. "The dismissal was so unfair that in anger I sat on the red carpet of the Queen's royal box. She wasn't in the stadium." Rattin eventually took the long walk round the touchline to the tunnel behind one of the goals and recalled he ate bits of chocolate bars thrown at him by

fans before throwing them back, wringing a British corner flag with his hand in anger and dodging beer cans.

He watched the rest of the match which England won 1-0 on the way to the title through a small window in the changing rooms "with (a feeling of) total impotence". England manager Alf Ramsey infamously called the Argentine players animals but Rattin, sent off that one time in his career, said: "I'd like to be taken back there. 'I'd get off the plane, go and see the new Wembley, chat again with Bobby Charlton, go and see the Queen, who is still alive, and come back home.' The incident led to the introduction of red and yellow cards and started a fierce, sometimes violent, rivalry between two of the world's leading football nations.

The teams avoided each other at the next four World Cups, with one or the other failing to qualify and the luck of the draw in 1982 when the countries were at war over the Falkland (Malvinas) islands.

Maradona punched in the opening goal with his fist to help Argentina beat England 2-1 in the 1986 Mexico City quarter-finals on the way to their second title. —Reuters

BATTERED FROOME FACES FINAL TOUR CHALLENGE

MEGEVE: Leader Chris Froome's knee and back will play a pivotal role in how yesterday's penultimate—and likely decisive—Tour de France stage pans out.

The 31-year-old Briton has been pounding dominantly towards a third Tour title with not a single rival able to slow the Sky juggernaut. At least that's how things seemed until the yellow jersey wearer crashed on a slippery descent during Friday's 19th stage.

Battered and bruised, his jersey torn and riding a team-mate's bike to the finish, Froome lost only a handful of seconds to some of his rivals, while actually gaining time on others and extending his overall lead. But it is one thing to soldier on in the final 20km of a stage when the adrenaline is high, and quite another to tackle 146.5km of Alpine terrain with four categorised climbs if you're stiff, sore and in pain.

What's more, it's expected to rain all day, creating more treacherous descents. Froome assured fans he was fine following Friday's stage but he took to the podium with a heavily bandaged knee. If ever there is a chance that this Tour race is not yet run, it will depend on Froome's physical condition today.

"I'm OK, I'm lucky nothing is seriously injured. I lost some skin and banged my knee a little bit but today I'm grateful to have that four-minute advantage to fall on a little bit," he said following Friday's stage. "Tomorrow (Saturday) will be hard, I'm sure I'm going to be a bit sore and stiff from today but hopefully I can

rely on my team-mates and just one last push again to get through tomorrow's stage now."

Two years ago he crashed during the Criterium du Dauphine while in the lead and although he got to the stage's end still in contention, the next day he suffered badly and lost several minutes, dropping out of the top 10.

While his 4min 11sec advantage over second-placed Frenchman Romain Bardet should afford him ample breathing space, the raging battle for the other two podium positions should ensure the pace is high on Saturday and the attacks are numerous.

Fabio Aru showed on Friday he's prepared to push the pace to try to drag himself onto the podium. He's sixth and just over a minute and a half off the podium so cannot afford to play a waiting game if he wants to claim a top-three finish.

Bardet and third-placed Nairo Quintana are separated by only 16sec with Adam Yates another 19sec further back, meaning those three should be trying to test each other. Bardet is the best descender of the three, meaning the other two will need to attack on the final hors category climb before the 12km descent to the finish in Morzine in order to displace the Frenchman. Fireworks will likely be going off all around Froome, what remains to be seen is whether or not he has the condition to keep calm and stay in control. — AFP



MEGEVE AND MORZINE-AVORIAZ: (From L) Italy's Fabio Aru, Belarus' Vasil Kiryienka, Great Britain's Christopher Froome, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, and Great Britain's Luke Rowe ride during the 146.5 km twentieth stage of the 103rd edition of the Tour de France cycling race yesterday between Megeve and Morzine-Avoriaz, French Alps. — AFP



BUDAPEST: Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg, right, of Germany, celebrates after setting the pole position with second placed Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, of Britain, at the end of the qualifying session for today's Formula One Hungary Grand Prix, at the Hungaroring racetrack, in Budapest, Hungary, yesterday. — AP

ROSBERG GETS POLE IN HUNGARY, YELLOW FLAGS HINDER HAMILTON

BUDAPEST: World championship leader Nico Rosberg seized pole position in a rain-delayed, stop-start qualifying session for today's Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix after team mate and title rival Lewis Hamilton was hindered by yellow flags.

Rosberg lapped the 4.3-km Hungaroring in one minute 19.965 seconds yesterday, beating Hamilton by 0.143 seconds. The Briton, ahead of Rosberg on the road as the Mercedes pair began their final runs, had to slow down as yellow flags waved for Fernando Alonso's spinning McLaren, forcing him to abort his lap.

The reigning champion had been significantly quicker and on course for pole up to that point. Hamilton, though, was relaxed about being second on the grid. "I don't know how much Nico was up but I got the fastest first sector," he said. "Bit unfortunate with Fernando but these things happen so I'm not really too disappointed."

The pole was the 26th of Rosberg's career and his fourth of the season. It was also the Mercedes team's 46th pole in the last 49 races, with the German outfit starting all but one race this year from the front.

There were doubts about whether Rosberg would be allowed to keep pole after onboard replays showed him also encountering yellow flags but the 31-year-old driver said he had lifted off the throttle in that section of the track. Rosberg, who agreed a two-year extension to his contract with Mercedes on Thursday, leads Hamilton by one point in the championship. Daniel Ricciardo was third for Red Bull on a weekend when the former champions hope to challenge Mercedes for the win, with his team mate Max Verstappen fourth.

Sebastian Vettel, winner in Hungary last year, was the sole Ferrari driver in the top 10 in fifth. Team mate Kimi Raikkonen fell casualty to the rapidly shuffling order in changing conditions and was knocked out in the second phase of qualifying. He starts 14th.

McLaren had their best qualifying result since renewing their engine partnership with Honda at the start of last year with Fernando Alonso and Jenson Button, who both had their first race wins in Hungary, in seventh and eighth.

Force India's Nico Hulkenberg and Williams Valtteri Bottas rounded out the top 10.

A torrential rain shower in the build-up to qualifying forced the start of the session to be delayed by 20 minutes.

The opening 18-minute session was then interrupted by four more red flags, first as the rain returned and then as several drivers, including Williams's Felipe Massa, crashed out.

It eventually ended almost an hour later when a crash for Manor's Rio Haryanto brought out the final red flag. —Reuters

SUNDERLAND APPOINT MOYES AS ALLARDYCE REPLACEMENT

LONDON: Sunderland appointed David Moyes as manager yesterday, replacing Sam Allardyce who has taken charge of the England team. The 53-year-old Moyes, without a club since being sacked by Spain's Real Sociedad in November, has signed a four-year contract at the Stadium of Light.

"I am delighted to have joined Sunderland. I am relishing the challenge and excited by the opportunity," Moyes said in a statement yesterday.

"I have taken over a big British club with great support and I'm looking forward to working in the Premier League again. I look forward to continuing the good work done by Sam." The Scot's last managerial job in England was his ill-fated spell in charge of Manchester United in 2013-14, following Alex Ferguson's retirement.

Moyes has also managed Preston North End, winning the third-tier crown with them, and Everton where he spent more than 11 years. He is Sunderland's fourth full-time managerial appointment since Italian Paolo Di Canio was sacked in September 2013.

The club have flirted with relegation in each of the last four seasons. Uruguayan Gus

Poyet took over from caretaker manager Kevin Ball in October 2013 and guided the club to 14th place in the league.

Poyet was dismissed in March 2015 with Sunderland one point above the relegation zone. The club appointed Dutchman Dick Advocaat who guided them to the safety of a 16th-placed finish with one game remaining.

Advocaat resigned in October 2015 with Sunderland second from bottom. Allardyce was appointed the same month and performed wonders to avoid the drop by ending up fourth from bottom.

"We are absolutely delighted to welcome David Moyes who was by far and away our first choice," Sunderland chairman Ellis Short said. "He is a man whose football pedigree speaks for itself and is someone I have long admired."

"He was my number one managerial target for the last five appointments but his desire to honour existing contracts meant we were not able to bring him to Sunderland previously." To be able to finally welcome him as our manager is fantastic news for the club," added Short. Sunderland launch their new league campaign at Manchester City on Aug 13. —Reuters



ROTHERHAM: Newly appointed Sunderland manager David Moyes, left, poses with a supporter as he arrives for the pre-season friendly match between Rotherham United and Sunderland, at the New York Stadium, Rotherham, England, yesterday. — AP

CAMPBELL WANTS RIO GOLD, NOT RECORDS, SAYS COACH

MELBOURNE: The 100 metres freestyle world record Cate Campbell set earlier this month is a testament to her class and determination but the Australian will not chase the time in pursuit of gold at the Rio Olympics, according to her long-serving coach.

Campbell's 52.06-second swim at the Brisbane Grand Prix on July 2 shaved just one one-hundredth of a second off Britta Steffen's seven-year-old mark but landed a heavy psychological blow to her rivals, including her world champion sister Bronte.

None have come close to German Steffen's time, which was set in a now-banned synthetic suit in 2009.

Bronte Campbell is a distant second in the world rankings, her best time of the year more than half a second slower than her older sister's at 52.58 seconds.

Simon Cusack, mentor to both Campbell sisters, was bursting with pride after Cate tore up the Brisbane

Aquatic Centre but was also quick to remind her that the world record would mean little on the starting block at Rio.

"Whilst it's really nice to have the mark, it's no guarantee of what's going to happen at the Games," the Brisbane-based 39-year-old told Reuters.

"Winning a gold medal comes down to one moment in time and not only do you need great preparation, you do sometimes need a little bit of luck on your side," he added.

"When you're living in an Olympic village with people coming from all corners of the globe and eating out of the same food hall you get exposed to a lot of viruses and bacteria.

"So that's why winning a gold at the Olympics is such a tough thing and very often they're not won in world record time. So I've expressed that to Cate," Cusack said. "She's very, very happy with having that world mark but it doesn't change anything from here on in."

The older Campbell sibling is unlikely to need further reminders of how luck can change the game when she appears at her third Olympics.

The 24-year-old won bronzes in the 50m freestyle and 4x100m relay on her 2008 Games debut in Beijing before losing years to illnesses including glandular fever and post-viral fatigue.

At her second Olympics in London, she won gold in the 4x100m freestyle relay but her individual campaign was wrecked by about of pancreatitis.

When fully fit, the 2013 world champion has shown she has no peer, however, as witnessed by her breathtaking return to form this year.

THROWN DOWN

The record has inevitably been viewed as a gauntlet thrown down, but Cusack said it came by coincidence, not design. "It was just an organic thing," he said. "I never really give her a time to

chase, it's more of a process but sometimes (swimmers) do get it in their head to chase a time and they generally overcook the first 50 in a 100-metre race.

"She's really learnt just to rely on 'automaticity' which is just created by race training sets," he added. "She just let it flow out there and it came together, so it was just fantastic." Cusack said he felt Campbell, who like 22-year-old Bronte was born in Malawi, could raise her pace again. "I don't think the project's ever finished," he said.

"She's obviously probably somewhere towards the peak of her career but it depends on how long she's willing to stay in it. Her starts and turns are consistently improving and that's been a gradual process. So, I'd like to think that she can get faster."

Campbell joins an illustrious club of Australians to have held the world record in the blue ribbon event, including four-times Olympic champion Dawn

Fraser and Jodie Henry, who won gold in Athens in 2004.

Queenslander Libby Trickett, another four-times Olympic champion, held the record three times from 2004-09 before Steffen took it in a synthetic suit and improved her mark at the 2009 world championships in Rome.

A number of records set during the controversial super-suit era remain. "I was there in Rome on the day when Steffen set the record and I remember thinking back then, 'this one is going to stand for a while.' And it did," Cusack said.

"For the super-suit era, the sooner it can be erased, the better. It was just a tumultuous time in swimming history and what it did at the time was it made a bit of a joke out of world record standards. It really discriminated against the ones who set the previous ones in the old lycra costumes," he added.

"So it's a great thing that Cate's been able to erase that mark." —Reuters

FAST SWIMMERS MAKE FAST POOLS, BUT 'SCIENCE' LENDS A HAND

LONDON: To those who dip into swimming only when the Olympic Games come around, it may seem odd to hear a pool described as 'fast' when it looks much like any other large rectangle filled with water.

And while coaches hammer into their young charges that fast swimmers make fast pools, like swimmers, some pools are faster than others and even Michael Phelps goes quicker with the application of science. In 2013, after British swimmers had flopped at the London Games and that year's world championships, head coach Bill Furniss suggested Sheffield's Ponds Forge Olympic standard pool was hampering their development because it was too fast. Cue jokey headlines suggesting swimmers were training in the "wrong kind of water"—an echo of the "wrong kind of snow/rain/sunshine" excuses familiar to downtrodden commuters when Britain's weather halts the trains.

At the international level, however, the biggest waves are the ones given by the swimmers to the crowd as they climb out. Rio's new 50-metre Olympic pool, where records may be set as dreams and duels play out, should stand out like a gleaming Ferrari among functional family runabouts.

The technology in such a pool, from energy-absorbing lane dividers and wave-swallowing drainage to the depth and temperature, is all designed to help the world's best swimmers go faster than ever.

"Years and years ago, when pools had gutters on the side and walls, if you were on the outside lane then the waves were splashing back and hitting you," Britain's 4x100 mixed-medley world gold medalist Chris Walker-Hebborn told Reuters at an Adidas event.

"That was what I perceived as a slow pool back then. Everything we race in now, (the water) runs off the edge into a drain so you are at no more disadvantage being

in lane eight than you are in lane four, other than not being in the middle of the race."

Beijing's 'Water Cube' was dubbed the fastest pool in the world when 25 world records were broken at the 2008 Olympics and various factors contributed to that.

The now-banned drag-reducing high-tech suits, with Phelps using Speedo's LZR bodysuit to win eight golds, were a huge factor but the pool was also wider and significantly deeper than the one used in Athens in 2004.

Unlike Athens, it was also indoors. That uniform three metre depth, now recommended by world body FINA and considered the norm since Beijing, makes the water more buoyant and less turbulent. The temperature of the water—all 3.7 million litres of it is kept between 25 and 28 degrees Celsius. Too warm, and the body can over-relax. Too cold, and muscles may tighten.

The Rio Aquatics Stadium, a temporary structure, has had 15,000 strategically positioned holes drilled into it as part of a natural ventilation system.

The lighting, the crowd, the acoustics also all help create an atmosphere that crackles with anticipation and plays into the mental side. In Rio, the front-row seats will be just 10 metres from the action.

British swimmer Adam Peaty, who set a 100 metres breaststroke world record of 57.92 seconds in London last year, said the psychological factor of swimmers going fast because they know the pool is state-of-the-art was not to be underestimated.

"It's more of an idea than a thing; The idea of performing at an Olympics and being one of the best in the world, and that pool is the idea," Peaty said after this year's European championships.

"It sounds very metaphorical, but every time I see that (London) pool I just want to be the best in the world." —Reuters



LONDON: Usain Bolt of Jamaica poses for photographers after he won the men's 200 meter race during the Diamond League anniversary games at The Stadium, in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London, Friday. — AP

BOLT WINS BUT HURDLER HARRISON TAKES THE GLORY

LONDON: Usain Bolt delivered on his top billing by winning the 200 metres at the London Diamond League on Friday but the Jamaican was upstaged for once as American sprint hurdler Kendra Harrison broke one of the oldest world records in the book.

Bolt, running his first 200 metres race for a year in his last outing on the track before the Olympics, struggled for his usual rhythm as he laboured to victory in 19.89 seconds.

However, having pulled out of the Jamaican trials last month with a hamstring strain, he was delighted to get through Friday's race uninjured and can now go away and fine-tune for his attempt at the triple-triple of 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay golds in Rio.

Harrison, however, will be watching the Games on TV having finished sixth in the 100m hurdles at the US trials after breaking the national record in May. She earned some consolation — as well as a \$50,000 bonus — on Friday with a stunning world record.

After delivering a silky smooth performance to win, the clock initially showed a modest 12.58 seconds. However, it was quickly corrected to 12.20, one hundredth of a second faster than the mark set by Bulgaria's Yordanka Donkova in 1988 — four years before Harrison was born.

Brianna Rollins (12.57), Kristi Castlin (12.59) and Ali Nia (12.63), all Rio-bound after finishing 1-2-3 in the US trials, finished in the same order, behind Harrison on Friday.

VENGEANCE

"I wanted to come out here with a vengeance to show that even though I won't be going to the Olympics I had to give it all I had," said Harrison, who collapsed to the track in tears when she saw the revised time. There was a more muted celebration for Bolt, who nevertheless delighted the crowd by winning then spending his usual remarkable amount of time signing autographs, posing for photos and giving endless media interviews.

After a steady start he led halfway round the bend, but only just. As he hit the straight and the crowd expected the sort of surge that brought him three Olympic golds on the same track four years ago, it didn't happen.

Rocking noticeably, he had to work all the way to the line for a time considerably shy of American LaShawn Merritt's season-leading 19.74. Panama's Edward Alonzo was second in 20.04 with Briton Adam Gemili third in 20.07.

"I tried to hold my form. I'm not fully in shape and I don't think I executed well — I need more work," said Bolt, who turns 30 next month.

"I don't want to see it again. I wasn't that impressed," he added of his performance. "But I'm feeling good and happy I could run and finish the race without any injuries." Shaunae Miller of the Bahamas will also head to Rio in confident mood after posting a world-leading 49.55 to win the women's 400 metres, setting up a mouth-watering one-lap showdown with Allyson Felix.

There was plenty to cheer for the home fans in the Olympic Stadium now decked out in the claret and blue of its new tenants, West Ham United soccer club.

Britain's women's 4x100m relay team opened

proceedings by triumphing in a national record 41.82 seconds, the fastest time in the world this year. Laura Muir also channelled the spirit of 2012's "Super Saturday" when the crowd roared her home in a gutsy front-running victory in the women's 1500m for a huge personal best and another British record of 3:57.49 — knocking

Olympic champion Kelly Holmes off top spot.

Frenchman Jimmy Vicaut won a disappointing 100 metres final in 10.02, having been the only man to dip under 10 seconds with a 9.96 in the heats. The action continued yesterday, with the day's highlight being the 5,000m, featuring home favourite Mo Farah. — Reuters

PHELPS HOPING RIO SWANSONG HITS THE RIGHT NOTES

TORONTO: Having ended his career once in London on what he considered a sour note, Michael Phelps enters the Rio de Janeiro Olympics pool for his second swansong determined to bow out on his own terms.

Inspired, motivated and sober, Phelps heads to Rio with the chance to add to his record total of 22 medals and to pen the happy ending he feels he denied himself four years earlier. At the 2012 London Olympics, which he also declared would be his last, Phelps won four gold and six medals but walked away filled with the regret that he simply went through the motions rather than embracing the moment.

"Going into '12, I just didn't want to do it," the 31-year-old said at the U.S. Olympic swim trials in Nebraska last month. "I tried to fake it. I wanted to get in and out as fast as I could and really wanted nothing to do with it."

"That haunted me for a while. I came back because I wanted to. I wanted to do this for me. I'm enjoying the moment and I'm embracing the moment and taking it one step at a time. "Being able to fall in love with the sport again is something that I've always wanted to do again and I

did it on my terms." Like many athletes, when his career finished, Phelps appeared lost and unprepared. He talked of becoming a professional golfer but eventually found himself testing the waters of a swimming comeback.

That return was interrupted by a second drunk driving arrest in 2014 and a stint in rehab, which laid the foundation for his transformation from party boy to family man. He reconnected with his estranged father, who was in the stands at the US swimming trials watching his son qualify for a fifth Olympic team, and in May his fiancée Nicole gave birth to their son Boomer.

TEAM CO-CAPTAIN

While Phelps has been a hero for a generation of American swimmers, he has now finally become something of a mentor and elder statesman of the US team. At each Olympics the US swimming team picks a captain and until a July training camp in San Antonio, it had remained one of the very few honours not bestowed on Phelps. Now, chosen as co-captain of the men's team for the first time, he is eager to assume the leadership mantle in Rio. "This time around, I just want to be able to help some of the younger guys," said Phelps.

"Just being able to help them just kind of stay in their relaxed zone, not get worked up because it is the Olympics." The growing maturity has not diminished the fierce competitiveness, however. Having qualified for Rio in three events, the 100 and 200 metres butterfly and 200 individual medley, he will also be a candidate for the relays as he looks to add to his astonishing tally of 18 gold medals. Phelps has made the 100 fly and 200 medley gold medals his personal property at the last three Olympics and he could join discus thrower Al Oerter (1956-68) and long jumper Carl Lewis (1984-1996) as the only athletes to win gold in the same individual event at four consecutive Games. While still an undeniable force, Phelps no longer competes with the aura of invincibility that once surrounded him.

He conceded that his times at the US trials would have to dramatically improve for Rio, but is confident his longtime coach Bob Bowman will have a plan to get him to the wall first. "I do understand that I have to swim faster to have a chance to win the gold medal," said Phelps. "I've trusted that man since I was 11 years old, and it's not going to stop. I'm sure he's already come up with some kind of plan to figure out what we're going to do. I'm not going to put a limit on myself of what I can or can't do." — Reuters



LONDON: In this Aug. 3, 2012, file photo, Katie Ledecky poses on the podium with her gold medal in the women's 800-meter freestyle swimming final at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. Ledecky has gone from a surprise gold medalist in London to one of the world's most dominant swimmers at age 19. — AP

THE TALE OF THE TAPER

LONDON: Boxers have the tale of the tape, Olympic swimmers have the tale of the taper. Their path to peak performance is a tale of fortitude, stamina, sheer hard work and also body shaving to transform the hairy men in briefs into smooth-skinned warriors of the pool.

As Michael Phelps, the 18 times Olympic gold medalist preparing to make another splash in Rio, wrote in his 2008 book 'No Limits': "When the facial hair goes away, that's how you know I'm getting serious." Tapering is the process, also common to distance athletes, where weeks and months of hard training are allowed to tail off to give the body more time to rest before the burst of competition.

With swimmers often entered for multiple distances and disciplines, no one size fits all and getting it right is no easy task. It is a time of careful calculations.

"When you taper swimmers, it's like a haircut," says Phelps's coach and mentor Bob Bowman. "You never know if it's any good until it's too late." At the European championships in London in May, some competitors had been through national trials and were back into hard training while others were tapered for Olympic qualifiers.

That meant Britain's 200 metres freestyle

world champion James Guy, a medal hope for Rio, raced in the 400m heats with a beard and beach-style briefs when those around him wore thigh-length suits.

"I used it as a bit of fuel," he said. "I didn't want to jeopardise three weeks of fitness for this meet. I wanted to train through and race hard." Unlike Phelps and the US squad, whose qualifiers ended only in July, Britain's Olympic trials were in April and their swimmers then went straight into hard training. Chris Walker-Hebborn, who will compete in the 100m backstroke in Rio, set out his schedule. "Three weeks from the day I'm supposed to race I slowly start tapering down my metrage," the Briton told Reuters at an event organised by Adidas.

"Let's say I (normally) do 50k a week. Then the first week in would be 40k, the second week would be 30k and the last week would be just under 20k.

"The intensity drops down, the volume drops down and it just gives your body that chance to go through the adaptation of hard training and to rejuvenate and you are just a lot fresher come race day."

Team mates aiming at longer distances might have a shorter taper because of the fitness required, but there can also be mini-tapers and double-tapers. —Reuters



LONDON: In this Aug. 4, 2012, file photo, swimmer Michael Phelps poses with his gold medal in the men's 4 x 100-meter medley relay at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park during the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. — AP

Sports

Former NFL coach
Dennis Green dead

15



Sunderland
appoint Moyes
as Allardyce
replacement

18



SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2016

GEORGIAN MOTHER AND SON OUT TO MAKE HISTORY IN RIO Page 16



MANCHESTER: England's Jonny Bairstow plays a shot on the second day of the second Test cricket match between England and Pakistan at Old Trafford Cricket Ground in Manchester, England yesterday. — AFP

ENGLAND DECLARES AFTER ROOT DOUBLE CENTURY

MANCHESTER: Joe Root hit a career-best 254 as England declared its first innings at a massive 589-8 to put pressure on Pakistan on day two of the second test yesterday. Root batted resolutely for over 10 hours on an easy paced wicket, hitting 27 fours and facing 406 balls before England declared 30 minutes after tea.

Root got useful support from Chris Woakes and Jonny Bairstow, who both scored 58 and featured in century stands with Root after England resumed overnight on 314-4, with Root 141 not out after he had shared a second-wicket stand of 185 with skipper and fellow senior batsman Alastair Cook (105).

But although sent in as a nightwatchman, Warwickshire all-rounder Chris Woakes showed his batting class during a boundary-filled fifty yesterday. Woakes was the dominant partner in a fifth-wicket stand of 103 with Root. Two not out overnight, Woakes—who has scored nine first-class hundreds was soon demonstrating a fundamentally orthodox batting technique.

When Rahat Ali, one of Pakistan's trio of left-arm quicks along with Mohammad Amir and Wahab Riaz, dropped short, he was cut for four by Woakes. Next ball, when Rahat over-pitched, Woakes cover-drove him for another boundary. There was a brief hold-up when Woakes was struck on the right arm by Rahat. But when Amir, who appeared to be struggling with a niggling injury, dropped short outside off stump, Woakes uppercut him for six high over third man. Meanwhile a single off Rahat saw Root to 150 in 269 balls including 18 fours.

The Yorkshireman had batted for six hours without giving a chance on Friday but on 155 he had a reprieve when an outside edge off leg-spinner Yasir Shah just carried to slip.

But Younis Khan was slow to react to the difficult low

catch. Woakes's 104-ball innings, which included eight fours and a six, ended when he chipped a return catch straight back to Shah to leave England 414 for five.

That gave Shah then-innings figures of one for 139 in 38.4 overs—a marked contrast to his man-of-the-match return of 10 for 141 during Pakistan's 75-run win in the first Test at Lord's last week.

England, 427 for five at lunch, lost just the one wicket in the second session when left-hander Ben Stokes was given out caught behind on review down the legside off Riaz on 34.

Stokes was originally given not out by on-field umpire Kumar Dharmasena. A protracted review suggested there was not clear evidence to overturn his call but third umpire Joel Wilson eventually decided to reverse the decision much to all-rounder Stokes's evident surprise.

Poor fielding has been a feature of Pakistan's play this series and Bairstow was reprieved on nine when he edged Shah only for wicket-keeper Sarfraz Ahmed to fumble the catch, after several juggled attempts.

Pakistan were reduced to bringing on part-time medium pacer Shan Masood and he was promptly no-balled first delivery after knocking over the stumps with his trailing leg.

Top-ranked test leg-spinner Yasir Shah made an unenviable double century of his own, finishing on 1-213. He got little support from his fielders as Root was dropped on 155 and Bairstow let off on 9.

In an attempt to score quickly after tea, Root departed when he skied a catch to a diving Mohammad Hafeez off left-arm Wahab Riaz (3-106). Pakistan, which won the first test by 75 runs at Lord's, was 15-0 after nine overs, still 574 runs behind. — Agencies

SCOREBOARD

MANCHESTER, United Kingdom: Scoreboard at close of England's first innings on the second day of the second Test against Pakistan at Old Trafford yesterday:

England 1st Innings (overnight: 314-4)

A. Cook b Mohammad Amir	105
A. Hales b Mohammad Amir	10
J. Root c Mohammad Hafeez b Wahab Riaz	254
J. Vince c Sarfraz Ahmed b Rahat Ali	18
G. Ballance b Rahat Ali	23
C. Woakes c and b Yasir Shah	58
B. Stokes c Sarfraz Ahmed b Wahab Riaz	34
J. Bairstow c Misbah-ul-Haq b Wahab Riaz	58
M. Ali not out	2
Extras (lb9, w8, nb10)	27
Total (8 wkts dec, 152.2 overs, 657 mins)	589

Did not bat: S Broad, J Anderson

Fall of wickets: 1-25 (Hales), 2-210 (Cook), 3-238 (Vince), 4-311 (Ballance), 5-414 (Woakes), 6-471 (Stokes), 7-577 (Root), 8-589 (Bairstow).

Bowling: Amir 29-6-89-2 (2w); Rahat 29-4-101-2 (2w); Riaz 26.2-1-106-3 (9nb, 4w); Shah 54-6-213-1; Azhar 11-0-52-0; Masood 3-0-19-0 (1nb)

Pakistan: Mohammad Hafeez, Shan Masood, Azhar Ali, Younis Khan, Misbah-ul-Haq (capt), Asad Shafiq, Sarfraz Ahmed (wkt), Wahab Riaz, Mohammad Amir, Yasir Shah, Rahat Ali.

ROOT JOINS OLD TRAFFORD 200 CLUB

MANCHESTER: England's Joe Root became just the sixth batsman in 132 years to score a Test double century at Old Trafford as he made 254 against Pakistan yesterday. He was just the second England cricketer to do so after Ken Barrington in 1964 and the first player from any country since South Africa's Gary Kirsten in 1998.

After more than 10 hours' batting, Root was eventually out when he skyed paceman Wahab Riaz and Mohammad Hafeez, running in from square leg, held a good catch to leave England 577 for seven on the second day of the second Test. The highest individual score in an Old Trafford remains

Bob Simpson's 311 for Australia against England in 1964, with the corresponding England record at the Manchester ground achieved in the same match when Barrington made 256.

Test match double hundreds at Old Trafford (score, player, country, opposition, year):

311	Bob Simpson	AUS v ENG	1964
256	Ken Barrington	ENG v AUS	1964
254	Joe Root	ENG v PAK	2016
223	Gordon Greenidge	WIS v ENG	1984
210	Gary Kirsten	RSA v ENG	1998
205	Aamer Sohail	PAK v ENG	1992.



ANTIGUA: Indian players unsuccessfully appeal for the wicket of West Indies' Devendra Bishoo during day three of their first cricket Test match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, yesterday. — AP

KOHLI MAKES HISTORY AS INDIA TAKE COMMAND

ANTIGUA: Virat Kohli made history by scoring his maiden test double century as India played their way into a virtually unbeatable position on the second day of the first test against West Indies in Antigua on Friday.

Captain Kohli became the first Indian to post a test double century overseas, scoring 200 out of 566 for eight declared. Kohli shared a 168-run stand for the fifth wicket with Ravichandran Ashwin (113) who was dropped on 43 by keeper Shane Dowrich and made the West Indies pay by compiling a century.

West Indies were 31 for one in their first innings at the close of play with Kraigg Brathwaite (11) and nightwatchman Devendra Bishoo (0) at the crease. Rajendra Chandrika went for 16 in the penultimate over of the day when he got a thick edge to the keeper off paceman Mohammed Shami.

The day belonged to Kohli who completed his double ton just before lunch by pulling a single to deep mid-wicket. He went down on his knees and kissed the turf as retired West Indies great Viv Richards, after whom the venue in North Sound is named, joined in the applause

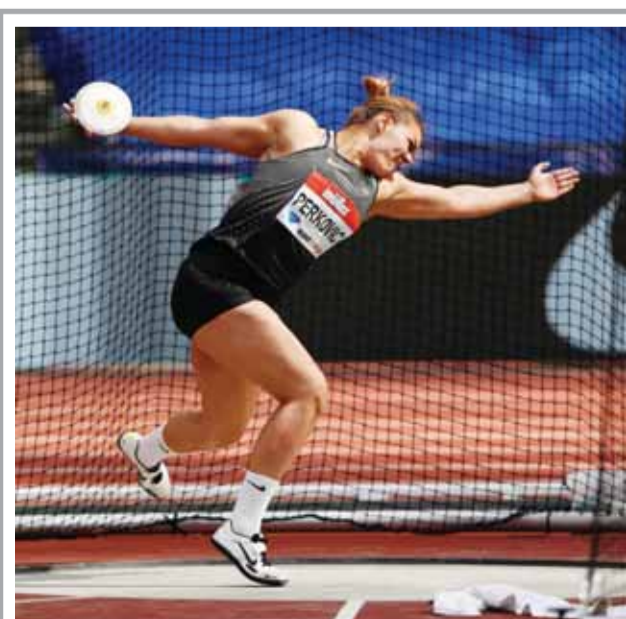
from the stands.

Kohli, who struck 24 fours in 283 balls, was out shortly after lunch when he got a thick inside edge on to his stumps off fast bowler Shannon Gabriel (2-65).

Leg-spinner Bishoo (3-163) looked dangerous at times but for the most part the home attack posed few problems for the batsmen on a flat track.

Ashwin, who registered his third test century, said a more disciplined approach was the key to his success. "I've been looking forward to this opportunity," he said in an on-field interview after being promoted to number six in the order. "I really enjoy my batting and there have been times in the past when I've been a little too flashy."

"I know if I have to get into the top seven or six I really need to tighten my game so I've really worked on it. I've never left so many balls (outside off stump) in my life." India's total left West Indies looking to occupy the crease for three more days to squeeze a draw in the first of four tests between the teams. "It's not going to be easy. We'll have to prise every wicket out," said Ashwin. — Reuters



STRATFORD: Croatia's Sandra Perkovic competes in the women's discus throw during the IAAF Diamond League Anniversary Games athletics meeting at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park stadium in Stratford, east London yesterday. — AFP



1MDB: MALAYSIA'S STUNNING FINANCIAL SCANDAL

VIVA ANNOUNCES REVENUE OF KD 140 MILLION

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the financial results for the six-month period ended 30th June 2016, whereby VIVA's revenue grew by 4% to reach KD 140 million compared to the same period in 2015. VIVA achieved these results due to the high quality of services, promotions and packages offered to its customers to meet their needs and expectations, inspired by our customers' confidence. Moreover, VIVA customers' base reached 2.4 million by end of June 2016.

Despite the high competition witnessed in the Kuwaiti telecom market, VIVA managed through its operational and financial strategy to achieve a net profit of KD 19.4 million (earning per share 39fils) during the first half of 2016 compared to KD 21.6 million (earning per share 43fils) recorded during the same period last year. On the other hand, VIVA's shareholders equity base increased by 57% to reach KD 112.3 million at the end of June 2016 compared to KD 71.5 million at the end of June 2015.

Commenting on the financial results, Dr Mahmoud Ahmad Abdulrahman, VIVA's Chairman, said: "Despite the high competition witnessed in the Kuwaiti Telecom Market, VIVA was able to achieve growth in revenues, good profitability levels, in additions to maintain the operational efficiency that led to generating positive return to our shareholders during the first half of 2016."

The witnessed growth in VIVA's revenues was a result of the company's strategy plans and efforts to be among the most developed telecommunications companies in the state of Kuwait and the region, as we always look forward to play a central role in providing smart telecom solutions in order to provide our customers with the best and most advanced telecom services. Dr Mahmoud added "These results reflect the hard work and the dedication of the management and employees reaffirming our commitment to achieve excellent outcomes."

Eng Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran, VIVA's Chief Executive Officer said: "VIVA continued during 2016 to achieve growth in operating



Dr Mahmoud Ahmad Abdulrahman, VIVA's Chairman

revenues despite the high competition we are witnessing in the Kuwaiti telecom market. It is noteworthy to mention that VIVA has been awarded by the Arabian Business organization as "Best Telecom Company", in recognition of its exceptional performance in 2015 and as a result of VIVA's commitment to enhance customer service quality and improve the operational efficiency.

In addition VIVA has been recognized as "Best Contact Centre Experience" and "Best Network Experience" by the "International Quality & Productivity Centre". He added: "With the high competition in the Kuwaiti telecom market, VIVA's strong revenue performance contributed to maintain a good profitability level as a result of company's financial & operating capacity and efficiency. VIVA recorded a revenue of KD 140 million during the first half of 2016 representing an increase of 4% when compared to same period last year and this has resulted in achieving a net profit of KD 19.4 million (earnings per share of 39fils), while the operating profit reached KD 20.4 million during the first half of 2016."

Al-Badran concluded: "As a continuing strategy, VIVA always seeks to provide a high quality products and services to its customers."



Eng Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Badran

In addition, VIVA contributes to the development of the telecommunications sector in the state of Kuwait by maintaining its presence through providing the latest advanced technology and services as well as the best offers to its individual and corporate customers."

Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Qatie, Chief Financial Officer at VIVA said: "During the first half of 2016, VIVA's financial results reflected its ability to compete and achieve growth in revenues, and maintain its position as the second largest telecom operator in the Kuwaiti market in term of revenues in the telecom sector. The company managed to decrease its leverage ratio due to its conservative financial policy to reach 1.4x at end of June 2016 as compared to 2.5x recorded at end of June 2015."

The strong operating performance has positively affected free cash flow to achieve growth of 7% during the first half of 2016 as compared to the same period in 2015." He added: "We will continue our hard work in implementing our strategy to maintain our competitive edge and achieve further growth and success in the Kuwaiti telecom market through offering innovative products and services in line with the latest technology to meet our customers' needs."

G20 MINISTERS URGE TIGHTER TAX RULES FOR MULTINATIONALS

CHENGDU: The world's major economies need to deepen cooperation on tax collection and information sharing as companies seek to minimize the amount they pay to governments, finance ministers said yesterday. The issue has become controversial in many countries, with multinational firms from Google to Starbucks facing accusations of not contributing appropriately to the economies where they make their money, and multi-billion-dollar merger proposals being partly driven by tax considerations.

"When the current cross-border tax rules were developed they were tied to concepts that reflected geography and national boundaries," US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew told G20 finance ministers meeting in the Chinese city of Chengdu. "When we look at technology a lot of that has become harder to define." "There needs to be a common standard across countries on important issues of transfer pricing," he said at a high-level symposium on tax policy, adding that countries had to deal "collectively" with issues that lead to non-taxation.

Closing loopholes, he added, would change the choices businesses make. The G20 has previously supported proposals requiring authorities to share the identities of shell companies' real owners, and backed creating a blacklist of international tax havens that do not cooperate with information-sharing programs. But the discussion as the G20 finance ministers and central bank chiefs meeting opened in Chengdu, in

southwestern China, was wider, addressing base erosion and profit shifting, known as BEPS. The term refers to companies using accounting techniques to shift their profits to low- or no-tax jurisdictions, reducing the amounts they are liable to pay.

Some countries, such as Ireland or Luxembourg, have drawn major firms to establish headquarters or subsidiaries by virtue of their tax rules—a key contributor to Dublin declaring earlier this month that its economy grew by a spectacular 26.3 percent last year. "In the 21st century, talent, capital, and even physical infrastructures are increasingly mobile," said Angel Gurría, secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). "So, a global conversation on these issues, on tax policy, is obvious, critical, important," he said, later naming Google, Apple and Starbucks as example companies.

But he acknowledged that it could be a sensitive subject: "Tax policy has been and remains a sovereign issue." The seminar jointly pushed for by Germany, China and the OECD also addressed issues of using tax policy to promote growth. Earlier French Finance Minister Michel Sapin said that some countries, "not only China" were "reluctant" on questions of cooperation on tax evasion. But Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei said: "We need to deepen the international tax cooperation, building on existing mechanisms." — AFP

140
KD million
Total Revenues

First Half **2016**

The board of directors of Kuwait Telecommunications Company (VIVA) is pleased to announce to all the shareholders that the company has achieved a net profit of KD 19.4 million for the first half of the Financial Year 2016.

Operating Profit

20.4

KD million

Net Profit

19.4

KD million

EPS

39

Kuwaiti fils

Subscribers

2.4

Million subscriber



HOW US FED FUMBLER OVER BANGLADESH BANK HEIST

THE MOST AUDACIOUS CYBER-HEISTS EVER

DHAKA: Jupiter. That single word, by a stroke of luck, helped stop the Federal Reserve Bank of New York from paying nearly \$1 billion to the cyber-criminals behind a notorious bank heist earlier this year, according to sources familiar with the incident. When hackers broke into the computers of Bangladesh's central bank in February and sent fake payment orders, the Fed was tricked into paying out \$101 million. But the losses could have been much higher had the name Jupiter not formed part of the address of a Philippines bank where the hackers sought to send hundreds of millions of dollars more.

By chance, Jupiter was also the name of an oil tanker and a shipping company under United States' sanctions against Iran. That sanctions listing triggered concerns at the New York Fed and spurred it to scrutinize the fake payment orders more closely, a Reuters examination of the incident has found. It was a "total fluke" that the New York Fed did not pay out the \$951 million requested by the hackers, said a person familiar with the Fed's handling of the matter. There is no suggestion the oil tanker or shipping company was involved in the heist. The Reuters examination has also found that the payment orders sent by the hackers were exceptional in several ways. They were incorrectly formatted at first; they were mainly to individuals; and they were very different from the usual run of payment requests from Bangladesh Bank. Yet it was the word Jupiter that set the loudest alarm bells ringing at the New York Fed. Even then it appeared to react slowly.

By the time the fraud was discovered, the New York branch of the US central bank had approved five of the payments. It took \$101 million from Bangladesh Bank and paid it to accounts in Sri Lanka and the Philippines - including \$81 million to four accounts in the names of individuals. Most of that \$81 million remains lost. It was among the most audacious cyber-heists ever to emerge shining a light on worrying weaknesses in the global financial system and into a little-known corner of the US Federal Reserve: its Central Bank and International Account Services unit (CBIAS), which one former employee described as a "bank within a bank."

Interviews with investigators, lawyers and current and former central bank officials in several countries, as well as a Reuters review of payment messages, emails and other documents, show disarray and bungling at all the financial institutions involved. But the most striking is the inertia and clumsiness at the New York Fed, the most powerful of the US central bank's 12 regional units and a mainstay of global finance. The heist revealed that the New York Fed lacked a system for spotting potential fraud in real time - even though such systems are used elsewhere - instead relying at times on checking payments after they were made, usually for problems such as violating US sanctions.

Months of bitter finger-pointing over who is to blame for the fiasco have damaged the sensitive diplomacy of correspondent banking, where big Western institutions are entrusted with safeguarding the treasures of smaller economies. Bangladesh Bank is now preparing a legal case to seek compensation for what it says were failures by the Fed, according to a source close to the Asian bank. It also claims that errors by SWIFT, a messaging system used to make international bank transfers, made the bank vulnerable to hackers. Bangladesh Bank spokesman Subhankar Saha said the institutions were working together to try to recover the missing money. He declined to comment further. The New York Fed has denied making missteps and repeatedly said its systems were not compromised. In response to a series of questions from Reuters about its actions during the heist and in the days that followed, it declined to comment, citing a criminal investigation by the US Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

SWIFT - the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, a cooperative used by over 11,000 financial institutions around the world - has denied responsibility for any weaknesses in the way Bangladesh operated and installed the SWIFT system. A spokesman said: "We continue to support the bank and cooperate with the investigations. We look forward to receiving a full account of the security incident."

Officials are still investigating the heist. But the Reuters examination has uncovered new details about how the New York Fed was slow to react to warning signs and how communications broke down between it and Bangladesh Bank. The Fed relied almost entirely on the SWIFT messaging system with, in this case, little backup for emergencies. Miscommunications and clunky payment processes meant that most of the stolen money disappeared without trace before it could be recovered.

"I couldn't believe that that much money could be lost in the SWIFT system, and in the whole federal system for central banks," Carolyn Maloney, a Democratic congresswoman from New York, told Reuters. Maloney, who was the first US lawmaker to publicly raise questions about the incident, added: "It's a wake-up call and it has to be corrected. To me, I see it as a threat to the confidence people could have in the central banking system."

Last month, the New York Fed said it took steps to "help strengthen the safety of global payments in light of the potential vulnerabilities." It did not give specifics. But the source familiar with the Fed's handling of the Bangladesh affair told Reuters that the Fed has now set up a 24-hour hotline for emergency calls from some 250 account holders, mostly central banks, around the world.

The hack

Unlike the Fed, the world's most influential central bank whose New York headquarters sits atop 508,000 gold bars stored below street level, Bangladesh Bank is not a large and powerful operation with a global footprint. It had not protected its computer system with a firewall, and it had used second-hand \$10 electronic switches to network computers linked to the SWIFT global payment system, according to Mohammad Shah Alam, head of the Forensic Training Institute of the Bangladesh police's criminal investigation department.

Hackers may have exploited such weaknesses after Bangladesh Bank connected a new electronic payment system, known as real time gross settlement (RTGS), in November last year. However, it remains unknown exactly who broke into its systems or how they did it. What is evident, according to investigative reports by cyber-security company FireEye seen by Reuters, is that someone obtained the computer credentials of a SWIFT operator at Bangladesh Bank, installed six types of malware on the bank's systems and began probing them in January.

The hackers did a series of test runs, logging into the system briefly several times between Jan 24 and Feb 2. One day they left monitoring software running on the bank's SWIFT system; on another they deleted files from a database. On Thursday, Feb 4, the hackers began sending fraudulent payment orders via SWIFT. It was late evening in Bangladesh and most of the staff had gone home. The hackers appear to have timed the heist to coincide with the weekend that in Bangladesh began the following day.

The first SWIFT message arrived at the New York Fed just after 9:55 am and ordered the transfer of \$20 million from the central bank of Bangladesh to an account in Sri Lanka. Over the next four hours, 34 more orders arrived asking the US central bank to move a total of nearly \$1 billion from the account it holds for Bangladesh Bank. Compared to the great maelstrom of global finance, the sums were unremarkable: The New York Fed handles about \$800 billion of payments a day. Nevertheless, the Bangladesh orders were odd, surprisingly odd.

First, all 35 of the messages lacked the names of "correspondent banks" - the necessary next step in the payment chain - according to a senior Bangladesh Bank official and a person familiar with the New York Fed's handling of the payments. That fault meant the orders could not immediately be fulfilled. Second, most of the payments were to individuals rather than institutions, according to police investigators in Dhaka and a source close to Bangladesh Bank.

And third, the slew of payments that morning was out of whack with the usual pattern of orders from Bangladesh Bank. Over the eight months to January 2016, Bangladesh Bank had issued 285 payment instructions to the Fed, averaging fewer than two per working day, according to a source close to Bangladesh

Bank. None of those payments had been to an individual, the source said. The U.S. central bank allows payments to individuals, but it's not common and is generally discouraged, according to one of the former New York Fed employees. The New York Fed declined to comment on the number of payments it typically received from Bangladesh Bank or whether staff had found the numerous messages on Feb. 4 surprising or suspicious.

Missed warning signs

At the New York Fed, such payment orders are handled by a small group of CBIAS staff who tend to keep to themselves, according to five former employees and senior officials who worked on the team or closely with it. The unit looks after the foreign accounts of mostly central banks and its work is sometimes like "economic diplomacy," said one of the sources, with staff having to make judgments on confidential payments ordered by a wide range of clients.

A subset of about 10 staff actually process payment requests, according to the sources. These staff, some fairly junior, can find up to 100 requests waiting for them when they arrive in the morning and may manually review hundreds of payments during the day. Most of the transactions are automatically executed. But when there is a problem, staff

Bangladesh and no one was available to respond. Besides, the hackers had sabotaged Bangladesh Bank's systems to stop messages getting through. It was only the following day, Friday Feb 5, that the Fed began a full manual review of the orders from Bangladesh Bank, according to Baxter's letter and sources in Bangladesh. Baxter, the New York Fed's top lawyer, said in his letter that such reviews can occur after payments have been made.

Sources in the United States and Bangladesh said that it was at this stage that the presence of the name Jupiter in the payment orders rang alarm bells. One of the Fed's responsibilities is to avoid violating US laws and prevent payments to sanctioned companies or individuals. It was just a stroke of luck that the name Jupiter featured on a sanctions list, thus raising a red flag.

Dhaka delay

Jubair Bin-Huda, a joint director of Bangladesh Bank, was on duty that weekend and arrived at the bank's offices in Dhaka around 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 5, according to a police report. He and a colleague went to collect the latest SWIFT acknowledgement messages, which would normally have printed off automatically. They found none. They tried to print the messages manually but failed. The hackers had infected the system with malware

tried to boot it up, a message appeared on the monitor, saying "a file is missing or changed."

SWIFT messages

Only around 12:30 pm did bank staff finally manage to print the SWIFT messages. That's when they first saw the fraudulent transactions and the Fed's queries, and realized something had gone horribly wrong. They scrambled to find out more, but did not tell Atiur Rahman, then the bank's governor, what had happened until the next day. Rahman told Reuters he did not initially appreciate the gravity of the situation. "I never thought that this will become such a big event," he said. "The concerned deputy governor did not explain to me what really went wrong. He just told me that there was an incident like this and that they had already asked for stop payment. They were hopeful the money would be returned."

Rahman said deputy governor Abdul Quasem had told him the money was "still in the system" and would be recovered soon. "I said, 'do as you need, it's your department, so take care of it,'" Rahman told Reuters. It later became clear much of the money would not be recovered, and Rahman resigned from Bangladesh Bank in March. Quasem, who also left the bank in March, declined to comment, citing ongoing investigations into the affair.

Tardy fed

As the scale of the theft sank in that weekend, the Fed's reliance on SWIFT messaging, its lack of alternative communications and its inertia became apparent. Since Bangladesh Bank's SWIFT system was still not fully working, officials there hunted for other ways to contact the Fed in New York. Lacking any obvious point of contact, they searched the Fed's website and found an email address - but it was only monitored during weekday business hours. On Saturday they fired off three emails to that address over several hours. The first included the line: "Our system has been hacked. Please stop all payment (debit) instructions immediately."

It was the weekend and Fed staff did not respond. That email address was unlikely to be synced to their mobile phones, according to a former New York Fed employee. Huda followed up with several calls and a fax to numbers obtained from the Fed website, according to a source close to Bangladesh Bank. Those numbers were also marked as weekday-only contacts and the Fed still did not respond.

On Monday, staff at Bangladesh Bank finally managed to get their SWIFT system operating and sent a message headed "Top urgent" to the New York Fed saying 35 payment orders were fake. "Please recall back funds if transferred from your accounts," it said. That message, sent around 1 am in New York, would have been seen when CBIAS employees arrived at 7:30 am. According to former CBIAS employees and senior officials at the New York Fed, it would have dropped like a bomb. The New York Fed, citing the criminal investigation, declined to comment on its communications with Bangladesh Bank and on what it did that Monday to attempt to recall Bangladesh Bank's money.

It was only on Monday evening in New York and Tuesday morning in Dhaka - four days after the heist began - that the New York Fed told Bangladesh Bank that it had alerted the correspondent banks to the fraud. A payment of \$20 million to an account in Sri Lanka had already been reversed because of a spelling error in the request. But for four other payments made out to individuals it was too late: \$81 million had gone to a Philippines bank and from there disappeared into the giant money-go-round that is the country's casino industry. (See related story: The Philippine connection.)

The blame game began soon afterwards. SWIFT bridled at suggestions of flaws in its network and rejected any responsibility for the way Bangladesh Bank had installed its RTGS real-time gross settlement system. On Feb 11 and 14, Eddie Haddad, SWIFT's managing director for Asia Pacific, sent emails - seen by Reuters - to Rahman, then still governor of Bangladesh Bank. The emails implied that someone within the bank may have been involved in the heist. One said: "I have looked at the logs and the irregular message details, a user account was compromised within BB. —Reuters



NEW YORK: The American flag flies above the Wall Street entrance to the New York Stock Exchange. — AP

mainly check for SWIFT formatting and authentication, and violations of US economic sanctions or money laundering regulations. They may ask clients for more information.

When the first 35 messages from Bangladesh were rejected for incorrect formatting, the hackers simply fixed the formatting and sent another 35 requests for payment to the same beneficiaries as before. This time the New York Fed cleared five of them, despite the oddities. They were properly formatted, SWIFT authenticated and went through automatically. The Fed monitors for unusual transactions, but its system had a weakness: While credit card companies can spot unusual patterns in real time, the New York Fed typically looks back through payments, usually the day after they are requested, according to two of the former employees.

After the five payments had been made, staff did flag "several" other requests for review to check whether they complied or not with US sanctions, according to a letter that Thomas Baxter, the New York Fed's general counsel, later sent to Rep. Maloney. That manual review found that the payments were "potentially suspicious," Baxter wrote. The Reuters examination found that on that Thursday Fed staff had sufficient concerns about 12 of the payment requests to send a message to Bangladesh Bank at the end of the day, New York time. "The payments contained individuals as beneficiaries and have varying details," the message said.

But it was nearly 4 a.m. on the weekend in

that disabled the printer, and Bangladesh bank officials did not see the Fed's query and knew nothing of the fraudulent transactions. Instead, according to a police report, Huda assumed there was simply a printer problem - which had happened in the past - and asked other officials to fix it. He left work at around 11:15 am.

Since it was a Friday, the Islamic holy day, all other officials left the office at around 12:30 p.m., leaving the printer fix until later, the police report says. Later that day, Fed officials sent two other SWIFT messages to Dhaka. The first asked the same question for four of the five transactions that had already been cleared - and those four transactions included the name Jupiter. The second message asked about the 30 other payment instructions, including those queried the day before, according to sources close to Bangladesh Bank and an internal bank document seen by Reuters.

The messages did not get through. And the New York Fed did not reach out to Dhaka in any other way. It would often take up to three days for clients like Bangladesh to respond to SWIFT messages, said one former New York Fed employee. But the person added that by that point the New York Fed should have realized someone was trying to wire a billion dollars out of the account "and that's something way outside the norm." Huda returned to work on Saturday, Feb 6, around 9 am, and tried again to use the printer, only to discover the SWIFT software was not starting. Whenever he

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.861	
Indian Rupees	4.518	
Pakistani Rupees	2.894	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.084	
Nepali Rupees	2.826	
Singapore Dollar	225.070	
Hongkong Dollar	39.113	
Bangladesh Taka	3.868	
Philippine Peso	6.448	
Thai Baht	8.712	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.950	
Qatari Riyal	83.386	
UAE Dirham	788.462	
Bahraini Dinar	806.160	
UAE Dirham	82.648	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.250	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.559	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.219	
Tunisian Dinar	136.980	
Jordanian Dinar	428.350	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.163	
Syrian Lira	2.0163	
Morocco Dirham	31.426	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	303.400	
Euro	336.470	

Sterling Pound	403.520
Canadian dollar	232.940
Turkish lira	99.740
Swiss Franc	310.860
Australian Dollar	229.670
US Dollar Buying	302.200

	GOLD
20 Gram	266.540
10 Gram	136.190
5 Gram	68.940

DOLLARCO EXCHANGE CO. LTD

Rate for Transfer	Selling Rate
US Dollar	302.900
Canadian Dollar	232.445
Sterling Pound	393.145
Euro	335.450
Swiss Frank	298.925
Bahrain Dinar	801.276
UAE Dirhams	82.700
Qatari Riyals	83.910
Saudi Riyals	81.495
Jordanian Dinar	427.030
Egyptian Pound	34.013
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.088
Indian Rupees	4.508
Pakistani Rupees	2.888
Bangladesh Taka	3.857
Philippines Peso	6.431
Cyprus pound	159.630
Japanese Yen	3.980
Syrian Pound	2.395
Nepalese Rupees	3.805

Malaysian Ringgit	76.475
Chinese Yuan Renminbi	45.630
Thai Bhat	9.585
Turkish Lira	104.965

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY	BUY Europe	SELL
British Pound	0.392136	0.407136
Czech Korune	0.004379	0.016379
Danish Krone	0.040925	0.045925
Euro	0.0327915	0.0336915
Norwegian Krone	0.031696	0.036896
Romanian Leu	0.057018	0.087018
Slovakia	0.009051	0.019051
Swedish Krona	0.031251	0.036251
Swiss Franc	0.301728	0.312728
Turkish Lira	0.096793	0.107093
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.218988	0.230988
New Zealand Dollar	0.207066	0.216566
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.226207	0.235207
Georgina Lari	0.137008	0.137008
US Dollars	0.299250	0.304250
US Dollars Mint	0.299750	0.304250
Asia		
Bangladesh Taka	0.003397	0.003981
Chinese Yuan	0.044011	0.047511
Hong Kong Dollar	0.037039	0.039789

Indian Rupee	0.004376	0.004786
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002788	0.002968
Kenyan Shilling	0.003120	0.003120
Korean Won	0.000257	0.000272
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071286	0.077286
Nepalese Rupee	0.002861	0.003031
Pakistan Rupee	0.002728	0.003018
Philippine Peso	0.006352	0.006652
Sierra Leone	0.000067	0.000073
Singapore Dollar	0.218655	0.228655
South African Rand	0.015377	0.023877
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001677	0.002257
Taiwan	0.009358	0.009538
Thai Baht	0.008347	0.008897

Arab		
Bahraini Dinar	0.798072	0.806572
Egyptian Pound	0.027140	0.032258
Iranian Riyal	0.000084	0.000085
Iraqi Dinar	0.000182	0.000242
Jordanian Dinar	0.424763	0.433763
Kuwaiti Dinar	1.000000	1.000000
Lebanese Pound	0.000147	0.000247
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019363	0.043363
Nigerian Naira	0.001252	0.001887
Omani Riyal	0.781502	0.787182
Qatar Riyal	0.082511	0.083961
Saudi Riyal	0.079807	0.081107
Syrian Pound	0.001286	0.001506
Tunisian Dinar	0.133513	0.141513
Turkish Lira	0.096793	0.107093
UAE Dirhams	0.081166	0.082866
Yemeni Riyal	0.001371	0.001451

GOLD IS NOT ALL THAT GLITTERS - DIAMONDS ACT AS HEDGE FOR THE RICH

GENEVA: In a packed Christie's auction room in Geneva, one could hear a pin drop as two anonymous bidders slugged it out in their quest to own the world's most exquisite blue diamond. The room in the Four Seasons Hotel des Bergues was filled with multi-millionaire collectors and diamond dealers, listening intently as the bidders, each speaking by phone to a Christie's representative, took turns adding a few hundred thousand dollars in a tense struggle dragging on for more than half an hour.

When the auctioneer's hammer came down, spontaneous applause broke out as the winner, who retained anonymity, bought the 14.62-carat Oppenheimer Blue for a world record \$57.5 million for any jewel sold at auction. The sale some weeks ago was the latest in a series of world record prices per carat paid at auction for extraordinarily magnificent and rare diamonds.

With new fortunes being created around the world faster than at any time in history, more of this expanding elite of wealthy investors are looking at different ways of protecting cash that now earns close to zero percent interest in bank accounts, while asset market turbulence can wipe out millions in hours. Some are eyeing rare diamonds as a best friend, or long-term haven at least. And it's no longer just a top table of "super rich" billionaires who are gravitating

to this arcane world. A second division of wealthy is emerging. They can't afford the Oppenheimer Blue, perhaps, but they can take a stake in rare diamonds via specialist investment funds.

Professional investors' club only

These gem specialists are keen to play up rare diamonds as "safety" investments, or at least a way to hedge against currency, stock and bond market volatility at a time of political and economic uncertainty. Britain's shock vote last month to leave the European Union underlines their point. "The big players are looking at diamonds in a different way," said Ehud Laniado, chief executive of Cora International, which sold the 12.03-carat Blue Moon diamond for \$48.4 million at a Sotheby's Geneva sale in November, a world record for any jewel sold at auction at the time.

"They are not looking at them just as a jewel, but as an asset that has a resale value." Citigroup said the outlook for gold remained uncertain partly due to concerns about a possible increase in US interest rates. In such a scenario, investors may look at a next-best alternative such as diamonds. However, the diamond investors' club is shut to most ordinary savers due to its complicated, insider nature - characterized by poor liquidity, a lack of price transparency and high fees. While some are making

efforts to create a liquid market, the process has been slow.

Entry level for Scien's Colored Diamond Fund II, one of the more established closed-end funds now shut to new investors, is \$1 million. It invests in diamonds in rare colors such as red. The fund, which manages around \$50 million, uses trading and buy-and-hold strategies for long-term appreciation. One of its strategies is to improve the value of stones by finding a rare matching pair in the same color, size and shape. They are eventually sold to buyers such as jewelers and collectors.

Some funds also loan diamonds to jewelers who wish not to maintain a large inventory. If the jeweler decides to make a unique ring for a client, he can buy a diamond from the fund. The Scien's fund, launched in 2014, rose in value by about 5 percent in the second quarter of 2016, said Philip Baldwin, managing director of Scien's Diamond Management BV. He and Mahyar Makhzani run the fund, based on the Caribbean island of Curacao. "Color diamonds are considered a safe haven," he said. "Colour diamonds are a hedge against inflation, currency risk, market fluctuations and political uncertainty."

Solitaire Diamond Co, another diamond-backed fund now closed to new investors, is backed by an assortment of white diamonds of high-grade clarity

and cut weighing under 5 carats, which are certified by international laboratories such as the Gemological Institute of America. Fred Sinclair-Brown, Solitaire fund manager, said it made a gross margin of 20 percent over the past 12 months, above expectations of 14 to 16 percent. He said he was planning another diamond fund for professional investors, this time possibly backed by colored gems.

Investors see sparkle

Prices of vivid and intense color diamonds have risen 10 to 12 percent a year on average since 1959, according to Baldwin. However, dealers said white diamond prices had not gained as quickly in recent years and were largely flat in 2016. The most prominent white diamond to come to auction recently, the 1,109-carat Lesedi la Rona, failed to sell at Sotheby's in London last month, highlighting that diamond markets are not bulletproof.

Diamond markets slowed in the second quarter as selective buyers pushed for deeper discounts. Polished inventory continued to rise and prices came under pressure, while rough trading remained resilient. Despite a handful of diamond-backed initiatives, fund managers have struggled over the years to find the right investment vehicles for diamonds due to illiquidity, a

lack of price transparency and high transaction fees.

"I am very dubious about diamond-backed investment because the price of diamonds is not listed anywhere and the market is too illiquid," said Edmund Shing, strategist at BNP Paribas and former global equity fund manager of BCS Asset Management. Fund managers pointed to very separate markets for white diamonds. While white diamonds can be correlated to the commercial market for bridal jewellery, colour gems are in a unique investment category. Part of the problem with diamond investing is that different categories make it difficult to compile generic prices.

A recent Citigroup poll found that about one-third of the respondents were willing to invest in a diamond product having homogeneity and liquidity. Martin Rapaport, head of the Rapaport Group, which has its own polished diamond price list widely used by the trade, is trying to create a more liquid market for investment-grade diamonds by developing a transparent price structure. He hopes to launch a fund backed by diamonds within a couple of years. "Diamonds can be a good investment, but you have to be careful," he said. "You need to know the bid/ask spread, the price you can sell diamonds back on the same day." — Reuters



CHENGDU: A hostess drinks tea during a tea ceremony during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Chengdu, Sichuan province. — AFP

BOJ TO EASE POLICY AGAIN IF NECESSARY

'HELICOPTER MONEY' PROHIBITED IN JAPAN

CHENGDU: Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said yesterday he would ease policy further if necessary to achieve its 2 percent inflation goal, while reiterating a commitment to continue with the current stimulus until prices are anchored there. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bankers in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu, Kuroda maintained an upbeat view on the Japanese economy and price outlook in spite of rising market expectations for more BOJ monetary stimulus.

A majority of economists polled by Reuters expect the BOJ to ease policy next week, forecasting a combination of measures in another attempt to kick-start inflation. "If the economy's (recovery) trend continues, leading wages and prices to rise in a virtuous cycle, which is continuing, prices will eventually rise to the 2 percent price stability goal," Kuroda said. "We always examine risk factors for the economy and prices and will take additional easing steps if necessary to achieve the price stability goal. I'll explain that together with Japan's economy, prices and monetary policy at this meeting."

Kuroda went on to say that the major topic of G20 debate is how Britain's vote to exit the European Union would affect the global economy. "Uncertainty will continue, including negotiations between Britain and the EU, which will take years. So we will be paying attention to such things," Kuroda said, adding that there was no change in expectations for global growth to rise despite Brexit. Kuroda also shrugged off speculation about "helicopter money", saying that it would be prohibited by law if it meant the BOJ directly underwriting government debt.

"If it means that central banks are directly underwriting government bonds, or managing monetary and fiscal policies as one, that would be prohibited in Japan as well as other advanced economies, as lessons from history tell us," he said. Japanese markets have risen this month on speculation that authorities, battling to revive an economy dogged by decades of anemic inflation, will resort to using helicopter money, possibly issuing perpetual bonds to underwrite public debt. "If governments utilize fiscal policy while central banks ease policy from the economic and price viewpoint, that would boost the multiplier effect on the economy. This so-called policy mix is nothing wrong as macro policy." — Reuters



TOKYO: A woman walks past an electronic board showing exchange rates of Japanese yen against euro (left) and British pound at a securities firm in Tokyo. — AP



TOKYO: A woman with an umbrella dressed in a maid's costume delivers advertisement leaflets to her cafe to passersby at the Akihabara shopping area in Tokyo. — AP

CHINA WORKFORCE MAY DECLINE 23% BY 2050

BEIJING: The size of China's workforce may decline by as much as 23 percent by 2050, a government official said, as the population of the world's second-largest economy rapidly ages. China's working age population, defined as those between the ages of 16 and 59, peaked in 2011 and would soon "experience a process of sharp decline", particularly after 2030, said Li Zhong, a spokesman for the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security, at a news conference.

He forecast that last year's tally of 911 million people of working age could fall as low as 700 million by 2050 - a decline of over 23 percent. "Over the long term, macro-level data analysis shows that we must focus on the development of human resources as a whole, and study how to

more fully and more efficiently make use of labor resources," he said Friday.

China is faced with deep demographic challenges, thanks in large part to decades of the strict and at times brutal enforcement of its hugely controversial "one child" policy. The country now has 220 million people over the age of 60, Li said, accounting for over 16 percent of its total population. China's economy grew by 6.9 percent last year, its slowest rate in a quarter of a century, and its shrinking workforce has heightened the challenges brought on by sluggish economic growth.

The country has drafted plans currently pending approval to delay retirement age, with Li stating that the decision would have "limited" impact on employment for younger people. — AFP

TIGUENTOURINE GAS PLANT READY FOR FULL PRODUCTION

TIGUENTOURINE: Algeria's Tiguentourine gas plant is ready to come fully back online for the first time since a deadly militant attack in 2013, General Manager Kamel Aoues said yesterday. "Full production is for the coming days, all tests have been passed successfully," Aoues said during a press visit to the site. The plant, 1,600 km south east of the capital Algiers, is operated by Algerian state energy firm Sonatrach, BP and Statoil.

Current production is estimated at 16 million cubic meters per day, and should reach 24 million to 25 million cubic meters when the third and final section of the plant comes online, plant managers said. Algeria is a top gas supplier to Europe. Its economy is heavily dependent on hydrocarbons exports, and the OPEC member has been struggling to boost production to offset the fall in oil prices.

A source who asked not to be named said the return to full production would coincide with a ceremony at Tiguentourine on Aug. 1 attended by Energy Minister Noureddine Bouferfja and Sonatrach Chief Executive Amine Mazouzi.

In January 2013, 40 mostly foreign oil contractors were killed after al Qaeda militants attacked the plant and took dozens of workers hostage. Currently, about 20 percent of the 500 employees at the plant are foreigners. The cost of repairing the plant was estimated at \$90 million, Aoues said.

Security is handled entirely by the military, which has a visible presence around the site. Several check points have to be crossed to reach the plant. "I have been in the plant for the past two months, it is quiet and safe," security contractor Robert Sherman told Reuters during a tour around the site. — Reuters



TIASSALE, Ivory Coast: A cocoa farmer holds dried cocoa pods which were damaged by a caterpillar in a cocoa plantation in Tiassale, in the south-eastern part of Ivory Coast where insects eat vegetation including cocoa trees. Ivory Coast is the world's largest producer of cocoa. — AFP

HOW TO PREVENT A FUTURE TALENT SHORTAGE IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: Do you sometimes have a hard time finding the skilled candidates you need? If you do, you're not alone. According to the Bayt.com Middle East Skills Gap survey, May 2016, employers report difficulty in finding the right candidates with the skill sets required to match their demands. In order for businesses to keep growing and developing, it is urgent to take action and seek long-term solutions to minimize the impact of the skills gap. Fortunately, there are some actionable steps you could do to prevent a future talent shortage for your company today. Here are some recommendations from Bayt.com, the Middle East's #1 job site, to help your company tackle the skills gap in Kuwait:

Apprenticeship and internship

Some businesses have already reaped the benefits of building their own talent pool in-house through apprenticeship and internship programs. This is a real win-win solution because, in getting their hands dirty, candidates gain hands-on experience and first-time exposure, while offering employers and hiring managers a real-time

bayat.com

overview of their employable skills and qualifications. In an effort to support employers all the way through the skill-matching process, Bayt.com offers Tests, a powerful assessment tool to qualify candidates and see whether their skill sets are relevant to the employer's needs, or not.

Guidance and mentorship

Too often young talents, who are not offered the opportunity to grow and move into leadership positions, tend to turn their back on their current jobs and seek career opportunities elsewhere. The new generation of workers needs to be mentored to best penetrate the job market, develop leadership and learn how to create its own destiny. Mentoring is a tremendous resource to tap into and is growing extremely popular as a way to tackle the looming shortages of talents. It could also be a great way to motivate your current employees.

Sustainable retention strategies

When it comes to retaining qual-

ified talents in a competitive market, compensation is never enough. The problem is that, as highlighted by various researches, companies are not investing enough in training and talent development, or getting creative offering options like work-life balance.

Companies are asked now more than ever to invest in better talent development so they can build resilient experts and keep them onboard. But before that, they need to empower staff with those soft skills that have too long taken back seat. According to the Bayt.com Middle East Skills Gap survey, 'technical skills' are often seen as posing the least challenge, while 'soft skills' are regarded as most lacking. Four in 10 (42%) respondents to the survey said they believe the best solution to tackle the skills gap crisis is by having companies provide enough on-the-job training opportunities.

Applicant tracking system

We don't know what the future has in store for us as hiring man-

agers and HR professionals. But what we do know is that the workplace is continually evolving, and your pool of candidates needs to grow too to survive the changes and a marketplace that keeps getting even more competitive. The easiest way to nurture your talent pool and grow it is to invest in an applicant tracking system. Talentera, a flagship Bayt.com product, has affirmed itself as a comprehensive online solution that take sourcing, managing and hiring talent to the next level. Its applicant tracking system will help you stay on top of the recruitment pipeline, work with your recruitment flow, and make every single CV meaningful.

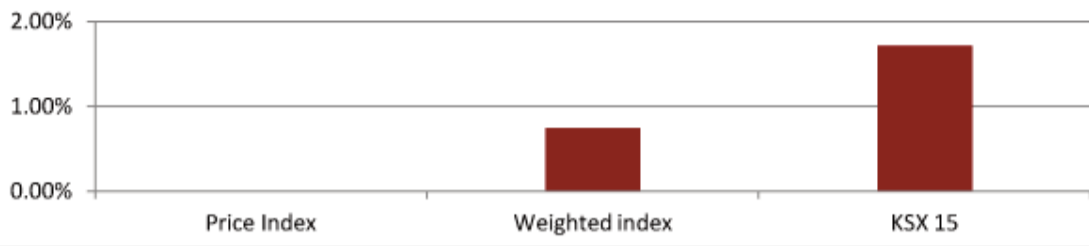
About Bayt.com

Bayt.com is the #1 job site in the Middle East with more than 40,000 employers and over 25,500,000 registered job seekers from across the Middle East, North Africa and the globe, representing all industries, nationalities and career levels. Post a job or find jobs on www.bayt.com today and access the leading resource for job seekers and employers in the region.

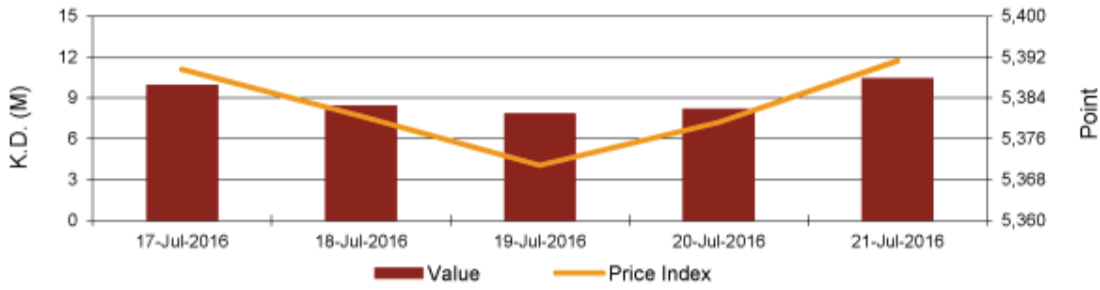
KSE PRICE INDEX CLOSES AT 5,391.20 POINTS

Bayan Investment Weekly Report

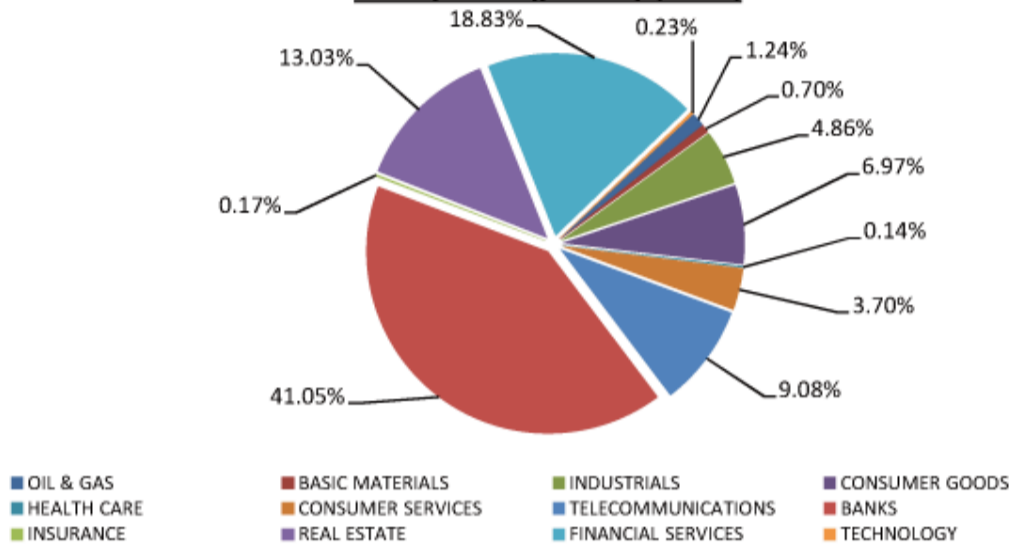
Indices weekly performance



Last Five Days Activity



Weekly Trading Activity (Value)



KUWAIT: Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) ended last week in the green zone. The Price Index closed at 5,391.20 points, up by 0.01% from the week before closing, the Weighted Index increased by 0.75% after closing at 351.57 points, whereas the KXS-15 Index closed at 811.34 points up by 1.72%. Furthermore, last week's average daily turnover increased by 26.58%, compared to the preceding week, reaching K.D 8.98 million, whereas trading volume average was 80.99 million shares, recording an increase of 31.41%.

The three stock market indices were able to realize gains after the fluctuation it witnessed in the previous two weeks, supported by the positive trading and purchasing operations witnessed by the leading and operational stocks, especially the Banks' stocks and the ones expected to realize positive results for the first half period.

On the contrary, the red zone was not away from the KSE tradings during the last week, as the market indices decreased in few daily sessions of the week under the pressure of the profit collection operations that were present and concentrated on some listed stocks, especially the low-priced ones of which realized continues increases in few past weeks. Also, the market performance during the last week came amid of a good increase in the trading activity compared to the previous week, whereas the number of traded stocks grew by 31.41%, while the trading value recorded an increase of 26.58% by the end of the week.

As per the daily trading activity, the market witnessed in the first session of the last week a mixed closing to the three indices, whereas the Price and Weighted indices declined slightly under a pressure from the profit collection operations and the speculation that included some small-cap stocks, while the

SECTORS' WEEKLY TRADING ACTIVITY

Sector	Volume	To Market %	Value	To Market %
OIL & GAS	12,708,459	3.14%	557,139	1.24%
BASIC MATERIALS	1,234,689	0.30%	316,468	0.70%
INDUSTRIALS	25,809,856	6.37%	2,180,209	4.86%
CONSUMER GOODS	3,167,727	0.78%	3,129,912	6.97%
HEALTH CARE	283,304	0.07%	60,838	0.14%
CONSUMER SERVICES	20,239,368	5.00%	1,662,053	3.70%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	28,680,692	7.08%	4,077,705	9.08%
BANKS	46,410,589	11.46%	18,433,406	41.05%
INSURANCE	645,568	0.16%	75,156	0.17%
REAL ESTATE	64,704,924	15.98%	5,852,906	13.03%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	200,534,715	49.52%	8,454,255	18.83%
TECHNOLOGY	546,511	0.13%	104,022	0.23%

KSX-15 index succeeded in increasing, however in small percentage, supported by the random purchasing operations executed on some leading stocks.

On the second session, the market continued its fluctuation, whereas the Price Index continued recording losses amid an ongoing profit collection operations and quick speculation that returned to be the prominent current feature in the market, while the Weighted and KXS-15 indices were able to increase supported by the purchasing operations that included a number of leading stocks.

On the mid week session, the market witnessed a grouped drop to the three indices which could not hold against the selling pressures and the profit collection operations that the session witnessed, amid a decline in the trading activity also for both value and volume, before the market could record a grouped increase for the three indices in the

next session, supported by the optimism state that accompanied some traders after the positive disclosure of a number of listed companies to its second quarter financial results.

The market returned in the last trading session of the week to fluctuate once again, where the Price Index was able to record gains and compensate its losses for the week, while the Weighted and KXS-15 indices declined as a result to the profit collection operations, which limited its profits for the week. Moreover, the market capitalization reached by the end of last week KD 22.90 billion, up by 0.59% compared to its level in a week earlier, where it reached then KD 22.94 billion. However on an annual level, the market cap for the listed companies in KSE declined by 9.36% from its value at end of 2015, where it reached then KD 25.27 billion. As far as KSE annual performance, the price index ended last week recording 3.99% annual loss com-

MARKET ACTIVITY

	Last Week	Previous Week	Ch. %
Volume	404,966,402	308,180,319	31.41%
Value (K.D)	44,904,069	35,475,833	26.58%
Deals	10,446	9,664	8.09%

MARKET CAPITALISATION (K.D.)

Last Week	Previous Week	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
22,901,580,901	22,767,950,237	0.59%	-9.36%

TOP GAINERS OF THE WEEK

Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
IFA	34.00	29.00	5.0	17.24%
YIACO	240.00	210.00	30.0	14.29%
ALSALAM	46.00	40.50	5.5	13.58%
KSH	170.00	150.00	20.0	13.33%
ALMADINA	52.00	47.50	4.5	9.47%

TOP LOSERS OF THE WEEK

Company	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Ch. (fils)	Ch. %
ASC	270.00	385.00	-115.0	-29.87%
CABLETV	20.00	25.00	-5.0	-20.00%
KCIN	1,380.00	1,680.00	-300.0	-17.86%
AWJ	64.00	77.00	-13.0	-16.88%
ACICO	260.00	300.00	-40.0	-13.33%

SECTORS INDICES PERFORMANCE

Sector	Last Week Closing	Previous Week Closing	Weekly Ch. %	Annual Ch. %
OIL & GAS	789.91	774.79	1.95%	-3.52%
BASIC MATERIALS	967.23	969.61	-0.25%	-1.94%
INDUSTRIALS	1,055.45	1,063.42	-0.75%	1.19%
CONSUMER GOODS	1,197.26	1,176.05	1.80%	9.35%
HEALTH CARE	1,034.98	1,013.42	2.13%	11.85%
CONSUMER SERVICES	957.42	997.02	-3.97%	-5.08%
TELECOMMUNICATIONS	604.65	604.08	0.09%	1.01%
BANKS	789.23	779.85	1.20%	-12.99%
INSURANCE	1,017.49	1,017.62	-0.01%	-9.72%
REAL ESTATE	839.76	841.45	-0.20%	-10.74%
FINANCIAL SERVICES	564.30	558.20	1.09%	-5.22%
TECHNOLOGY	1,021.31	992.75	2.88%	24.53%

pared to its closing in 2015, while the weighted index decreased by 7.89%, and the KXS-15 recorded 9.89% loss.

Sectors' indices

Seven of KSE's sectors ended last week in the green zone, while the other five recorded declines. Last week's highest gainer was the Technology sector, achieving 2.88% growth rate as its index closed at 1,021.31 points. Whereas, in the second place, the Health Care sector's index closed at 1,034.98 points recording 2.13% increase. The Oil & Gas sector came in third as its index achieved 1.95% growth, ending the week at 789.91 points. On the other hand, the Consumer Services sector headed the losers list as its index declined by 3.97% to end the week's activity at 957.42 points. The Industrial sector was second on the losers' list, which index declined by 0.75%, closing at 1,055.45 points, followed by the Basic

Materials sector, as its index closed at 967.23 points at a loss of 0.25%.

Sectors' activity

The Financial Services sector dominated a total trade volume of around 200.53 million shares changing hands during last week, representing 49.52% of the total market trading volume. The Real Estate sector was second in terms of trading volume as the sector's traded shares were 15.98% of last week's total trading volume, with a total of around 64.70 million shares. On the other hand, the Banks sector's stocks were the highest traded in terms of value; with a turnover of around K.D 18.43 million or 41.05% of last week's total market trading value. The Financial Services sector took the second place as the sector's last week turnover was approx. K.D 8.45 million representing 18.83% of the total market trading value.



GULF BANK ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF AL DANAH

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank held its Al Danah daily draws on 17 July 2016 announcing the names of its winners for the week of 10 July - 14 July 2016. The Al Danah daily draws include draws each and every working day for two prizes of KD1,000 per winner. The winners were: (Sunday 10/7): Hadiyah Nahi Al-Enizi, Soumia Adam; (Monday 11/7): Dalal Ibrahim Abdullah Al-Sayed Omar, Khaled Sheshan Nasser Munahi; (Tuesday 12/7): Adel Mohammed Ghloom Al-Attar, Aliaa Sadeq Al-Hajj Jafar Ismaeel; (Wednesday 13/7): Faleh Jaber Saleh Al-Khaldi, Najeebah Majeed Ibrahim Mohammed; (Thursday 14/7): Hamed Ibrahim Ghloom Al-Beloushi, Haidar Yaseen Ali Al-Hadad.

Gulf Bank's Al Danah 2016 draw lineup includes daily draws (2 winners per working day each receive KD1000). Al Danah's 3rd Quarterly Draw for the prize of KD500,000 will be held on September 29th. The final Al Danah draw for 1 Million Kuwaiti Dinars will be held on 5 January, 2017 whereby the Al Danah Millionaire will be announced. Open an Al Danah account now or deposit more to increase your chances of winning the Millionaire Draw!

Five reasons why the Al Danah account is the Best: (1) Kuwait's single biggest yearly

cash prize of KD 1 Million. (2) Kuwait's biggest quarterly cash prizes, up to KD500,000. (3) Two winners of KD1,000 every working day. (4) The most chances to win. (5) Only Bank that transfers your chances to win from year to year.

Making millionaires

Al Danah also offers a number of unique services including: the Al Danah Deposit Only ATM card which helps account holders deposit their money at their convenience; as well as the Al Danah calculator to help customers calculate their chances of becoming an Al Danah winner. Gulf Bank's Al Danah account is open to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti residents of Kuwait. Customers who open an account and/or deposit more will enter the draw within two days. To take part in the Al Danah 2016 upcoming quarterly and yearly draws, customers must have an Al Danah account containing at least KD 200; customers can visit one of Gulf Bank's 56 branches, transfer on line, or call the Customer Contact Center on 1805805 for assistance and guidance. Customers can also log on to www.e-gulf-bank.com/aldanahwinners, to find out more about Al Danah and its winners.

ZAIN LAUNCHES eeZEE BUNDLES

KUWAIT: Zain, the leading telecommunications company in Kuwait, announced the launch of its all-new eeZee prepaid bundles, titled "eeZee in your hands". The new bundles entitle customers to design the prepaid plan that suits both their personal and professional lifestyles. Zain completely redesigned the new eeZee bundles to give prepaid customers flexibility, convenience, and control over how they want their plans to best suit their unique lifestyles. The company is committed to introduce the latest and most competitive offerings to the largest customer base in Kuwait.

The new eeZee bundles offer several distinctive monthly subscription options, where customers first choose one of the five main Internet bundles, and then have the ability to select from a variety of add-ons that fit their specific needs. The new eeZee bundles start with the KD 5 monthly plan that offers 10 GB of Internet and unlimited social media use (for Whatsapp, Facebook, and Viber), and ends with the KD 20 monthly plan that offers unlimited Internet and unlimited local calls.

After choosing one of the main Internet plans, customers have the ability to conveniently add any of the following amazing additional benefits: unlimited Zain to Zain calls, unlimited local calls, unlimited streaming (on YouTube, Netflix, and Dailymotion), unlimited calls and unlimited Internet for one day, extra 10 GBs, and/or Internet roaming. This offering comes in line with Zain's aim to provide its customers with a superior telecommunications experience, and springs from its core understanding of prepaid customers' needs.

The offer aims at providing customers with a superior content consumption experience with Zain's nationwide LTE-A network. Zain emphasized its commitment to the needs of the largest customer base in Kuwait, and will continuously look into expanding its horizons to keep customers conveniently connected, to download content and stay in touch with their loved ones wherever they may be.

G20 NATIONS URGED TO BOOST GROWTH

CENTRAL BANK CHIEFS, FINANCE MINISTERS MEET IN CHENGDU

CHENGDU: The world's leading economies must do more to boost slowing global growth, the International Monetary Fund and Washington urged as G20 finance ministers gathered yesterday, with Britain's vote to leave the European Union threatening more disruption. Central bank chiefs and finance ministers from the world's top 20 economies met in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu, and US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew told journalists it was "a time of continuing uncertainty in the global economic outlook". "When you look at the political developments around the world, most recently the referendum in the United Kingdom, it really reinforces the importance of concentrating on shared growth," he said.

Britain's new finance minister Philip Hammond yesterday met his German counterpart Wolfgang Schäuble for the first time, and held talks with Chinese central bank chief Zhou Xiaochuan. "In Chengdu for G20 - will be reassuring world that Britain is open for business & will continue to be a competitive open trading nation," he tweeted. According to a draft communique the G20 will seek to stress the impact of Brexit can be tackled, Bloomberg News reported. "Members of the G20 are well positioned to proactively address the potential economic and financial consequences stemming from the UK referendum," it quoted the draft document as saying.



CHENGDU: Japan's Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso (left) and United States Secretary of the Treasury Jacob Lew attend a panel for the High-level Tax Symposium held in Chengdu in Southwestern China's Sichuan province yesterday. — AP



CHENGDU: Christine Lagarde, the head of the International Monetary Fund gestures towards Pietro Carlo Padoan, Italy's Minister of Economy and Finance during the High-level Tax Symposium held in Chengdu in Southwestern China's Sichuan province yesterday. — AP

'Urgent need'
Just ahead of the meeting, the IMF called on key G20 nations to boost government spending. "Global growth remains weak, and downside risks have become more salient," the Washington-based lender said in a report. "Growth could be even lower if the current increases in economic and political uncertainty in the wake of the 'Brexit' vote continue." In its most recent forecast, the IMF lowered its forecasts for global growth this year and next by 0.1 percent, to 3.1 percent and 3.4 percent respectively.

The IMF wants advanced economies such as Germany and the United States

to channel more public spending into infrastructure investment to help boost growth, an issue that has sparked divisions among G20 members. "There is an urgent need for G20 countries to step up their efforts to turn growth around," it said. But Berlin, in particular, has a long history of fiscal rigour and argues that government spending is ineffective at boosting growth, while monetary moves such as ultra-low interest rates and a flood of liquidity and credit are counterproductive. Ahead of the G20 gathering, a German ministerial source told reporters that the use of government stimulus would not be one of the meeting's main themes. But French finance minister Michel Sapin told AFP that as

well as monetary policy, which could not "do everything," fiscal policy should be used "as much as possible". "Different countries are in different situations," he said, and governments that had room to support investment should do so, "even if one country or another disagrees".

Terrorism, Turkey, Trump

Other challenges loom besides Brexit, including what one official at the G20 referred to as the "Three Ts" - terrorism, Turkey and Trump. The recent attack in the French city of Nice which killed 84 people, the third major incident in the European country over the past 18 months, has rattled financial markets, and a gunman in the German city of

Munich killed nine people on Friday.

A failed coup in Turkey which had aimed at unseating President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and his huge subsequent crackdown on opponents, has alarmed Ankara's Western allies. Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek sought to reassure his colleagues. "Despite what has happened a week ago in Turkey... we will continue to strongly adhere to democratic principles and apply rule of law, and not much really has changed," he said. The US presidential election, in which tycoon Donald Trump has sealed the Republican party nomination and will face Democrat Hillary Clinton, could add uncertainty if the contest is close.

AFTER BREXIT, UK ECONOMY SHRINKING AT FASTEST PACE

LONDON: Britain's economy is shrinking at its steepest pace since the global financial crisis in early 2009 as a result of the vote to leave the European Union, a survey indicated yesterday. The so-called purchasing managers' index, a gauge of business activity conducted by IHS Markit, fell to 47.7 points in July from 52.4 in June. The figures are on a 100-point scale, with the 50 threshold separating growth from contraction.

The survey is one of the first official measures of how the economy responded to the vote, and is based on questionnaires sent to executives in over 600 companies between July 12 and 21. "July saw a dramatic deterioration in the economy, with business activity slumping at the fastest rate since the height of the global financial crisis in early-2009," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit. "The downturn, whether manifesting itself in order book cancellations, a lack of new orders or the postponement or halting of projects, was most commonly attributed in one way or another to 'Brexit'."

A departure from the EU could mean companies based in Britain are cut off from the bloc's single market, which guarantees no tariffs on trade and the free movement of workers and money. The uncertainty over Britain's trade relations, which will take years to renegotiate, is causing companies to hold back investment and hiring or even to make cuts.

The weeks of political uncertainty, with the Prime Minister resigning after the vote and the main parties in disarray, also hurt confidence. The Markit survey found that both business output and new orders fell in July for the first time since the end of 2012. Their drop from the previous month was the steepest in the survey's history. The measure of service providers' optimism about the com-

ing 12 months slumped to a seven-and-a-half year low. Manufacturers reported job cuts. The report noted there wasn't an increase in business costs, which some are fearing as the plunge in the pound since the vote will make fuel, raw materials and imports more expensive. Those rises were offset in part by subdued wage inflation. Michael Hewson, analyst at CMC Markets, said the survey findings were worse than expected. "The big and important question now is whether this slowdown heralds a more permanent economic condition, or whether in the final days of July, we get a pickup in activity now that we have a more stable political environment and the Brexit fog has started to clear a little."

Britain's new Treasury chief, Philip Hammond, said he would be prepared to use the next budget update, called the Autumn Statement, to help the economy in the event of a downturn. "We will have the opportunity with our Autumn Statements ... to reset fiscal policy if we deem it necessary to do so in light of the data that will emerge over the coming months," he said on a visit to Beijing ahead of a meeting of G-20 finance ministers in Chengdu.

The findings will cement expectations that the Bank of England will provide more monetary stimulus to the economy at its next meeting in August, experts say. The pound sharply fell on the prospect, to \$1.3090 from \$1.3280 earlier in the day. The equivalent survey for the 19-country euro-zone showed the currency bloc was resilient in the face of the uncertainties unleashed by UK vote. Markit's index for the euro-zone dropped to 52.9 points from 53.1 in June. While that was an 18 month low, the drop was relatively small and suggested continued economic growth of around 1.5 percent annually. — AP

KIB PROVIDES ITS CUSTOMERS WITH BANKING SECURITY TIPS

KUWAIT: As KIB is keen on providing the highest level of safety, security and protection for its customers, holders of different bank cards, from fraud and deception during their travel in summer holidays, Basil Adeb Al Suwaidan, Head of Information Security, issued certain security tips, precautionary measures and guidelines that KIB customers should follow in order not to become victims of fraud and deception, which usually increases during holiday seasons, especially when customers are shopping, or accessing their online banking accounts or withdrawing from ATMs outside Kuwait.

Al Suwaidan stressed that before traveling, customers should check the validity of their credit cards, in order to ensure their activation when being abroad. Customers should also ensure that the card's pins are not written anywhere, and shall call "Al Dawli Weyak" in case the card is missing, whether lost or stolen to enable the bank to inactivate it immediately and take precautionary measures to protect customer's funds and savings.

Al Suwaidan also listed another group of procedures to be followed by the customers, such as using ATMs that are in well-known and public areas in case of bank's ATMs are not available. He also called upon customers to ensure that no unfamiliar devices are connected to such ATMs. Customers should also ensure that no individuals are observing/shoulder surfing them while withdrawing from ATMs or making payments through POS aiming at getting customers' cards information. In addition, customers should not ask for help from any stranger with the withdrawal



process. On the other hand, Al Suwaidan advised not to use public Wi-Fi or PCs usually made available at airports, cafes and hotels, particularly when accessing to your bank accounts or making online payments. He also urged customers to check the transactions carried out on their accounts and to consider changing passwords and card pins on a regular basis. Al Suwaidan called upon Al Dawli customers to follow up these instructions to ensure their comfort and the safety and security of their money at the same time.

He also recommended that customers should contact the Call Center (Al Dawli Weyak) available 24 hours a day on (1866866) or +96522957300 have they encountered any issue concerning their cards or financial transactions. He stressed that the banking security awareness for the customers is on the top of the bank's priorities, particularly with the development of financial fraud and the organized electronic financial crimes. He also reiterated that the bank's management has been always keen on providing high quality banking solutions, while applying the highest security and protection standards on its banking systems.

BOOM TIMES FOR US AIRLINES

\$3.9 BILLION IN 2Q PROFITS

FORT WORTH: Compared with their checkered track record, major airlines are enjoying boom times. Planes are full, and jet fuel is still much cheaper than it was last year. The four biggest US carriers just reported a collective second-quarter profit of \$3.9 billion. And yet investors seem to be looking past the bottom line. They have become obsessed with fare prices - falling now for more than a year - that may foreshadow thinner profits in the future.

When the airlines held calls this month to discuss their second-quarter operations, investors pressed them to reduce flights and the supply of seats in order to drive up fares. They cheered when Delta Air Lines Inc. and United Continental Holdings Inc. said that they would trim growth plans in the fourth quarter - sending shares of both higher. And they hammered shares of Southwest Airlines Co, which announced no such pullback - and showed "no sense of urgency," according to Wolfe Research analyst Hunter Keay. Shares plunged 11 percent, although a massive Southwest technology outage that stranded tens of thousands of its passengers the day before earnings came out may be partly to blame.

On Friday, American Airlines Group Inc. became the last of the big four to report results. American, the world's biggest airline, earned \$950 million in the second quarter, beating Wall Street expectations. Still, profit fell 44 percent from a year ago (partly due to a tax provision), revenue per mile slipped by more than 6 percent on lower average fares, and American said that figure will fall again in the third quarter - even if by a smaller percentage. "It's difficult to believe we'd ever be excited" about American's forecast of 4.5 percent to 6.5 percent lower revenue per mile, but "we'll take it," said JP Morgan analyst Jamie Baker. For the second quarter, American said that, excluding one-time costs, it earned \$1.77 per share. That easily beat the expected per-share earnings of \$1.68 coming from analysts, according to a poll by FactSet. Revenue fell 4 percent to \$10.36 billion, but that also edged



LOS ANGELES: Travelers inquire about their flights at a Southwest counter at Los Angeles International Airport in Los Angeles, California. — AFP

out Wall Street expectations for \$10.32 billion. American's shares rose \$1.40, or 4 percent, to close Friday at \$36.36. The airlines will face more pressure for measured growth (nobody is talking about shrinking yet) if revenue trends don't improve this year. Right now even business travelers, considered less stingy than vacationers, are enjoying a relative bargain. All airlines said pricing was weak for tickets bought on short notice - often by corporate travelers. "Corporate demand is strong," American's president, Scott Kirby, said on a conference call, "but we have a lot of low fares, so they are getting a deal right now." Kirby said American will boost revenue by at least \$1 billion a year once it starts offering both a bare-

bones fare to compete with discounters like Spirit Airlines, and a "premium economy" ticket for people wanting a better seat.

The company is also deferring costs, delaying the delivery of 22 Airbus planes. For the four biggest US airlines, second-quarter profit and third-quarter forecast of lower revenue for every seat flown one mile: American: 2Q net income \$950 million; 3Q revenue per mile down 4.5 percent-6.5 percent. Delta: 2Q net income \$1.55 billion; 3Q revenue per mile down 4 percent-6 percent. United: 2Q net income \$588 million; 3Q revenue per mile down 5.5 percent-7.5 percent. Southwest: 2Q net income \$820 million; 3Q revenue per mile down 3 percent-4 percent. — AP

ANOTHER CREEP HIGHER SENDS S&P TO A RECORD HIGH, AGAIN

NEW YORK: Another day, another lazy drift higher for stocks and another record high. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.86 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,175.03 on Friday. It surpassed its prior record set by 0.09 percent, the latest nudge higher for a market that has taken a decidedly slow-and-steady path to all-time highs in recent weeks. Telecom and utility stocks led the way, as they have for much of this year.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 53.62 points, or 0.3 percent, to 18,570.85. The Nasdaq composite rose 26.26, or 0.5 percent, to 5,100.16. The gains sent all three indexes to their fourth consecutive winning week, their longest streak since March. Many doubts still hang over the market, including the continued drop for corporate earnings and a US economy that is growing only modestly. But various earnings and economic reports have come in better than expected, and the S&P 500 is up nearly 9 percent since June 27.

Southwestern Energy had the biggest gain in the S&P 500 following its own better-than-expected earnings report. It lost analysts in the latest quarter, but less than analysts estimated. The producer of natural gas and oil also raised its forecast for production this year, and its stock jumped \$1.26, or 9.5 percent, to \$14.47. American Airlines Group likewise rose despite reporting a drop in earnings. It climbed \$1.40, or 4 percent, to \$36.36 after reporting better results than analysts expected.

The telecom and utilities sectors each rose 1.3 percent to lead the market. They have been at the forefront of the market's rise this year

because they pay some of the biggest dividends, and investors are scrounging for income given the low interest rates paid by bonds. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note held steady at 1.56 percent, while the yield on the 30-year Treasury bond ticked down to 2.28 percent from 2.29 percent late Thursday.

Honeywell International fell \$3.05, or 2.6 percent, to \$115.61. The company reported stronger earnings than analyst expected, but it also lowered its forecast for full-year sales. It helped hold the industrial sector to the weakest gains of the day among the 10 sectors that make up the S&P 500, up 0.1 percent. Friday's gains were the latest in a steady march higher for stocks. The S&P 500 has not had a day where it moved by 1 percent, up or down, in the last two weeks. It's a sharp turnaround from the end of June, when worries about the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union sent the S&P 500 to six straight days where it swung at least 1 percent.

The biggest loss for the S&P 500 over that span was Thursday's drop of 0.4 percent. And investors quickly snapped up stocks the following day. "I think people are a little more sensitized, where any tick lower in the market creates this 'buy-on-the-dip' mentality," said Brian Jacobsen, chief portfolio strategist at Wells Fargo Funds Management. "I think it's interesting; a half-a-percent move down feels like a 5 percent move."

Next week could be more exciting. The Bank of Japan and Federal Reserve both hold policy meetings. Record-low interest rates and big stimulus programs from central banks have

pushed stocks higher since the financial crisis. Japan's economy is barely growing. Economists are speculating about whether its central bank may push more stimulus next week. The US economy is in better shape than other advanced economies, and few expect the Federal Reserve to make a big move at its meeting. But if it highlights the better-than-expected recent economic reports, economists may move up their predictions for when the Fed could next raise interest rates.

The Fed pulled rates off their record low in December but has held pat since then. European stock markets were mixed. Germany's DAX index dipped 0.1 percent, France's CAC 40 index rose 0.1 percent and Britain's FTSE 100 rose 0.5 percent. Japan's Nikkei 225 index fell 1.1 percent, Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped 0.2 percent and South Korea's Kospi index lost 0.1 percent. The price of US crude fell 56 cents, or 1.2 percent to settle at \$44.19 a barrel. Brent crude, the global benchmark, fell 51 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$45.69 a barrel in London. Wholesale gasoline rose 1 cent to \$1.36 a gallon, heating oil fell 1 cent to \$1.36 a gallon and natural gas rose 9 cents to \$2.78 per 1,000 cubic feet. Precious and industrial metals prices ended lower. Gold fell \$7.60 to \$1,323.40 an ounce, silver fell 13 cents to \$19.69 an ounce and copper lost 2 cents to close at \$2.24 a pound. The pound sank against the dollar on expectations for more stimulus from the Bank of England. It fell to \$1.3093 from \$1.3203. The dollar ticked up to 106.17 Japanese yen from 105.86 yen, and the euro dipped to \$1.0961 from \$1.1013. — AP

1MDB: MALAYSIA'S STUNNING FINANCIAL SCANDAL

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia has been gripped for more than a year by allegations that billions of dollars were looted from state investment fund 1MDB in an audacious campaign of fraud and money laundering. The US Justice Department has now filed suit to recover more than \$1 billion in assets it says were illegally purchased using 1MDB funds. On Thursday Singapore said it had seized nearly \$180 million linked to the scandal-tainted fund. Here are some answers to key questions in the saga.

What is 1MDB?

1Malaysia Development Berhad, or 1MDB, is a state investment fund Najib launched in 2009 shortly after assuming office. Its portfolio has included power plants and other energy assets in Malaysia and the Middle East and real estate in Kuala Lumpur. The Ministry of Finance-owned fund has been closely

overseen by Najib, who serves concurrently as finance minister. Whistle-blowers say Low Taek Jho, or "Jho Low", a jet-setting Malaysian financier who is close to Najib but has no official positions, helped set up 1MDB and played a key role in its financial decisions.

What went wrong?

The US Justice Department's filing emphatically endorses longstanding claims that 1MDB was used by corrupt Malaysian figures as a "personal bank account," in the words of US Attorney General Loretta Lynch. These figures include Najib's stepson Riza Aziz, Jho Low, other officials, and an individual the US filing calls "Malaysian Official 1"—a thinly-veiled apparent reference to Najib himself. The Justice Department says billions of dollars raised in 1MDB bond offerings were stolen and diverted across the globe for a range of corrupt purposes.

How did the scandal emerge?

Concerns grew in 2014 as 1MDB slid into an \$11 billion debt hole, and the intensifying public scrutiny led to a string of revelations concerning missing funds. The issue exploded in July 2015 when the Wall Street Journal published documents showing Najib himself received at least \$681 million in payments to his personal bank accounts.

What are key allegations?

In 2009, \$700 million was secretly diverted from a 1MDB joint venture with a small Saudi energy company to bank accounts controlled by Low. Another \$330 million was re-routed to his accounts in 2011. \$1.37 billion was diverted from a pair of 2012 bond offerings to accounts in the British Virgin Islands and Singapore believed controlled by Low, as was \$1.26 billion raised in a 2013 bond sale. Tens of mil-

lions of the diverted dollars were used in 2012 by Najib's stepson Riza, an aspiring film producer, to fund "The Wolf of Wall Street" starring Leonardo DiCaprio. Hundreds of millions were used, mainly by Riza and Low, to purchase a Beverly Hills Mansion, penthouse flats in New York, and a high-end London townhouse. Also acquired were a Monet painting for \$35 million, a Van Gogh for \$5.5 million, a \$35-million Bombardier jet and a \$100 million stake in EMI Music Publishing, according to the US filing.

How is Najib implicated?

The Justice Department says "Malaysian Official 1" repeatedly conspired with Low to receive millions in illicit payments, and its description of the official strongly suggests that it refers to Najib. For example, US investigators said \$681 million of 1MDB money was illicitly transferred to an account

controlled by "Malaysian Official 1". Najib already has admitted receiving \$681 million in past deposits to his personal accounts after they were exposed last year by the Wall Street Journal. He denies they came from 1MDB, saying they were a "gift" from the Saudi royal family.

The impact on Malaysia

As the scandal escalated, Najib purged 1MDB critics from his cabinet, curbed domestic investigations, and enacted a tough new security law, sparking accusations that he was imperiling Malaysia's already fragile democracy to save his skin. Political analysts say only a revolt within the ruling United Malays National Organization (UMNO) appears able to dislodge Najib. But they add that appears unlikely for now as Najib's crackdown has dramatically strengthened his hold on the party.—AFP



KUWAIT: KFH-Group CEO, Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh speaking to Sky News TV

MARKET SHARE OF KFH-TURKEY ACCOUNTS FOR 37% OF THE PARTICIPATION BANKING

KUWAIT: "The market share of Kuwait Finance House- Turkey (KFH-Turkey) accounts for 37% of the participation banking in Turkey. The total assets of participation banks as percentage of the total assets of banks in Turkey account for 5-6% and is expected to surge" said KFH-Group CEO, Mazin Saad Al-Nahedh. Speaking to Sky News Arabia TV in an interview conducted at the KFH's Headquarters, Al-Nahedh added that the diversification of KFH-Turkey's financing portfolio makes its assets in a good position, indicating that the diversifications in the economic sectors allow KFH-Turkey to diversify the sectors to finance.

He revealed that no intentions now for new acquisitions in Turkey, however, nothing prevents KFH from that if the opportunity is good and the prices are suitable. The growth rates in KFH-Turkey outpace the rates in Kuwait, Bahrain and Malaysia. This is attributable to the diversification of economy resources that encompass infrastructure, education, health, real estate

investment and so forth. Al-Nahedh said that the failed coup in Turkey will diversely impact the investment in Turkey on the short term only, while the medium and long terms will witness robust growth and stability as the government won votes of confidence from its people, which lead to more political and economic stability, thus further lures investors.

He reassured that KFH closely and prudently monitors all the exposures of the bank in compliance with the instructions and regulations of the central bank and the regulatory authorities, indicating that the Kuwaiti banks have strong capital base. The capital adequacy ratio CAR of KFH-Group surpassed 17% as of end Q1. Al-Nahedh said that KD 700 million sovereign debt issuances to Islamic banks since the beginning of the program that had started last April. The share of KFH accounts for 50% which represents its market share of Islamic banks in Kuwait. He noted that the pace of offering bonds is suitable for the market and the liquidity volume.

OOREDOO, AL BABBAIN OFFER A CHANCE TO WIN MINI COOPER

KUWAIT: In collaboration with Al Babbain, the authorized seller of Samsung devices in Kuwait, Ooredoo Kuwait, a member of international Ooredoo Group, has revealed its exclusive summer Shamel postpaid packages on Samsung's latest edition S7: in addition to the matchless packages, all subscribers will get the chance to enter the monthly raffle draw and win 2 mini cooper cars in the raffle draws planned to take place on August 24th and September 24th 2016. All customers can benefit from the new offer when subscribing to any of Shamel packages starting from 17.5KD with Samsung S7.

The offers come with all the exclusive benefits for Shamel where the packages give customers more flexibility, allowing them to freeze contracts up to three months a year while traveling. Customers can also enjoy unlimited local voice calls on Ooredoo network, a feature included in all packages. They can also transfer contracts at any time and carry forward unused Internet data to the following month, which

will provide customers with more freedom to use the web. Customers can also get the latest device from Ooredoo, even if they have existing contracts, which allows them more freedom and flexibility in use. Created for today's consumer lifestyle, Galaxy S7 leads the industry with a refined design, more advanced camera, streamlined software functionality and unparalleled connectivity to a galaxy of products, services and experiences. The device boasts a powerful battery with faster charging time and wireless charging functionality, in addition to a 12 megapixel camera and the latest version of Android. In addition to being water resistant. Ooredoo Kuwait has always been keen to provide its current and potential customers with the best offers and services and maximize their benefits, as a part of its strategic plan. Customers, who wish to seize this unique opportunity can visit any of Ooredoo's branches or authorized dealers to get further information about the summer offer.

Buy a Samsung S7 with Shamel. Get a Mini
Purchase a Samsung S7 with any Shamel bundle and get a chance to win 1 of 2 Mini Coopers.
#S7MiniDraw

Ooredoo
SAMSUNG
البابطين

US LAWSUITS LINK MALAYSIAN LEADER TO STOLEN MONEY FROM 1MDB FUND

SINGAPORE SEIZES \$240 MILLION IN 1MDB-RELATED FUNDS

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said yesterday judgment should be withheld until all the facts are known after the US government filed lawsuits seeking to seize \$1 billion in assets bought with money stolen from a state fund he oversaw. The US Justice Department lawsuits filed in a federal court on Wednesday did not name Najib, instead referring to "Malaysian Official 1." Some of the allegations against this official were the same as those in a Malaysian investigation into a \$681 million transfer to the premier's personal bank account.

The lawsuits said \$681 million from a 2013 bond sale by sovereign wealth fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) was transferred to the account of "Malaysian Official 1". A source familiar with the investigation confirmed that "Malaysian Official 1" was Najib. In Malaysia, the hashtag #MalaysianOfficial1 was trending yesterday. The civil lawsuits said that a total of \$3.5 billion was misappropriated from 1MDB, a fund Najib established in 2009 and whose advisory board he chaired. No criminal charges have been filed. Swiss authorities said on Thursday that, acting on a US request, they had seized three valuable paintings, by Vincent van Gogh and Claude Monet, connected to the 1MDB inquiry. A Swiss Federal Office of Justice spokeswoman said, "The operation is not over yet so we will not comment at the moment on the location of the paintings." US prosecutors are seeking to seize \$1 billion that they say was diverted from 1MDB into luxury real estate in New York, Beverly Hills and London; valuable paintings; and a private jet.

They also are trying to seize proceeds from the 2013 film "The Wolf of Wall Street". Riza Aziz, Najib's stepson and founder of Red Granite Pictures, which produced the movie, was named in the lawsuit. Red Granite said on Wednesday that none of the funding it received to make the Oscar-nominated film, which took \$400 million at the box office worldwide, was illegitimate and nothing the company or Riza did was wrong.

Good governance

Najib, who has consistently denied any wrongdoing, said yesterday the US lawsuits were "a civil not a criminal procedure." "And we don't want to come to any conclusions until that process is done," Najib told reporters at an event in Kuala Lumpur. "We have to establish the facts first. I want to say categorically that we are serious about good governance." Najib said the government would give its full cooperation to international investigations of the 1MDB case.

Malaysia's Attorney-General Mohamed Apandi, however yesterday expressed "strong concerns at the insinuations and allegations" of wrongdoing against Najib in the lawsuits. He said in a statement that none of the probes conducted by law enforcement agencies across the globe over the past year show that any funds were misappropriated from 1MDB. Apandi said in January the money in Najib's bank account was a political donation from the Saudi royal family and most of it was returned. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir said in April that funds wired into Najib's personal bank account were a "genuine" donation originating from Saudi Arabia. Saudi authorities had no immediate comment on the US action.

Closer ties

The lawsuits pose a potentially thorny issue between two countries that have grown closer during the administration of President Barack Obama, who has visited the Southeast Asia country twice in the last two years. Washington views the moderate Muslim nation as a partner in its fight against radical Islamists, as a member of a US-led Pacific trade group and as part of the US strategic "pivot" to Asia to counter China's rising ambitions.

Najib, however, said the lawsuits would not affect ties. "This is a separate issue, involving individuals," he told reporters at the yesterday event. A top White House official distanced Obama from the Justice Department's litigation. "The simple answer is we do not have any control over Justice Department actions," Ben Rhodes, deputy national security adviser, told Reuters on Wednesday during a visit to Myanmar. At home, former premier Mahathir Mohamad led a chorus of opposition voices calling on Najib to step down.

"The time has come where the nation must demand for the removal of the prime minister," Mahathir said at a news conference, and asked Malaysians to call for a referendum on Najib's leadership. Najib has weathered attacks on his leadership since the scandal first broke 18 months ago. He culled dissenting voices from within his ruling United Malay National Organization (UMNO) and used draconian laws such as the Sedition Act to silence activists and opposition party leaders.

Singapore seizes assets

Singapore authorities said in a statement on Thursday they had seized \$240 million (\$177 mil-



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak walks on the stage during an event in Kuala Lumpur. Singapore said it had seized nearly \$180 million linked to scandal-tainted Malaysian state fund 1MDB, raising the pressure a day after Washington moved to grab more than \$1 billion in assets over "enormous" fraud.—AFP

lion) of assets in an investigation of 1MDB-related fund flows for possible money laundering. They also said they found problems at three major banks: top local lender DBS Group Holdings Ltd, the world's largest private bank UBS AG, and British-based Standard Chartered. UBS said yesterday it had reported some deals it was concerned about and that it is working with authorities investigating banks' ties to 1MDB. "In this case, UBS self-reported the suspicious transactions and is working closely with regulators to address this matter," UBS said in a statement.

Singapore's announcement was the first time authorities there have mentioned 1MDB in statements about their money laundering investigation. In May, they said they were closing down the operations of Swiss private bank BSI AG in Singapore for serious breaches of anti-money laundering rules, the first such action in 32 years. They did not identify 1MDB in that announcement, though Swiss authorities did in a related move against BSI.

The US investigation is the largest set of cases brought by the US Department of Justice's Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative, which seeks the forfeiture of the proceeds of foreign corruption. The previous largest case in February sought to seize \$850 million. 1MDB, set up shortly after Najib came to office, is being investigated for money laundering in at least six countries, including the United States, Singapore and Switzerland. 1MDB said in a statement "it is not a party to the civil suit,

does not have any assets in the United States of America, nor has it benefited from the various transactions described in the civil suit."

Arranged transaction

The US lawsuits seek to seize assets "involved in and traceable to an international conspiracy to launder money misappropriated from 1MDB" over a four-year period. One transaction targeted by prosecutors was a \$3-billion bond offering in early 2013 that was arranged by Goldman Sachs International, said US Attorney Eileen Decker at a briefing on Wednesday. She is the chief prosecutor in central California. More than a third of that money was misappropriated by corrupt officials, she said. Goldman Sachs has not been accused of any wrongdoing. "We helped raise money for a sovereign wealth fund that was designed to invest in Malaysia. We had no visibility into whether some of those funds may have been subsequently diverted to other purposes," a Goldman Sachs spokesman said. The lawsuits also named Malaysian financier Jho Low and Abu Dhabi government officials Khadem Abdulla Al-Qubaisi and Mohammed Ahmed Badawy Al-Husseiny. Al Qubaisi and Al-Husseiny are former officials at a sovereign fund in Abu Dhabi that participated in deals with 1MDB. Jho Low did not respond to requests for comment sent to his Hong Kong-based company, Jynwel Capital. Al Qubaisi and Al-Husseiny could not be reached for comment.—Reuters

LATIN AMERICA GROUP DECRIES FOOD SCARCITY IN VENEZUELA

WASHINGTON: The Inter-American Commission for Human Rights (IACHR) has decried the dire shortages of food and medicine in Venezuela, calling on officials in Caracas to undertake "urgent measures" to try to stem the crisis. The Washington DC-based group "regrets the urgent situation of extreme scarcity and shortages of medicine, medical supplies and food in Venezuela," it said in a statement. "This situation has led to a significant deterioration in living conditions in the country and an increase in violence, which results in harm to people's health, personal integrity and life, to the detriment of the rights protected by the inter-American and universal human rights instruments," the commission, an autonomous human rights arm of the Organization of American States, added. The ongoing crisis "has a negative impact

on conditions to guarantee that Venezuelans can live a life of dignity, and it urges the State to adopt comprehensive measures to overcome this crisis," the IACHR said. Among the hardships created by the shortages in medical care and supplies are "a significant number of neonatal deaths" and "long waits for critical surgical interventions," it added.

With respect to food scarcity, the group expressed concern that for many Venezuelans "it is impossible to obtain access to the food needed for an adequate diet." Venezuela's economy is reeling from the global crash in the price of oil, its main export. The plunge in crude revenues has unleashed a deep recession, chronic shortages and hyperinflation, threatening 17 years of socialist rule under President Nicolas Maduro and his late predecessor, Hugo Chavez.—AFP



MARACAY: An inscription on a wall in the low income Santa Rita neighborhood in Maracay, 70km from Caracas, reads Corrupt military, the people is hungry.—AFP

CONNECTED, SELF-DRIVE CARS POSE SERIOUS NEW SECURITY CHALLENGES

HACKING INTO CARS COULD THREATEN FLESH AND BLOOD

DETROIT: In a world where motor vehicles can be weapons and cars increasingly depend on internal computers and internet connections, automakers are under increasing pressure to find ways to guard against cyberattacks.

pointed to the need to protect the personal data of customers who use their in-car system for banking or to pay for other services. "The fact is personal data is stored in or transmitted through vehicle networks," she said.

On top of that is the complexity of the newest auto IT systems, which, she said, "opens up opportunities for those who would do harm through cyber-attacks."

"We know these terrorists. They don't have the capability yet. But if they're trying to get people to drive truck into crowds, than it doesn't take too much imagination to think they are going to take an autonomous car and drive it into a crowd of people," said Carlin.

Using white hat hackers

The landscape is changing fast, according to Jonathan Allen, a cybersecurity expert with Booz Allen who is helping car makers and their suppliers organize to deal with

threats. Up until only two years ago, manufacturers tended to downplay the threat posed by hackers, he noted. But there has been a significant cultural shift within automotive business, which is now taking the challenge very seriously.

Online fraud is one thing, but hacking into cars could actually threaten "flesh and blood," so that car makers have to be even more vigilant, he said. Jeffrey Massimilla, GM's chief cybersecurity officer, said sharing information broadly across the industry is one of the keys to fighting off the threat.

Automakers are also recruiting "white hat" hackers who help hunt down vulnerabilities in the IT systems of cars. "We should have a way for people to find things and report them," said Titus Melnyk, senior manager of security architecture at Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA).



TOKYO: This image released by Japan's National Center of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cyber security shows a copy of a flier issued by the Japanese government to Pokemon Go players. — AP

WATCH IT, COWBOY: JAPAN'S 9 SAFETY TIPS FOR 'POKEMON GO'

TOKYO: Aware of the reports of "Pokemon Go"-related mishaps elsewhere, Japan's government-run National Center of Incident Readiness and Strategy for Cyber security has issued a flier with these nine public safety tips to keep overly enthusiastic players from getting into trouble.

Protect personal information

The government says when registering, a player should use a nickname that a third party cannot use to identify the player. It also advises against posting photos taken near one's home on social media, as the location could be ascertained.

Beware of fake apps

The government warns there are possibilities that there are apps that contain viruses, and urges users to download the game's app from legitimate distribution channels.

Download weather apps

"Pokemon Go" users who play outside need to be mindful of the weather. Download apps that issue severe weather warnings. A cartoon on the government flier shows a person dragging away a preoccupied player as a tsunami approaches, shouting, "Stop playing and run!"

Beware of heatstroke

Players of the game may go on hunting on a sunny day. In that case, the government advises players to be aware of heatstroke, taking a rest in the shade frequently and consuming drinks that contain salt. Drinking water only is not sufficient.

Carry an extra battery

Games that use GPS eat up battery life, so carry extra batteries or chargers.

Have an additional method of contact

In case your smartphone runs out of battery, carry a phone card so you can use a public phone. For kids playing alone, parents should take a head-to-toe picture of them in the clothes they are wearing, in case they go missing.

Do not enter dangerous areas

There are reports in other countries of people getting into trouble while playing the game, including being hit by a car, falling into a pond, getting robbed and getting bitten by a snake. The government also warns players to be careful overseas - its flier features a cartoon of two pistol-wielding men in cowboy gear to emphasize the point.

Beware of people who say they want to meet

The government warns against meeting strangers. Bring an adult if players absolutely have to meet a person and avoid playing the game in a place where no one is around.

Do not use smartphones while walking

There are many accidents related to texting while walking. The game has a feature that a phone vibrates when a character appears near players. If it does, stop and check out the surroundings before looking at a smartphone.—AP



NEW YORK: In this photo, Jordan Clark, left, and Lewis Gutierrez sit in Prospect Park as they talk about their new Pokemon Go business in the Brooklyn borough of New York. — AP

TOO BUSY FOR POKEMON? THESE ENTREPRENEURS WILL PLAY FOR YOU

NEW YORK: Too busy with your real life to play the hit augmented reality game "Pokemon Go"? For a price, some entrepreneurs will play the game for you. New ads are popping up on Craigslist nearly every day from people who say they will log on to your "Pokemon Go" account and effectively run up your score while you are stuck at work or sitting in class.

Gutierrez, who described himself as a welder and writer, said he began by helping relatives with the game after it was released in the US in early July. Then he put a post on Craigslist advertising his services professionally. He said he was immediately inundated with requests from potential customers and had to recruit Clark, a part-time wine purveyor, to help.

'Pokedate'

The two college friends liken the service to dog walking and call themselves Pokewalkers. And they aren't the only ones getting in the game. One trainer in London offers to boost your Pokemon account up to Level 20, which is

very high, for a price of \$185. Others offer Uber-like driving services with the promise of taking a player to some of the hottest Pokemon hunting grounds around the city. Played on smartphones, "Pokemon Go" has been a phenomenon since its release. The game involves going to real-world locations to chase virtual characters from the classic Nintendo game.

Paying people to play a game for you might seem to defy common sense, but Gutierrez and Clark say clients come to them mainly for two reasons. They want to compete in the game at a high level, but they don't have time to roam the city and play the game all day. Or, they are getting ready for a "Pokedate."

The clandestine practice already occurs with online multiplayer role-playing games such as "World of Warcraft" and "Destiny," where paid professionals help clients gain the necessary experience and resources in the game to compete at a high level when they are actually playing for themselves. Publishers of such titles deem the act cheating and warn they'll cancel accounts of users who enlist outside assistance to mine for virtual currency or level up their characters.

THE POKEMON-MCDONALD'S DEAL IN JAPAN COULD BE BIG

TOKYO: The Japan launch of "Pokemon Go" on Friday included the game's first partnership with an outside company: Fast-food giant McDonald's. About 400 McDonald's Japan outlets are "gyms," where players can battle on their smartphones. The other 2,500 are "Pokestops," where they can get items to play the game.

Serkan Toto, a Tokyo-based games industry consultant, explained earlier this week why this partnership between the Pokemon Co, McDonald's Japan and "Pokemon Go"-developer Niantic Inc could be big for the gaming industry. His comments were edited for space and clarity.

From the game industry (perspective), the critical point here is that this game is making money from in-app purchases. It's the number one grossing application in every single market where this game has been launched up to this point.

That's the amazing, amazing point about this application.

The McDonald's deal

The reason people are talking about this McDonald's deal is it could constitute, and I think it will constitute, a second revenue stream for Niantic that other games cannot possibly have for systemic reasons, if you will. Because of the GPS element, Niantic can do these O2O (online to offline) kind of business deals. They are adding a new way to make money through mobile games, by virtue of the GPS element in the game, and I think this deal is just the first of many to come.

There are certain applications - they are not games - that are able to drive traffic to restaurants, or to drive traffic to tourist spots that are not as popular as in Tokyo, for example. The expectation for "Pokemon Go" is that "Pokemon Go" in that sense can become an advertising platform.—AP



TOKYO: Women play Pokemon Go in front of a McDonald's restaurant in Tokyo.—AP

SAMSUNG SUES HUAWEI FOR ALLEGED PATENT VIOLATIONS

SEOUL: Samsung Electronics Co sued Chinese smartphone maker Huawei for allegedly violating six of its patents in the latest move in a series of deepening patent disputes between Asian smartphone giants. The South Korean company said Friday that it took legal action to defend its intellectual property despite efforts to resolve the dispute amicably.

"At all times we have faithfully negotiated with other patent holders for the fair licensing of technology in order to ensure fair competition and continued growth in the industry," the company said in an emailed statement. "However, despite our best efforts to resolve this matter amicably, it has regrettably become necessary to take legal action in order to defend our intellectual property."

Samsung would not say where the lawsuits were filed or whether the lawsuits were related to mobile devices. South Korea's Yonhap News said Samsung sued Huawei in Beijing for infringing on patents for smartphones worth 80.05 million yuan (\$12 million). In May, Huawei filed lawsuits against Samsung in the United States and China, accusing the South Korean company of violating 12 patents for mobile devices and networks.

Huawei demanded reasonable compensation but did not seek a sales ban on Samsung mobile devices in the United States. Samsung and Huawei are two of the largest makers of smartphones based on Google's Android system. Samsung is the world's largest smartphone supplier and Huawei is the third after Apple.—AP



SEOUL: In this photo, the corporate logo of Samsung Electronics Co is seen at its shop in Seoul, South Korea.—AP

HOW 'POKEMON GO' WENT FROM PRANK TO CULTURAL PHENOMENON

SAN FRANCISCO: The origin of "Pokemon Go" is as peculiar as any of the Voltorbs or Snorlaxes that players track and capture in the surprise hit game. Its hybrid DNA flows from a digital mapping pioneer's fascination with the world around him, Google's affinity for offbeat ideas, Nintendo's comeback quest and a 20-year-old managerie of animated monsters so popular that it spawned a company just to be its talent agency. Then all it took was a prank to hatch a mobile video game that has turned into a cultural phenomenon.

April fool, Pokemon

Google unwittingly planted the seed for "Pokemon Go" two years ago in one of the many April Fools' Day jokes the internet company is famous for. In a mischievous 2014 post, Google announced a new training tool, created in conjunction with Pokemon and Nintendo, for hunting Pokemon using Google Maps.

Its goal, the company said, was to hire the world's best Pokemon Master - because it valued technically savvy risk takers who can "navigate through tall grass to capture wild creatures." The enthusiastic reaction to Google's fake "Pokemon Challenge" video resonated within Niantic Labs, a little-known startup that had been incubating

within the company - particularly with its founder John Hanke.

Maps as a lure

Hanke was at Google because he'd sold it a digital mapping startup called Keyhole in 2004, providing the 3-D satellite imagery used in Google Earth. He'd overseen a number of maps-related projects until 2010, when he hit upon the idea of using maps to lure people outdoors to explore neighborhoods, see notable places and discover new places to eat, drink or just hang out. With the goal of building mobile apps and games that encouraged "adventures on foot with others," Hanke named Niantic after a grounded whaling vessel grounded during the San Francisco Gold Rush of 1849 and converted to a storage building.

The remains of the original ship were later found buried near a current San Francisco landmark, the Transamerica Pyramid. The Niantic name is a reminder that "there is lot of cool stuff beneath the surface of things," Hanke told The Associated Press in a 2013 interview. A Niantic spokesman said Hanke was too busy working on "Pokemon Go" to comment for this story. Hanke was ready to found his own independent startup until Google co-founder Larry Page persuaded

him he could keep Niantic within the internet's most powerful company.

Getting augmented

In 2014, Niantic set out to turn Google's Pokemon joke into a breakthrough for augmented reality - a still-nascent field that involves layering digital images onto homes, offices, streets, parks and other real-life settings. In the case of "Pokemon Go," this involves smartphone cameras and GPS technology that can project cute and creepy "pocket monsters," or Pokemon, into the real world, at least as viewed through a phone's screen. It helped that Niantic had already built a technological foundation for "Pokemon Go" via an earlier mobile game called "Ingress."

The science-fiction game requires players to visit real-world landmarks and other locations to acquire weapons and gear necessary to gain points, acquire territory and battle an opposing faction. "Ingress" has been downloaded more than 12 million times. It has such a devoted following that Hanke spent a week in Japan earlier this month to attend a live "Ingress" event in Tokyo - just as the rest of his team was struggling to keep up with the intense demand for "Pokemon Go."—AP

PUERTO RICO REJECTS INSECTICIDE TO FIGHT ZIKA AMID PROTESTS

USE OF NALED IS RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT ITS POTENTIAL EFFECTS

SAN JUAN: Puerto Rico's governor announced Friday that he will not authorize aerial spraying with the insecticide naled to fight an increase in Zika cases as US health officials have urged. Instead, Gov Alejandro Garcia Padilla said he will support the spraying of Bti, an organic larvicide. He said it should be sufficient to fight the mosquito-borne virus along with other ongoing efforts, but hoped no child would be "born with congenital defects because of the decision I took."

Zika can cause microcephaly, a rare defect in which babies are born with abnormally small heads and brain damage. Puerto Ricans in recent weeks have organized several protests against the use of naled, raising concerns about its potential effects on people and wildlife. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently said Puerto Rico lacked an integrated mosquito control program as it fights what it called a silent epidemic. Eight of 10 people show no symptoms of Zika, which can cause symptoms including fever, rash and headache.

So far, Puerto Rico has 5,582 Zika cases and is seeing a 20-30 percent weekly increase in those cases, said Health Secretary Ana Rius. There are 662 pregnant women infected with Zika, and up to 80 of them have given birth, all to healthy babies, she said. However, Puerto Rico in May reported the first microcephaly case acquired on US soil. It involved a fetus that a woman turned over to US health officials who found it tested positive for Zika.

'Not a joke'

One death has been reported and 65 people have been hospitalized in connection with the virus. There are also 21 cases of a temporary paralysis condition known as Guillain-Barre that has been linked to Zika. "This illness is not a joke," said Rius, who originally recommended spraying with naled but later withdrew her support. Garcia's administration has fought the virus in part by fumigating public housing units where pregnant women live, distributing about 1 million condoms and picking up more than 1.65 million old tires to cut down on breeding sites.

Garcia's announcement on Friday follows a rift between his administration and the CDC, which angered local government officials by sending a shipment of naled to the US territory this week without notifying them. Garcia said he ordered the shipment returned. "This is our island," he said in a nod to angry Puerto Ricans who accused the federal government of threatening the island's political autonomy.

The CDC addressed that issue in a Friday statement. "We regret that the shipment of naled arrived in Puerto Rico without appropriate levels of awareness," the agency said. "We moved too quickly in our urgency to do all that we could to be responsive and prepared in the event officials in Puerto Rico decided to use naled." The CDC said it respected the governor's decision to not use naled.

A spokeswoman said the agency would discuss with Puerto Rico officials the best way to protect pregnant



WASHINGTON: In this file photo, Puerto Rico Gov, Alejandro Javier Garcia Padilla testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on Puerto Rico's fiscal problems. — AP

women from Zika, but officials did not specifically say whether they believed the larvicide Bti would be sufficient to fight the virus. The agency has estimated that more than 20 percent of Puerto Rico's 3.5 million people could be infected with Zika in an outbreak expected to peak by this summer. Local health officials have dismissed that number as exaggerated. — AP



UTAH: The shore at Utah Lake near American Fork, Utah. — AP

TOXIC ALGAE BLOOM SWARMS UTAH LAKE, SEEPS INTO FARM SUPPLY

SPANISH FORK, Utah: A huge toxic algae bloom in Utah has closed one of the largest freshwater lakes west of the Mississippi River, sickening more than 100 people and leaving farmers scrambling for clean water for days during the hottest part of the year. The bacteria commonly known as blue-green algae has spread rapidly to cover almost all of 150-square-mile Utah Lake, turning the water bright, anti-freeze green with a pea soup texture and leaving scummy foam along the shore. "It smells like something is rotting," said Jason Garrett, water quality director for the Utah County Health Department. "We don't have an idea of how long this event will last."

Toxic algae is a problem around the country. An enormous outbreak in Florida is now fouling beaches on the Atlantic coast, and a 2014 outbreak at Lake Erie left more than 400,000 people in the Toledo area without tap water for two days. Utah Lake doesn't provide drinking water, but its closure has caused big problems for people who use the lake for swimming, fishing and other activities and for farmers with thirsty crops. Utah Poison Control says it has fielded hundreds of calls related to the bloom, including some 130 involving people who have reported vomiting, diarrhea, headache and rashes.

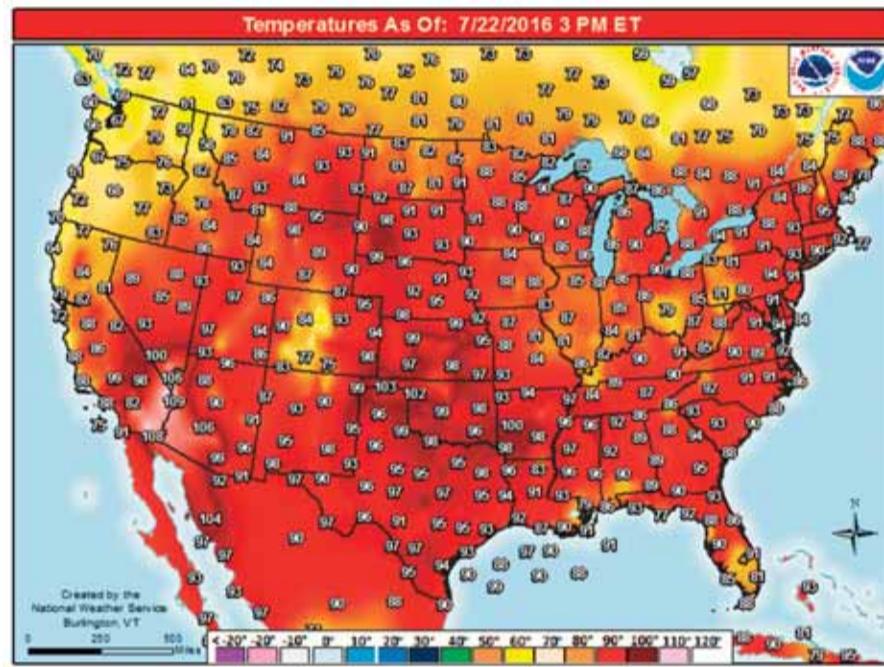
The contamination spread to the Jordan River, which supplies irrigation water to dozens of farmers around Salt Lake City, about 45 miles north of the lake. The problem occurred amid days of triple-digit temperatures as growers prepare for farmers markets and try to nurture crops such as corn and fruit trees at key points in their development. "We've spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on this crop, maxed out every dollar we have," said Luke Petersen, who farms about 100 acres of tomatoes, summer squash and other produce in Riverton. "We're real worried about it."

A real hit

Farmers got some relief on Friday after the state lifted a week-long advisory against using the water for food production. Officials cited new test results that show lower-than-feared levels of dangerous toxins produced by the bacteria. Meanwhile, the Bonneville School of Sailing has had to cancel more than a dozen groups since the lake was closed. "This will be a real hit," said co-owner Todd Frye. He loves the mountain-rimmed lake and has worked to change the decades-old perception that it's murky and polluted.

New efforts to clean out bottom-feeding carp are improving the water quality, but he worries the algae bloom will be a blow to its image. The lake is largely fed by treated wastewater as well as agricultural runoff, said Erica Gaddis, assistant director for the Utah Division of Water Quality. Longstanding drought conditions have made the water especially low and stagnant. Combine that with hot summer weather and Utah Lake became a perfect petri dish for the cyanobacteria. There are chemical and biological treatments for the problem, but using them on such a large bloom would be unprecedented and possibly harmful, Gaddis said. For now, authorities are waiting for the bloom to run its course and clear, hopefully aided by a drop in temperatures or a storm that could stir up the water and reduce stagnation.

To stave off new blooms in coming years, the state is looking to reduce the levels of toxic algae-feeding phosphorous and nitrogen in wastewater that's pumped into the lake. That could be difficult, however, because cities served by those plants include some of the fastest-growing in the nation. "We've been loading the Utah Lake in one form or another for 150 years, and it's catching up with us," Gaddis said. — AP



WASHINGTON: This image provided by the National Weather Service shows temperatures in the continental United States as of 3 pm on Friday. — AP

'MERCILESS' HEAT, HUMIDITY STICKS TO NEARLY ALL OF US

WASHINGTON: Call it the United Sweats of America. A heat wave spreading across the country is leaving few places to hide. Not even the cool of night. By Friday afternoon, all but one of the Lower 48 states had hit 90 degrees somewhere, with only Washington around for cooler comfort. For much of the country, it was expected to get even worse over the weekend. "It's just day after day. Merciless," said Jeff Masters, meteorology director of the private Weather Underground. "We don't often see this much of the country this hot for this length of time."

And while the extra hot weather will ease a bit next week for good chunks of the country, the temperature forecast for the next three months isn't exactly promising, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For the first time in more than 20 years, the Climate Prediction Center map is shades of one color: orange for above normal temperatures. The map usually varies, showing places where there is a greater chance for above or below normal temperatures or equal chances. But the outlook for August, September and October is for above normal everywhere.

Center climate scientist Dan Collins said the center's archives go back to 1995 and they've never seen this for the entire United States - including Alaska and Hawaii. That doesn't mean a three-month heat wave, just on average warmer than normal temperatures through October. "Unusual indeed," Collins said. "But maybe less so as the years pass." Scientists haven't calculated if man-made global warming from the burning of fossil fuels

is a factor in the current heat wave, but said it has been a factor in most recent ones and a good chance here, too.

What's happening now is a ridge of high pressure has just spread over almost the entire United States. That keeps clouds and cooling away, and just pushes warm air down. Add to that the humidity, which makes everything feel stickier. It's coming with warmer ocean water, especially from a hotter-than-normal Gulf of Mexico, Masters said. The high heat and humidity will move from the Corn Belt toward the Southeast over the weekend, according to the National Weather Service.

On Monday, the weather service forecasts that nearly all of the Lower 48 states could hit 95 on the heat index, which factors in humidity. And about 30 states are forecast to hit 100. The high temperature averaged for the Lower 48 states was 92 degrees on both Thursday and Friday, the warmest since June of 2012, said meteorologist Ryan Maue of the private Weather Bell Analytics service. Not even the cool of night is helping because temperatures aren't dropping as much as they normally do.

That's a health issue because the human body relies on the evening coolness for relief, said Greg Carbin, a forecast chief for the weather service's Weather Prediction Center. Heat waves like this one "are kinda like the home run statistic in steroid-fueled baseball," University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd said in an email. "Sure heat waves always happened naturally (like home runs in baseball) but the statistics are shifting to make them more likely and more frequent within a warmer background climate." — AP

LATIN AMERICA GROUP CONDEMNS MEDICINE SCARCITY IN VENEZUELA

WASHINGTON: The Inter-American Commission for Human Rights (IACHR) on Friday decried the dire shortages of food and medicine in Venezuela, calling on officials in Caracas to undertake "urgent measures" to try to stem the crisis. The Washington DC-based group "regrets the urgent situation of extreme scarcity and shortages of medicine, medical supplies and food in Venezuela," it said in a statement.

"This situation has led to a significant deterioration in living conditions in the country and an increase in violence, which results in harm to people's health, personal integrity and life, to the detriment of the rights protected by the inter-American and universal human rights instruments," the commission, an autonomous human rights arm of the Organization of American States, added. The ongoing crisis "has a negative

impact on conditions to guarantee that Venezuelans can live a life of dignity, and it urges the State to adopt comprehensive measures to overcome this crisis," the IACHR said.

Among the hardships created by the shortages in medical care and supplies are "a significant number of neonatal deaths" and "long waits for critical surgical interventions," it added. With respect to food scarcity, the group expressed concern that for many Venezuelans "it is impossible to obtain access to the food needed for an adequate diet." Venezuela's economy is reeling from the global crash in the price of oil, its main export. The plunge in crude revenues has unleashed a deep recession, chronic shortages and hyperinflation, threatening 17 years of socialist rule under President Nicolas Maduro and his late predecessor, Hugo Chavez. — AFP



JAKARTA: In this photo, an Indonesian health official gives a drop of polio vaccine to a baby during a revaccination program for children who were earlier given fake vaccines, at a community health center in Jakarta, Indonesia. — AP

INDONESIAN VACCINE SCANDAL HIGHLIGHTS HEALTH SYSTEM WOES

JAKARTA: A scandal over fake vaccines given to children prompted angry and confused parents to physically attack a doctor in the Indonesian capital in a sign of deep-seated problems in the country's health system. Since last month, vials filled with saline solution and antibiotics have been discovered at 37 hospitals and clinics in nine cities, according to the Food and Drug Agency. So far, 23 people have been arrested, including three doctors.

The number of affected children is still being investigated but could be significant in a country of more than 250 million people. Indonesia President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo this week visited a clinic where nearly 170 children were to be revaccinated. He asked for patience while police continue to investigate an "extraordinary crime" of bogus vaccines allegedly going back as far as 2003. "We are in crisis right now," said Dr. Aman Bhakti Pulungan, head of Indonesia's Pediatrician Association.

"This is a medical emergency, and we have to overcome this." He said he is not aware of any children dying as a result of not being protected against diseases they were believed to have been vaccinated against, but added it's possible some kids could have gotten sick without being detected. The fake vaccines involved a number of shots routinely given to children, including for measles, whooping cough, hepatitis and diphtheria.

The counterfeits were falsely labeled as imported brands, Pulungan said. He believes the number of children affected is likely small, given that only 1 percent of vaccines administered nationwide are imported. The government began revaccinating children this week free of charge at affected hospitals and clinics, including 14 in the capital Jakarta and its outskirts. Local television footage this week showed a mob of angry parents at Harapan Bunda Hospital in eastern Jakarta arguing with a doctor and then punching him and spitting on him before security officers broke up the brawl.

Concrete compensation

Other parents took their rage to the government, complaining to members of parliament and demanding help. Jane Soepardi, the director of Surveillance, Health Quarantine and Epidemiology at the Health Ministry said Friday the government estimates about 5,000 children from 4.8 million targeted this year for immunization, have gotten fake vaccines. "Fake vaccines

arose because there was a scarcity of vaccine a few years ago that led hospitals and clinics to look for imported vaccines," she said.

"Also because the middle class demanded imported vaccines rather than locally made," she said. She said the fakes did not contain harmful substances but it's possible the unsafe process of producing them could cause infections in children they were administered to. Health Minister Nila Moeloek has called for calm and warned parents not to panic, but distrust of the health system runs deep in a country rife with corruption, overcrowded hospitals and a lack of qualified doctors.

For those who can afford it, Singapore or Malaysia are often the first choice for treatment. Danang Susilo, the father of 14-month-old Chalea, said he is worried about his daughter's health even though doctors at Karya Medika Hospital at Bekasi on the outskirts of Jakarta assured him the fake vaccine she received was harmless. "I was shocked and very disappointed when the hospital management asked me, along with about 300 other parents to bring our children for revaccination, because the vaccine that is injected into our children turned out to be fake," he said. "How could this happen?" "We need a medical check-up, not only an explanation," he said. "We need concrete compensation."

In 2013, the Food and Drug Agency received a report from British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline about the circulation of counterfeit vaccines bearing its name. The perpetrator was caught and fined less than \$100. Additional problems were discovered in 2014 and 2015. This year, PT Sanofi-Aventis Indonesia, a subsidiary of French pharmaceutical company Sanofi, notified the National Police about fake vaccines using its product labels, according to the agency.

Dr. Kartono Mohammad, former head of the Indonesia Medical Association, said the regulations are already in place to ensure that safe vaccines are administered, but enforcement and monitoring are weak. He said that the vaccine scandal is a symptom of a much larger problem, and that the country's entire health system should be overhauled. "The attitude of the Indonesian people, especially the middle class, is that they look at the building and the facility and they say, 'This is the best hospital,'" he said. "But nobody knows if it really is a good hospital or not because there is no quality control, no quality assurance done by the government." — AP

HAWAII HEALTH AGENCY FACES MAJOR CHALLENGE IN HEPATITIS A OUTBREAK

HONOLULU: Frustrated Hawaii health officials say they have faced a number of challenges trying to identify the source of a hepatitis A outbreak that has affected at least 74 people on the island of Oahu. "It's not as feasible as a lot of people might think," state epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Park said of finding the source. A major challenge has been the long incubation period of the disease, Park said. Symptoms, if there are any, can show up two to six weeks after exposure.

Hepatitis A is spread by contaminated food or water or close personal contact. Symptoms can include fever, fatigue, appetite loss, abdominal discomfort and diarrhea. Health department staff members have scrambled to interview all those who have been sickened. But they say it can be difficult for them to remember who they came into contact with or what they consumed.

"We have to sit down with each person and say look at the calendar, go back almost two months and list every single thing that passed through your mouth - food or drink or what-not - in the past 52 days," Park said. Officials have been looking for commonalities such as shopping histories among the patients, but "there's nothing really tying them together, unfortunately," Park said.

Seattle lawyer William Marler, who handles food safety litigation, said he is representing two of the Hawaii cases. Health officials have asked his clients for their purchase histories at two specific stores, he said. "The health department is starting to dig deeper to look at things that might not at the beginning look like they are promising," he said. "I'm pretty confident they'll figure this out." People with confirmed cases range from 18 to 70 and are scattered across the island.

Two now live on the Big Island and Maui but were on Oahu during their exposure period, the health department said. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday officials aren't aware of any other outbreaks in the nation or cases that may be connected to Hawaii's outbreak. In 2014, there were an estimated 2,500 acute hepatitis A infections in the US, according to the CDC. Fortunately, there's an effective vaccine, said Dr. Monique Foster of the CDC's division of viral hepatitis.

All the Oahu cases involve adults - a good sign that children are being vaccinated, Park said. Hepatitis A can range in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting months. It's usually spread when a person ingests

contaminated fecal matter. Investigating the outbreak has been taxing on health department personnel, and it's possible they may never be able to track down the source, Park said. "We understand the public's frustration because we feel it, too," she said. — AP



HONOLULU: In this file photo, Dr. Sarah Park, deputy chief of the Hawaii Health Department's disease outbreak and control division speaks about the potential bird flu pandemic, at the Honolulu International Airport. — AP

SOLAR PROJECTS CAN'T SAVE THE FOREST FOR THE TREES?

WADING RIVER, New York: A green energy project has some environmentalists seeing red. Solar energy ordinarily wins praise from groups that want to cut greenhouse gases, but a proposed solar project at a defunct Long Island nuclear power plant has stirred outrage because it requires demolishing 350 acres of woodlands. "Choosing solar over forests anywhere in the world is just plain stupid," said Dick Amper, of the Long Island Pine Barrens Society. "Solar is very important to fight global warming and beyond, but I'm afraid we're making false choices when you destroy portions of nature and the environment to accomplish that end."

Similar projects are happening elsewhere. A court fight is brewing over a plan by New Jersey's Six Flags Great Adventure amusement park to cut down nearly 15,000 trees to make way for a solar farm. In Connecticut, state officials recently approved a plan to raze 134 acres of trees in the town of Sprague, near Norwich, for a solar energy project. Alex Hobson, a spokeswoman for a Solar Energy industry group in Washington, DC, declined to comment on the Long Island proposal, but said the industry "is committed to responsible use of the land on which we operate and we go to great lengths to protect biodiversity and ecologically fragile lands."

Under the proposal, a company called LI Solar Generation, LLC, a joint venture between NextEra Energy Resources and National Grid, would construct the facility on the grounds of the defunct Shoreham nuclear power plant. The plant was completed in 1984 for \$6 billion but never opened because of community opposition over potential safety concerns. The solar project backers are hoping to plug into existing electric energy infrastructure on the Shoreham property, with

plans for up to 72 megawatts of solar energy, providing power for more than 13,000 homes. A part of the plan mentions replanting trees elsewhere to offset the cutting of the forest but a spokesman for the company did not have details.

Walter Thomas, who teaches a course on solar energy at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, questioned why it was necessary to eliminate any trees at all. "I would think Long Island would have giant rooftops and parking lots in shopping malls that could be used for large solar projects if that's what's needed," Thomas said. "There's so much acreage available for that stuff." Sid Bail, president of the Wading River Civic Association, who lives about a half mile from the Shoreham site along the Long Island Sound, isn't buying it. "I favor renewable energy, but in this case it's a very bad trade-off," he said. The proposal submitted last month still requires extensive regulatory review.

"We are prepared to work closely with all public officials and the local community to come up with the best solution to have renewable solar energy at Shoreham, and preserve as much of the property as possible," Ross Groffman, executive director of NextEra Energy Resources and LI Solar Generation said in a statement. Neal Lewis, executive director of the Sustainability Institute at Molloy College, an environmental advocacy group on Long Island that supports the Shoreham project, said it is always preferable to build solar projects in open spaces that don't require the elimination of large numbers of trees. But he notes that "of all the potential options, there is nothing less impactful on the environment than putting in a solar farm." "That's the real world we live in and they have a right to develop it."—AP



NEW YORK: In this photo, Grete Bader, right, a recent masters graduate of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, walks with Professor Donald Leopold on sandy waste left over from iron mining in Star Lake, New York. — AP photos

MILLIONS OF ORCHIDS GROW ON FORMER MINE SITE IN UPSTATE NY

IT'S A TESTAMENT TO NATURE'S ABILITY TO HEAL ITSELF

STAR LAKE, New York: Millions of orchids are now growing in a hundred-acre wetland in the Adirondack Park that developed on waste from a vast open-pit iron mine, a transformation scientists say is most impressive because it happened naturally. It's a testament to nature's ability to heal itself, said Grete Bader, a graduate student who recently wrote her master's thesis about the plant life at the former Benson Mines, about 35 miles from the Canadian border.

The wetland, which remains privately owned and off limits to the public, formed on part of thousands of acres of coarse sand left over when granite ore was crushed to extract iron from 1900 until 1978. That bare sand eventually gave way to moss, lichen, grasses, sedges and trees, including willows, poplars and tamaracks. Orchids arrived as dust-like seeds from surrounding areas. The wetland is now home to six species of bog orchids, including millions of rose pogonias and grass pinks.

Olive been involved in orchid-rich habitats all over the country for 40 years, and I've never seen anything like this, said Donald Leopold, a professor at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Leopold first explored the site 30 years ago, but the staggering number of orchids wasn't quantified until recently when his graduate student, Bader, tallied them up in her thesis. Several factors contribute to the thriving plant community at the site, Bader said, including a variety of fungi that colonize a plants root system and enhance its ability to absorb nutrients.

Orchids require sun

What's really cool to me as a plant ecologist is how this site went from bare mine tailings to a diverse wetland plant community over the past 60 years on its own, without any formal restoration initiative, Bader said during a recent visit to the site. Bader and Leopold suggest that the site would be a worthy addition to the Adirondack Forest Preserve if the owner was interested in selling it to the state.

But the landowners lawyer says there are no plans to sell the land or allow public access. Benson Mines wasn't even aware of the orchids until the researchers made them public, said attorney Bernard Melewski. He said the orchid site is a small part of about 2,000 acres of sand

and crushed stone mining waste that the company hopes to ship to markets when a nearby railroad spur is renovated.

Even if the site remains untouched by development, the orchids may be a fleeting phenomenon as the natural forces that brought them here continue to reshape the landscape.

Already, an aggressive non-native reed called phragmites is choking out other plants in large swaths of the wetland. The orchids here today require full sun, Bader said. Between invasive plants and natural succession to a closed canopy tamarack-black spruce bog, we are going to see them decline.—AP



NEW YORK: In this photo, Grete Bader, a recent masters graduate of the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, poses among orchid populations that grow from waste left from a former iron mine in Star Lake, New York.

US MAN SUFFERS 'VICIOUS' CROC ATTACK AT COSTA RICA BEACH

MEXICO CITY: An American surfer was in serious but stable condition after he was attacked by a large crocodile at a popular tourist beach in Costa Rica on Friday, according to an emergency responder who credited the man's friend for fighting off the reptile with his bare hands. Pat McNulty, who works as a consultant and is a certified trained lifeguard in Tamarindo, a northwestern town favored by surfers and eco-tourists, said the man was crossing a river with the friend when the crocodile struck.

"It was a vicious attack, and he was bitten several times in the leg as well as the head," McNulty told The Associated Press by phone from Costa Rica. "They were able to get him free, swim him to safety and then trained lifeguards responded ... and we administered first aid and called an ambulance." McNulty said he accompanied the victim, who remained lucid after the attack, to Liberia, the provincial capital, where he underwent surgery.

He declined to give specifics about the man's injuries other than to say he suffered lower leg trauma and his condition was serious but stable. "His friend saved his life ... and then we the lifeguards helped keep him alive," McNulty said. "It was a very traumatic scene, and all individuals attending him did a tremendous job." Costa Rican media reported that the

victim suffered partial amputation of his right ankle and most of his calf muscle was stripped.

McNulty said he was familiar with the man before the attack because Tamarindo is a small town where everyone knows everyone else. He declined to identify him publicly by name but described him as a surfer from Colorado who maintains a residence in the village. Family members were traveling to be with him, McNulty added. The US Embassy in Costa Rica said in a statement that it was aware of the case and that consular officers help US citizens when they are injured overseas, but declined to comment further citing privacy considerations.

Earlier, Costa Rican press reports had said the man was from Arizona. Community, wildlife and tourism officials met after Friday's attack to consider strategies for relocating crocodiles and making sure there's proper signage to keep people safe. McNulty said a few months ago there was a "minor incident" in which a smaller croc bit a person. "We live in a country where there's large crocodiles, and people take for granted that when you go into a river that you're safe," the lifeguard said. "But the fact of the matter is that you need to be aware of your environment. ... We're in their world."—AP

MICHIGAN ZOO SHUTS DOWN EXHIBIT AFTER SHARK DEATHS

GRAND RAPIDS, Michigan: An outdoor lagoon at a western Michigan zoo is being shut down following the deaths of 21 stingrays and sharks. MLive.com reports Friday that the exhibit at John Ball Zoo in Grand Rapids has been dismantled. Eighteen cownose stingrays and three spotted bamboo sharks were found dead July 8 after a mechanical malfunction shut off one of two pumps to the lagoon.

Low oxygen levels were found in water samples. Zoo Chief Executive Peter D'Arienzo says no new stingray exhibit will be built until officials determine that a state-of-the-art, weather protected facility that can assure the animals' safety can be built. More than 50 stingrays died last summer after oxygen levels in their tank dropped too low at an exhibit at the Brookfield Zoo in suburban Chicago.—AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199





Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
فهد علي المخيزيم

استشاري أطفال
M.B. Bch. FRCPC. FAAP. PEM



Al-Jabriya - Block 1A - St. 1 - Mazaya Building - 15th Floor - Clinic B - Tel.: 22269369 - Fax: 22269368

SULTAN TELECOM ADDS CAR INSURANCE SERVICES

"iZONE.services" a subsidiary of Sultan Telecom in keeping with its tradition of customer friendly initiatives has introduced yet another service to improve our customers overall shopping experience by partnering up with Gulf Insurance and Reinsurance Company (GIG). We take great pride in introducing new services for our customers to enjoy. This partnership with Kuwait's oldest and most trusted insurance company (GIG) makes it immensely easy for you to have your motor vehicles insured at any "iZONE.services" counter conveniently located within the premises of our parent company The Sultan Center (TSC) available at six TSC

locations across Kuwait including; Shuwaikh, Al-Kout Mall, Souk Sharq, Salmiya, Shaab and Hawally.

This new service is ample evidence of our commitment and drive to be seen as a one-stop-shopping destination designed to provide a multitude of premium services which cater to customers' needs and demands. Selecting a trusted Insurance company can be difficult and Gulf Insurance and Reinsurance Company (GIG) is the largest insurance company in Kuwait in terms of written and retained premiums and its activities are further supported by first class reinsurance security so you know you are making the right choice while con-

sidering them to be your insurer of choice at an "iZONE.services" Counter.

Our partnership with GIG allows you to avail of their Auto AssistEndorsement Insurance. This endorsement provides a number of vital road assistance benefits like: towage, opening car when locked from inside, Assistance to tire change, assistance when fuel runs out and assistance when your battery dies. "iZONE.services" provides customers the advantage of access to new internet subscriptions by Kuwait's leading service providers like Kems, Mada, Fasttelco, Qualitynet and Gulfnet.

Customers can take advantage of

iZone's partnership with OSN by buying and or renewing their OSN Package subscription and avail of world-class shipping services via Aramex but is not limited to just these services, you can also have your broken mobile phones repaired and or purchase quality and fashionable mobile accessories making iZone an extremely customer oriented and convenient option saving you your valuable time and money. "iZONE.services" has been developed by Arabian ITS an ISO 9001:2008 certified company and is a subsidiary of Sultan Telecom and The Sultan Center Group.



ASSE KUWAIT CHAPTER HOLDS SEMINAR ON 'HAZARDOUS AREA CLASSIFICATION & PROTECTION'



Adding on to its illustrious pathways of educating and empowering its members, American Society of Safety Engineers, (ASSE) Kuwait Chapter conducted a training seminar on "Hazardous area classification & protection" on 22nd July, at Kohinoor Banquet Hall, Fahaheel. The trainer for the session was Santhosh Kumar. 13 members attended the event and got benefited from this program. ASSE- Kuwait Chapter is a leading non- profit organization which always strives to excel in providing

quality trainings and consultation in the field of Health Safety and Environment all across different public and private sectors in Kuwait.

Sanjay Jaiswal, Secretary of ASSE Kuwait chapter welcomed the participants. He briefed about the significance of the training seminar and the importance of conducting such seminars for the benefit of ASSE members. Rama Krushna Chary, President of ASSE Kuwait chapter, in his brief address, congratulated the participants for their

interest to learn and updating their knowledge and introduced the trainer. Santhosh Kumar, a Mechanical Engineer; has over 20 years of industrial experience in HSEQ Management System in a wide industrial spectrum in Middle East and India.

He holds Lead Auditor & Lead Tutor certification in QMS, EMS and OHSMS, Santhosh has provided consultancy to more than 100 professional organizations in Gulf Countries to establish the Integrated Management System. Santhosh also has the credit of

training employees from over 100 organizations.

The training seminar was meticulously carried on by the trainer and effectively communicated citing relevant industrial scenarios and case studies. He elaborated Hazardous Area Classification Overview, NEC & IEC Standards, Temperature Classification & Types of Electrical Protections with power point presentation and audio & visual demonstrations.

The program turned out to be very

advantageous to all the members particularly to the safety Officers and Engineers from Petrochemical industries. Sony Thomas, Head of training committee, thanked the speaker Santhosh Kumar for this initiative. The session concluded with the distribution of Participation Certificates to the participants. ASSE Kuwait Chapter would continue its strive to do their best for the progress of the society and its members in particular, by organizing such important and remarkable events in future too.



MILLENNIUM HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE CONCLUDES PERIODIC EYE EXAMINATION INITIATIVE

As part of its ongoing commitment towards the health and livelihood of its employees, Millennium Hotel & Convention Centre concluded a periodic eye examination initiative which provided

basis of fast eyecheck up to every employees at Konoz ballroom.

The examination covered a variety of important general tests, such as Visual acuity test, Cover test, as well as a lifestyle

analysis in order to detect and hopefully protect against any future health issues. The initiative falls under the hotel's Corporate Social Responsibility Program (CSR) which underscores the strong emphasis on employees' health and wellness.

"Our employees are the most important asset that we have," explained Dani Saleh, Area General Manager of Millennium & Copthorne Hotels Kuwait. "We know that

supporting employees' health will simply translate into higher levels of service quality and positive outcome of customer satisfaction.



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733
Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsiya	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401
Jabriya	25316254
Maidan Hawally	25623444
Bayan	25388462
Mishref	25381200
W Hawally	22630786
Sabah	24810221
Jahra	24770319
New Jahra	24575755
West Jahra	24772608
South Jahra	24775066
North Jahra	24775992
North Jleeb	24311795
Ardhiya	24884079
Firdous	24892674
Omariya	24719048
N Khaitan	24710044
Fintas	23900322



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

GOVERNORATE	PHARMACY	ADDRESS	PHONE
Ahmadi	Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan	Fahaee Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd	23915883 23715414 23726558
Jahra	Modern Jahra Madina Munawara	Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92	24575518 24566622
Capital	Ahlam Khaldiya Coop	Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop	22436184 24833967
Farwaniya	New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan	Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11	24734000 24881201 24726638
Hawally	Tariq Hana Ikhlas Hawally & Rawdha Ghadeer Kindy Ibn Al-Nafis Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Salmiya-Amman St Hawally-Beirut St Hawally & Rawdha Coop Jabriya-Block 1A Jabriya-Block 3B Salmiya-Hamad Mubarak St Mishrif Coop Salwa Coop	25726265 25647075 22625999 22564549 25340559 25326554 25721264 25380581 25628241

INTERNATIONAL CALLS



Afghanistan	0093	Lithuania	00370
Albania	00355	Luxembourg	00352
Algeria	00213	Macau	00853
Andorra	00376	Macedonia	00389
Angola	00244	Madagascar	00261
Anguilla	001264	Majorca	0034
Antigua	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	Niger	00227
Cape Verde	00238	Nigeria	00234
Cayman Islands	001345	Niue	00683
Central African	00236	Norfolk Island	00672
Chad	00235	N. Ireland (UK)	0044
Chile	0056	North Korea	00850
China	0086	Norway	0047
Colombia	0057	Oman	00968
Comoros	00269	Pakistan	0092
Congo	00242	Palau	00680
Cook Islands	00682	Panama	00507
Costa Rica	00506	Papua New Guinea	00675
Croatia	00385	Paraguay	00595
Cuba	0053	Peru	0051
Cyprus	00357	Philippines	0063
Cyprus (Northern)	0090392	Poland	0048
Czech Republic	00420	Portugal	00351
Denmark	0045	Puerto Rico	001787
Diego Garcia	00246	Qatar	00974
Djibouti	00253	Romania	0040
Dominica	001767	Russian Federation	007
Dominican Republic	001809	Rwanda	00250
Ecuador	00593	Saint Helena	00290
Egypt	0020	Saint Kitts	001869
El Salvador	00503	Saint Lucia	001758
England (UK)	0044	Saint Pierre	00508
Equatorial Guinea	00240	Saint Vincent	001784
Eritrea	00291	Samoa US	00684
Estonia	00372	Samoa West	00685
Ethiopia	00251	San Marino	00378
Falkland Islands	00500	Sao Tome	00239
Faroe Islands	00298	Saudi Arabia	00966
Fiji	00679	Scotland (UK)	0044
Finland	00358	Senegal	00221
France	0033	Seychelles	00284
French Guiana	00594	Sierra Leone	00232
French Polynesia	00689	Singapore	0065
Gabon	00241	Slovakia	00421
Gambia	00220	Slovenia	00386
Georgia	00995	Solomon Islands	00677
Germany	0049	Somalia	00252
Ghana	00233	South Africa	0027
Gibraltar	00350	South Korea	0082
Greece	0030	Spain	0034
Greenland	00299	Sri Lanka	0094
Grenada	001473	Sudan	00249
Guadeloupe	00590	Suriname	00597
Guam	001671	Swaziland	00268
Guatemala	00502	Sweden	0046
Guinea	00224	Switzerland	0041
Guyana	00592	Syria	00963
Haiti	00509	Serbia	00381
Holland (Netherlands)	0031	Taiwan	00886
Honduras	00504	Tanzania	00255
Hong Kong	00852	Thailand	0066
Hungary	0036	Togo	00228
Ibiza (Spain)	0034	Tonga	00676
Iceland	00354	Tokelau	00690
India	0091	Trinidad	001868
Indian Ocean	00873	Tunisia	00216
Indonesia	0062	Turkey	0090
Iran	0098	Tuvalu	00688
Iraq	00964	Uganda	00256
Ireland	00353	Ukraine	00380
Italy	0039	United Arab Emirates	00976
Ivory Coast	00225	United Kingdom	0044
Jamaica	001876	Uruguay	00598
Japan	0081	USA	001
Jordan	00962	Uzbekistan	00998
Kazakhstan	007	Vanuatu	00678
Kenya	00254	Venezuela	00582
Kiribati	00686	Vietnam	0084
Kuwait	00965	Virgin Islands UK	001284
Kyrgyzstan	00996	Virgin Islands US	001340
Laos	00856	Wales (UK)	0044
Latvia	00371	Yemen	00967
Lebanon	00961	Yugoslavia	00381
Liberia	00231	Zambia	00260
Libya	00218	Zimbabwe	00263
Lesotho	00266		

STATE OF KUWAIT
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION
METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT



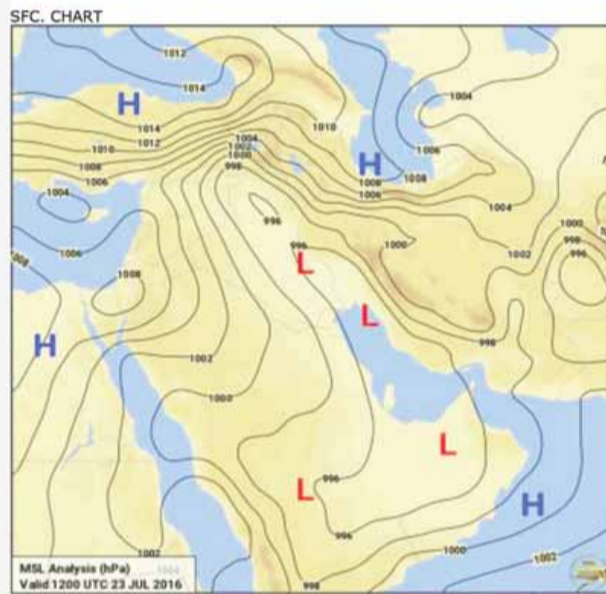
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 23/07/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 34 °C

By Night : Visibility decreases over some areas due to dust with moderate to fresh north westerly wind, with speed of 20 - 50 km/h.

By Day : Very hot with light to moderate north westerly to light variable wind, with speed of 10 - 32 km/h.



Four-Day Forecast

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Expected Weather	very hot	Hot+humid over coasts	very hot +Humid especially over coasts	very hot
Min Temp °C	34	31	32	35
Max Temp °C	47	46	47	49
Wind Direction	north westerly to light variable	variable wind changing to south easterly	north easterly changing to south easterly	north westerly to light variable
Wind Speed km/h	10 - 32	08 - 30	10 - 30	08 - 30

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings

Strong Wind

Kuwait Forecast

Station	MIN °C EXP	Max °C REC
KUWAIT CITY	33	46
KUWAIT AIRPORT	34	47
ABDLY	32	47
BUBYAN	33	48
JAHRA	34	48
FAILAKA ISLAND	33	46
SALMIYAH	34	43
AHMADI	35	45
JAL ALIYAH	32	47
QAROH ISLAND	31	38
UMM AL-MARADEM	32	39
NUWAISIB	33	48
WAFRA	35	47
MANAGISH	33	47
SALMY	31	45
MUTRIBA	32	48

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	49
Min Temp (°C)	32
Max Rel Hum (%)	56
Min Rel Hum (%)	08
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	53 N
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Fajr	03:32
Sunrise	05:03
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:30
Sunset	18:46
Isha	20:14



PRIVATE CLINICS

Ophthalmologists	
Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor	25622444
Dr. Samy Al-Rabeea	25752222
Dr. Masoma Habeeb	25321171
Dr. Mubarak Al-Ajmy	25739999
Dr. Mohsen Abel	25757700
Dr. Adnan Hasan Alwayl	25732223
Dr. Abdallah Al-Baghly	25732223
Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT)	
Dr. Ahmed Fouad Mouner	24555050 Ext 510
Dr. Abdallah Al-Ali	25644660
Dr. Abd Al-Hameed Al-Taweel	25646478
Dr. Sanad Al-Fathalah	25311996
Dr. Mohammad Al-Daory	25731988
Dr. Ismail Al-Fodary	22620166
Dr. Mahmoud Al-Booz	25651426
General Practitioners	
Dr. Mohammed Y Majidi	24555050 Ext 123
Dr. Yousef Al-Omar	24719312
Dr. Tarek Al-Mikhaezem	23926920
Dr. Kathem Maarafi	25730465
Dr. Abdallah Ahmad Eyadah	25655528
Dr. Nabeel Al-Ayoobi	24577781
Dr. Dina Abdallah Al-Rafea	25333501
Urologists	
Dr. Ali Naser Al-Serfy	22641534
Dr. Fawzi Taher Abul	22639955
Dr. Khaleel Abdallah Al-Awadi	22616660
Dr. Adel Al-Hunayan FRCS (C)	25313120
Dr. Leons Joseph	66703427

Plastic Surgeons	
Dr. Mohammad Al-Khalaf	22547272
Dr. Abdal-Redha Lari	22617700
Dr. Abdel Quttainah	25625030/60
Family Doctor	
Dr Divya Damodar	23729596/23729581
Psychiatrists	
Dr. Esam Al-Ansari	22635047
Dr Eisa M. Al-Balhan	22613623/0
Gynaecologists & Obstetricians	
DrAdrian arbe	23729596/23729581
Dr. Verginia s.Marin	2572-6666 ext 8321
Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan	22655539
Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami	25343406
Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly	25739272
Dr. Salem soso	22618787
General Surgeons	
Dr. Amer Zawaz Al-Amer	22610044
Dr. Mohammad Yousef Basher	25327148
Internists, Chest & Heart	
Dr. Adnan Ebil	22639939
Dr. Mousa Khadada	22666300
Dr. Latefa Al-Duweisan	25728004
Dr. Nadem Al-Ghabra	25355515
Dr. Mobarak Aldoub	24726446
Dr Nasser Behbehani	25654300/3

Paediatricians	
Dr. Khaled Hamadi	25665898
Dr. Abd Al-Aziz Al-Rashed	25340300
Dr. Zahra Qabazard	25710444
Dr. Sohail Qamar	22621099
Dr. Snaa Maarroof	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdallateef Al-Katrash	22525888
Dr. Abdallah Al-Duweisan	25653755
Dr. Bader Al-Ansari	25620111
Neurologists	
Dr. Sohal Najem Al-Shemeri	25633324
Dr. Jasem Mola Hassan	25345875
Gastrologists	
Dr. Sami Aman	22636464
Dr. Mohammad Al-Shamaly	25322030
Dr. Foaid Abdallah Al-Ali	22633135

Endocrinologist	
Dr. Abd Al-Naser Al-Othman	25339330
Dr. Ahmad Al-Ansari	25658888
Dr. Kamal Al-Shomr	25329924
Physiotherapists & VD	
Dr. Deyaa Shehab	25722291
Dr. Mused Faraj Khamees	22666288
Rheumatologists:	
Dr. Adel Al-Awadi	25330060
Dr. Khaled Al-Jarallah	25722290
Internist, Chest & Heart	
DR.Mohammes Akkad	24555050 Ext 210
Consultant Cardiologist	
Dr. Mohammad Zubaid MB, ChB, FRCP, PACC Assistant Professor Of Medicine Head, Division of Cardiology Mubarak Al-Kabeer Hospital	25339667
Dr. Farida Al-Habib MD, PH.D, FACC	2611555-2622555
Inaya German Medical Center	
Te: 2575077	
Fax: 25723123	

Psychologists /Psychotherapists	Soor Center Tel: 2290-1677 Fax: 2290 1688	info@soorcenter.com www.soorcenter.com	Kaizen center 25716707	Noor Clinic 23845955	William Schuilenberg, RPC 2290-1677 Zaina Al Zabin, M.Sc. 2290-1677
---------------------------------	---	--	------------------------	----------------------	---

ANIMAL PLANET HD

03:25 Wildest Africa
05:49 Saving Africa's Giants With Yao Ming
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Dog TV
08:15 Treehouse Masters
09:10 Penguins On A Plane: Great Animal Moves
10:05 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
11:00 Dog TV
11:55 Snake Sheila
12:50 Wild Hawaii
13:45 Wild Mexico
14:40 Wild Iberia
18:20 Treehouse Masters
19:15 Penguins On A Plane: Great Animal Moves
20:10 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
21:05 Bondi Vet
22:00 Treehouse Masters
22:55 Snake Sheila
23:50 Gator Boys
01:40 Wild Hawaii
02:35 Wild Mexico

BBC FIRST

03:35 New Tricks
04:30 Eastenders
05:05 New Tricks
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Eastenders
07:00 New Tricks
07:55 Father Brown
08:50 Father Brown
09:40 Father Brown
10:30 Doctors
11:00 Eastenders
11:35 Death In Paradise
12:35 New Tricks
13:30 New Tricks
14:30 Eastenders
15:00 Doctors
15:30 Death In Paradise
16:25 Stella
17:10 Sinbad
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Death In Paradise
20:05 DCI Banks
21:00 DCI Banks
21:55 Ripper Street
22:50 Spooks
23:40 Doctors
00:10 Eastenders
00:45 DCI Banks
01:35 DCI Banks
02:25 Ripper Street

Discovery Channel HD

03:15 Impossible Engineering
04:05 Impossible Engineering
05:00 Impossible Engineering
06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
06:50 Cuban Chrome
07:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling
Thunder
08:30 Extreme Collectors
08:55 Auction Hunters
09:20 Dallas Car Sharks
09:45 How Do They Do It?
10:10 How Stuff's Made
10:35 Alaskan Bush People
11:25 The Last Alaskans
12:15 Siberian Cut
13:05 Extreme Collectors
13:30 Auction Hunters
13:55 Dallas Car Sharks
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 Cuban Chrome
16:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling
Thunder
16:50 How Stuff's Made
17:15 How Do They Do It?
17:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling
Thunder
18:30 Street Outlaws
19:20 The Island With Bear Grylls
20:10 Auction Hunters
20:35 Dallas Car Sharks
21:00 Impossible Engineering
21:50 Lions Of Sabi Sand: Brothers In Blood
23:30 Fat N' Furious: Rolling
Thunder
00:20 Cuban Chrome
01:10 Impossible Engineering
02:00 Lions Of Sabi Sand: Brothers In Blood

Discovery Family

03:00 Dirty Jobs
03:50 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
06:20 How It's Made
06:40 How It's Made
07:00 Dick'n' Dom Go Wild
07:25 Dick'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 Doki
08:15 Dick'n' Dom Go Wild
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 How It's Made

09:55 How It's Made
10:20 How It's Made
10:45 How It's Made
11:10 How It's Made
11:35 How It's Made
12:00 How It's Made
12:25 How It's Made
12:50 Dirty Jobs
13:40 Dirty Jobs
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Dirty Jobs
16:10 Dirty Jobs
17:00 Ultimate Survival
17:50 Ultimate Survival
18:40 Troy
19:30 Out Of Egypt
20:20 Ways To Save The Planet
21:10 Mermaids: The New Evidence
22:00 Untamed & Uncut
22:50 What Happened Next?
23:15 What Happened Next?
23:40 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Ultimate Survival
00:30 Ultimate Survival
01:20 Ultimate Survival

ID INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY

03:00 Scorned: Crimes Of Passion
03:48 Last Night In...
07:00 Momsters: When Moms Go Bad
10:20 Disappeared
11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
12:00 It'd Kill For You
15:20 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
16:10 Southern Fried Homicide
21:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
22:00 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
22:25 Last Hope With Troy Dunn
22:50 I Am Homicide
23:40 Obsession: Dark Desires
00:30 A Haunting
01:20 The Haunted
02:10 Deadly Sins

Disney Channel

03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Gravity Falls
07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:45 Shake It Up
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Backstage
09:00 Alex & Co.
09:25 Girl Meets World
09:50 Liv And Maddie
10:15 Gravity Falls: Between The Pines
10:40 Basil The Great Mouse Detective
12:10 The 7D
12:20 Backstage
14:25 Austin & Ally
14:50 Austin & Ally
15:15 Descendants: Wicked World
15:20 Liv And Maddie
15:45 Liv And Maddie
16:10 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:35 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
17:00 Gravity Falls: Between The Pines
17:25 Let It Shine: Rap Battle Edition
19:05 Dog With A Blog
19:30 Bunk'd
19:55 Jessie
20:20 Mako Mermaids
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer
23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
00:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta

Disney Junior

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 Goldie & Bear
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
18:45 Miles From Tomorrow
19:00 PJ Masks
19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:30 PJ Masks
22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
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
02:45 Art Attack

Disney XD

06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:10 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Annedroids
08:40 Mighty Med
09:10 Marvel Avengers: Ultron Revolution
09:35 Toy Story
10:55 Phineas And Ferb
11:20 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
11:45 Kirby Buckets
12:10 Mighty Med
12:35 K.C. Undercover
13:00 Lab Rats
13:30 Supa Strikas
13:55 Annedroids
14:20 Kickin' It
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:15 Mighty Med
15:40 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 Marvel Avengers: Ultron Revolution
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:50 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Supa Strikas
21:45 Lab Rats
22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA

food network

03:00 Ace Of Cakes
04:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
05:00 Chopped
06:00 Man Fire Food
07:00 Roadtrip With G. Garvin
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
10:00 The Pioneer Woman
11:00 Siba's Table
11:30 Siba's Table
12:00 Barefoot Contessa
13:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Chopped
16:00 Guy's Grocery Games
17:00 Amazing Wedding Cakes
18:00 Siba's Table
18:30 Siba's Table

itv CHOICE

03:15 Coronation Street
04:20 Come Dine With Me Couples
05:10 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:00 Grantchester
06:55 Midsomer Murders
08:25 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
13:00 Don't Tell The Bride
15:00 It's Not Rocket Science
15:55 Grantchester
16:45 Chopping Block
17:35 Chopping Block
18:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
19:00 It's Not Rocket Science
19:50 Don't Tell The Bride
20:45 Don't Tell The Bride
21:40 Midsomer Murders
23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:10 The Chase
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Tracey Ullman's Show
02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries

nickelodeon HD

03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 The Loud House
08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Breadwinners
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Get Blake
14:12 Rabbids Invasion
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 The Loud House
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 Harvey Beaks
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 Breadwinners
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants

OSN FIRST HD COMEDY

03:00 Living With Fran
03:30 Uncle Buck
04:00 The Goldbergs
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 The Goldbergs
08:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
09:00 Living With Fran
09:30 Baby Daddy
10:00 Crowded
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
14:00 Uncle Buck

OSN FIRST HD MORE

03:00 Jamie: Private School Girl
03:30 The Brink
04:00 HBO Comedy Half-Hour
04:30 Def Poetry Jam
05:00 You Don't Know Jack
07:15 Lansky
09:15 Maria Full Of Grace
11:00 Everyday People
12:30 Phil Spector
14:00 Herblock: The Black & The White
15:45 A Child's Garden Of Poetry
16:30 Everyday People
18:00 Phil Spector
20:00 Band Of Brothers
21:00 Animals
21:30 Girls
22:00 American Crime Story: The People vs J.J. Simpson
23:00 Strip Search
00:30 Top Ten Monks
01:00 Band Of Brothers
02:00 Animals
02:30 Girls



OBLIVION ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD

OSN FIRST HD

03:00 Mad Dogs
04:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
05:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
07:00 Devious Maids
08:00 The Blacklist
09:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
10:00 Suits
11:00 Devious Maids
12:00 The Blacklist
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Graceland
15:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 The Blacklist
19:00 Bones
20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
21:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
22:00 Code Black
23:00 Damien
00:00 Devious Maids
01:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
02:00 Code Black

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

04:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
06:00 Justice League: Gods And Monsters
07:30 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise
09:30 Biker Boyz
11:30 Independence Day
14:00 Wrath
16:00 Jesse Stone: Lost In Paradise
17:45 Biker Boyz
19:45 Need For Speed
22:00 Harley Davidson And The Marlboro Man
00:00 Mama
02:00 The Power Of Few

OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

04:15 The Misadventures Of The Dunderheads
06:00 Grosse Pointe Blank
08:00 Julie And Julia
10:00 The Misadventures Of The Dunderheads
12:00 The Hundred-Foot Journey
14:15 Bottle Rocket
16:00 Julie And Julia
18:00 Blended
20:00 Textuality
22:00 A Night At The Roxbury
00:00 Hostile Hostages
02:00 Textuality

OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA

03:00 Scenic Route
05:00 The Girl
07:00 Half Of A Yellow Sun
09:00 Barefoot
11:00 The Girl
13:00 Rosewood Lane
15:00 1911
17:00 Barefoot
19:00 As Cool As I Am
20:45 The Reluctant Fundamentalist
23:00 Rudderless
01:00 Barefoot

OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY

03:15 The Chronicles Of Narnia: Prince Caspian
05:45 Bolt
07:30 The Young Black Stallion
09:00 Finding Nemo
11:00 The Shaggy Dog
13:00 Aladdin
15:00 Ratatouille
17:00 Annie
19:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: Curse Of The Black Pearl
21:30 Camp Nowhere
23:15 Annie

OSN MOVIES HD ACTION

03:00 The Fisher King
06:00 The Railway Man
09:00 Roger Waters The Wall
11:15 Merchants Of Doubt
13:00 Walking On Sunshine
14:45 The Mirror Has Two Faces
16:45 Roger Waters The Wall
19:00 Decoding Annie Parker
20:45 The Apostle
23:00 The Royal Tenenbaums
01:00 The Mirror Has Two Faces

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

04:30 The Heart Of The Oak
06:00 Evolution Man
08:00 Cher Ami
09:45 Miffy The Movie
11:15 The TeenageBob SquarePants Movie
12:45 Tarzan
14:30 Egon And Donci
16:00 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
18:00 Miffy The Movie
20:00 Beethoven's Treasure Tail
22:00 Egon And Donci
23:30 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
01:00 Cher Ami
02:45 Beethoven's Treasure Tail

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

04:45 Make Your Move
06:45 Manny
08:30 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
10:30 Don't Look Back
12:00 Oblivion
14:15 Life Of A King
16:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
18:00 Walk Of Shame
20:00 She's Funny That Way
22:00 The Gambler
00:00 With This Ring
02:00 Walk Of Shame

STAR MOVIES

03:45 Henry's Crime
05:30 The Horse Whisperer
08:15 Ladder 49
10:15 Real Steel
12:30 Frozen
14:15 Unbreakable
16:00 Starship Troopers
18:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
20:00 Simon Birch
22:00 Deep Rising
23:45 Instinct
01:45 The Hurricane

STAR WORLD HD

03:00 The Listener
04:00 The Listener
05:00 Fit For Fashion
06:00 Fit For Fashion

OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL

06:00 The Railway Man
09:00 Roger Waters The Wall
11:15 Merchants Of Doubt
13:00 Walking On Sunshine
14:45 The Mirror Has Two Faces
16:45 Roger Waters The Wall
19:00 Decoding Annie Parker
20:45 The Apostle
23:00 The Royal Tenenbaums
01:00 The Mirror Has Two Faces

OSN MOVIES HD

03:00 Big Game
05:00 Goosebumps
07:00 Home
09:00 Big Game
11:00 Non-Tiki
13:00 Le Weekend
14:45 Selma
17:00 The Cobbler
19:00 Hector And The Search For Happiness
21:00 Birdman
23:00 American Heist
01:00 The Lazarus Effect

OSN MOVIES HD KIDS

04:30 The Heart Of The Oak
06:00 Evolution Man
08:00 Cher Ami
09:45 Miffy The Movie
11:15 The TeenageBob SquarePants Movie
12:45 Tarzan
14:30 Egon And Donci
16:00 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
18:00 Miffy The Movie
20:00 Beethoven's Treasure Tail
22:00 Egon And Donci
23:30 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
01:00 Cher Ami
02:45 Beethoven's Treasure Tail

OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE

04:45 Make Your Move
06:45 Manny
08:30 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
10:30 Don't Look Back
12:00 Oblivion
14:15 Life Of A King
16:00 The Scorpion King 4: Quest For Power
18:00 Walk Of Shame
20:00 She's Funny That Way
22:00 The Gambler
00:00 With This Ring
02:00 Walk Of Shame

OSN MOVIES HD

03:45 Henry's Crime
05:30 The Horse Whisperer
08:15 Ladder 49
10:15 Real Steel
12:30 Frozen
14:15 Unbreakable
16:00 Starship Troopers
18:00 Under The Tuscan Sun
20:00 Simon Birch
22:00 Deep Rising
23:45 Instinct
01:45 The Hurricane

OSN MOVIES HD

03:00 The Listener
04:00 The Listener
05:00 Fit For Fashion
06:00 Fit For Fashion

sundance CHANNEL

07:00 Castle
08:00 Low Winter Sun
09:00 Low Winter Sun
10:00 The Listener
11:00 The Listener
12:00 The Listener
13:00 Fit For Fashion
14:00 Fashion Star
15:00 Making MrRight
16:00 American Idol
17:00 American Idol
18:00 Da Vinci's Demons
19:00 The Bridge
20:00 House Of DVF
21:00 Mom vs Matchmaker
21:30 Mom vs Matchmaker
22:00 The Simpsons
22:30 The Simpsons
23:00 Bones
00:00 American Idol
01:00 American Idol
02:00 Da Vinci's Demons

sundance CHANNEL

03:40 Movie Talk
04:10 3 Backyards
05:40 Springsteen & I
07:00 Glassland
08:30 The Wolfpack
10:00 Swedish Auto
11:40 Vernon, Florida
12:40 The Englishman Who Went Up A Hill
14:15 Glassland
15:45 Mi Amiga Del Parque
17:10 The Matador
18:30 All On The Line
19:30 Cathedrals Of Culture
20:00 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
20:30 Robert Redford
20:45 Small Town Murder Songs
22:00 A Small Section Of The World
23:00 Rake
00:00 Rake
01:10 Mi Amiga Del Parque
02:35 Watchtower

TLC HD

03:15 Extreme Couponing
03:35 Momom Half Love
04:20 Your Style In His Hands
05:10 Your Style In His Hands
06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
06:25 Super Soul Sunday
07:15 Toddlers & Tiaras
08:05 Are You Fitter Than A Pensioner?
08:55 Nida'a
09:45 Little People, Big World
10:10 Little People, Big World
10:35 Jon & Kate Plus 8
11:00 Jon & Kate Plus 8
11:25 Cake Boss
11:50 Belief
12:40 Super Soul Sunday
13:30 My Giant Life
14:20 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
15:10 Little People, Big World
15:35 Little People, Big World
16:00 Toddlers & Tiaras
16:50 Jon & Kate Plus 8
17:15 Jon & Kate Plus 8
17:40 Cake Boss
18:05 Say Yes To The Dress
18:30 Your Style In His Hands
19:20 Designer Darlings
20:10 Super Soul Sunday
21:00 Designer Darlings
21:50 The Undateables
22:40 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
23:30 Extreme Couponing
23:55 Designer Darlings
00:45 The Undateables
01:35 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
02:25 Jon & Kate Plus 8
02:50 Jon & Kate Plus 8



INDEPENDENCE DAY ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD

CLASSIFIEDS

REQUIRED
 American Company
 Business Partners
 (Full/Part Time)
 for Healthcare,
 Personal Care,
 Weight Management
 Products
 Call: **66345422**

EIG
 EIG Investment Group
BUSINESS IN OMAN
 We Are Providing
 Visas, Registration,
 Local Sponsor,
 Business Partner,
 Decoument Clearing.
 Contact Us: 00968-98457638
 Email: info@EIGlcoman.Com

AVAILABLE FOR RENT
Residential Floors in Mishref
For westerners and diplomats
224 66 5 66
909 76 777

REQUIRED
FULL TIME FEMALE HOME CARE NURSE
 Urgently required a female homecare nurse to provide nursing care for a diabetic child patient.
 Call:
65050888

REQUIRED
FOR A TRADING AND CONTRACTING COMPANY
1. PROJECT MANAGER:1 No
 ➤ Should be capable of managing the entire operation, setting up and mobilizing the entire team.
 ➤ Engineering graduate with 5 to 10 years preferred.
2.SALES EXECUTIVES FOR INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS
 ➤ Should have a transferable visa.
 ➤ Should have a valid Kuwait Driving License.
 ➤ Minimum two years experience in the same field.
 Forward within 7 days all CV's to the Email shown below:
 dasmanregionalcom@gmail.com

Kuwait CINEMA

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


URGENTLY REQUIRE SALESMAN
 For A Building Material Company in Kuwait
Minimum Requirements
 • Transferable residence (Article No. 18)
 • Valid Kuwait Driving License.
 • Knowledge of English is must but bilingual will be highly appreciated.
 Please email your CV's & credentials to:
 Email: jobsvacancy6@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATION
 1 room in a fully furnished CAC 3 bedroom flat is available for single individual with kitchen and drawing room facility in Ishbiliya Block 1. Indian/Pakistani Muslim is preferred.
 Contact: Afzal Shafi
 99714430 (C 5193)
 23-7-2016

FLAT FOR RENT in Salwa
 3 room 2 bath CAC ground floor with private big open space.
 Block 12 St. 12 B.11
 Call: **99388003**
99551531

PRAYER TIMINGS

Fajr:	03:32
Shorook	05:03
Duhr:	11:54
Asr:	15:30
Maghrib:	18:46
Isha:	20:13



URGENTLY
Required for reputed Medical Lab
Lab Technician
 ■ Minimum 2 years experience.
 ■ B.S. in Medical Technology
 ■ having a license from License Department Kuwait or Eligible to have a license
 Contact 23924101/ 65834307
 or email at mamlab2002@yahoo.com

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- Administrator (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@performanceaquatic.com

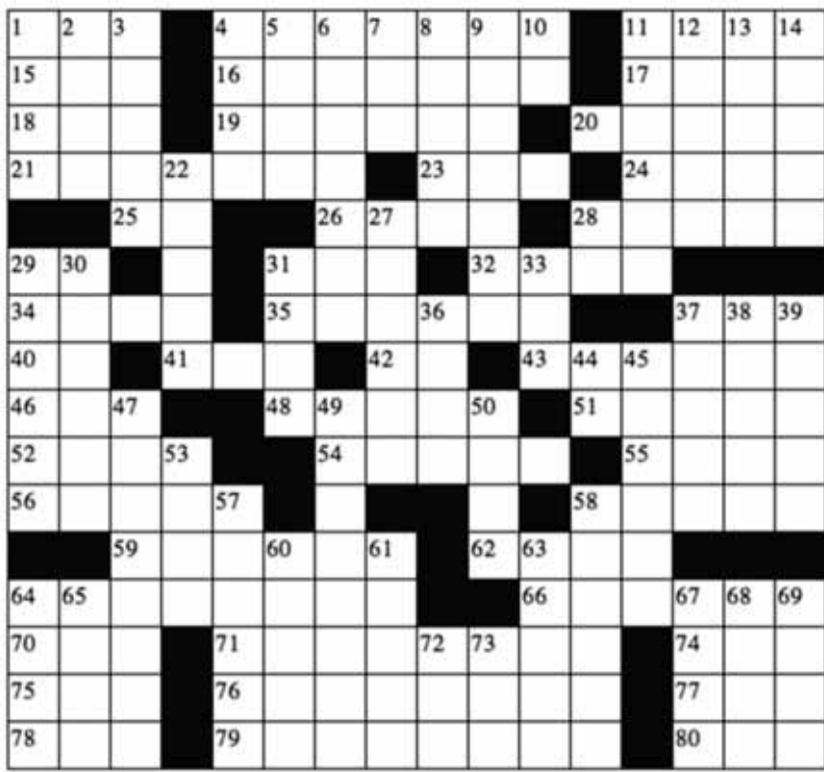
Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)

Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

Arrival Flights on Sunday 24/7/2016				Departure Flights on Sunday 24/7/2016			
Airlines	Fit	Route	Time	Airlines	Fit	Route	Time
MSC	415	Sohag	00:10	AIC	988	Hyderabad/Chennai	00:05
THY	772	Istanbul	00:10	JZR	1540	Cairo	00:20
JZR	267	Beirut	00:30	JAI	573	Mumbai	00:25
FDK	803	Damascus	00:35	JAD	302	Amman	00:25
JZR	239	Amman	00:50	MSR	615	Cairo	00:30
FDB	069	Dubai	00:55	FDB	072	Dubai	00:30
DLH	635	Doha	01:00	MSC	416	Sohag	01:05
QTR	1086	Doha	01:15	FDK	804	Damascus	01:35
JZR	539	Cairo	01:20	THY	773	Istanbul	01:40
KAC	1802	Cairo	01:30	DLH	635	Frankfurt	02:00
PGT	858	Istanbul	01:40	ETH	621	Addis Ababa	02:45
ETH	620	Addis Ababa	01:45	THY	765	Istanbul	02:45
RJA	642	Amman	01:45	PGT	859	Istanbul	02:55
THY	1464	Istanbul	01:50	KAC	177	Vienna	02:55
KKK	6506	Istanbul	02:05	UAE	854	Dubai	03:45
ETH	3403	Addis Ababa/Riyadh	04:30	THY	769	Istanbul	03:45
FEQ	931	Alexandria	05:00	RJA	645	Amman	03:55
THY	1414	TXZ	05:05	OMA	644	Muscat	04:05
DHX	170	Bahrain	05:10	FDB	068	Dubai	04:05
THY	770	Istanbul	05:15	ETD	306	Abu Dhabi	04:10
QTR	8511	Doha	05:15	MSR	613	Cairo	04:15
KAC	412	Manila/Bangkok	06:30	KKK	6505	Istanbul	04:20
BAW	157	London	06:40	LZB	7780	Burgas	04:20
JZR	1541	Cairo	07:10	PGT	861	Istanbul	04:30
FDB	5061	Dubai	07:15	QTR	1077	Doha	04:35
KAC	382	Delhi	07:30	CEB	019	Manila	04:50
KAC	346	Ahmedabad	07:35	LMU	511	Cairo	05:00
KAC	206	Islamabad	07:40	ETH	3403	Addis Ababa	06:00
KAC	302	Mumbai	07:50	FEQ	934	Sohag	06:00
FDB	053	Dubai	07:50	THY	1465	Istanbul	06:00
SVA	512	Riyadh	07:50	RJA	643	Amman	06:25
KAC	354	BLR	08:00	QTR	1087	Doha	06:30
KAC	156	Istanbul	08:00	QTR	8512	Doha	06:40
KAC	286	Dhaka	08:05	THY	771	Istanbul	06:45
KAC	332	Trivandrum	08:15	GFA	212	Bahrain	06:50
KAC	362	Colombo	08:20	JZR	240	Amman	06:55
KAC	352	Kochi	08:20	FDB	070	Dubai	07:05
UAE	855	Dubai	08:25	JZR	164	Dubai	07:15
ETD	301	Abu Dhabi	09:00	FDB	5062	Dubai	07:55
ABY	125	Sharjah	09:05	BAW	156	London	08:25
IRC	528	Ahwaz	09:10	FDB	054	Dubai	08:30
QTR	1070	Doha	09:20	KAC	171	Frankfurt	08:40
IRA	665	Shiraz	09:25	SVA	513	Riyadh	08:50
FDB	055	Dubai	09:40	KAC	117	New York	09:00
SAW	703	Damascus	09:45	JZR	256	Beirut	09:05
CCE	345	Sohag	10:00	KAC	787	Jeddah	09:30
UAE	873	Dubai	10:40	KAC	671	Dubai	09:30
GFA	213	Bahrain	10:40	JZR	534	Cairo	09:30
MEA	404	Beirut	11:00	JZR	482	Istanbul	09:30
JZR	561	Sohag	11:25	ABY	126	Sharjah	09:45
JZR	165	Dubai	11:50	UAE	856	Dubai	09:50
FDB	075	Dubai	12:25	ETD	302	Abu Dhabi	10:05
JZR	241	Amman	12:30	IRC	529	Ahwaz	10:10
SAW	701	Damascus	12:35	IRA	664	Shiraz	10:25
UAE	871	Dubai	12:45	QTR	1071	Doha	10:35
FEQ	961	Sohag	12:55	FDB	056	Dubai	10:40
MSR	610	Cairo	13:00	SAW	704	Damascus	10:45
THY	766	Istanbul	13:10	KAC	677	Abu Dhabi/Muscat	10:50
QTR	1078	Doha	14:05	KAC	501	Beirut	11:00
KAC	672	Dubai	14:05	CCE	346	Sohag	11:10
AXB	393	Kozhikode	14:10	KAC	561	Amman	11:20
KAC	178	Vienna	14:15	GFA	214	Bahrain	11:35
GFA	221	Bahrain	14:20	KAC	741	Dammam	11:35
FDB	057	Dubai	14:20	MEA	405	Beirut	12:00
SVA	500	Jeddah	14:30	KAC	541	Cairo	12:05
				KAC	874	Dubai	12:10
				KAC	103	London	12:10
				JZR	776	Jeddah	12:15
				KAC	785	Jeddah	13:00
				FDB	076	Dubai	13:10

CROSSWORD 1321



ACROSS

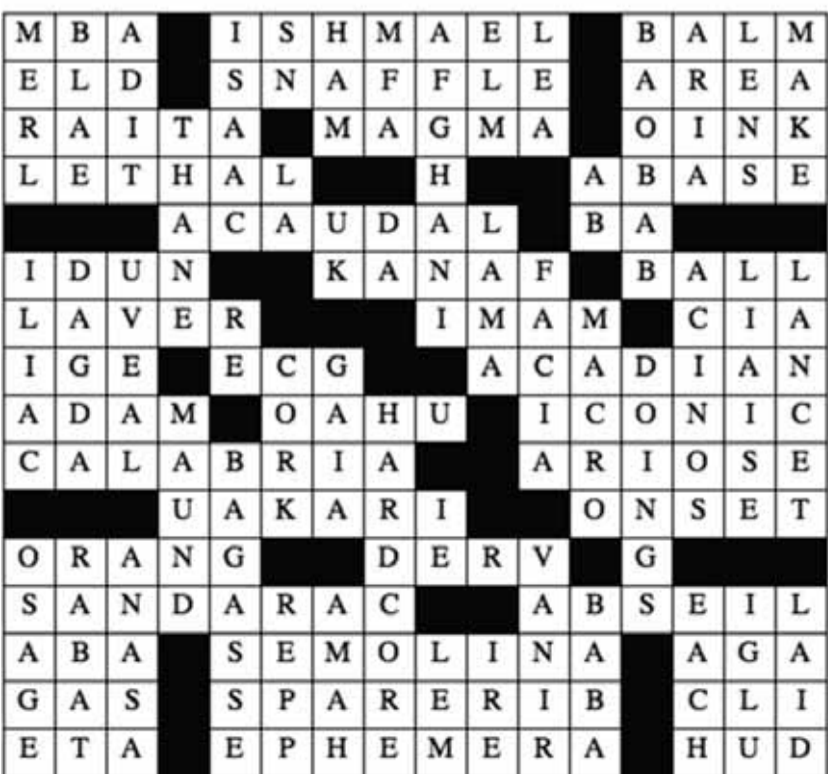
- The rate at which energy is drawn from a source that produces a flow of electricity in a circuit.
- A skilled worker who practices some trade or handicraft.
- Socks and stockings and tights collectively (the British include underwear as hosiery).
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- Relating to or characteristic of the Moors.
- Type genus of the family Arctidae.
- An independent agency of the United States government responsible for collecting and coordinating intelligence and counterintelligence activities abroad in the national interest.
- A particular point in time.
- Utter obscenities or profanities.
- A football play in which one player hands the ball to a teammate.
- An anxiety disorder characterized by chronic free-floating anxiety and such symptoms as tension or sweating or trembling of light-headedness or irritability etc that has lasted for more than six months.
- A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
- An organization of countries formed in 1961 to agree on a common policy for the sale of petroleum.
- A state in north central United States.
- Large sweet juicy hybrid between tangerine and grapefruit having a thick wrinkled skin.
- Utter a high-pitched cry, characteristic of pigs.
- A mobile mass of muscular tissue covered with mucous membrane and located in the oral cavity.
- An official prosecutor for a judicial district.
- A human limb.
- An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
- Summer cypress.
- (Roman mythology) Goddess of abundance and fertility.
- Hungarian choreographer who developed Labanotation (1879-1958).
- A unit of weight used in Asia.
- A game in which numbered balls are drawn and random and players cover the corresponding numbers on their cards.
- Cubes of meat marinated and cooked on a skewer usually with vegetables.
- Praise, glorify, or honor.
- A mountain range in western Russia extending from the arctic to the Caspian Sea.
- An explosive device used to break down a gate or wall.
- Any wingless blood-sucking parasitic insect noted for ability to leap.
- A window with glass louvers.
- The ohmic resistance of a conductor.
- American prizefighter who won the world heavyweight championship three times (born in 1942).
- Frivolous banter.
- An informal term for a father.
- Artists or writers whose ideas are ahead of their time.

- The capital of Brazil.
- A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
- A unit of surface area equal to 100 square meters.
- An archipelago of about 100 islands in the North Atlantic off the north coast of Scotland.
- A barrier constructed to contain the flow or water or to keep out the sea.

DOWN

- (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
- Type genus of the Majidae.
- The basic monetary unit in many countries.
- Projectiles to be fired from a gun.
- A protective covering that covers or forms the top of a building.
- A person who lacks good judgment.
- A strong emotion.
- A surface burn.
- Type genus of the family Astacidae.
- A state in New England.
- A state in the United States in the central Pacific on the Hawaiian Islands.
- (Greek mythology) One of the mountain nymphs.
- Sudden mass fear and anxiety over anticipated events.
- Worn or shabby from overuse or (of pages) from having corners turned down.
- The capital and largest city of Bangladesh.
- The cardinal number that is the sum of four and one.
- A silvery ductile metallic element found primarily in bauxite.
- Garment consisting of a folded cloth drawn up between the legs and fastened at the waist.
- (computer science) A standardized language for the descriptive markup of documents.
- Light informal conversation for social occasions.
- Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
- Occurring or encountered or experienced or observed frequently or in accordance with regular practice or procedure.
- On the negative side or lower end of a scale.
- A genus of Ploceidae.
- Before noon.
- A deep bow.
- A chalked string used in the building trades to make a straight line on a vertical surface.
- Bubble shells.
- Marked by or showing unaffected simplicity and lack of guile or worldly experience.
- A spread made chiefly from vegetable oils and used as a substitute for butter.
- English historian noted for his constitutional history of medieval England (1825-1901).
- Cut the head off.
- The fourth month of the Hindu calendar.
- A person who believes that God created the universe and then abandoned it.
- Enter a computer.
- (botany) Of or relating to the axil.
- (Babylonian) God of storms and wind.
- An amino acid that is found in the central nervous system.
- Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
- A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.

Yesterday's Solution



STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

A cycle of nostalgia and domesticity begins now emphasizing a need for security and a sense of roots. Family, home, relatives and real estate play a big part in your life. You may be moved to appreciate and discover the beauty in your life and in those around you. You communicate with skill and it is stimulating just being with you today. Your high degree of mental concentration makes you a fine mentor to young people. Your ambitions go hand in hand with communication and using the mind and the two should never be far apart. Art, music, teaching, are all a part of your weekend activity and this may be the day you have the words to turn a person's life toward a more positive path. You give a friend more of your attention this evening.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

A passionate one, you are never lukewarm in love. It's hot or not. You are in love with mystery, secrets and intrigue, anything but that which is open or superficial. You have great personal magnetism and a loyalty verging on possessiveness. You are never dull, particularly today. Politics just may be something you enjoy full or part time. You seem to always be popular with others and at home in the crowd-you tend to radiate success. Others may value the fact that you can always manage to unravel even the worst problems for them. You could benefit from the advice of older people this afternoon. A neighbor offers a nice treat when you get home this evening. This could mean tickets to a ball game or an invitation to a backyard party.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Your easy manner and willingness to listen to others will make conversations and interactions go well this morning. You are at home in all things mystical or religious and have this as a natural talent. You have clear vision in these realms. Although you may be helping many people today with your talents, there are opportunities to serve in a volunteer situation through a different avenue. A neighbor may need you to help with some home project. Through helping another, you learn new techniques and gain new ideas. Your image and ideals could be challenged by another but you have patience to face any challenge. This will all be beneficial in helping you see new ideas and possibilities. A friend has good advice; listen carefully.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

Beating the odds through cleverness is appealing and this may lead to an interest in all kinds of financial speculation. Your sense of duty to your responsibilities could cause you to ignore or forego your loved one's weekend plans. If this is a special day, think very hard before deciding to pass on family matters. You could take a vacation from your responsibilities today and explore more creative places. Compromise and follow-through are good words for this day. Share a massage or get a psychic reading with a family member. This afternoon a lover or child who is bright and articulate gives you incentive to create a fun game or join in a creative exercise. Share a bit of laughter with this person. Perhaps an exciting movie could be enjoyed this evening.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

A natural transformation of the way you think through problems is taking place. You may cease to worry about what is said and instead concern yourself with facts. You learn to ask the questions, who, what, where, when, why and how. This, you figure, may be the only fair and less stressful way to do your research or solve a problem. Your job today is to back up your findings with witnesses or with confirmation. You enjoy your job and today you bring news that is beneficial to many. You could find yourself being visited by friends or family throughout this day. Despite your protest, you enjoy every moment. Others persuade you to accompany them on some fun activities this evening. There is much celebration!



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are able to develop what is most basic and true in your environment. You encourage others to do the same. Clearing away the old and making room for the new gives everyone a sense of moving forward. This is a good time to set aside those things you no longer use or wear to either give to a charity or plot your path to a great garage sale. You have a way of speaking that makes people want to listen and think as well as taking on a calming attitude. A little band of merry family members will follow your lead with a little music fun this afternoon. You lead and guide others onto positive pathways. Opportunities come up today to be hired as a teacher in the future, a good thing to consider. This may mean mentoring or evening classes.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Being with other people today is fun and a plus to your life. Lovers, children and other people or things dear to your heart are emphasized at this stage in your life. Sharing time with young people and learning new things together is gratifying. You are a real charmer-able to enchant others and bring them under your spell. You manage to communicate an almost mystical sense to a group. Your ideals and ability to see the whole picture are obvious to all who come to know you. You can express feelings and put emotions into words. This could give you a flair for the dramatic, public speaking, poetry and the arts. This evening is the perfect time for a date with that special person you have been thinking about lately-your loved one or someone new.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You are at home where there are lots of communication, investigation and exploration. You are fascinated by social interchange. You tend not to be emotional and are somewhat surface-oriented. You enjoy variety and change. Thinking, writing, researching and science are good. You are a teacher at heart. You may enjoy teaching a creative class today or guiding young people in some outside activity. Circumstances should work together to help bring out your ideals and make it easier to realize your dreams. All in all, this is a good time to project your image. You may benefit from an older person or one in authority. Life could take on a dreamlike stance this afternoon-stay out of the sun. You and a loved one will have some quality time.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

An invitation to share time with an out of town friend or family member is tempting and you may want to grab the camera as well as some pictures before you leave your house. It is always fun to brag a little and the opportunity to take pictures is hard to resist. Fun times to visit and catch up on a friend's or family member's happenings give some sort of completeness to your own life progress. This afternoon is excellent for taking care of some personal business. A deeper study of genealogy or some other interest is fun to explore and may find you wanting to learn more. The urge to discover and be enthusiastic about a subject gives you and others ideas about places to visit and activities of learning and play. Planning trips and adventures is all a part of the fun.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You will find yourself in a very practical mood. You are innovative when it comes to self-analysis and self-care: food, diet, health, etc. You love a social life; friends and relationships play a major role in your makeup. Close bonds are very important to you. You love to communicate and discuss ideas with other people. You and a group of your friends may decide to find a neighborhood market where you can purchase fresh vegetables and fruits and homegrown or homemade goodies. All of this is work but with a group of you, the work turns into fun and one among you will be thrifty while another will be creative and yet another will be organized and the list goes on. These trips only need to be once a month and are most beneficial.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

You have a lot of energy for improving your surroundings or life situations. You are very motivated to improve. There could be some hard feelings, especially from young people, if you become too pushy. You put forth strong views and are hard to influence but now is the time to be patient and keep working at what you want to accomplish. . . Others will follow your lead. Mother always said, "you can catch more flies with honey than vinegar." create rewards. Emotional and a good entertainer, you may be louder than average and tend to exaggerate but others will also want to join with you later in celebrating the accomplishments of this day. You will continue to be successful in your endeavors-all is well.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

You are the personification of artistic creativity. Entertainment and creativity of all sorts may be enjoyed. You may become involved in the writing and creation of scripts, etc. Spiritual ideas and concepts are a way of life here. There are deep appreciations of, and even love for, movies, big ideas and themes. You could be a visionary director. You have an enchanting way of working and communicating with others in matters of music and the arts. You could feel real support and harmony for circumstances and those around you. This is a time when you can expect a little boost, some sort of extra support or recognition from those around you. Past difficulties seem to just melt away this evening; all is right with the world.

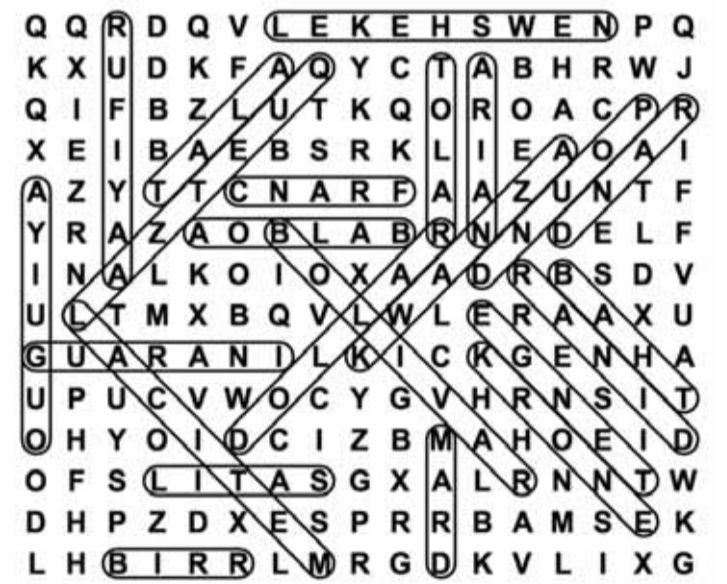
WORD SEARCH

World Currencies 2 - Word Search
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.



- | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| ARIARY | KUNA | NGULTRUM |
| BOLIVIANO | KWACHA | RINGGIT |
| COLON | KYAT | RIYAL |
| DIRHAM | LILANGENI | RUBLE |
| ESCUDO | LOTI | RUPEE |
| GOURDE | NAKFA | SHILLING |
| GUILDER | NEW CEDI | VATU |
| KRONA | NEW KIP | |

Large Print Word Search Puzzles
World Currencies 1 - Solution



- | | | |
|---------|------------|---------|
| BAHT | GUARANI | OUGUIYA |
| BALBOA | KRONE | POUND |
| BIRR | KWANZA | QUETZAL |
| BOLIVAR | LITAS | RAND |
| DINAR | METICAL | RUFUYAA |
| DOLLAR | NAIRA | TALA |
| DRAM | NEW SHEKEL | TENGE |
| FRANC | | TOLAR |

Daily SuDoku



Yesterday's Solution





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

SUDOKU

Solution

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



Color me!

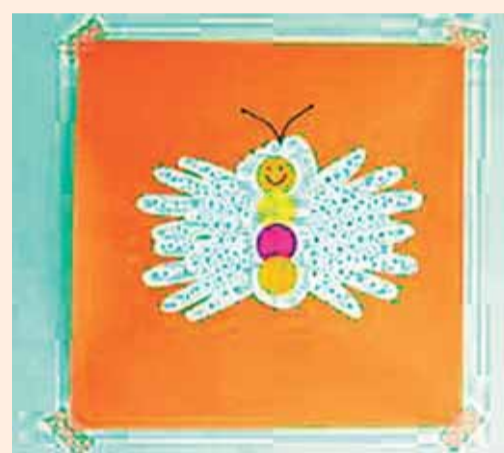
SANDSLASH



Did you know?

- We use time to order events in the past, present and future. We also use it to make comparisons and measure the speed at which things move.
- If you wanted to measure time you could use a watch, clock, hourglass or even a sundial.
- A sundial is a tool that uses the position of the Sun to measure time, typically involving a shadow cast across a marked surface.
- The use of pendulums to accurately measure time was discovered by Galileo Galilei around 400 years ago. A pendulum is a free swinging weight hanging from a pivot.
- There are 60 seconds in a minute, 60 minutes in an hour and 24 hours in a day.
- Normal years have 365 days but a Leap year has 366. The Earth takes a little longer than 365 days to go around the Sun so we add an extra day in February every four years (with a few exceptions) to keep calendars and seasons aligned.
- 10 years is known as a decade, 100 years is known as a century and 1000 years is known as a millennium.
- Milliseconds, microseconds and nanoseconds are examples of very small units of time.
- Planck time is the name given to the smallest known unit of time. It's a little confusing but it measures the amount of time it takes light to travel 1 Planck length (a distance so small that it can't even be measured!).
- Scientists believe the moon was used as a form of calendar as far back as 6000 years ago. Calendars have been changing ever since and are very accurate in modern times.
- Accurate clocks that measure hours, minutes and seconds have improved with the invention of sundials, water clocks, mechanical clocks, pendulums and hourglasses through to the digital displays and atomic clocks of today.
- Many places use daylight saving time (typically by putting clocks forward an hour) for longer daylight in the evenings.
- Different parts of the world are located in different time zones. This means that while you are having breakfast in the morning, someone in another part of the world is having dinner.
- Theories related to time have been put forward by famous scientists such as Isaac Newton and Albert Einstein. You may have even heard of the term 'space-time', a model in physics that joins space and time together.

ACTIVITY



Hand and foot butterfly artwork

What you need:

- Large construction paper
- Double sided colored paper
- Colored pencils or markers
- Glue stick
- Scissors

Activity:

- Gather your supplies.
- On your colored paper, trace around your hand four times and your foot once. You can just do one hand and flip the paper over when pasting.
- Cut out all of your traced prints.
- Paste your footprint in the middle of your construction paper and add your handprints as wings at the side of your footprint.
- Draw on some colorful antennae, a face and decorate the wings.

Q: Where was the Declaration of Independence signed?
A: At the bottom!

Q: What do Alexander the Great and Kermit the Frog have in common?
A: The same middle name!

Q: What is the fruitiest subject at school?
A: History, because it's full of dates!

Q: Why did the pioneers cross the country in covered wagons?
A: Because they didn't want to wait 40 years for a train!

Q: When a knight was killed in battle, what sign did they put on his grave?
A: Rust in peace!

Q: How was the Roman Empire cut in half?
A: With a pair of Caesars!

JOKES

RECIPES FOR KIDS



Cream Cheese Penguins

Ingredients:

- 1 package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 2 cups finely crushed herb-seasoned dry bread stuffing mix
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 3 eggs, beaten

Method:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
- In a large bowl combine spinach, stuffing mix, Parmesan cheese, garlic powder, black pepper, Italian seasoning, melted butter and eggs. Shape into walnut-sized balls and place on a baking sheet.
- Bake in preheated oven for 20 minutes, or until heated through and browned.

DISNEY

THE QUIZ

- In which short Disney film do we see Mickey Mouse lose control of Mops and Buckets?
- In which Disney film do you find a group of vegetarian sharks?
- In Sleeping Beauty and Snow White the main characters are awoken by the same act - what is it?
- Name the sidekick of Disney character, Thumper?
- Whose classic novel is The Jungle Book based on?
- Which Disney character sings the song 'Poor Unfortunate Souls'?
- What Disney film has an Elasticgirl and an Iceman?
- 'Can You Feel The Love Tonight' is a song from which Disney film?
- In which 1992 Disney rendition film will you find the villain, Jafar?
- In the 1985 film Alice in Wonderland, what does the bottle with 'drink me' do to Alice?



ANSWERS

- The Sorcerer's Apprentice
- Finding Nemo
- A Prince's Kiss
- Bambi
- Rudyard Kipling's
- Ursula, The Little Mermaid
- The Incredibles
- Lion King
- Aladdin
- It shrinks her

'The 100' Season 4: 'The Earth Strikes Back' as Nuclear Apocalypse Looms

The cast and executive producer of "The 100" were on hand at Comic-Con to preview Season 4 of the hit CW drama, beginning with a sizzle reel that included a work-in-progress shot from next season that showed the Grounder city of Polis being overtaken by a dark cloud of radioactive fallout as Eliza Taylor's Clarke narrated via voiceover: "Our enemy isn't something that can be fought, it can't be reasoned with, it can't be killed. When all is lost, can hope survive? can we survive? After everything we've done, do we deserve to?"

Creator Jason Rothenberg said that if and when we see that shot in its finished form, it'll be later in the season, but the producers wanted to offer fans a tease for the season, given that they haven't started filming yet.

"The earth strikes back in Season 4, it is an unbeatable foe," Rothenberg promised of next year's story. "It quickly becomes about not how to stop it, because stopping it is not possible, but how do we survive? There aren't enough lifeboats, so who gets to choose who lives?"

Cast members Taylor, Henry Ian Cusick, Marie Avgeropoulos, Richard Harmon, Lindsey Morgan and Chris Larkin were present on the panel to preview what's ahead for their characters after the dramatic events of Season 3, which saw the deaths of major characters including Lexa, Lincoln and Pike.

Producer Applauds Social Impact of Lexa's Death

Avgeropoulos' Octavia killed Pike in revenge for his murder of her lover, Lincoln, and the actress promised that "Octavia will take a really dark turn" in Season 4. "She's going to do what she does best, which is killing people," and will be channeling her inner assassin, according to Avgeropoulos. "She really found her home within herself in becoming a warrior, and that's thanks to Lincoln and Indra."

Here's what else we learned on the panel:

"The City of Light is gone, the flame exists, and all the minds of the commanders are in the flame," Rothenberg says. "The finale was designed from day one ... we always knew Lexa was coming back in the finale, we always knew there was going to be this triumphant, emotional return, but it was also designed as a finale. So Lexa's gone, she's not coming back to the show, but ultimately the flame is an important thing, it's a political artifact."

According to Rothenberg, whoever is in possession of the flame has the power, especially since there are no Nightbloods who can ascend to the position of commander. "There is no commander, there are no Nightbloods that we know of, but there are Nightblood scouts, and we'll meet one" in Season 4. "It'll be an interesting thing for [the new character], when she shows up," because she'll be dealing with the fallout of the murder of the Nightbloods and the loss of the flame, causing the character to wrestle "what is left of her religion, her spirituality."

You can expect Clarke to be back in a position of power in Season 4, with less self doubt and more respect from the adults around her. "This season, Clarke owns her power, she's saved the world," Rothenberg notes. "Kane and Abby recognize that, they recognize that they're dealing with someone special, and it's her time to do it again."

After last season's ordeal with ALIE, Cusick is hopeful that Kane will once again be a leader in his own right. "Kane is fairly pragmatic ... he sees what needs to be done and hopefully won't delve too much into the PTSD," he said. "As a good leader, I would hope he'd put others before himself." The actor also revealed on the panel that he'll be directing an episode in Season 4.

Raven's close encounter with ALIE has changed her

forever, according to Morgan:

"It's not the same Raven, she got the ALIE upgrade, so she's definitely like a Raven 2.0," the actress said. "I think she went through an evolution, she's not only stronger mentally because of the knowledge ALIE left behind, but emotionally and spiritually, she's been to hell and back, she didn't die, so I feel like she's a totally different Raven on a totally different level, ready to take on the biggest enemy yet."

Larkin and Harmon both expressed optimism for their characters after the darkness of last season, especially since Murphy and Monty are involved in burgeoning romances. "He has a possibly blossoming romance, and the last moment between him and Jasper you feel hopeful for the first time in a really long time that they're going to be okay," Larkin said of Monty, who forged a connection with Harper last season.

Creator on Lexa Controversy: 'I Would've Done Some Things Differently'

Murphy, too, has a rare chance for an emotional connection thanks to his relationship with Emori. "He found someone he can share life with, for at least now. For the first time, I can see the possibility of maybe a happy ending for him, and that's really cool," Harmon said.

Rothenberg also revealed the original ending for the Season 3 finale, in which "Jasper comes out of the City of Light and goes and blows his brains out," but the showrunner admitted, "it was too dark, even for me ... It was a horrible way to leave what was a really dark season. Plus I felt like there was more in the tank for Jasper. It was something that I, in my gut, didn't feel right about, so I cut it and we found the better ending."

The cast shared another secret that never made it to

screen in the series premiere, it was originally intended for Kane to be Octavia's father, but the idea was scrapped after it was filmed.

Season 4 will also see Zach McGowan's Ice Nation King Roan return in a big way, since the actor has been promoted to series regular status, and despite Indra's



'The 100' Season 4 poster

grave wounds last season, Rothenberg confirmed that she is alive and that Adina Porter will return for multiple episodes in the new season.

"The 100" returns for Season 4 at midseason on The CW. — Reuters



BAYREUTH, GERMANY: This file photo taken on July 25, 2011 shows workers rolling out the red carpet in front of the festival house on the "Green Hill" prior to the Bayreuth music festival in Bayreuth, southern Germany. — AFP

Security fears loom over Bayreuth opera fest

Germany's legendary Bayreuth opera festival dedicated to the works of Richard Wagner opens Monday, but security fears and off-stage drama threaten to cast a long shadow over the 140-year-old event.

The curtain goes up just days after an 18-year-old German-Iranian went on a shooting rampage in Munich killing nine people before shooting himself. Only a week earlier, five people were after injured in an axe attack on a Bavarian train in Wuerzburg that was claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group.

Bayreuth is just a two-hour ride from both incidents. In the wake of the shooting in Munich, the regional state premier of Bavaria, Horst Seehofer, said the traditional opening banquet originally planned for Monday would be cancelled out of respect for the victims and their families.

Tighter security on Bayreuth's mythic Green Hill-on which stands the Festspielhaus festival theatre-has been in place since the start of rehearsals in June. Town authorities called for stepped measures following rumours that this year's new production, which no one has seen yet, of Richard Wagner's last opera, "Parsifal", could be seen as being critical of Islam.

According to media reports, subsequently dismissed by the production's director Uwe Eric Laufenberg, the "Flowermaidens" in the opera were to have worn burqas. Festival insiders say the heightened security could sour the hitherto idyllic summer atmosphere in Bayreuth's world-famous Festspielhaus, the theatre built to Wagner's own designs.

Star conductor quits

Some observers have even suggested that the extra security was one of the reasons why rising star Latvian conductor, Andris Nelsons—who had been scheduled to direct the glitzy opening gala—quit with just four weeks to go.

The opening night of the festival, one of the highlights of Germany's social and cultural calendar, is traditionally attended by the country's political and social elite. Chancellor Angela Merkel, a keen opera fan, has trodden the red carpet almost every year, but she will not be attending this year owing to a diary clash.

In contrast to past years, all bags and cushions will be banned from the auditorium as well as the cloakrooms and patrons have to carry photo ID with them at all

times. Meanwhile, the approach road up the storied Green Hill to the Festspielhaus will be blocked to cars. It is not only visitors who are affected. In one incident, star tenor Klaus Florian Vogt, who is singing the title role in "Parsifal", was stopped and questioned by security personnel during a rehearsal break, because he was wearing army fatigues as part of his costume. Conductor Nelsons, a notoriously shy and sensitive artist, may also have been put off.

The 37-year-old's management complained in a statement that the atmosphere "did not develop in a mutually comfortable way for all parties."

Bitter feuds

Given the bitter feuds between Wagner's descendants over control of the festival, founded in 1876, the behind-the-scenes machinations in Bayreuth are often more entertaining than the productions themselves, with every artistic tantrum and diva clash gleefully pounced on by the media.

This year, reports have suggested that Nelsons' departure was also due to constant meddling by the festival's general music director, Christian Thielemann. Last year, Thielemann was rumoured to have sacked one singer because she was close to rival Russian conductor Kirill Petrenko who pipped him to the post of chief conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic.

Petrenko, who has conducted in Bayreuth for the past three years, will also be absent this year and is being replaced by veteran conductor Marek Janowski. The genesis of the new production of "Parsifal" was also dogged by controversy. Originally, the German performance artist Jonathan Meese had been invited to stage the work. But the self-styled enfant terrible of the German art scene has never directed an opera before and was dismissed from the project because of cost overruns.

Laufenberg, who runs an opera house in Wiesbaden, was parachuted in to replace him. The Bayreuth Festival runs from July 25 until August 28 with 30 performances of seven different operas—"Parsifal", "Tristan and Isolde", "The Flying Dutchman" and the "Ring" comprising "Rhinegold", "The Valkyrie", "Siegfried" and "Twilight of the Gods". — AFP

New York summer camp students dig up ancient artifact

Some young Indiana Joneses in the making have dug up an ancient artifact dating back thousands of years while attending a summer camp at a New York college.

Officials at the State University of New York at Geneseo say fifth through 11th graders from Rochester public schools were excavating an area on campus when they found the base of a projectile point that's believed to be 3,000 to 6,000 years old.

The students are part of the Rochester Young Scholars Academy at Geneseo summer camp. It's the second time archaeology has been the theme for the 10-year-old program. Students in a previous camp also unearthed prehistoric projectile points.

Students will continue to do archaeological digs on the Geneseo campus through Friday. — AP

Artifacts to be returned by US to Guatemala

Seven priceless Mayan artifacts looted decades ago from Guatemala are returning to the land of their creation after a representative for an antiquities collector grew suspicious of their origin and contacted the FBI.

Experts called in by the agency quickly determined the limestone pieces, all more than a thousand years old, were removed illegally from two specific regions of Guatemala and sold to a California collector in the 1970s.

"Four larger limestone pieces date to 400 to 600 A.D.," said FBI special agent Elizabeth Rivas, whose specialty is art crimes investigation. "Experts believe they are symbolic of the Earth Monster connecting the Earth to the underworld."

Three smaller pieces covered in hieroglyphics likely once made up a calendar outside an ancient temple in Guatemala's Petexbatun region, Rivas said. They are believed to be 1,400 to 1,100 years old.

All seven were placed on display at Los Angeles' FBI headquarters Friday for a news conference attended by US and Guatemalan officials. The consul general to Guatemala's Los Angeles consulate called them priceless.

"They are part of our culture. Part of our people. Part of our earth. Every piece that is returned to Guatemala for us is very important," said Roberto Archila, who thanked the FBI and US government. He said Guatemala plans to ship them to a museum dedicated to Mayan artifacts and eventually put them on display.

Rivas said the FBI became aware of the artifacts' existence in the 1970s when authorities charged an antiquities dealer with illegally selling other pieces stolen from Guatemala.

"Because we could not determine where in Guatemala they came from or when they came to the US we could not prove they were stolen," she said of the seven pieces.

Had the agency had the capability to determine their provenance then, Rivas added, the dealer likely would have faced additional charges. She said officials believe the buyer didn't know they were stolen. "An innocent buyer who is a collector purchased the items inside the US and he had them for many, many years," she said.

After that person died an individual handling the estate discovered the pieces had no papers showing their provenance, or chain of ownership, which would also show if they left Guatemala legally. That's when the FBI and its experts were called in. Rivas declined to identify the collector or the third party other than to say they were from California. She said the person who contacted the FBI was happy to learn the pieces are going back to Guatemala.

Since 1970 the United States has cooperated with countries around the world in efforts to return looted artifacts. The FBI formed an art crime team in 2004 to help in that effort, and since then officials say it has recovered more than 14,850 items valued at more than \$165 billion.

"We're really happy to be part of this," said Deirdre Fike, assistant director of the FBI's Los Angeles office. "This is a good news story." — AP



LOS ANGELES: Los Angeles-based Consul General of Guatemala, Roberto Archila reviews pre-Columbian Mayan artifacts during a repatriation ceremony at the FBI Offices on Friday. — AP

Oregon man sentenced in celebrity hacking case

A man who admitted hacking hundreds of email accounts and stealing explicit photos from several unidentified celebrities was sentenced Thursday to six months in federal prison.

US District Judge John A. Kronstadt sentenced Andrew Helton of Astoria, Oregon, to the prison term and two years of supervised release on Thursday. Helton pleaded guilty in March to stealing 161 nude or explicit photos from 13 people, including unidentified celebrities. Authorities have said they do not believe any of the images he stole were publicly released. His arrest in 2013 preceded the leaking of hundreds of nude images of celebrities, including Oscar-winning actress Jennifer Lawrence, model Kate Upton and others.

"For more than two years, defendant Andrew Helton targeted, baited, and hooked unsuspecting victims with his phishing e-mails," Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie S. Christensen wrote in a filing urging Kronstadt to sentence Helton to at least a year in prison. "He targeted strangers, acquaintances, and celebrities alike. He trolled through their private e-mail accounts, accessing the most private of communications. He systematically pilfered nude and intimate images of his victims and stored them in his own computer for personal use."

His attorney contended Helton should not receive a prison sentence because the phishing technique Helton used was not technologically sophisticated. Helton said in lengthy remarks in court that his arrest forced him to confront his mental health issues and change his life. "For the last ... five years or so, I've been a dead man walking, so to speak," Helton said at the outset of lengthy comments about how his arrest changed his life.

"Mental illness took over my life and surrounded everything," Helton said. Court filings noted he was diagnosed with bipolar disorder after his arrest in 2013 and has been receiving treatment ever since.

He said for the first time in his life, he can envision a future and wants to help people. He told Kronstadt he has a book coming out of short stories that he hopes will help people who have to undergo certain surgical procedures.

"I have a better life now than I could have ever imagined," Helton said in court. Kronstadt said Helton was clearly well-educated and had "a substantial amount of talent." Helton nodded when the judge told him that the case involved "very serious invasions of privacy," but Kronstadt said he hoped the sentence would allow Helton to move forward.

"I regard this as part of a new beginning," Kronstadt said. Prosecutors say Helton's "phishing" scheme involved sending victims emails they thought were from Apple or Google. The messages asked victims to verify their email accounts by clicking on a link that took them to a phony website, where Helton collected their usernames and passwords. — AP

3 subway stations to host free underground Mozart concerts

New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority is celebrating Mozart with special performances at three subway stations.

Friday's performances will kick off Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts' annual Mostly Mozart Festival. The free underground Mozart concerts will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Manhattan at Fulton Center, Times Square and 59th Street-Columbus Circle.

The performances at Fulton Center will be available on Facebook Live via Lincoln Center's Facebook page. The Mostly Mozart Festival is a series of concerts at Lincoln Center and other New York City venues. The festival is marking its 50th anniversary. — AP

Swiss seize Monet, van Gogh works amid US probe of fund 1MDB

Swiss authorities have seized three paintings by Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh following a US request as part of a probe into the scandal surrounding the Malaysian wealth fund 1MDB. A Federal Office of Justice spokesman said Friday that van Gogh's "La Maison de Vincent a Arles" and "Saint-Georges Majeur" and Monet's "Nymphs avec Reflets de Hautes Herbes" were confiscated on Thursday. He declined to specify the location of the confiscations or give his name because the investigation was ongoing.

Justice officials declined to estimate the value of the works, but Christie's Web site says "La Maison de Vincent a Arles" sold for nearly \$5.5 million at a New York auction in November 2013. The US on Wednesday announced moves to recover over \$1 billion that officials say was stolen from 1MDB by people close to Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak. US federal documents say the diverted funds paid for luxury US properties, a \$35 million jet, artworks, and helped finance Hollywood film, "The Wolf of Wall Street." — AP



SAN DIEGO: A general view of atmosphere during Comic-Con International yesterday. — AFP

Comic-Con builds buzz for 'Walking Dead,' 'Thrones'

Ratings juggernaut "The Walking Dead" revealed on Friday fans will have to wait until October 23 to see how one of the most talked-about cliffhangers in cable TV history plays out.

Showrunner Scott Gimple announced the date for the season seven opener on day two of the annual San Diego Comic-Con fanfest, with the Hall H schedule cleared for networks to show off their biggest shows.

Viewers in 125 countries across the world will be able to see the "Walking Dead" opener, distributed internationally by Fox, within 24 hours of its US debut. "It's absolutely worth the wait," executive producer Robert Kirkman promised of the hotly-anticipated episode, directed by fellow exec producer Greg Nicotero.

The focus of season six was the debut of arch-nemesis Negan, who is seen in the comic books beating one of the best-loved characters to death. The producers of cable TV's most successful show ever have generated huge buzz among its millions of fans by building up to the moment. Season six teased audiences over whether the same character would be on the end of Negan's barbed-wire-covered baseball bat, "Lucille." But it wrapped amid controversy with the question unanswered, in an excruciating cliffhanger that sparked outrage online among fans who felt they were being manipulated.

A packed crowd in Comic-Con's 6,500-seat main venue was treated to new footage of season seven, although there were no big clues on the identity of Negan's victim.

'Intensity and violence'

Instead, fans were offered glimpses at The Kingdom, a group from Kirkman's comic books, and its leader Ezekiel and his pet tiger. Jeffery Dean Morgan, who plays Negan, opened the session walking behind seated cast members, menacingly wielding Lucille.

Among the stars at the panel were Andrew Lincoln who plays the central character, Rick Grimes-Norman Reedus, Lauren Cohan and Steven Yeun. "We all link arms, it's a really shitty start to the season, but hang on because we are heading to one of the greatest show-downs of the show," said Lincoln.

Season seven will be broken up, with the show returning for the final eight episodes of the run in February. Comic-Con attendees also heard from the cast and crew behind the show's spin-off, "Fear the Walking Dead," which returns after a mid-season break on August 21.

A new trailer showed the survivors, split up and facing a burgeoning apocalypse south of the border in Mexico. "They're separated and learning to survive on their own... there's a level of intensity and violence you haven't seen before," said executive producer Dave Erickson.

There was a moment of comic relief when "Fear" actor Lorenzo James Henrie said he had learned a lot about what it was like to be targeted and tormented through playing his character, Chris.

Record-breaking

When a puzzled murmur began to spread throughout the hall, moderator Chris Hardwick had to point out to the nonplussed audience that the actor had said "bullying," not "bowling." Hall H—where participating studios and networks show off their most prestigious shows—was taken over in the afternoon by "Game of Thrones."

One of the big topics of conversation was a delayed start to the new season, which will be shot with the fictional land of Westeros finally experiencing winter. "Winter is here, and we've got to shoot in places with trees and wait for the leaves to turn," said showrunner David Benioff.

"Game of Thrones" enjoyed a record-breaking season six with more than 25 million viewers a week and 23 Emmy nominations, including best drama, which it won last year. Benioff and co-showrunner D.B. Weiss have announced a shortened run of episodes for the final two seasons while HBO has confirmed season seven will return in the summer of 2017.

The show usually premieres in April, but Benioff said the later start would allow more time to film during colder weather. He told the Comic-Con crowd the show would not finish shooting until February and that "there's no way to get the show out there until summer." — AFP

Roger Ailes, a fallen TV titan who mixed politics and media

As a TV impresario and political puppet-master, Roger Ailes is unmatched in our time. He didn't invent anything, as Ted Turner did with "superstations" and cable news. He didn't assemble a media empire, as did his now-former boss Rupert Murdoch. Instead, with an uncanny instinct for matching messages with fiercely held desires, he has strip-mined the cultures of entertainment, news and politics that he began disrupting a half-century ago, and merged them as a form of propaganda retooled for the TV age.

Now, at age 76, Ailes has been vanquished from Fox News Channel, which he masterminded almost 20 years ago and had lorded over ever since. Little more than two weeks ago, a lawsuit filed by former Fox News host Gretchen Carlson charged him with sexual harassment. He denied her allegations, and those from other past and present female co-workers who spoke up after her. But with blistering speed his reign ended Thursday.

Where that leaves Fox News Channel, Ailes' grandest enterprise, is anybody's guess. It has been the ratings leader for 15 years and is hugely profitable for parent company 21st Century Fox. But more than one observer has opined that "Ailes IS Fox News Channel," that Fox News is an engine that only Ailes can gun to full speed.



NEW YORK: Fox News CEO Roger Ailes poses at Fox News on Sept. 29, 2006. — AP

Fox News was crafted in Ailes' own image - brash, combative, cunning; disdainful of mainstream media as elitist and liberal; and, like Ailes, positioned as a full-throated champion of the Common Man. Despite its "Fair & Balanced" creed, the network has flourished - or so say its chorus of detractors - as a conservative soap box writ large. Other right-wing outlets would follow (including the Newsmax magazine and website, and the digital Drudge Report). But among mass media, Fox News Channel stands unrivaled as the GOP house organ.

Republican party

Ailes' ties to the Republican Party are strong and enduring, and his initiation as a GOP strategist was a doozy: Still in his 20s, Ailes was key to the video makeover of Richard Nixon that, in 1968, would help land him in the White House. By then, Ailes' skill as a television prodigy was clear. His entry-level job out of college, as a production assistant to a local Cleveland variety show, swiftly ballooned into that of executive producer of what by then was a coast-to-coast daytime hit.

Hosted by a former big-band singer, "The Mike Douglas Show" had a distinctive flair. With Ailes in charge, its 90 breezy minutes blended music with chat, and each week's five shows

teamed Douglas with a visiting co-host whose ranks included Ray Charles, Barbra Streisand, Muhammad Ali and even John Lennon. It was on the "Douglas" show that Ailes met famously untelegenic Nixon, there as a guest as he laid the groundwork for his presidential run. "Mr. Nixon, you need a media adviser," Ailes declared (according to biographer Gabriel Sherman in "The Loudest Voice in the Room").

"What's a media adviser?" asked Nixon. "I am," replied Ailes, fashioning the job on the spot. Ailes' pioneering efforts on Nixon's behalf wed politics with the veneer of TV journalism to humanize the candidate for viewers at home. TV specials were staged as town hall meetings that had Nixon fielding softball questions from hand-picked supporters. It was politics, faux-news and entertainment all in one.

Thus did Ailes help validate the title of Joe McGinniss' campaign tell-all, "The Selling of the President 1968." Ailes would find no role awaiting him in the new administration, not after the cutting remarks the book quoted him as making about the graceless candidate he had helped sell voters on. Never mind. He was on his way.

Launch of Fox News

By the time Fox News Channel launched on Oct. 7, 1996, Ailes had enjoyed a robust career that included, in the 1970s, a stint running a right-wing news service that presaged Fox News. He had done political consulting for President Ronald Reagan and for Vice President George H.W. Bush in his victorious 1988 presidential race. He had brought right-wing radio sensation Rush Limbaugh to TV in a weekday show that premiered in 1993 and aired four seasons.

Meanwhile, he was running the financial network CNBC, and had launched a second NBC-owned cable network, America's Talking, programmed with practical advice designed to help "normal people" as opposed to the "freaks" who watched "dysfunctional" talk shows, as Ailes explained at the time with his typical bluntness.

By then, he was claiming he was done with politics: "I've gotten over all the cynicism of politics," he insisted. Maybe so. He had always been "more interested in the political potential of TV than he was in politics itself," according to Tom Junod's 2011 Esquire profile, since early on he had deduced that "television was by definition a political medium."

In early 1996, when America's Talking was scrapped to clear the way for NBC's forthcoming MSNBC, Ailes quit in a huff. But, teaming up with Murdoch, he was game to join the cable-news fray on his own terms: courting viewers who felt disenfranchised by CNN and other media outlets they scorned as left-wing, and who would flock to a network with populist appeal.

Ailes' new network would also offer eye appeal, at least for the guys in the audience. News analyst Andrew Tyndall this week cited as a Fox News hallmark "the unreconstructed stereotypes ... of the genders" in the form of "crusty curmudgeonly white men paired with mini-skirted leggy blondes." However retrograde such a strategy was, it, like Fox News' political agenda, was intrinsic to Ailes' world view. And, like Fox News' phantom "Fair & Balanced" policy, using women as eye candy has served the network well. But time ran out for Ailes. Judging from the allegations that triggered his whirlwind removal, seeing women as eye candy didn't serve him so well. It led to the downfall of this peerless TV titan. — AP



SAN DIEGO: Actors Iwan Rheon (L) and Faye Marsay attend the "Game of Thrones" panel during Comic-Con International 2016 at San Diego Convention Center on Friday. — AFP

'Game of Thrones' blames delayed episodes on winter

"Game of Thrones" showrunner David Benioff told fans at Comic-Con International on Friday a delay in screening the new series had been unavoidable, because "winter is here."

The hit fantasy epic has been teasing winter's arrival since its pilot episode, and with the season six finale entitled "The Winds of Winter," the camera crew has been forced to wait for colder weather. "Winter is here, and we've got to shoot in places with trees and wait for the leaves to turn," Benioff told Comic-Con's packed 6,500-seat Hall H.

He was joined at the San Diego fanfest by cast members including Liam Cunningham, Sophie Turner and the departing Kristian Nairn, as well as director Miguel Sapochnik. Benioff and co-showrunner D.B. Weiss had already announced a shortened run of episodes for the final two seasons while HBO has confirmed season seven will return in the summer of 2017. The show usually premieres in April, but Benioff said the later start would allow more time to film during colder weather. He told the Comic-Con crowd the show would not finish shooting until February and that "there's no way to get the show out there until summer."

"Game of Thrones" tells the story of noble families vying for control of the Iron Throne, all the while keeping one eye on the "White Walkers" leading hordes of the undead toward an invasion from the North. It enjoyed a record-breaking season six with more than 25 million viewers a week and 23 Emmy nominations, including best drama, which it won last year. Season six of "Game of Thrones" was the first to move beyond George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" novels. "It's still ultimately George's imagination that gave us these characters, that gave us this world... Hopefully we're still living out the spirit of George's imagination," Benioff said.

Nairn received a standing ovation from the Comic-Con crowd, who chanted "Hodor, Hodor" in honor of one of the show's best loved characters. "I did not expect it to be so crazy, I'm really, really flattered—it's blown my mind," the 40-year-old Northern Irish actor said.

The panel were asked who would win the Iron Throne and Sapochnik answered that he "would be very happy if they shared it, but I don't think that is going to happen." Iwan Rheon, who plays the sadistic Ramsay Bolton, got cheers from the audience when he said he would "melt the thing down and have a democracy." — AFP

Oliver Stone says studios' boards led to 'Snowden' rejection

Director Oliver Stone said Thursday at Comic-Con that every major movie studio turned down his narrative film about Edward Snowden because of censorship from their corporate leaders.

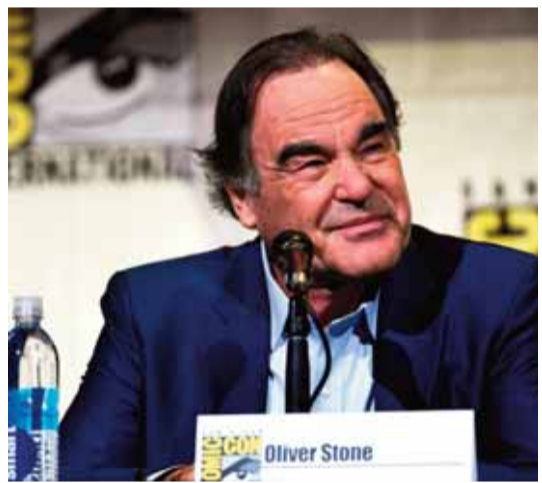
Stone, who has chronicled many American conspiracies in his films, said he does not believe an entity like the National Security Agency is putting pressure on the studios, but the corporate boards who control them.

He got financing from France and Germany for the movie, which comes out Sept. 16 and stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt as Snowden. Stone said he believes Snowden is still "a mystery" despite many interviews, articles and the Oscar-winning documentary "Citizenfour" exploring the former NSA contractor who leaked thousands of classified documents about the government's surveillance programs.

Snowden now lives in Russia, and Stone met with him a number of times in Moscow, trying to gain his trust and decide whether to take on the project. Gordon-Levitt also tried to get to know Snowden before portraying him. The actor said he was particularly surprised at Snowden's optimism about the ability of technology to positively change the future.

The conversation Thursday took a decidedly heady turn, away from the usual fanboy fun and toward big ideas about government transparency and the surveillance state. "We're promised privacy in the Constitution, and if the government was going to change those rules, they have to be open about it," Gordon-Levitt said. "We're supposed to have that conversation and decide together."

The film is set to screen for the first time Thursday at the annual fan convention. Although Stone and the cast have their own views on Snowden, the filmmaker stressed that the movie is not one-sided. "We don't want to take sides on this in the movie," Stone said. "You have to see the movie to explore the positions." Gordon-Levitt added that it's a story that does not lend itself to a headline. "It isn't even as simple as a two-hour film," he said. — AP



SAN DIEGO: Director/writer Oliver Stone attends the "Snowden" panel on day 1 of Comic-Con International on Thursday. — AP

'Fear the Walking Dead' introduces new cast member

The newest cast member of "The Walking Dead" spin-off was introduced to the zombie drama franchise in an overwhelming way.

Danay Garcia told the crowd during the "Fear the Walking Dead" panel Friday at San Diego Comic-Con International that she arrived for her first day on the Mexican set during lunch and was greeted by hordes of zombie extras chowing down. "It happened so fast," Garcia said. "I got the job on a Wednesday. I was in Mexico on Friday. I was on set on Monday."

Garcia is playing Luciana, a member of a community near Tijuana, Mexico, with a very different approach to the series' "walkers." "They don't see the dead as a bad thing,"

said "Fear the Walking Dead" executive producer Dave Erickson.

Frank Dillane's recovering addict Nick encounters Garcia's character after he ditches his fractured family earlier in the season. "She's testing him," said Garcia at the pop-culture convention. "He's the foreigner." The second half of the second season of "Fear the Walking Dead" will premiere Aug. 21. — AP



SAN DIEGO: Kim Dickens, left, and Cliff Curtis attend the "Fear the Walking Dead" panel on day 2 of Comic-Con International on Friday. — AP



CLEVELAND: Confetti and balloons fall during celebrations after Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's acceptance speech on the final day of the Republican National Convention on Thursday. — AP

Fruitless search for consensus after Trump speech

A look at the 2016 Republican National Convention through a media lens: A diverse media speaking to a divided nation found something it could agree upon with Donald Trump's acceptance speech: It was long.

That was about the only consensus to be found as news organizations and their representatives sought to sum up the convention's crowning moment Thursday. "If Americans were not scared for their safety before tonight, they are now," said ABC News' Martha Raddatz.

Fox News Channel's Chris Wallace said the speech read better on paper than it was delivered. "For some reason, he shouted the speech," he said. "It was an endurance test." While MSNBC's Chris Matthews felt the speech was too much of a harangue, it hit strong points at the end. "It was pure Trump," he said.

CNN's in-house Trump supporter, Jeffrey Lord, said it reminded him of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Former New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, speaking on Fox News Channel, could find no comparison. "This was the best acceptance speech I've ever seen, including my hero, Ronald Reagan," Giuliani said. On CNN, Ana Navarro had a

slightly different take. "If you are a Republican who came to this convention hungry for an uplifting, unifying, visionary speech, you're going home starving," she said.

The media, it seems clear, is still trying to figure Donald Trump out.

WHERE'S PENCE? The speech on the penultimate night of the convention is supposed to be the shining moment for a party's vice presidential candidate. But despite a well-received address in the arena, Mike Pence was a missing man the morning after. Ted Cruz's non-endorsement speech so dominated the coverage, Pence was all but forgotten. News organizations were reflecting what people were thinking, though. The Nielsen company said the most tweeted-about moment of Wednesday night was the minute after Cruz's speech.

WORKING THE REFS: Media critic Bernard Goldberg believes reporters look for negative stories when covering Republicans, and he sought to put colleagues on notice during an appearance on Fox News' "The O'Reilly Factor." He complained about the attention paid to Cruz's speech, even as he admitted it was a news story. "They will cover

the Democratic convention as a coronation," he said, "and they are covering the Republican convention as if it's an anti-abortion rally."

RATINGS: The television audience grew with the third night of coverage. The Nielsen company said 23.4 million people watched Wednesday night's session, up from the 21.9 million who watched the penultimate night of the 2012 Republican convention. Fox News Channel was the top-rated television outlet for convention coverage, followed by NBC and CNN.

BREAKING NEWS: It's been a good week for CNN's chyron writers, but the person who wrote this message seemed a little weary. "Breaking news!" the onscreen message read. "Source: Expect a few new things in Trump's speech." — AP

Judge denies witness details in murder case of rap mogul

Defense lawyers for Marion "Suge" Knight will not be given addresses and other information about confidential informants and key witnesses in the murder case against the former rap mogul, a judge ruled Friday after a closed-door meeting with a prosecutor and police detective.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Ronald Coen made the decision after prosecutors cited Knight's history of violence and allegations that he has intimidated witnesses.

However, Coen said some of the details will need to be disclosed shortly before Knight goes on trial. The 51-year-old Knight was boisterous throughout the hearing and at one point complained that he wasn't receiving proper medical treatment in jail. He told the judge he recently spent 10 days in a hospital after doctors found blood clots in his arm and neck.

"I'd hate to go through all of this and die in jail," Knight said during lengthy remarks to the judge. "I just know my time is ticking some days because of my health." "I think it's really important you listen to me because I have no one else to talk to," Knight said. Coen said he would sign any orders for medical treatment that Knight required. "I don't want you dying," he said.

Knight lashed out at his attorneys during a recess after he spoke to Coen, who had urged Knight to heed the advice of his lawyers to remain silent. Knight could be heard yelling after deputies took him out of the courtroom. "I have a right to know what is going on," Knight told his lawyers. "This has to be a real conversation. I'm not an idiot, you have to consult with me."

Knight's Attorney

Knight's attorney J. Tooson said his client's reaction was "natural in a case this high-profile." He also noted that Knight hasn't been able to see his fiancée Toi-Lin Kelly and young son. Kelly said during the recess that Knight addressed the judge directly because he isn't being treated fairly.

"He feels like he has a voice and he can talk to somebody," she said. Knight has pleaded not guilty to murder and attempted murder charges filed after security camera video showed him running over two men in January 2015 outside a Compton burger stand. One of the men died.

Knight could face life in prison if convicted. A trial date has not been set. His lawyers had wanted details about people who saw the confrontation, including some who are gang members. One of the witnesses is Cle "Bone" Sloan, who survived being hit by Knight's pickup truck after he repeatedly punched the former mogul during the incident. The judge withheld Sloan's address from Knight's lawyers.

Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Barnes said she would arrange interviews of Sloan and other witnesses by Knight's lawyers. Knight's Death Row Records label fueled gangster rap's popularity in the 1990s, with a roster of artists that included Dr. Dre, Tupac Shakur and Snoop Dogg. He lost control of the company after it was forced into bankruptcy.

Knight pleaded no contest in 1995 and was sentenced to five years' probation for assaulting two rappers in 1992. He was sentenced to prison in 1997 for violating his probation by taking part in a fight at a Las Vegas hotel hours before Shakur was fatally wounded in a drive-by shooting as he rode in Knight's car. — AP



LOS ANGELES: Marion "Suge" Knight sits in court during a bail hearing in his murder case on July 17, 2015. — AP

Teresa Palmer tapped into childhood fear for 'Lights Out'

Teresa Palmer says she tapped into a part of herself that was scared of the dark as a child for her new horror movie, "Lights Out." "I remember I had a touch-lamp next to my bed and I would tap it on the brightest light, and I remember my mom would always come in and she was like, 'That's too bright to sleep, we've got to put it on the dimmer one,' and I was like, 'OK, goodnight, mom.' And then (push the button) right back up to the bright one. I was just petrified."

In "Lights Out," now in theaters, Palmer plays a young woman who has distanced herself from her family because of trauma she experienced growing up, but is drawn back in when her younger brother begins to experience the same things she went through.

Palmer says playing out the emotional scenes sometimes took its physical toll on the set where she had migraines for three days. One thing that's funny in retrospect, she says, is the woman who plays an evil spirit in the film is actually "the sweetest" in real life.

"I know her actually. She was my stunt double in 'I Am Number 4.' Her name's Alicia Vela-Bailey and she's this incredible stunt woman and a contortionist and she's very thin and lean and the way she can move her body was really abnormal. I've never seen anyone being able to move their body like that, so she just made it so scary, and then in the suit (costume), she'd be talking about her wedding dress and she's so excited and in a few weeks she's getting married," she said with a laugh.

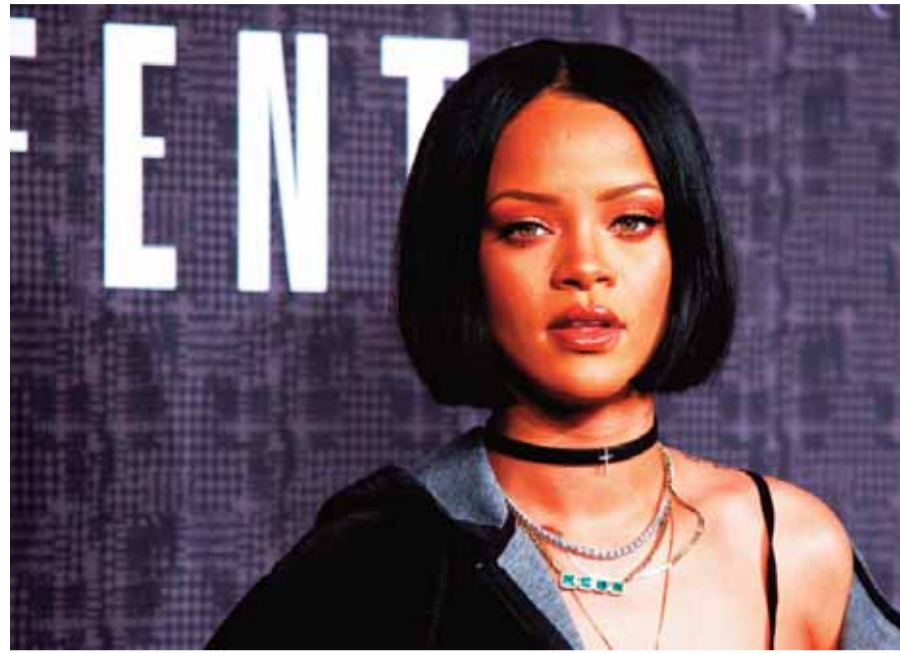
Palmer was also quick to bond with her young co-star, Gabriel Bateman, who plays her brother. "I would always check with him and make sure, 'Are you doing OK? How are you feeling? Should we take a break?'"

The 30-year-old actress, who is expecting her second son with actor, writer, director Mark Webber later this year, says she's always had a connection with kids. "I've always been so fond of children. I remember when I was 10, all my little friends were the 6-year-old little girls and boys at school that I'd take under my wing and take to the playground. I've always been very maternal in that sense but it's just been heightened now that I'm actually a mother."

After appearing in nine films since 2014, Palmer says she's planning a "year of no." When she resumes working, she looks forward to taking her children to the set. "I have the luxury of being able to work and being a mama because Hollywood is really embracing working moms these days, so I can bring my son everywhere. He's traveled to every film set. I haven't spent a day away from him. Every day he's with me. It's nice you have so much downtime as an actor that you're in your trailer with your family, you go and shoot for a little bit and then you're back with your family again." —AP



NEW YORK: Actress Teresa Palmer, star of the horror film, "Lights Out," poses for a portrait on July 18, 2016. — AP



NEW YORK: Rihanna attends the JFENTY PUMA by Rihanna fashion show on Feb. 12, 2016. — AP

Rihanna to play Marion Crane in 'Bates Motel'

Rihanna is checking into the final season of "Bates Motel" as Marion Crane. The cast and crew of the A&E drama announced Friday at San Diego Comic-Con International that the singer-actress will join them to portray the role originated by Janet Leigh in the original film version of "Psycho."

"Let me tell you what a bad bitch is about to do," Rihanna said in a video played during the "Bates Motel" panel. "I'm about to check into the Bates Motel very soon."

"Bates Motel" executive producers Kerry Ehrin and Carlton Cuse were on hand at the pop-culture convention with cast members Vera Farmiga, Freddie Highmore, Max Thieriot and Nestor Carbonell on Friday to discuss the show's upcoming fifth and final season.

Cuse said he and Ehrin heard Rihanna was a fan of the psychological series and called her casting the "perfect collision of creativity and fate." In the film, the character famously meets her bloody demise in the shower of Room 1.

The modern-day "Psycho" prequel debuted in 2013 and features Highmore and Farmiga as Norma and Norman Bates operating the motel in the coastal town of White Pine Bay, Oregon. While best known for songs such as "Umbrella" and "Work," Rihanna's previous acting credits include the board game adaptation "Battleship" and the apocalypse comedy "This is the End." — AP

Q&A: Patsy, Eddie and friend Kate Moss hit the big screen

Champagne socialites Eddie and Patsy are back onscreen in a movie spin-off of the hugely popular BBC television series "Absolutely Fabulous." The film comes 24 years after the self-absorbed duo, played by Jennifer Saunders and Joanna Lumley, first hit TV screens in 1992. The pair sat down to talk about the transformation to the big screen, convincing supermodel Kate Moss to film in the Thames and the possibility of more movies. The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Associated Press: Was the series always going to be a film? Was that always in the back of your minds that you'd put it onto the big screen?

Joanna Lumley: It was always in the back of Jennifer's mind ever since I placed it there in 1995. So, she's been thinking about this for a long time.

Jennifer Saunders: Yeah, every time I saw you, you'd go to me, "Do a film, write a film, write a film."

AP: Honestly, really, was it?
Saunders: Seriously, and then she started telling the press that I was writing a film, so I actually had to write a film. Otherwise I just look stupid. "What happened to the film?" We go, "There was no film, Joanna made it up."

AP: Getting Kate Moss on board - was she written in from the beginning?

Saunders: I wrote the whole thing and then forgot to ask her. Wrote the whole thing, sold it to Fox and the BBC and they said, "So Kate's up for it?" I went, (snaps fingers) "Got to ask Kate." I just thought she'd be cool about it and she was cool about it. She's, you know... I thought, well if she says no, we have to get a picture of her or something and push it off the balcony.

Lumley: Did you really think that? You didn't think that would work on a movie did you? You didn't think pushing a photograph off the edge would work?

Saunders: To be honest, I didn't think it through.

Lumley: No, you haven't thought it through, Jennifer. This is not the first time.

Saunders: No, I know. We were very lucky - very lucky - that she said yes.

AP: And she's such a good sport, as well. I mean, was she actually in the Thames?

Lumley: Oh my God yes.

Saunders: Yes. She was so good and people were going, "Have a cup of tea, have a blanket" and she'd go, "Oh, you're all being so nice. If this was a modeling shoot they'd just leave me here and tell me to stop shivering."

AP: What was the atmosphere like on set, was there any actual partying?

Saunders: It's hard work because you have to fit an awful lot into a day and you cannot afford to get behind because if you start getting behind then everything falls apart. So, we're on a very tight schedule and we moved like the wind.

Lumley: We did, however, have a lunch break when we were filming the Hooke Mookie party and we had a lunch break at the wonderful old Prospect of Whitby, which is one of the most ancient of the English pubs, London pubs.

Saunders: We were filming right opposite there, yeah.

Lumley: And who was in there?

ture." Lulu and Emma Bunton probably.

Lumley: Yes, I think she was there. The pub was really cool. They just brought us food.

Saunders: Honestly it was... We had such a lovely time that day. Just hanging out at the Prospect of Whitby with the gang.

AP: And do you think this movie is paving the way for any more? Can you see a sequel or more films coming out?

Lumley: Yes we can.

Saunders: You see, she's started already. She's started already.



Saunders: There was a lunch and then we got a picture of it, all sitting outside the pub, and it was you, Kate, Gwendoline Christie, Jon Hamm, Janette Togh.

Lumley: You.

Saunders: Celia Imrie, Bruno Tonioli. It's just like...

Lumley: It was extraordinary. This is just a sample of some of us clumped together there eating fish and chips.

Saunders: We were all going, "Look at that pic-

Lumley: Yes. I am pleased to say we can see a future.

Saunders: She's started already. In a year's time people will be going, "Where's the sequel, Jennifer?" I'll say, "There was no sequel. There was no movie." — AP

In this image released by Fox Searchlight Pictures, Jennifer Saunders, left, and Joanna Lumley appear in a scene from the film, "Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie." — AP

Star of 'The Bachelor' not running for office after all

Ben Higgins, the most recent star of ABC's "The Bachelor," announced Friday he had abandoned a campaign for public office in Colorado, just two days after filing the required paperwork to run.

Higgins planned to run as a Republican for a Denver state House district that is overwhelmingly Democratic. He filed paperwork to do so Wednesday. In a statement from Disney-

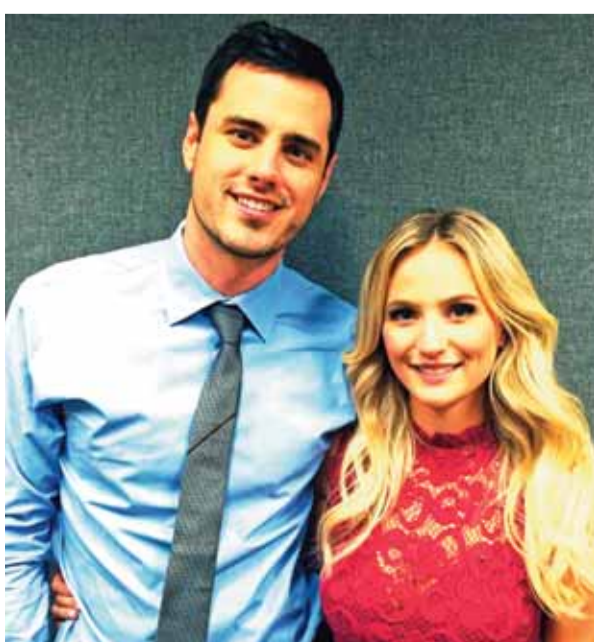
ABC Television Group, Higgins said that "due to unforeseen circumstances, I will not be able to move forward as a candidate."

"Despite my best efforts to pursue this opportunity in good faith, I recently received information that has made such a pursuit unworkable," Higgins said. Higgins was to face Democratic Rep. Dan Pabon, who was recently sentenced to one year probation after pleading guilty to drunken driving in March. Pabon came under fire to resign after police this week released a video of the traffic stop that shows him asking a police officer to call the city attorney or his supervisor before he was arrested.

Higgins appeared last year on ABC's "The Bachelorette." This year, he was star of "The Bachelor" and lives in northwest Denver with his fiancée, Lauren Bushnell. The two have a new show airing this fall, "Ben and Lauren: Happily Ever After."

Dustin Olson, a campaign consultant to Higgins, suggested in a prepared statement that Higgins' decision wasn't a strictly political one, but he didn't elaborate. "Ben and our team are incredibly disappointed," Olson said. "Between support from our friends in the Republican Party, building a talented campaign team, and lining up financial support, we were ready to kick off the campaign with huge announcement rally next week." ABC-Disney and Colorado's Republican Party didn't immediately have comment on the announcement. Higgins had planned to run on a small-government platform that emphasized advocating for affordable housing and small businesses. — AP

NEW YORK: Ben Higgins and Lauren Bushnell pose for a photo on March 15, 2016. — AP



'Scream Queens' reveals changes for Season Two

"I think it's bloodier and funnier," said executive producer Ian Brennan during Friday's Comic-Con panel to talk about the second season of the Fox series "Scream Queens." "I feel like we're leaning into the creepiness a little more and the comedy a little more." The action is moving from the Kappa house and jumping three years into the future where we find out the cast is in a hospital that just happens to be owned by a familiar face. "Dean Munsch parlayed her fame as an icon in the movement called New Feminism and her subsequent book tour and parlayed that money and purchases a hospital," Brennan said. The hospital is also a former asylum but, he confirmed, not the same hospital seen at the end of season one.

Along with Brennan, returning cast members Jamie Lee Curtis (Munsch), Emma Roberts (Chanel), Abigail Breslin (Libby), Billie Lourd (Sadie), Keke Palmer (Zayday), Lea Michele (Hester) and new cast members John Stamos (Brock Holt) and Taylor Lautner (Cassidy Cascade) were present for the panel. Glen Powell (Chad Radwell) will also be returning, though he wasn't in San Diego. For Stamos, joining the cast as the hospital head of surgery was a no-brainer given he'd already appeared on "Glee" and "The Normal Heart" (both series executive produced by Brennan, Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk). After the cancellation of his sitcom "Grandfathered," he talked to Brennan, who explained a bit about the character he had in mind for him: "You play a doctor but you're going to be the recipient of the first complete hand transplant." The origins of that hand, however, will be one of the many questions in the new season. Also entering the "Scream Queens" world is Taylor Lautner, who said he was excited to join the series. "It's

completely different for me," said the "Twilight" star. "I've never done anything like this, and I just wanted to work with talented people." Besides the additions of Stamos and Lautner, it was announced earlier today that former "Arrow"/"Teen Wolf" star Colton Haynes would appear in the new season. "Saturday Night Live" star Cecily Strong is also set to guest star as a patient in the hospital.

As for the Chanels, who dominated the Kappa house in the first season, the mean girls are not exactly where we saw them previously. "They have fallen from glamour but they're trying to hold onto it," revealed Roberts. "It's really funny to see them try to hold onto their style when they have no money and they have to work, which is something completely foreign to them."

But what about Hester, who was revealed to be the killer at the end of season one? "When we come back, we don't know where Hester is," Michele said. "It's great when you find out." While Brennan would not comment on whether the new season's storyline would be linked to the baby mystery in the first season, he did say, "We're in the same world, the same universe." Roberts, who had appeared on the Coven season of "American Horror Story," was asked if she might also appear in the upcoming season of the FX horror show. "I think that there might be [a chance]...now we're both in LA so maybe," she said. "I love that show so much." Season two of "Scream Queens" premieres on September 20 at 9pm on Fox. — Reuters



NORTHAM, AUSTRALIA: This handout photo taken on July 12, 2016 and received on July 23, 2016 shows a hot-air balloon named "Morton", flown by Russian adventurer Fedor Konyukhov, about to take to the skies for a round-the-world trip. — AFP

Russian breaks round-the-world hot air balloon record

Russian adventurer Fedor Konyukhov yesterday broke the record for the fastest round-the-world flight in a hot air balloon, his crew said.

Flight coordinator John Wallington said Konyukhov, who took off from Western Australia on July 12, had successfully flown the route by Saturday afternoon but had yet to land. His journey, taking just over 11 days, is faster than the record set by the late American adventurer Steve Fossett who in 2002 became the first person to fly solo around the world in a balloon in a feat which took 13 days.

"The record is broken-no question," Wallington told AFP, adding that Konyukhov had flown his balloon almost exactly over his starting point. "He flew over the same field which he took off from." The flight route has taken Konyukhov, who is in his 60s, from Australia to above New Zealand, across the Pacific Ocean, South America, the Cape of Good Hope and the Southern Ocean.

During the journey of some 34,823 kilometers, he has been confined to the lightweight gondola which is hung with more than 30 steel cylinders of propane gas. Wallington said the last 24 hours of the trip had been uneventful for the experienced Russian explorer but joked that "the previous 10 days have been awful".

On Konyukhov's website, which has tracked his progress, he has spoken of the strong polar jet stream which pushed him towards Antarctica as he approached Australia, saying it was "scary to be so down south and away from civilization".

"This place feels very lonely and remote. No land, no planes, no ships," he said at the time. Although equipped with sophisticated instruments, conditions inside the carbon fiber gondola were tough, with Konyukhov using an oxygen mask at higher altitudes. He was also dealing with extremely cold temperatures-which at times reached

minus 35 degrees Celsius and saw a layer of ice several centimeters thick form on the gondola.

Conditions could also be dangerous, with the balloonist flying blind as he approached the coast of South America as night fell. He encountered snow and ice crystals as he flew through clouds and severe and turbulence caused his propane cylinders to smash into each other.

'A nice thing to do'

Konyukhov's son Oscar, among those cheering his father's achievement, said the chances of completing a round-the-world solo flight on the first attempt were "one chance of a billion". "But... we still have to land him safely, so we need to be careful," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

The crew hope to get Konyukhov on solid ground before nightfall, but have raised the prospect of keeping

the adventurer in the air if no safe place is found to bring him down.

Oscar Konyukhov admitted that landing was a "very dangerous operation". "We have some wind now so we'll wait until the very late afternoon for the wind to drop and then we will guide him to a big field to slow down and descend," he said.

Konyukhov, who has previously conquered both the north and south poles solo, and sailed a 27-metre-long (89-feet) boat round the world alone was not motivated by breaking the record, Wallington said. "He just thought it would be a really nice thing to do," he said of the round-the-world journey. "Breaking a record is a nice bonus, but the objective was just to fly around the world." — AFP



NEW YORK: Comedian Jon Stewart performs at the 9th Annual Stand Up For Heroes event on Nov. 10, 2015. — AP

Jon Stewart says Trump supporters 'don't own' America

Jon Stewart has told Donald Trump's supporters they can't take America back, because they "don't own" the country in a riff that mirrored his signature segments on "The Daily Show." Stewart was back behind a late night desk Thursday night, joining former Comedy Central colleague Stephen Colbert on a live version of CBS' "Late Show."

Stewart took aim at some of his favorite "Daily Show" targets, Fox News and host Sean Hannity, accusing them of fostering divisiveness. He said Trump supporters feel like they're America's "rightful owners," adding "you don't own patriotism, you don't own Christianity, you sure as hell don't own respect for the bravery and sacrifice of military, police and firefighters." Stewart left the "The Daily Show" last August. He is an executive producer of Colbert's program. — AP



CLEVELAND: Republican Presidential Candidate, Donald Trump, speaks during the final day of the Republican National Convention on Thursday. — AP

British stars complain about Trump's use of their music

The estate of former Beatle George Harrison is complaining about the use of his music at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

Harrison's family tweeted Friday that the use of the song "Here Comes the Sun" during the introduction of candidate Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka was not authorized, and was "offensive and against the wishes of the George Harrison estate."

Rocker Paul Rodgers also complained about the use of his "All Right Now" at the climax of Trump's speech. Earlier in the convention, Brian May of Queen complained about the use of the band's 1977 hit "We Are the Champions" during a Trump convention appearance. — AP

Josh Stewart Joins 'Insidious: Chapter 4'

"Criminal Minds" and "Dirt" actor Josh Stewart has joined the cast of "Insidious: Chapter 4" in a yet to be announced role. Stewart previously played Bane's second-in-command Barsad in "The Dark Knight Rises."

Lin Shaye, who has been in all three films, returns as parapsychologist Elise Rainier. Sony Pictures Worldwide Acquisitions is financing. Sony will handle international distribution while Universal will handle domestic. The pic

is slated to open on October 20, 2017.

"Insidious" launched the franchise in 2011, followed by "Insidious: Chapter 2" in 2013 and "Insidious: Chapter 3" in 2015. The movies had grossed \$357.7 million worldwide. Series newcomer Adam Robitel ("The Taking of Deborah Logan") will direct "Chapter 4" from a script by co-creator Leigh Whannell, who wrote the trilogy and directed "Chapter 3."

Lionsgate Sets Eighth 'Saw' Movie in Horror Franchise

Horror kingpin Jason Blum is producing again through Blumhouse, which also handles "The Purge" and "Ouija" franchises, along with Oren Peli ("Paranormal Activity") and co-creator James Wan ("The Conjuring," "Furious 7").

Steven Schneider, Brian Kavanaugh-Jones and Charles Layton are executive producing. The first two films starred Patrick Wilson and Rose Byrne as a couple dealing with their son mysteriously entering a comatose state and

becoming a vessel for ghosts. The third film was a prequel to the haunting of the family in the first two films, and centered on a girl haunted by a demon.

Stewart most recently wrapped the Netflix pic "War Machine" starring Brad Pitt and was most recently seen in "The Finest Hours." He is reped by UTA, Grand View, and attorney David Krintzman. — Reuters