

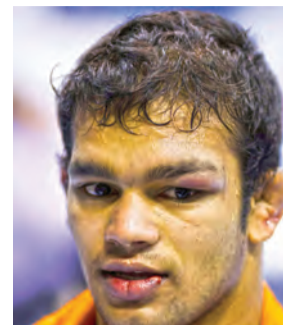
National strategy underway to combat social, youth challenges



15-hour mega jam in UK as France ups border checks



Rio-bound Indian wrestler Yadav fails doping test



Froome cements Tour great status with third title



LAW REGULATING INTERNET MEDIA COMES INTO EFFECT

COURT TO HEAR MOSQUE DEMOLITION LAWSUIT



Min 32°
Max 45°
High Tide 03:35 & 15:05
Low Tide 09:29 & 22:01



BERCHTESGADEN, Austria: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah receives at his residence in this Austrian city Qatari Father Amir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Sheikh Ju'an bin Hamad Al-Thani yesterday. They discussed brotherly relations between the Al-Sabah and Al-Thani families, as well as people of Qatar and Kuwait. The Amir later held a dinner banquet in honor of Sheikh Hamad and the delegation accompanying him. — KUNA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: A new law regulating all Web-based publications including electronic news services, bulletins, websites of newspapers and televisions and alike came into effect yesterday after its bylaws were published in the official gazette. Information Minister Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said the law is foe professional online media in a bid to preserve Kuwaiti traditions and counter extremist ideology.

The minister urged all those running online news services to register on the ministry website to obtain the necessary license to operate in the country. Under the legislation, all these services must obtain a license from the government before they can operate. Those in existence have one year to comply with the law. Violations committed by these services will be looked in court under the press and publications law, which stipulates hefty jail terms for several offences.

During its debate in the Assembly in January this year, the minister insisted the law is aimed at regulating electronic media and it will not apply to personal accounts, like those of bloggers. Under the law, the owner and director of all online services must be Kuwaiti. Violations can be penalized by jail terms of up to 10 years if these services call for the overthrow of the country's regime.

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KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah tours the electronic publishing department yesterday. — KUNA (See Page 4)

TURKISH PARTIES RALLY TOGETHER

ISTANBUL: Tens of thousands of supporters of Turkey's ruling and main opposition parties, usually bitter foes, rallied together yesterday in support of democracy following a failed military coup as President Tayyip Erdogan tightens his grip on the country. Demonstrators held a cross-party "Republic and Democracy" rally in Istanbul's central Taksim Square in a spirit of unity following the failed coup, in which at least 246 people were killed and more than 2,000 injured.

In a rare move, pro-government channels broadcast a live speech from the podium by main opposition leader

Kemal Kilicdaroglu. "This is a day to unite, a day to stand up against coups and dictatorial regimes, a day to let the voice of the people be heard," he said at the rally, organized by his secularist opposition CHP but also backed by the ruling Islamist-rooted AK Party and by other opposition groups. "We are all together in Taksim today. Today is a day we made history all together." Prime Minister Binali Yildirim tweeted that "this country's Turks, Kurds, Alevis" and supporters of the major opposition parties "united together and gave the lesson needed to the putschists".

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ISTANBUL: People wave Turkish flags and portraits of modern Turkey's founding father Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, during a rally yesterday in Taksim Square. — AFP

SAUDIS VISIT ISRAEL, MEET GOVT OFFICIAL

JERUSALEM: The head of a rare Saudi delegation to Israel and the occupied West Bank met a senior Israeli government official during his trip, Israel's foreign ministry told AFP yesterday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon said the meeting between retired Saudi general Anwar Eshki and ministry Director General Dore Gold took place at the prestigious King David hotel in west Jerusalem but did not give further details.

The Jerusalem Post newspaper said Eshki led a delegation of "businessmen and academics" on a mission to promote a stalled Saudi-led 2002 Arab peace initiative. It said that he met Major General Yoav Mordechai, head of the military body that coordinates Israeli activities in the West Bank and Gaza, and talked Friday in the West Bank to a group of Israeli opposition MPs.

Israel and Saudi Arabia have never had diplomatic relations but there have been media reports of intelligence-sharing in the face of shared concerns about Iran and the Islamic State group. Eshki and Gold shared a platform in June last year at the Washington headquarters of the Council on Foreign Relations and "met to discuss opportunities and challenges in the Middle East," the council said on its website at the time. "Their speeches focused on the danger Iran posed to their countries, and they revealed that they had been in secret discussions for a year, and had

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ALEPPO: A Syrian man holds the body of his child after it was retrieved from under the rubble of destroyed buildings following an air strike on the rebel-held neighborhood of Marjah in this northern city yesterday. — AFP

AIR STRIKES HIT FOUR HOSPITALS IN ALEPPO

BEIRUT: Air raids have hit four makeshift hospitals in Syria's battered Aleppo city, doctors said yesterday, jeopardizing medical care for more than 200,000 desperate civilians in rebel-held areas. The bombardment since Saturday has worsened the plight of residents of besieged eastern neighborhoods of Syria's second city, where food and medical supplies are becoming increasingly scarce. The hospitals, as well as a blood bank that was hit, are in the Al-Shaar neighborhood, said the Independent Doctor's Association, a group that supports clinics in Aleppo.

It said a two-day-old baby was killed in the children's hospital when his oxygen supply was cut in a raid early on Sunday. It was the second strike on the same hospital in about nine hours, the IDA said. "After the second strike, we had to move him (the baby) downstairs to the bomb shelter, and that's why he died," said Malika, the hospital's head nurse. "The hospital is severely damaged and it's not the first time," she said, in online conversations with IDA representatives seen by AFP.

Footage posted by the IDA of the strike's aftermath showed agitated doctors carrying a tiny baby in a room lined with incubators, with sandbags piled high outside the entrance. All four hospitals and the blood bank were out of service yesterday, the city's opposition-run "health directorate" said in a statement. It warned that doctors cannot get medicine into the city or transfer the wounded out of Aleppo.

Opposition-controlled areas of Aleppo are regularly hit by air strikes by the regime and its key ally Russia. According to the World Health

Organization, Syria was the most dangerous place for health workers in 2015, with 135 attacks on health facilities and workers. An AFP journalist in eastern Aleppo said heavy air strikes resumed after a brief pause. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least five civilians including a child were killed in Sunday air raids.

According to the IDA, five hospitals are left operating in eastern Aleppo, devastated by a regime siege since earlier this month. "Besiegement and the decimation of health care constitute war crimes. We demand an immediate end to and accountability for the collective punishment the city faces," the group said. Marianne Gasser, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Syria, said the hospital strikes filled her with "overwhelming despair". "I think about the people who died, and keep dying, again and again. I think about the patients and their families. I feel for the doctors who want to help but can't anymore," she said.

Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011 with anti-government protests but has since morphed into a complex multi-front war. At least 280,000 people have been killed and more than half the population have been forced to flee their homes, as world powers are increasingly drawn into the conflict.

Repeated attempts, particularly by the United States and regime ally Russia, at securing a political settlement built on a teetering ceasefire have failed. Moscow and Washington are nominally co-chairs of international efforts to bring President Bashar Al-Assad's regime to the negotiating table with opposition groups.

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IRAN DESTROYS 100,000 SATELLITE DISHES

TEHRAN: Iran destroyed 100,000 satellite dishes and receivers yesterday as part of a widespread crackdown against the illegal devices that authorities say are morally damaging, a news website reported. The destruction ceremony took place in Tehran in the presence of General Mohammad Reza Naghdi, head of Iran's Basij militia, who warned of the impact that satellite television was having in the conservative country. "The truth is that most satellite channels... deviate the society's morality and culture," he said at the event according to Basij News. "What these televisions really achieve is increased divorce, addiction and insecurity in society."

Naghdi added that a total of one million Iranians had already voluntarily handed over their satellite apparatuses to authorities. Under Iranian law, satellite equipment is banned and those who distribute, use, or repair them can be fined up to \$2,800. Iranian police regularly raid neighborhoods and confiscate dishes from rooftops.

Culture Minister Ali Jannati pleaded on Friday for a revision of the law. "Reforming this law is very necessary as using satellite is strictly prohibited, but most people use it," Jannati said. "This means that 70 percent of Iranians violate the law" by owning satellite dishes, he added. Naghdi criticised



TEHRAN: Satellite dishes and receivers are piled before being destroyed during a ceremony in the Iranian capital yesterday. — AFP

Jannati's comments and said those in charge of cultural affairs "should be truthful with people rather than following what pleases them".

"Most of these satellite channels not only weaken the foundation of families but also cause disruptions in children's education and children who are under the influence of satellite have improper behaviour," Naghdi said. There are dozens of for-

eign-based Farsi satellite channels broadcasting mostly news, entertainment, films and series. Conservatives regularly denounce the channels as an attempt to corrupt Iranian culture and Islamic values. Moderate President Hassan Rouhani, whose four-year mandate ends in June 2017, has repeatedly said that the ban on satellite dishes is unnecessary and counterproductive. — AFP

NOUAKCHOTT'S SUMMIT TO DISCUSS REGIONAL DILEMMAS, PALESTINE, COUNTER-TERRORISM

ALL DRAFT RESOLUTIONS SET FOR SUMMIT

NOUAKCHOTT: The situation in Syria, Iraq, Libya, and Yemen as well as the Palestinian cause in addition to counter-terrorism efforts are several topics expected to be highlighted in the upcoming 27th Arab summit in Mauritania.

Held for the first time since Mauritania joined the Arab League in 1973, the Nouakchott summit's agenda will focus on solutions to the various problems plaguing the Arab region. The summit is also expected to touch on means to enhance cooperation among members of the Arab League.

Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit is expected to address the meeting, to be attended by leaders and top officials with his speech highlighting what is needed to be done to solve problems in the Arab world. Abul-Gheit's speech will also focus on the Palestinian cause, calling for a just solution to end the long struggle of the people of Palestine.



Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit



NOUAKCHOTT: The location set to host the upcoming 27th Arab summit in Nouakchott, Mauritania. — KUNA

Resolutions

All draft resolutions are set to be forwarded to Arab leaders during the summit, said Arab League Secretary General's spokesman Mahmoud Afifi on Saturday. The draft resolutions concern current political, economic and social affairs that aim to boost joint Arab action, Afifi told a press conference after the conclusion of the preparatory meeting on foreign ministers' level in Nouakchott, where the leaders' Summit is due to take place today.

Afifi revealed that some Arab countries voiced reservations over draft resolutions related to Iranian interventions in Arab affairs, as well as the issue of condemning Turkish incursion in Iraqi soil. Afifi was referring to Lebanon, which has a large Shia population and is home to the powerful Tehran-backed militant group Hezbollah, as Beirut acts as the only dissenting voice among the League's Member States.

However, Afifi said that Abul-Gheit was working to narrow the gaps in a bid to reach mutual understanding among Member States, either in camera or on bilateral levels. Pointing out that the ongoing bloody Syrian conflict is topping the Summit's agenda, Minister Plenipotentiary Afifi at the same time denied any attempts to thwart holding the Summit, appreciating Nouakchott's record preparation to host the annual gathering after Morocco's apology.

Yemen

Meanwhile, Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdulmalek Al-Mekhlafi highly appreciated the State of Kuwait's host of peace talks among Yemeni parties. "We greatly appreciate the State of Kuwait's hosting of Yemeni talks," Mekhlafi said in a statement after the preparatory Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting, noting that Kuwait hosted Yemeni talks in the 1960s and 1970s.

He said the Yemeni parties were keen on the success of the UN-sponsored talks, "but you can't expect things to be as you wish them to be," as the government, Ansarullah and the General People's Congress failed so far to achieve a solution.

He hoped the coming days would have good news that would restore peace all over Yemen and before the ultimatum set by Kuwait. Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled Al-Jarallah has recently said that Kuwait set a 15-day ultimatum for the Yemeni parties to reach an agreement.

Kuwait's support

Separately, a senior Arab League official praised Kuwait's support to the Arab nation and causes. Kuwait addresses the Arab issues "as if they were Kuwaiti causes," Assistant Secretary General for Palestine and the Occupied Territories Said Abu-Ali said on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers' preparatory meeting. He referred to Kuwait's support to the Arab causes as "historical and distinguished," and is not confined to finance, but extends to the economic, cultural and social spheres. His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's participation in the Nouakchott summit reiterates the depth of the Kuwaiti role serving the Arab causes, he noted. Abu-Ali recalled His Highness the Amir's role in support of the Palestinian cause since he was a foreign minister. Also, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riadh Al-Malki commended the strong relations with the State of Kuwait, which has been a solid supporter of the Palestinians. In a statement after the preparatory Arab Foreign Ministers' meeting, Malki said Kuwait, whether His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah or the government, has been backing the Palestinian cause since the early beginnings.

Kuwait, he noted, allocated \$200 million to rebuild the Gaza Strip following the Israeli aggress against the besieged enclave. Malki described the relations between Kuwait and Palestine as "excellent," noting the Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled's visit to Palestine, which resulted in the formation of a ministerial committee.

Humanitarian role

In the meantime, Arab foreign ministers lauded His Highness the Amir for the great humanitarian role he has been playing on the Arab arena. The expression of gratitude was included in the blueprint of the Arab Summit resolutions that have been submitted by the ministers to the top leaders.

The ministers praised His Highness the Amir, the Humanitarian Leader, for the role he had played regarding the Syrian crisis, as well as Kuwait's hosting of three international conferences for aiding the Syrian people, in addition to the planned convention for supporting education in Somalia.

MAURITANIA HOSTS ITS FIRST ARAB SUMMIT

CHRONOLOGY OF PREVIOUS SUMMITS

KUWAIT: The 27th Arab Summit, that kicks off in Mauritania's capital Nouakchott today and lasts for two days, is the first the West African country hosts in history. The 27th Arab leaders' summit was originally set to be held in Morocco, but the Kingdom apologized for not hosting the major annual event, for the lack of "objective circumstances that guarantee a successful Arab summit." Mauritania soon offered to host the summit. The Nouakchott summit comes amid various challenges and crises facing several countries in the Arab region; namely the war on terror and the situation in Syria, Iraq, Libya and Yemen. The following is a chronology of previous Arab summits:

Palestine

The Anshas Extraordinary Summit in Alexandria, Egypt was held on May 28 and 29, 1946 in support of Palestine. It was attended by seven Arab states. Participants in the summit prioritized the Palestinian cause, and warned of a Zionist threat, and stressed that any developments in Palestine will affect all Arab nations.

A decade later, November 1956, the Beirut Extraordinary Summit was held to address the Tripartite Aggression, the British-French-Israeli attack on Egypt. It was attended by nine Arab leaders who emphasized Egypt's sovereignty over the Suez Canal according to the October 13, 1956 UN Security Council resolution 1888. The leaders hailed the Algerian people's struggle to attain independence.

Then the 1st Regular Arab Summit was held in Cairo in January, 1964, calling for dissolving disagreements among the Arab states, establishing a joint military command for Arab armies, and considering Israel a danger that threatens the Arab nation. Then the 2nd Regular summit was held in Egypt's Mediterranean city of Alexandria, September 5 to 11, 1964. It called for boosting the Arab military defense capabilities, as well as enhancing the Arab cooperation in the fields of nuclear research for peaceful purposes, economy, culture, and media. It also urged the establishment of an Arab court of justice and welcomed the formation of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). The 3rd Regular summit was held in Casablanca, Morocco, September 13 to 17, 1965, calling for the support of the Palestinian cause in all international forums. The Arab leaders also called for non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, and dissolving international conflicts peacefully. The summit witnessed the signing of the Arab Solidarity Charter.

1967 War

The 4th Regular Arab Summit took place in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, on August 29, 1967 following the Israeli 1967 War. The Arab leaders then announced the three Nos; no peace with Israel, no negotiations with Israel, no recognition of Israel. They also agreed to establish Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

On September 23, 1969, the 5th Regular Arab Summit was held in Rabat, but was adjourned without making any resolutions. The 3rd Extraordinary Arab Summit was held in Cairo on September 27, 1970 to dissolve a Palestinian-Jordanian conflict.

The 6th Regular Arab Summit was held from November 26 to 28, 1973 in Algeria and demanded the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem. It also called for giving the Palestinian people their legal rights. The summit welcomed Mauritania's joining the Arab League.

The 7th Regular Arab Summit, held in Rabat, Morocco, October 26-29, 1974, stressed the importance of liberating all Arab territories seized in the June 1967 attack, as well as rejecting all that might affect Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem. The summit acknowledged the PLO as the only legal representative of the Palestinian people. Saudi Arabia called for a mini extraordi-

nary Arab summit in support of Lebanon. The summit, held in Riyadh on October 16-18, 1976 with the participation of six Arab states, rejected the division of Lebanon and called for reconstruction in the country. The 8th Regular Arab Summit convened in Cairo on October 25-26, 1976. It approved the resolutions made by the Riyadh summit and urged the Arab states to contribute to the reconstruction of Lebanon.

Camp David agreement

The 9th summit, held in Baghdad from November 2 to 5, 1978, reiterated support to the PLO and rejected the Israeli-Egyptian Camp David agreement, saying it opposed the resolutions made by the Arab summits.



The 27th Arab Summit's logo

The Arab leaders agreed to boycott Egypt and to temporarily freeze its membership in Arab League. They also decided to transfer the Arab League's headquarters from Egypt to Tunisia. The 10th Regular Arab Summit was held in Tunis, November 20-22, 1979. The Arab leaders condemned once again the Camp David agreement and the Israeli-Egyptian peace agreement. They called for consolidating relations with then the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and other organizations. The summit stressed Lebanon's full sovereignty on all its territories, and the importance of preserving its national unity and independence, rejecting Zionist efforts to seize the southern part of the country. The 11th Regular Arab Summit, held in the Jordanian capital of Amman, November 25-27, 1980, approved a joint Arab action program for facing Israel. It also okayed the Arab National Economic Charter. The Moroccan city of Fes hosted the 12th Regular Summit, held on two phases, the first on November 25, 1981 while the second was on September 6-9, 1982. The summit approved King Fahd's project for peace in the Middle East, which offered an Arab project for peace. The Arab leaders taking part in the Summit denounced the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, reaffirming support to the country regarding the implementation of the UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions which demanded Israel's withdrawal to the internationally-acknowledged borders.

Iraq-Iran war

Casablanca, Morocco hosted the 4th Extraordinary Arab Summit on August 7-9, 1985, which reiterated full commitment to the Arab Solidarity Charter, forming two committees to clear the Arab atmosphere. The summit emphasized a strong will to put a rapid end to the Iraq-Iran war through a peaceful, just, and honorable solution. The participants also denounced all forms and sources of terrorism, topped by Israel's terrorism in and outside the Arab occupied territories. The 5th Extraordinary Arab Summit was held in Amman on November 8-11, 1987, as the Arab leaders denounced Iran's occupation of Iraqi areas and expressed full

support to Iraq in defending its soil. The summit also condemned Iran's aggression against Kuwait, calling for guaranteeing freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf. In addition, the Amman Summit declared support to Saudi Arabia and whatever measures the Kingdom took for securing safe performance of Hajj, condemning any acts of riot at the Holy Sites. The Arab leaders denounced anew all forms and sources of terrorism, rejecting attempts to stigmatize national liberation movements as terrorism. They also backed a proposed international conference for the Middle East peace under the UN umbrella. On June 7-9, 1988, the 6th Extraordinary Summit was held in Algiers, calling for full support to the Palestinian Intifada (Uprising). It also called for organizing the proposed international conference for peace in the region under the UN umbrella, taking international legitimacy and the UN resolution as references. Casablanca hosted the 7th Extraordinary Arab Summit on May 23-26, 1989, welcoming Egypt's full-membership return to the Arab League. It reiterated support to establishing an independent Palestinian State, urging the world to recognize it and allow it to practice sovereignty over the Palestinian territories. The summit urged the conflicting Lebanese parties to fully and permanently abide by a ceasefire agreement. The Iraqi capital of Baghdad was host to the 8th Extraordinary Arab Summit, May 28-30, 1990, which called for backing the Palestinian Intifada and condemned the Jewish immigration and settlement in Palestine. As for Lebanon, the Baghdad summit reaffirmed that Al-Taef Agreement was the framework likely to maintain the interests of all Lebanese people, as the only way to avoid violence and to achieve peace and stability in the country. The summit also denounced the US threats against Libya, and the UN Congress's resolution recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Iraqi Invasion

In the aftermath of the Iraqi invasion and occupation of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, Cairo hosted the 9th Extraordinary Summit, August 9-10, 1990, which condemned the aggression and its consequences. The summit emphasized Kuwait's sovereignty and, at the same time, denounced Iraq's threats to the rest of GCC states. Arab countries responded to demands by Saudi Arabia and decided to send troops to defend the Kingdom and the region.

The Egyptian capital again hosted the 10th Extraordinary Summit, June 21-23, 1996 which in principle, approved setting up an Arab Court of Justice. It entrusted the Arab Economic and Social Council, an affiliate of the Arab League, to take the necessary steps for setting up an Arab free trade zone. The summit urged the continuation of the Middle East peace process as a strategic goal and choice based on the Madrid Conference. It demanded that Israel join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as well as making the Middle East region free of weapons of mass destruction.

The 11th Extraordinary Summit was held in Cairo October 21-22, 2000, upon a call by Saudi Arabia to work out mechanisms to support the Palestinian cause and to maintain the Arab and Islamic identity of Al-Quds. The summitters established Al-Quds Fund with a capital of \$200 million, and to support the families and dependents of those killed in the Palestinian uprising. Al-Aqsa Fund was also founded with \$800 million for projects to preserve the Arab and Islamic identity of Al-Quds, and to back the Palestinian economy and reduce dependency on Israel in this respect.

With the start of the new millennium, the 13th Regular Arab Summit was held in Amman in March 27-28, 2001. Summitters then asserted solidarity with the Palestinian people to restore their legitimate rights. The Summit also reiterated the UAE's sovereignty over the three islands, the Greater and

Lesser Tunb and Abu Mousa, and supported the procedures and peaceful measures taken by the UAE to regain its sovereignty over them.

Arab Peace Initiative

The 14th Regular Arab Summit was held in Beirut on March 27-28, 2002. A peace initiative proposed by King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz for the Middle East was adopted and dubbed the "Arab Peace Initiative." The Summit urged support with worth \$ 330 million to the Palestinian Authority over six months. Participants also called for an extra \$150 million to be allocated for the Al-Aqsa and Intifada Funds to assist development in Palestine. The Summit supported Lebanon's efforts to liberate territories occupied by Israel, including the Shebaa Farms. It also condemned Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan Heights. The conferees renewed their denouncement of all forms of terrorism. They urged Turkey to reach a final agreement on water-sharing regarding the Euphrates and Tigris River waters with Syria and Iraq. The 15th Regular Arab Summit took place in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on March 1, 2003. The Arab leaders then asserted their condemnation of using force against Iraq and threatening the security of any Arab nation.

On March 22-23, 2004 the 16th Regular Arab Summit was held in Tunisia, and condemned continued Israeli violence against the Palestinian people and government. It reaffirmed support for Lebanon's fight to liberate areas occupied by Israel, including the Shebaa Farms. During the summit, the leaders pledged to pursue reform and modernization in their countries by consolidating democratic practices and increasing participation in political and public life. They reaffirmed their stance against terrorism.

The 17th Regular Arab Summit was held in the Algeria, March 22-23, 2005. The leaders reiterated their commitment to the Arab Peace Initiative, and condemned Israel's continued construction of a separation barrier. They reaffirmed the ICJ's decision in this regard. The leaders affirmed their solidarity with Syria and condemned the US Syria Accountability Act, which they considered a violation of international law and UN resolutions. The Summit reiterated its stance against terrorism and praised the outcome of the International Terrorism Conference held in Riyadh a month earlier. In Khartoum, Sudan, where the 18th Regular Summit was held March 28-29, 2006, the major theme on the agenda was the situation in Palestinian. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative; which also happened again during the 19th Arab Summit that took place in Riyadh on March 28, 2007. The 20th Arab Summit took place in Damascus, Syria on March 29-30, 2008, and reiterated support for communications between the United Arab Emirates and Iran to resolve the issue over UAE's peacefully. Meanwhile, the 21st Arab Summit, held in Doha, Qatar on March 30, 2009, supported Sudan and rejected the arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court against Sudanese President Omar Al-Basheer. Arab countries' support for Sudan was renewed during the 22nd Arab Summit, held in Sirte, Libya on March 27-28, 2010.

Syrian crisis

The 23rd summit, held in Baghdad, Iraq on March 29, 2012, called for dialogue between the Syrian government and the opposition, while the 24th summit, held in Doha, Qatar on March 26, 2013, recognized the National Coalition as the legitimate representative for the Syrian people. The 25th summit, hosted by Kuwait on March 25-26, 2014, called for finding solutions necessary for the critical situations that the Arab World is going through, and supported Arab nations that went through political transitions. Meanwhile, the 26th Arab Summit, held in Sharm El-Sheikh on March 28-29, 2015 saw a decision to form a joint Arab military force to "protect the Arab national security." —KUNA



KUWAIT: This handout photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows members of a gang arrested for harboring runaway maids and running illegal domestic help activities.



A vehicle that was involved in a fatal two-car collision reported at Sixth Ring Road yesterday.

15 SUSPECTS ARRESTED FOR HARBORING ABSCONDING MAIDS

GANG MEMBERS OFFERED ILLEGAL DOMESTIC HELP SERVICES

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A 15-member gang was arrested by residency detectives for harboring absconding maids and offering their services to other people in exchange for money. The residency detectives department said the gang was operating under several bogus offices' names, and used to send maids to homes, who later escaped and returned to the office. Those arrested were found either absconding or wanted by authorities. All were sent to concerned authorities.

Visa forgery

Residency detectives arrested a Syrian man named Mohammad Obaid for forging documents to get a family visa for his wife and son. The department said the Syrian received a residency permit for his wife and son without meeting the conditions, as his salary in the work permit is KD 200, which gave rise to suspicions. Investigations showed that he received the approval based on submitting an application in the name of another expat whose name matches his and meets the conditions, while the other man did not know about it.

Fatal crash

Two vehicles collided on Sixth Ring Road, prompting Subhan Fire Center to respond. An Egyptian man was found dead and his body was handed to the forensics department. Three injured persons were taken by paramedics.

Detour opened

The traffic department said a detour and two roundabouts will be opened across from Dasman palace at dawn today to build a tunnel that links south Kuwait City with its northeastern areas in order to complete the First Ring Road project, in addition to linking Ahmad Al-Jaber Road with Shuhada and Abdullah Al-Ahmad Roads to enhance traffic flow and manage vehicle movement.

Drugs found

Central prison security men found several joints containing what is suspected to be drugs and mobile phones with an inmate. The inmate is a Bangladeshi, and the substances were found in his cell. Legal action has been taken against him.

No injuries in fire

South and north Salmiya fire departments put out a fire in garbage behind Al-Fanar Mall in Salmiya. The flames were contained before they could spread to nearby areas. No injuries were reported.

Injured fireman rewarded

Kuwait Fire Service Directorate's (KFSD) Deputy Director General for the Prevention Sector Maj Gen Khalid Rakan said a financial reward will be given to injured fireman Fahd Mansour Al-Fureih, in addition to promoting him, based on the instructions of State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Al-Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah and Director General Lt Gen Yousuf Al-Ansari.



Firefighters tackle a blaze reported behind Al-Fanar Mall in Salmiya.



The second vehicle involved in the accident.

ABDALY CASE APPEAL SENT TO PUBLIC PROSECUTION

STOLEN CABLES BLAMED FOR POWER CUTS

By A Saleh and Meshaal Al-Enezi

KUWAIT: The appeals court sent the state security Abdaly case to the public prosecution to decide whether to appeal at the cassation court or not. The appeals court sentenced the cell's 25 Kuwaitis and one Iranian varying sentences including death for one and life for another, and sentenced others to four years in jail, fines or acquittal.

Diesel price

The committee studying subsidies decided to raise diesel and kerosene prices to 100 fils per liter from the current 90 fils. This means diesel and kerosene prices for August will return to their levels six months ago, particularly in November, during which prices dropped from 100 fils to 70 fils.

Research and development

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation is considering signing memorandums of understanding (MoU) and agreements for the oil industry, especially in the field of research, development and technology with South Korea's National Oil Company and SK Innovation Company. The second agreement will be with India and a third will be with Norway. The oil sector is trying hard at all levels to implement an ambitious strategy despite the transient crises it faces, be they major or minor. The major oil projects that are being executed confirm that the executing team achieved at least 90 percent of its strategic goals with the National Assembly's support.

Power cuts

Ministry of Electricity and Water (MEW) said the reason behind power cuts in the camels stables and Kabd areas of Farwaniya governorate is due to stolen cables. The ministry said repairs are being done with new lines by the emergency team and contracting companies. Separately, MEW started operations in seven secondary transformers in Sector E of Sabah Al-Ahmad residential city in order to provide nearby homes with power. MEW said the judicially empowered team at the water operating and maintenance department is issuing citations in all Kuwait governorates, and asked people to adhere to rules and regulations in this regard. The team found violations such as washing yards in front of homes and washing cars with hoses, which carries a fine of KD 500.

Bus stops

The Municipal Council Secretariat General asked Kuwait Municipality to take the necessary action towards the approval of the Municipal Council to place bus stops on Taawon Road from Bidaa Roundabout to Messila Bridge. It also asked to take necessary action with regards to designing new residential areas and provide services for Jaber Al-Ahmad residential city. In other news, the finance ministry asked Kuwait Municipality to provide it the boundaries of several plots of land of the site allocated for media firms in Ardiya to the Industry Public Authority, and inform the finance ministry about it.



KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali (center) attends the signing ceremony. — Photo by Fouad Al-Shaikh

TWO KUWAITI DEPARTMENTS COOPERATE AGAINST MONEY-LAUNDERING, TERRORISM

KUWAIT: Minister of Commerce and Industry Dr Yousef Al-Ali yesterday affirmed significance of the memorandum of understanding worked out by the ministry with the national financial inspection department for combating money laundering and terrorism-financing.

This accord aims at exchanging information and secret data "and placing them within legal frameworks," said the minister on sidelines of signing the MoU with the head of the financial inspection unit and the chairman of the national commission for combating money-laundering and

financing-terrorism, Talal Al-Sayegh.

It complies with relevant international agreements and those of the United Nations, Minister Al-Ali added, indicating that the MoU "lays the groundwork for the cooperation and information swap" between the two departments.

Meanwhile, Sayegh said the MoU conforms with the national strategy for boosting "the combat against these phenomena." The financial inspection division was set up in 2013 to collect and process information about suspected money laundering operations. — KUNA

GOLD DOWNWARD FOR 2ND WEEK: REPORT

KUWAIT: Gold price dropped to \$1,322 per ounce pursuing a downward tendency for the second week in a row, following a six-week bullish trend, buoyed by relative recovery of the US dollar value, according to Sabayik Al-Kuwait for commerce and precious metals trade company.

Gold was also affected with risk appetite on part of the stock markets, post the positive results by the stock markets, following positive declarations by majority of companies in Q2 2016, as well as continuing decline of the euro and the sterling pound.

Sabayik Al-Kuwait said in its report, issued yesterday, that fall of the euro and sterling pound came after the European central bank announced, on Thursday, maintaining the interest rate unchanged. Profit generation also contributed to slash-

ing the ounce value, where on Wednesday it stood at \$1,313.

It forecast rebound where the ounce value would exceed \$1,330, and probably would climb to \$1,375, within the coming month, advising investors to wait till August 4th or 5th when the picture will become clearer and the central banks declare their next financial policies. Meanwhile, silver closed at \$65.19 per ounce. — KUNA



STUDENT VISA DAYS IN AUGUST AT US EMBASSY

KUWAIT: The US Embassy's Consular Section will hold two Student Visa Days on Thursday, August 4, 2016; and on Thursday, August 18 to support students currently studying or planning to study in the United States. Students are welcome to apply for their visas on any day, however on August 4 and 18 student applicants will be given priority. Earlier in July, the US Embassy's Consular Section held its first student visa day, on July 21, helping nearly 250

students apply for their visas and get to their universities on time.

Encouraging Kuwaiti students to pursue higher educational opportunities in the US is one of the top priorities of the US Mission. Students should visit www.ustraveldocs.com to apply for their visa and schedule their interview. Student applicants should bring an original 1-20 and a SEVIS receipt to their appointment. Follow us on our social media platforms for updated information.

Legalese

DOMESTIC WORKERS

By Attorney Fajer Ahmed

The countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in the past 10 plus years have changed drastically and significantly for the good. We had skyscrapers shoot up, millions of jobs created, a dominant art and culture scene, SMEs flourishing, active youth citizens and a World Cup coming up in Qatar, as well as a world expo on its way to the UAE.

We also had a flock of people from all walks of life seeking jobs in the GCC, becoming a necessary component of our societies. So it is no surprise that the GCC has also been under a lot of scrutiny in the press, both nationally and internationally, over the treatment of these workers. Although the international media has exaggerated the situation in some accounts, forgetting that some of the companies that mistreat blue collar workers are also run by expats, it is also important to acknowledge that theirs is a situation that needs addressing in order for us to change for the better.

The number of domestic workers in the GCC is pretty large, with an estimated 2.4 million across the six countries. Yet, many of these countries exclude domestic workers from any regular employment laws. So it's only fair to say that currently our religion of Islam, culture and our morals play a role as important as the law on how we treat domestic workers. With that said though, the law in Kuwait has recently changed to the better, making Kuwait the only GCC country to do so. I hope that the other countries will follow suit, as it is a very important and critical matter that cannot be ignored. I have answered below a few recent questions that I have received from domestic workers.

New law

Question: I am a domestic worker and I am wondering how the new law affects me. Can you explain please?

Fajer: The new bylaw states the following:

- The minimum salary of any domestic workers is KD 60 per month, and just to make things more clear, some embassies have set a minimum wage for their workers that is higher than KD 60. So KD 60 is the bare minimum.
- There will be 12 hours of work maximum, and for any additional hours worked, the worker will be compensated with overtime pay.
- The domestic worker will have 30 paid days off per year.

Being abused

Question: I am being abused. I work 19+ hours a day without rest. I am not allowed to have my phone (I am emailing you from the house's iPad) and I barely get food. Help me. What can I do?

Fajer: First things first, assess your situation. If it is life-threatening, please go to the shelter. The Kuwaiti government has set up a beautiful and safe shelter for those that need it. If your case is not life threatening yet critical, please contact your embassy. If you don't have an embassy, you can email me and I will forward your case to the Society of Social Workers). Please include the following details when emailing me:

- 1) Your name
- 2) Your ID number
- 3) The name of your boss

And any other information you think is vital. Please contact your country's embassy if there is one in Kuwait.

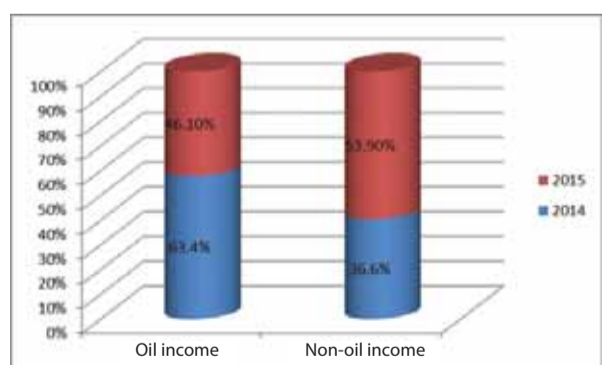
Unwanted

Question: I came to Kuwait four months ago, and my boss doesn't want me to work with him anymore, so he sent me to another house, but they don't want me either. So I was told that they are buying me a ticket and sending me home. But I don't want to go home. What can I do?

Fajer: Unfortunately, you can only be transferred to another household if you have been in Kuwait a year. That means you might have to go back home. I understand that you don't want to as you have probably invested to be here. If you were under the Kuwait labor law, then your boss would have had to pay you the rest of your contract or at least give you three months' notice, but this is not the case with domestic workers!

I hope the above has brought some insight to the situation and I hope that we hold a better future for foreigners coming to work in our region.

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



KUWAIT DOMESTIC PRODUCT GROWS

KUWAIT: The domestic product amounted to KD 04.033 billion growing by 1.8 percent in 2015 on yearly basis, while data for 2014 showed a minor growth estimated at 0.5 percent, Kuwait Central Statistical Bureau said in a report released yesterday. The local product dropped during 2014-2015 due to the drastic oil price fall, where the decline reached 6.3 percent and 25.6 percent. Income per capita also dropped from KD 11,003 in 2014 to KD 08,095 in 2015. Rise of the domestic product by 1.8 percent in 2015, along with the population growth, resulted in cutting the income per capita from KD 9,605 to KD 9,444, by 1.4 percent. Contributions of the oil sector to the national product, in shadow of the falling crude prices, dropped by 46.1 percent in 2015 compared to 63.4 percent in 2014. — KUNA



INFO MINISTER TOURS E-PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah toured the ministry's new electronic publishing department yesterday. — Photos by Joseph Shagra



KUWAIT: Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with Saja Al-Azmi. — KUNA

INFO MINISTER VOWS NONSTOP SUPPORT OF YOUTH

KUWAIT: The country's leadership will incessantly support the youth to help them excel on regional and

international arenas, Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah

Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said yesterday.

Sheikh Salman met with a bevy of outstanding achievers, a statement issued by the Ministry of Information noted, adding that the Minister of Information underscored that the prosperity and development of a nation hinges on the contributions of its people, which should serve as an incentive for youths in their quest for excellence.

Moreover, those who met with Sheikh Salman come from all walks of life, including athletes, engineers and entrepreneurs, all of whom attributed their success to the persistent support given to them by the country's leadership.

They also vowed to remain committed to excellence to ensure that Kuwait would cement its position in the upper echelons of the international arena. — KUNA



Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Al-Majed.



Information Minister and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud Al-Sabah meets with Sheikh Al-Rashed.

NATIONAL STRATEGY UNDERWAY TO COMBAT SOCIAL, YOUTH CHALLENGES

KUWAIT: Ministry of State for Youth Affairs is working on a national vision and a strategy to counter the challenges facing the society, especially young people, a senior official said yesterday. The ministry is being guided by the elevated Amiri initiatives and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah's keenness and infinite care for youth, Ministry Undersecretary Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah added in a statement.

Sheikh Al-Zain noted that people under 34 form up to 72 percent of the Kuwaiti population. The formation of the ministry coincided with the spread of negative phenomenon that affected the youth, she said, referring to issues like violence and drugs.

The senior official reiterated eagerness to help young people promote their skills and make the best use of their spare time for their own good as well as the society's. According to Sheikh Al-Zain, the average age of the ministry staff is 27 years, among the lowest worldwide, which was cited Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth on several occasions.



Ministry of State for Youth Affairs' Undersecretary Sheikh Al-Zain Al-Sabah

The ministry has recently completed the biggest survey in Kuwait's history, tackling youth views on a host of issues like housing, education, work and citizenship, she said. By the same token, the ministry is planning to launch three studies and surveys to analyze the share of Kuwaitis under 34 in the state budget and how it is distributed, Sheikh Al-Zain said. — KUNA

KUWAIT PARTAKES IN Sfax 'CAPITAL OF ARAB CULTURE' CELEBRATIONS

TUNIS: Tunisia launched Saturday the state celebration of choosing the central city of Sfax as a capital of Arab culture, with a Kuwaiti participation. The event commenced with an Operetta themed 'Sfax Land of Resistance.' A Kuwaiti delegation headed by Dr Tahani Al-Adwani, of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL) is participating in the event.

This participation is meant to cement bilateral culture relations and cooperation with Tunisia, Adwani said. She added that Kuwait will also contribute to Tunisia's celebrations, which will last till

March 17th, 2017, with a variety of activities, such as organizing Kuwaiti Culture Weeks. Adwani also emphasized the importance of culture in promoting the values of tolerance and dialogue among Arab youth.

Addressing the audience, Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi called for making the most of 'Sfax, 2016 Capital of Arab Culture' campaign to promote the region's cultural heritage, boost the economy and counter terrorism and extremism. He stated that the campaign will be held under the motto 'No to violence, No to terrorism ... Tunisia for the culture of life.' — KUNA

In Brief

AMIR CONDOLES CHINESE PRESIDENT

KUWAIT: His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah sent a cable of condolences yesterday to Chinese President Xi Jinping on victims of floods in Hebei province, North of China. His Highness the Amir prayed for mercy on the victims' souls and wished fast recovery for the wounded. His Highness the deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah sent similar cables. — KUNA



PIC EARNS 'ISO 55001' IN ASSET MANAGEMENT

KUWAIT: Petrochemical Industries Company (PIC) has earned an 'ISO 55001' certificate in asset management, a distinction the company hailed as a "first of its kind benchmark." CEO of the fertilizers department of PIC Mijbil Al-Shammeri said that the company is proud to "have been the first Kuwaiti company to be the recipient of the ISO 55001 certificate." Moreover, Mulla underscored that having ISO 55001 certification would serve as an incentive to other companies, which would in turn, bring about a thriving oil sector industry. — KUNA



US DOLLAR STABLE AGAINST KD AT 0.302

KUWAIT: The exchange rate of the US Dollar yesterday stabilized against the Kuwaiti Dinar at 0.302, while the euro went down to KD 0.332 compared to Friday's rates, the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) said. The CBK added that the Sterling Pound went down to KD 0.396, while the Swiss Franc dropped to reach KD 0.306. The Japanese Yen remained the same at KD 0.002. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: Birds take shelter under a tree in Kuwait City. Kuwait is currently experiencing an 'abnormal' heat wave during which temperatures have soared to unprecedented levels, according to local meteorologists. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat

KRCS DELIVERS AID TO 250 SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON



BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) distributed aid to 250 Syrian refugee families in Akkar District, north of Lebanon, as part of the relief agency's continuous effort to alleviate the suffering of the displaced.

Head of KRCS' field team Anwar Al-Ali said yesterday that the aid dispatch was delivered to those staying in Fnaidek town and it consisted of food and detergent items. KRCS has been offering life-saving assistance to the Syrian refugees since the beginning of their crisis, he pointed out. And, it will continue to do so as long as these conditions are unchanged. — KUNA



PRISONERS COMMITTEE IN YEMEN TALKS CONVENES

KUWAIT: A committee that emerged of the Yemeni peace talks held in Kuwait, discussed yesterday a roadmap for releasing prisoners and detainees at home in line with what the Yemeni warring parties agreed upon during the first phase of the Kuwait consultations.

The prisoners and detainees committee followed up the initial reports submitted by the Yemeni stakeholders to the UN last June on a number of detainees. The discussions aimed to pave the way for a draft agreement to set free prisoners and detainees as soon as possible. The talks also addressed the respect of the detainees' rights, as well as allowing humanitarian organizations to visit them and check conditions at places of detention.

In the meantime, a UN team continues meetings with the Yemeni parties to discuss the topics on the agenda of the Kuwait consultations that aim to put an end to the conflict in Yemen. They include comprehensively consolidating ceasefire in Yemen, activating the pacification and coordination committee and forming military ones to supervise withdrawal and hand over of weapons as well as the opening of safe access to deliver humanitarian aid.

Kuwait has been hosting the UN-brokered talks involving the Ansarullah movement and the General People's Congress (GPC) and the Yemeni government since April 21. On June 7, the Yemeni government announced the release of 54 children who were held by the Saudi-led coalition, and were delivered to their families.

A week later, the Ansarullah movement announced setting free 57 detainees in the southern province of Amran governorate, a day after it had released 130 in Ibb. The UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed then welcomed the release which he said would leave such a positive impact on the Yemeni society and the path for peace.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed has flown to Mauritania to attend the 27th Arab Summit that kicks off in the capital Nouakchott tomorrow. He is due back in Kuwait Tuesday to carry on with administrating the Yemeni peace talks. A UN team is in charge till the envoy's return. — KUNA

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WOMAN DIES IN BOTCHED ABORTION

KUWAIT: The body of an Asian woman was recovered by the coroner. The woman died while attempting to abort herself on the roof of the house she lives in. Meanwhile, detectives are carrying out an investigation to identify a man with whom the woman had an affair that resulted in the pregnancy.

Weapons seized

Director General of the Weapons Detectives Department Brig Abdelrahman Al-Suhail sent four persons to the public prosecution on charges of trading in ammunition, and one was charged with having an unlicensed weapon. While a team was inspecting licenses of individuals and companies, it discovered a Kuwaiti forged a license to buy rounds. Detectives went to the suspect's home, and he confessed to the forgery. He also mentioned three others who trade in ammunition illegally. When their homes were searched, rounds of various caliber were found.

Woman assaulted

A man did not only beat a female citizen black and blue, but also attempted to run her over with his car. Several passersby were surprised by a man getting out of his car and beat a woman savagely. Then when she fell to the ground, he almost ran her over, but the surrounding people protected her. Police and paramedics rushed to the scene and took the unconscious woman to Amiri Hospital. Beating and attempted murder charges were filed against the suspect, whose car plate numbers were published, and he is being sought by police for questioning.

Domestic violence

A citizen locked up his wife and sister-in-law, so their father sought police help to free them. The father told police his daughter went to visit her sister in Qurain, but the husband of the latter locked them up and beat them. Police went to the house, freed the women and charged the man. Separately, a drunk citizen objected to the presence of his mother-in-law in his house, so he beat her along with his wife. A call was made to police about the two battered women in a building in Abu Halifa, so police and paramedics went there and the women had to be taken to hospital. Police are investigating.

—Al-Rai and Al-Anbaa



KUWAIT: Kuwait Journalists Association (KJA) honored its longtime accountant Mustafa Hashish, and held a celebration recently on the occasion of the end of his 33-year-long tenure. KJA Chairman Ahmad Behbehani, Treasurer and Director Adnan Al-Rashid, board members Fatima Hussien and Dhuhairan Aba Al-Khail and other KJA members attended the event.

الجريدة

Al-Jarida

NATION'S WILL DEFEATS TANKS

By Mohammad Al-Ruwaihel

On Friday night, all free people were following, with pain, the failed attempted military coup in Turkey, and all were saying "we pray that it fails". Sure enough, the Turkish people fulfilled these people's wishes and gave them a patriotic lesson that will remain for long, when they went out in front of tanks and armored vehicles to tell those carrying out the coup: We will not allow you to snatch our will, and we will not allow you to steal our freedom and dignity, and we will not leave the country for you to hand it to those who conspired with you against it. We will not go back to the years of oppression and humiliation that we suffered all along your rule of the country for several decades. The Turkish people did not face military tanks and armored vehicles in order to protect Erdogan or his ruling party - rather they went out to protect its will and legitimacy that they chose through direct elections.

The Turkish people, with all its components and parties, went out to confront those who carried out the coup and their tanks to speak with one tongue and one heart that "we will not let you", and succeeded in foiling the military coup against their country, and thwarted the conspiracy that was planned against them, and gave the world an significant lesson and a clear message that the will of the nation will not be defeated by tanks and the army, and that those who lived in freedom will not accept returning to slavery.

The Turkish people sent a message to all world leaders that your people are your strongest fort, and they are the protective shield from any conspiracy be it foreign or domestic, so make them have confidence in you through your work for them and for the sake of their children. The Turkish people sent a message to all those who wish Turkey evil, destruction and instability, that despite differences, they will not allow going back, and will not allow any foreign or domestic power that messes with their will, freedom or stability.

This is in clear language. The Turkish people gave a heroic lesson: The people's will defeats the tanks, smashes armored vehicles, breaks the nose of the traitor and conspirator, and protects legitimacy, democracy and freedom. It is a lesson if understood by the rest of people and their regimes, they would be like Turkey today... so thank you for this wonderful lesson.

— Translated by Kuwait Times

KFH RENOVATES, UPGRADES ATMS

NEW DESIGN; MORE CONSISTENT WITH KFH STATUS

KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) implemented a renovation project for its ATMs surrounds with the aim of modernizing in a new and more updated fashionable look in line with the brand image of the bank and its leading global position in Islamic banking. The campaign encompassed the renovation of branches and ATM surrounds at 60 offsite and onsite locations at national level spanning 6 governorates.

The campaign aims at showing the best corporate image of KFH, while achieving more efficiency in terms of marketing operations and maintenance efficiencies, especially since the new materials are characterized by its durability, efficiency and functionality. This enhances the brand image of the bank, makes it appear in more unified manner, yet promotes the harmony and consistency among the bank's ATMs spread throughout Kuwait.

It is worth noting that this initiative is in line with KFH's fundamentals in rationalizing cost as the durability of the new design of the ATMs surrounds is more efficient than the previous ones, not to mention the marketing utilization effectiveness, i.e. the ability to advertise KFH products and services. Moreover, renovating the surrounds of KFH ATMs stems from KFH's endeavors to constantly adopting and keeping pace with the latest developments in the marketing and branding fields, not to mention the infrastructure and technology in efforts to offer the best image of KFH, while contributing in providing customers with all means of comfort, which boosts customers' confidence in KFH as a leading Islamic financial institution.

Further, the renovation encompassed both the ordinary ATMs and KFH Shamel ATMs that enjoy advanced features such as opening investment deposits, withdrawing and depositing, balance inquiry, account statement etc. Also, companies can benefit from ATMs in depositing funds and checks and

completing their transactions in an easy and secure manner. KFH ATMs play a significant marketing role as they comprise means to communicate with clients and convey KFH's advertisements and promotional campaigns through the devices' screens.

KFH has a vast branch network

of over 65 branches, and a large number of ATMs; ordinary and Shamel in addition to the 6 Mobi Baitak vehicles that are subject to flexible schedule targeting distant areas, markets and crowded places in an attempt to offer high-end services to clients wherever they are.



The advertisement features a central image of a Quaker man in a blue hat and white shirt, with the word 'QUAKER' in large letters below him. Below this, there are several packets of Quaker soup in various flavors, including 'Cream of Chicken', 'Creamy Mushroom', 'Chicken Noodle', and 'Vegetable Cousin'. The packets are arranged on a wooden surface. At the bottom, there are bowls of soup and a pile of oats. The text 'IT'S HERE The SOUP you've always wanted' is prominently displayed. At the bottom, there are social media links for QUAKER_KW and QUAKERARABIA, and the Alitco W.L.L. logo.



California fires threaten thousands of homes

FRENCH PRESIDENT'S APPROVAL RATING INCHES UP DESPITE NICE ATTACK



SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA: California state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson, D-Santa Barbara, poses in front of portraits of two former California governors, Republicans George Deukmejian, left and Pete Wilson, at the California Capitol on June 29, 2016. — AP

CLINTON HIGHLIGHTS LACK OF WOMEN IN OFFICE 'THE HIGHEST, HARDEST GLASS CEILING'

NEW YORK: Hillary Clinton and Mary Thomas have little in common, except for this: They both hope to add to the meager ranks of America's female elected officials come January.

You know about Clinton, but probably not Thomas - a conservative Republican, opponent of abortion and Obamacare, former general counsel of Florida's Department of Elder Affairs. She's running in Florida's 2nd District to become the first Indian-American woman in Congress. It's no easy task. "There is still a good ol' boys network that is in place," she says, though she insists that "A lot of people see the value in having different types of people in Washington."

Even as Clinton attempts to shatter what she has called "the highest, hardest glass ceiling," other women like Thomas are testing other, lower ceilings. There are many: Women in the US remain significantly underrepresented at all levels of elected office. "Historically, we have centuries of catching up to do," says Missy Shorey, executive director of the conservative-leaning Maggie's List, one of a number of groups supporting female candidates.

Though women are more than half of the American population, they now account for just a fifth of all US representatives and senators, and one in four state lawmakers. They serve as governors of only six states and are mayors in roughly 19 percent of the nation's largest cities.

There has been progress; as recently as 1978, there were no women US senators, and now there are 20. Still, there has been little headway

since a surge of women won office in the 1980s and early 1990s. Sixteen states have fewer women serving in legislatures than in 2005, and five others have shown no improvement, according to an analysis by The Associated Press of data collected by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

It is another aspect of the gender divide - one of the most glaring in our society. Women still earn 79 cents for every dollar men take home; men outnumber women in higher paying occupations, though even there they are often paid less. And the division plays out politically, as well. Women have tended to vote with the Democrats more often; polls have shown Clinton with a double-digit lead over Donald Trump among women, and Trump leading Clinton by double digits among men.

Advocates say the dearth of women officeholders has had consequences. They say women's voices have been muted in local, state and national discussions of all issues, from climate change to foreign policy, but particularly of concerns important to women and working mothers: family leave, child care and equal pay, for example. They point to instances where women in office have made a difference.

Kim McMillan was first elected as a Democrat to her seat in Tennessee's House of Representatives in 1994 when she was 32 years old, a working mother of two children under the age of 3. She was motivated to run after visiting the state Capitol as part of her law practice. "I

went up to the gallery upstairs and you could look out at the entire House of Representatives. I remember standing up there and looking at the House floor, and I didn't see anybody who looked like me," McMillan says. "There were no women that I could see."

More than once, she was told she couldn't win because she was a woman. She recalls being asked why she would run with two young children to care for. McMillan won that race and eventually served six terms, rising to become the first woman majority leader. A major accomplishment: expansion of pre-kindergarten education around the state. "I felt like I represented people who didn't have any representation, working mothers like me," says McMillan, who now serves as the first female mayor of Clarksville, the fifth largest city in Tennessee.

Whether a Clinton win in November will inspire a new generation of female politicians remains to be seen. While the election of a woman as US president would be unprecedented, at least 52 other countries around the world have had a female head of state in the last 50 years. Great Britain got its second female prime minister when Theresa May took office this month.

Female representation varies significantly around the US. Six states have never elected or appointed a woman to the US House of Representatives, and 22 have never had a woman represent them in the US Senate. Mississippi is the only state where a woman has

never served as a congresswoman, US senator or governor.

Colorado has the highest number of women serving in a state legislature, with 42 percent, but it has never had a woman governor or US senator. And while Nikki Haley is South Carolina's governor, the state has never sent a woman to the US Senate and has one of the lowest percentages of female state lawmakers at 14 percent.

A major problem, activists say, is convincing women to run. Researchers say women generally need to be recruited to seek elected office, whereas men are more likely to decide on their own. Men are also the ones who are more likely to be recruited. "We know that when women run for office, they win as often as men do," says Debbie Walsh, executive director of the

Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University. "The number of women running isn't going up, and so the number of women in office isn't going up."

Quotas have been credited by some researchers with boosting the number of women in office in a few countries, but the political parties in the US are unlikely to consider any such system. Instead, the work of recruiting and supporting women has largely fallen to outside groups such as EMILY's List.

Founded in 1985, the group backs Democrats who support abortion rights. It points to a record of helping elect 19 women to the US Senate, 110 women to the US House of Representatives and more than 700 women to state and local offices, including 11 governors. — AP

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15-HOUR TAILBACKS IN UK AT FRENCH BORDER

DOVER: British officials were drafted in to help French border police yesterday after 15-hour queues built up at the port of Dover due to heightened entry checks. Stationary vehicles could be seen snaking through the countryside, inland from Dover at England's southeastern tip.

The town is Britain's main ferry port to Calais in northeastern France, 33 kilometers across the Channel. Under a reciprocal agreement, Britain and France have border controls on the opposite side of the Channel.

"We recognize the security pressures that French law enforcement organizations are under at Dover and we have agreed the UK Border Force will assist the PAF (French frontier police) with border checks to remove the backlog," said a spokeswoman for Britain's Home Office interior ministry.

"There has been extraordinary disruption in the Dover area today but safety is paramount." Some people slept overnight in their

cars. Highways England, which runs the road network, told drivers: "French border police at the Port of Dover and Eurotunnel continue to follow French government requirements to deliver heightened security checks to keep the travelling public safe following the recent attacks in France."

The local Kent Police force said there was a 12-mile tailback, which it put down to a "vast volume of holiday traffic". People were advised to bring food and drink supplies, while a Sikh humanitarian organization delivered water and snacks.

Xavier Czerwinski, a senior official from the Pas-de-Calais area, said: "The situation is exceptional because it's the weekend when Britons make the great getaway to the continent. "We have deployed the maximum resources. "Given the European context and the prolonged state of emergency, officers are obliged to check every vehicle rigorously." —AFP

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ISRAEL TAKES ON FACEBOOK IN BATTLE AGAINST INCITEMENT

JERUSALEM: Nine months ago, Daren Tatour posted a poem on Facebook about her frustration over spiking violence between Israelis and Palestinians. Days later, Israeli police banged on her door in the middle of the night and arrested her, accusing her of inciting violence on the social network.

Tatour, an Arab citizen of Israel, is one of several hundred people detained in recent years for allegedly spreading incitement. Hoping to further clamp down on what it sees as the driving force behind a 10-month spate of Palestinian attacks, Israel is now preparing a law that aims to rein in content on social media, including Facebook, a platform it says plays a central role in inspiring attackers.

Critics say Israel is going too far, and that the new legislation will make it easier to violate freedom of expression, especially of Israel's Arab citizens. "Where is the democracy here? There is no democracy. Voicing your opinion is the only medium for an individual in a democracy," Tatour, 34, said by phone from the apartment outside Tel Aviv where she was confined to house arrest after spending three months in jail. She has no access to the internet and is forced to wear an electronic ankle monitor. Tatour says her poem was never a call to violence, but rather an expression of anger against what she saw as Israel's excessive use of force. In it she writes: "Resist, my people, resist them ... And follow the caravan of martyrs." She has been charged with incitement to violence and support for a terror organization for a series of posts last October, including one in which she voiced support for a Palestinian uprising, according to the indictment.

Before being arrested, Tatour worked in elderly care but is now out of a job.

She wrote poetry as a hobby, sharing her pieces with close friends and 4,000 Facebook followers. She read her poems in public only on three occasions. She says she was somewhat politically active, attending protests supporting Palestinian causes several times a year.

Literary figures

More than 150 literary figures, including pro-Palestinian authors Alice Walker and Naomi Klein, are calling for Tatour's release. The current violence erupted in mid-September over tensions surrounding a Jerusalem site holy to both Muslims and Jews. Since then, Israel has repeatedly pointed to examples of social media content that it says fueled attacks, from drawings depicting Jews being killed to instructions on how best to stab an Israeli.

The Palestinians say such content - like the violence - is the result of frustrations over nearly 50 years of Israel's occupation and a lack of hope. The latest wave of attacks has killed 34 Israelis and two visiting Americans, mostly in stabbings. More than 200 Palestinians have been killed at the same time, the majority of whom are said by Israel to have been attackers. The rest were killed in clashes with Israeli troops.

In a bid to extinguish what they see as the wellspring of the violence, Israeli police scour social networks, sifting through hundreds of thousands of posts that may be deemed as inciting to violence. Posts that directly call for or encourage murder immediately set off alarms, but officials also look for certain keywords, the type of exposure a post gets in terms of followers or likes and whether the user is affiliated with a militant group.

The police declined to say how many



TEL AVIV, ISRAEL: Israeli Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan speaks during an interview with The Associated Press in his office. —AP

people are on the monitoring team, when it began operating or what tools it uses to scour Arabic social media sites. Shlomi Avramzon, a Justice Ministry official who heads a team that assesses content for incitement, says the process has built-in checks so as not to infringe on freedom of expression.

He says that unlike other crimes in Israel, police need to receive permission from the state attorney's office before they can launch an investigation. If the state attorney's office wants to issue an indictment, it must first receive clearance from the attorney general. According to police figures obtained by the Israeli Movement for Freedom of Information, 426 Arabs were arrested for incitement between 2011 and 2015, much of it on social media. The figures did not differentiate between Palestinians and Arab citizens of Israel. Some 64 Jews were arrested during that time.

Justice Ministry

Over the last year and a half, the Justice Ministry said 45 indictments had been served, the majority against Arabs. Palestinians in the West Bank are bound by Israeli military law, which has its own rules on incitement. The military says 100 indictments have been issued against Palestinians for incitement offenses since last November.

Suhad Bishara, the acting director of Adalah, an Arab legal rights group, said that some investigations into incitement are justified but others challenge posts "that fall clearly within the realm of free expression." The new social media law, dubbed "the Facebook Law," would enable courts to order social networks to remove posts in cases in which the user cannot be found or is not under Israel's jurisdiction. Israeli authorities identify inciting material and seek the court order. It is not clear if the law could be

enforced. Public Security Minister Gilad Erdan said authorities could sue Facebook if it did not comply with the court order for any damage that the incitement causes.

Erdan, one of the law's sponsors, told The Associated Press that as a test, Israel asked Facebook to remove 74 posts it said amounted to incitement. Facebook agreed to remove 24, a sign Erdan said pointed to a need to hold social networks accountable for content their users post. "We are left with no choice in order to protect the public other than advancing a law that will give us a legal tool to act against internet companies," Erdan said. "I've called on Mark Zuckerberg to take responsibility."

Erdan denied that Israel is infringing on freedom of expression, insisting it was preferable to investigate people for potentially incriminating posts, even if they were innocent, rather than risk violence. Another draft bill by an opposition lawmaker goes further, seeking to force social networks to self-monitor for incitement or face a fine.

Facebook did not respond to repeated requests for comment. Facebook's website says it reviews "reports of threatening language" and removes "credible threats of physical harm to individuals." Aaron Mackey, a legal fellow at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a US group promoting civil rights in the digital world, said it was unlikely that the California-based Facebook would be bound by the Israeli law. Such legislation was a slippery slope toward censorship of its Arab minority, he added. "It can become problematic when a policy intended to prevent certain speech about violence is actually used to repress speech from certain disempowered communities." —AP



BAGHDAD: Iraqi security forces and civilians gather at the scene of a bomb in Kadhimiyah district yesterday. —AP

SUICIDE ATTACK IN BAGHDAD KILLS AT LEAST 14 PEOPLE

BAGHDAD: A suicide bomber attacked a security check point in northern Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 14 people, Iraqi officials said. The bomber, who was on foot, detonated his device at one of the busy entrances of the Shiite district of Kadhimiyah, killing at least 10 civilians and four policemen, a police officer said. At least 31 other people were wounded, he added.

Three more civilians were killed and 11 wounded in a bomb explosion in an outdoor market in Baghdad's western suburb of Abu Ghraib, another police officer said. Two medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information.

In an online statement, IS group claimed responsibility for the Kadhimiyah attack,

saying it targeted a gathering of security forces and Shiite militia members. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the statements, but they were posted on a militant website commonly used by the extremists. Security forces and public areas, mainly in Shiite neighborhoods, are one of the most frequent targets for the Islamic State group, which controls key areas in mainly northern and western Iraq.

Since late last year, the group has suffered a string of territorial losses, most recently last month in Fallujah, where it was driven out by Iraqi forces after occupying the city for more than two years. But the extremists have continued to carry out near-daily bombings in and around Baghdad, as well as complex attacks in other countries. —AP

IRAN SAYS DETAINS IRANIAN AMERICAN DUAL NATIONAL

DUBAI: Iran confirmed yesterday the detention of an Iranian-American visiting the country, the latest in a string of arrests of dual nationals in the past year.

Asked about reports of the arrest of a dual citizen on national security charges, Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei told a weekly news conference: "The report on the arrest of an Iranian-American dual national is correct," the semi-official Fars news agency said. "But I don't know what the charges are. The person was arrested in Gorgan ... but the trial may be held in Tehran," Mohseni Ejei added.

It was not immediately clear if he was referring to the case of San Diego, California-based Robin Reza Shahini who was detained while visiting his mother in the northeastern city of Gorgan earlier in July, according to the Los Angeles Times and other Western media.

In the past nine months, Iran's Revolutionary Guards have arrested at least six dual-national Iranians, their friends and family members say, the highest number of Iranians with dual-nationality detained at

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

The Iranian government does not recognize dual nationality, which prevents relevant Western embassies from seeing individuals who have been detained.

In March, the US State Department issued a warning noting that Iranian-Americans are particularly at risk of being detained or imprisoned if they travel to Iran. According to former prisoners, families of current ones and diplomats, in some cases the detainees are kept to be used for a prisoner exchange with Western countries. In January, the United States and Iran reached a historic prisoner swap deal that saw Iranians held or charged in the United States, mostly for sanctions violations, released in return for Americans imprisoned in Iran. Several Iranian dual nationals from the United States, Britain, Canada and France are being kept behind bars on various charges, including espionage or collaborating with a hostile government. —Reuters

LIBYAN HEALTH CRISIS SHARPENS

RESOURCES DWINDLE

TRIPOLI: Unable to get specialist care for his six-year-old daughter in Libya or a visa for treatment abroad, Abdulhakim Shaybi bought a motor boat and set off with her last month across the Mediterranean.

Two-and-a-half hours into their journey from Sabratha in western Libya, they reached a European ship deployed to rescue migrants. "I raised a white flag to the ship in a sign of peace," Shaybi told Reuters by phone this week from the Italian city of Genoa, where his daughter Sajida, who has the rare blood cell disease aplastic anemia, is now undergoing tests. "My friend told them that we have a sick little girl."

The story was quickly picked up on social media as an illustration of the tragic consequences of Libya's health system collapsing amid poor security, a funding crisis, and chronic shortages of staff and medicine.

Problems only seem to have become more acute since a UN-backed government arrived in Tripoli in March aiming to end the armed conflict and political turmoil that has plagued Libya for years. It is gradually trying to assert its authority, but remains opposed by some factions on the ground.

Shaybi said he decided on the boat trip after visiting Tripoli Central Hospital earlier this year and finding it "in a disastrous condition, one hundred times worse than before. There

was no nursing staff at night, no medicine, and no health care at all."

Sorry state

The hospital is now in a sorry state, afflicted by power and water cuts and starved of resources. Three months ago the emergency room was shut after one male nurse was shot and another was beaten. The morgue has run out of space because staff are waiting for authorization to bury unclaimed bodies. Of 250 foreign nurses, just 40 are left, and female Libyan nurses are afraid to work because of security threats.

"We are only conducting emergency operations now," General Manager Mukhtar al-Habbas told Reuters. "We have no anaesthetic, sterilising materials, or medical gauze, so how we can work?" It is a similar tale across Libya. About half of the country's 159 hospitals are either closed or barely delivering services, said Haroon Rashid, a World Health Organization official.

Before the uprising that toppled Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, Libya had some of the best health indicators in the region, he said, though it was also unusually dependent on foreign doctors and nurses, using its oil income to employ them on generous terms. But some 80 percent of those workers have left, depriving medical facilities of specialist care needed in

neonatal units or to treat high rates of casualties from traffic accidents.

The WHO says indigenous malaria cases have recently resurfaced in the south, and it fears a re-emergence of polio as well as increasing resistance to HIV drugs due to users switching between different brands because of lack of supply. In a country where substance abuse is widespread, there are no detoxification centers.

Political turmoil, corruption, and financial pressure caused by a steep fall in oil earnings have cut off funding to health facilities, yet Libya's underlying wealth means foreign donors are reluctant to give. "Everyone is saying that Libya is a rich country, and they may have frozen assets but they have nothing in hand," said Rashid.

At the Tripoli Medical Centre, the largest state hospital in the capital, metal donation boxes have been placed at the entrance and the walls of the pharmacy are bare. Some equipment has been switched off by contractors who haven't been paid, said General Manager Mohammed Ehaish, and the remaining nursing staff are threatening to leave over lack of salaries. "The treatment is non-existent," said Mohamed Maylood Al-Sabouh, whose wife is a cancer patient there. "I buy from pharmacies and sometimes I have to go to five to six before I can find the medicine." —Reuters

SAUDI EXECUTES FOUR CONVICTED OF MURDER

RIYADH: Saudi authorities executed four citizens yesterday convicted of killing six members of their tribe, the interior ministry said. The killings took place due to a land dispute among members of the Quthami tribe, the ministry said in a statement on the official SPA news agency.

The four, including three brothers, were executed in the western city of Taif, bringing to 105 the number of death sentences carried out in the kingdom this year. Saudi Arabia's growing use of the death penalty has prompted Amnesty International to call for an "immediate" moratorium on the practice.

The kingdom imposes the death penalty for offences including murder, drug trafficking, armed robbery, rape and apostasy. Most people executed are beheaded with a sword. On Thursday, authorities carried out the 100th execution of the year. "Saudi Arabia is speeding along in its dogged use of a cruel and inhuman punishment, mindless of justice and human rights," said Amnesty's Middle East and North Africa head Philip Luther.

"At this rate, the Kingdom's executioners will soon match or exceed the number of people they put to death last year," he said. Amnesty says the kingdom carried out at least 158 death sentences in 2015, making it the third most prolific executioner after Iran and Pakistan.

Amnesty's figures do not include secretive China. "The Saudi Arabian authorities must immediately establish an official moratorium on executions and abolish the death penalty once and for all," Luther said. Murder and drug trafficking cases account for the majority of Saudi executions, although 47 people were put to death for "terrorism" offences on a single day in January. They included prominent Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr, whose execution prompted Iranian protesters to torch Saudi diplomatic missions, triggering a diplomatic crisis between the two arch-rivals. —AFP



SIRTE, LIBYA: A handout picture uploaded yesterday on the official Facebook page of the media centre of the forces of Libya's Government of National Accord's (GNA) military operation against the Islamic State group in Sirte shows members of forces loyal to Libya's unity government walking in a building used by the Islamic State group to manufacture explosives after they seized it. —AFP

LIBYA LOYALISTS TAKE IS BOMB FACTORY IN SIRTE

TRIPOLI: Forces loyal to Libya's unity government said yesterday they had seized a building used by the Islamic State group to manufacture explosives in its coastal stronghold.

The bomb factory is the largest to be captured by fighters allied with the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) since they launched an operation to retake Sirte in May, the forces said on Facebook.

They said the building was in the southeast of Sirte, the hometown of slain dictator Moamer Kadhafi which IS has controlled since June 2015. The pro-GNA forces shared images of the building including several rooms containing explosive devices, cables and mobile phones.

The fall of Sirte, 450 kilometres (280 miles) east of Tripoli, would be a major blow to IS, which has faced a series of setbacks in Syria and Iraq. The two-month battle for Sirte has killed around 280 pro-government fighters and wounded more than 1,500, according to medical sources at the unity forces' command centre.

The pro-GNA forces are mostly made up of militias from western Libya established during the 2011 revolt that overthrew Kadhafi. A militia set up to guard the country's main oil facilities has also been advancing on IS. The GNA was the result of a UN-brokered power-sharing agreement struck in December, but it has yet to be endorsed by Libya's elected parliament based in the country's far east. —AFP



CARMELO, CALIFORNIA: A large plume of smoke from a wildfire rises near Highway 1. —AP

CALIFORNIA FIRES THREATEN THOUSANDS OF HOMES

LOS ANGELES: Thousands of homes remained evacuated yesterday as two massive wildfires raged in tinder-dry California hills and canyons, and authorities said a burned body was found in one neighborhood swept by the flames.

Firefighters have been working a fire up and down ridgelines since Friday that has blackened 31-square miles of brush on the edge of Santa Clarita and the Angeles National Forest. About 300 miles up the coast, crews were battling another blaze across 10-square miles north of the majestic Big Sur region.

The body of a man was discovered inside a burned sedan Saturday evening outside a home in Santa Clarita, just north of Los Angeles. There was no evidence the death was crime-related, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department said Sunday as the investigation continued.

The area was among those ordered evacuated as the fire raged through brush withered by days of 100-degree temperatures as Southern California sweltered through a heat wave.

After flames driven by gusty winds swept through an evacuated neighborhood, firefighters reported that some buildings had been engulfed, but it was not immediately clear whether they were homes, outbuildings or garages, said Nathan Judy, a spokesman for the US Fire Service.

The area was still unsafe, he said late Saturday night. "You've still got hotspots in that area, a lot of smoldering stuff," and trees that might fall because their roots had burned, Judy said.

More than 900 firefighters and water-dropping helicopters battled the flames overnight on several fronts. "It's not a one-direction type of fire," Judy said. "It's going in different directions depending on which way the wind is blowing. It's doing what it

wants." Despite firefighters' efforts, the blaze destroyed sets at Sable Ranch in Santa Clarita, which has Old West-style buildings used for movie locations. "It was a horrific firestorm," owner Derek Hunt told KABC-TV. "At some point, you know you're defeated and you have to step back and save what you can. We fought as best as we could."

Smoke and ash from the fire cast a pall over neighboring Los Angeles. Air quality officials advised people with respiratory problems to stay indoors. Bengal tigers and a mountain lion were among several hundred animals evacuated Saturday as flames partially ringed the Wildlife Waystation, a nonprofit sanctuary for rescued exotic creatures in Sylmar. Volunteers showed up with trucks and trailers to help with the rescue. Later in the day, firefighters managed to beat back the threat.

More than 200 horses along with goats, rabbits and other animals also were removed from fire areas. Yesterday's forecast called for low humidity with afternoon and evening winds gusting to 25 mph or more that could once again fan the fires' explosive growth.

Up the coast, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection firefighters battled the blaze in rugged mountains north of Big Sur. The fire 5 miles south of Garrapata State Park posed a threat to about 1,000 homes and the community of Palo Colorado was ordered evacuated, Cal Fire said.

Jerri Masten-Hansen said she and her husband watched the fire creep in toward them. "We felt threatened this morning and decided we needed to go," Masten-Hansen told KSBW-TV. Her sister also left her home down the road. "I grabbed all the pictures of the kids, and then I took the paintings of my parents that had been done by a local artist," Ellen Masten said. —AP



BATON ROUGE: Members of a police honor guard raise their hands in salute as the casket of Baton Rouge police officer Matthew Gerald exits the Healing Place Church after funeral services on Friday. —AP

HITLER'S BIRTHPLACE LOATHES LINK TO HIM BUT NOT THE BUILDING

BRAUNAU AM INN, AUSTRIA: Adolf Hitler was born in the house behind her and the building is a natural draw for tourists. But when asked about her hometown's most important landmark, Ivonne Bekking gestured down the road toward a baroque church steeple.

It's a well-taught defense mechanism in Braunau am Inn, where Klara Hitler gave birth to Adolf in 1889 and locals have spent decades debating the fate of Hitler's hometown. "I know that at school we were taught always to point in this direction, to the church tower," said Bekking as she stood in front of Hitler's birthplace, an apartment within an imposing three-storey yellow building that dates to the 16th century. Hitler's family spent only his first three years of life in the town bordering Germany, yet Austria's government has felt compelled to rent the building for nearly 45 years to ensure that fascists could not transform it into a Nazi shrine.

Most residents say they would like nothing more than to erase any association between their community and Hitler. Yet many oppose a new proposal by Interior Minister Wolfgang Sobotka to demolish the property once the government seizes ownership as part of a bill unveiled this month and expected to pass parliament later this year. "Tearing it down is no solution," said Deputy Mayor Florian Zagler. "It's a birthplace, not a crime scene."

Insiders know that the initials "MB" in the iron grillwork above the imposing wooden entrance stand for Martin Bormann, Hitler's private secretary, who bought the house shortly before World War II with thoughts of

turning it into a shrine to the dictator. The property was handed back to its original owners after occupation by US troops.

No sign explicitly marks the spot as the Hitler homestead. Instead, in 1989, the town council placed a granite slab retrieved from the pits of the Mauthausen concentration camp on the sidewalk outside. "Never again fascism; millions of dead remind us," an inscription reads.

The empty dwelling radiates interest from ordinary tourists and others on a darker journey. A Bulgarian man in his 50s who identified himself only as Boyko ran his fingers over the BM initials standing for Hitler's secretary. "I'm here on a pilgrimage," the man said.

The government bill unveiled July 12 would empower the state to take ownership of the building from its reclusive owner, Gerlinde Pommer, who since 2011 has been in dispute with her government tenants over how to use the building, previously home to a workshop for the mentally ill. Sobotka says he thinks demolishing the property represents "the cleanest solution" to erase the town's links to the dictator. A government-supported anti-Nazi research center called DOW has suggested that a supermarket should be built on the spot. But not all of Sobotka's government colleagues agree, and zoning laws and aesthetic concerns also stand in the way.

The property is already designated as a monument not because of Hitler, but for its historic and architectural value. Putting a wrecking ball to it would leave an ugly gap in the rows of flanking Renaissance-era buildings lining cobblestoned streets. —AP

DEMOCRATS CONVERGE FOR CLINTON NOMINATION

DNC STARTS TODAY IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA: US Democrats converge on the City of Brotherly Love to elevate Hillary Clinton this coming week as the party's nominee who will battle Republican Donald Trump in 2016's presidential election.

The Democratic National Convention kicks off today in Philadelphia with the party more unified than the Republicans, whose fissures were laid bare this week as they confirmed brash billionaire Trump as their flag-bearer. But frustrations are nevertheless swirling as delegates bicker about the Democratic nominating process and new hiccups over Clinton camp emails. "Next week in Philadelphia we will offer a very different vision for our country," she pledged. "One that is about building bridges, not walls, embracing the diversity that makes our country great." Her quest received a boost Saturday when she introduced Tim Kaine of Virginia as her running mate, a savvy Spanish-speaking US senator with a bright smile but "a backbone of steel", according to Clinton.

Kaine "is everything Donald Trump and (Republican running-mate) Mike Pence are not," she said.

The 58-year-old Kaine, from a crucial battleground state, delivered a rousing speech in Miami, Florida, laying out sharp contrasts between Clinton and the Republican nominee. "She doesn't insult people, she listens to them," he told the Miami crowd. "She doesn't trash our allies, she respects them. And she'll always have our backs."

Following the appearance Trump tweeted that he had seen "Crooked Hillary and Tim Kaine together. ISIS and our other enemies are drooling. They don't look presidential to me!" The Democratic convention "gavels in" at 4:00 pm (2000 GMT) Monday in Philadelphia's Wells Fargo Center, with First Lady Michelle Obama and Clinton's former rival in the primaries, Senator Bernie Sanders, scheduled as the headliners.

Former president Bill Clinton is the star on tomorrow, while President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden take the stage Wednesday. The Democrats have considerably more star-power than the Republicans who gathered in Cleveland, where both former Bush presidents steered clear, as did former Republican presidential nominees John McCain (2008) and Mitt Romney (2012).

Even as the party basked in the lovefest that was the first Clinton-Kaine rally, there was still a

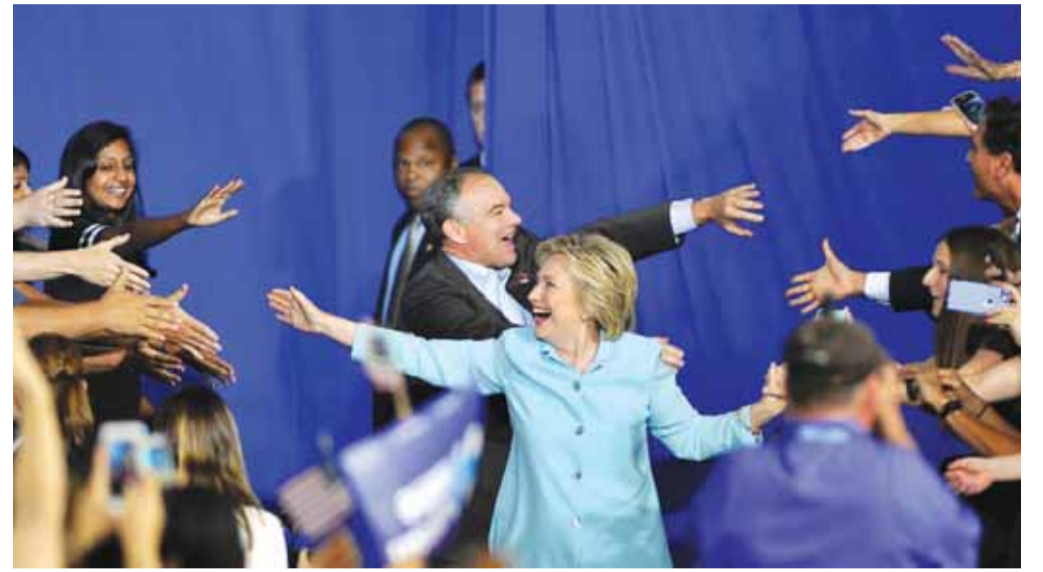
whiff of scandal that could rattle party unity. A cache of leaked emails from Democratic Party leaders' accounts includes at least two messages suggesting an insider effort to hobble the upstart Sanders campaign-including by seeking to present him as an atheist to undermine him in religious states.

Trump has pounced on the leaks. "Leaked emails of DNC show plans to destroy Bernie Sanders. Mock his heritage and much more. Online from Wikileaks (sic), really vicious. RIGGED," the bombastic real estate developer tweeted

of super delegates in the nomination process, something Sanders has long demanded.

Meanwhile, delegates and activists descended Saturday on Philadelphia, where police were intensifying security operations. "We shouldn't be fearful, we're Americans," delegate Patti Norkiewicz of Florida told AFP, two days after Trump offered a dark vision of a nation besieged by chaos and violence.

"We should be proud, united, and we're allowed to disagree," she said. Clinton is seeking to become the first female commander in chief,



MIAMI: US Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and running mate US Senator Tim Kaine arrive for a campaign rally at Florida International University on Saturday. —AFP

Saturday. Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver demanded answers. "Someone does have to be held accountable," Weaver told ABC News. The Democratic Party seemed to have "its fingers on the scale" for Clinton, Weaver added.

'Shouldn't be fearful'

Sanders delegates fumed when their efforts to end the party's use of super delegates-grantees who are free to vote for whomever they choose at the convention-mostly failed during a series of rules committee votes on Saturday, according to The Washington Post.

But Sanders delegates won a compromise victory when the committee agreed to form a commission tasked with reducing the number

eight years after Obama made history as the nation's first black president.

While Sanders has publicly endorsed his former rival, many of his most fervent supporters are organizing protests in Philadelphia, with the largest demonstration expected on the convention's opening day today.

Clinton is "disingenuous, not real," Laurie Cestnick, coordinator for the Occupy DNC Convention protest group, told AFP. "We've come to see that she's part of a corrupt system." Protests at the Republican convention which ended Thursday were underwhelming, with only a few demonstrations drawing hundreds of people. Organizers in Philadelphia say they are expecting thousands. —AFP

TRUMP VS. CLINTON: IS A 2017 'PEACEFUL TRANSFER' POSSIBLE?

ATLANTA: Hillary Clinton should be in jail. Donald Trump threatens America's very existence. These are not fringe opinions. They are widespread views across the nation's bitter political divide. That means that on Nov. 9, the morning after Election Day, tens of millions of Americans will awaken to the realization that someone they loathe will be the 45th president of the United States.

The dynamics of the race, more ominous than the usual rough-and-tumble of politics, leave many Republicans and Democrats worried that many voters will be unwilling to accept the outcome. That could weaken the new president from the very first day in office. Intense, sustained opposition diminishes a president's political capital and emboldens opposition lawmakers who have to answer to their own supporters.

"Politics has never been genteel ... but generally both parties and their leaders have recognized the legitimacy of the process, and that seems to be fading," said Republican Steve Schmidt, top strategist for Arizona Sen. John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign. The GOP mood was on display at their national convention, where delegates in Cleveland erupted daily into chants of "Lock her up! Lock her up!" - a reference to Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state. Clinton was investigated, but not charged.

Clinton's campaign

Clinton's campaign answered with fundraising pitches, telling would-be donors: "We have to stop him." There promises to be plenty of Trump bashing when Democrats convene their convention Monday in Philadelphia.

It's not that the United States hasn't had divisive elections before. The 2000 race between Republican George W. Bush and Democrat Al Gore resulted in a prolonged recount of Florida's votes and ended with a 5-4 Supreme Court ruling that put Bush in the White House.

Chris Lehane, who managed Gore's bid, said as bitter as that was, "it's even more partisan now." Lehane recalled being on Capitol Hill, preparing for a news conference, when the court issued its ruling that ended Gore's presidential hopes. "I remember I had one of the first Blackberries, and the first message I got (after the decision) was from Gore: 'Do not trash the Supreme Court,'" Lehane said. "He knew how he reacted mattered" for Bush.

Trump has shown a willingness to question election results. He warred with national GOP leaders during his own primary season, and he asserted anew Thursday that Clinton's Democratic victory came only as the result of a "rigged system." As a private citizen, he questioned the legitimacy of Barack Obama's presidency, falsely charging that Obama

was not a natural-born citizen and thus ineligible to serve.

Each candidate has declared the other unqualified for the presidency. Trump talks of "crooked Hillary" and says she's a "puppet" of special interests. Clinton calls Trump "temperamentally unfit" for the Oval Office. Schmidt, the former McCain strategist, noted "half the country is going to be unhappy" after any presidential election. This year, he said, all signs suggest "a very unhealthy number of that half that's unhappy will also not regard the legitimately elected president of the United State as legitimate."

No response

Neither campaign responded to an Associated Press inquiry asking whether the candidates would commit now to an unequivocal concession upon defeat. And there's no guarantee voters would follow their chosen candidate's lead.

"I could never accept Hillary Clinton as president," said Terry Hardaman, a 38-year-old Republican in Roswell, Georgia. Hardaman got emotional as he noted Clinton's email controversy. "I'm a Marine. Two tours in Iraq. I lost friends there. If any of us had done what she did," he said, his voice trailing off. "And now she wants to be commander in chief?"

Yet in Atlanta, 91-year-old black Democrat Howard King expressed similar emotion about Trump. King compared the national mood and Trump's candidacy to the twilight of the Roman Empire. "You read that history, Rome wasn't conquered from the outside," King said. "It fell from within." Asked to contemplate a Trump administration, King laughed. "Donald Trump is a fool," he said. "I can't see him as 'our president.'" The next president could run into trouble from an unlikely source - the winning party, adding one more impediment to a governing mandate. Trump has yet to secure the endorsement of his closest primary rival, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, and establishment Republicans remain uneasy about their nominee.

Clinton has earned the support of challenger Bernie Sanders, but many of his liberal backers aren't following along. One of them, activist and professor Cornel West, described a nation "in deep crisis" because of social, economic and political discord that a "thoroughly narcissistic Republican like Donald Trump" and a "thoroughly opportunistic politician like Hillary Clinton" cannot assuage.

Nonetheless, Schmidt and Lehane both said the tension of the campaign makes it that much harder, but also more important for the loser to concede graciously. They said that's the first step in the "peaceful transfer of power" seen on Inauguration Day. "The first person to call Barack Obama 'Mr. President-elect wasn't staff," recalled Schmidt. "It was Sen. McCain." —AP



LAS VEGAS: Handguns are displayed at the Smith & Wesson booth at the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show on Jan. 19, 2016. —AP

AP POLL: SUPPORT GROWS AMONG AMERICANS FOR STRICTER GUN LAWS

NEW YORK: Americans increasingly favor tougher gun laws by margins that have grown wider after a steady drumbeat of shootings in recent months, but they also are pessimistic that change will happen anytime soon, according to a new Associated Press-GfK poll.

Nearly two-thirds of respondents expressed support for stricter laws, with majorities favoring nationwide bans on the sale of semi-automatic assault weapons such as the AR-15 and on the sale of high-capacity magazines holding 10 or more bullets.

The percentage of Americans who want such laws is the highest since the AP-GfK poll started asking the question in 2013, a survey taken about 10 months after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, that killed 20 children and six educators.

High-profile shootings also appear to have taken a toll on Americans' sense of safety. Strong majorities of those polled expressed some degree of concern that they or a relative will be a victim of gun violence or a mass shooting. "If you live in the United States in these days right now, you have to be concerned," said Milonne Ambrose, a 63-year-old administrative assistant from Decatur, Georgia. "You could be on the street somewhere. —AP

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GERMAN OFFICIALS URGE CLOSE LOOK AT GUN LAWS IN WAKE OF SHOOTING

BERLIN: Yesterday Senior German officials called for a review of Germany's already strict gun laws after Friday's deadly shooting in Munich that claimed the lives of nine people and the gunman, a deranged 18-year-old who was obsessed with mass killings.

"Gun control is an important issue. We must continue to do all we can to limit and strictly control access to deadly weapons," German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, leader of the centre-left Social Democrats, told Funke Mediengruppe, which owns a series of German newspapers.

Gabriel said German authorities were investigating how the German-Iranian dual national had gained illegal access

to the weapon - identified by police as a 9 mm Glock 17 pistol, the most widely used law enforcement weapon worldwide - despite signs that he had significant psychological issues.

"Clearly we will have to have a discussion in the near future about whether the current gun control laws are sufficient," said German lawmaker Stephan Mayer, a spokesman for Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling conservatives in parliament. "The biggest priority is to combat the illegal arms trade since that could also reduce crime and terrorism," he said in a statement yesterday.

The gunman, named by German media as Ali David Sonboly, opened fire

near a busy shopping mall on Friday evening, killing nine and wounding 35 more, before turning the gun on himself as police approached.

The Munich shooting was the third act of violence against civilians in Western Europe - and the second in southern Germany - in eight days. Officials said there were no signs of any links in this case to Islamist extremist groups.

German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere, also a member of Merkel's Democrats, told the Bild am Sonntag newspaper in a separate interview that he planned to review German gun laws after the attack, and seek improvements where needed.

De Maiziere said German gun laws were already very strict, which he considered appropriate, and it was critical to understand how the shooter gained access to the pistol used. "Then we have to evaluate very carefully if and where further legal changes are needed," he said in an interview published on Sunday.

Mayer and De Maiziere also cited the current debate within the European Union about a package of reforms that would tighten gun controls within the bloc and make it easier to trace the origin of guns purchased legally. The proposed changes, which must still be enacted by EU member states, would also set more stringent rules for deacti-

vating previously fully-functioning guns and making them available for sale as so-called decorations.

Member states have different criteria for what does and does not constitute a deactivated weapon, a legal loophole exploited by criminals to import weapons that have only been superficially modified to appear non-functioning.

The Glock 17 used by the Munich gunman, which police said had had its serial number filed away, was such a "reactivated" weapon from the Slovakia, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper reported yesterday, citing law enforcement sources. Sonboly obtained the gun on the Internet, it said. —Reuters



PARIS: French President Francois Hollande and French Environment Minister Segolene Royal visit an exhibition during a ceremony marking the first anniversary of the energy transition law, at the Elysee Palace on Friday. —AFP

HOLLANDE'S APPROVAL RATING INCHES UP DESPITE NICE ATTACK

PARIS: French President Francois Hollande's popularity rating has inched up from near record lows this month, despite heavy criticism he received over security issues since the Bastille Day attack in Nice, two polls showed.

Nineteen percent of those surveyed in a BVA poll published on Saturday said they had a favorable opinion of Hollande, up from a record low of 18 percent in June. The poll for Orange and Itele was conducted on July 20-21, days after a delivery man in Nice killed 84 people when he drove his truck through a crowd of revelers leaving a July 14 fireworks display on the beach front promenade.

A July 22-23 Ifop poll for the Journal du Dimanche published yesterday showed a bigger improvement, with those satisfied with the president rising three percentage points to a five-month high of 17 percent.

It had fallen to a near record low of 14 percent in June as Hollande's government faced a series of strikes and violent street protests over a contested labor reform.

While that standoff has subsided as the government forced the law through parliament despite opposition from leftwing lawmakers, the government has been heavily criticized over security since the attack in Nice. Conservatives with an eye on a presidential election nine months away lost no time criticizing Hollande's Socialist government for not doing more following last November's terrorist attacks in Paris that left 130 dead.

His Prime Minister Manuel Valls, who was jeered by a crowd in Nice at a commemoration for the victims there, saw his popularity rating dip in the BVA poll to a record low of 24 percent from 25 percent in June. In the Ifop poll his rating was unchanged from June at 21 percent.

Hollande's government has ordered an inquiry into policing on the night of the attack in the Riviera city in a bid to dispel criticism that security was inadequate. Known for tough talk on security and immigration issues, conservative former president Nicolas Sarkozy saw his rating jump four percentage points to 24 percent in the BVA poll.

That helped narrow some of the ground between him and Alain Juppe, his main rival to be the conservative Republicans' candidate for president. Juppe, who is not seen as strong on security issues and was left scrambling to sound tough after the attack in Nice, saw his rating fall two percentage points to 42 percent, although he remained the most popular politician, according to the BVA poll.

Marine Le Pen, leader of the anti-immigrant Front National party, saw her rating in the BVA poll rise three percentage points to 27 percent after the Nice attack. The attack led Hollande to reverse plans to end a state of emergency in place since the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris and instead extend it another six months, which lawmakers approved on Wednesday. —Reuters

FRANCIS AND POLAND DIFFER ON MIGRANTS AHEAD OF POPE'S VISIT

'TEST FOR THOSE SEEKING ENTRY TO HEAVEN'

VATICAN CITY: Support for migrants is so central to Pope Francis' vision for the church that he has made welcoming them a potential test for those seeking entry to Heaven on Judgment Day. The pontiff's advocacy for refugee rights faces a diplomatic test Wednesday when he begins a five-day visit to Poland, where a populist government has slammed the door on most asylum-seekers. Francis is scheduled to meet Polish President Andrzej Duda in Krakow's millennium-old castle atop Wawel Hill where, in the neighboring cathedral, Polish national heroes for centuries have been laid to rest. He then will hold a question-and-answer session with Poland's bishops behind closed doors.

Ahead of the pope's arrival, Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Blaszczak defended the ruling Law and Justice party's opposition to immigration by citing the Bastille Day truck massacre of 84 people in Nice, France. Blaszczak argued that such violence was an inevitable consequence of multiculturalism. The pope suggests that reluctance or refusal to shelter newcomers in need conflicts with the parable of the Good Samaritan, who offered aid to a robbed, wounded stranger.

Addressing the faithful earlier this month in St. Peter's Square, Francis said that ultimately "we will be judged on the basis of works of mercy." "The Lord will be able to say to us: 'Do you remember? That migrant, who so many wanted to kick out, was me.'"

Inspire by example

Seeking to inspire by example, Francis in April brought 12 Syrians back with him to Rome after visiting a migrant camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, where tens of thousands were stranded after perilous crossings from nearby Turkey in often overcrowded boats.

The Rev. David Hollenbach, a professor of ethics at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Affairs in Washington, said the pope's championing of migrants is "politically important and socially important, but also religiously important to the identity of Christianity." Hollenbach, who like Francis is a Jesuit, said in a telephone interview that the treatment of migrants and foreigners is "central in the Bible."

It's also intrinsic to the pope's definition of a Christian. Returning in February from a pilgrimage to Mexico, Francis told reporters aboard his plane: "I think that a person who thinks of building walls and not bridges isn't Christian." The pope was responding to a question about Donald Trump, the Republican US presidential candidate, who says he wants to build a border wall to bar Mexicans from the United States.



VATICAN: Pope Francis walks with a group of refugees he invited to join him on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica during his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square on June 22, 2016. —AP

A Polish commentator, Adam Szostkiewicz, said he expected the pope to raise Poland's opposition to aiding refugees during this week's visit because "this is the central theme of his pontificate in Europe. This is a European problem." Szostkiewicz said he expected the pope to argue against Poland's policy, which he compared to Pontius Pilate's attitude to the crucifixion of Jesus: "We wash our hands. This does not concern us." But he forecast that any papal appeal would spark only a momentary stir, not any shift in government policy.

"It will be good if he says it, and it will be commented on, but it will soon be forgotten," he said. Catholic figures in Poland have been widely seen to reinforce the government's nationalist views. University of Maryland history professor Piotr Kosicki recalled how a Polish priest railed against Muslims, Jews and "leftists" during an address to an Independence Day rally in Warsaw in November. Kosicki, writing in the Catholic magazine Commonweal, concluded that the priest, Jacek Miedlar, represented "a nationalist revival for which being Catholic and Polish implies also being anti-European, anti-pluralist and anti-liberal."

The Church's stance

Some within the church have been struck by how Poland's anti-migrant stand is equated with

protecting the country's Polish and Catholic identity. "Turning away the refugees would not have been so readily accepted by our society had it not been done in the name of the defense of Christianity and of being Polish," wrote the Rev. Leon Wisniewski, a Dominican friar, in the Catholic intellectual weekly Tygodnik Powszechny.

At the Vatican, the visiting spokesman for Poland's bishops conference was asked by The Associated Press how Poland and the Polish church might react to Francis' insistence on welcoming migrants. "It's not a black and white question," said the Rev. Pawel Rytel-Andrianik, who stressed that Poland has taken in refugees, most of them from countries with predominantly Christian backgrounds. He said Polish bishops had issued their own appeal for parishes to shelter refugees the day before Francis, in September 2015, similarly called on each parish to host a family of refugees. Most of Poland's refugees come from Russia, Ukraine and other neighbors in the former Soviet Union, not from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq or Africa, major sources for people trying to gain European Union protection. The right-wing Polish government elected in October has refused to observe an EU-wide agreement on sharing the burden of accommodating tens of thousands of asylum seekers largely stuck in Italy and Greece. —AP



CHENGDU, SICHUAN, CHINA: Britain's Finance Minister Philip Hammond (C) speaks with delegates after taking part in a "family photo" with other ministers and central bank chiefs at the G20 finance ministers meeting yesterday. — AFP

UK CONSERVATIVE PARTY CHAIRMAN SAYS BREXIT MUST BE BINDING

LONDON: Britain's vote to leave the European Union must be binding, the chairman of Britain's ruling Conservative Party said yesterday, and Article 50, which formally starts the exit process from the bloc, would be triggered before the next election.

Patrick McLoughlin, who was made party chairman by new Prime Minister Theresa May last week, told the BBC's Marr Show that the vote for Brexit meant Britain must now get control of its own borders and that immigration must be reduced.

Asked about a report in the Observer newspaper that an "emergency brake" on the free movement of people was being discussed, which would allow Britain to keep access to the European single market, McLoughlin said: "let us see." "I'm quite clear that the referendum result is binding on parliament," he said.

The BBC reported on Saturday that days

before the June 23 EU referendum, then-Prime Minister David Cameron telephoned German Chancellor Angela Merkel to appeal for concessions on the free movement of people, though the idea was eventually shelved. Immigration was a core issue in the campaign to leave the bloc, with polls in the run-up to the referendum showing worries about the number of people arriving from the EU swaying the public towards supporting Brexit.

McLoughlin also said Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, which will begin Britain's formal divorce from the EU, would definitely be triggered before the next national election and that it would be difficult for Britain to have an early election because of its fixed-term parliament system. The next parliamentary vote is due in 2020. A government lawyer told Britain's High Court earlier this week that Article 50 would not be invoked this year. —Reuters

UK SEEKS TO ASSUAGE GLOBAL WORRIES OVER PATH TO BREXIT

CHENGDU, SICHUAN, CHINA: Britain's new finance minister Philip Hammond, under pressure from his peers from around the world, said yesterday that there could be more clarity later this year on how the country will exit the European Union.

Several nations called on Britain during weekend talks on the world economy to explain how the politically fraught Brexit process will unfold in order to avoid adding a new drag on the long and slow recovery from the financial crisis. "It's right at the top of the agenda here at the G20," Hammond said at the end of the two-day meeting of the Group of 20 leading economies in the Chinese city of Chengdu. "It's a new factor affecting the global economic outlook and it has increased the uncertainty which the world economy faces."

Britain was plunged into its biggest political crisis in decades by the June 23 Brexit vote and so far it has resisted calls from some other EU countries to trigger quickly the two-year process for negotiating its exit from the bloc. Prime Minister Theresa May, who has been in her job for less than two weeks, traveled to Germany and France last week to explain why she needed time to come up with an exit strategy. The EU's top economic official, Pierre Moscovici, said the bloc understood that Britain should not be rushed but "at the same time...let's not waste time, let's not have too much uncertainty, let's act and choose as swiftly as possible."

Hammond told reporters on Sunday the two-year negotiating period, once launched, represented "quite a tight timescale" and Britain needed to go into it with clear objectives. "We have to do that before the start of the process because when we serve that notice, we need to hit the ground running," he said.

But Hammond also showed he was aware of the need for some clarity on

Brexit: "What will start to reduce uncertainty is when we are able to set out more clearly the kind of arrangement we envisage going forward with the European Union."

"If our European Union partners respond to such a vision positively - obviously it will be subject to negotiation - so that there is a sense perhaps later this year that we are all on the same page in terms of where we expect to be going, I think that will send a reassuring signal to the business community and to markets," Hammond said. May has said she does not plan to launch the formal negotiation period this year. It remains to be seen if other EU countries would enter informal talks with Britain before the formal negotiations, something they have previously ruled out.

Govt, bank of England have to be ready

Financial markets have stabilised after the initial shock of the referendum result which saw the value of the pound plunge by more than 10 percent and trillions of dollars wiped off stock markets worldwide. But economists are expecting Britain to fall into a recession, according to a Reuters poll. Hammond said he did not think that a survey of British businesses published on Friday, which showed the sharpest fall on record in a purchasing managers index, was a sign that the economy was in already in a recession. "What it does is underscore the hit to confidence," he said. Hammond warned that Brexit-related volatility in markets would be a risk throughout the two-year negotiation period. "We have to be ready as government, the Bank of England has to be ready as monetary authority, throughout that period to respond to any instability created by that uncertainty and to ensure that the economy continues to operate smoothly," he said. —Reuters



BERLIN: German Justice Minister Heiko Maas (L) and German Vice Chancellor, Economy and Energy Minister Sigmar Gabriel address the press on Saturday. —AFP

NIGERIA'S MEND SAYS IN TALKS OVER OIL ATTACKS

LAGOS: Militant group MEND, which wreaked havoc on Nigerian oil facilities in the 2000s, said yesterday that it was in back-channel talks with the government to end renewed violence in the oil-producing south.

"The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) wishes to confirm that indeed it has been in preliminary talks with the federal government through oil companies and law enforcement agencies," the group said in a statement.

It said the talks were aimed at "finding solutions to the short, medium and long-term future of the Niger Delta region," home to the country's massive oil and gas resources. The group had last month called for a dialogue after a rival group, the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on oil facilities.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said last week that the government was negotiating with militants through oil companies and security agencies to end the string of attacks since February that have slashed output and worsened the country's revenue targets. The Avengers denied they were in talks with the government. But MEND described the group and other rival outfits as "criminals" and advised the government to ignore them. MEND's campaign for a fairer share of Nigeria's multi-billion-dollar oil wealth for residents of the delta dealt a substantial cut to output, until a 2009 government amnesty ended the unrest. But the Avengers have claimed a string of devastating attacks against the state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) as well as oil majors Shell, Chevron and Eni since February. —AFP

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KOREA'S V-DAY

July 27 is a significant day in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This day 61 years previously the United States, which had boasted of being "strongest" in the world, surrendered to the Korean people.

Day of Victory

Early in the morning of June 25, 1950, the United States started the Korean war by instigating the south Korean puppet army, in pursuit of its wild ambition of securing a bridgehead leading to its realization of world supremacy.

To this end, it hurled into the war a huge armed force two million strong, including its armed forces, troops of 15 vassal of, enemy army and even the remnants of the former Japanese army. It vouched that the destiny of Korea would be "finished within 72 hours" at the outset of the war.

However, the Korean war produced an event worthy of special mention in the war history of mankind. The US suffered tremendous losses in the war: over 1 567 120 soldiers, including some 405 490 US soldiers, were killed or captured, and over 12 220 aircraft, 3 250 tanks and armored vehicles, 13 350 vehicles, 560 warships and vessels of various types, 7 690 guns, 925 150 small arms and other war equipment were destroyed. The loss it suffered was nearly 2.3 times as much as that it had suffered in the four-year Pacific War during WWII. It had boasted of having won in more than 110 wars of aggression previously, but was defeated for the first time since its founding.

The DPRK, a small country in the East, wrought a miracle unprecedented in history of the world of repulsing the multinational force in disguise of the "United Nations Forces."

The army and people of the DPRK defeated the enemy's numerical and technical superiorities by means of their ideological, strategic and tactical ones. Such adroit strategies and tactics as immediate and decisive counteroffensive of the Korean People's Army, strategic temporary retreat and the formation of the second front by the regular army, position and tunnel warfare, ambush, and movements of aircraft and tank-hunting and snipers' teams smashed to smithereens the military and technological superiorities much vaunted by the West.

The United States had no other option but to sign the Korean Armistice Agreement, similar to their surrender documents, on July 27, 1953. The then US President Dwight Eisenhower spoke through the radio 59 minutes after the AA was signed that it was tragically bitter.

July 27 was marked as the day of great victory for the Korean people who shattered the myth of "mightiness" of the US and reliably defended freedom and independence of the country.

History of Victory

The United States, instead of drawing due lesson from the past Korean war, has aggravated the tension on the Korean peninsula through ceaseless military provocations.

Typical is the incident of the US armed spy ship Pueblo that occurred in January 1968.

The armed spy ship of the US navy, having intruded into the territorial waters of the DPRK, was captured by the Korean People's Army navy. When this happened, the United States made such a racket as to immediately start a war, deploying a large armed force in and around the Korean peninsula. US politicians demanded the DPRK should apologize and return the Pueblo. If the latter would refuse to do so, they threatened, nuclear weapons would be used.

In the face of the US blackmails the DPRK gave a resolute answer that it would "retaliate for the 'retaliation' of the enemy and return an all-out war for an all-out war" and became fully prepared for an all-out confrontation with the US. Overpowered, the US could not but sign a document on apologizing to the DPRK for the espionage and hostile acts the Pueblo had committed and assuring no more violation of the territorial waters of the DPRK by any warship in the future.

The then US President Johnson deplored that it was the first letter of apology in the history of the US. Afterwards the US constantly committed provocations, such as the incident of its large espionage plane EC-121 in April, 1969, Panmunjom incident in August, 1976, the first nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula between 1993 and 1994 and the recurrent nuclear crisis in the new century, driving the situation on the Korean peninsula to the verge of war. All the incidents, however, ended in its failure and in victory of the Korean people.

Recently the US has continuously conducted maneuvers of war provocation jointly with south Korea by enlisting huge armed forces and military hardware, including nuclear-powered submarines, such as Key Resolve and Foal Eagle war rehearsals.

To cope with the ever more undisguised anti-DPRK policies and nuclear war games by the US, the DPRK has taken resolute measures. One of them was the missile launches taken place in the DPRK. The Korean army and people hold it as their steadfast principle and firm will to answer the provocation with immediate counterattack and return a sacred war of national reunification for a war of aggression.

The DPRK knows no idle talk and is countering the nuclear threats by the hostile forces with nuclear weapons, and their missiles with the same ones. July 27, V-day of the Korean people, will shine forever along with the DPRK's ever-victorious showdowns with the US.

NOTE: The article is submitted by the embassy of DPRK.

INDIA REFUSES TO RENEW VISAS FOR 3 CHINESE JOURNALISTS

NEW DELHI: India's government has refused to renew the visas for three Chinese journalists working for China's official Xinhua News Agency, an official said yesterday, meaning they will have to leave the country by the end of this month.

The official declined to disclose the reasons for the refusal to renew the visas - a move that comes amid tensions between the two countries - but said Xinhua could send replacements for the journalists.

The official said that the three had received several visa extensions and that one of them has been in India for the past seven years. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters.

Yesterday a report in The Hindu newspaper said the three traveled to the southern Indian city of Bangalore recently and met exiled Tibetan activists, which became an issue with India's government. — AP

KABUL IN MOURNING AFTER DEADLIEST ATTACK IN 15 YEARS

80 PEOPLE KILLED

KABUL: Kabul was plunged into mourning yesterday after its deadliest attack for 15 years killed 80 people and left hundreds maimed, reigniting concern that the Islamic State group was seeking to expand its foothold in Afghanistan.

Tempers were frayed a day after the twin bombings that tore through crowds of Shiite Hazara protesters, as many anxiously searched hospitals and morgues, looking among the mutilated bodies for missing relatives.

The attack in the majority Sunni country highlighted the risk of sectarian disharmony in a nation that has largely avoided the bloody strife between Sunnis and Shiites that plagues much of the Muslim world. "I promise you that I will avenge the blood of our loved ones on the perpetrators of this crime, wherever they are," President Ashraf Ghani said, declaring Sunday a national day of mourning.

The bombings occurred as thousands of Hazara protesters had gathered to demand that a multi-million-dollar power line pass through their electricity-starved province of Bamian, one of the most deprived areas of Afghanistan.

The site of the attack, which Ghani renamed as "Martyr's Square," remained littered with scorched metal, charred flesh and personal items including shoes, ID cards and protest banners with messages such as "Don't eliminate us".

Many protesters defiantly camped there overnight, holding candlelight vigils and reciting Koranic verses even though the government announced a 10-day ban on



KABUL, AFGHANISTAN: Afghans help a man who was injured in a deadly explosion that struck a protest march by ethnic Hazaras, at a hospital on Saturday. —AP

public gatherings on security grounds. Dozens of graves were dug with shovels and excavators at a nearby hilltop cemetery, where coffins were brought in, draped in traditional burial shrouds.

Many who survived with grievous wounds overwhelmed city hospitals, with reports of blood shortages and urgent appeals for donors swirling on social media. "The lines of Afghan men and women who queued to donate blood for

their injured compatriots was a poignant indicator of the Afghan peoples' resilience and solidarity in the face of terrible violence," the United Nations said.

"Heinous attack" IS, which controls territory across Syria and Iraq, claimed the bombings in a statement carried by its affiliated Amaq news agency, calling it an attack on a "gathering of Shiites". The devastating attack in the capital represents a major escalation for IS,

which so far has largely been confined to the eastern province of Nangarhar where it is notorious for brutality including beheadings. The Afghan government is currently in the middle of an operation backed by NATO airstrikes against IS in Nangarhar, after Ghani earlier this year claimed that the group had been defeated.

NATO this month said the group's influence was waning as it steadily lost territory, with fighters largely confined to two or three districts in the province from around nine in January. "There is no doubt that IS is under intense pressure in Nangarhar, and they are desperate to reassert themselves with attacks such as the one in Kabul," analyst Ahmad Saedi told AFP.

The Taliban, who are in the middle of their annual summer offensive and are more powerful than IS, strongly denied any involvement in Saturday's attack. 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.

The bombings, which killed at least 80 people and wounded 231, mark the deadliest single attack in Kabul since the Taliban were toppled from power in a 2001 US-led invasion, the UN said. The killings sparked an avalanche of global condemnation, with the United Nations labeling the direct assault on civilians a "war crime".

"This heinous attack was made all the more despicable by the fact that it targeted a peaceful demonstration," the White House said. —AFP

THOUSANDS ATTEND FUNERAL FOR SLAIN CRITIC OF CAMBODIA LEADER

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia: Tens of thousands of Cambodians marched yesterday in the funeral procession for a leading government critic who was fatally shot in an attack that raised suspicion of a political conspiracy. A farm worker who was caught red-handed told police he killed Kem Ley, 45, over a \$3,000 loan. However, the suspect's wife said the family was too poor to lend so much money. Cambodia has a brutal history of political violence.

Although there was no overt political sloganeering during the procession, the huge crowds reflected the massive anti-government sentiment that could pose a challenge to Prime Minister Hun Sen, who was a frequent target of Kem Ley's criticism.

Since the July 10 murder, Kem Ley's body had been kept at a Buddhist temple in Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital, for people to pay respects. It was placed in a glass casket on a decorated vehicle that set out at dawn and took almost 12 hours to complete a largely motorized 70-kilometer (43-mile) journey to his hometown in Takeo province for a Monday funeral.

A float carrying Kem Ley's widow, Bou Rachana, and children, dressed in the Buddhist mourning color of white, drove ahead of the hearse, which was followed by people on foot, motorcycles, cars and motor rickshaws. Some carried his portraits. Most of the marchers wore white T-shirts with pictures of Kem Ley, and some had printed slogans: "Wipe your tears and continue your journey." Many also waved religious and Cambodian flags in what appeared to be one of the biggest public rallies in Cambodia in recent times.

Crowd numbers were hard to estimate, because the procession was constantly moving and many were in cars and other vehicles. However, with people gathered all along the route, and large numbers also at the destination, claims of 100,000 or 200,000 were credible.

The last such turnout was when opposition leader Sam Rainsy returned from exile on July 22, 2013. Sam Rainsy, the strongest rival to Hun Sen, survived a 1997 grenade attack on a rally of his followers that killed 16 people and wounded more than 100. No one was ever brought to justice in the incident.



PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA: Cambodian Buddhist monks chanting a sutra lead the funeral procession of Cambodian leading government critic Kem Ley yesterday. —AP

Kem Ley is the most prominent Cambodian government critic to be killed since trade union leader Chea Vichea in 2004. Many yesterday's crowd spoke of their admiration for Kem Ley, who was known mainly for his commentaries on radio broadcasts from overseas outlets such as Voice of America. Most mass media in Cambodia is under the control of the government and its supporters.

"I regarded him as my god because of his bravery, cleverness. His death was as if I had lost something personal," said Chhun Eang, holding Kem Ley's portrait. She said she traveled from northwestern Battambang province, some 300 kilometers (186 miles) away, to attend the procession. "Why are good people like him always killed?" she said in between sobs.

Long Kiet, a 70-year-old retiree, said Kem Ley was killed because he criticized the government. "They are not scared to kill anyone who dares to criticize them. It doesn't matter if he or she speaks right or not," Kem Ley said. Several lawmakers from Sam Rainsy's Cambodia National Rescue Party also joined the procession, and Sam Rainsy's Facebook page carried the event live.

As the convoy passed, onlookers bowed their heads with both hands placed together in respectful salutation. Several hundred police, including units in riot gear, were deployed along the route, particularly visible in front of Hun Sen's office, where anti-riot trucks and tear gas guns were on standby.

Hun Sen has promised a thorough investigation into the killing, which came at a time of political tension that began last year with legal and other pressures by the government on the Cambodia National Rescue Party. Sam Rainsy is abroad to avoid being jailed on legal charges many consider politically motivated.

Opposition leaders and Global Witness, a British activist group whose work was occasionally the subject of Kem Ley's radio commentaries, have suggested a political conspiracy behind the killing. One of his most recent commentaries was about a report issued by Global Witness that alleged that Hun Sen and his family had enriched themselves and kept power through corruption. —AP



KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Nepal's Khadga Prasad Oli addresses the parliament before being appointed as the new Prime Minister on Oct. 11, 2015. —AP

NEPAL'S PRIME MINISTER RESIGNS AFTER LOSING MAJORITY SUPPORT

KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Nepal's prime minister resigned yesterday shortly before he was to face a confidence vote in parliament that he expected to lose, further aggravating political instability in the Himalayan country.

Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli's 9-month-old government had lost its majority support this month after the Maoist party pulled out of the coalition, accusing Oli of failing to honor power-sharing agreements.

In a nationally televised speech in parliament, Oli said yesterday that the way he was forced to resign would have far-reaching implications for the country and lead to further political instability. "The opposition parties hatched a conspiracy for narrow interests, and I am stunned by that," he said.

"I have already submitted my resignation letter to the president and have informed the speaker about the resignation, paving the way for the election of a new prime minister," Oli said in the speech, which came an hour before the confidence vote was to be held.

A change in government is nothing new in Nepal, with Oli the eighth prime minister in the past 10 years. Maoist party chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal is now expected to try to form a new coalition government with the help of the Nepali Congress and some other groups.

The Maoists are former communist rebels who fought government troops for 10 years until they signed a peace agreement. The Maoist party's major complaint was that Oli's government failed to take proper legislative action in favor of the Maoist cadres facing trials for wartime crimes.

The Maoists had launched a decade-long insurgency beginning in 1996 and joined the political mainstream after reaching a deal with the government in 2006. Alleged wartime crimes and human rights violations committed by the Maoists and the security forces have yet to be addressed.

The insurgency claimed the lives of more than 15,000 people and injured or displaced tens of thousands of others. —AP

AILING EX-PRESIDENT FUJIMORI SEEKS PARDON IN PERU

LIMA: Disgraced Peruvian ex-president Alberto Fujimori, serving a 25-year prison term for corruption and crimes against humanity, has requested a pardon due to ill health. The 77-year-old has been in and out of the hospital in recent months for a series of health problems. "Alberto Fujimori has filed a pardon request with the Justice Ministry. It will be processed under due constitutional and legal terms," council of ministers chief Pedro Cateriano said in a Twitter post.

The reason for the request-his second-was not specified. He has previously had gastric problems, cataract surgery and five operations for a cancerous growth on his tongue. Fujimori's children have asked President Ollanta Humala to

grant him a reprieve on health grounds. But the president rejected the request in 2013, saying medical reports indicated Fujimori's condition was not sufficiently serious.

Under Peruvian law, granting pardons is a presidential prerogative. Alberto Fujimori's latest hospitalization came 12 days after his daughter Keiko narrowly lost Peru's presidential election to center-right candidate Pedro Pablo Kuczynski.

Fujimori, who was president from 1990 to 2000, was first jailed in 2007 and convicted in 2009 for his role in killings by a death squad targeting supposed members of the Shining Path guerrilla group in the 1990s. He has also been convicted of embezzlement and bribery. —AFP



Ty Lang, of Montrose, Colorado, brings down his steer in the steer wrestling event during the first day of the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo on Saturday at Frontier Park Arena in Cheyenne, Wyoming.— AP

AIR STRIKES HIT FOUR HOSPITALS IN ALEPPO

Continued from Page 1

The UN has set August as the target date for talks to resume. Yesterday, Damascus said Syria "is ready to continue the Syrian-Syrian dialogue without any preconditions, in the hopes that this dialogue will lead to a comprehensive solution".

The statement, carried by state news agency SANA and quoting an unidentified foreign ministry official, said Syria would be "ready to coordinate air operations against terrorism as part of the agreement between Russia and the United States". Moscow has sought to work with Washington on military action against the jihadists of the Islamic State group and Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Nusra Front.

Yesterday saw heavy clashes in the northern town of Manbij, where the Syrian Democratic Forces alliance is pressing its campaign against IS, the Observatory said. It reported at least five SDF fighters and 18 IS militants killed, as well as eight civilians trying to flee Manbij. The US-led coalition has carried out air strikes against IS since September 2014, and Russia began its own bombing campaign in support of Assad's forces a year later.

Last week US Secretary of State John Kerry met his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. They agreed on "concrete steps" to salvage the failing truce and fight jihadist factions, without announcing details. Kerry and Lavrov are expected to meet again in Laos this week.— AFP

TURKISH PARTIES RALLY TOGETHER

Continued from Page 1

Erdogan will probably try to capitalize on the large size of the crowd of all political persuasions to try and reassert full control over the country, a NATO ally and an important partner in the US-led fight against Islamic State. In another demonstration of unity after the coup, the head of Turkey's air force issued a rare statement stressing "absolute obedience" to the chief of the military General Staff. Some members of the air force were involved in the coup. The chief of the military General Staff, Hulusi Akar, who was held hostage by the plotters on the night of July 15, condemned the plotters yesterday as "cowards in uniform" who had greatly harmed the nation and the army.

Erdogan, who narrowly escaped capture and possible death during the attempted coup, has declared a state of emergency, allowing him to sign laws without prior parliamentary approval in a drive to root out supporters of the coup. His critics fear he is using the abortive coup to wage an indiscriminate crackdown on dissent. Turkish authorities have suspended, detained or placed under investigation more than 60,000 soldiers, police, judges, teachers, civil servants and others in the past week. Yildirim said on Saturday authorities had taken around 13,000 people into custody over the coup attempt, including 8,831 soldiers. He pledged they would have a fair trial.

Rights group Amnesty International said it had received credible evidence of detainees being subjected to beatings and torture, including rape, since the coup attempt. "It is absolutely imperative that the Turkish authorities halt these abhorrent practices and allow international monitors to visit all these detainees in the places they are being held," said Amnesty's Europe director John Dalhuisen in a statement. In Ankara, a senior official denied Amnesty's claims, saying: "The idea that Turkey, a country seeking European Union membership, would not respect the law is absurd. We categorically deny the allegations and encourage advocacy groups to provide an unbiased account of the legal steps that are being taken against people who murdered nearly 250 civilians in cold blood."

Turkey has undergone a seismic shift since the night of violence when renegade soldiers sought to topple Erdogan but were stopped by crowds of civilians and loyalist security forces. In the latest reaction, Yildirim said Turkey would disband Erdogan's 2,500-strong Presidential Guard, almost 300 of whose members have been detained. Under new emergency powers, those detained can be held without charge for 30

days, a move Amnesty said increased the risk of torture or other maltreatment of detainees.

But for now, the crackdown appears to be broadly popular. "The state of emergency is a good thing and it's good that many people have been arrested and that the length of detentions has been extended," said demonstrator Harun Kalyancu, 34, a furniture designer and supporter of the ruling party. "If people lost their jobs they must be guilty." Zuhul Tolbert, 56, who is retired, said the government should be more inclusive. "The government has to think about the mistakes they have made they have to think about the other half of the population. (who did not vote for them)," she said. "We all have to come together."

Erdogan has accused US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who has many followers in Turkey, of masterminding the abortive coup. In his first decree Erdogan ordered the closure of thousands of private schools, charities and foundations with suspected links to Gulen, who denies involvement in the coup. The CHP and other political parties swiftly joined the ruling Islamist-rooted AKP in condemning the coup attempt, mindful of four other military interventions in Turkey in the past 60 years. The last full-scale coup in 1980 led to mass arrests of politicians and others, torture and executions.

Taksim Square, like much of Istanbul and other cities, is awash with Turkish flags and CHP supporters were also carrying pictures of their hero Kemal Ataturk, the soldier who founded the secular republic on the ashes of the Ottoman Empire in 1923. Supporters of Erdogan's AKP, which has ruled Turkey since 2002, have generally tended to use religious symbols and rhetoric. But the coup has united both sides in a blaze of nationalist fervor. Istanbul's AKP mayor, Kadir Topbas, has provided free public transport for the rally.

Opposition parties have mixed backing for purging coup supporters with calls for reconciliation and restraint. "Turkey should completely be purified from the rule of the putsch," said a "Taksim Declaration" issued by the CHP's Kilicdaroglu. "The state should not be governed by anger and revenge. The culprits of the putsch should be tried lawfully with the understanding of abiding by the rule of law," it added. Turkey's Supreme Military Council (YAS) will meet under Erdogan's supervision on July 28. Erdogan told Reuters in an interview on Thursday that he would restructure the armed forces and bring in "fresh blood". After the coup, Western countries pledged support for democracy in Turkey, but have also expressed concern over the scale of subsequent purges of state institutions.— Agencies

SAUDIS VISIT ISRAEL, MEET GOVT OFFICIAL

Continued from Page 1

now decided to go public about their talks," it added. Israeli army radio on Sunday aired an Arabic telephone interview with Eshki, chairman of the Jeddah-based Middle East Centre for Strategic and Legal Studies, in which he denied that his country had security links with the Jewish state. "To my knowledge there is no cooperation in the struggle against terrorism," he said. He said that Israel would only be able to make peace with the Arab world when it had resolved the conflict with the Palestinians, in accordance with the 2002 Arab proposal.

dance with the 2002 Arab proposal.

It calls for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and resolve the issue of refugees with the Palestinians, leading to the creation of a Palestinian state, in exchange for normalized relations with Arab countries. "Peace will not come from Arab countries, but the Palestinians and the implementation of the Arab peace plan," Eshki said. The radio quoted him as saying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict "is not the cause of terrorism, but it provides a breeding ground for conflict in the region". Egypt and Jordan are the only two Arab nations to have made peace with Israel.— AFP

LAW REGULATING INTERNET MEDIA COMES INTO...

Continued from Page 1

In another development, the lower court will look on July 27 into a lawsuit calling to stop the ministry of public works from demolishing a historical mosque situated on a road project site in Kuwait City. The decision to demolish the 123-year old mosque came under fire from MPs and activists, who strongly criticized the government for failing to save the mosque. The court will decide if the demolition can be stopped or at least

delayed until the issue is carefully studied.

MP Saleh Ashour yesterday sent a series of questions to Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah about an online campaign by two clerics to raise funds for Yemen's Dammaj city. The lawmaker asked the minister if he had taken any action against the two clerics for launching the fundraising campaign without a government license. He asked if the minister had referred them to the public prosecution for interrogation.

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Focus

GREATER GAIN

By P Justin Anthony

The most important mission for a Japanese manager is to develop a healthy relationship with his employees, to create a family-like feeling within the corporation, a feeling that employees and managers share the same fate. We will try to create conditions where persons could come together in a spirit of teamwork, and exercise to their heart's desire their technological capacity". Akio Morita, co-founder of Sony Corporation and the first Japanese to receive the Albert Medal by the UK's Royal Society of Arts in 1982, very vividly quotes the importance and ingredients of a dynamic business practice.

Until the 1990s, post war Japan has been one of the fastest growing economies in the world attracting considerable research on its success. Its unique "typically Japanese" practices in production, finance, inter and intra-firm relations, human resource management and industrial relations have enabled Japan to catch up with the West during the post war period.

These practices were profound especially in the human resource management and industrial relations which had three main pillars - life time employment, seniority based wages and enterprise unions, and these practices enabled the firms to keep going. No doubt, the concept of healthy relationships with the employees, family like feeling and team spirit contributed abundantly.

In spite of drawing international attention, the efficiency of these practices has been challenged by the "bubble burst" of the 1990s. Japan, which once recorded an average GDP of 7 percent during the period from 1947 - 1991 recorded a meagre 0.6 percent in 1992-1995.

With additional problems such as the aging of the society and the changing attitude of today's Japanese youth, Japanese firms which were once so confident of their practices have begun to rethink. Hence, it is timely to analyse the three pillars in Japanese human resource management and industrial relations both during the "catching up" stage and the developed stage of the economy.

Lifetime Employment

The life time employment or the "long term stable employment within an enterprise" was favourable to both the enterprise and the workers when Japan was a catching up economy. For the company, it meant more workers with less pay to new and young ones and also reduction in labour disputes. This allowed the company to be assured of employee loyalty and also lesser labour turnover. For the workers, the company was regarded as the provider of security and welfare and this was a motivational factor.

During this period and even now to a considerable extent, Japanese firms followed the core-periphery model. The core workers were the regular workers who received the life time employment, and the periphery workers were the temporary, part time workers. The lifetime employment seems to be a problem due to the ageing of the society where the firms have to deal with certain old and unproductive workers. With less younger people joining the firms, productivity could be affected to a considerable extent.

Seniority Based Wages and Compensation

The seniority based wages was a result of the life time employment and was based on two theories. First as younger people have comparatively lesser living costs, the company which was viewed as a provider of security and welfare was expected to increase the wages as age increases. Secondly, age was used as a surrogate for experience and the difficulty of the task was increased according to the experience. This therefore required an increase in the pay.

This practice was good only when Japan was a catching up economy. With the increase in the standard of living and education, there is a growing tendency to forgo seniority based wages and demand higher wages. This had made many Japanese firms adapt to a more performance based wage structure as in the West.

Enterprise Unions

There emerged the concept of unity and cooperation between management and the unions. Voluntary associations among the workers were encouraged to generate identity with their own labour thereby increasing participation. This led to the evolution and increase of the quality circles and enterprise unions and thus leading to the concept of consensus decision making.



ERDOGAN GAINS UPPER HAND IN POWER STRUGGLE

By Samia Nakhoul and Ayla Jean Yackley

At the crossroads between a divided Europe and a convulsed Middle East, Turkey is caught in a power struggle between former Islamist allies which is shaking democratic institutions and raises questions about its future path. Since a failed coup on July 15, the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) founded by President Tayyip Erdogan has gained the upper hand in its battle with clandestine networks in the military, judiciary and bureaucracy loyal to US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen.

This fight to the bitter end has alarmed the West and unsettled the country of 80 million, which borders the chaos in Iraq and Syria and is a Western ally against Islamic State. Erdogan accuses Gulen of masterminding the attempted coup by a faction within the military and has rounded up more than 60,000 people in an operation which he hopes will cleanse Turkey of what he calls the Gulenist "virus". The purges, carried out as Turkey faces attacks by Islamist State and a revived struggle with Kurdish militants, go beyond the more than 100 generals and 6,000 soldiers held, or the nearly 3,000 judges detained.

They already encompass 21,000 teachers and much of the academic community, and new targets in a media already hit by years of firings and fines, jailings and closures. "They are traitors," Erdogan told Reuters in an interview on Thursday. He described Gulen's network as "like a cancer" and said he would treat them like a "separatist terrorist organization" and root them out, wherever they may be.

Gulen, 75, denies plotting against the state and suggested the day after the abortive coup that it may have been staged to justify a crackdown on his followers. The millions of members of Gulen's "Hizmet" (Service) movement do not outwardly identify as supporters. Since the failed coup many are going even further underground, refusing to take calls or trying to leave the

country. Some followers are dumping books in the woods and publishers are getting rid of their stocks, said Nedim Sener, an investigative journalist at Posta newspaper who wrote a book on the Gulen movement's efforts to infiltrate the state and was jailed in 2011 for more than a year.

A senior journalist at a Gulen-affiliated newspaper, speaking on condition of anonymity because he feared reprisals, said he and other editors were afraid to go to the paper's office in the days following the failed coup and that their printers refused to continue publishing. "I advised my colleagues not to go to the office for their own safety," he said. "The newspaper has become a liability, it has just disappeared ... I'm afraid for my family and for my life. It's dangerous to go outside."

Asked if he was a follower of Gulen's teachings, he said: "Answering this question could now be used as evidence against me. Now I could be prosecuted for a book I keep at home ... Everyone is too afraid to call their friends, worried this will cause their detention. It's a climate of fear everywhere."

Allies Turned Foes

Erdogan was prime minister from 2003 until 2014, when he became president. When he first came to power, he led a reinvented Muslim conservative party wary of fiercely secularist generals and judges who had closed a series of Islamist parties. In the skirmishing that followed, and after the army and the courts tried to push aside the AKP in 2007-08, Erdogan turned for help to Gulen, whose movement had built a loyal following among police, prosecutors and civil servants.

Gulen, a Muslim imam self-exiled in Pennsylvania since 1999, has built a franchise of schools in Turkey and around the world, promoting the importance of education, scientific progress, religious coexistence and fighting poverty. After their ascent to power, Erdogan and the AKP became dependent on the Gulenists in their common fight against the army. It was

mainly Gulenist prosecutors who, after Erdogan and his party narrowly escaped being banned in 2008, built two big conspiracy trials targeting the upper echelons of the army.

These two cases, known as Ergenekon and Sledgehammer, netted more than 40 generals, but also swept up opponents of both the ruling party and the Gulenists. It later became clear after many charges were dismissed that bogus evidence had been used. Yet at the time, the Gulenists' apparent success in helping Erdogan break the army's grip on Turkish politics emboldened them to demand more power in the security services and the army.

"It is essentially not a struggle about ideology because their ideology is so similar. Both want to turn Turkey into a more conservative Islamized society," said one Turkey analyst who asked not to be named after the declaration of emergency laws which could hit those critical of the state. "It is a struggle about power and that alliance broke down because of disagreement over power-sharing."

Pursuit of Power

If Gulenist penetration of state institutions is as deep as the purges suggest, then much of it must have happened while Erdogan was in charge. "We never considered even the possibility that they might be involved in this kind of a treason. They were citizens of our country and we supported them to the fullest as citizens of our country," Erdogan told Reuters. Sener said there had been a tendency to see Gulen as a religious leader, but he has always rejected this. "He is a man who is in pursuit of power and power alone. Fethullah Gulen and his followers want to take over the organs of the state," he said. "Had (Erdogan) taken this seriously he would have cleaned this up years ago. But he never imagined the guns would be turned on him."

The struggle between the former allies started in late 2011. Erdogan had been re-elected that summer for a third term as

prime minister, making no secret of his presidential ambitions. His posters emphasized power until 2023, the centenary of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk's founding of the modern republic. But when he suddenly had to pull back from the political fray and undergo surgery, prosecutors assumed to be loyal to Gulen targeted Hakan Fidan, Erdogan's intelligence chief.

This apparent attempt to push Gulenist influence into the security services was like targeting Erdogan himself, who complained of betrayal, asking publicly: "What is it that we didn't give you that you wanted?" Tit-for-tat battles followed, electrifying Turkish politics. The government closed down the dersane, a network of private tutoring centers, mostly run by the movement. Gulenist prosecutors in 2013 launched corruption investigations into Erdogan's cabinet and family. The gloves came off.

End of the Movement?

This degree of state infiltration, and the damaging leaks by prosecutors, revealed a power structure Erdogan loyalists described as a "parallel state" intent on taking power. "It has aspirations to capture the state. They certainly came quite a long way in reaching this objective, they have certainly been helped and assisted by the AKP," said Sinan Ulgen, head of the liberal EDAM think tank in Istanbul and a fellow at the Carnegie Europe think tank. "When AKP came to power they established an alliance. It helped to populate the Turkish administration with Gulenists."

Government officials say the Gulenists have carefully planned to seize state institutions for over three decades by using their schools and universities to prepare civil servants, something the AKP found difficult to match when it took power. Gulen schools have identified and groomed generations of capable students, starting from primary schools through university and into their professional life. Many rose to influential jobs in the state and business. — Reuters

S CHINA SEA RULING HAS SO FAR FUELED TENSIONS

By Jim Gomez, Christopher Bodeen and Ken Moritsugu

It's a ruling that China cannot accept, and one that the Philippines must. An international arbitration panel's decision on the contested waters of the South China Sea so far is fueling regional tensions rather than tamping them down. In the ensuing 11 days, China has responded to the sweeping victory for the Philippines by flexing its military might. The Philippines faces pressure both at home and abroad not to cede an inch to China after the July 12 decision by a tribunal at The Hague-based Permanent Court of Arbitration.

The South China Sea is dotted with reefs and rocky outcroppings that several governments claim, including China and the Philippines. The arbitration panel didn't take a position on who owns the disputed territories. It did conclude that many of them are legally rocks, even if they've been built into islands, and therefore do not include the rights to develop the surrounding waters. That and other findings invalidated much of what China's called its historic claims to the resource-rich sea.

In order to ease tensions, China, the Philippines and possibly other claimants must define what the ruling means for fishing, offshore oil and gas exploration, and military and other activities in the vast body of water that lies between the southern Chinese coast and the Philippine archipelago. A major diplomatic test starts Sunday in Laos at a three-day meeting of Southeast Asian foreign ministers that will include sessions with their Chinese and US counterparts. Past ASEAN meetings have broken down over disagreements between those taking China's side and those opposing it. The US, whose Navy patrols the waters, has called on China to abide by the ruling while also urging calm. Longer-term, there are compelling reasons for China and the Philippines to talk, but also significant obstacles to

that happening. Unless the two sides can find a way around their impasse, the ruling may simply prolong the South China Sea's long-running territorial disputes, which also involve Vietnam, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei in a mesh of overlapping claims.

China

In recent days, the military has staged live-firing exercises in the area and stated it would begin regular aerial patrols over the sea. It also has asserted that it will not be deterred from continuing construction of its man-made islands in the South China Sea. In a veiled threat, a senior government official said that China has a right to declare an air defense identification zone over the area if its security is threatened. Under a so-called ADIZ, countries require that aircraft in the zone identify themselves and their routes and follow Chinese instructions. At least the U.S. and Japan would almost certainly refuse to comply, creating new opportunities for confrontation.

While Beijing's initial fury was widely foreseen, the controversy essentially disappeared from Chinese state media on Friday, a possible indication that China is preparing to tone it down. The approach threatened to tarnish China's global prestige by making it appear unwilling to play by the rules of international law. In particular, China's relations with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations could suffer, further reducing its hopes of regaining its status as Asia's dominant political and economic power.

Under such circumstances, Beijing might at least try to give the appearance of engagement on the issue. China is hosting the G20 meeting of major economies in September and doesn't want the summit to turn into a "China-bashing fest," said Yanmei Xie of the International Crisis Group think tank. However, it's far from clear

whether its neighbors will see any outreach from China as sincere. The Philippines already has turned down an offer for bilateral talks, saying China first must recognize the panel's ruling.

Philippines

The Philippines new president, Rodrigo Duterte, is on a tightrope. The arbitration ruling was a huge legal victory, but also presents a dilemma to Duterte, who has made friendly overtures to Beijing. On one side, he aspires to repair strained relations with the Asian economic powerhouse, which has offered to finance railway projects he had sought. On the other, any move that can be seen as a compromise on the ruling can provide ammunition to his political opponents. The Philippines wants the Chinese coast guard to stop harassing Filipino fishermen near reefs claimed by China, as well as to allow it to explore for desperately needed offshore oil and gas.

"The new government here in Manila is grappling with what might be called catastrophic success," former Australian National Security Adviser Andrew Shearer said last week. "What comes next is obviously going to be a delicate balancing act." Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr has revealed that, during talks on the sidelines of a recent Asia-Europe meeting in Mongolia, his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi asked Manila to be open to bilateral negotiations "outside of and in disregard of the arbitral ruling."

"This is something that I told him was not consistent with our constitution and our national interests," Yasay said. Wang warned that if the Philippines insists on Chinese compliance with the ruling, "then we might be headed for a confrontation," he said. The meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Laos may signal whether the Philippines will stick with a low-key and non-confrontational approach despite its rejection of China's condition for talks. — AP

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JUVE TO SMASH ITALIAN RECORD FOR HIGUAIN

ROME: Juventus are set to smash Italy's transfer record by snatching striker Gonzalo Higuain from Napoli after triggering his release clause of 94.7 million euros (\$104 million), Italian media said yesterday. All that remains is the Argentine poacher's signature, which is regarded as a formality, local press said. "It's all true. Gonzalo Higuain will live in Turin," declared the Turin daily La Stampa, considered the voice of the Agnelli family-which runs Juventus. He will be "the lethal weapon" that the Italian champions have been crying out for, it added, calling the move the "coup of the summer". Higuain, 28, who has been linked with a number of top clubs around Europe, is expected to sign for four years with a salary of 7.5 million euros a year. The transfer-the most expensive in the history of Italian football-is a warning of intent from Juve, who could recoup more than that with the possible sale to Manchester United of midfielder Paul Pogba. That transfer saga is reported to be ongoing. Despite helping Napoli to second place behind Juve last season, Higuain is reportedly keen to move to Turin because of the club's raised profile among Europe's elite after several years on the sidelines. —AFP

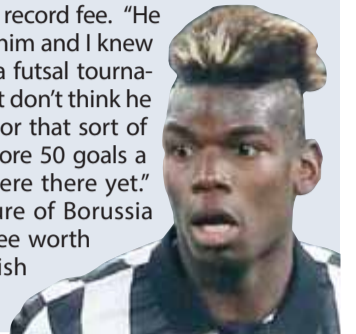


MORRIS SOARS TO YEAR'S TOP OUTDOOR POLE VAULT

NEW YORK: Rio-bound US Olympian Sandi Morris soared to the highest outdoor pole vault in the world this year when she cleared 4.93 metres at Houston on Saturday. The mark, during an American Track League meeting, superseded Russian Yelena Isinbayeva's clearance of 4.90 metres as the best outdoor mark for 2016. Only world outdoor record holder Isinbayeva and American Olympic champion Jenn Suhr have ever jumped higher, giving the US a strong 1-2 punch for next month's Olympics. Isinbayeva will miss the Games because of the Russian ban. "I'm crying you guys!! I just broke the American Record!" the 24-year-old Morris said on Twitter. USA Track & Field officials, however, said Morris, the world indoor silver medallist, would receive credit only for the best outdoor pole vault ever by an American since records in the event can be established both indoors or out. Suhr holds the American record of 5.02 metres set indoors in 2013 with a pending record of 5.03 metres from earlier this year indoors, the officials said. Morris's indoor best is 4.95 metres, a mark she set in defeating Suhr for the 2016 US indoor title. —Reuters

POGBA IS NOT WORTH WORLD-RECORD FEE

MANCHESTER: Former Manchester United player Paul Scholes has questioned whether the club should pay a world-record fee for Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba, saying the 23-year-old is not in the same bracket as the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. United have been negotiating with Juventus over the transfer of Pogba, who is a top target for new manager Jose Mourinho, according to media reports in Britain. Scholes was Pogba's team mate when the latter was a teenager at United and feels despite his obvious talent, the France international has a long way to go before he can stake his claim as one of the world's top players and command a record fee. "He was a very talented young player, I played with him and I knew how good he was," Scholes, who is playing in a futsal tournament in India, told the Times of India daily. "I just don't think he is worth 86 million pounds (\$112.75 million). For that sort of money, you want someone who is going to score 50 goals a season like Ronaldo or Messi. Pogba is nowhere there yet." Scholes also praised Manchester City's capture of Borussia Dortmund midfielder Ilkay Guendogan for a fee worth around 20 million pounds, according to British media reports. —Reuters



ENGLAND, USA, TAIWAN ADVANCE IN LPGA INTERNATIONAL CROWN

CHICAGO: With Charley Hull back in action on Saturday, England cruised into the final singles matches along with the United States and Taiwan at the LPGA's International Crown team event. Jodi Ewart Shadoff and Holly Clyburn routed Pornanong Phatlum and Pornani Chutichai of Thailand 7 and 5. Hull, sidelined by illness on Friday, returned and teamed with Melissa Reid to beat sisters Ariya and Moriya Jutanugarn 3 and 1 as England won Pool B with nine points.

Thailand had taken the lead with birdies at the second and fourth by Moriya, but Hull reeled off four straight birdies at the fifth through eighth to put England 2 up.

Reid birdied the ninth to stretch the lead before Ariya stepped up with two birdies and a chip-in eagle on the 16th hole to keep within striking distance. The group walked to the 17th hole with England 2 up. Both Thai players missed their birdie chances and then conceded the hole and the match. "I was gutted not to be out there, but I thought it would be the best thing for me today to rest because I really didn't feel well," Hull said of missing her match on Friday after dealing with a fever and her asthma.

The United States, who lost two tight matches against England on the opening day, finished second in Pool B with seven points after Cristie Kerr and Lexi Thompson defeated Ai Suzuki and Ayaka Watanabe of Japan 4 and 2, and Stacy Lewis and Gerina Piller beat Mika Miyazato and Haru Nomura, 3 and 1. "It's pretty huge considering the way we started out, but we pulled it out," Kerr said. "We can get some rest since we don't have to go into a playoff. We will have a team meeting and figure out our strategy for tomorrow." Taiwan lead Pool A and were assured of going through after Candie Kung and Teresa Lu halved their match with China's Feng Shanshan and Feng Simin for their seventh point of the competition.

CHINA IN THE HUNT

China were lying second in the group on six points after Lin Xi Yu and Yan Jing teamed to beat Tseng Ya-Ni and Cheng Ssu-Chia 5 and 4. Lin, like playing partner Yan 20, had six birdies and an eagle on the day and won four holes.

That was despite leaving her putter at the hotel on Saturday morning and playing with one borrowed from the club pro.

"I have to thank to all my teammates because after they all know it, it's obviously my very big mistake, but my partner and Simin and Shanshan, they just kept telling me, 'it's OK, it's OK, just relax,'" she said. "I borrowed a putter from the club pro here, and yeah, I have to thank him as well."



GURNEE: Lexi Thompson, left, and Cristie Kerr congratulate each other after finishing second in their pool Saturday, during the third round of the LPGA's UL International Crown golf tournament in Gurnee, Ill. The United States advanced to singles round. — AP

Two Pool A matches between South Korea and Australia were still on the course when thunderstorms halted play at the Merit Club. South Korea's Amy Yang and Chun In-gee were 1 up over Aussies Minjee Lee and Su Oh through 15 holes and Ryu So-Yeon and Kim Sei-Young of

South Korea were 2 up through 14 over Karrie Webb and Rebecca Artis. With the top two teams in each group and one wild card going through to the deciding singles, two spots were still open. The country with the most points at the end of the weekend lifts the trophy. —AFP



OAKVILLE: Jared du Toit, of Canada, reacts after sinking an eagle on the 18th hole during the third round of the Canadian Open golf tournament, Saturday, in Oakville, Ontario. — AP

SNEDEKER LEADS AMATEUR DU TOIT, JOHNSON IN CANADIAN OPEN

OAKVILLE: Jared du Toit was in position to become the first Canadian to win the Canadian Open in 62 years - and the first amateur to break through on the PGA Tour in 25 seasons.

Brandt Snedeker was in a little better position. US Open champion Dustin Johnson was right there, too. "I think I'm going to be the most-hated man in Canada tomorrow, but it's going to be a lot of fun trying to figure it out," said Snedeker, the 2013 winner at Glen Abbey who eagled the par-5 18th on Saturday for a 6-under 66 and a one-stroke lead over du Toit and Johnson. Du Toit matched Snedeker with an eagle on 18, holing a 40-footer for a 70. On Friday, du Toit rebounded from a triple bogey and bogey with three straight birdies.

"I've never kind of been in this kind of pressure, this atmosphere before," said du Toit, an Arizona State senior from Kimberley, British Columbia. "I'm here having fun and trying to go and play golf. It hasn't set in so far, but loving every minute of it." Pat Fletcher, born in England, was the last Canadian winner in 1954 at Point Grey in Vancouver, British Columbia. Carl Keffer is the only Canadian-born champion, winning in 1909 and 1914. Albert Murray, a Canadian also born in England, won in 1908 and 1913. Doug Sanders was the last amateur to win the event in 1956, and Phil Mickelson - then also an Arizona State student - was the last amateur winner on the tour in the 1991 Northern Telecom Open.

"I'm honestly just out here to have some fun and enjoy the atmosphere," du Toit said. "Obviously, I want to play well tomorrow, but it's kind of my first go at it. Win or lose, I'm happy with the way this week's gone."

He has Snedeker's attention. "He's great," Snedeker said. "For a 21-year-old kid, to be playing golf here is awesome, let alone to do it in your national open. I mean, I can't imagine the nerves this kid has to be playing as great of golf as he has. I'm looking forward to meeting him. I'm looking forward to playing with him, and I'm going to do everything I can to help him have a great day tomorrow."

OVERPOWERED

Snedeker overpowered the 18th, hitting a 378-yard drive and 121-yard approach to set up the 6-footer. "Now I know what it feels like to be Dustin Johnson," Snedeker said about his drive on 18.

"Just had downwind, greens and fairways are so firm, if you get it. Unfortunately, them being firm, you have about 2 yards to get the ball in the fairway.

I hit it right on my line, one of the best swings I've made all day. Hit hard and took off. Had a lob wedge into 18, perfect lob wedge, able to hit a good one and rip it in there about 6 feet and make a putt."

Johnson, tied for the lead with Luke List after each of the first two days, birdied 18 for a 71. "I had a rough day on the greens," Johnson said. "It didn't feel like I was hitting bad putts. I don't know, ball was not going in the hole. Hit a lot of good shots out there that didn't end up very good. I still feel like I'm playing well, driving it really well and that's the big key for me. Tomorrow, hopefully, get some putts to roll in."

Snedeker had five straight birdies on Nos. 2-6, bogeyed 11 and 15 and birdied the par-5 16th. The 35-year-old American won in February at Torrey Pines for his eighth PGA Tour title. "I felt comfortable on the greens all week and was hitting my line today," Snedeker said. "It's funny, you get a round like today, I had a bunch of putts that were really easy to read. They were edge putts I could be firm with and aggressive with and I was able to take advantage of them." Steve Wheatcroft and Alex Cejka were 7 under. Wheatcroft had a 64, and Cejka shot 69. "I'm excited. I know I've been playing really well," Wheatcroft said. "My swing has really been clicking the last few weeks."

MISERABLE YEAR

"I've had a miserable year. I just haven't been able to put anything together. I made some swing changes about a month ago or two weeks ago in Alabama, so I know it's coming." Jon Rahm, du Toit's former Arizona State teammate, was in the group at 6 under in his fourth start since turning professional. The Spaniard eagled 16 and birdied 18 in a 72. Matt Kuchar also was 6 under after a 70.

"I was hoping for a big round today, but kind of stalled out just a little bit," Kuchar said. "Course is tough. I didn't drive it quite as well as I had first two days, and it's so crucial, driving it well."

Top-ranked defending champion Jason Day was tied for 28th at 2 under after a 69. He shot a 76 on Friday after opening with a 69. "Definitely kept the ball out in front of me today," Day said. "It was easier obviously today teeing off early. Greens were a lot more receptive. The fairways were a lot more receptive, as well, so they weren't bouncing into the rough or they weren't bouncing into the rough over the greens."

List also was 2 under after a 77. He had a triple bogey and two double bogeys on the back nine. — AP

EUROPEAN TOUR EXEC WANTS SIX-HOLE EVENTS

LONDON: European Tour chief executive Keith Pelley plans to introduce six-hole tournaments complete with blaring music in a bid to shake up golf's staid image.

Pelley succeeded George O'Grady last year and has already introduced measures aimed at tackling slow play as he tries to capture a younger audience for the sport.

However, Pelley's announcement that six-hole sprint formats could be included on the European Tour schedule from 2017 is a significant leap. "Golf and tennis has to be a little more open to letting the youth actually participate," the Canadian told BBC Radio Five on Sunday. "There's no question that is something we believe in as well. Let's be honest-and scientific

data proves this-attention spans are decreasing as opposed to increasing and it's completely different when the choice people have to consume content now is so different than it was 35-40 years ago.

"So you have to change, people's time is so precious that golf-I think every golf course being built needs to be six holes, six holes, six holes-so that people can go at the beginning before they go to work." Pelley highlighted the success of Twenty20 cricket in boosting attendances as a reason for change.

"From our perspective, as the gatekeepers of the professional game, we are looking to create a format that would be six holes," he said. "That could be an hour, an hour-and-a-half content

programme... which would be very entertaining.

"Yes, there would be a shot clock, yes there would be music being played, and PA announcements, and players would be dressed a little differently, and maybe they would only play with five or seven clubs." Pelley said he envisaged players representing their countries "so you could probably see England playing Scotland in a six-hole matchplay with time clocks and music and so forth going on and it would be an aspirational goal to be even remotely as successful as Twenty20 cricket.

"If you're not prepared to change, if you're not prepared to be innovative, if you're not prepared to take chances, then I do believe that the sports that aren't will fall behind." —AFP



OAKVILLE: Dustin Johnson, of the United States, walks with off the 8th tee with Jim Furyk, right, and Billy Hurley III, center, during the second round of the Canadian Open golf tournament in Oakville, Ontario. — AP

PHILLIPS READY FOR BMX ROLLERCOASTER RIDE IN RIO

LONDON: Former world BMX champion Liam Phillips sums up the brutal nature of his adrenaline-fuelled sport succinctly. "There are not really any rules on physicality," the 27-year-old Briton, preparing for a third Olympic Games, says. "You can't take your feet off the pedals and kick somebody but after that pretty much anything can happen." For sheer intensity, thrills and spills, the BMX races on the rollercoaster-like Deodoro course at next month's Rio Olympics will have no equal.

When the starting gate goes down, riders will plunge eight metres down, pumping their pedals for rapid acceleration, then hanging on over the lumps and bumps.

Medal hopes can vanish in the blink of an eye as Phillips knows all too well after crashing in the final in London

four years ago having recovered from a broken collarbone just in time to take his place on the team.

While BMX racing can look chaotic, it is an extremely technical sport and the power produced by the world's top riders is similar to that put down by track sprinters like Chris Hoy, Britain's most successful Olympian.

Phillips said the start is crucial. "You are basically eight metres up, lined up with seven other guys and then you go," Phillips told Reuters. "It's a bit like a 100m sprint but there are no lanes. It's a fight to get to the first corner, then after that you can move to the best line and dictate a little bit.

"After that it's about staying as smooth as possible. "If you make a bad start, and I'm talking fractions of seconds out, you're in trouble. Usain Bolt

wouldn't last long in BMX racing because he's not the best starter—he would be cut off straight away."

INSANE AND UNRIDEABLE

While Bolt has a lane to himself, territory is fiercely fought over in a BMX race. "Someone can come underneath you in a corner, an elbow can catch you, suddenly you're on the floor," Phillips said. "Nine times out of 10 it stays on the track. There is a mutual respect, but I'll make myself heard when I need to." Phillips won the world championships in 2013 in New Zealand and last year became the first man to win back-to-back UCI BMX Supercross World Cup titles. This year has been a little disappointing, although everything has been focussed on Rio where he will be one of six riders he expects

to be contesting for gold. "It's been a little hit and miss to be honest," Phillips, whose parents Pete and Sharon used to drive their BMX-mad son to junior events all over Europe in a converted truck, said. "It's a difficult balancing act. The injury risk is quite high in BMX. I didn't need to win any races because my Olympic spot was guaranteed. I was racing at 99 percent rather than 100 percent and it showed."

Phillips, boyfriend of track cyclist Jess Varnish, whose omission from the British team ignited a controversy that led to team chief Shane Sutton quitting, said the Deodoro track in Rio would be technically challenging, but hopefully safe. "It was unriseable when we first went out there, some of the jumps were dangerous. It was insane," he said. "But at least it's possi-

ble to ride a lap now. Before that was impossible." Whatever the outcome in Rio, Phillips said he would soak up the atmosphere.

"When I was a kid I would never have believed one day I would be riding my BMX bike in the Olympics," he said. "So I'm just grateful I will be riding in front of huge audiences. "I just love racing." Varnish, who was dropped from the British team after failing to qualify for the team sprint for Rio, will not be in Brazil. Phillips describes her treatment as a "massive injustice" and said he was looking forward to the findings of an independent review into British Cycling. "As a member of the team I'm welcoming the review because changes need to be made," he said. "There are still people working there that aren't in it for the right reasons." — Reuters

SOLE CYPRIOT MEDALIST SETS SAIL FOR RIO

LIMASSOL: Pavlos Kontides tightened the zip of his wetsuit with hands dried and caloused by rope and sea salt. It is part of a ritual that takes the only Cypriot Olympic medal winner 30 minutes as he gets his Laser dinghy ready for the Mediterranean winds. It is part of a ritual the 26-year-old Kontides has become obsessed with as he seeks to upgrade his silver medal from London 2012 to a gold in Rio.

He spends his time between sailing competitions perfecting his technique in the waters off Limassol, his home town on the south coast of Cyprus.

The athlete is in his element leaning his 1.8-metre (six-foot) frame out from the hull of his Laser as it skims across the foam. Kontides began sailing at the age of nine. He likens the discipline needed to master the arts of tacking and reading the wind to riding a bike and playing chess at the same time. "When you are out there, you have freedom, you just switch off from the world and you're by yourself, against the water and against your opponent," he said.

FACE ON A STAMP

It was on August 6, 2012 that Kontides reached the summit of his career so far, winning a silver medal in the men's Laser race near Weymouth on the south coast of England. "I have those pictures and those memories in the back of my head," he said. "I can see the Cypriot flag waving in the wind, the sunlight... everything was in slow motion," he added. "It made me feel so special, it was something that is very hard to describe with words."

Kontides became an overnight celebrity

in his nation of 800,000 people, where world-class athletes are rare. Advertising companies fought over his image and Cyprus has even issued a postage stamp bearing his face.

"People can recognise me now, when they see me on the street they sometimes stop me to have a picture with me or an autograph, and that's something that really motivates me." With backing from his family and a handful of corporate sponsors, he will head to the Rio Olympics as part of a small team of Cypriot athletes with everything to play for.

If he comes first in his first race, Kontides will become the island's first son to win an Olympic medal since antiquity.

Fourth-century historian Eusebius records that in 180 BC, an athlete from Salamis, a Greek city-state in eastern Cyprus, won the Olympic stadion race—a 600-foot (180-metre) naked sprint. "Pavlos actually proved that it's possible," said Olga Piperidou Chrysaphy, director general of the Cyprus Olympic Committee. "Although we are a small country it is possible to achieve a medal."

'ROLE MODEL'

Kontides's success in London has already given Cypriot national pride a boost and prompted the government to pump money into sailing. Cypriot subsidies for sport, already meagre, were hit hard by a financial crisis in 2013. But since 2012, the number of people holding sailing licences has jumped by more than 25 percent to 400. Kontides regularly meets local sailors to give advice. — AFP



NEW DELHI: In this photograph taken on May 18, 2016, Indian boxer Rohit Tokas (R) takes a short break and listens to his coach Naveen Tokas as he stands in a concrete boxing ring during a morning training session in the grounds of the Baba Gang Nath sporting academy located at a Hindu temple in New Delhi. In an old ring on a dusty field, India's elite boxers are hard at work, hopeful of one day ending the country's dismal Olympic medal record blamed partly on poor training facilities. — AFP

MEDAL-DEPRIVED INDIA BATTLES POOR FACILITIES

NEW DELHI: In an old ring on a dusty field India's elite boxers are hard at work, hoping to one day end the country's dismal Olympic medal record, despite the sub-standard training facilities. Rohit Tokas and other national-level boxers at a temple complex in bustling New Delhi have long used the outdoor ring, but only in the early mornings and late afternoons when the sweltering heat eases. After failing to qualify for the Olympics during a test event in Rio, Tokas is among those convinced India need to overhaul their training centres if they are to have any hope of improving their dire medal count. "The main thing is to have better facilities," said the lightweight boxer who works out with rusted dumbbells in a dingy weights room. "What I saw in Rio was an eye opener. The way they approach their training is totally different from how we go about our routine drills," he told AFP. "Their diet and thinking is very different to us."

The privately funded Baba Gang Nath academy is packed with boxers, wrestlers, and judo and volleyball players all determined to represent India. But Indian Olympic Association secretary Rajeev Mehta said the government is not committed to spending on improving facilities to help develop future stars.

Obsessed with cricket, the world's second-most populous nation has a total of just 26 medals from 23 Olympic appearances. "Our sports suffer from lack of infrastructure. We stand nowhere in comparison to America, China, Britain, Holland," Mehta told AFP. The sports ministry has set a target of 10 medals in Rio after athletes brought home a modest but record haul of six from London. The government hailed the 2012 tally as a success, but some dismissed it as embarrassingly low for a country that has enjoyed two decades of rapid economic development and has a booming population of 1.25 billion.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Mehta said even India's highly celebrated hockey team was suffering. A lack of international-standard facilities has stopped talented youngsters from rising through the ranks to vie for a place on the national squad. "There are a number of stadiums which do not have an astro-turf or even an indoor stadium. So in such a scenario if we expect a good medal haul then it's impossible," Mehta said.

Mehta pointed to hockey masters the Netherlands who have 1,300 astro-turf grounds in a country of 17 million people. "Now compare it to India where we have just 87 astro-turfs out of which 13 to 14 are not functional."

India's hockey team, which once dominated the Olympics with eight golds, the last of which was in Moscow in 1980, finished last in London—although a silver in the recent prestigious Champions Trophy has raised hopes. A sports ministry spokesman said the government was doing more for its athletes "than ever before" including boosting spending on infrastructure. A record number of athletes, more than 100, are heading to Rio. "We have already spent about 120 crore (\$1.2 billion) on Rio preparations. The result of all these efforts is that the qualification

number is the highest ever," the spokesperson told AFP. Concerns over facilities were highlighted at the track and field Indian Grand Prix in Delhi in April when athletes trying to qualify for Rio were hit with a power cut.

Organisers were forced to use hand-held clocks to record performances after digital timers and wind gauges were put out of action. But without electronic recordings or official wind speeds, the times could not be officially classified for Olympic qualification, meaning athletes had to try again at a subsequent meeting.

At other qualifying sessions at the same premier Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, runners complained that air pollution was hampering their efforts. "The air got us breathless and even the facilities out here weren't great," a top athlete,

who missed out on a Rio berth, told AFP on condition of anonymity. Despite a lack of resources, those at Baba Gang Nath are finding ways of forging on. "I understand there is a big difference in our training and how the foreign athletes prepare, but I keep abreast with modern methods through the internet," Rahul Rathi, another national boxer, told AFP.

Coach Naveen Tokas said inspiring his young charges was just as important as desperately needed new equipment.

"We tell stories to our students about star boxers like Vijender Singh, his struggles and rise from a humble background," Tokas said of Singh, from a poor family in rural India, who rose to win Olympic bronze in Beijing and has since turned professional. — AFP

HAMMER IN HOT PURSUIT OF FIRST TRACK GOLD FOR US

BOSTON: When she walks into Rio de Janeiro's velodrome in August as the best hope to lead the US women's track cycling team to its first Olympic gold medal, Sarah Hammer will be acutely aware she might easily never have seen that moment.

The 32-year-old Californian found her sport early—she received her first racing bike for her ninth birthday—but by the age of 20 was burned out, and decided in 2003 to retire from racing after just two years competing at the elite level. The next summer, while watching the Athens Games on television at her apartment in Colorado Springs, she came to deeply regret that decision. "I was thinking, 'Oh wow, this is what I missed. I love track racing and this is what I missed... I just kind of threw it away,'" she recalled thinking as she watched New Zealand's Sarah Ulmer claim the gold medal in the women's 3,000 metres individual pursuit in world-record time.

"At that point in time, I decided to come back and do it, do it right, that I was going to do it differently," said Hammer, who has held that very world record since 2010. For Hammer, who began racing neighbourhood friends on BMX bikes long before her father, Cliff, bought her that first Peugeot 10-speed, and went on to win her first junior national championship in 1995 at the age of 12, that meant leaving road cycling behind her.

"For many years, people said I was doing it wrong," Hammer said in a phone interview during a break from training earlier this year. "Now we are all specialists. People still obviously do road racing, but you do it for the track."

Hammer's results have proven her right:



Sarah Hammer

INDIA'S RIO-BOUND WRESTLER YADAV FAILS DOPING TEST

MUMBAI: Indian wrestler Narsingh Yadav, who was set to compete in the 74kg freestyle category at the Rio Olympics, has tested positive for a banned steroid, the national anti-doping agency (NADA) told Reuters yesterday. Both of the 26-year-old's samples from an out-of-competition test returned positive and the wrestler has attended a hearing to present his case before an anti-doping disciplinary panel on Saturday. The panel had asked NADA for further details and should return with a verdict within one week, NADA Director General Navin Agarwal said by telephone.

"Narsingh was surprised with the positive result," Agarwal said. "He kept on saying, 'why would I volunteer for a test if I knew I had taken something illegal?'"

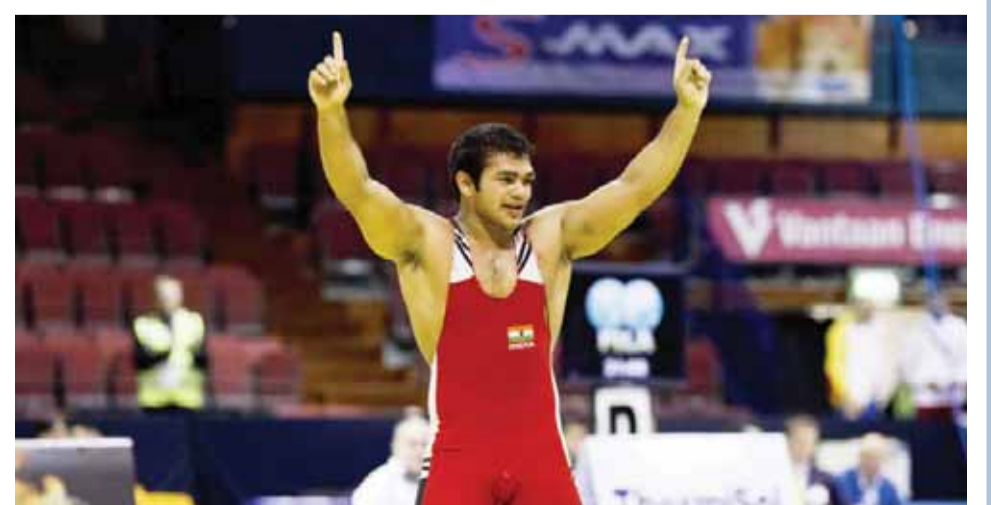
Agarwal said it was too early to say if Yadav's Rio hopes are over.

"The disciplinary panel has sought more details on the case," he said. "It's too early to determine how much time they will take to come out with a verdict."

"But I would say we should know in a week." Yadav, who could not immediately be reached for comment, took India's berth in the 74kg category at the Rio Games by winning a bronze medal at last year's World Championships in Las Vegas.

However, his spot was put in jeopardy when Sushil Kumar, who won a bronze in the 66kg category in Beijing and a silver in London, moved up in weight and asked Delhi High Court to order a bout between the pair to determine who should compete in Rio.

Last month the court ruled against Kumar, the only Indian athlete to win two individual Olympic medals, clearing the way for Yadav to compete in Rio. — Reuters



VANTAA: In this photograph taken on May 4, 2012, India's Narsingh Pancham Yadav celebrates after winning the men's 74kg wrestling freestyle weight class during the Vantaa Cup 2012 Olympic qualifying tournament's finals in Vantaa. Indian wrestler Narsingh Yadav has failed a drugs test, the country's anti-doping agency said yesterday. — AFP

WOUNDED TAYLOR LOOKS TO RIO TO REGAIN GOLDEN TOUCH

LONDON: Irish boxing superstar Katie Taylor along with Nicola Adams established womens boxing in London in the 2012 Olympics as a must see event but four years on cracks are appearing in her armour. The 30-year-old Olympic lightweight champion—who also has five world, six European crowns and the inaugural European Games title—had been unbeaten since 2011 going into 2016 but she has suffered two defeats already this year. This included a controversial loss in the world championship semi-finals to impressive Frenchwoman Estelle Mossely, whom she beat in the European Games in Baku last year. The defeat prevented Taylor from taking a record sixth world crown.

Despite her disappointment at not achieving that mark—which would have

taken her one clear of Indian great Mary Kom—the consolation was she qualified for the Olympics.

"It's a dream come true, everyone knows how much the Olympic Games mean to me and to have a chance to defend my title is an absolute honour," said Taylor. "We're going to have some team in Rio and I think we're going to come home with a few gold medals."

DEVOUT BOXER

Taylor can be a hard character to read. For most of her career she has been carefully protected by her English father Peter who serves as her mentor and coach. Recently and her brother Lee is in her corner now with national coach Zaur Antia. She is a devout Christian and restrained in the remarks

she makes regardless of victory or defeat. However, within the ring she is a tigress prowling for the killer punch and merciless once her opponent is on the ropes. Despite all her success, though, she continues to reject the belief held by many she has replaced her idol Sonia O'Sullivan as her country's greatest ever female sportswoman.

O'Sullivan won the world outdoor silver medal over 5,000 metres in 1995, won silver at the 2000 Olympics in the same event. She was also crowned European champion three times, including the 5,000m and 10,000m double at the 1998 championships.

"I'm not sure I can go that far," said Taylor on winning her European Games title. "Sonia O'Sullivan has always been my idol. I don't know if I can take her

mantle yet. For me she remains the greatest Irish female athlete."

Taylor, who has suffered just nine defeats in 11 years in the ring, similarly dismisses claims she is the greatest pound for pound fighter in women's boxing. "I think it's great to be in the mix and mentioned in that conversation but it's very opinionated as well," said Taylor.

"When you're so consistent people have to stand up and take notice. It's great to have that support back home as well. I don't think people praise consistency enough and it's great to get that praise." Taylor—an all-round sportswoman who has represented Ireland in football and is also a superb Gaelic Footballer—has thought not of retirement but of turning professional.

However, the amateur sport's govern-

ing body the International Boxing Association (AIBA) has indicated it would fight tooth and nail to secure her services. "What Katie Taylor has achieved over the last 10 years in international competition, including the Olympic Games and International Boxing Association World Women's Elite Championships, has been absolutely outstanding," said AIBA president Dr Wu Ching-Kuo.

Taylor, who gives a lot of her spare time to charitable causes, insists the fire is still in her belly and it would be a fool who discounts her chances of retaining her Olympic crown.

"I think I'm as hungry now as I ever was. I just want to continue to improve. People on their way up want to take my place so it is up to me to continue to improve." —AFP

SHAKUR STEVENSON, NEXT US BOXING SENSATION?

NEW YORK: The story of teenage Olympic medal hopeful Shakur Stevenson reads like the plot line for a "Rocky" movie. The American bantamweight is the oldest of nine siblings, took up boxing at the age of just five and grew up in a rough neighborhood of Newark, New Jersey where it was all too easy to fall prey to a life of crime. His style, speed and smart boxing brain has drawn comparisons to Floyd Mayweather, who fought in the Olympics in 1996 and went on to become a boxing legend before retiring last year unbeaten.

And if the "Shakur" sounds familiar, it should—Stevenson is named after Tupac Shakur, the influential rapper who was shot dead in 1996 on a trip to Las Vegas to see a boxing match. But behind the ever-beaming grin, supreme confidence and memorable name there is undoubted talent: Stevenson, who is only 19, is the first American male to win junior and youth world titles and a Youth Olympic Games gold medal. "He really didn't need any motivation once he got into boxing because it was something he had to do," said his grandfather Wali Moses, who was his first coach.

"He knew that he wanted to do something besides be a kid on the streets of Newark so he made extra (efforts) to make sure that he wasn't," Moses told USA Today.

The latest chapter in Stevenson's rapid rise to what many boxing experts say will be the top comes in Rio, where professionals will step into the ring for the first time in the Olympics.

The bubbly teenager already has a "Rio 2016" tattoo on one shoulder blade and is regarded as Team USA's brightest medal hope in the Olympic boxing competition.

Stevenson remains an amateur for now—only a handful of pros will take part in Rio—and is so desperate to have his large family behind him that he launched a crowd-funding campaign to raise money to get

them to Brazil. Winning gold will help provide a better life for his family, he says—that includes getting them all out of Newark for a new start somewhere else.

PROFESSIONAL THREAT

As befits a teenager who had to grow up fast and describes himself as the family bread-winner, Stevenson does not lack confidence, saying recently: "I expect it (Rio) to be an amazing place, something like I've never seen before and I want to stay focused on what I do. I'm looking forward to winning a gold medal and doing it in front of all my family."

Stevenson is dismissive of the threat posed by professionals in Rio. "I don't mind it," Stevenson, who boasts a perfect 23-0 international record but has lost to American rival Ruben Villa twice, told the official Olympic website.

"I feel like professionals are coming to my territory because they're not used to fighting every single day and they're not used to having to make the weight every single day. It's a quicker pace."

The Olympics have heralded some of American boxing's great careers—Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Sugar Ray Leonard and Evander Holyfield were all in the Games.

But there is added pressure on Stevenson because while the United States tops the medal table in Olympic boxing history, the men's team failed to win a single medal in London four years ago.

No male American boxer has won gold since 2004 when Andre Ward, now an unbeaten pro, topped the podium.

"I saw that the 2012 (boxing) team—not to say anything bad about them—they didn't do too good and didn't bring back no medals," says Stevenson, a grin forming again across his youthful features.

"I felt, put me in their position, I think I will bring back a gold medal." —AFP



LAS VEGAS: Terence Crawford, right, hits Viktor Postol during their WBC-WBO junior welterweight title unification boxing bout in Las Vegas on Saturday. —AP

CRAWFORD BEATS POSTOL IN TITLE UNIFICATION FIGHT

LAS VEGAS: Terence Crawford was so sure of his victory Saturday night that he spent part of the final round with his hands at his side, taunting Viktor Postol.

What he's not so sure of is that Manny Pacquiao will agree to his terms and fight him at 140 pounds in November. "It will be at 140, definitely," Crawford said. "But I'm going on vacation now. We're not worried about Manny Pacquiao right now."

Crawford turned in a dominating performance Saturday night in a battle of unbeaten champions, knocking Postol down twice on his way to a lopsided 12-round unanimous decision to put himself in the running for a fight with Pacquiao—who has fought most recently at 147 pounds—in November.

Crawford took control of the 140-pound title unification fight with two knockdowns in the fifth round, and then shut down Postol the rest of the way. He was so far ahead in the 12th round that he put his arms down at his side at one point, taunting Postol.

Both fighters came into the bout with titles and records of 28-0. But Crawford was clearly the best technical fighter, despite giving away significant height and reach advantage to the Ukrainian.

Crawford won 118-107 on two ringside scorecards, and 117-108 on the third. The Associated Press had him winning 118-107. "Postol is a great champion and he was undefeated for a reason," Crawford said. "We got the job done tonight."

Crawford, who has won all seven of his title fights, was impressive in spurts as he controlled the fight from the early rounds on. He dropped Postol with the first punch of the fifth round, then dropped him again later in the round after battering him across the ring with a big left hand. The knockdowns seemed to take some energy out of Postol and Crawford spent the rest of the fight circling and not allowing Postol to get set. When Crawford did stop to punch, he landed some big shots to Postol's head.

"That's boxing," Crawford said. "That's how you box, with movement. That's what boxing is all about."

FAVORITE

Crawford, who was cheered by a vocal contingent of fans from his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, was a 6-1 favorite heading into the fight despite both fighters holding identical records and pieces of the super lightweight title.

It turned out the oddsmakers were on target as Crawford took what was an even fight on the scorecards after four rounds and turned it into a runaway win. "He was just too fast," said Postol's trainer, Freddie Roach. "I was surprised at how fast and good he was."

Crawford spent almost the entire fight as a southpaw, switching early from a conventional stance as he often does. He frustrated Postol, who tried to fight from the outside but seemed unwilling to trade punches.

Crawford said he wanted to fight Pacquiao, but that the fight would be at 140 pounds. Pacquiao, who has fought at 147 pounds in recent years, is tentatively set to return to the

ring Nov. 5 and promoter Bob Arum said the winner of the fight would be a prime candidate as an opponent.

Postol, whose wife gave birth to twins earlier in the week, said Crawford forced him out of his rhythm and he was unable to carry out his fight plan. "He was quicker than me. He's one of the best in the world," Postol said. "I just didn't have the answers tonight."

Two-time Mexican Olympian Oscar Valdez Jr. won a piece of the featherweight title on the undercard, stopping Argentina's Matias Rueda with a series of punches in the second round.

Valdez dominated the fight between two unbeaten boxers, landing big shots to the head

in the first round and dropping Rueda with a hook to the body in the second. Rueda got up but Valdez swarmed over him, landing several more punches to put him down for a second time and end the fight at 2:18 of the second round. Valdez leaped into the arms of his cornerman screaming in joy at becoming a champion in his 20th professional fight. "It's a dream," he said. "Since I started boxing at 8 years old I wanted to be a world champion."

The title was vacant after Vasily Lomachenko vacated his belt after moving up to super featherweight. Valdez, a bronze medalist in the 2012 Olympics, improved to 20-0 with 18 knockouts, while Rueda fell to 26-1. —AP

VALENTINA SHEVCHENKO STUNS HOLLY HOLM AT UFC CHICAGO

CHICAGO: A traumatic start at Valentina Shevchenko's training camp didn't deter her from pulling off another shocking upset in the UFC women's bantamweight division. Shevchenko, from Kyrgyzstan, stunned Holly Holm on Saturday night at UFC Chicago, unanimously outpointing the former UFC champion.

Less than two months ago, Shevchenko was at a chicken restaurant in Lima, Peru, when it was raided by armed robbers. Her trainer, Pavel Fedotov, was shot in the abdomen during the robbery. He has recovered and was in Shevchenko's corner Saturday. Fedotov pushed Shevchenko to continue to train for the fight.

"It was a very different camp than I had to endure in all my life," Shevchenko said. "After two days when he (Pavel) was in the hospital he said, you should take this fight and prepare. It doesn't matter what happened." Fighting for the first fight since losing the belt to Miesha Tate at UFC 196, Holm had losing scores of 49-46 from all of the judges. Her stunning knockout of then-champ Ronda Rousey in Australia at UFC 193 catapulted Holm (10-2) into the spotlight of mixed martial arts, but she followed with the back-to-back losses.

"I know I'm capable of more. I think I just need to believe in myself a little more. Like I said, I know I can do more. I didn't perform

well tonight. Valentina is really tough, we know that," said Holm.

"It's not like I haven't been taught the right things, it all comes down to my performance, it wasn't great tonight."

Shevchenko (13-2) put herself in the mix to contend for the women's bantamweight title at 135 pounds that is held by Amanda Nunes, who she lost to in March at UFC 196. Holm knocked Shevchenko to the mat with a quick hook early in the first round as Shevchenko quickly got back to her feet. Shevchenko had a takedown late in the round. In the third round, after Shevchenko got in a few jabs, Shevchenko caught Holm's leg on a kick attempt and took her down. Shevchenko had another takedown and kept Holm on the mat for the rest of the round as she landed punches.

"I've never in my career, whether it be boxing or MMA ever felt like that I'm at the top because I always know there is somebody else aspiring to be the best," Holm said. "Just as I first came into MMA, I want to have titles in both. I had drive in me. I still do so I never look at a division and think I made it to the top and I'm just going to stay there. There is always somebody hungry." Shevchenko may get another shot at Nunes, who dismantled Tate for the belt at UFC 200. Nunes in a tweet insinuated that Shevchenko is not ready for a rematch.—AP



CHICAGO: Valentina Shevchenko, right, of Kyrgyzstan, punches Holly Holm during a women's bantamweight mixed martial arts bout in Chicago, Saturday. —AP

DETERMINATION PROPELS ADAMS TO LEGEND STATUS

LONDON: British women's boxing great Nicola Adams goes to Rio to defend her historic 2012 Olympic title after at last filling the one vacant hook in her medals cabinet—the world flyweight title. The engaging 33-year-old—who almost always wears a broad smile outside the ring—goes to Rio with the distinct chance of becoming only the second British pugilist after Harry Mallin in 1920-1924, to defend their title successfully.

The odds are too that her adored Doberman Dexter will be transfixed by her bouts on television just as he was when she won gold in 2012.

A television had been installed in his kennels and he had been photographed with a toy meerkat in his mouth—apparently staring attentively at the screen. Dexter was at the time just 10 months old, she said. Adams, who once had to supplement her meagre boxing earnings by acting as an extra in British soap operas such as Coronation Street, says she always misses Dexter and her other dog Bailey, a Pomeranian, who usually travels everywhere with her. It is her dogs that Adams misses most when she travels abroad as she confessed after winning the inaugural European Games title last year in Baku.

Her hairdressing mum, Denver, too has played a pivotal role in helping her develop into one of the great talents in her sport and one of the most crowdpleasing too.

"It was really tough. We didn't have any funding. My mum used to have to pay for everything if I wanted to go away to box in another country, or go to training camps," she told The Daily Telegraph this month.

COMEBACK KID

Adams is not just a role model for sports fans but by revealing she was bisexual a number of years ago she has attracted a whole new audience into the boxing world.

British newspaper 'The Independent' went as far to declare she was the most influential lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender personality

in Britain in 2012. "It's an honour to be seen as a role model," she told the Telegraph. "I've got people who send me messages on social media who never followed boxing before they saw me win a gold medal at the Olympics." Her mental and physical toughness is not in doubt, no more so than when she had a tough ride to Baku last year. She spent some of it recovering from shoulder surgery and also had all her kit, including some of her Olympic memorabilia, stolen. "I had a rocky start to the year, with the robbery. I just wanted to show everybody what I am about. That I am here to stay. I am like a 'comeback kid'—you can never keep me down for long."

Adams, who developed her love for the sport when Denver failed to find a babysitter one night so her daughter and son trekked off to the boxing gym, said continually setting benchmarks for British boxing gave her a sense of pride. "It's an amazing feeling. It is definitely a lot of motivation for me as well. It's great to be able to create history all the time. I can give Britain something to look up to."

"That is more than enough motivation for me. And another little notch on to my legacy as well." Adams grinned broadly when asked whether it was great to still be top dog. "This is absolutely wicked," said Adams. —AFP



Nicola Adams (left)

FROOME CELEBRATES THIRD TOUR DE FRANCE TITLE

PARIS: Chris Froome rode a wave of hostility to his first two Tour de France wins, but had an easier time out of the saddle on his way to a third, winning respect if not love from the tough French crowds.

The Briton's first two titles were accompanied by tense moments with some spectators, while questions about cycling's doping past were never far away. This year, Froome was more relaxed and spontaneous as the crowds seemingly warmed to the Kenyan-born rider. He built his 2013 and 2015 victories on stunning attacks in the climbs, but he triumphed this

year by surprising his rivals on descents and the flat.

A sometimes robotic character, Froome looked human when, after his bike was broken in a crash involving a motorbike on the slopes of Mont Ventoux, he started to run up the road in one of the most memorable moments of any Tour.

It earned Froome sympathy from the crowd, as did his crash on the penultimate stage, which left him with a bloodied knee. That was not enough to unsettle the Briton, who with his third title in four years, has become a more popular figure in the race after

being grilled by the media on doping issues and had urine thrown at him by a spectator last year.

"I think for quite a lot of reasons, I've put that to rest now," Froome said. "I've done a lot in terms of offering up my physiological data and trying to be open to people as much as I can while protecting a competitive advantage at the same time."

"Things have been put into perspective for us, by the attack in Nice and what's been happening. But credit to the French public, the race continued. "It's a strong sign that life goes on," he said referring to the recent inci-

dent in which a delivery driver killed 84 people and injured many more when he drove his truck through a Bastille Day crowd on the seafloor at the Riviera city. The 31-year-old is grateful to the public and he knows he also owes his success to his team mates, who like Wouter Poels, kept him safe throughout and formed the most formidable team assembled in years.

"I feel so privileged to be in this position where I've always had team mates around me in the race," he said. "Although we haven't won the team competition, we've had by far the strongest team in this race and I'm

incredibly grateful for that."

Froome has already vowed he will try for more victories on the Tour, having joined Belgian Philippe Thys, American Greg LeMond and France's Louison Bobet as triple winners.

Ahead of him are five-times champions Miguel Indurain of Spain, Belgian great Eddy Merckx and Frenchmen Bernard Hinault and Jacques Anquetil.

"It would be my dream to keep coming back to the Tour for the next five to six years if I can and give it my best shot. I hope I can do that next year," said Froome. — Reuters

MLB Results/Standings

Seattle 14, Toronto 5; Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 4; San Francisco 2, NY Yankees 1 (12 innings); Baltimore 5, Cleveland 2; Washington 3, San Diego 2; Cincinnati 6, Arizona 1; Milwaukee 6, Chicago Cubs 1; Houston 7, LA Angels 2; Minnesota 11, Boston 9; Miami 7, NY Mets 2; LA Dodgers 7, St. Louis 2; Texas 7, Kansas City 4; Oakland 4, Tampa Bay 3.

American League

Eastern Division

| | W | L | PCT | GB |
|------------|----|----|------|------|
| Baltimore | 56 | 40 | .583 | - |
| Boston | 54 | 41 | .568 | 1.5 |
| Toronto | 54 | 44 | .551 | 3 |
| NY Yankees | 49 | 48 | .505 | 7.5 |
| Tampa Bay | 38 | 59 | .392 | 18.5 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|------|------|
| Cleveland | 56 | 40 | .583 | - |
| Detroit | 51 | 46 | .526 | 5.5 |
| Kansas City | 48 | 48 | .500 | 8 |
| Chicago White Sox | 46 | 50 | .479 | 10 |
| Minnesota | 37 | 60 | .381 | 19.5 |

Western Division

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|------|------|
| Texas | 56 | 42 | .571 | - |
| Houston | 53 | 44 | .546 | 2.5 |
| Seattle | 50 | 47 | .515 | 5.5 |
| Oakland | 44 | 54 | .449 | 12 |
| LA Angels | 43 | 54 | .443 | 12.5 |

National League

Eastern Division

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|------|------|
| Washington | 58 | 40 | .592 | - |
| Miami | 53 | 44 | .546 | 4.5 |
| NY Mets | 51 | 45 | .531 | 6 |
| Philadelphia | 45 | 54 | .455 | 13.5 |
| Atlanta | 33 | 65 | .337 | 25 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|------|------|
| Chicago Cubs | 58 | 38 | .604 | - |
| St. Louis | 52 | 45 | .536 | 6.5 |
| Pittsburgh | 50 | 47 | .515 | 8.5 |
| Milwaukee | 41 | 54 | .432 | 16.5 |
| Cincinnati | 38 | 59 | .392 | 20.5 |

Western Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|------|
| San Francisco | 58 | 39 | .598 | - |
| LA Dodgers | 55 | 44 | .556 | 4 |
| Colorado | 46 | 51 | .474 | 12 |
| San Diego | 42 | 56 | .429 | 16.5 |
| Arizona | 40 | 57 | .412 | 18 |



CHICAGO: Detroit Tigers' Cameron Maybin steals second base as Chicago White Sox second baseman Tyler Saladino bobbles the throw during the eighth inning of a baseball game Saturday, in Chicago. — AP

WITHOUT SALE, WHITE SOX'S GAME WITH TIGERS SUSPENDED BY RAIN

CHICAGO: With ace Chris Sale scratched following a clubhouse incident, the White Sox used six pitchers Saturday night before their game against the Detroit Tigers was suspended by rain after eight innings tied at 3.

The game, interrupted three times by thunderstorms, will resume Sunday before the final contest of the series. Sale, who was to attempt to become the majors' first 15-game winner, was sent home after what the team called a "non-physical" incident before the game. FanRag Sports and other outlets reported an upset Sale destroyed collared throwback jerseys the team was scheduled to wear. Justin Upton homered for the Tigers and Avisail Garcia hit his first homer since May 28 for the White Sox. The Tigers tied it in the eighth on Nick Castellanos' single off Nate Jones that scored Cameron Maybin, who reached on Jones' error. David Robertson came in to get the final out in a pouring rain before the umpires called for the tarp. The game was suspended 45 minutes later.

GIANTS 2, YANKEES 1, 12 INNINGS

Mac Williamson homered in the fifth inning and hit a tiebreaking single in the 12th, lifting San Francisco past New York for the Giants' first victory since the All-Star break. NL West-leading San Francisco had lost a season-high six straight games and had held just one lead since the break - when Buster Posey hit a go-ahead home run leading off the 10th inning at San Diego on July 16 only to have the Padres rally for a pair of runs in the bottom half against Santiago Casilla. Williamson, whose fourth-inning error allowed the Yankees' run, began the comeback when he connected off Ivan Nova leading off the fifth. Trevor Brown hit an opposite-field double to right off Anthony Swarzak (1-1) leading off the

12th, and Williamson singled up the middle with one out, just past the glove of diving shortstop Didi Gregorius. San Francisco was 0 for 10 with runners in scoring position, dropping to 7 for 64 (.111) since the All-Star break, before Williamson's single. Cheered on by hundreds of orange-clad fans in the Giants' old hometown, San Francisco escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the 10th when Casilla (2-3) retired Brian McCann on a shallow flyout and Starlin Castro on a foulout. Hunter Strickland pitched a perfect 12th for his second save.

MARINERS 14, BLUE JAYS 5

Nelson Cruz hit his ninth career grand slam and added a three-run shot, and Hisashi Iwakuma pitched six innings to win his fifth straight start in Seattle's victory over Toronto. Cruz hit his slam off R.A. Dickey (7-11) in the third, then added a three-run drive off Drew Storen in the eighth for his 20th career multi-homer game. He has 25 home runs this season. It was the 13th time in team history a Mariners player has recorded seven RBIs. The team record is eight by Mike Blowers, Mike Cameron and Alvin Davis. Kyle Seager hit a two-run homer and Nori Aoki had two RBIs and scored twice as the Mariners used a season-high 19 hits to win their third straight. Iwakuma (11-6) allowed two runs and four hits. Wade LeBlanc pitched the final three innings for his first save.

ORIOLES 5, INDIANS 2

Mark Trumbo hit his major league-leading 30th home run, Kevin Gausman pitched seven shutout innings and Baltimore beat Cleveland in a duel between first-place teams. Pedro Alvarez also homered for the Orioles, who will seek to complete a three-game sweep of the AL Central

leaders on Sunday. Cleveland has scored three runs in 18 innings thus far. Trumbo connected with a man on to cap a three-run first inning against Josh Tomlin (10-3). Playing in his first season with Baltimore, Trumbo already has eight more homers than last year and is just four short of matching his career high, set in 2013 with the Angels. After earning only one win in his first 16 starts, Gausman (2-7) struck out seven and allowed only one runner past first base. The right-hander gave up four hits and walked three but was backed by three double plays. Brad Brach surrendered a two-out, two-run single to Lonnie Chisenhall in the ninth before Zach Britton got the final out for his 32nd save.

MARLINS 7, METS 2

Giancarlo Stanton homered and had his first four-hit game since 2012, driving in three runs to give Jose Fernandez all the support he needed, and Miami beat New York. Miami rocked Jacob deGrom (6-5), who allowed 10 hits and five runs, both season highs, and lasted just 3 2/3 innings in his shortest outing since August. Fernandez (12-4) gave up two runs in seven innings to match his career high for victories, achieved in his 2013 rookie season. He also had two hits, hiking his average to .265, and drove in the first run. Home Run Derby winner Stanton put Miami ahead to stay in the third inning when he hit a majestic two-run homer off the left-field scoreboard above the 401-foot sign. He added an RBI single in the fourth, and singled in the first and sixth, hiking his average to .241 after a prolonged slump.

TWINS 11, RED SOX 9

Miguel Sano homered and Eduardo Nunez drove in three runs, including two in a five-run

seventh inning, and Minnesota rallied to beat Boston. Eddie Rosario had four singles to help the Twins win their second straight over Boston after losing the series opener Thursday. Hanley Ramirez hit a three-run homer and Xander Bogaerts had four hits for the Red Sox. They lost for just the third time in 12 games. Red Sox starter David Price went 5 2/3 innings and gave up 11 hits for his second straight start. Tommy Layne (0-1) was the loser. Ryan Pressly (4-5) got four outs for the win, and Brandon Kintzler worked the ninth for his eighth save.

RANGERS 7, ROYALS 4

Cole Hamels allowed one unearned run in 5 1/3 innings, Nomar Mazara and Adrian Beltre homered and Texas beat Kansas City. Hamels, who is 6-1 with a 2.24 ERA in his past nine starts, limited the Royals to five hits, struck out four and walked three. Hamels (11-2) lowered his ERA to 2.87. The Rangers picked up only their fifth victory in 20 games. Yordano Ventura (6-8) was the loser.

PIRATES 7, PHILLIES 4

Gregory Polanco and David Freese hit two-run singles during a five-run fifth inning to rally and Pittsburgh beat Philadelphia after top Pirates prospect Tyler Glasnow was removed with shoulder discomfort. Glasnow exited his second major league start in the fourth inning. The rookie right-hander was recalled from Triple-A Indianapolis earlier in the day and allowed two runs (one earned) and four hits in three-plus innings. Polanco's hit put the Pirates ahead 4-3 and chased starter Aaron Nola (5-9). Freese's hit off Severino Gonzalez pushed the lead to three runs, and Francisco Cervelli capped the inning with a sacrifice fly. Juan Nicasio (8-6) allowed one run in two innings in relief of Glasnow. Mark Melancon pitched the ninth for his 29th save.

NATIONALS 3, PADRES 2

Pinch-hitter Stephen Drew hit a game-ending RBI triple in the ninth inning to lift Washington past San Diego. Anthony Rendon opened the bottom off the ninth with a single off reliever Kevin Quackenbush (6-4). Drew entered with one out and drove a pitch off the center-field scoreboard, and Rendon raced around the bases for the winning run. Jonathan Papelbon (2-2) allowed a leadoff double in the ninth before retiring three straight batters. San Diego left runners in scoring position in each of the last two innings. Washington starter Max Scherzer struck out 10 over seven innings.

BREWERS 6, CUBS 1

Kirk Nieuwenhuis hit two home runs, Zach Davies took a shutout into the seventh inning and Milwaukee beat Chicago. Jonathan Lucroy also homered, giving Milwaukee the lead with a two-run shot in the first off John Lackey (7-7). Nieuwenhuis led off the fourth with a homer to center field, extending Milwaukee's lead to 3-0. Nieuwenhuis added a three-run homer to left in the eighth. Davies (7-4) gave up one run and three hits in 6 1/3 innings. Lackey, who has surrendered at least one home run in seven straight starts, gave up three runs and five hits in six innings.

ATHLETICS 4, RAYS 3

Ryon Healy hit a game-ending home run in the ninth inning two batters after Jake Smolinski tied it with a two-run homer, and Oakland rallied past Tampa Bay. Both home runs came off Rays closer Alex Colome (1-3), who had recorded 21 consecutive saves before giving up three runs to the A's. Khris Davis opened the ninth with a walk before pinch-hitter Yonder Alonso struck out swinging. Smolinski hit the first pitch he saw over the fence in left field to tie it at 3. Colome got Marcus Semien to fly out before Healy hammered a 3-2 pitch to left-center for the winner.

Kendall Graveman (7-6) pitched a complete game for his sixth consecutive win. The right-hander allowed three runs with four strikeouts and one walk, throwing 102 pitches.

ROCKIES 8, BRAVES 4

Trevor Story hit two home runs to set an NL rookie record for shortstops and Colorado beat Atlanta. Story had four hits including his 25th and 26th homers to pass his mentor, Troy Tulowitzki, who had 24 for the Rockies in 2007. Nomar Garciaparra of the Boston Red Sox set the major league record for shortstops with 30 in 1997. Story, who set career highs in both hits and in RBIs with five, is two behind Wilin Rosario for the franchise mark for homers by a rookie. Tyler Anderson (3-3) worked around a 47-minute rain delay to finish with six strikeouts in six innings. Story started his night with a two-run homer in the second off Matt Wisler (4-10) to give Colorado a 2-1 lead. He drove in two more with a single in Colorado's five-run sixth and then led off the eighth with a deep shot off reliever Jim Johnson that gave the Rockies a four-run lead.

REDS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 1

Jay Bruce hit a three-run homer and barely missed another in Cincinnati's victory over fading Arizona. The last-place Reds have won three consecutive series for the first time, finding success against other struggling teams. The Diamondbacks have lost 17 of 21. Bruce's 20th homer, off Robbie Ray (5-9), gave him the team lead with 69 RBIs. He also doubled off the top of the wall in left field and thought he might have gotten another homer, but the call of a double was upheld after a video review. Michael Lorenzen (1-0) took over in the fourth inning for Keyvius Sampson, who made his first start of the season after seven relief appearances.

ASTROS 7, ANGELS 2

Evan Gattis had two home runs and four RBIs in his return to the lineup, Collin McHugh threw six strong innings and Houston beat Los Angeles. Gattis sat Friday with a bruised right hand after being hit by a pitch Wednesday. He came back Saturday and hit a three-run homer into the Crawford Boxes in left field in the second inning and added a solo shot off the facade in left-center in the fourth to give Houston a 5-0 lead. Carlos Correa had a solo home run to right in the fifth. McHugh (7-6) allowed two runs on six hits with six strikeouts in six innings. Jered Weaver (8-8) was the loser. Ji-Man Choi had a solo home run to the upper deck in right in the fifth for the Angels. — AP

INDIA PUSH WILTING WINDIES TO VERGE OF HEAVY DEFEAT

NORTH SOUND: West Indies were facing the prospect of another huge series-opening defeat at 21 for one in their second innings at stumps, a deficit of 302 runs, after being forced to follow-on on the third day of the first Test against India on Saturday. Fast-medium bowlers Umesh Yadav and Mohammed Shami took four wickets each to wreck the home side's first innings, dismissing them for 243 in the final session of the day with half-centuries by opener Kraigg Brathwaite and wicketkeeper-batsman Shane Dowrich representing the only meaningful resistance. Brathwaite, who defied India's array of pace and spin for almost five hours in getting to 74, could not survive the first over of the second turn at the crease, being trapped palpably leg-before by Ishant Sharma. "It was a decent knock in the first innings but I would have loved to go on," said Brathwaite at the close of play.

"With three out-and-out pacers and two spinners, the Indians have a lot to choose from.

They stuck to their plans very well. It was never easy batting against them." Rajendra Chandrika and Darren Bravo survived to the close and will resume on the fourth day hoping to put up a much more concerted effort than in the first innings. In their previous three Test series, the West Indies lost the opening matches at home to Australia by nine wickets a year ago and then by an innings in Sri Lanka and Australia at the end of 2015. India's bowlers made a mockery of all the lamentations of a placid, lifeless pitch over the first two days with an impressive, purposeful effort throughout the day.

They were held up though at the start of play as Braithwaite and nightwatchman Devendra Bishoo frustrated Virat Kohli and his men for 75 minutes until leg-spinner Amit Mishra had Bishoo stumped by wicketkeeper Wriddhiman Saha.

It was second of six dismissals for Saha in the innings, putting him alongside Syed Kirmani and Mahendra Singh Dhoni for the

most dismissals by an Indian wicketkeeper in a Test innings. From that point on it became a virtual procession of West Indies batsmen to and from the wicket with Shami outstanding either side of the lunch interval when he disposed of Bravo, Marlon Samuels and Jermaine Blackwood to add to his dismissal of Chandrika late on the second evening.

Debutant Roston Chase displayed a measure of grit in a 47-run stand for the sixth wicket with Brathwaite, but the reintroduction of Yadav for another spell in mid-afternoon proved telling. Chase miscued an attempted pull to give Kohli a simple catch at short mid-wicket and Brathwaite could not get out of the way of a sharp lifter to give a catch behind.

Dowrich counter-attacked superbly in getting to an unbeaten 57 with ten fours by the time the innings folded, Yadav dispensing with Jason Holder and Carlos Brathwaite off successive balls before Mishra completed the job by bowling a heaving Shannon Gabriel. — AFP

BRITISH SWEETHEARTS WEDDED TO DREAM OF RIO GOLD

MELBOURNE: Concerned colleagues often warn of the perils of work-place romances but Britain's badminton power couple Chris and Gabby Adcock believe marriage has only made their on-court performance more harmonious.

The mixed doubles pair are Team GB's best chance of a maiden badminton gold medal at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and their relationship has gone from strength to strength since their wedding three years ago.

Not long after their honeymoon, the Adcocks upset China's London Olympic champions Zhang Nan and Zhao Yunlei to win the Hong Kong Superseries title and took gold at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow the following year.

In December, they became the first Britons to win a title at the World Superseries Finals in Dubai, the sport's equivalent to tennis's season-ending ATP World Tour Finals.

They head to Rio as the world's sev-

enth-ranked pair, brushing off fears about the Zika virus and convinced that domestic bliss has given them an edge in their mission to win a medal for Team GB. "I think it's really easy for us to read each other and how we're feeling, if one's a bit more tired or whatever," Gabby Adcock told Reuters in an interview in Sydney, with husband Chris perched beside her.

"So that's good that we can be honest with each other and we're working towards the same goal. "We know if one's having a bad day the other one's got to be there to support and it does happen. "So we're very fortunate that we know each other inside out.

"I know that Chris is putting in the work every day 24-7 and he trusts that I'm doing the same." Gabby, a Leeds-born 25-year-old and Chris, a 27-year-old from Leicester, seem a relaxed and amicable couple for all their determination to succeed. They have known each other

since they were children competing on the national age circuit and are rarely out of each other's pockets, living and training in Milton Keynes where Badminton England (BE) has its national performance centre.

They were doubles partners and a couple well before the London Olympics but in a Shakespearean twist, BE's coaches tore their on-court partnership asunder before it could fully bloom.

Chris was paired with Imogen Bankier, while Gabby went with Robert Blair. The Adcock-Bankier partnership was more successful, yielding a world silver medal in 2011 and the pair were selected for the 2012 London Olympics.

With then-fiancee Gabby relegated to a cheerleader, Adcock and Bankier were knocked out early in their home Games and parted ways the following year.

BONDS STRENGTHENED

The Adcocks' enforced separation

would have been a test for the strongest of relationships, but the couple insist the time apart strengthened their bonds.

"The plan was to bring us back together later on and I think we both developed a lot, with Gabby playing with Robert and me playing with Imogen," said Chris Adcock.

"And now we've come back together and it almost feels like we've not split up before but everything's improved.

"I think when you've played together so long, like we did, you cover each other's weaknesses up. But when you play with other people you strengthen your weaknesses.

"And since we've come back together we've become a lot more rounded."

The spread of Zika in Brazil has prompted a number of athletes to pull out of Rio, citing health concerns.

The mosquito-borne virus can cause potentially severe birth defects in babies whose mothers were infected during

pregnancy, including microcephaly marked by small head size that can lead to developmental problems.

The Adcocks' parents have been diligent in warning their athlete children to take all precautions but the couple have never wavered. "We haven't had any second thoughts about going, that's for sure," said Chris. "It's the Olympic Games, it's our pinnacle and we can't wait for it."

They will bid to burnish Britain's solid record in Olympic mixed doubles which includes Simon Archer and Joanne Goode's bronze at the 2000 Sydney Games and Gail Emms and Nathan Robertson's silver at Athens in 2004.

Having battled for three years to get to Rio, the idea of letting off steam with a medal around their necks is a tickling one for the couple.

"It'd be a great holiday after winning a medal, I'd go on a one-month bender," Gabby laughs. "Straight to Vegas!" adds Chris. — Reuters

GALAXY END TIMBERS' MLS UNBEATEN RUN

LOS ANGELES: Robbie Keane and Gyasi Zardes scored early goals and the Los Angeles Galaxy ended the Timbers' nine-match unbeaten streak with a 2-1 Major League Soccer victory in Portland on Saturday. Zarek Valentin scored for reigning MLS Cup champions Portland, who lost veteran defender Nat Borchers to what looked like a left ankle injury in the first half.

Despite the injury absences of midfielder Steven Gerrard and defender Ashley Cole who missed his fourth game with a sore hamstring the Galaxy struck early to stretch their MLS winning streak to four games. Keane struck first, heading in Giovanni dos Santos' cross in the seventh minute. It was Keane's seventh goal in 10 matches this season.

Four minutes later Emmanuel Boateng and Jelle Van Damme set up Zardes, who doubled the lead to 2-0. The Galaxy have 34 goals this season, matching FC Dallas for the most in the league.

Zarek Valentin pulled one back for Portland in the 41st minute, taking a pass from Darlington Nagbe and beating Galaxy keeper Brian Rowe with a right-footed shot.

The Timbers had several more chances, including Nagbe's point-blank shot that he fired high in the last 10 minutes.

In Eastern Conference action, Didier

Drogba's hat trick and a goal from Ignacio Piatti lifted the Impact to a 5-1 victory over the Philadelphia Union in Montreal.

Piatti contributed to all three of Drogba's goals. At the 19-minute mark, Piatti worked a pretty give-and-go with Ambroise Oyongo, who hit Drogba with a perfect cross at the right post. Drogba converted, giving the Impact a 1-0 lead.

On Drogba's second goal, Piatti beat two Philadelphia defenders and after his shot was denied by Union keeper Andre Blake, Drogba seized the deflection and fired home a right-footed shot.

Piatti fed Drogba for his third goal, 12 minutes into the second half. Chris Pontius scored at 72 minutes for the Union, who were playing their third match in seven days and were without suspended midfielder Ilesinho.

Piatti tacked on a goal in the 87th minute and Matteo Mancosu added one more in injury time. In Toronto, Sebastian Giovinco ended an eight-game MLS scoring drought with three goals to help Toronto FC notch a 4-1 win over DC United.

Marco Delgado added a first-half goal for Toronto and Jared Jeffrey scored for DC United. Two of Giovinco's goals were off free kicks in the first half and his third goal came in second-half stoppage time. — AFP

GUARDIOLA TO SHAKE ON RENEWED MOURINHO RIVALRY

BEIJING: Pep Guardiola pushed aside any suggestion he would not shake hands with arch-rival Jose Mourinho and insisted all would be friendly when Manchester City play Manchester United today.

"We are polite guys, why not?" Guardiola said yesterday when asked if the pair would extend hands, despite an acrimonious rivalry which stretches back to 2010 when the Catalan had stewardship of Barcelona and Mourinho took the reins at Real Madrid.

"Why should we not shake hands? No reason why. He will want to win and so will I, that's all," the City boss told a news conference after training at Beijing's Olympic Sports Centre ahead of the International Champions Cup pre-season tour match.

"It's a friendly game, a really friendly game." Since taking on their respective Manchester football giants, each manager has insisted they will not concentrate on each other too much. But Guardiola acknowledged that United would mount a serious challenge in the English Premier League after a period in the doldrums since the retirement of Alex Ferguson in 2013.

"I'm pretty sure they will be stronger than in previous years," said Guardiola. "With this manager I'm sure they will buy new players. They will be a strong team." Yesterday's training session was switched hastily to the smaller Olympic Sports Centre to preserve the famous Bird's Nest stadium's pitch following days of storms in the Chinese capital that have left the ground saturated.

The first Manchester derby outside the UK will be played at the centrepiece of the 2008 Beijing Olympics on Monday night, weather permitting. More than 200 people

have died in flooding in northern provinces surrounding Beijing.

'NOT IDEAL'

Guardiola acknowledged that conditions would not be ideal and his first priority at this stage of pre-season was to avoid any injuries. "We didn't see the pitch but there is a lot of water in the last days so we understand it's not in a good condition," said Guardiola. "But OK we're going to adapt and adjust. The most important thing is that the players are not going to be injured. "We know the humidity for the training is not ideal, but we also know that it's so important to come here to know the people and to play a good two games against amazing teams like United and Dortmund." Captain Vincent Kompany is in Beijing with the squad after recovering from an injury-blighted campaign in 2015-16, but did not train with the rest of the players as he is undergoing his own intensive programme to regain full fitness.

Guardiola said there was a possibility he could be ready for the first game of the new season against Sunderland on August 13, but he would not rush the Belgian central defender back and risk further injury.

"The physio says he is ready but he needs to show that he can play one week, then one week more, to play regularly," said Guardiola. "The most important thing is for Vincent to get fit - if it's for Sunderland, perfect. If not, September."

United lost 4-1 to Borussia Dortmund in Shanghai on Friday and City will play the German side in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on Thursday to conclude their China tour. — AFP



BUDAPEST: British Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates with the trophy on the podium after winning the Formula One Hungarian Grand in Mogyorod, north-east of Budapest, Hungary, yesterday. — AP

HAMILTON WINS HUNGARIAN GP TO TAKE OVERALL LEAD

BUDAPEST: Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Hungarian Grand Prix for a record fifth time yesterday to take the championship lead from teammate Nico Rosberg, who finished second. Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo was third, followed by Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel and Max Verstappen of Red Bull. Hamilton now has five F1 victories this season for 192 points, with Rosberg on 186 and Ricciardo third with 115, one point clear of Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen.

Hamilton completed the 70 laps of the Hungarian circuit in 1 hour, 40 minutes and 30.115 seconds, at an average speed of 183.059 kph (113.7 mph). He beat Rosberg by 1.977 seconds. Ricciardo was a further 27 seconds behind, less than a second ahead of Vettel. Rosberg won the first four races this year, while Hamilton has won five of the last six. Verstappen is the only non-Mercedes driver to win a race in 2016.

Hamilton started second on the grid, with Rosberg in pole position, but was able to pass the German on the first turn. "The start was everything," said Hamilton, who before this victory was tied with Michael Schumacher for most wins at the Hungaroring, with four. "I got a good start, I had one of the Red Bulls on the inside so I was pressured quite a lot into turn one. What a day!" Ricciardo also briefly passed Rosberg at the start but while the Mercedes driver was able to pull back ahead in that duel he was never able to pass Hamilton.

"I was happy to take Daniel in turn two and from then I was trying to put all the pressure possible on Lewis," Rosberg said. "I lost the win there." Hamilton's lead over Rosberg was rarely more than two seconds, while Rosberg's lead over Ricciardo grew to 8.1 seconds by the end of lap 18. The Australian, however, was able to close that gap to 2.8 seconds by lap 30.

Mercedes noticed the shrinking lead and told Hamilton to "push," or they would have Rosberg change tires ahead of him. Hamilton responded that he was "driving as best as I can" but seemed to respond to the request and Ricciardo never really challenged again. "I think the first part of the race we were quite competitive," Ricciardo said. "But in the end it looked like the Mercedes had a bit more in their back pocket and were able to improve the pace as the race went on."

The race seemed uneventful after lively practice sessions - including a crash by Hamilton - and lengthy qualifying on Saturday, interrupted several times by heavy rainfall and numerous crashes along with controversy over Rosberg's alleged failure to slow under yellow flags. McLaren's Jensen Button was the only driver who did not finish the race, pulling out after 60 laps with smoke coming out of the car. Button was also the first casualty of the new rules by FIA, motorsport's governing body, forcing drivers to enter the pit lane for repairs - or withdraw from the race - if they are warned over the radio of any malfunctions.

Button started eighth but soon developed hydraulic problems. He was instructed to avoid shifting gears, which meant he should have returned to the pit lane, but the car seemed to recover and he was told to stay out on the track. Stewards reviewed the radio messages and gave Button a drive-through penalty, to the British driver's clear dismay. — AP

ENGLAND OPT AGAINST FOLLOW-ON AS RAIN COMES TO PAKISTAN'S AID

MANCHESTER: England captain Alastair Cook decided against enforcing the follow-on against Pakistan despite a mammoth first-innings lead in the second Test at Old Trafford yesterday.

Pakistan were dismissed for just 198 in reply to England's huge 589 for eight declared-a deficit of 391 runs. Yet Cook decided against asking Pakistan to bat again. England had the fifth biggest first-innings lead without enforcing the follow-on in Test history. Two of those instances had come in 'timeless' Tests, while the others were when Australia led England by 445 runs in Brisbane in 2006 and 398 at Adelaide in 2013 — with the Australians winning both of those Ashes matches. Cook's decision, with England 1-0 down in the four-match series, seemed all the more curious given rain had stopped play for an hour earlier yesterday. Another rain interruption forced an early tea, with England 11 without loss in their second innings.

Cook, who made 105 in the first innings, was nine not out and Alex Hales two not out. Earlier, England all-rounder Chris Woakes took four for 67, while Joe Root followed his first-innings 254, his Test-best score, with four catches at second slip.

Misbah-ul-Haq, the Pakistan captain, top-scored for his side with 52 and shared a ninth-wicket stand of 60 with Wahab Riaz, who made a Test-best 39. Pakistan, who resumed on 57 for four, saw their first-innings collapse continue in Sunday's morning session as they lost a further four wickets for 62 runs to be 119 for eight at lunch.

But with Cook opting against using the experienced new ball duo of James Anderson

and Stuart Broad after lunch, Pakistan added 79 runs in the second session.

WICKETS TUMBLE

Pakistan started Sunday's play with opener Shan Masood 30 not out and Misbah one not out. Anderson, England's all-time leading wicket-taker, marked his return to Test cricket on his Lancashire home ground after missing Pakistan's series-opening 75-run win at Lord's last week with a shoulder injury by taking the first wicket to fall on Sunday.

Left-handed opener Masood had held firm for more than two hours in all. But having moved on to 39, Masood exited in familiar fashion when he edged Anderson to Root. Pakistan were now 71 for five, their total at the rain break. Shortly after play resumed, Asad Shafiq fell for four when he drove loosely at a Broad slower ball and lobbed a catch to Hales at point. Sarfraz Ahmed may have come in at 76 for six but the wicket-keeper stuck to his attacking game and got off the mark when he cut Broad over Hales's head for four.

By contrast it took Misbah 47 balls to score the first boundary of his innings, a square-drive off Anderson. Woakes, who took 11 wickets in defeat at Lord's, saw his first over Sunday cost 11 runs as Sarfraz hit two well-struck boundaries. But when Sarfraz (26) played defensively at Ben Stokes, he succeeded only in giving Root another easy slip catch. Misbah completed a 108-ball fifty before, sweeping once too often at off-spinner Ali, he was caught at short fine leg by Cook. Wahab hoisted Ali for six. But going for another big hit off the spinner, he holed out to end a 61-ball innings that also featured five fours. —AFP



MANCHESTER: England's Jonathan Bairstow (R) watches on as Pakistan's captain Misbah-ul-Haq (L) plays a shot on the third day of the second Test cricket match between England and Pakistan at Old Trafford Cricket Ground in Manchester, northwest England, yesterday. — AFP



BEIJING: Manchester United's Wayne Rooney (C) sprints as coach Jose Mourinho (back) looks on during a training session a day before the 2016 International Champions Cup football match between Manchester City and Manchester United, in Beijing yesterday. — AFP

Sports

Crawford beats
Postol in title
unification fight



Hamilton wins
Hungarian GP to
take overall lead



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LONDON: In this Aug. 12, 2012 file photo Team Russia celebrates winning the gold medal during the rhythmic gymnastics group all-around final at the 2012 Summer Olympics, in London. Olympic leaders stopped short yesterday of imposing a complete ban on Russia competing in the Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games, handing individual global sports federations the responsibility to decide which athletes should be cleared to compete. (inset) Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko speaks to the media in Moscow, Russia, yesterday. — AP

IOC STOP SHORT OF COMPLETE BAN ON RUSSIANS

LAUSANNE: Olympic leaders stopped short yesterday of imposing a complete ban on Russia from the Rio de Janeiro Games, leaving individual global sports federations to decide which athletes should be cleared to compete. The decision, announced after a three-hour meeting of the International Olympic Committee's executive board, came just 12 days before the Aug. 5 opening of the games. "We had to balance the collective responsibility and the individual justice to which every human being and athlete is entitled to," IOC President Thomas Bach said.

The IOC rejected calls from the World Anti-Doping Agency and many other anti-doping bodies to exclude the entire Russian Olympic team following allegations of state-sponsored cheating.

Russia's track and field athletes have already been banned by the IAAF, the sport's governing body, a decision that was upheld Thursday by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, and was accepted by the IOC again yesterday.

Calls for a complete ban on Russia intensified after Richard McLaren, a Canadian lawyer commissioned by WADA, issued a report Monday accusing Russia's sports ministry of overseeing a vast doping program of its Olympic athletes.

McLaren's investigation, based heavily on evidence from former Moscow doping lab director Grigory Rodchenkov, affirmed allegations of brazen manipulation of Russian urine samples at the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, but also found that state-backed doping had

involved 28 summer and winter sports from 2011 to 2015. But the IOC board, meeting via teleconference, decided against the ultimate sanction, in line with Bach's recent statements stressing the need to take individual justice into account.

"An athlete should not suffer and should not be sanctioned for a system in which he was not implicated," Bach told reporters on a conference call after yesterday's meeting. Bach acknowledged the decision "might not please everybody."

JUSTICE

"This is not about expectations," he said. "This is about doing justice to clean athletes all over the world." Russian Olympic Committee president Alexander Zhukov presented his case to the IOC board at the beginning of yesterday's meeting, promising full cooperation with investigations and guaranteeing "a complete and comprehensive restructuring of the Russian anti-doping system."

The IOC also rejected the application by Russian whistleblower Yulia Stepanova, the 800-meter runner and former doper who helped expose the doping scandal in her homeland, to compete under a neutral flag at the games.

The IOC said Stepanova, now living in the United States, did not meet the criteria for running under the IOC flag and, because she had committed doping violations, did not satisfy the "ethical requirements" to compete in the games. However, the IOC added that it

would invite her and her husband, Vitaly Stepanov, to attend the games.

While deciding against an outright ban, the IOC said it was imposing tough eligibility conditions, including barring entry for the Rio Games of any Russian athlete who has ever been sanctioned for doping.

The IOC said it would accept the entry only of those Russian athletes who meet certain conditions set out for the 28 international federations to apply.

SPORTS POWERHOUSE

The federations "should carry out an individual analysis of each athlete's anti-doping record, taking in account only reliable adequate international tests ... in order to ensure a level playing field," the IOC said.

The committee asked the federations to examine the information and names of athletes and sports implicated in the McLaren report. Any of those implicated should not be allowed into the games, it said.

The IOC said the federations would have to apply their own rules if they want to ban an entire Russian team from their events in Rio, as the IAAF has already done for track and field. Russian entries must be examined and upheld by an expert from the Court of Arbitration for Sport, the IOC said.

Russian athletes who are cleared for the games will be subjected to a "rigorous additional out-of-competition testing program."

The IOC also reiterated its "serious concerns" about the weaknesses in the fight against doping, and called

for WADA to "fully review their anti-doping systems." The IOC said it would propose measures for more transparency and independence.

The decision for the IOC was loaded with geopolitical ramifications. Never has a country been kicked out of the Olympics for doping violations. And Vladimir Putin's Russia is a sports powerhouse, a huge country seeking to reaffirm its status on the world stage, and a major player in the Olympic movement. Many international Olympic officials and federation leaders have close ties to Russia, which has portrayed the exclusion of its track athletes and calls for a complete ban as part of a political, Western-led campaign.

Putin, citing the US and Soviet-led boycotts of the 1980 and 1984 Games, said the Olympic movement "could once again find itself on the brink of a division." And former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev wrote an open letter to Bach on Friday to plead against a blanket ban.

Anti-doping leaders had argued that the extent of state-backed doping in Russia had tainted the country's entire sports system, and the only way to ensure a level playing field was to bar the whole

team, even if some innocent athletes will lose out. Russia faces a possible ban from the Paralympic Games. Citing evidence in McLaren's report of doping among Russian Paralympic athletes, the International Paralympic Committee said Friday it will decide next month whether to exclude the country from the Sept. 7-18 event in Rio. — AP

OLYMPIC VILLAGE OPENS TO AUSTRALIA BOYCOTT

RIO DE JANEIRO: The Olympic Village in Rio opened its doors to the world's athletes yesterday, less than two weeks before the Games begin—but Australia immediately boycotted the facility, calling it "simply not safe or ready."

The criticism was another embarrassing blow for host Brazil, which is struggling to show all will be well with the 2016 Olympics to open August 5, despite low ticket sales and general public apathy amid a deep recession. The Olympic Village, a 31-building complex located in the Barra da Tijuca district in the west of Rio de Janeiro, is meant to house more than 18,000 athletes and coaching staff over the coming weeks. Some of the Brazilian delegation were to move yesterday into the official lodgings, which are all fairly basic shared rooms fitted with anti-mosquito devices to prevent the spread of Zika. Hundreds of thousands of condoms are also being supplied.

But Australia's delegation spurned the Village as being riddled with problems, especially with wiring and plumbing, and said its athletes would continue to be put up in nearby hotels for the time being. "Problems include blocked toilets, leaking pipes, exposed wiring, darkened stairwells where no lighting has been installed and dirty floors in need of a massive clean," the head of the Australian team, Kitty Chiller, said in a statement. The system failed a test on Saturday in which taps and toilets were turned on in apartments on several floors, she said. "Water came down walls, there was a strong smell of gas in some apartments and there was 'shorting' in the electrical wiring." She said other delega-

tions, including those from Britain and New Zealand, were experiencing the same problems.

Chiller said she would reassess the situation at the Village after further tests on plumbing and fire safety, but cautioned that "there is much work to be done."

As dire as the Australian description of the Village sounded, one of the 207 delegations to bed down in the facility was more relieved yesterday to find out its athletes would be able to make it to Rio. Russia, whose participation had been uncertain following revelations of state-run doping, hailed a decision by the International Olympic Committee to not impose a blanket ban on all its sportsmen and women.

BOOSTED SECURITY

If all the obstacles in the Village are surmounted, the athletes will find a self-contained community planned to have all the services they need over the 17-day Olympiad. There is even a "mayor" to head up the athlete welcoming ceremonies: Janeth Arcain, a retired Brazilian basketball player who won a silver Olympic medal in 1996 and a bronze in 2000.

Security, naturally, will be high around the complex, and around Rio generally.

The arrest Thursday of 10 Brazilians suspected of planning attacks during the Olympics revived memories of the Munich Games in 1972 when an armed Palestinian group took Israeli athletes hostage and killed 11 of them. However, Brazilian Justice Minister Alexandre de Moraes said the suspects were "absolutely



RIO DE JANEIRO: (L-R) Brazilian former basketball player and Mayor of the Olympic Village, Janeth Arcain, the President of the Brazilian Olympic Committee Carlos Nuzman and Rio de Janeiro's Mayor Eduardo Paes cut the ribbon during the opening ceremony of the Olympic Village in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, yesterday. — AFP

amateur," "disorganised" and had no specific targets. But recent attacks, such as the one on July 14 in Nice, France that killed 84 people, have prompted officials to bolster their security plans, notably by reinforcing

checks and screenings.

From Sunday, some 50,000 police and soldiers are being deployed in Rio to protect sports venues, tourist spots and key transport areas. — AFP



CHINA GROWTH SUCKS MORE DEBT BUCKS FOR LESS BANG

GBK POSTS 11% NET PROFIT INCREASE IN H1 2016

TOTAL ASSETS GREW 5% TO KD 5,472 MILLION

KUWAIT: Gulf Bank today announced a net profit of KD 20.7 million for the first half of 2016, an increase of 11% or KD 2 million over the same period last year. Operating profit, excluding general provision expenses improved significantly from KD 32.6 million to KD 41.9 million, an increase of 29%. Loan quality continues to improve as credit costs of KD 3.2 million (specific provisions plus write-offs less recoveries) were booked in H1 2016, down 85% from KD 22.0 million during the same period last year. The bank's total loan loss reserves on the balance sheet stood at KD 302 million. General provisions comprise nearly KD 200 million or 66% of the total provisions. The bank successfully completed the issuance of KD 100 million in Tier 2 capital in May 2016, pushing its Capital Adequacy Ratio under Basel III to 18.3% against the minimum regulatory requirement of 14.0%.

Omar Kutayba Alghanim, Gulf Bank's Chairman said: "These are very creditable results and reflect Gulf Bank's core financial stability and strength. Moreover, our ability to continue to grow and maintain our strong capital position was further enhanced by our bond issue in May, which was healthily oversubscribed. "During the first half of 2016, the bank successfully met a number of its key strategic objectives and launched a number of major services, including the Middle East's first facial recognition mobile banking app. Our focus on consumer banking also continued to be rewarded, driven by our credit card business which delivered a 16% increase in customer card spend year-over-year. This was due primarily, to the continued success of our Gulf Rewards credit card loyalty program, Gulf Rewards, which we launched in the last quarter of 2015. We are passionate about innovations such as this, which bring our customers a superior customer experience, and we plan to deliver more product enhancements to continuously improve satisfaction



Chairman of Gulf Bank Omar Alghanim

César González-Buono, Gulf Bank's CEO said: "We are pleased with our performance in a tougher environment than this time last year. Furthermore, some of our major strategic investments to enhance our customer service and products, namely our new mobile banking app, "Blinking to Bank" and also our credit card loyalty program, Gulf Rewards, have been well received by our customers due to their superior experience."

"Our mobile banking app, the first in the Middle East with facial recognition is a new, innovative and easy way for our customers to bank from their mobile phone through one of two methods: by blinking their eyes at their Smartphone camera, we call it 'Blinking to Bank', or by registering a password. The app is available in Arabic and English and is easily downloadable onto Smartphone devices through the Apple App store and the Android Play store. We have just recently launched but already there has been a significant increase in the number of mobile banking customers and the user experience feedback is excellent.

"We are also pleased with the success of the Gulf Rewards program, which has had a strong take-up from our customers. Gulf Rewards, includes Gulf Points for the fastest free flights in Kuwait on any airline and free hotel stays in any of the 300,000 participating hotels worldwide and "Entertainer", Kuwait's first geo-locator mobile application. This provides exclusive instant offers for a large number of retail, entertainment, and children's activities in Kuwait, UAE,



Gulf Bank CEO César González-Buono

and London. In April, this unique program won the 'Credit Card Product of the Year in the Middle East' award from The Asian Banker, one of Asia's leading consulting companies in financial services research, benchmarking, and intelligence. This acknowledgment is further evidence of the exceptional nature of our loyalty program. This award not only reinforces Gulf Bank's position in Kuwait as a market leader in retail financial services, offering outstanding products coupled with

superior customer service, but also demonstrates excellence at the regional Middle East level.

Major products and services

The bank was also able to launch other major products and services. We added our VISA Signature credit card to the range of premium credit cards offered by the bank, one more step in offering more options and benefits to our Priority Banking customers. In addition, the bank now offers automatic enrollment into the Lounge Key Airport Lounge program for Gulf Bank's VISA Infinite and MasterCard World cardholders. This program provides unlimited, complimentary access to over 500 airport lounges worldwide."

For the Holy Month of Ramadan, and in line with its corporate social responsibility program, Gulf Bank launched its latest Ramadan video, which encouraged the act of good deeds in the community. Additionally, in partnership with Saveco and LOYAC, Gulf Bank distributed "maachla" foodstuff boxes to families in need around Kuwait specifically for children, in collaboration with Kuwait Association for the Care of Children in Hospitals (KAACH), the bank's staff volunteered to conduct visits over a period of five days to number of hospitals such as Farwaniya, Al -Jahra, IbnSina, Al Razi, Al- Amiri and NBK hospital and got engaged with the young patients through a series of fun activities and distributed gifts and treats to each. Gulf Bank has also partnered with Saveco to bring the joy of girgian to children at Dasman Clinic, distributed gift bags to them in a fun filled event. Additionally, Gulf Bank has tied up with LOYAC to distribute girgian bags to LOYAC summer programs interviewees, children with special needs and among the underprivileged children living in underdeveloped neighborhoods in Kuwait.

In the first half of 2016, Gulf Bank received several awards from a number of prestigious organizations. These included 'The Best Cash Management Provider in Kuwait' award by Global Finance Magazine, 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' for third consecutive year and 'Best Retail Customer Service Bank in Kuwait' for second consecutive year by International Finance Magazine, the 'Al Shakoor Award' by Gulf University for Science and Technology, 'Credit Card Product of the Year in the Middle East' by Asian Banker, a special CSR Award by Arabian Business Magazine, 'Best Retail Bank in Kuwait' by Banker ME and 'Best Commercial Bank of the Year' and 'Best Innovation in Retail Banking in Kuwait' by The International Banker.

CLOUDS GATHER FOR TURKEY ECONOMY AFTER FAILED COUP

ANKARA: A six percent loss in value of its currency, a plunge on the stock market and a downgrade by a key ratings agency. The last week alone has shown that life is not going to be easy for Turkey's economy after the coup aimed at unseating President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from power. But economists say a sharply lower economic performance including a recession is not inevitable and avoiding doom-laden scenarios largely rests on the choices Erdogan and his government make.

Since the coup more than a week ago, the lira lost six percent of its value against the US dollar. More than 10 percent in value has been wiped off the stock market. "Turkey's ultimate fragility is the fact that it cannot afford to see the currency go where it may," Michael Harris, Turkey strategist and head of research at Renaissance Capital told AFP. He said in countries from Britain to South Africa falls in the value of currency mean people would lose money but do not alter the macroeconomic dynamics in a substantial way like in Turkey.

Instead, in a country that has experienced high inflation, a weaker exchange rate risks placing further upward pressure on consumer prices. The authorities have had some success in pushing down inflation in recent months, reaching 6.57 percent in May. "In Turkey if the currency falls too much, it's very painful for Turkish corporates. And that then leads to the recessionary scenario," said Harris.

'A potential recession'

Turkey experienced a banking crisis in the early 1990s and high inflation followed by a full financial crisis in 2000-2001 that nearly sent the economy into meltdown. For many Turks, the six zeros on a bank note and needing to be lira millionaires to make simple purchases is a painful memory. Since the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) co-founded by Erdogan, came to power in 2002, Turks have grown accustomed to solid GDP growth, outperforming fellow emerging markets excluding India and China. But that could soon come to an end, said William Jackson, senior emerging markets economist at Capital Economics, warning of a potential recession.

"I think if growth and incomes were to weaken, potentially we can see some rise in non-performing loans and tighter credit

conditions," he told AFP. "So there are quite a number of factors that could lead to a sharp slowdown in the economy at some point in the next few years-potentially even a recession." The economy was set to grow by 3.5 to 4 percent this year according to the International Monetary Fund, and so far this year growth has remained robust supported by high government spending and low oil prices. Externally, however, Turkey has long been vulnerable to any sudden shifts in investor sentiment towards a country which has long run a bloated current account deficit. This makes it reliant on 'hot flows' of capital which could suddenly dry up in the wake of a serious political or economic drama.

A relentless crackdown on suspected coup plotters has sparked concern Erdogan will use the current climate to push through his plan for an executive presidency that would further bolster his powers and also worry investors.

"They (Turkish government) have to make the right policy choices. If it's just about punishment and stabilization then we'll get through this," Harris said. "If it's about the catalyst for trying to become president for life, the transition will be quite turbulent, quite long lasting I would have thought."

'Who do you think you are'

In a huge blow to the claims of the government that business is as usual after the coup, Turkey last week saw Standard and Poor's (S&P) downgrade its ability to pay back foreign currency debt to BB plus. Now experts warn that Moody's, due to announce its ratings on Turkey next month, could also lower theirs. But from Erdogan there was no appeal for calm. Instead, he attacked the ratings agency in a speech to parliament on Friday.

"What's it to you, who do you think you are? You do not have the authority to make such a statement on Turkey. "But of course they have other reasons. Their statements are utterly political. This stems from hostility towards Turkey." It is Erdogan himself who is a risk factor for economists. Renaissance Capital warned in its research paper on Thursday that if Erdogan moves to "change the electoral landscape to ensure a constitutional majority or lifetime presidency-investors will regret not selling". — AFP



ISTANBUL: Pro-Erdogan supporters wave Turkish national flags during a rally against the military coup on Taksim square in Istanbul on July 23, 2016. — AFP

SAUDI'S PETROBRABIGH Q2 NET PROFIT SLIDES 79.6 PCT

DUBAI: Saudi Arabia's Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Co (PetroRabigh) reported a 79.6 percent decrease in net profit in the second quarter yesterday as petrochemical prices dropped and refinery margins fell. The firm, a joint venture between Saudi Aramco <IPO-ARMO:SE> and Japan's Sumitomo Chemical, made a profit of 103.2 million riyals (\$27.5 million) in the three months to June 30, it said in a bourse statement.

This compares with a profit of 504.9 million riyals in the corresponding period last year. PetroRabigh cited price decreases for petrochemical products and lower refinery margins but did not elaborate. The firm also suffered technical issues at some facilities during the quarter which impacted operations. A 10-day power cut which hit its

complex in May had a 124 million riyal effect on second-quarter results. The firm also reported on June 23 that it had shut its ethane cracker because of a turbine generator fault; the financial impact has yet to be disclosed.

The expanded ethane cracker only fully started up earlier this year, with PetroRabigh saying in March that the second phase of the cracker would add around 750 million riyals of revenue in 2016. Saudi producers have benefited in the past from subsidized energy and feedstock costs, but this is changing; the government hiked those costs late last year as an austerity measure, and PetroRabigh said this would have a negative financial impact of 300 million riyals in 2016. — Reuters

THE US DOLLAR, A SAFE HAVEN DESTINATION

NBK MONEY MARKET REPORT

With several global risk events unfolding lately, the US Dollar is looking as the sweet spot in terms of safe havens destination. Add on this, a specter of deflation looming in Asia accompanied by a continuously weakening of the Chinese Yuan, and finally a continuing solid US data since the beginning of June, investors are running out of arguments to shun the US dollar.

Moreover, the fact that the probability of the Fed moving interest rates higher remains extremely low according to market expectations; whether 8% in July or 45% in December, investors have started to realize that if the spillover of the "Brexit" vote remain contained and a global catastrophic event is avoided, the Fed could start changing its tone and decide to increase interest rates prior to yearend.

If this scenario unfolds, the US Dollar is likely to continue moving higher even if the Fed has continuously and relentlessly tried to slow its ascent. The interest rates differentials with other reserves currency are likely to dictate the path of investors in search of yield or safety. In summary, on the currency front, the Euro opened the week at 1.1034 and managed to remain stable throughout the week. The ECB meeting on Thursday was also a nonevent as Draghi advocate a wait and see approach. After reaching a low of 1.0956, the currency ended the week at 1.0977.

The Sterling Pound remained extremely volatile throughout the week. After report on Wednesday stating that the Bank of England saw no evidence of a sharp slowing of activity after the "Brexit" vote, investors took the message of a light of optimism and took the Sterling Pound to as high as 1.3290. However, the dismal PMI report on Friday seems to have shaken up investors' confidence and the currency followed through. The Pound ended the week at 1.3109.

The situation in Japan also remains uncertain with the BoJ rejecting the idea of Helicopter money for now. The volatility continued with rumors that the Abe government has been pressuring the Ministry of Finance to satisfy expectations for a bold new shot of the first arrow of Abenomics fiscal spending. According to the report, the package could be as large as 30 trillion Yen. The Yen closed the week at 106.13 On the commodities side, oil prices were also under pressure this week with crude oil ending the week at 44.19. The inventories data published this week showed a surprise build in supplies of the gasoline inventories despite forecasts of American drivers hitting the road in record numbers this summer.

The IMF drops growth estimates for 2016-2017

In a report released this week, the International Monetary Fund downgraded its global growth forecast for this year and next to 3.1% and 3.4% respectively from the April forecasts. The Fund highlighted that the new forecast assumes that UK and EU officials negotiate a deal that does not lead to a large increase in economic barriers. The report however put the blame on the UK for the downgrade. Moreover, The Fund forecasted growth this year to drop to 1.7% from 1.9% in the previous forecast and to 1.3% in 2017, from 2.2% in the previous report.

Leading Indicators show positive picture

One of the major leading indicators, the Leading Economic Index increased 0.3% to 123.7 in June. Economists expected the index to rise 0.2% in June, after falling 0.2% in May. The index has ten components including manufacturer' new orders, stock prices, and average weekly initial claims for unemployment insurance. Improvements in initial claims for unemployment insurance, building permits, and financial indicators were the primary drivers of the increase. According to the report, while the index

continues to point to moderating economic growth in the U.S. through the end of 2016, the expansion still appears resilient enough to weather volatility in financial markets and a moderating outlook in labor markets.

US Housing: Scarcity makes prices higher

US existing home sales rose again in June. This was their strongest pace in nearly a decade mainly pushed by low mortgage rates and an improving economy. The pace of existing home sales increased 1.1% last month from May to a rate of 5.57 million. This represents the highest level since February 2007. Sales for May were revised to 5.51 million from 5.53 million. Expectations were for June sales to



decrease 0.9% to 5.49 million. The housing market has been boosted by a continuation of job growth, improving wages and historically low mortgage rates.

On a different front, the Federal Housing Finance Agency house (FHFA) price index rose in May slightly below market expectations at +0.2%. On a yearly basis, prices rose 5.6%. The improving job market and low mortgage rates are fueling competition for housing and driving up values. The inventory of previously owned homes fell 5.7% from a year earlier at the end of May. It seems housing inventory will likely remain tight, a fact that will keep boosting home prices and constraining affordability in the US for now.

US Employment and Manufacturing healthy

US initial jobless claims continue to stay at low levels coming at 253k for last week down 1k from the week prior and taking the four-week average down to 258k. On a different front, the Philly Fed manufacturing survey was slightly disappointing coming at -2.9 against expectations of +4.5. That represented a 7.6 points decline from June although there was a noticeable improvement in both new orders and shipments components. Details of the Philly Fed report were less concerning. Indeed, the index for new orders rose to 11.8 this month from negative 3 in the prior month. The shipments index increased to 6.3 in July from negative 2.1. And more manufacturers in the Philadelphia region expect business to be better six months from now with the index for future general activity rising 4 points to 33.7.

EUROPE & UK

The ECB, a non event this week

During the ECB meeting this week, the governing council did not announce any changes to its monetary policy. Nonetheless, the ECB emphasized on its readiness, willingness and ability to act using all available instruments if need be. Draghi also stressed that the ECB would

assess the impact of recent events including "Brexit" on the outlook for the real economy, inflation outlook and the transmission of ECB's monetary policy to the banking sector over the next few months. Furthermore, he left the door without pre committing on any additional stimulus. Even though markets have removed the probability of any additional stimulus anytime soon, it remains that analysts still expect an extension of the timeframe of the QE programme and an expansion of the eligible assets for the program. On a different front, Draghi seemed concerned about Italian banks by suggesting that a state backstop was a "very useful" way of dealing with non-performing loans. He suggested that there was room to offer

aid, hinting that a deal can be struck in regards to recapitalizing Italian banks. Overall, the ECB meeting was a nonevent in terms of market actions, however it seems that the September's one will be closely watched for additional measures.

ECB lending survey remains positive

The German ZEW institute released its economic sentiment index, showing a drop to -6.8 points in July from 19.2 in June. According to the report, economic sentiment in Germany has plunged to the lowest level since 2012 resulting from their concerns over "export prospects and the stability of the European banking and financial system" in the wake of the UK's vote to leave the EU. This month's data was the lowest level since November 2012.

The report also showed the current assessment of business conditions in Germany falling to 49.8, down from 54.5 in June and below expectations of a reading of 51.8. The assessment of the Eurozone economic sentiment also fell to -14.7, down from 20.2 in June. This month's reading was the biggest monthly drop ever. It's worth noting that the survey period was July 4th-18th and so post-Brexit.

On a separate topic, the latest ECB Bank Lending Survey demonstrated a continued easing of lending conditions in Q2 2016, along with further loosening expected in Q3. The report mainly saw no negative shock seen from the "Brexit" vote on credit supply or demand. Also, the report saw unchanged corporate lending standards in Q3, with slight easing for households. Despite Banks' margins narrowing in Q2 for housing loans, more banks have reported that the ECB TLTROs are making a positive contribution to their own profitability.

Healthy UK economy prior to Brexit vote

The UK's unemployment rate dropped to 4.9% in the three months to May, a sign that labor market has continued to strengthen prior to the "Brexit" vote. Expectations were for unemployment to remain at 5.0%. According to the report, the average earn-

ings including bonus rose by 2.3% on a yearly basis, its highest rise since October 2015 and following a rise of 2.0% in the previous month.

In a separate report, the Bank of England survey indicated that, despite an increase in business uncertainty after last month's Brexit vote, there were no signs of a slowdown in economic activity in UK. It also revealed that expectations for investment spending lowered and demand for credit was easing. The picture since the vote to leave the European Union has become bleak. In an article in newspapers, policy maker Kristin Forbes said that 'given the substantial uncertainty and likelihood that growth slows, there is a valid case to ease monetary policy to support demand'. She did however go on to say that "until more hard data is available, I believe this is a good time to keep calm and carry on".

Brexit vote hits confidence and spending

According to the flash PMI report released this week, services and manufacturing sectors have both suffered a big hit this month, contracting at the fastest pace since 2009, as output and new orders have fallen across the sector. According to the report, many firms blamed uncertainty caused by June's EU referendum. Moreover, the report suggests that the UK economy is shrinking, at a quarterly rate of 0.4%. "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'".

In details, UK PMI Composite Output Index came at 47.7 against 52.4 in June, representing an 87-month low. Services PMI Index came at 47.4 from 52.3 in June and Manufacturing PMI came at 49.1 against 52.1 in June. Earlier in the week, Martin Weale, member of the Bank of England MPC, spoke in regards to the uncertainty stemming from Brexit and said that "this uncertainty points to the argument that we should wait for firmer evidence before making any policy change and least in the absence of any strong arguments for an immediate change". With this weak PMI

report, the Bank of England will have the arguments to act during the next meeting on August 4.

ASIA

RBA worrying about Inflation expectations

This week, the Reserve Bank of Australia released minutes of the July meeting when interest rates were unchanged at 1.75%. Minutes highlighted the central bank policy is not on a preset course and reiterated the data dependency of the central bank. The Board repeated its warning that an appreciating exchange rate could complicate the outlook for the economy. Members also said that any future moves would be data-dependent, especially since inflation remains below the target range. The minutes said that "further information on inflationary pressures, the labor and housing market activity would be available over the following month and that the staff would provide an update of their forecasts ahead of the August meeting in order to make the appropriate changes if any. Lastly, the RBA highlighted that all measures of inflation expectations were below average.

Abe's government rejects helicopter money

Attention this week turned again to Bank of Japan Governor Kuroda who rejected the idea of helicopter money. Given the current institutional setting, at this stage there is "no need and no possibility for helicopter money" Kuroda said in a radio interview. He said "at this moment, the Bank of Japan has three options with quantitative and qualitative easing with negative interest rates. These current policies can be expanded if needed and there are no significant limitations to further monetary stimulus." However, Friday morning, it was reported that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government is currently putting pressure on the Ministry of Finance to satisfy expectations for a bold new shot of the first arrow of Abenomics fiscal spending. According to the report, the package could be as large as 30 trillion Yen. Bank of Japan meets on July 29.

LIBYA OIL EXPORTS THREATENED AS NOC WARNS AGAINST A PORT DEAL

LONDON/TUNIS: Libya's hopes to boost crude exports have been dealt a blow after the head of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) objected to a deal between the government and local guards to reopen key ports. In a letter seen by Reuters to UN Libya envoy Martin Kobler and a number of oil and diplomatic officials, NOC chairman Mustafa Sanalla said it was a mistake to reward Ibrahim Jathran, head of the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG), for a blockade of the oil ports of Ras Lanuf, Es Sider and Zueitina. The PFG confirmed on Friday that it would implement an agreement with Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) to reopen the ports within days, following a visit by Kobler to meet Jathran in Ras Lanuf.

The terms for ending the blockade have not been made public, but an initial payment for salaries for Jathran's men has been agreed, sources familiar with the matter say. In the letter, Sanalla said the deal included payments that would encourage other groups to disrupt oil operations in the hopes of a similar payout. "It sets a terrible precedent and will encourage anybody who can muster a militia to shut down a pipeline, an oilfield, or a port, to see what they can extort," the letter said.

Sanalla said the NOC would not lift force majeure at export terminals if a payout went through due to the risk that the corporation would face liabilities. Should any court cases arise internationally for losses stemming from the blockade, "we, as NOC, are determined not to be attached to these

lawsuits", the letter said. The NOC also threatened to withdraw its recognition of the GNA's leadership, or Presidential Council. Ali Al-Hassi, a PFG spokesman, would not confirm whether any money had been received, but said the guards' salaries should be paid now that the force was fulfilling its promise to open the ports.

Turmoil for years

OPEC member Libya has been in turmoil for years, with rival governments and complex alliances of armed groups vying for power and a share of the country's significant oil wealth. Armed factions, labor disputes and security threats have helped slash oil output to less than a quarter of the 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd) seen before the 2011 uprising against Muammar Gaddafi.

Sanalla's letter said that due to attacks from Islamic State militants and other damage, exports from the ports would struggle to surpass 100,000 bpd in the near term, a fraction of their designed capacity. He added that NOC's largest subsidiary, Agoco, would be able to increase production by that amount if it received its operational budget from the government.

"To pay Jathran instead of Agoco makes no sense, politically, economically or legally," Sanalla said. Asked about the terms of any deal with the PFG, Ahmed Maiteeg, a member of the GNA's Presidential Council, said only that he hoped the ports would open soon so Libya could earn badly needed foreign currency.—Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

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 |
| ani Riyal | 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 | 303.750 |
| Canadian Dollar | 231.495 |
| Sterling Pound | 398.905 |
| Euro | 334.420 |
| Swiss Franc | 300.720 |
| Bahraini Dinar | 802.990 |
| UAE Dirhams | 82.930 |
| Qatari Riyals | 84.145 |
| Saudi Riyals | 81.720 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 428.010 |
| Egyptian Pound | 34.109 |
| Sri Lankan Rupees | 2.083 |
| Indian Rupees | 4.516 |
| Pakistani Rupees | 2.892 |
| Bangladesh Taka | 3.865 |
| Philippines Pessio | 6.435 |
| Cyprus pound | 160.075 |
| Japanese Yen | 3.855 |
| Syrian Pound | 2.405 |
| Nepalese Rupees | 3.820 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 75.205 |
| Chinese Yuan Renminbi | 45.755 |
| Thai Bhat | 9.660 |
| Turkish Lira | 99.440 |

BAHRAIN EXCHANGE COMPANY

CURRENCY BUY SELL

| CURRENCY | BUY | SELL |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Europe | | |
| British Pound | 0.392333 | 0.407333 |
| Czech Korune | 0.004385 | 0.016385 |
| Danish Krone | 0.040947 | 0.045947 |
| Euro | 0.0328080 | 0.0337080 |
| Norwegian Krone | 0.031713 | 0.036913 |
| Romanian Leu | 0.087062 | 0.087062 |
| Slovakia | 0.009058 | 0.019058 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.031268 | 0.036268 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.301880 | 0.312880 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.096844 | 0.107144 |
| Australasia | | |
| Australian Dollar | 0.219100 | 0.231100 |
| New Zealand Dollar | 0.207171 | 0.216671 |
| America | | |
| Canadian Dollar | 0.226322 | 0.235322 |
| Georgina Lari | 0.137076 | 0.137076 |
| US Dollars | 0.299400 | 0.304400 |
| US Dollars Mint | 0.299900 | 0.304400 |
| Asia | | |
| Bangladesh Taka | 0.003399 | 0.003983 |
| Chinese Yuan | 0.044034 | 0.047534 |
| Hong Kong Dollar | 0.037058 | 0.039808 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.004378 | 0.004788 |
| Indonesian Rupiah | 0.000019 | 0.000025 |

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------|
| Japanese Yen | 0.002789 | 0.002969 |
| Kenyan Shilling | 0.003122 | 0.003122 |
| Korean Won | 0.000257 | 0.000272 |
| Malaysian Ringgit | 0.071323 | 0.073323 |
| Nepalese Rupee | 0.002862 | 0.003032 |
| Pakistan Rupee | 0.002730 | 0.003020 |
| Philippine Peso | 0.006356 | 0.006656 |
| Sierra Leone | 0.000067 | 0.000073 |
| Singapore Dollar | 0.218766 | 0.228766 |
| South African Rand | 0.015388 | 0.023888 |
| Sri Lankan Rupee | 0.001678 | 0.002258 |
| Taiwan | 0.009363 | 0.009543 |
| Thai Baht | 0.008351 | 0.008901 |

Arab

| | | |
|------------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 0.798470 | 0.806970 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.027155 | 0.032273 |
| Iranian Riyal | 0.000084 | 0.000085 |
| Iraqi Dinar | 0.000182 | 0.000242 |
| Jordanian Dinar | 0.424976 | 0.433976 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | 1.000000 | 1.000000 |
| Lebanese Pound | 0.000147 | 0.000247 |
| Moroccan Dirhams | 0.019378 | 0.043378 |
| Nigerian Naira | 0.001253 | 0.001888 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.781981 | 0.787571 |
| Qatar Riyal | 0.082553 | 0.084003 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.079847 | 0.081147 |
| Syrian Pound | 0.001286 | 0.001506 |
| Tunisian Dinar | 0.133581 | 0.141581 |
| Turkish Lira | 0.096844 | 0.107144 |
| UAE Dirhams | 0.081207 | 0.082907 |
| Yemeni Riyal | 0.001372 | 0.001452 |

TERROR ATTACKS A GROWING ECONOMIC THREAT



MUNICH: A memorial of candles and flowers is seen yesterday in front of the Olympia Einkaufszentrum shopping centre in Munich, southern Germany, where an 18-year-old German-Iranian student ran amok. — AFP

CHENGDU: Increasingly frequent terrorist attacks are becoming a growing threat to the global economy, finance chiefs from the world's leading economies said yesterday. Earlier this month 84 people were killed in Nice when a Tunisian truck driver-suspected to be inspired by the Islamic State jihadist group-ploughed a 19-tonne vehicle through a holiday crowd. That followed Paris attacks last year which left 130 dead.

Kabul mourned yesterday after its deadliest attack for 15 years killed 80 people and left hundreds maimed the previous day, reigniting concern that Islamic State was seeking to expand its foothold in Afghanistan. Last week a German-Iranian gunman-believed not to be connected to the Islamic State group but "obsessed" with mass killers-shot

dead nine people in the German city of Munich before killing himself.

"We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the recent terrorist attacks," G20 finance chiefs said in a communique after meeting in the Chinese city of Chengdu, adding that terrorism was one of the issues that "complicate" the economic environment. France's finance minister Michel Sapin said the concept of terrorism as an economic risk itself was new, but its inclusion in economic analyses was now "normal".

"The world has already experienced terrorist attacks, the world experiences regional destabilizations," he told AFP. "But today the frequency of attacks creates a new situation of uncertainty, which is at least as damaging as regional destabilizations or a regional conflict. That can

have economic consequences that are just as important," he said. The G20 has long promoted efforts to combat financing of terrorist activities, particularly the work of the Financial Action Task Force. US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew told reporters the meeting "reaffirmed our solidarity and resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms and wherever it occurs, and strengthening our efforts to prevent financing of terrorism".

Sapin pointed out that funding for what he called "low-cost terrorism", carried out domestically using methods that cost attackers relatively little, must also be addressed. In a report ahead of the G20 meeting, IMF staff cited terrorism as an "ongoing concern", among others including geopolitical tensions, climate-related factors and diseases. — AFP

ITALY HAS NO BANKING PROBLEM SAYS FINANCE MINISTER PADOAN

CHENGDU: Italy does not have a problem with its banks, finance minister Pier Carlo Padoan said Sunday, despite investors fretting about nearly \$400 billion of bad debts weighing down the sector. Fears of a renewed eurozone debt crisis are rife on the financial markets if Italy does not address the 360 billion Euros (\$398 billion) in bad debt sitting in its banks. Markets have turned sour on several Italian banks, most notably Italy's number-three lender and the world's oldest bank, Banca Monte Paschi. But Padoan sought to calm nerves on the sidelines of a G20 finance chiefs meeting in the Chinese city of Chengdu.

"All the countries should relax: There is no Italian banking problem," he told AFP. "There is an economy which has been in recession for three years, there is accumulated non-performing loans, which have been dealt with," he said. The numbers that were "floating around" were "vastly exaggerated", he added, saying that "a few cases" would be "adjusted". New eurozone rules limit the use of public money to bail out banks unless investors are required to bear part of the burden, potentially restricting Rome's scope to intervene.

A scheme to rescue Greek private banks a year ago came with demands that the rescued lenders must dispose of assets and

cut jobs. But Padoan insisted that there were "no tensions" between Italy and the European Commission on the issue. "We are not on a bail-out regime, we are in a bail-in regime, and all the instruments that are considered are within those rules," he said. "There is no need to bail out anybody."

Bad debts restrict economic growth as they reduce the amount of money banks have available to lend, while a banking failure can send shockwaves through the real economy if companies find their access to funds cut off, or debts are called in. The Italian banking issue was discussed by the G20 meeting, and EU economy chief Pierre Moscovici said that the solution had to be compliant with the EU's common rules. The messages from the Italian representatives had been "quite affirmative and reassuring", he added. US officials said that Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew and Padoan had discussed "recent developments in the European banking sector" on the sidelines of the G20 gathering. In a statement, the US Treasury said that Lew had "noted that while Europe's banking system is stronger as a whole due to reforms put in place in recent years, more work remains." "Banks should continue to clean up their balance sheets and address legacy asset quality issues," it added. — AFP

EU MAY SUSPEND FUNDS FOR SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

BRUSSELS: The EU should suspend structural funds to Spain and Portugal after they failed to rein in their debt, according to a letter from the European Commission seen by AFP on Saturday. Eurozone finance ministers agreed this month to impose unprecedented sanctions against Spain and Portugal for overstepping the bloc's budget deficit limits. The penalties would be the first time Brussels has wielded its disciplinary powers over member states' budgets, in a move that has inflamed tensions over its power.

European Commission vice president Jyrki Katainen said "socio-economic factors," including the Iberian countries' high rates of unemployment, should be taken into account when deciding how much to suspend. "We remain at your disposal to participate in a structural dialogue with the European Parliament on the application of these measures, with a view to make a balanced proposal," he said in a letter to the president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz.

Attached to the letter was a list of 12 Portuguese funds and 60 Spanish that could be suspended, either completely or in part. Structural funds are used to address regional disparities within the bloc. Earlier

this month, eurozone finance ministers found Portugal and Spain had not taken "effective action" to rein in their deficits, which remain larger than EU rules allow after years of painful austerity. Germany's Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble urged the Commission to propose the complete or partial suspension of structural funds for projects in 2017 as a penalty.

The EU's executive branch could also hand down huge fines that could reach up to 0.2 percent of their GDP. A source, who asked not to be named, said that is expected to be decided by July 27. The penalties have inflamed tensions in the EU at a time when politicians are seeking more political unity after Britain's surprise vote to leave the bloc. Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa hit out against the plans on Saturday, saying: "There is no justification for imposing sanctions for not reaching a target in 2015, when the European Commission itself recognizes that we will reach this year's goal." Portugal is aiming for a budget deficit of under three percent of GDP, down from 4.4 percent last year. Spain, which has been in political deadlock since December, reported a deficit of 5.1 percent of GDP in 2015, way off the target of 4.2 percent set by the Commission. — AFP



CHENGDU: Spain's Economy Minister Cristobal Montoro gestures after taking part in a "family photo" with other ministers and central bank chiefs at the G20 finance ministers meeting. — AFP

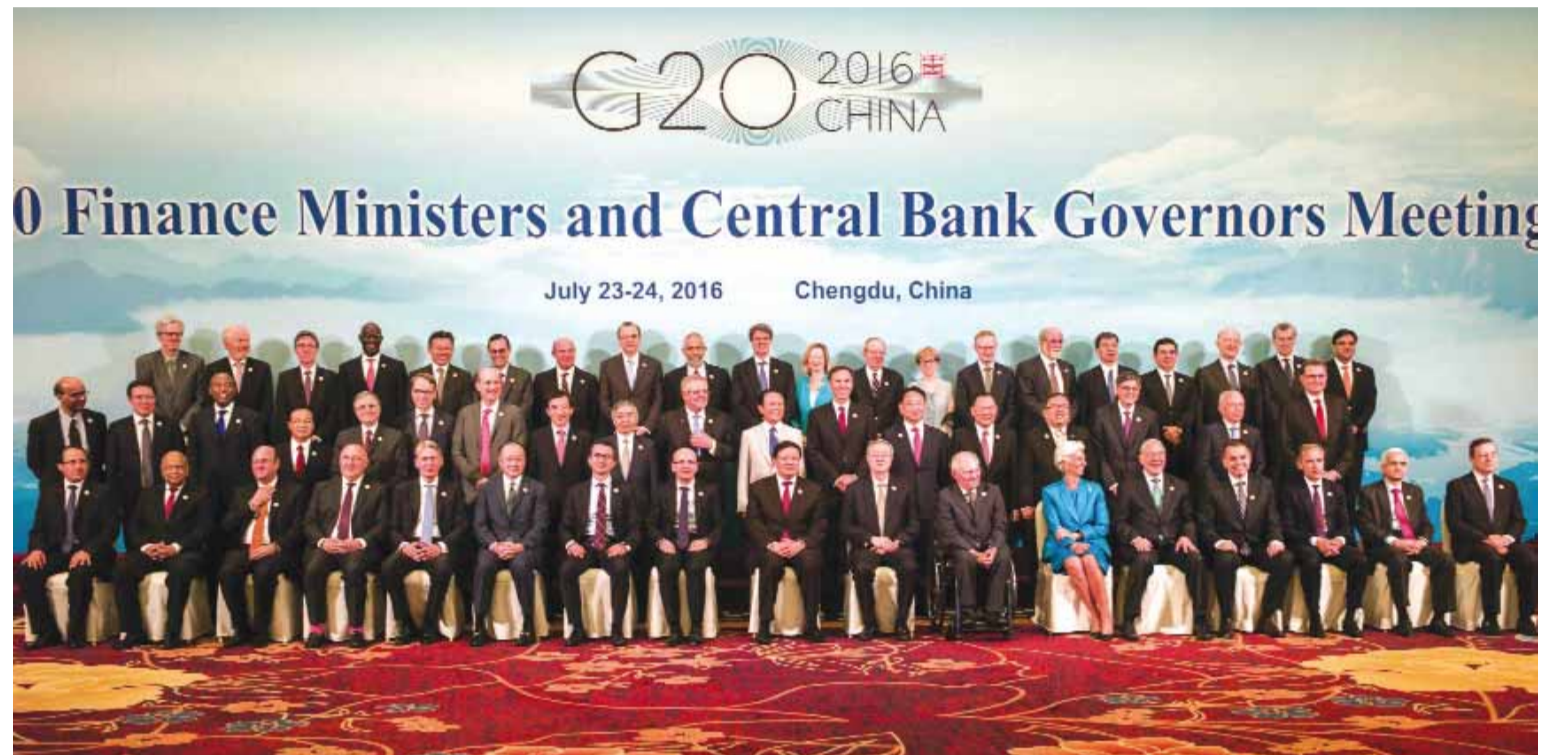
NIGERIA'S MEND SAYS IN TALKS OVER OIL ATTACKS

LAGOS: Militant group MEND, which wreaked havoc on Nigerian oil facilities in the 2000s, said yesterday it was in back-channel talks with the government to end renewed violence in the oil-producing south. "The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) wishes to confirm that indeed it has been in preliminary talks with the federal government through oil companies and law enforcement agencies," the group said in a statement.

It said the talks were aimed at "finding solutions to the short, medium and long-

term future of the Niger Delta region", home to the country's massive oil and gas resources. The group had last month called for a dialogue after a rival group, the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA), claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on oil facilities.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said last week that the government was negotiating with militants through oil companies and security agencies to end the string of attacks since February that have slashed output and worsened the country's revenue targets. — AFP



CHENGDU: Finance ministers and central bank governors pose for a "family photo" at the G20 finance ministers meeting in Chengdu, in China's Sichuan province. — AFP

G20: BREXIT IS A RISK TO GLOBAL GROWTH

'ADDS TO UNCERTAINTY IN GLOBAL ECONOMY'

CHENGDU: Britain's vote to leave the European Union heightens risks for the world economy, finance chiefs from the G20 group of leading countries said yesterday. The outcome of June's referendum "adds to the uncertainty in the global economy", they said in a communique after a meeting of central bankers and government officials in the Chinese city of Chengdu. But they insisted that G20 countries were "well positioned to proactively address the potential economic and financial consequences" of the vote, adding:

"In the future, we hope to see the UK as a close partner of the EU." The G20 cited several other factors complicating the global economic environment, among them "geopolitical conflicts, terrorism and refugee flows". But participants said Brexit was at the forefront of concerns at the meeting in Chengdu, the last before the G20 summit in September. Philip Hammond, Britain's finance minister, told reporters the subject had come up "a great deal".

"The reality is there will be a measure of uncertainty continuing right up to the conclusion of our negotiations with the EU," he said. Before the meeting, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) downgraded its forecasts for

global growth this year and next by 0.1 percentage points, to 3.1 percent and 3.4 percent respectively. "Brexit" marks the materialization of an important downside risk to global growth," IMF staff said in a report, adding that as it was "still very much unfolding, more negative outcomes are a distinct possibility".

Officials in Chengdu said protracted or acrimonious talks between the EU and Britain over the departure could heighten the dangers. US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew stressed to his European and British counterparts "the need for negotiations to take place in a smooth, pragmatic and transparent manner." "A highly integrated relationship between the UK and the EU is in the best interests of Europe, the United States and the global economy," he told journalists after the meeting.

'Solidarity and resolve'

Other challenges threaten: a slowdown in the Chinese economy, as well as terrorist attacks and the failed coup in Turkey. Earlier this month 84 people were killed in the French city of Nice when a Tunisian truck driver-suspected to be inspired by the Islamic State jihadist group-ploughed his vehicle through crowds. On Friday, a

German-Iranian gunman described as "obsessed" with mass killers shot dead nine people in the German city of Munich before killing himself.

"We condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the recent terrorist attacks," the communique said. "We reaffirm our solidarity and resolve in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and wherever it occurs." French Finance Minister Michel Sapin told AFP that terrorism had become an economic risk: "Today the frequency of attacks creates a new situation of uncertainty, which is at least as damaging as regional destabilizations or a regional conflict."

But the communique did not mention the failed attempt to depose Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan or his subsequent widespread crackdown on opponents. Officials said the Turkish delegation had demanded an explicit statement of support for Erdogan's government, but some other representatives had demurred.

Lackluster growth

Concerns about slowing growth in China, the world's second largest economy, have receded into the background at the G20 in the face of other threats. Beijing is embarked on a fundamental transi-

tion intended to make domestic consumption the key economic driver instead of massive public spending and cheap exports.

The communique repeated a pledge from an earlier meeting in the Chinese commercial hub Shanghai in February, that G20 countries would use "all policy tools", including monetary easing, fiscal spending and structural change, to boost growth. But it added action could be taken "individually and collectively" and called for "inclusive growth" to bring in those left out of economic prosperity. Fiscally rigorous Germany in particular is reluctant to endorse the use of government spending to boost growth, seeing it as ineffective.

"It would be a mistake to think about the choice of tools as being either/or when it comes to structural reforms or using fiscal space," said Lew. "The two go hand-in-glove." Embattled IMF managing director Christine Lagarde-who faces prosecution in France on accusations of neglecting her duties as a government minister-abruptly cancelled a news conference after the meeting, citing scheduling conflicts. "Lackluster growth of the post-crisis era continues," she said in a statement. "Structural reforms are particularly critical." — AP

SCHORLING: SWEDEN'S QUIET TYCOON WITH A MIDAS TOUCH

STOCKHOLM: Business tycoon Melker Schorling, one of Sweden's most prominent investors, says he is well-positioned to expand his 60 billion crown (\$7 billion) investment empire even as he prepares to hand over affairs to his daughters. MSAB, the holding company he set up in 1999 which spans a diverse set of companies from measurement technology to locks and guards, has consistently outperformed larger rivals.

Investors attribute Schorling's success to a knack for picking small specialists which go on to become global market leaders. In a decade, MSAB has had returns of over 500 percent, outperforming rivals such as Wallenberg-backed Investor AB and Industrivarden and leading Swedish media to dub Schorling "King Midas" of the Stockholm bourse.

MSAB investors include H&M chairman Stefan Persson and BP & AB Volvo Chairman Carl-Henric Svanberg. But while Schorling's path to success has had few bumps, some analysts are beginning to question the future of the group which has not made a single new investment in a decade. Schorling turns 70 next year and although his daughters have become more involved they have not yet stepped into high-profile executive roles, and he recently lost one of his closest team members, MSAB CEO Ulrik

Svensson, who leaves at year-end to join Lufthansa as CFO.

Direction and stability

Svensson's departure raises some questions about the group's direction and stability, analysts say. Schorling, who shies away from media appearances, is not planning major changes. "We are very long-term oriented and it is highly likely that our holdings will be the same for many years to come," he told Reuters in an email. But opportunity may be on the horizon for MSAB which has six listed companies like Assa Abloy, the world's biggest maker of locks, Securitas, the world's second-biggest provider of guards, and Hexagon, market leader in precision measurement technology.

"For the time being we have actually divested a bit from our holdings to make sure that we have enough dry powder for future investments," he said. "Valuation multiples are high at the moment and we believe there could be interesting investment opportunities in the future." While Brexit worries have hit shares - the STOXX Europe Industrial Goods & Services Index is down 8.5 percent on the year - the S&P 500 remains at record highs. Nordea analyst Elias Porse reckons Svensson's departure could trigger a "generational renewal" of MSAB, with one of the daugh-

ters stepping in as CEO, though a CFO from a portfolio company could be appointed instead.

Both Sofia and Marta are board members for MSAB and its investment companies. "Ultimately they will take over but we do not have a specific timing for that," Schorling said. Schorling and his CEO proteges are bellwethers for investors who will be watching any investment moves closely. Last year, when Schorling and Hexagon CEO Ola Rollen bought into fingerprint sensor maker Next Biometrics through their high-tech focused Greenbridge Partners, shares nearly doubled on the day. Shares in mining gear maker Sandvik jumped when Assa Abloy's CEO was named chair. Those near Schorling say he has an eye for talent. He insists his leaders take large stakes, so they reap the benefits or bleed together.

Rollen's own wealth has multiplied since taking the job in 2000, when he took an unsecured loan equal to two years' salary to buy options - a large bet by Swedish standards. "Had I been older, wiser and been able to do the math better at the time, I would probably never have done it," he said with a laugh, reflecting on his financial gamble. Just his Hexagon B shares are now worth almost \$50 million. Schorling believes he may have "a good gut feeling for people". He looks for entrepreneurship, long-term thinking and a "very healthy lack of bureaucracy" in all his CEOs. — Reuters

INDECISIVE FED EXPECTED TO STEADY RATES

WASHINGTON: In 1890, the psychologist William James wrote that there was "no more miserable human being than one in whom nothing is habitual but indecision." Indecision is certainly not the habit of Federal Reserve policy makers. But as a divided Fed gathers next week to consider interest rates, they may yet again revise positions that have repeatedly shifted since December.

Most observers do not expect the Federal Open Markets Committee, which sets monetary policy, to raise the crucial federal funds rate when they meet on Tuesday and Wednesday in Washington. "I think it's very plausible you'll see zero" change, said Dean Baker, co-founder of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Policy makers do not want to surprise markets,

he added. "The last thing on earth that they want to do is a rate hike that isn't anticipated."

For markets, the last eight months have still been an emotional roller coaster. In December, the Fed increased rates for the first time in nearly a decade. The decision drew a line under post-financial crisis rate policies, a time of easy money when the Fed also expanded its balance sheet by trillions in order to nurse the economy back to health. It was also a show of confidence in the US recovery-confidence that would soon coincide with nagging doubt.

Repeated reverses

In the short time since the start of "policy normalization," the Fed's data-driven approach to monetary policy has been buffeted by the

changing winds of political developments and wavering economic indices. In January, Fed Vice Chair Stanley Fischer said 2016 could see three to four rate increases. But the following month, Chair Janet Yellen said conditions were worsening and even raised the unlikely possibility of reversing course and cutting rates.

The end of May found her saying that a rate hike would "probably" be appropriate in the "coming months." Yet three weeks later, the FOMC split, with some members calling for a rate hike even though the committee ultimately decided to maintain the federal funds rate unchanged at 0.25-0.50 percent. Britain's looming June 23 referendum on whether to leave the European Union was an important factor in keeping rates as they were, Yellen said. Since

then, Britain shocked the world by voting to exit the EU, sparking fresh turbulence in markets and causing the International Monetary Fund to downgrade global growth forecasts by a tenth of a percentage point through next year. The disagreements in June could reflect the FOMC's fraught attempts to read economic data, like job creation numbers that have swung sharply the past two months.

Some FOMC members believe continued low rates may foster price bubbles and over-leveraged investments, or that delaying a rate hike now may force the Fed to bump rates up abruptly down the line, delivering a shock to the system. Fed governor Daniel Tarullo told The Wall Street Journal this month that he does not see either scenario as a pressing threat.

According to Tim Duy, senior director of the Oregon Economic Forum, the Fed has focused on rate policy to the exclusion of another tool-balance sheet policy-which could help it provide financial stability in a period of persistently low interest rates and low inflation.

By selling some of its longer-term securities, the Fed could drive up rates and broaden the yield curve-the spread between the rates on short- and longer-term securities. Doing so would effectively be the reverse of the policy of the past seven years which aimed at recovering from the Great Recession. "This whole discussion assumes the Fed will find it necessary to tighten policy," Duy wrote in an email. "When or whether that is really true is another issue." — AFP

DOHA BANK ACHIEVES STRONG PERFORMANCE RATIOS

DOHA: His Excellency Sheikh Fahad Bin Mohammad Bin Jabor Al-Thani, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Doha Bank, announced Doha Bank's financial results for the first half of 2016. Net profit for the first half of 2016 recorded QAR 708 million despite the sharp decline in the oil prices in the Gulf area and the challenges that face the financial markets in various countries of the world. The bank sustained the core income as the net operating income is up by 0.7% as compared to same period in 2015. HE Sheikh Fahad said the Bank's core revenue streams have shown strong growth over the prior year period reflecting on the Bank's intrinsic strength towards recurring earning capacity and also on the Bank's productive operational performance.

Total assets increased by QAR 4.6 billion, a growth of 5.6%, from QAR 82.7 billion as at 30 June 2015 to QAR 87.4 billion as at 30 June 2016. Net Loans & Advances increased to QAR 55.4 billion from QAR 53.1 billion for the same period last year, registering a growth of 4.5%. Deposits showed a year on year increase of 1.3% from QAR 51.7 billion to QAR 52.4 billion as at 30 June 2016 which is evidence of the strong liquidity position of the Bank.

His Excellency added: "Different economies in the world are currently facing challenges. Moreover, the sharp decline of the oil prices during the last period has made the matter more complicated, and in spite of all these circumstances, the Qatari economy is still strong and coherent, and we are confident that under the wise leadership of His Highness/ Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thami, Emir of Qatar, State of Qatar will face all of these challenges and the Qatari economy will remain strong and, not to mention the increasing number of the upcoming projects which will be reflected positively on the performance of Doha Bank and the Qatari banking system as a whole."

Extremely strong

HE Sheikh Abdul Rehman Bin Mohammad Bin Jabor Al-Thani, Managing Director of Doha Bank said "The Bank has become extremely strong over the years with total equity, as at 30 June 2016, at QAR 13.1 billion, registering an increase of 0.1% during the last twelve months. Through the strategic utilization of the shareholder's funds by way of increasing our performance levels the return on average shareholders' equity is 15.7% as at 30 June 2016 one of the best in the industry. The Bank, given the scale of operations, has achieved a very high return on the average assets of 1.66% as at 30 June 2016 which is a clear demonstration of the effective utilization of shareholder's funds and optimum asset allocation strategies."

Dr R Seetharaman, Chief Executive Officer of Doha Bank, said "Doha Bank's strong results highlights the strength of its vision and strategy to capitalize on market synergies in a challenging and competitive environment, ongoing customer demand as well as its strong suite of products and services. Recently, Doha Bank held an Ordinary General Assembly of Shareholders, wherein it was unanimously agreed for Doha Bank to issue Certificate of Deposits (CD) program and Commercial Papers (CP) program subject to necessary regulatory and other approvals. Subsequently, Doha Bank became the first Qatari Bank to tap the Taiwanese market on a loan syndication by successfully completing a syndicated borrowing with an overwhelming response securing USD 180 million for 3 Years with cost effective pricing." Doha Bank had also distributed 30% of the paid up capital as cash dividend to the shareholders during the year.

For the 7th consecutive year, Doha



Bank's credit card holders are celebrating summer on the occasions of Ramadan and Eid season, through attractive rewards such as 10% cash back across all Qatar Duty Free (QDF), 5% cash back on all foreign currency transactions until July 31st 2016. This was also coupled with 3% cashback on all local spend in the month of June, reaffirming our commitment to customer satisfaction and loyalty. In celebration of the holy month of Ramadan, Doha Bank hosted Suhoor for its customers and partners as part of its annual tradition. Dr. R. Seetharaman further highlighted that "During the year, Doha Bank became the first Bank in Qatar to launch 'Biometric Access' for mobile banking application. The Doha Bank mobile application also includes new features such as local fund transfer, D-Cardless withdrawals, Western Union Money Transfer, remittances through credit card, click card reload etc in addition to its extensive list of services."

'Product of the year'

Doha Bank won the 'Product of the Year in Middle East 2016 for Doha Bank's Mobile Banking Experience' from 'The Asian Banker' in recognition of the superior service offered through the mobile banking application. Doha Bank upgraded its card processing system in order to provide faster system performance to ensure a better end-customer and cardholder experience as well as better safety through 'credit card fraud guard module', which is able to monitor fraudulent transactions to raise automatic alerts. During the Quarter, Doha Bank inaugurated its state of the art Branch in Al Gharafa as well as relocated its City Centre Mall Branch to the ground floor of the Mall. Doha Bank also offered various limited period offers such as '0% payment plans', 'free cabin bag' and 'complementary gift vouchers' in coordination with popular merchants for all its credit card customers.

It is also important to note that Doha Bank was recently awarded as the 'Best Regional Commercial Bank' at the Banker Middle East Industry Awards 2016 for the fourth consecutive year. This was preceded by another award for being the best Qatari company for 'Excellence in Investor Relations' by Qatar Exchange under the mid-cap category on account of displaying best practice and transparency in investor relations.

During the year, Doha Bank promoted staff engagement through Long Service Awards. In order to create awareness on changing market dynamics as well as to promote the bilateral relationship between GCC, India and various countries in which Doha Bank has its presence, Doha Bank held economic knowledge sharing sessions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai on the topic 'Changing Dynamics and Market Opportunities' preceded by another session on 'Growing opportunities in Qatar' held in Doha, Qatar, which were all well attended by business leaders and dignitaries.

GULF BOURSES SOFT AS OIL'S FALL OUTWEIGHS EARNINGS

DUBAI: Gulf stock markets were soft in early trade on yesterday as weaker oil prices at the end of last week outweighed a few positive corporate earnings in Saudi Arabia. Riyadh's stock index edged down 0.2 percent in the first hour. Saudi Kayan Petrochemical climbed 2.1 percent after it swung to a net profit in the second quarter of 91.02 million Riyals (\$24.3 million), ending a run of five straight quarterly losses and beating analysts' forecast for another loss.

Alinma Bank rose 0.7 percent after reporting a 12.1 percent year-on-year rise in second-quarter net profit to 409 million riyals; the average prediction was 395.3 million riyals. But falling stocks outnumbered gainers by about two to one, with Saudi Arabian Fertilizers Co (SAFCO) drop-

ping 0.8 percent after it said quarterly profit halved to 299 million riyals, broadly in line with an average forecast by analysts for 290.5 million riyals.

Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Co declined 2.1 percent after it reported a 79.6 percent slide in net profit to 103.2 million riyals, blaming the fall in profit on lower prices and tighter refinery margins. Elsewhere in the Gulf, trading activity was subdued, with Dubai's index slipping 0.5 percent as Emaar Properties fell 1.6 percent to 6.89 Dirhams, retreating from major technical resistance on its October peak of 7.01 Dirhams. In Abu Dhabi, the index was weighed down by losses in mid- and large-cap shares, with Dana Gas the most heavily traded stock, declining 1.7 percent. — Reuters

| Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------|----------|-------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|--|--|--|
| Sunday 24 July 2016 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Index | Change | Closing | Last Closing | High | Low | | | | | |
| Price index | ▲ 3.37 | 5,394.57 | 5,391.20 | 5,396.77 | 5,380.12 | | | | | |
| Weighted Index | ▲ 0.13 | 351.70 | 351.57 | 351.70 | 350.20 | | | | | |
| KSX 15 | ▲ 0.37 | 811.71 | 811.34 | 811.71 | 807.02 | | | | | |
| Trades | | | | | | | | | | |
| Security | High | Low | Volume | Value (KD) | Trades | Last | Change | | | |
| MARIN | 94 | 93 | 10250 | 954 | 2 | 93 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| IKARUS | 40.0 | 39.5 | 60,000 | 2,380 | 3 | 39.5 | ▼ -0.5 | | | |
| IPG | 310 | 290 | 10,000 | 3,045 | 3 | 310 | ▲ 10.0 | | | |
| NAPESCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| ENERGYH | 45.5 | 45.5 | 98,000 | 4,459 | 9 | 45.5 | ▼ -2.5 | | | |
| GPI | 41.0 | 40.5 | 1,348,051 | 54,567 | 36 | 41.0 | ▲ 0.5 | | | |
| ABAR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| Oil & Gas | | | 1,526,301 | 65,434 | 53 | 792.11 | ▲ 2.20 | | | |
| KFOUC | 170 | 166 | 330,576 | 55,446 | 13 | 166 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| BPCC | 500 | 500 | 231,428 | 115,714 | 11 | 500 | ▼ -10.0 | | | |
| ALKOUT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| ALQURAIN | 190 | 190 | 94,107 | 17,880 | 22 | 190 | ▼ -4.0 | | | |
| Basic Materials | | | 656,111 | 189,040 | 46 | 957.03 | ▼ -10.20 | | | |
| KCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 390 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| REFRI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 305 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| CABLE | 365 | 375 | 25,341 | 9,628 | 4 | 365 | ▲ 5.0 | | | |
| SHIP | 164 | 160 | 101,500 | 16,442 | 8 | 164 | ▲ 2.0 | | | |
| PCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 940 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| PAPER | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 285 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| MRC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 62 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| ACICO | 285 | 280 | 2,050 | 583 | 3 | 285 | ▲ 25.0 | | | |
| GGMC | 275 | 275 | 97,240 | 26,741 | 1 | 275 | ▲ 25.0 | | | |
| HCC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 130 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| KBIMC | 210 | 210 | 3,000 | 630 | 1 | 210 | ▼ -10.0 | | | |
| NICBM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 204 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| EQUIPMENT | 62 | 58 | 4,628,583 | 275,130 | 166 | 58 | ▼ -5.0 | | | |
| NCCI | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12.5 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| GYPBUM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 102 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| SALBOOKH | 63 | 63 | 19,700 | 1,241 | 4 | 63 | ▼ -1.0 | | | |
| AGLTY | 475 | 470 | 288,891 | 136,369 | 14 | 470 | ▼ -5.0 | | | |
| EDU | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 190 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| CLEANING | 38.5 | 39.0 | 17,480 | 687 | 3 | 39.0 | ▼ -0.5 | | | |
| KGJ | 44.0 | 44.0 | 28,000 | 1,232 | 2 | 44.0 | ▼ -1.5 | | | |
| KCPK | 174 | 174 | 6,250 | 1,088 | 1 | 174 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| HUMANSOFT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,420 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| NAFAIS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 174 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| SAFWAN | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 330 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| GFC | 30.5 | 30.0 | 8,500 | 259 | 4 | 30.0 | ▲ 0.5 | | | |
| MAYADEEN | 30.0 | 27.5 | 13,292,461 | 385,079 | 198 | 30.0 | ▲ 2.5 | | | |
| CGC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 680 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| MTCC | 60 | 58 | 558,640 | 32,442 | 40 | 58 | ▼ -2.0 | | | |
| UPAC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 690 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| ALAFCO | 206 | 202 | 110,019 | 22,231 | 15 | 206 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| MUBARRAD | 60 | 59 | 60,000 | 3,590 | 2 | 59 | ▼ -1.0 | | | |
| LOGISTICS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 79 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| SCEM | 80 | 80 | 143,000 | 11,440 | 5 | 80 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| GCEM | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| QIC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| FCEM | 75 | 75 | 8,100 | 608 | 1 | 75 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| RKWC | 90 | 90 | 71,100 | 6,399 | 4 | 90 | ▼ -1.0 | | | |
| SPEC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| Industrials | | | 19,466,855 | 931,816 | 442 | 1056.41 | ▲ 0.96 | | | |
| KSH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 170 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| NSH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 64 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| PAPCO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 106 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| CATL | 206 | 204 | 125,000 | 25,742 | 12 | 206 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| DANAH | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 124 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| POULT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 176 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| FOOD | 2,480 | 2,460 | 50,250 | 123,620 | 3 | 2,480 | ▲ 20.0 | | | |
| Consumer Goods | | | 175,250 | 149,362 | 15 | 1196.46 | ▼ -0.80 | | | |
| MHC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 200 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| ATC | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 920 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| YIACO | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 240 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| Health Care | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1034.98 | ▲ 0.00 | | | |
| KCIN | 1,280 | 1,280 | 1,250 | 1,600 | 3 | 1,280 | ▼ -100 | | | |
| KHOT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 300 | ▲ 0.0 | | | |
| SULTAN | 57 | 57 | 49,000 | 2,793 | 4 | 57 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| CABLETV | 22.5 | 22.5 | 9,000 | 113 | 1 | 22.5 | ▲ 3 | | | |
| EYAS | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 385 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| IFAHR | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 196 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| OULAFUEL | 110 | 110 | 10,755 | 1,183 | 8 | 110 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| MUNTAZHAT | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 88 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| JAZERA | 860 | 860 | 24,100 | 20,726 | 3 | 860 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| SOOR | 110 | 108 | 50,738 | 5,562 | 20 | 108 | ▼ -4 | | | |
| FUTUREKID | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 102 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| ALRAI | 156 | 152 | 88,842 | 13,630 | 14 | 154 | ▼ -6 | | | |
| ZIMAH | 41.5 | 41.0 | 4,495,876 | 185,867 | 115 | 41.5 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| UFIG | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 130 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| Mazzan | 1,080 | 1,060 | 3,368 | 3,669 | 4 | 1,080 | ▼ -20 | | | |
| Consumer Services | | | 4,728,759 | 235,142 | 172 | 948.60 | ▼ -8.82 | | | |
| ZAIN | 335 | 330 | 723,350 | 238,712 | 22 | 335 | ▲ 5 | | | |
| OODRDOO | 1,100 | 1,100 | 2,065 | 2,305 | 4 | 1,100 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| HITSTELEC | 41.0 | 40.5 | 4,533,088 | 183,831 | 82 | 40.5 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| VIVA | 940 | 930 | 29,763 | 27,888 | 40 | 930 | ▼ -10 | | | |
| Telecommunications | | | 5,288,296 | 452,335 | 148 | 602.79 | ▼ -1.86 | | | |
| NBK | 600 | 590 | 2,257,018 | 1,354,132 | 57 | 600 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| GBK | 236 | 232 | 41,100 | 9,548 | 5 | 236 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| CBK | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 380 | ▲ 0 | | | |
| ABK | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 330 | ▲ 0 | | | |



CHENGDU: Britain's Finance Minister Philip Hammond (centre L) speaks with delegates after taking part in a "family photo" with other ministers and central bank chiefs at the G20 finance ministers meeting. — AFP

CORPORATE RAIDERS SEEK BREXIT BARGAINS IN UK

LONDON: Overseas buyers lured by a plunge in the pound are looking to snare British companies on the cheap, ensuring a steady flow of deals since Britain voted to leave the European Union and defying expectations of an M&A drought. Almost 60 transactions totaling \$34.5 billion have been struck by foreign companies for British firms since June 23, according to Thomson Reuters data, compared with 79 deals amounting to \$4.3 billion in the month leading up to the vote.

This activity - dominated by Japanese group SoftBank's \$32 billion swoop for chip designer ARM Holdings has defied warnings that dealmaking could dry up for a period if Britain backed Brexit, given uncertainty surrounding risks to the economy and access to the EU single market. The list of British takeovers could grow after the summer, according to bankers who say they are working on possible bids on behalf of foreign companies interested in UK targets.

The SoftBank deal was hailed by the government as a sign of UK economic resilience, prompting new Prime Minister Theresa May to declare the country "open for business". But M&A bankers said some of the post-vote takeovers had more to do with the relatively low valuations of British companies given current exchange rates, rather than being driven by confidence in the British economy. Sterling has taken the brunt of market concern since the Brexit vote on June 23, falling to a 31-year low in the aftermath of the vote.

"Clearly this is a buying opportunity," said Ben Ward, head of UK corporate at law firm Herbert Smith Freehills. "People with strong currencies - dollar, renminbi, yen - will no doubt be interested in acquiring sound sterling-denominated assets." There have been dozens of other deals since the referendum. South African retailer Steinhoff agreed to pay nearly 600 million pounds for British-based discount chain Poundland on July 13, for example. It came a day after AMC Entertainment Holdings - an American company majority-owned by a Chinese conglomerate - said it would buy London-based Odeon & UCI Cinemas Group to create the world's largest cinema operator, in a deal valued at about 921 million pounds. On Thursday, China's Fosun International snapped up English football club Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Defense from raids

Some M&A bankers in London say they are working closely with British companies who feel vulnerable to hostile bids from cash-rich foreign buyers, in sectors including aerospace, housebuilding and retail. Others say they are trying to win advisory mandates at firms viewed as potential takeover targets.

"We're helping our UK clients think through the right fundamental value of their business in the current environment and shoring them up to prevent unwanted opportunistic situations where an international rival tries to buy them on the cheap," said Hernan Cristerna, co-head of global M&A at JPMorgan. US and Asian conglomerates are also stepping up efforts to secure bargain deals unseen in decades, sources said.

Some have hired banks to resurrect

deals that were aborted in recent years because of price disagreements. After the vote British companies have become 10-15 percent cheaper for overseas buyers due to the devaluation of the pound which was trading at \$1.31 on July 22 against \$1.50 the day before the referendum. "When you have a material currency discontinuity it makes sense to dust off previous M&A analyses and crunch the numbers again," said Paulo Pereira, a partner at boutique advisory firm Perella Weinberg.

'Political football'

Surveys conducted in the run-up to the referendum had warned a Brexit vote would threaten M&A activity. A study released on June 16 by Merrill Corporation, a provider of technology and services in the M&A industry, and market intelligence firm The M&A Advisor found a Brexit vote would have a "negative and tangible" near-term impact on UK dealmaking, with British companies becoming less attractive to overseas buyers.

A survey of 1,500 global dealmakers published the same day by technology provider Intralinks suggested a decision to leave the EU would lead to dealmaking "chaos", driving down M&A levels in Britain as well as the rest of Europe. But the M&A drought has yet to materialize. The sectors with the highest concentration of foreign takeovers in the past four weeks were technology, consumer, industrials and media, with an overall 37 sales valued at \$33 billion. Industry sources said some had roots in discussions that began well ahead of the June referendum.

"If we have learned one thing from the global financial crisis it's that standing still means moving backwards," said Steve Krousos, EY Global Vice Chair, Transaction Advisory Services, adding that companies need to carry on doing deals to boost their organic growth, build a global presence and stay ahead of the technology curve. JPMorgan's Cristerna stressed that "boards still have strategic needs and ambitions and need to remain open to external sources of growth".

Pricing aside, however, dealmaking will still be tough for overseas buyers who must evaluate the uncertainty surrounding Britain's future relationship with the EU, and the prospects of a messy divorce that may take several years to conclude. Additionally, any sizable takeover could face tighter government scrutiny, after May pledged to oppose foreign companies trying to buy British champions deemed "strategically important", citing the sale of chocolate Cadbury in 2010 and Pfizer's attempted takeover of AstraZeneca in 2014.

But SoftBank's friendly takeover of ARM, which won the blessing of the government in less than 24 hours, established a useful blueprint for dealmaking following the Brexit vote, banking sources said. The Japanese company made legally-binding commitments to double ARM's UK headcount in the next five years and preserve its Cambridge headquarters. "There is so much 'political football' going on that if you want to pull off a significant transaction in a sensitive sector it is wise to start planning some concessions beforehand to ease government approval," said Perella's Pereira. — Reuters

BEIJING SLAPS EU, JAPAN, KOREA WITH STEEL DUTIES

BEIJING: China said yesterday it has started imposing anti-dumping tariffs on certain steel imports from the European Union, Japan and South Korea, as Beijing itself comes under fire for similar trade practices. Duties on the materials, used in power transformers and electric motors, will range from around 37 to as high as 46.3 percent, the commerce ministry said on its website.

The measures are intended to prevent the sale of the product at below cost, a practice known as dumping, it added. The world's second largest economy, which makes more than half the world's steel, finds itself under attack by EU countries for allegedly flooding world markets with steel and aluminium in violation of international trade agreements.

On Friday Premier Li Keqiang told a group of visiting leaders from the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and other organizations that China "will not engage in a trade war or currency war". Nevertheless, the EU sees itself under attack. Earlier this month in Beijing, EU Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker pledged to defend the group's steel industry against China using "all the means at

our disposal". He also said there was a "clear link" between the steel issue and the EU's decision on whether to grant China "market economy status" - a prize eagerly sought by Beijing.

China has been pressing the EU to grant it the status - which would make it harder for the bloc to levy anti-dumping tariffs - before the year's end, citing World Trade Organization rules. China's announcement is the latest in a tit-for-tat fight with other countries over the special metal known as oriented electrical steel.

In May last year the EU imposed similar duties on imports of Chinese oriented electric steel as well as products from other countries, in a move which Bloomberg News said was intended to curb competition for EU producers. The decision prompted China to launch an investigation into imports from the European manufacturers. China has imposed such duties before. In 2012 the World Trade Organization ruled that Chinese duties on high-tech steel from the US violated trade rules. In 2015 the organization censured Beijing for continuing the practice despite the judgment against it. — AFP

CHINA GROWTH SUCKS MORE DEBT BUCKS FOR LESS BANG

EFFICIENCY OF CHINA GDP GROWTH CONTINUES DECLINE

BEIJING: As China's economy notches up another quarter of steady growth, the pace of credit creation grows ever more frantic for every extra unit of production, as inefficient state firms swallow an increasing share of lending. The world's second-largest economy grew 6.7 percent in the first half of the year, unchanged from the first quarter, testament to policymakers' determination to regulate the pace of slow-down after 25 years of breakneck expansion. Analysts say that determination has come at the cost of a damperous rise in debt, which is six times less effective at generating growth than a few years ago.

"The amount of debt that China has taken in the last 5-7 years is unprecedented," said Morgan Stanley's head of emerging markets, Ruchir Sharma, at a book launch in Singapore. "No developing country in history has taken on as much debt as China has taken on on a marginal basis." While Beijing can take comfort that loose money and more deficit spending are averting a more painful slowdown, the rapidly diminishing returns from such stimulus policies, coupled with rising defaults and non-performing loans, are creating what Sharma calls "fertile (ground) for some accident to happen".

From 2003 to 2008, when annual growth averaged more than 11 percent, it took just one Yuan of extra credit to generate one Yuan of GDP growth, according to Morgan Stanley calculations. It took two for one from 2009-2010, when Beijing embarked on a massive stimulus program to ward off the effects of the global financial crisis. The ratio had doubled again to four for one in 2015, and this year it has taken six Yuan for every Yuan of growth, Morgan Stanley said, twice even the level in the United States during the debt-fueled housing bubble that triggered the global crisis. Total bond debt in China is up over 50 percent in the past 18 months to 57 trillion Yuan (\$8.5 trillion), equal to around 80 percent of GDP, and new total social financing, the widest measure of credit provided by China's central bank, rose 10.9 percent in the first half of 2016 to 9.75 trillion Yuan.

"Short-termism"

China's money supply has increased in tan-



CHENGDU: Hostesses pose for photos during a break from the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting. — AP

dem with new lending, and at 149 trillion Yuan is now 73 percent higher than in the United States, an economy about 60 percent larger. "China is the largest money printer in the world - they have been for some time. The balance is really extreme," says Kevin Smith, CEO of US-based Crescat Capital. The reason China gets such poor returns from this pump-priming is that state firms are the main beneficiaries of extra credit, at the expense of the more efficient private sector.

Some of the slowdown in private sector growth is weak confidence in the business outlook, but a lack of access to affordable financing is also a factor, the government and economists say, as banks prefer the security of state-owned borrowers. Private firms had to pay 6 percentage points more in interest for bank loans in the second quarter versus the public sector, analysts at investment bank CICC estimate. Though Beijing officially wants to rebalance the economy to the private sector and cut surplus capacity in ineffi-

cient heavy industry, that aspiration clashes with its more immediate ambition to hit its growth targets.

For now it seems the latter goal is over-riding the former. Policymakers say that while corporate debt is high, the central government has room to increase its debt ratios and raise its fiscal deficit to between 4 and 5 percent to boost the economy. And analysts expect more monetary easing in the form of interest rate cuts, which will encourage more borrowing and more bad debts. "We believe that China's short-termism will only add to its long-standing problems of excess capacity and non-performing loans," Fathom Consulting analyst Laura Eaton wrote in a note following the release of first-half GDP data. Smith at Crescat Capital thinks it will lead to a twin currency and banking crisis, with a 20 percent crash in the Yuan versus the dollar. "It's a question of when, and it looks like it's coming pretty close," he said. — Reuters



VILAMOURA, Portugal: French tourist couple, Gilles Barboux (R), 53, and his wife Christine (L) play golf at Vila Sol Resort. — AFP

PRICED OUT BY TOURISTS: RENTALS EFFECT LISBON'S HISTORIC CENTRE

LISBON: Alfama, one of the oldest and most picturesque areas of Lisbon, is becoming a victim of its own charm. Short-term lets to tourists are driving up rents and driving out old residents. "They want to throw me out to rent my home to tourists," complained retired salesman Antonio Melo, 70. His house has changed owners four times over the last year and his new landlord has just told him his lease will not be renewed. "Soon there will only be tourists in Alfama," he said. Melo has lived in the district since he was five years old but now fears he will have no choice but to leave because his 600-euro pension won't cover the rent of any property there.

Local mayor Miguel Coelho echoed the concerns of many in Alfama. "Real estate speculation in Lisbon's historic centre, which is particularly evident in Alfama, is causing a lot of stress," he said. "House prices and rents are exorbitant and people are having to think about other options," he added. The mayors of three of Lisbon's central districts have called on the government to intervene urgently. They attributed spiraling prices to an "excessive proliferation" of short-term rentals.

'Threatened identity'

Coelho said that while tourism was a boon to the local economy, "when it becomes excessive it's a real threat to the district's identity". This is especially so in Alfama, a pretty maze of narrow streets leading up from the Tagus estuary that is one of Lisbon's biggest tourist attractions.

"Every day we see estate agents going door to door to find people willing to leave," said Ana Gago, a 28-year-old geography student who is conducting a survey of people moving out of the district because of the rising costs.

Airbnb, the world's leader in short-term private rentals, says bookings in Lisbon using its service doubled in 2015, to 433,000 visitors. The traditional hotel sector saw bookings by foreign tourists rise by a more modest 7.5 percent. In Lisbon, which is among Airbnb's top 10

global destinations, those renting space via the company are not just "hosts" offering a spare room to "guests": over a quarter of owners place more than one advertisement on the site, and 73 percent have whole apartments available.

Population flight

Cities like Berlin and San Francisco have taken steps to prevent landlords abandoning residential leases in favor of short holiday lets, and have kept rents in check as a result. Conversely, Portugal, hit hard by a financial crisis in 2011, levies less tax on income derived on rent from tourists than it does on that from longer term tenants. The idea was to attract foreign investment and boost the real estate sector, and the policy has contributed to the renovation of many dilapidated buildings. But it risks accelerating Lisbon's population flight: half a million people now live in the city, against 800,000 in the early 1980s.

"It's good to renovate, but the problem is all the work is aimed at tourists. People who live here would like their children to stay in the district, but that has become impossible," said Maria de Lurdes Pinheiro, who heads the Alfama Heritage and Population Association. Long-term rental housing stock in Portugal has shrunk by a third over the past five years. In Lisbon, rents rose by an average of 7.6 percent between 2014 and 2015.

Airbnb hosts in the city earned 43 million Euros in rent from tourists last year, according to the company, which added that the visitors spent a further 225 million Euros during their stay. "There's more money going around but the local community is disappearing," said retired psychologist Leonor Duarte, 63, who has lived in Alfama for five years. Duarte has joined forces with other Lisbon citizens to urge authorities to "halt the bleeding-dry of the historic centre". She is also among many people from Alfama who complained about the noise tourists make late into the night and the space they take up in the ancient trams that snake through the district's narrow streets. — AFP

BOTTOM LINE: BRANDS CHASE CHINA'S RICH LINGERIE MARKET

HONG KONG: High-end lingerie sales are outpacing China's generally downbeat luxury market, and heating up competition between international brands and local rivals looking to go upmarket. US brand Victoria's Secret will open its first store, and companies including Italy's ultra-luxury La Perla and Germany's Triumph are adding stores and moving beyond China's mega-cities to tap a lingerie market that has more than doubled in five years to \$18 billion, according to Mintel Group. Chinese consumer tastes are maturing, women are more confident about buying for themselves and President Xi Jinping's drive against conspicuous consumption is likely diverting spending from flashy branded bags and accessories to sports and athleisure wear and the more discreet lingerie.

"Luxury is ... not about buying to show off, it's about buying items that make you feel good," says Chiara Scaglia, La Perla's Asia chief. China's women's underwear market is expected to have a retail value of \$25 billion by next year - double that of the United States - and will grow to \$33 billion by 2020, according to Euromonitor. Chinese firms such as Beijing Aimer, Maniform and Ordifen are also chasing that money, targeting higher-end customers and raising their quality. "That means foreign brands will have to out-compete local brands not just on quality, but also innovation," said Matthew Crabbe, director at Mintel.

For now, the market is highly fragmented, with none of the leading firms having more than around a 3 percent share. International brands see China as a priority to help bolster overall sales given a fairly bleak global outlook. La Perla, which sells bras priced around 2,000 Yuan (\$300), has eight stores in China and plans additional outlets in Chengdu and Chongqing within the year. It also aims to open a men's store in Beijing. "The perception of the lingerie sector has changed," Scaglia told Reuters. "At the beginning many people we spoke to were confused as to why anybody should spend over \$1,000 on panties for something nobody sees."

Expanding footprint

Victoria's Secret will open a 20,000 square foot (1,860 square meter) flagship store in Shanghai this year, taking over a prime downtown location that used to house a Louis Vuitton store. "I think it will announce our arrival in China in a very significant way, and should be the beginning of an enormous business for us," said Martin Waters, L Brands International President. Triumph, which already has 1,000 China stores, plans to open in five new cities this year and up to 11 cities next year.

Cosmo Lady, a Chinese firm that has focused on the mass market, selling bras from 50 Yuan (\$7.50), last year bought Ordifen to increase its presence in the luxury market. "We would like to gradually step into the high-end market," said Peter Lam, Cosmo Lady's assistant chief financial officer. Gao Qiannan, a 22-year-old Shandong student who says she spends upwards of 1,500 Yuan a year on lingerie, doesn't think there's a big difference between Chinese and foreign brands. "If I can buy a domestic brand, I will, but if I particularly like the international brand's style, I'll get that," she said.

The international brands say they don't offer products specifically for the Chinese market, though La Perla notes that some colors - red and baby pink - sell far better in Asia than in Europe or the United States. The Italian brand has also used Chinese supermodel Liu Wen in its campaigns. Japanese and South Korean brands are also growing in popularity in China. Yin Huijuan, 23, who spends 800 Yuan (\$120) on lingerie every three months, said she prefers Japanese brands such as Wacoal and Narue. "I feel foreign brands' style is more detailed and diversified, these are areas where domestic brands fall short," she said.

Consumer caution

Even in the lingerie market, though, there are bumps. Cosmo Lady, which has 8,600 outlets including Ordifen's 550 China stores, saw robust growth in its mass market sales last year, but has warned about its profits for the first half of this year, citing China's slowing economic growth, consumer caution and competing online sales. — Reuters



MERCEDES-BENZ E-CLASS AWARDED 'RED DOT AWARD: PRODUCT DESIGN 2016'

Mercedes-Benz has reaffirmed its position as a design trendsetter as the all new E-Class continues to receive accolades for its technology and design. The Stuttgart-based company was awarded the prestigious "Red Dot Award" for its MULTIBEAM LED headlamps on the new E-Class, taking out the globally renowned design competition.

Marking a technical milestone, the MULTIBEAM LED headlamps are each comprised of 84 individually drivable high-performance LEDs, which illuminate the road surface with a previously unsurpassed, precision-controlled distribution of exceptionally bright light, without impeding oncoming road users. At the same time, with their contemporary, pure elegance and dynamically sensual radiation, they reflect the intelligence and high-tech character of the E-Class saloon.

Ensuring the best possible light performance at all times, without affecting other road users, the system adjusts to the course of the road and, via the information from the camera, to the vehicle's actual surroundings. By making the distribution of light freely configurable in

both headlamp grid modules, it has been possible to implement all of the headlamp functions, including for example the dynamic cornering light function, without any mechanical actuators.

The new adverse weather light function reduces reflections on the opposite carriageway in the rain by specifically dimming individual LEDs, preventing indirect blinding of oncoming vehicles. The city light on the other hand provides a particularly wide distribution of light when travelling at low speeds in built-up areas, brightly illuminating difficult-to-see pavements and danger zones. Data from the navigation system is also used to ensure the distribution of light automatically adapts to the vehicle's surroundings on roundabouts, at junctions and on motorways.

Huge advancement in safety

Michael Ruehle, Chief Executive Officer, AR Albisher and Z Alkazemi Company commented: "We are honored to receive such a highly regarded award from the Red Dot community. The new MULTIBEAM LED technology is a huge advancement in safety and intuitive driving, and we are sure the Kuwaiti market will be pleased with it."

Testament to the work of Konrad Zuse (1910-1995), the German inventor of the computer, and specifically to his patent for a controllable system of vehicle lights, the MULTIBEAM LED headlamp in the new Mercedes-Benz E-Class is made possible with today's cutting edge LED technology.

Until the digitization of older records, Zuse's invention, registered in 1958 under the number 1190413 and entitled "Lighting device photoelectrically controlled by backlight", remained buried in the German Patent Office's archives. In the patent the computer pioneer, inventor and talented artist describes how maximum illumination of the road can be achieved with minimal disturbance to oncoming traffic.

The inventor of the computer envisaged multiple light sources which are deactivated by photoelectric cells if these cells detect other cars in their vicinity. In the innovative MULTIBEAM LED light system, the photoelectric cells are replaced by a camera in the windshield which provides the necessary information on the vehicle's surroundings. Four control units use the camera images to calculate the ideal light pattern 100 times per second



and activate the 84 high-performance LEDs in each headlamp accordingly. Helping to enhance safety, the MULTIBEAM LED also supports the driver when there are other vehicles in the field illuminated by the headlamps.

A high-caliber panel of judges for this year's "Red Dot Awards" was called upon to judge a record number of 5214 product entries from 57 countries. Of those,

41 independent designers, design professors and specialist journalists reserved awards for products of outstanding design expertise, well-thought-out, innovative styling, aesthetic quality and trendsetting design. The Red Dot Award for design concept has grown to be the largest and most recognized professional design competition for design concept and prototypes worldwide.

ETIHAD AIRWAYS SUPPORTS ARAB FILM FESTIVAL AUSTRALIA

SYDNEY: Etihad Airways and Arab Film Festival Australia are joining forces again in 2016 to bring the best of contemporary Arab cinema to Australian audiences. The 13th annual Arab Film Festival Australia opened last night in Sydney showcasing diverse films from Australia, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Palestine and Syria. The festival program ranges from a powerful story of a mother searching for her son who is missing at war to a comedy about a couple on a mission to stop each other's snoring. The festival will travel to Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Perth over the next three weeks.



Etihad Airways' Senior Vice President Marketing, Shane O'Hare, said Arab Film Festival Australia was an important part of Etihad Airways' Australian sponsorship portfolio. "As the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, Etihad Airways is committed to promoting a deeper appreciation of modern Arabian arts and culture. "As the Principal Sponsor of Arab Film Festival Australia, the airline plays an important role in bringing stories from the Arab world to Australian audiences. "This year's festival will reach thousands of filmgoers in four Australian cities including Perth for the first time ever." Arab Film Festival Australia Co-director Fadia Abboud said the festival was delighted to partner with Etihad Airways for the ninth year in a row. "It is our objective to present amazing stories from the Arab world by capturing

authentic voices, unique communities and current issues with sophistication and sensitivity. "Etihad Airways helps fulfill this objective by connecting the festival with the best talent in contemporary Arab cinema. "The airline's support has enabled the festival to bring Assad Fouladkar - the acclaimed director of Halal Love - to Sydney as the special guest for this year's opening night."

The festival is produced by Information and Cultural Exchange (I.C.E.). Its organizing committee represents Australia's diverse Arabic-speaking communities and cultures. The Arab Film Festival Australia will run in Sydney until 24 July, Melbourne from 29-31 July, Canberra from 5-7 August and Perth from 11-12 August. For more information, visit www.arabfilmfestival.com.au

ABK REINFORCES NEW KUWAIT ELECTRONIC CHEQUE CLEARING SYSTEM

KUWAIT: In line with the standards and security features for cheques as prescribed by the Central Bank of Kuwait and the new Kuwait Electronic Cheque Clearing System (KECCS), Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) would like to advise its customers to reissue non-standard cheques that have been printed directly through press companies and not through the Bank as they do not comply with the new standards and security features and will not be accepted for clearing in the near future.

Additionally any customers with cheque books issued by ABK prior to January 2010 are requested to visit their branches to obtain new cheque books free of charge. Cheque books should only be issued through authorized entities, while referring back to the Bank to receive

security conditions and features as mandated, prior to printing. ABK advises all its customers to adhere to the below mentioned instructions to ensure the acceptance and processing of their cheques:

1. The need to maintain the magnetic ink line (MICR) that is available at the bottom of the cheque.
2. The cheque issuer should not sign or write at the bottom of the cheque over the MICR Code.
3. The need to keep the cheque in a good condition.
4. The cheque should not be exposed to direct sunlight nor kept in a warm place to ensure the reading of the cheque details, as this can be effected by the heat.



5. Ensure the availability of sufficient funds in the account before issuing cheques (cheques returned due to insufficient funds may lead to criminal charges).

The instructions listed above conform to the features of the new (KECCS), which will help reduce the clearing cycle of cheques from 3 days to the same day for certain cases or to be the next working day in other cases.



GE Building

KAMCO TO ACQUIRE GE'S US GLOBAL OPERATIONS CENTER

KUWAIT CITY: KAMCO Investment Company signs agreement to acquire a newly built high quality office building located in the United States of America. The office building serves as the General Electric Company's ("GE") new US Global Operations Center and will be acquired for approximately 113 million USD through the Carter real estate investment, development and advisory firm. The property provides approximately 104 thousand sq. meters of office space and is located in the heart of the Cincinnati Central Business District, a strategic location in terms of accessibility. The investment opportunity in the office building is expected to provide a highly attractive income return, and is projected to yield net cash returns of 6.0% pa or above during the investment period.

KAMCO's Chief Investment Officer, Mr Khaled Fouad, said, "This is yet another illustration of KAMCO's prominent role in identifying and structuring investments in good quality durable assets

that provide periodic fixed income cash flow streams. KAMCO's acquisition of GE's US Global Operations Center is in tune with the company's private equity deals in the global and regional real estate sector. We believe that this prime asset offers long-term value in combination with attractive current yields. KAMCO's Alternative Investments Department is eager to continue building its track record of excellence and experience in different alternative asset classes locally, regionally and globally."

GE is a global digital industrial company headquartered in Connecticut, and was established by Thomas Edison in 1892. With over 333,000 employees, GE has received many prestigious accolades and is ranked 8th in the Fortune 500 with investment grade ratings from Standard and Poor's (AA+) and Moody's (A1). The company's diversified stream of income from its clients in over 180 countries has led GE to reach a market cap of approximately USD 296.5 billion.



Chief Investment Officer Khaled Fouad

ALL TURKISH AIRLINES FLIGHTS CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED

KUWAIT: In the wake of the 3-month state emergency, Turkish Airlines has announced that all its operations and flights function uninterrupted and will continue to do so. As Turkey's flag carrier that flies to more countries than any other airline, serving 290 destinations in 116 nations across the

globe, Turkish Airlines will continue to make the world closer for all its passengers around the world with its exceptional flight experience. The airline stands united with the people and thanks the authorities for the precautionary actions to protect the nation from all possible threats.



APPLE WEATHERS ANTI-US DEMO IN CHINA, PROTESTS SNOWBALL

HONG KONG: Apple Inc found itself on the receiving end of a small, short-lived anti-US protest this week in China, the tech firm's biggest overseas market and a country where foreign firms have suffered damaging boycotts following international spats. A handful of unofficial Apple stores were picketed and social media users encouraged each other to destroy their Apple goods, in a rare instance of the tech firm being targeted as a symbol of perceived injustice following an international ruling against Chinese territorial claims.

Though the protest was small, observers have expressed concern about the impact on Apple in the long term, citing the roughly year-long slump in sales of Japanese cars after a diplomatic dispute that prompted

large protests and boycotts. "There's not much Apple or any other foreign firm can do to prevent such patriotic protests," said analyst Nicole Peng at researcher Canalis, who sees no impact to Apple's sales from the recent protest. "These incidents happen every few years."

Apple did not immediately respond to a request for comment. China is the world's biggest smartphone market and Apple is increasingly reliant on its growing middle class as it competes with domestic makers of cheaper phones such as Xiaomi Inc and Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, in a climate of weakening consumer spending and slowing economic growth.

Adding to Apple's challenges are brushes with regulators. Its online book and film

service was blocked earlier this year, and last month its iPhone designs were ruled to have infringed a local firm's patent. Apple's sales in China fell around 25 percent in January-March from the same period a year prior. On Tuesday, it is scheduled to announce April-June earnings that are widely expected to be lackluster due to a dearth of product launches.

Shallow protest

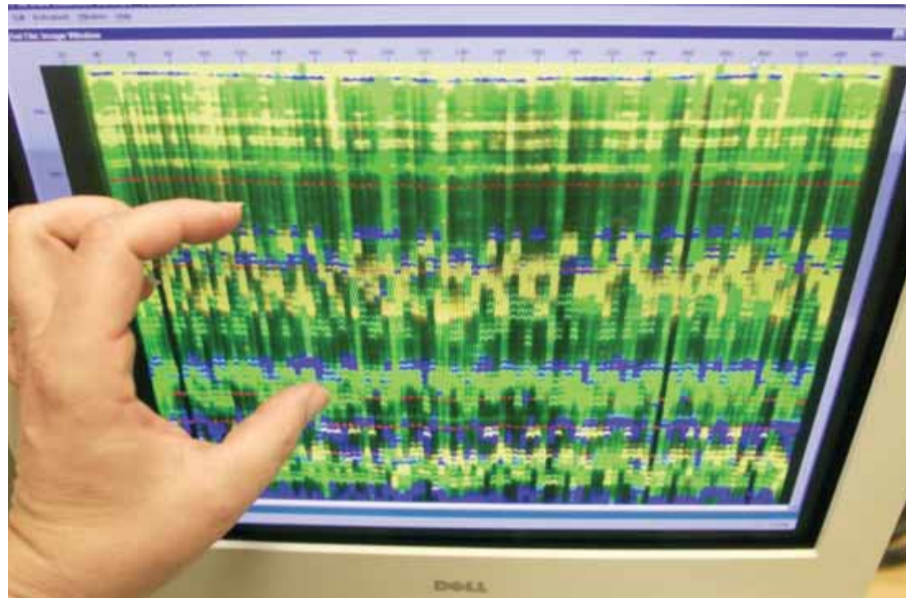
Apple was targeted in the latest protest by virtue of its country of origin, which in turn was regarded as the root of a perceived affront. Earlier this month, The Hague said it found no legal basis for China's claim to most of the South China Sea, prompting local media to call the Court a "puppet" of

external forces, and accuse the United States of turning the Philippines - which filed the case - against China. About a week later, on Tuesday, over 100 protesters picketed four unofficial Apple dealers in Suining in the eastern province of Jiangsu for about three hours, urging customers not to buy the genuine Apple goods on sale.

"They chanted, 'boycott American products and kick iPhones out of China,'" store owner Zhu Yawei told Reuters. "But nothing really happened: no fights, no smashing." A video of the protest went viral on Chinese social media, with anti-Apple comments flooding microblogging site Weibo and pictures of what users described as their smashed iPhones - a luxury product in China widely considered a status symbol.

However, among the vitriol was just as much support, with state-controlled media also calling for restraint.

"It's cheap nationalism and outright stupidity," said Shan Mimi, a 23-year-old assistant at a Shanghai law firm. "But if you were to offer me an (upcoming) iPhone 7, then I would gladly smash my iPhone 6!" One young Chinese woman on Weibo said she had smashed her iPhone, accompanying her comment with a photo of a damaged handset. She later told Reuters she had lied. "I didn't smash my iPhone. All I did was find a photo (of a smashed handset) on the internet and let off some steam," said the 21-year-old, calling herself L-Tin. "Boycotting Apple would only make Chinese people lose their jobs - many work for Apple." —Reuters



CALIFORNIA: This photo shows a gel image of the DNA of 96 horses displayed on a computer monitor at the UC Davis veterinary genetics lab in Davis, California. — AP

SCIENTISTS WORK WAYS TO STORE DIGITAL INFORMATION IN DNA

NEW YORK: Her computer, Karin Strauss says, contains her "digital attic" - a place where she stores that published math paper she wrote in high school, and computer science schoolwork from college. She'd like to preserve the stuff "as long as I live, at least," says Strauss, 37. But computers must be replaced every few years, and each time she must copy the information over, "which is a little bit of a headache." It would be much better, she says, if she could store it in DNA - the stuff our genes are made of.

Strauss, who works at Microsoft Research in Redmond, Washington, is working to make that sci-fi fantasy a reality. She and other scientists are not focused in finding ways to stow high school projects or snapshots or other things an average person might accumulate, at least for now. Rather, they aim to help companies and institutions archive huge amounts of data for decades or centuries, at a time when the world is generating digital data faster than it can store it.

To understand her quest, it helps to know how companies, governments and other institutions store data now: For long-term storage it's typically disks or a specialized kind of tape, wound up in cartridges about three inches on a side and less than an inch thick. A single cartridge containing about half a mile of tape can hold the equivalent of about 46 million books of 200 pages apiece, and three times that much if the data lends itself to being compressed.

A tape cartridge can store data for about 30 years under ideal conditions, says Matt Starr, chief technology officer of Spectra Logic, which sells data-storage devices. But a more practical limit is 10 to 15 years, he says. It's not that the data will disappear from the tape. A bigger problem is familiar to anybody who has come across an old eight-track tape or floppy disk and realized he no longer has a machine to play it. Technology moves on, and data can't be retrieved if the means to read it is no longer available, Starr says.

'DNA reader'

So for that and other reasons, long-term archiving requires repeatedly copying the data to new technologies. Into this world comes the notion of DNA storage. DNA is by its essence an information-storing molecule; the genes we pass from generation to

generation transmit the blueprints for creating the human body. That information is stored in strings of what's often called the four-letter DNA code. That really refers to sequences of four building blocks - abbreviated as A, C, T and G - found in the DNA molecule. Specific sequences give the body directions for creating particular proteins. Digital devices, on the other hand, store information in a two-letter code that produces strings of ones and zeroes. A capital "A," for example, is 01000001. Converting digital information to DNA involves translating between the two codes. In one lab, for example, a capital A can become ATATG. The idea is once that transformation is made, strings of DNA can be custom-made to carry the new code, and hence the information that code contains.

One selling point is durability. Scientists can recover and read DNA sequences from fossils of Neanderthals and even older life forms. So as a storage medium, "it could last thousands and thousands of years," says Luis Ceze of the University of Washington, who works with Microsoft on DNA data storage. Advocates also stress that DNA crams information into very little space. Almost every cell of your body carries about six feet of it; that adds up to billions of miles in a single person. In terms of information storage, that compactness could mean storing all the publicly accessible data on the internet in a space the size of a shoebox, Ceze says.

In fact, all the digital information in the world might be stored in a load of whitish, powdery DNA that fits in space the size of a large van, says Nick Goldman of the European Bioinformatics Institute in Hinxton, England. What's more, advocates say, DNA storage would avoid the problem of having to repeatedly copy stored information into new formats as the technology for reading it becomes outmoded.

"There's always going to be someone in the business of making a DNA reader because of the health care applications," Goldman says. "It's always something we're going to want to do quickly and inexpensively." Getting the information into DNA takes some doing. Once scientists have converted the digital code into the 4-letter DNA code, they have to custom-make DNA. For some recent research Strauss and Ceze worked on, that involved creating about 10 million short strings of DNA. — AP

ACLU PRAISES NEW ILLINOIS LIMITS ON CELLPHONE SURVEILLANCE

SPRINGFIELD: A new Illinois law limits how police can use devices that cast a wide net in gathering cellphone data and are at the center of a lawsuit against the Chicago Police Department. Gov Bruce Rauner signed the legislation into law on Friday and drew immediate praise from civil libertarians. The technology, a cell site simulator, is perhaps best known by the brand name Stingray. It gathers phone-usage data on targets of criminal investigations, but it also gathers data on other cellphones - hundreds or even thousands of them - in the area.

The new law requires police to delete the phone information of anyone who wasn't an investigation target within 24 hours. It also prohibits police from accessing data for use in an investigation not authorized by a judge. A dozen other states have adopted such regulations, and Congress is considering legislation that would strengthen federal guidelines already in place.

"Cell site simulator technology too powerful to remain unregulated," Khadine Bennett, who is associate legislative director for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, said in an

emailed statement in which the group thanked the governor and Legislature for the new law. "The federal government has adopted modest guidelines similar to those enacted today. If the restrictions are good enough for the FBI, they should be workable for local law enforcement in Illinois."

The Illinois State Police has taken a neutral position on the law and the Chicago Police Department did not take a position. Chicago police are being sued by plaintiffs who are trying to force it to release records about how it uses this technology. Privacy advocates worry that without limits on how much data can be gathered or how long it can be stored, law enforcement could use the technology to build databases that track the behavior and movement of people who are not part of criminal investigations. Authorities, though, have argued that cellphone tracking can be useful. Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Seth M Stodder testified before a congressional committee last year that Stingray technology led authorities to a 6-year-old girl who had been kidnapped in Arizona.—AP

KASPERSKY LAB RESEARCH SHEDS LIGHT ON PARENTAL PROTECTION

A recent research by Kaspersky Lab sheds light on how dads look after their children online and checks whether their care extends from the real world to the virtual one. As it turns out, modern fathers pay a lot of attention to what their kids are doing on the Web and do their best to find the right balance between safeguarding them and encouraging their interest in the Internet and cutting-edge gadgets.

According to the survey, conducted specially for Kaspersky Lab, revealed, the vast majority of fathers feel responsible both for the financial maintenance of their families and their cyber security. This means it's usually the father who installs security solutions on all the digital devices at home - 86% said they protected PCs, 77% secured smartphones, and 63% installed anti-malware on tablets.

Perhaps this is why dad is more inclined than mom to let the kids use gadgets from a very early age. For instance, the number of fathers who give smartphones or tablets to children before their first birthday is at least double the number of mothers who admit doing the same. On top of this, dads tend to view the Internet as a great thing for both them and their kids, with two-thirds of fathers who took part in the survey saying so.

Also, unlike mothers, dads believe the Internet has a positive effect on their children - on their physical and mental condition, their performance at school, their future profession and on their life in general. For example, 45% of fathers think that their children feel more successful and at ease with their friends due to the Internet, and 29% believe the Web helps make their kids more organized in terms of scheduling their time.

When it comes to gadgets, fathers are more



likely to buy them for their children so that they're not treated as outsiders. For example, half of dads provided their kids with a computer or a laptop with this in mind. Fathers are also convinced that today's children need to know how to use digital devices, and 36% bought their sons or daughters a tablet because of this.

"Despite all the differences between them, both fathers and mothers want to safeguard their children from any threats - real or virtual. Of course, they are worried that they might not be

doing the right thing, that all the fun of gadgets will have a negative effect on their beloved kids, that the Internet is maybe not that cool after all.

And yet, they are eager to teach their children how to surf the Web safely and how to get the most from modern technologies. We're pleased to see that parents are using security solutions and making sure they are installed and activated. Knowing all this, children can definitely thank their moms and dads," said David Emm, Senior Security Researcher at Kaspersky.

HOW TO CHOOSE A FITNESS TRACKER WHEN THEY ALL SOUND THE SAME

NEW YORK: Most fitness trackers can measure a lot: Steps taken, heart beats, sleep quality and workout performance. That's a lot of data, but are they useful? It depends on what you're looking for. Those new to fitness might want something that's motivational, while those already active might want something sophisticated - but not necessarily easy to use. Here's a look at fitness devices from four leading manufacturers. Microsoft's Band 2 and Motorola's Moto 360 Sport were excluded from consideration in part because battery life was poor - tough for marathons of more than four hours.

There's a risk your tracker will end up in a drawer after a few months, especially if you get it for free as a gift or as part of a corporate wellness program. Know what you're getting and how you might use it before buying or adding one to your gift list. The recommended devices all claim to be water resistant, so they can withstand sweat and rain. But only Garmin's are designed for swimming and showering. And for Apple Watch, the protection doesn't extend to leather bands.

For the basics

Fitbit is the market leader in wearable devices, thanks to its simplicity and wide range of offerings. At \$130, the Fitbit Alta offers basic step tracking. The \$200 Fitbit Blaze adds heart-rate monitoring and a larger screen. The \$250 Fitbit Surge adds GPS for better pace and distance readings during outdoor workouts (though all-day step tracking doesn't use GPS to conserve battery). For running and cycling, the Blaze doesn't have GPS but borrows the one on your phone if you carry it.

All three models come with automatic sleep monitoring. Just check Fitbit's companion app to see how long and how well you've slept. A new feature reminds you to go to bed - perhaps too gently, as it's easy to overlook or ignore. All Fitbits have amazing battery life and can go for several days without a recharge. Their screens aren't as vivid as what rivals offer, though the Blaze has color, a first for a Fitbit. One of Fitbit's strengths lies in its community. If a friend has one, you can use Fitbit's app to compete and nudge each other. As a result, Fitbits are good motivational device for those new to physical activity. Fitbits also sync with just about every device out there - iPhones, Android, Windows and Macs.

For the budget

Samsung's Gear Fit2 offers high-end features for \$180, or \$70 less than a comparable Fitbit. This includes GPS for better distance monitoring during outdoor workouts. There's automatic sleep tracking, too. The screen is more vivid than on Fitbits, but it can be tough to read in direct sunlight. You'll need to crank up the brightness, which is fine, as the battery should still last six or seven hours with GPS use (and a few days without). The Fit2 also tracks squats, lunges and other strength exercises - rare in a tracker.

While the Fitbit Blaze and the Surge notify you of missed calls and messages on your phone, the capabilities are poor compared with smartwatches. The Fit2 does better by offering limited message replies from the device, but it doesn't offer the app choices that smartwatches do. An Android phone - not necessarily Samsung's - is required for full functionality. No iPhones or PCs. You can compete with other



NEW YORK: This file photo provided by Fitbit, Inc, shows the Fitbit Surge, a fitness tracker with built-in GPS and heart-rate monitors. — AP

users of Samsung's S Health app - not just Fit2 owners - but the community isn't as vibrant as Fitbit's. Unfortunately, a bike frame or a backpack can easily knock the device off your wrist. The Fit2's price is nice - but not if you need to buy a replacement.

For the performance

Most fitness trackers are designed for general fitness needs and offer little customization for power users. Garmin's Vivoactive is the exception, at \$220 for the base model and \$250 for the newer

"HR" version with heart-rate monitoring. Both have GPS, automatic sleep tracking and some phone notifications. They sync with a variety of devices, as with Fitbits. Both Vivoactive models combine the best of Garmin's stand-alone gadgets for running, golfing and other sports. Runners are able to record times after each lap on a track, while other fitness devices typically limit you to auto-intervals every mile or so. There are still times you'll need a dedicated device. Swimming on the Vivoactive, for instance, is limited to the pool, while the \$450 Forerunner 735XT allows open-water tracking. Neither Vivoactive model has a fancy screen, but that improves readability in sunlight and extends battery life - plenty even for super-slow marathons. The devices are bulky for all-day wearing. Garmin is about performance, not fashion. And in another tradeoff for added functionality, Garmin's app isn't as easy to navigate as Fitbit's.

For the lifestyle

At \$300 or more, the Apple Watch is for those who want more than fitness on their wrist - such as turn-by-turn navigation, or the latest weather. You need to carry an iPhone for full functionality. Apple Watch doesn't have GPS, though it will borrow the phone's GPS readings if you run, walk or bike with it. This also calibrates the watch so that you can leave the phone home after a few workouts (sorry, calibration doesn't work for cycling). Unlike the Blaze, the watch won't record your specific route without a third-party app. —AP



CHINA: In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, the Amphibious aircraft AG600 rolls off a production line in Zhuhai, south China's Guangdong Province. — AP

CHINA ROLLS OUT LARGEST MARINE AMPHIBIOUS AIRCRAFT

BEIJING: An official news agency says China has unveiled the world's largest amphibious aircraft that Beijing plans to use for marine missions and fighting forest fires. The Xinhua News Agency said the AG600 rolled off a production line in Zhuhai in southern China on Saturday. It measures 37 meters (121 feet) in length with a

wingspan of 39 meters. The report cites Chinese state aircraft maker, the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, as saying the plane is nearly as big as a Boeing 737. Last week, a Cessna 208B seaplane making its inaugural flight in China crashed into a highway bridge outside Shanghai, killing five people on board. — AP

MATURING OYSTER RECOVERY PROJECTS CALL FOR MONEY

LITTLE EGG HARBOR, New Jersey: Oysters were once so abundant in New Jersey that vacationers would clamber off trains, wade into the water and pluck handfuls to roast for dinner. Their colonies piled so high that boats would sometimes run aground on them, and they were incorporated into navigation maps. Even earlier, Native American tribes would have oyster feasts on the banks of coastal inlets.

But over the centuries, rampant development, pollution, overharvesting and disease drastically reduced the number of oysters, here and around the country; many researchers and volunteer groups estimate oyster populations are down 85 percent from their levels in the 1800s. That has sparked efforts throughout the coastal United States to establish new oyster colonies, or fortify struggling ones. Though small in scale, the efforts are numerous and growing, and they have a unified goal: showing that oysters can be successfully restored in the wild, paving the way for

larger-scale efforts and the larger funding they will require.

While a main goal is increasing the numbers of succulent, salty shellfish bound for dinner plates, oysters also serve other useful purposes. They improve water quality; a single oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water a day. They also can protect coastlines; the hard, irregular oyster beds serve as speed bumps that obstruct waves during storms.

"It's many years and millions of dollars away, but it is attainable," said Steve Evert, assistant director of the Marine Science and Environmental Field Station at New Jersey's Stockton University, one of hundreds of organizations working to start or expand oyster colonies. Most of the projects are small-scale, funded by government grants and volunteer donations.

Helen Henderson, of New Jersey's American Littoral Society, which is growing an oyster reef in Barnegat Bay, hopes successful demonstration projects can lead to an exponential increase in funding for big-

ger projects. "Nature has shown us this can be done; we're just giving it a kick-start," she said. "Hopefully funding will flow from that once we can show successful outcomes, and we can really make a difference on a much larger scale."

The Barnegat Bay Partnership put up \$52,000 for the oyster project Stockton is undertaking in New Jersey; matching funds came from the university, the Littoral Society, and a shellfish business that has invested many times that amount on equipment and oyster seedlings. Fledgling oysters need to attach themselves to a hard surface in order to grow, preferably a three-dimensional one with plenty of nooks and crannies.

The projects usually involve dumping shells onto the sea bed, where free-floating oyster seed attaches to them, though some projects pre-load the shells with tiny oyster seedlings before dumping them at a reef site. Some involve transporting more mature oysters from established colonies to new sites. Oyster restoration projects are

underway or have recently been completed in San Francisco Bay; Puget Sound near Seattle; New York Harbor and the Hudson River; in coastal salt ponds in Rhode Island and the state's Narragansett Bay; in the Carolinas, as well as Florida and the other Gulf Coast states; New Hampshire; and particularly in Chesapeake Bay in Maryland and Virginia, where some of the nation's biggest oyster restoration programs have been underway for years.

In 2014, US fishermen and growers produced nearly 36 million pounds of oysters worth nearly \$250 million, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service. But oyster landings have plummeted from their heyday in the 1800s. In Chesapeake Bay, 120 million pounds of oysters were brought ashore in 1880; by 2008, the amount was around 1 to 2 million, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "We've knocked this resource down so far that it would be impossible to get it back to 100 percent of its historic high," said Bill

Goldsborough of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. "I'd feel wonderful if we could get it back to 50 percent, but we'll probably fall short of that. But remember: Today we're in single digits, and it would still be a phenomenal improvement."

Businesses are getting involved, too. Commercial shellfish processors, which steam wheels, a type of sea snail used to make scungilli salad, donate the animals' large, crevice-filled shells to reef restoration programs; North Carolina even gave a \$1 per bushel tax credit to firms that donated shells until discontinuing the incentive in 2013. Restaurants nationwide now collect and donate shells to conservation groups for use in reef-building. Dale Parsons Jr, a fifth-generation oysterman from New Jersey, has invested a small fortune in shellfish aquaculture, as well as wild oyster restoration. "You have to listen to what nature tells you," he said. "The water is proving it can sustain oysters. We're just trying to help it along." —AP

ARGENTINE MOTHERS HOLD MASS BREASTFEEDING PROTEST



Buenos Aires: Women breastfeed their children during a demonstration at a square in San Isidro, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.—AFP

Buenos Aires: Hundreds of women turned out in Argentina to breastfeed in public Saturday, in protest at the removal of a mother for nursing publicly in a Buenos Aires square last week. Waving signs that read "No repression; nursing is not up for discussion" and "My breasts, my rights; I'm not interested in your opinion," some 500 women demonstrated in support of Constanza Santos, who police took from the square for nursing her nine-month-old.

Instead of a sit-in, some called the protest a breastfeed-in. Supporters said the case was disturbing and that they were not going to let mothers' rights be trampled on. Similar demonstrations were held in other cities, including Mar del Plata, Tucuman and Neuquen. "This is great because it sheds light on a problem. And police need to be on the public's side and not work against them," said Argentine human rights activist Adolfo Perez Esquivel, the 1980 Nobel peace laureate.—AFP



Buenos Aires: Women are joined by other people as they breastfeed their children during a demonstration at a square in San Isidro, on the outskirts of Buenos Aires.—AFP

NIGERIA HAILS MAJOR STEP TOWARDS POLIO-FREE AFRICA

'NEXT MAJOR MILESTONE IS CERTIFICATION OF POLIO-FREE STATUS'

LAGOS: Nigeria yesterday celebrated two years without a new case of polio, in a major stride towards Africa being declared free of the devastating disease.

If no new case is reported by July 2017, Nigeria will be certified free of the virus, which mainly affects children under five and can leave its victims crippled or dead. As recently as 2012, Nigeria seemed to be losing the battle against polio, recording more than half of all global cases. But these days the disease is only endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Nigeria has not seen a case of "wild" polio-contracted person-to-person or through contaminated water since July 24, 2014, when a child was left paralyzed in the impoverished northern state of Kano. Nigerian President

Muhammadu Buhari yesterday hailed the progress towards wiping out polio, but said more needed to be done keep up the momentum. "The next major milestone for us as a country is the certification of polio-free status in 2017 by the World Health Organization," he said in a statement.

A sporadic case occurred in August 2014 in Somalia but Nigeria is the last African country where polio was endemic. "As long as a single child remains infected, children in all countries are at risk of contracting polio," the WHO says on its website.

"Failure to eradicate polio from these last remaining strongholds could result in as many as 200 000 new cases every year, within 10 years, all over the world."

Suspicion over vaccines

Nigeria had struggled to contain the virus after some northern states imposed a ban on vaccinations in 2003. Immunization teams were attacked and even killed as rumors spread about vaccine safety—a phenomenon also seen in Pakistan, where suspicions grew after the CIA ran a fake vaccine drive to help track down Al-Qaeda chief Osama Bin Laden in 2011. In northern Nigeria, immunization bans followed allegations by some state governors and religious leaders that vaccines were contaminated by Western powers to spread sterility and HIV among Muslims.

Independent tests ordered by the government in 2004 declared that the vaccines were safe, but hostility to vaccination drives has

remained in some areas. Boko Haram's bloody six-year Islamist insurgency has also created major security issues for efforts to vaccinate children in the north. Health Minister Isaac Adekunle said the government would get "people out of their comfort zones to further enhance the quality of polio campaigns, reach children in difficult areas and continue to improve routine immunization."

Buhari meanwhile pledged to work with international partners "to ensure that this disease is wiped off the face of the earth for good." Nigeria has budgeted 12.6 billion naira (\$4.2 million, 38.8 million Euros) in 2016 for vaccinations and other programs to combat childhood diseases such as polio, yellow fever and measles, he added. Modibo Kassogue,

immunization manager in Nigeria for UNICEF, told AFP that funding was crucial. "They must also improve monitoring, increase levels of routine immunization and strengthen the overall health system to prevent the return of polio," he said.

And he said plenty needed to be done in Nigeria to stop children dying of other diseases. Treatable infectious diseases such as malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea, measles and HIV/AIDS account for more than 70 per cent of the estimated one million under-five deaths in Nigeria every year, according to UNICEF. "In Nigeria, one child out of every 13 born dies before reaching age one, and one in every eight does not survive till their fifth birthday," Kassogue said.—AFP

NEW TESTS SHOW NO POT CHEMICALS IN COLORADO TOWN'S WATER

DENVER: Authorities said Saturday that new tests show there is no evidence of a marijuana chemical in a Colorado community's tap water and they believe the initial tests were false. Warnings not to drink the water were lifted Saturday after multiple tests confirmed there was no THC, marijuana's psychoactive ingredient, in the water.

"We are happy to report that the water advisory is canceled immediately. Please resume any and all water activities," the sheriff's office notified residents on its Facebook page. Lincoln County sheriff's Capt. Michael Yowell said Saturday that there is evidence that a shed covering a city well was tampered with and that investigation is continuing. He said the manufacturer of the test kits has been contacted to find out why some tests came back positive.

"There never was THC in our water supply. We did get multiple tests showing the possibility of THC, but independent tests taken by different people at different times and places showed no evidence of THC," Yowell said. He said a shed covering the well head was broken into, but there was no indication who was responsible or when it occurred. Yowell said the shed is only protected by a padlock, like many other wells on Colorado's eastern plains, but someone gained entry by breaking into a side of the shed. Yowell said many community wells are at risk of being contaminated.

"It's not tamper-resistant, someone with bad intentions could get into almost any well in America if they wanted to," he said. Bottled water was distributed to residents after officials said Thursday that some field tests showed evidence of the chemical, and more tests were ordered. No illnesses were reported in Hugo, a town of about 730 people some 100 miles southeast of Denver. Commercial marijuana cultivation, product manufacturing, testing facilities and retail marijuana stores are banned in Hugo, although they are legal elsewhere in the state.—AP



COLORADO: In this photo, law enforcement personnel guard a water well in Hugo, Colorado.—AP

TIGER MAULS WOMAN TO DEATH IN CHINESE WILDLIFE PARK TOUR

BEIJING: Siberian tigers at a wildlife park in Beijing mauled a woman to death and wounded another when they stepped out of their car in an enclosure, a Chinese state-run newspaper said. A tiger pounced on one of the women after she got out of a private car in which she was touring the Beijing Badaling Wildlife World on Saturday, the Legal Evening News reported.

The second woman was killed by another tiger that leapt at her after she stepped out of the vehicle to try to help her companion, the report said. The Yanqing district government

confirmed in an official microblog post that the tiger attack took place at the park, which lies at the foot of the Great Wall. It offered few details but said the injured person was being treated.

Visitors are allowed to drive their own vehicles around the park, but are forbidden from getting out while in certain enclosures, the report said. A woman who answered the phone at the park refused to comment on the attack, saying only that the park was closed for two days due to forecasts of heavy rain.—AP

FIRST HOME DELIVERY OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA MADE IN FLORIDA

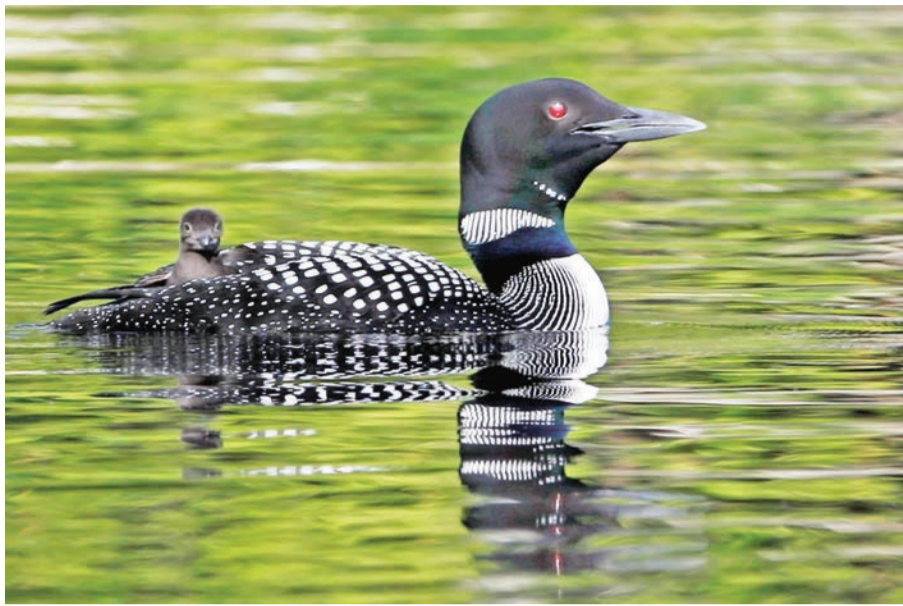
TALLAHASSEE, Florida: The first organization authorized to dispense medical marijuana in Florida has made its first home delivery. Kim Rivers, CEO of Trulieve, said Saturday that the company has delivered low-THC medical cannabis to a patient in Hudson, Florida, who is suffering from dystonia, a condition characterized by chronic muscle spasms and seizures. Hudson is in Pasco County, near Tampa.

Trulieve and Hackney Nursery, which is the dispensing organization for Northwest Florida, received processing and dispensing authorization from the state Department of Health on Tuesday. Trulieve plans to begin in-store sales at a dispensary in Tallahassee on Tuesday. Patients suffering from cancer, epilepsy, chronic seizures and chronic muscle spasms can order medical marijuana by contacting their physician, as long as both are listed in a state registry. Department of Health spokeswoman Mara Gambineri said only 15 doctors are currently in the state's registry.

The legislature gave limited approval to medical marijuana in 2014 with many expecting it to be available early in 2015. The process, though, got bogged down by legal challenges and administrative delays. Christian Bax, director of the Office of Compassionate Use, told the Florida Senate's Regulated Industries subcommittee during a hearing that he expected medical marijuana to be available in September. Some of the distributing organizations were optimistic that they could have it ready by mid-summer.

Dispensing organizations can do home delivery throughout the state. Six approved organizations have received cultivation authorization but Trulieve is the only one that has received dispensing authorization. According to an Office of Compassionate Use webinar held last month, dispensaries are expected to be in 18 cities by the time all organizations are up and running.

Trulieve will have medical marijuana initially available in a concentrated oil, tinctures, gel capsules and vape cartridges. By law, the marijuana must be low in tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which produces the euphoric state for users, but is high in cannabidiol (CBD) which has been effective in preventing seizures. In March, the legislature approved an extension of the Right to Try law, allowing patients with terminal conditions to receive high-THC cannabis. Rivers said Trulieve expects to have that available next month.—AP



MAINE: In this file photo, a loon with a chick on its back makes its way across Pierce Pond near North New Portland, Maine. — AP

CONSERVATIONISTS HOPE TO BRING BELOVED BIRD BACK

WINDHAM, Maine: The common loon's haunting wail that pierced the dusk on Massachusetts lakes disappeared long ago. Today, the birds number fewer than 50 pairs in the Bay State and conservationists are hoping to rebuild their population, starting with a handful of chicks from Maine and New York. The Restore the Call program at the Biodiversity Research Institute in Portland plans to move 10 chicks to an area south of Boston this summer. David Evers, the institute's executive director, says restoring an animal population starts out small but he is optimistic.

Loons once lived throughout Massachusetts. Hunting and habitat loss contributed to their decline and they were wiped out by 1898, the last eggs plucked near a lake south of Boston. They began returning in the 1970s, but the state still only has 45 breeding pairs. "All we need to do is establish one pair," Evers said. "Once that one pair is established and once that pair produces young, and those young come back, and they start to establish territories, then you've got some brooding that can start from that little seed."

However, common loons can be slow to recover because they don't breed until they are several years old. "Loons depend on high quality habitat without certain types of disturbance," said Danielle D'Auria, a wildlife biologist with Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The bird's range has shrunk throughout the U.S. It has disappeared in Oregon and southern Michigan and parts of Idaho, Montana and Washington. It is a threatened species in New Hampshire, where last year biologists for the Loon Preservation

Committee recorded 234 loon chicks hatched and 26 percent of them did not survive.

In all, researchers count about 14,000 loon pairs in the country. And while their population remains strong in Canada, where they are a national symbol, the birds face threats of mercury and lead pollution there as they do in the United States. Maine Audubon, which is helping with the relocation project, says Maine has at least 2,000 pairs of loons and New York has about 1,000. The Institute has undertaken similar projects in Minnesota and plans to add Wyoming to the program next year.

A \$6.5 million grant from the Ricketts Conservation Foundation funds the loon relocation efforts. The Institute also relocated seven chicks from New York's Adirondack area to Massachusetts last year. Most of the few dozen loons in Massachusetts live near the Quabbin and Wachusett reservoirs in the central part of the state. The chicks will be relocated to an area near where the last eggs were believed taken before the birds disappeared from the state.

Maine has the largest common loon population in the eastern US and the birds are loved in the state. Bird enthusiasts participate in Maine Audubon's "loon count" every year. Susan Gallo, wildlife biologist for Maine Audubon, said the group is working with the birders, some of whom haven't embraced the idea of Maine loons moving out of state. "Loons are near and dear to people's hearts in Maine," she said. "Anything we can do to get the loons to nest in new places, I think, is a benefit to loons." —AP

THREE TROPICAL STORMS BUILDING IN PACIFIC: NHC

WASHINGTON: A tropical storm over the Pacific is expected to hit parts of Hawaii as two more storms build toward hurricanes elsewhere in the Pacific, weather watchers in the United States said Friday.

Tropical Storm Darby was located some 450 miles southeast of Honolulu on Friday night, moving west around 12 miles per hour with maximum sustained winds of 60 miles per hour, the Honolulu-based Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) said. The agency has issued a tropical storm warning for Hawaii County and Maui County, which includes the islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Kahoolawe.

Forecasters warn the storm could bring winds around 60 miles per hour, flooding rains and 15 to 25 foot surf to shore late Friday or early Saturday. Further east, tropical Storm Frank is moving northwest off the Pacific coast of

Mexico with maximum sustained winds of 45 miles per hour, the Miami-based National Hurricane Center (NHC) said. The storm was located more than 260 miles southwest of Manzanillo, Mexico, on Friday, the agency said. It is forecast to strengthen, possibly turning into a hurricane over the weekend.

Although Frank is not expected to make landfall, it could bring higher waves to the Mexican coast, the NHC said. Another tropical storm, Georgette, which also formed over the east Pacific, was located nearly 900 miles southwest of the southern tip of Baja California with maximum sustained winds of 55 miles per hour on Friday evening, the NHC said. That storm is also expected to strengthen over the weekend, possibly reaching hurricane strength overnight or Saturday. However, it remains no threat to the US mainland or Mexico, the agency said. —AFP

GHOST ORCHID SCIENTISTS AIM TO RESTORE RARE FLORIDA FLOWERS

'ORCHIDS ARE THE FIRST LINE INDICATORS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE'

IMMOKALEE, US: Armed with an orange staple gun and dozens of burlap squares entwined with ratty green roots, Mike Kane wades hip-deep into the swamp to restore what generations of thieves have stolen. The ghost orchid. Once abundant in the Florida Everglades, experts say fewer than 2,000 ghost orchids (*Dendrophylax lindenii*) are left in the state, where it is considered an endangered plant. Cuba has some too, but just how many is unknown.

Poaching, urbanization and pesticide pollution—which cuts down on insect pollinators—are among the ghost orchid's top threats, according to Kane, a professor of environmental horticulture at the University of Florida. "We are losing these," said Kane, who is leading the first project of its kind to repopulate the swamps with these orchids. He and his graduate students grow ghost orchids from genetically diverse seeds in their northern Florida lab.

After the plants have grown for a few years, they take them to a secluded location deep inside the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge in the southern part of the state. This tranquil spot, known as McBride's Pond, lies under a shady canopy of pop ash, pond apple and cypress trees. "The public cannot come in and poach and they cannot disrupt our experiments," said Jameson Coopman, a graduate student in Kane's lab.

The two men take turns stapling the burlap onto the roots—onto the tree trunks, as an alligator quietly sniffs itself nearby and swallowtail butterflies swoop overhead. The burlap will decompose, but the orchid's spider-like roots will hug the bark and hopefully, make the tree its new home. "We give it a quick mist when we are done," said Coopman. "We don't help the plant any further and it does the rest." This year, they planted 160.

Last year, it was 80. Kane recalled high-fiving in the swamp with his then graduate student, Nguyen Hoang of Vietnam, when they returned a few weeks after planting and discovered that most had survived. "They were doing so well. It was incredible. We were really surprised." Kane's lab has also seen some unusual success with botanists managing to coax ghost orchids to bloom in the space of three years. In the wild, they can take 16 years or more, if they ever flower at all.

Target for thieves

The ghost orchid, often targeted by poachers, rose to pop culture fame with the book, "The Orchid Thief," and its movie version, "Adaptation," starring Nicolas Cage and Meryl Streep. Orchid enthusiasts are romanced by the leafless flower's erotic appearance, it's pure white hue, and the way it dances in the wind. The bloom emerges just once a year, usually for a week or so in June or July. It has one known pollinator, the giant sphinx moth.

The ghost orchid is tough to grow and even tougher to keep alive, especially when ripped from its natural environment. "The reason they are almost extinct is that years ago, people took them out of the forest, they took them down from the trees and sent them around to other parts of the country to grow as houseplants," said Carl Lewis, director of the Fairchild Tropical Botanical Garden in Miami. Lewis is leading another restoration effort known as the Million Orchid Project. The five-year plan aims to re-establish eight different kinds of rare orchids, including the ghost orchid, throughout urban spaces in south Florida.

"There were so many of them taken away that now we have hardly any of them left," said Lewis, who is cloning ghost orchids in his lab. "Imagine if we could get these orchids growing in the tree canopy above a busy, functioning city," he added. "Our goal is to get so many out in the community that people will just appreciate them, and anyone interested in stealing them



FLORIDA: Once abundant in the Florida Everglades, experts say fewer than 2,000 ghost orchids (*Dendrophylax lindenii*) are left in the state, where it is considered an endangered plant. —AFP

will have so many orchids around that there will be no point."

Future threats

Elsewhere in the Florida Everglades, biologist Mike Owen keeps close tabs on 120 of the 380 ghost orchids that have been observed in the Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park. He says he likes them because they are the "underdogs" of the flower world, like Cinderella, whose time at the ball was so fleeting, or the bug-eyed American comedian Rodney Dangerfield, who was popular in the 1980s. "It just gets no respect," Owen said with a grin, echoing Dangerfield's signature punch line.

"But then for about 10 days, it steals the show." In the past 15 years, Owen has noticed nine were stolen. Add that to another two dozen or so that died of apparently natural causes, and he sees trouble ahead for this fragile flower. "If you take a ghost orchid out of its native habitat, it will die," said Owen. "And people know this. But

somebody must be offering some money for a ghost orchid flower." Owen and his colleagues are compiling a list of all the known ghost orchids in the region. Perhaps one day, this data will support a petition to get federal endangered species protection for the ghost orchid, he said. "Then, the laws are a lot tighter. The fines are a lot larger too." Owen is also concerned about an Asian pest known as the emerald ash borer which is spreading in the United States, and might someday make it to south Florida.

"It kills all the ash trees," including the type that ghost orchids prefer as their hosts, known as pop ash, said Owen. "If we lose the pop ash, we are going to lose about 80 percent of our ghost orchids." Scientists who seek to preserve this rare orchid say it's about more than just a flower. "Orchids are the first line indicators of environmental change," said Kane. "Understanding how they grow, how to reintroduce them, is a very important foundation for conservation." —AFP

YOUNG HUNTERS IN NEW YORK GET THE OPTION OF FLUORESCENT PINK

ALBANY, New York: New York has authorized fluorescent pink as alternate protective coloring for young hunters in an appeal to girls who'd rather not wear blaze orange. Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed the law this week making solid or patterned pink optional for the typical fluorescent orange worn by hunters. The bright colors help them avoid being mistaken for game and shot. Either color is required in New York for licensed deer or bear hunters who are 14 or 15 years old and their accompanying adults.

Until now, at least half their garments above the waist had to be fluorescent orange and visible from all directions, amounting to at least 250 square inches. According to legislative sponsors, they're trying to reverse the statewide decline in hunting and fishing and trying to encourage the small but growing segment of female hunters. They cited a University of Wisconsin study indicating the human eye picks up fluorescent or blaze pink even more distinctly than orange.

"I hope it does encourage the younger generation to get away from their cellphone

and Pokemon Go," said John Havlick, owner of Frank's Gun and Tackle in Gloversville, near the southern edge of New York's Adirondack Mountains.

Lowering the age where children can go hunting with an adult, like several other states, would probably do more to reverse the decline, he said. Havlick also questioned whether pink gear will become popular with women who wear orange to hunt. "They just want to blend in with everyone else," he said.

New York doesn't require the bright colors for its adult hunters, though the Department of Environmental Conservation said that more than 80 percent of the state's big game hunters, as well as two-thirds of its small game hunters, wear the orange. They are seven times less likely to be shot, the agency said. Wisconsin approved the pink option for its required hunting wear earlier this year. Colorado followed. Deer don't see color the same way that humans do. According to wildlife officials, deer lack red-sensitive cone cells in their eyes and can't tell red or orange from green and brown. —AP

CLINIC PAGE

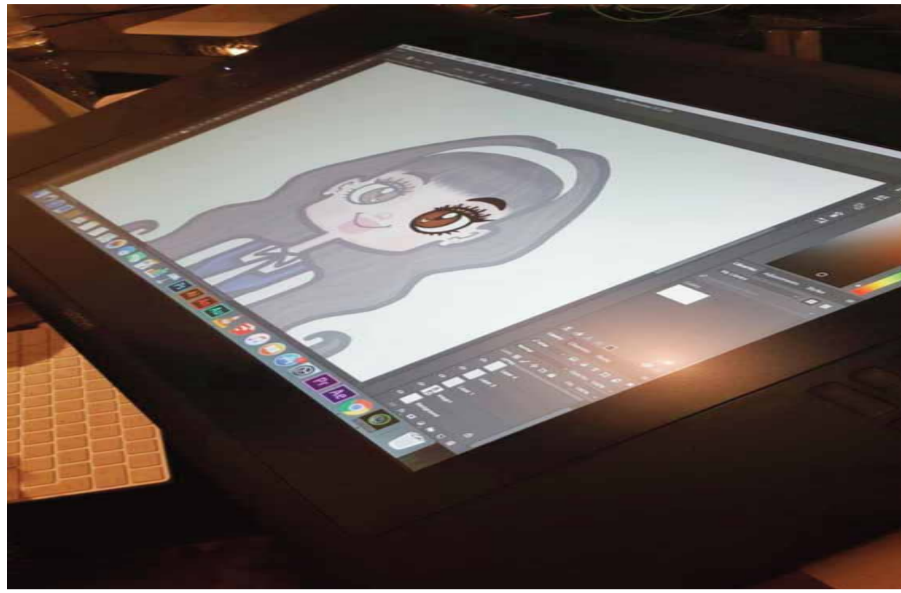


Kuwait Times
248 33 199

Dr. Fahad Al-Mukhaizeem
وفهد 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



Sheikha Fadiya Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah

SHUYOUKHA SUMMER CLUB WAS OPENED YESTERDAY AT THE PREMISES OF IBTIKA INITIATIVE CENTER IN ZAHRA AREA

btikar Initiative which is part of Al-Saad foundation enables women through investing today's women, chairperson Sheikha Fadiya Al-Saad said the initiative is an implementation of HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah speech in which he urged state institutions to care for youth. Shuyoukha club aims at preoccupying girls spare time aged 5 to 14 years.



SUMMER PROMOTIONAL OFFERS WITH KUWAIT CONTINENTAL HOTELS

A hot and great promotional offers this summer with Kuwait Continental Hotels Group. The General Manager of the Hotels Group, Kamal Hussein announced the summer offers which include complimentary breakfast and dinner buffets with free facilities such as free transfer from / to airport, shuttle services to and from shopping centers, internet and business center facilities, Hookah, pool and health clubs.

The Hotel has tied up with Aqua Park

and Future Kids for free tickets for its guests. Hotel also offers free use of Meeting Room & Health Club for the guests during their stay at hotel. The Hotel has also made arrangements with many Famous Companies such as Jovial Watch co., Ajmal Perfumes , Al-Mulla Renting Car Co, Qortuba Furniture, Al Hazeem Co, Al Misk international Mill & roaster , Lamode International ladies Saloon and Continental Men Saloon for fabulous discounts and special offers to its guests.



CENTREPOINT AND HOME CENTRE HOSTS ACTIVITY DAY AT THE AVENUES

Landmark Group, the region's leading retail and hospitality conglomerate, organized fun filled activities day for its valued customers at its Centrepoint and Home Centre store at The Avenues. This event comes as part of the store's third anniversary celebrations. To mark the celebration, there were Kids activities as well as freebies which were distributed.

Attendees were treated to a cake cutting and had an opportunity to avail of a 20% off on everything at Homecentre. Speaking at the event Saibal Basu, Chief Operating Officer, Landmark Group Kuwait said: "We are very happy to celebrate the store's third anniversary with our patrons and valued

customers. Centrepoint and Home Centre are among the fastest growing brands in our growing portfolio of the retail brands we are able to offer our customers.

Over the years we have grown considerably and our flagship stores are seen as a one-stop shopping destination for the entire family. We combine quality and style to appeal to a broad customer base. Customers shopping at entropoint and Home Centre find something that fits their personal style and their budget." A leader in the Middle East retail industry, the Landmark Group has successfully established itself as a forerunner in providing high value for money to customers.



For labor-related inquiries and complaints:
Call MSAL hotline 128

Hospitals

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Sabah Hospital | 24812000 |
| Amiri Hospital | 22450005 |
| Maternity Hospital | 24843100 |
| Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital | 25312700 |
| Chest Hospital | 24849400 |
| Farwaniya Hospital | 24892010 |
| Adan Hospital | 23940620 |
| Ibn Sina Hospital | 24840300 |
| Al-Razi Hospital | 24846000 |
| Physiotherapy Hospital | 24874330/9 |

Clinics

| | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Kaizen center | 25716707 |
| Rawda | 22517733 |
| Adaliya | 22517144 |
| Khaldiya | 24848075 |
| Kaifan | 24849807 |
| Shamiya | 24848913 |
| Shuwaikh | 24814507 |
| Abdullah Salem | 22549134 |
| Nuzha | 22526804 |
| Industrial Shuwaikh | 24814764 |
| Qadsiya | 22515088 |
| Dasmah | 22532265 |
| Bneid Al-Gar | 22531908 |
| Shaab | 22518752 |
| Qibla | 22459381 |
| Ayoun Al-Qibla | 22451082 |
| Mirqab | 22456536 |
| Sharq | 22465401 |
| Salmiya | 25746401 |
| Jabriya | 25316254 |
| Maidan Hawally | 25623444 |
| Bayan | 25388462 |
| Mishref | 25381200 |
| W Hawally | 22630786 |
| Sabah | 24810221 |
| Jahra | 24770319 |
| New Jahra | 24575755 |
| West Jahra | 24772608 |
| South Jahra | 24775066 |
| North Jahra | 24775992 |
| North Jleeb | 24311795 |
| Ardhiya | 24884079 |
| Firdous | 24892674 |
| Omariya | 24719048 |
| N Khaitan | 24710044 |
| Fintas | 23900322 |



PHARMACIES ON 24 HRS DUTY

| GOVERNORATE | PHARMACY | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|-------------|---|--|--|
| Ahmadi | Sama Safwan Abu Halaifa Danat Al-Sultan | Fahaeel Makka St Abu Halaifa-Coastal Rd Mahboula Block 1, Coastal Rd | 23915883 23715414 23726558 |
| Jahra | Modern Jahra Madina Munawara | Jahra-Block 3 Lot 1 Jahra-Block 92 | 24575518 24566622 |
| Capital | Ahlam Khaldiya Coop | Fahad Al-Salem St Khaldiya Coop | 22436184 24833967 |
| Farwaniya | New Shifa Ferdous Coop Modern Safwan | Farwaniya Block 40 Ferdous Coop Old Kheitan Block 11 | 24734000 24881201 24726638 |
| Hawally | Tariq Hana 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



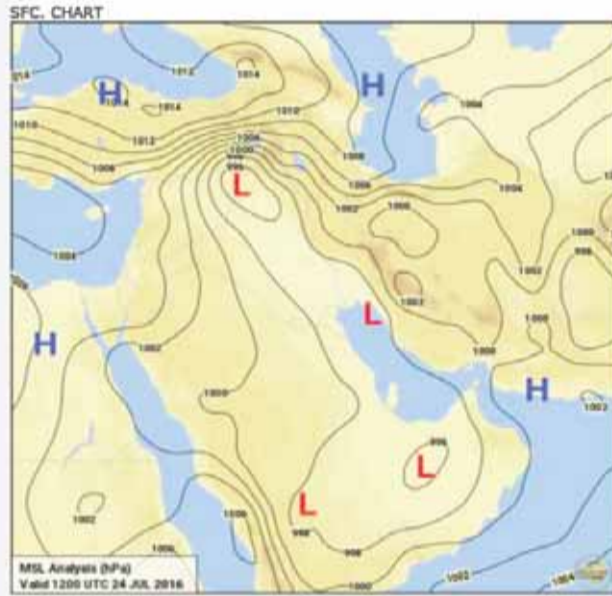
Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 24/07/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 32 °C

By Night : Relatively hot and relatively humid specially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly changing to south westerly wind, with speed of 06 - 26 km/h

By Day : Hot and relatively humid over coastal areas with light to moderate north westerly changing to south easterly wind, with speed of 12 - 35 km/h and some high clouds will appear



Four-Day Forecast

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|---|
| Expected Weather | hot Rel. humid + high clouds | hot and humid + scattered clouds | very hot | very hot |
| Min Temp °C | 32 | 31 | 33 | 33 |
| Max Temp °C | 45 | 46 | 49 | 48 |
| Wind Direction | north westerly changing to south easterly | variable wind changing to light to moderate north westerly | north westerly to light variable | north westerly changing to south easterly |
| Wind Speed km/h | 12 - 35 | 06 - 28 | 08 - 30 | 08 - 30 |

All times are local time (GMT+3) unless otherwise stated

Warnings & Weather Watches

no warnings or weather watches

Kuwait Forecast

| Station | MIN °C | EXP | Max °C |
|----------------|--------|-----|--------|
| KUWAIT CITY | 34 | | 47 |
| KUWAIT AIRPORT | 32 | | 46 |
| ABDOLY | 33 | | 47 |
| BUBYAN | 32 | | 43 |
| JAHRA | 34 | | 48 |
| FAILAKA ISLAND | 34 | | 44 |
| SALMIYAH | 35 | | 41 |
| AHMADI | 33 | | 41 |
| JAL ALIYAH | 31 | | 46 |
| QAROH ISLAND | 33 | | 37 |
| UMH AL-MARADEM | 33 | | 39 |
| NUWAISSIB | 32 | | 45 |
| WAFRA | 31 | | 46 |
| MANAGISH | 32 | | 45 |
| SALMY | 31 | | 44 |
| MUTRIBA | 30 | | 48 |

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Max Temp (°C) | 47 |
| Min Temp (°C) | 37 |
| Max Rel Hum (%) | 23 |
| Min Rel Hum (%) | 07 |
| Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction | 68 N |
| TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR | 0 mm |

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Sunrise | 05:04 |
| Sunset | 18:45 |

Prayer Times

| | |
|---------|-------|
| Fajr | 03:33 |
| Sunrise | 05:04 |
| Zuhr | 11:54 |
| Asr | 15:30 |
| Sunset | 18:45 |
| Isha | 20:13 |



PRIVATE CLINICS

| Ophthalmologists | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Dr. Abdallah Al-Mansoor | 25622444 |
| Dr. Samy Al-Rabea | 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 | |
| Dr Adrian arbe | 23729596/23729581 |
| Dr. Verginia s. Marin | 2572-6666 ext 8321 |
| Dr. Fozeya Ali Al-Qatan | 22655539 |
| Dr. Majeda Khalefa Aliyami | 25343406 |
| Dr. Ahmad Al-Khooly | 25739272 |
| Dr. Salem soso | 22618787 |
| 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 Gupare | 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. Foad 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 |

- 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

- 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 Out Of Egypt
- 19:30 Ways To Save The Planet
- 20:20 Mermaids: The New Evidence
- 21:10 Untamed & Uncut
- 22:00 What Happened Next?
- 22:50 What Happened Next?
- 23:15 Untamed & Uncut
- 23:40 Untamed & Uncut
- 00:30 Ultimate Survival
- 01:20 Ultimate Survival

- 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 The Lion Guard
- 19:00 PJ Masks
- 19:30 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 20:00 Doc McStuffins
- 20:30 Sofia The First
- 21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
- 21:30 PJ Masks
- 22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
- 22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
- 22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
- 22:50 Zou
- 23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
- 23:20 Calimero
- 23:35 Zou
- 23:50 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

- 19:00 Patricia Heaton Parties
 - 20:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
 - 21:00 Chopped South Africa
 - 22:00 Man v Food
 - 23:00 Mystery Diners
 - 00:00 Cutthroat Kitchen
 - 01:00 Chopped South Africa
 - 02:00 Man v Food
- itv HD 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

- 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

- ID INVESTIGATION DISCOVERY**
- 03:00 Scamed: 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 Id Kill For You
 - 15:20 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
 - 21:10 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

- nickelodeon HD**
- 03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 - 03:48 Henry Danger
 - 04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
 - 04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
 - 05:00 Max & Shred
 - 05:24 Henry Danger
 - 05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
 - 06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
 - 07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 - 07:48 Winx Club
 - 08:12 The Loud House
 - 08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
 - 09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 - 09:24 Harvey Beaks
 - 09:48 Henry Danger
 - 10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
 - 10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
 - 11:00 Winx Club
 - 11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
 - 11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
 - 12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 - 13:00 Breadwinners
 - 13:24 The Loud House
 - 13:48 Get Blake
 - 14:12 Rabbids Invasion
 - 14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
 - 15:00 Game Shakers
 - 15:24 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
 - 20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
 - 21:00 Kickin' It
 - 21:24 Breadwinners
 - 22:12 Sanjay And Craig
 - 23:00 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
 - 02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants

- 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
 - 12:30 Backstage
 - 14:25 Austin & Ally
 - 14:50 Austin & Ally
 - 15:15 Descendants: Wicked World
 - 15:40 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 XD**
- 06:00 Boyster
 - 06:10 Super Matrak
 - 07:00 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 Mighty Med
 - 15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
 - 15:15 Mighty Med
 - 15:40 The 7D
 - 16:05 Lab Rats
 - 16:30 Pickle And Peanut
 - 15:15 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
 - 20:55 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
 - 23:00 KSA

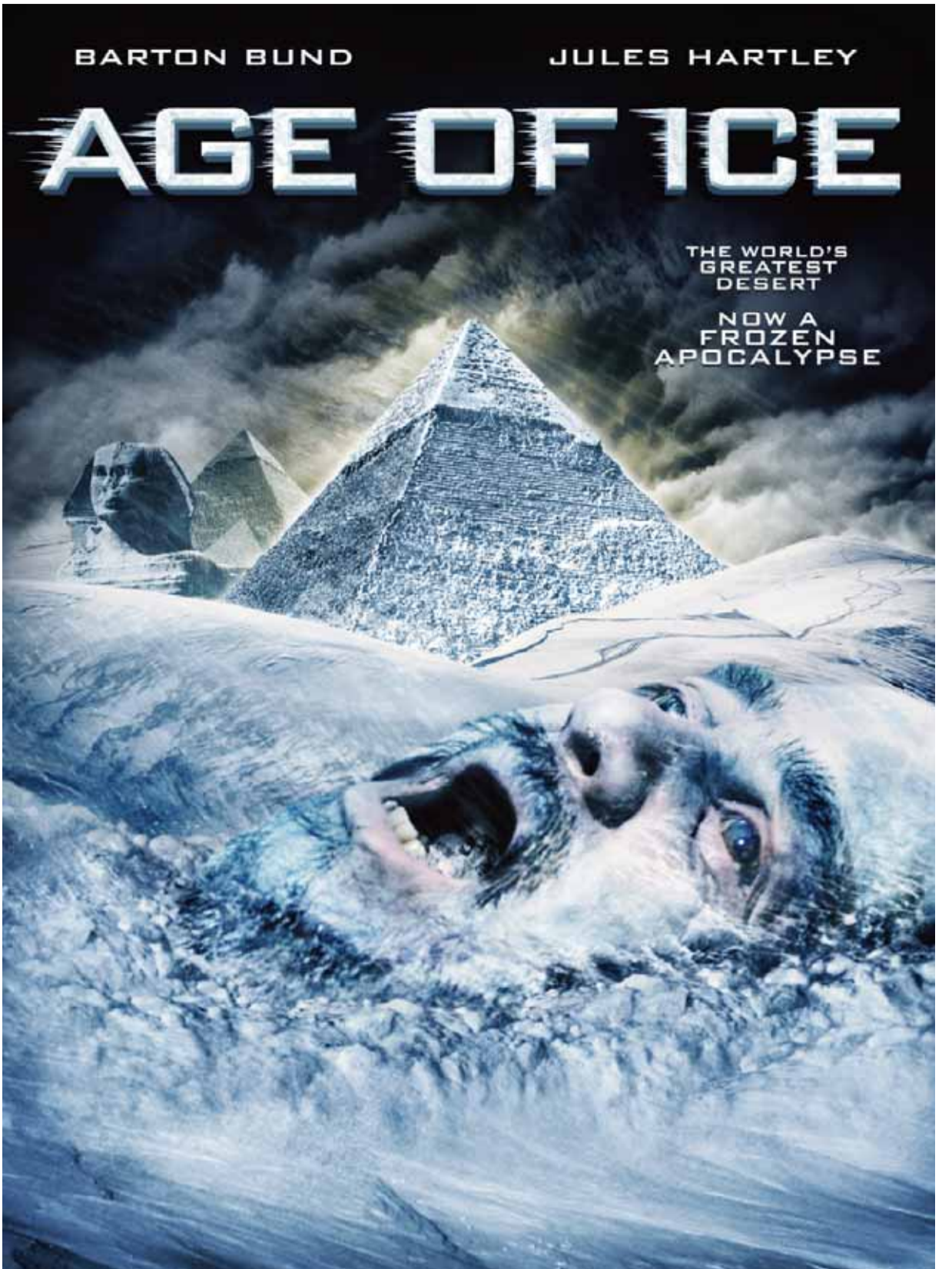
- Discovery Channel**
- 03:15 Impossible Engineering
 - 04:05 Impossible Engineering
 - 05:00 Impossible Engineering
 - 06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
 - 06:50 Cuban Chrome
 - 07:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
 - 08:30 Extreme Collectors
 - 08:55 Auction Hunters
 - 09:20 Dallas Car Sharks
 - 09:45 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

- OSN FIRST HD COMEDY**
- 03:00 Living With Fran
 - 03:30 Mad Love
 - 04:00 The Goldbergs
 - 04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 - 05:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
 - 06:00 George Lopez
 - 06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
 - 07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 - 08:00 The Goldbergs
 - 08:30 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
 - 09:00 Living With Fran
 - 09:30 The Last Man On Earth
 - 10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 - 10:30 The Bernie Mac Show
 - 11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
 - 12:00 George Lopez
 - 12:30 The Goldbergs
 - 13:00 I Hate My Teenage Daughter
 - 13:30 The Bernie Mac Show
 - 14:00 Mad Love
 - 14:30 The Last Man On Earth
 - 15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
 - 15:30 Dr. Ken
 - 16:00 Last Man Standing
 - 16:30 George Lopez
 - 17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
 - 18:00 Living With Fran
 - 18:30 Mad Love
 - 19:00 The Last Man On Earth
 - 19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine

- OSN FIRST HD MORE**
- 03:00 American Crime Story: The People vs O.J. Simpson
 - 04:00 Strip Search
 - 05:30 Everyday People
 - 07:00 Phil Spector
 - 08:30 Herblock: The Black & The White
 - 10:15 A Child's Garden Of Poetry
 - 11:00 Into The Storm
 - 13:00 The University Of Sing Sing
 - 14:00 A Bright Shining Lie
 - 16:00 In Vogue: The Editor's Eye
 - 17:00 Into The Storm
 - 19:00 The Wire
 - 20:00 Band Of Brothers
 - 21:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
 - 21:30 Ballers
 - 22:00 The Night Of
 - 23:00 Vice Principals
 - 23:30 How To Make It In America
 - 00:00 The Wire
 - 01:00 Band Of Brothers
 - 02:00 Last Week Tonight With John Oliver
 - 02:30 Ballers

- 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



- AGE OF ICE ON OSN MOVIES ACTION HD**
- 20:00 Comedians
 - 20:30 Dr. Ken
 - 21:00 Dr. Ken
 - 21:30 Last Man Standing
 - 22:00 Ballers
 - 22:30 Man Seeking Woman
 - 23:00 Web Therapy
 - 23:30 Comedians
 - 00:00 Comedians
 - 00:30 Dr. Ken
 - 01:00 Last Man Standing
 - 01:30 Ballers
 - 02:00 Man Seeking Woman
 - 02:30 Web Therapy
 - 04:00 Bones
 - 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 Code Black
 - 10:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
 - 11:00 Devious Maids
 - 12:00 The Blacklist
 - 13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 - 14:00 Live Good Morning America
 - 16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
 - 17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
 - 18:00 The Blacklist
 - 19:00 Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders
 - 20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
 - 21:00 Stitchers
 - 22:00 Code Black
 - 23:00 Better Call Saul
 - 00:00 Devious Maids
 - 01:00 Stitchers
 - 02:00 Code Black
 - 04:00 Biker Boyz
 - 05:00 Need For Speed
 - 08:15 Wrath
 - 10:15 The Package
 - 12:15 Reclaim
 - 14:15 Need For Speed
 - 16:45 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies
 - 19:45 Sabotage
 - 22:00 As Above, So Below
 - 00:00 The Siege Of Firebase Gloria
 - 02:00 Age Of Ice
 - 04:30 Egon And Donci
 - 06:00 Miffy The Movie
 - 07:45 Blue Elephant 2
 - 09:45 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
 - 11:15 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
 - 12:45 Beethoven's Treasure Tail
 - 14:30 Goat Story 2
 - 16:00 Worms
 - 18:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
 - 20:00 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
 - 22:00 Goat Story 2
 - 23:30 Worms
 - 01:00 Blue Elephant 2
 - 02:45 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
 - 04:15 Edge Of Outside
 - 05:20 Swedish Auto
 - 07:00 Big Star: Nothing Can Hurt Me
 - 08:55 ATP: All Tomorrow's Parties
 - 10:20 Quiet City
 - 11:40 Marvin's Room
 - 13:40 Marvin's Room
 - 15:40 The Listing Agent
 - 16:00 Cathedrals Of Culture
 - 16:30 Hollywood's Best Film Directors
 - 17:00 Big Star: Nothing Can Hurt Me
 - 19:00 Quiet City
 - 20:20 Marvin's Room
 - 22:00 Banksy Does New York
 - 23:20 Freddie Mercury: The Great Pretender
 - 00:45 Queen: Days Of Our Lives
 - 02:45 LOL
 - 03:15 Your Style In His Hands
 - 04:00 Designer Darlings
 - 04:45 Little People, Big World
 - 05:10 Little People, Big World
 - 05:35 Cake Boss
 - 06:00 Say Yes To The Dress
 - 06:25 The Face UK
 - 07:15 Toddlers & Tiaras
 - 08:05 My Giant Life
 - 08:55 Little People, Big World: Wedding Farm
 - 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 Designer Darlings
 - 12:40 The Face UK
 - 13:30 Say Yes To The Dress, Ai Bridesmaids
 - 13:55 Say Yes To The Dress, Ai Bridesmaids
 - 14:20 Kate Plus 8
 - 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 Ultimate Shopper
 - 19:20 Mormon Half Love
 - 20:10 The Face Australia
 - 21:00 Are You Fitter Than A Pensioner?
 - 21:50 Nida'a
 - 22:40 Breaking Amish
 - 23:30 Extreme Couponing
 - 23:55 Are You Fitter Than A Pensioner?
 - 00:45 Nida'a
 - 01:35 Breaking Amish
 - 02:25 Jon & Kate Plus 8

- OSN MOVIES HD ACTION**
- 04:00 Biker Boyz
 - 05:00 Need For Speed
 - 08:15 Wrath
 - 10:15 The Package
 - 12:15 Reclaim
 - 14:15 Need For Speed
 - 16:45 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies
 - 19:45 Sabotage
 - 22:00 As Above, So Below
 - 00:00 The Siege Of Firebase Gloria
 - 02:00 Age Of Ice
- OSN MOVIES HD KIDS**
- 04:30 Egon And Donci
 - 06:00 Miffy The Movie
 - 07:45 Blue Elephant 2
 - 09:45 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
 - 11:15 Asterix: The Mansions Of The Gods
 - 12:45 Beethoven's Treasure Tail
 - 14:30 Goat Story 2
 - 16:00 Worms
 - 18:00 Jungle Book: Mowgli's Adventure
 - 20:00 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
 - 22:00 Goat Story 2
 - 23:30 Worms
 - 01:00 Blue Elephant 2
 - 02:45 Virus Attack The First Antivirus
- OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY**
- 04:00 Bottle Rocket
 - 06:00 Julie And Julia
 - 08:00 Hope Springs
 - 10:00 Bottle Rocket
 - 12:00 Blended
 - 14:00 Bubble Boy
 - 16:00 Hope Springs
 - 18:00 Spy Hard
 - 20:00 Idiocracy
 - 22:00 Freaks Of Nature
 - 00:00 All The Wrong Reasons
 - 02:00 Idiocracy

- OSN MOVIES HD DRAMA**
- 03:00 As Cool As I Am
 - 05:00 1911
 - 07:00 Rosewood Lane
 - 09:00 Streetdance: All Stars
 - 11:00 1911
 - 13:00 The Fold
 - 15:00 Viktor
 - 17:00 Streetdance: All Stars
 - 19:00 The Silent Storm
 - 21:00 Don't Wake Mommy
 - 23:00 Good Kill
 - 01:00 Streetdance: All Stars
- OSN MOVIES HD FAMILY**
- 03:45 Camp Nowhere
 - 05:30 The Shaggy Dog
 - 07:15 Aladdin
 - 09:00 Ratatouille
 - 11:00 Turner & Hooch
 - 13:00 Blank Check
 - 15:00 The Incredibles
 - 17:00 Big Hero 6
 - 19:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
 - 21:30 Freaky Friday
 - 23:15 Big Hero 6
 - 01:15 Pirates Of The Caribbean 2: Dead Man's Chest
- OSN MOVIES HD FESTIVAL**
- 03:00 Decoding Annie Parker
 - 05:00 Roger Waters The Wall
 - 07:30 Philomena



500 MPH STORM ON OSN MOVIES PREMIERE HD

- OSN MOVIES HD PREMIERE**
- 04:00 Don't Look Back
 - 06:00 Life Of A King
 - 08:00 Love, Rosie
 - 10:00 To Write Love On Her Arms
 - 12:00 500 mph Storm
 - 14:00 Paranoia
 - 16:00 Love, Rosie
 - 18:00 The Prince
 - 20:00 Jurassic World
 - 22:15 Everly
 - 00:00 Babysitter's Black Book
 - 02:00 To Write Love On Her Arms
 - 04:15 Deep Rising
 - 06:00 Starship Troopers
 - 08:15 Under The Tuscan Sun
 - 10:00 Frozen
 - 11:45 Simon Birch
 - 13:45 Henry's Crime
 - 15:30 Instinct
 - 17:30 The Hurricane
 - 20:00 Planes
 - 21:30 Greenberg
 - 23:15 Dark Water
 - 01:00 Ballistica
 - 02:45 Greenberg
 - 03:00 The Bridge
 - 04:00 House Of DVF
 - 05:00 Mom vs. Matchmaker
 - 05:30 Mom vs. Matchmaker
 - 06:00 The Simpsons
 - 06:30 The Simpsons
 - 07:00 Bones
 - 08:00 American Idol
 - 09:00 American Idol
 - 10:00 Da Vinci's Demons

CLASSIFIEDS



KNCC PROGRAMME FROM THURSDAY TO WEDNESDAY (21/07/2016 TO 27/07/2016)

| Movie | Time | Movie | Time |
|--|----------|---|----------|
| SHARQIA-1 | | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D | 3:15 PM |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 11:30 AM | STAR TREK BEYOND -3D | 5:30 PM |
| TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS | 1:45 PM | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D | 8:00 PM |
| STAR TREK BEYOND | 4:00 PM | STAR TREK BEYOND -3D | 10:15 PM |
| THE CONJURING 2 | 6:45 PM | STAR TREK BEYOND | 12:45 AM |
| THE CONJURING 2 | 9:30 PM | | |
| CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE | 12:15 AM | | |
| SHARQIA-2 | | FANAR-3 | |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D | 12:30 PM | SULTAN- HINDI | 12:45 PM |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 2:45 PM | FINDING DORY | 1:45 PM |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D | 5:00 PM | FINDING DORY | 4:00 PM |
| STAR TREK BEYOND -3D | 7:15 PM | FINDING DORY | 6:15 PM |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 9:45 PM | KABALI - Tamil | 8:30 PM |
| STAR TREK BEYOND | 12:05 AM | SULTAN- HINDI | 8:30 PM |
| | | SULTAN- HINDI | 11:45 PM |
| SHARQIA-3 | | MARINA-1 | |
| THE CONJURING 2 | 12:30 PM | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 1:00 PM |
| FINDING DORY | 3:15 PM | FINDING DORY | 3:15 PM |
| FINDING DORY | 5:30 PM | FINDING DORY | 5:30 PM |
| ABU SHANAB | 7:45 PM | STAR TREK BEYOND | 7:45 PM |
| ABU SHANAB | 10:00 PM | STAR TREK BEYOND | 10:15 PM |
| THE CONJURING 2 | 12:15 AM | STAR TREK BEYOND | 12:45 AM |
| MUHALAB-1 | | MARINA-2 | |
| SULTAN- HINDI | 12:30 PM | FINDING DORY | 11:45 AM |
| TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS | 3:45 PM | THE CONJURING 2 | 2:00 PM |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 6:00 PM | THE CONJURING 2 | 4:45 PM |
| ABU SHANAB | 8:15 PM | ABU SHANAB | 7:30 PM |
| ABU SHANAB | 10:30 PM | THE CONJURING 2 | 9:45 PM |
| CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE | 12:45 AM | THE CONJURING 2 | 12:30 AM |
| MUHALAB-2 | | MARINA-3 | |
| THE CONJURING 2 | 11:45 AM | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 12:00 PM |
| FINDING DORY | 2:30 PM | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 2:15 PM |
| FINDING DORY | 4:45 PM | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 4:30 PM |
| THE CONJURING 2 | 7:00 PM | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 7:00 PM |
| THE CONJURING 2 | 9:45 PM | NOW YOU SEE ME 2 | 9:15 PM |
| THE CONJURING 2 | 12:30 AM | CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE | 12:05 AM |
| MUHALAB-3 | | AVENUES-1 | |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 12:00 PM | SULTAN- HINDI | 11:45 AM |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D | 2:15 PM | SULTAN- HINDI | 3:00 PM |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS | 4:30 PM | KABALI - Tamil | 6:15 PM |
| STAR TREK BEYOND -3D | 6:45 PM | KABALI - Tamil | 9:15 PM |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D | 9:30 PM | DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic | 12:15 AM |
| STAR TREK BEYOND | 11:45 PM | DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic | 6:15 PM |
| FANAR-1 | | DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic | 8:45 PM |
| TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS | 12:30 PM | DHAY FE ABU DHABI - Arabic | 11:15 PM |
| TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS | 3:00 PM | AVENUES-2 | |
| GHOSTBUSTERS | 5:15 PM | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -4DX | 12:30 PM |
| ABU SHANAB | 7:30 PM | TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS -4DX | 3:00 PM |
| ABU SHANAB | 9:45 PM | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -4DX | 5:30 PM |
| NOW YOU SEE ME 2 | 12:05 AM | ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -4DX | 8:00 PM |
| | | GHOSTBUSTERS -4DX | 10:30 PM |
| FANAR-2 | | TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS -4DX | 1:00 AM |
| ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS -3D | 12:45 PM | | |

Grand HYPER
 DATE 26 & 30
 TIME: 9.00 AM - 6.00 PM

WALK -IN INTERVIEW
 VENUE :
TRIO MALL BASEMENT
 Near to POLICE STATION
 KHAITHAN

URGENT REQUIREMENT

- > SALESMAN / SALES LADY
- > CASHIER
- > HEAVY DRIVERS
- > BUTCHER
- > FISH CUTTER

Automated enquiry
 about the Civil ID card is
1889988

PRAYER TIMINGS

| | |
|----------|-------|
| Fajr: | 03:33 |
| Shorook: | 05:04 |
| Duhr: | 11:54 |
| Asr: | 15:30 |
| Maghrib: | 18:45 |
| Isha: | 20:13 |



REQUIRED

FULL TIME FEMALE HOME CARE NURSE

Urgently required a female homecare nurse to provide nursing care for a diabetic child patient.

Call:

65050888

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

Directorate General of Civil Aviation Home Page (www.kuwait-airport.com.kw)



Flight Schedule

DIAL161 FOR AIRPORT INFORMATION

| Arrival Flights on Monday 25/7/2016 | | | | Departure Flights on Monday 25/7/2016 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------|
| Airlines | Fit | Route | Time | Airlines | Fit | Route | Time |
| MSC | 415 | Sohag | 00:10 | AIC | 982 | Ahmedabad/Chennai | 00:05 |
| THY | 772 | Istanbul | 00:10 | BBC | 044 | Dhaka | 00:10 |
| JZR | 239 | Amman | 00:20 | MSC | 404 | Asyut | 00:10 |
| JZR | 267 | Beirut | 00:30 | JZR | 1540 | Cairo | 00:20 |
| FDK | 803 | Damascus | 00:35 | JAI | 573 | Mumbai | 00:25 |
| FDB | 069 | Dubai | 00:55 | MSR | 615 | Cairo | 00:30 |
| DLH | 635 | Doha | 01:00 | FDB | 072 | Dubai | 00:30 |
| QTR | 1086 | Doha | 01:15 | PIA | 206 | Lahore | 00:40 |
| JZR | 539 | Cairo | 01:20 | MSC | 416 | Sohag | 01:05 |
| KAC | 1802 | Cairo | 01:30 | FDK | 804 | Damascus | 01:35 |
| PGT | 858 | Istanbul | 01:40 | THY | 773 | Istanbul | 01:40 |
| ETH | 620 | Addis Ababa | 01:45 | DLH | 635 | Frankfurt | 02:00 |
| RJA | 642 | Amman | 01:45 | ETH | 621 | Addis Ababa | 02:45 |
| THY | 1464 | Istanbul | 01:50 | THY | 765 | Istanbul | 02:45 |
| MSC | 501 | Alexandria | 02:00 | PGT | 859 | Istanbul | 02:55 |
| KKK | 6506 | Istanbul | 02:05 | UAE | 854 | Dubai | 03:45 |
| GFA | 211 | Bahrain | 02:15 | THY | 769 | Istanbul | 03:45 |
| CEB | 018 | Manila | 02:20 | KAC | 617 | Manila | 03:55 |
| UAE | 853 | Dubai | 02:25 | RJA | 645 | Amman | 03:55 |
| THY | 1404 | AYT | 02:30 | MSC | 502 | Alexandria | 04:00 |
| THY | 768 | Istanbul | 02:50 | OMA | 644 | Muscat | 04:05 |
| ETD | 305 | Abu Dhabi | 03:05 | FDB | 068 | Dubai | 04:05 |
| OMA | 643 | Muscat | 03:05 | ETD | 306 | Abu Dhabi | 04:10 |
| RJA | 644 | Amman | 03:10 | MSR | 613 | Cairo | 04:15 |
| FDB | 067 | Dubai | 03:15 | KKK | 6505 | Istanbul | 04:20 |
| MSR | 612 | Cairo | 03:15 | PGT | 861 | Istanbul | 04:30 |
| QTR | 1076 | Doha | 03:25 | QTR | 1077 | Doha | 04:35 |
| PGT | 860 | Istanbul | 03:30 | CEB | 019 | Manila | 04:50 |
| KAC | 544 | Cairo | 03:40 | JZR | 560 | Sohag | 05:00 |
| JZR | 555 | Alexandria | 04:15 | THY | 1465 | Istanbul | 06:00 |
| FEG | 933 | Sohag | 05:00 | FEG | 954 | Asyut | 06:00 |
| DHX | 170 | Bahrain | 05:10 | RJA | 643 | Amman | 06:25 |
| THY | 770 | Istanbul | 05:15 | QTR | 1087 | Doha | 06:30 |
| JZR | 529 | Asyut | 06:00 | THY | 771 | Istanbul | 06:45 |
| PAL | 668 | Manila/Dubai | 06:25 | GFA | 212 | Bahrain | 06:50 |
| KAC | 412 | Manila/Bangkok | 06:30 | JZR | 240 | Amman | 06:55 |
| BAW | 157 | London | 06:40 | FDB | 070 | Dubai | 07:05 |
| JZR | 1541 | Cairo | 07:10 | JZR | 164 | Dubai | 07:15 |
| FDB | 5061 | Dubai | 07:15 | FDB | 5062 | Dubai | 07:55 |
| KAC | 382 | Delhi | 07:30 | BAW | 156 | London | 08:25 |
| KAC | 206 | Islamabad | 07:40 | FDB | 054 | Dubai | 08:30 |
| KAC | 302 | Mumbai | 07:50 | KAC | 173 | Munich | 08:35 |
| FDB | 053 | Dubai | 07:50 | KAC | 539 | Sharm el-Sheikh | 08:50 |
| KAC | 156 | Istanbul | 08:00 | KAC | 671 | Dubai | 09:15 |
| KAC | 354 | BLR | 08:00 | JZR | 534 | Cairo | 09:30 |
| ETD | 919 | Abu Dhabi | 08:20 | KAC | 787 | Jeddah | 09:30 |
| KAC | 352 | Kochi | 08:20 | ABY | 126 | Sharjah | 09:45 |
| KAC | 362 | Colombo | 08:20 | UAE | 856 | Dubai | 09:50 |
| UAE | 855 | Dubai | 08:25 | JZR | 562 | Sohag | 09:55 |
| ETD | 301 | Abu Dhabi | 09:00 | ETD | 302 | Abu Dhabi | 10:05 |
| KAC | 284 | Dhaka | 09:00 | IRA | 666 | Esfahan | 10:15 |
| ABY | 125 | Sharjah | 09:05 | ETD | 920 | Abu Dhabi | 10:20 |
| IRA | 667 | Esfahan | 09:15 | JAV | 622 | Amman | 10:25 |
| QTR | 1070 | Doha | 09:20 | QTR | 1071 | Doha | 10:35 |
| JAV | 621 | Amman | 09:25 | FDB | 056 | Dubai | 10:40 |
| FDB | 055 | Dubai | 09:40 | KAC | 501 | Beirut | 11:00 |
| CCE | 345 | Sohag | 10:00 | KAC | 153 | Istanbul | 11:00 |
| UAE | 873 | Dubai | 10:40 | CCE | 346 | Sohag | 11:10 |
| GFA | 213 | Bahrain | 10:40 | KAC | 561 | Amman | 11:20 |
| AXB | 890 | Mangalore/Bahrain | 10:55 | KAC | 165 | Rome/Paris | 11:25 |
| MEA | 404 | Beirut | 11:00 | KAC | 741 | Dammam | 11:35 |
| JZR | 561 | Sohag | 11:25 | GFA | 214 | Bahrain | 11:35 |
| FDR | 165 | Dubai | 11:50 | AXB | 890 | Mangalore | 11:55 |
| FDK | 801 | Damascus | 12:15 | MEA | 405 | Beirut | 12:00 |
| FDB | 075 | Dubai | 12:25 | KAC | 541 | Cairo | 12:05 |
| MSC | 401 | Alexandria | 12:30 | KAC | 103 | London | 12:10 |
| JZR | 241 | Amman | 12:30 | UAE | 874 | Dubai | 12:10 |
| UAE | 871 | Dubai | 12:45 | JZR | 776 | Jeddah | 12:15 |
| FEG | 953 | Asyut | 12:55 | KAC | 785 | Jeddah | 13:00 |
| | | | | JZR | 176 | Dubai | 13:10 |

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|-----|------|--------------|-------|
| FDB | 076 | Dubai | 13:10 |
| FDK | 802 | Damascus | 13:15 |
| FEG | 934 | Alexandria | 13:30 |
| MSC | 611 | Cairo | 13:55 |
| THY | 767 | Istanbul | 14:00 |
| UAE | 872 | Dubai | 14:15 |
| PAL | 669 | Dubai/Manila | 14:45 |
| KNE | 382 | Taif | 14:55 |
| KAC | 773 | Riyadh | 15:00 |
| KAC | 673 | Dubai | 15:05 |
| GFA | 222 | Bahrain | 15:05 |
| FDB | 058 | Dubai | 15:05 |
| KAC | 617 | Doha | 15:15 |
| QTR | 1079 | Doha | 15:15 |
| SVA | 501 | Jeddah | 15:45 |
| JZR | 188 | Dubai | 15:50 |
| KNE | 530 | Jeddah | 15:55 |
| KAC | 613 | Bahrain | 16:00 |
| OMA | 646 | Muscat | 16:10 |
| ABY | 128 | Sharjah | 16:15 |
| ETD | 304 | Abu Dhabi | 16:20 |
| NIA | 252 | Alexandria | 16:50 |
| RJA | 641 | Amman | 16:55 |
| FDB | 052 | Dubai | 17:00 |
| JZR | 266 | Beirut | 17:10 |
| QTR | 1073 | Doha | 17:25 |
| UAE | 858 | Dubai | 17:40 |
| SVA | 511 | Riyadh | 18:15 |
| JZR | 184 | Dubai | 18:20 |
| SAW | 706 | Damascus | 18:20 |
| GFA | 216 | Bahrain | 18:20 |
| JZR | 538 | Cairo | 18:30 |
| JZR | 238 | Amman | 18:45 |
| KAC | 1801 | Cairo | 18:55 |
| THY | 1283 | TXZ | 19:05 |
| QTR | 1081 | Doha | 19:05 |
| JZR | 124 | Bahrain | 19:20 |
| MSR | 621 | Cairo | 19:30 |
| GFA | 218 | Bahrain | 19:50 |
| FDB | 064 | Dubai | 19:50 |
| KAC | 361 | Colombo | 19:55 |
| ABY | 124 | Sharjah | 19:55 |
| KAC | 283 | Dhaka | 20:30 |
| FDB | 060 | Dubai | 20:30 |
| UAE | 876 | Dubai | 20:35 |
| JAI | 571 | Mumbai | 20:35 |
| KAC | 331 | Trivandrum | 20:45 |
| DLH | 634 | Doha | 20:50 |
| KAC | 353 | BLR | 20:55 |
| KAC | 543 | Cairo | 21:00 |
| KAC | 351 | Kochi | 21:00 |
| KNE | 232 | Riyadh | 21:10 |
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CROSSWORD 1322

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| 82 | | | | 83 | | | | | | | | | 84 |

- ACROSS**
- A benevolent aspect of Devi.
 - Someone (especially a woman) who annoys people by constantly finding fault.
 - A small piece of cloth.
 - (formerly) A horse-drawn wagon that delivered ice door to door.
 - An extension at the end and at right angles to the main building.
 - Blood-sucking African fly.
 - Either of two large African antelopes of the genus *Taurotragus* having short spirally twisted horns in both sexes.
 - (used informally) Very small.
 - Relating to the deepest parts of the ocean (below 6000 meters).
 - Russian physicist (1895-1971).
 - Realistic Norwegian author who wrote plays on social and political themes (1828-1906).
 - A master's degree in education.
 - A wheeled vehicle adapted to the rails of railroad.
 - (pathology) Tending to become more severe or wider in scope.
 - A white metallic element that burns with a brilliant light.
 - French physicist noted for research on magnetism (born in 1904).
 - Fail to do something.
 - A gay feeling.
 - A three-year law degree.
 - A soft silver-white ductile metallic element (liquid at normal temperatures).
 - A pale rose-colored variety of the ruby spinel.
 - Serving no useful purpose.
 - Destruction of heart tissue resulting from obstruction of the blood supply to the heart muscle.
 - According to the Old Testament he was a pagan king of Israel and husband of Jezebel (9th century BC).
 - The content of cognition.
 - A loud harsh or strident noise.
 - A hard gray lustrous metallic element that is highly corrosion-resistant.
 - A republic in northeastern Africa known as the United Arab Republic until 1971.
 - Decapod having eyes on short stalks and a broad flattened carapace with a small abdomen folded under the thorax and pincers.
 - A colorless odorless gaseous element that give a red glow in a vacuum tube.
 - A white soft metallic element that tarnishes readily.
 - An elongated leather strip (or or strip of similar material) for binding things together or holding something in position.
 - Indian chief and founder of the Powhatan confederacy of tribes in Eastern Virginia.
 - An internal representation of the world.
 - A flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism.
 - French dramatist (born in Romania) who was a leading exponent of the theater of the absurd (1912-1994).
 - An Arabic speaking person who lives in Arabia or North Africa.
 - A fractional monetary unit of Japan and Indonesia and Cambodia.
 - Relating to or characteristic of the state or people of Alaska.
 - Someone who works (or provides workers) during a strike.
 - A shape that sags.
 - Who is uttering obscenities.
 - A river in north central Switzerland that runs northeast into the Rhine.
- DOWN**
- Goddess of fate.
 - An independent group of closely related Chadic languages spoken in the area between the Biu-Mandara and East Chadic languages.
 - Advanced in years.
 - The third month of the civil year.
 - (informal) Of the highest quality.
 - A chronic inflammatory collagen disease affecting connective tissue (skin or joints).
 - Physically and mentally fatigued.
 - A board game in which players try to move their pieces into their opponent's bases.
 - (of reproduction) Not involving the fusion of male and female gametes reproduction".
 - A Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria.
 - A branch of the Indo-Iranian family of languages.
 - A short film and commentary about current events.
 - On or toward the lee.
 - (Scottish) A narrow secluded valley (in the mountains).
 - Of or relating to a speaker of the Tamil language or the language itself.
 - East Indian tree that puts out aerial shoots that grow down into the soil forming additional trunks.
 - A Mid-Atlantic state.
 - The act of slowing down or falling behind.
 - A genus of *Caltha*.
 - The inner and thicker of the two bones of the human leg between the knee and ankle.
 - A soft cotton or worsted fabric with an open mesh.
 - An essential amino acid found in proteins.
 - A bachelor's degree in religion.
 - Any of a number of fishes of the family Carangidae.
 - A loose sleeveless outer garment made from aba cloth.
 - A very poisonous metallic element that has three allotropic forms.
 - Resist or confront with resistance.
 - Optical instrument consisting of a pair of lenses for correcting defective vision.
 - A religious belief of African origin involving witchcraft and sorcery.
 - (Greek mythology) Any of the primordial giant goddesses who were offspring of Uranus (heaven) and Gaea (earth) in ancient mythology.
 - A song with two or more voice parts.
 - Hard greenish-brown wood of the lignum vitae tree and other trees of the genus *Guaiaecum*.
 - Involving two dimensions.
 - Electrical conduction through a gas in an applied electric field.
 - The dialect of Malay used as the national language of the Republic of Indonesia or of Malaysia.
 - A sharp vibrating sound (as of a plucked string).
 - Type genus of the Percidae.
 - Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily one-seeded fruits.
 - An aromatic balsam.
 - A flat-bottomed volcanic crater that was formed by an explosion.
 - A French abbot.
 - Narrow wood or metal or plastic runners used for gliding over snow.
 - Airtight sealed metal container for food or drink or paint etc..

Yesterday's Solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | M | F | A | R | T | I | S | A | N | H | O | S | E |
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| V | A | N | B | R | A | S | I | L | I | A | A | B | A |
| A | R | E | S | H | E | T | L | A | N | D | D | A | M |

STAR TRACK

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Your aim for today is to have a place for everything and everything in its place. Health and work goals take on greater importance for you as well and you may find yourself rearranging furniture in order to fit in that new exercise machine. Your keyword is responsiveness-the ability to respond. You are able to find yourself enjoying all sorts of good relationships, rather than being alone. Some of your friends may invite you to a social event this afternoon and you enjoy being with your friends. Many times you mirror someone by taking on his or her style of doing or saying things. You can be peaceful, calm and undisturbed. You are a born strategist at bringing out the best in others.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Religion, truth and the world of philosophy and ideas are of interest to you. You may find yourself having religious discussions and doing research. This may be a special touch to any social affair. Your love of simplicity is good for politics. It brings out the truth and a sense of honesty in a group. You are freedom loving, independent and at times, even a trifle remote. You are not bound by relationships and are thus not very domestic. You will find, however, that the relationships of present are beginning to deepen. This could be a bright and meaningful time. Your communication skills are at a high-water mark. You must be careful not to become carried away with exercise when it is hot. Try exercising during the early mornings.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

The young people in your care seem to do nothing but argue. When they fail to find a good solution, you may decide to separate them to relax in different rooms. . . . You will soon see a positive outcome. You are fair-minded and above-board, always direct and honest in thought. You manage to come up with things to keep everyone busy and out of trouble. You are more interested in eternal thoughts and broad landscapes than in minute details. You may find yourself interested in writing for a travel agent. You always manage to help others see the picture right away. Farsighted, you have a wandering mind that loves to dream of travel. Your presence has a way of easing the minds of others. Your afternoon is relaxing and the evening romantic.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

A roundtable discussion may ensue after a family meal this Sunday. New plans are in the works for either several short trips or a nice long vacation. In-depth discussions and probing conversations find you at your mental best. This may be a good time for your imagination to kick in when it comes to ideas and thinking. This, coupled with the ability to put your thoughts into words, allows you to captivate and charm others. You find it easy to be compassionate and others can see that you care about them. You also understand and have a natural appreciation for your elders, whom you will take great care to include into your plans. The arts, philosophy and great ideas in general are what you enjoy now. Future-oriented, you have a sense of your own destiny.

Leo (July 23-August 22)

Before this day gets off to a good start you may have thoughts of what you have accomplished and where you are going in life. Your inner resources and emotions are emphasized. You can expect a sense of support and goodwill from those around you. A friendship grows closer as a result of all the times you have shared your thoughts and feelings. Religious issues are a topic of conversation today. You value the essential unity behind all religions. You could bring imagination and religious understanding to physical and scientific studies. Polite, you enjoy being with friends and family at every opportunity. Lots of laughter can be heard wherever you go today. Allow others to show you their love-you are worth it.

Virgo (August 23-September 22)

You are open-minded and democratic and have a definite sense of mission. Above all, you are constantly willing to move forward. You could be teaching people to read in a language that is not their own language. This is the sort of upbeat and helpful volunteer service you might enjoy. If you are not helping others, you will naturally tune in to someone that needs guidance. This is the frame of mind you are in today and you are determined to accomplish this deed-perhaps even unconsciously. Social opportunities are plentiful, whether it is in a religious atmosphere or a neighborhood get-together. You have a natural ability to express yourself and you may even like to perform a bit. You may enjoy a visiting relative or friend later this evening.

Libra (September 23-October 22)

There will often be opportunities to lend a helping hand. This could mean a friend is moving or a neighbor is doing some home repairs. Today you will not ignore or avoid opportunities to help out and give of yourself. You are learning to trust those intuitive feelings of yours. You are beginning to be more at home with the psyche and psychological-a sense of the mystic too. You are able to carry ideas and dreams into reality, to make the spirit matter. People love to listen to what you have to say and may even come to you for psychic guidance. This is a good time for surrounding yourself with friends and young people and for having fun. You appreciate your particular situation and will enjoy support from those around you.

Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You tend to avoid getting personal when it comes to your own emotions. Today you are surrounded by people that are fun and it is not necessary for concern. There is a chance to interact with classmates or co-worker friends in a competitive way. There are much laughter and pleasant feelings. Your home and surroundings tend to be very traditional and you could find yourself changing, repairing or picking out pictures for a hall or a room. This evening you may take some extra time out of your own schedule to thank someone that has been very, very helpful to you recently. This may mean some gift or some of your own time. A good gift may be a treat from your own kitchen or a copy of one of those pictures you have been working with.

Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

You can exhibit great consideration to the needs of others just now and are in a good position to communicate concerning groups and society in general. Perhaps some community need has your attention. You make a positive difference if you only take a small amount of time to act on this now-others will follow. You could even have a special gift for spanning the generation gap, bringing older and younger spirits together. A lifelong trait of yours is to help with lost animals, needy children and perhaps, older people. You are a born doer, with an incredible drive to accomplish and achieve in life. Your ambitions are backed by the will to get things done. Once you get involved, you will be happy with the response of others.

Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Although you have a hard time parting with your collections you are determined to become more organized. You aim to have everything picked up and in its place. As far as those old clothes are concerned, a trip to the thrift shop would be a wonderful thing to do. This afternoon you could discover yourself through creativity and self-expression. Ideas about some science fiction story or perhaps the beginning of an outline for a story are possible. Try the plot out on friends and see how it works. Words and thoughts are plentiful-highlighting whatever subject is at hand. You really do have very different ideas and ways of expressing them. Your home environment, friends and neighbors will enjoy your company today.

Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

A clear-minded insight into your own plans and methods is available to you today. This is a good day to share your dreams with others. Each person should take a little time to talk about just where or how they may want their lives to grow. This may bring about some private decisions toward your own goals. This afternoon you will put your mind to work and take care of any details that you may have. You have a sharp mind with clear thoughts and good ideas. Problems and obstacles that have seemed difficult before now should find easy explanation under your keen examination. This evening you may enjoy the company of friends and neighbors. Others may find you especially witty and eccentric.

Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Taking care of personal chores today is a major theme. You crave organization and practicality and you want to get things accomplished. Learning, communicating and the exchange of ideas are the experiences you crave as a new phase begins in your life. You are a person with something to say and you realize that others have information that is essential to your goals. This could be a time of much mental energy and initiative. If you are not working today, that professional attitude is carried out in all you attempt to accomplish. You may find yourself communicating and helping an older persons this evening-perhaps a family member. You are wise to keep the communications active so as to stay aware of any problems that may exist.

Wordsearch Puzzle

World Currencies 3
Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|
| AFGHANI | KROON | PULA |
| DALASI | LEMPIRA | RUPIAH |
| DENAR | LEONE | SUCRE |
| EURO | LIRA | SYLI |
| FORINT | MANAT | TAKA |
| HRYVNIA | NEW DONG | YEN |
| KINA | PATAACA | ZLOTY |
| KORUNA | PESO | |

Yesterday's Solution

World Currencies 2 - Solution

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

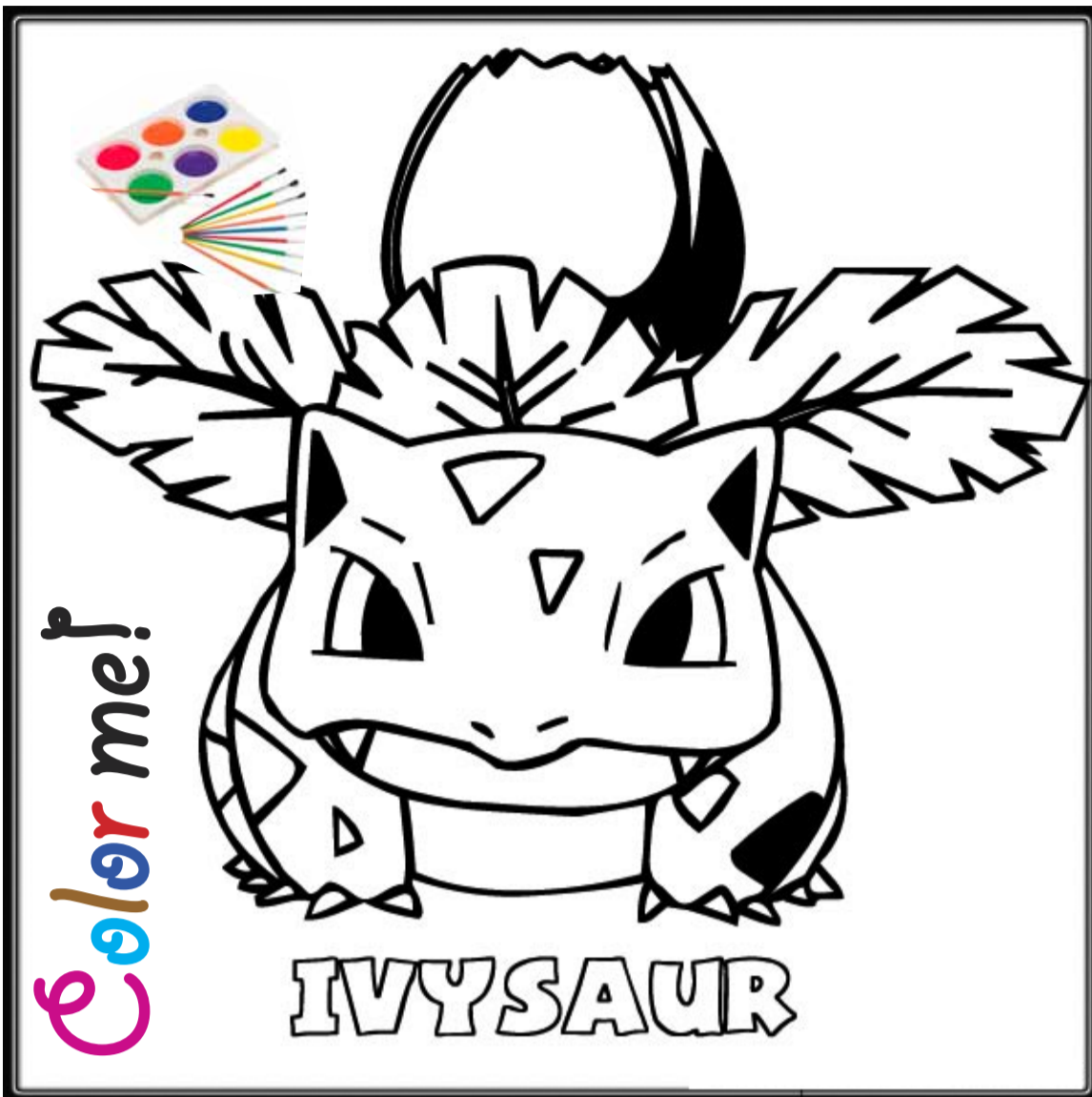
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| ARIARY | KUNA | NGULTRUM |
| BOLIVIANO | KWACHA | RINGGIT |
| COLON | KYAT | RIYAL |
| DIRHAM | LILANGENI | RUBLE |
| ESCUDO | LOTI | RUPEE |
| GOURDE | NAKFA | SHILLING |
| GUILDER | NEW CEDI | VATU |
| KRONA | NEW KIP | |

Daily SuDoku

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Yesterday's Solution

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



1. Which Disney cub cannot wait to be King?
2. What does Remy the rat in Ratatouille dream of becoming?
3. What is the name of Donald Duck's Disney partner, who wore a red dress?
4. Which Disney film is loosely based on the Knights of the Round Table?
5. In which Disney film will you find the villain, Scar?
6. The villain, Hooper, appears in which Disney film?
7. Which Disney character sings the song 'Trust In Me'?
8. Who, in the film Sword in the Stone, sings the song 'Higitus Figitus'?
9. What film released in 2009 has the character Princess Tiana?
10. In which Disney film will you hear the song 'Reflection'?

- ANSWERS
1. Simba, Lion King
 2. A French Chef
 3. Daisy Duck
 4. Sword in the Stone
 5. Lion King
 6. A Bug's Life
 7. Kaa, The Jungle Book
 8. Merlin
 9. The Princess and the Frog
 10. Mulan

DID YOU KNOW?



- * Mathematics is important in many different types of jobs, including engineering, business, science, medicine and more.
- * It is believed that Ancient Egyptians used complex mathematics such as algebra, arithmetic and geometry as far back as 3000 BC.
- * It wasn't until the 16th century that most mathematical symbols were invented. Before this time math equations were written in words, making it very time consuming.
- * What comes after a million, billion and trillion? Why a quadrillion, quintillion, sextillion, septillion, octillion and nonillion of course.
- * Cutting a cake into 8 pieces is possible with just 3 slices, can you work out how?
- * An icosagon is a shape with 20 sides.
- * A three dimensional parallelogram is called a parallelepiped.
- * Trigonometry is the study of the relationship between the angles of triangles and their sides.
- * The smallest ten prime numbers are: 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29.
- * The name of the popular search engine 'Google'

- came from a misspelling of the word 'googol', which is a very, very large number (the number one followed by one hundred zeros to be exact).
- * A 'googolplex' is the number 1 followed by a googol zeros, this number is so big that it can't be written because there isn't enough room in the universe to fit it in! It would also take a length of time far greater than the age of the universe just to write the numbers.
- * The number Pi (the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle) can't be expressed as a fraction, this means it is an irrational number. When written as a decimal it never repeats and never ends.
- * Here is Pi written to 50 decimal places: 3.14159265358979323846264338327950288419716939937510
- * If two quantities have a ratio of approximately 1.618, they are said to be in the golden ratio. This ratio has been used throughout history to design aesthetically pleasing art works such as the Parthenon. It also appears in paintings, music, the design of books, and even in nature.

JOKES

Knock knock
Who's there?
Mikey!
Mikey who?
Mikey doesn't fit in the keyhole!

Knock knock
Who's there?
Howard!
Howard who?
Howard I know?

Knock knock
Who's there?
Beets!
Beets who?
Beets me!

THE GOOD DINOSAUR WORD SEARCH



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

APATOSAURUS
ARLO
BUBBHA
BUTCH
CLIFF

EARL
LIBBY
LURLEANE
MOMMA
NASH

POPPA
PURVIS
RAMSEY
SPOT
THUNDERCLAP

SUDOKU

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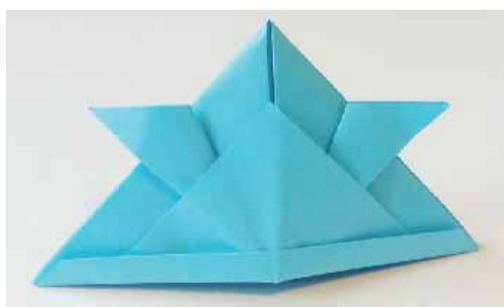
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| 3 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| 9 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 3 |
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 1 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 8 |
| 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 4 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 1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

ACTIVITY

ORIGAMI SAMURAI HAT

What you need
* 1 x large square of thick paper

- Activity
1. Rotate the square of paper so that it sits like a diamond on the table.
 2. Fold it down diagonally to make a triangle.
 3. Fold each corner of the triangle down - to meet in the centre.
 4. Take each triangle flap and fold it up halfway.
 5. Taking the top layer only, fold each triangular flap outwards to create the little 'wing' detail on the front of the hat.
 6. From the bottom triangular flap, take the top layer only and fold it upwards, leaving a little edge.
 7. Fold it again, to meet flush with the bottom edge of the triangle - you should now have a little point sticking up from the hat band.
 8. Turn the hat over to the back. Fold the triangle flap up once and again in the same way - making a hat band with a pointed triangle sticking out of the top.
 9. Open it out and turn it around. You've made a samurai hat!



KIDS RECIPE

TROPICAL ICE-BLOCKS

- Ingredients:
* 1/2 (750g) pineapple, peeled, cored, chopped
* 1 large mango, peeled, chopped
* 4 passion fruit, halved
* 2 cups lemonade

- Method:
1. Place pineapple and mango in a food processor or blender. Blend or process until smooth. Remove to a jug. Add passion fruit pulp and lemonade. Stir to combine.
 2. Pour mixture into moulds. Insert paddle pop sticks or secure with lids. Freeze until set.
 3. Remove ice-blocks from moulds. Serve.





Lohan accuses fiance of cheating

The 30-year-old actress took to Instagram and Twitter in the early hours yesterday to claim that millionaire businessman Egor Tarabasov, 22, had been unfaithful to her with a "Russian hooker". She wrote: "I guess I was the same at 23... - it changes at 26/27 @e2505t thanks for not coming home tonight. Fame changes people "Wow thanks #fiancé with Russian hooker @dasha_pa5h "Home? First time in my life- bare with me/ he cheated on me with hooker #meangirls#meanboysu b. "You're suits are As only as myself, Roman and tags ahi. Wiggins v (sic)." Lindsay also posted a video of Egor enjoying himself at a nightclub. And the drama did not end there as Lindsay claimed she is pregnant. She shared a link to a google image of herself sporting a baby bump for the 2009 movie 'Labor Pains' and wrote: "lindsay lohan labour pains trailer - I am pregnant!! (sic)." The day before, Lindsay hinted at trouble in their relationship, in a video she posted on Snapchat. She said: "My fiance's being really angry at me, but I'm drinking water to get him to come home. Honey,

come home, please." She also posted a picture on Instagram of her and Egor, but with his face scribbled over. Lindsay quoted Cher's song, 'Bang Bang (My Baby Shot Me Down)' when she wrote: "He wore black and I wore white..." and added the three wise monkey emojis and an anchor. She finished the caption with: "I guess #art is whatever you make of it (sic)." Earlier this month, the pair shocked friends and family - including the businessman's mother Elena - by having a huge row at Chinawhite on Rakkan Beach in Mykonos, Greece, during a getaway to celebrate Lindsay's birthday. An onlooker said: "Everything was fine between them before something on Egor's phone upset Lindsay. They then started shouting and screaming at each other. Lindsay threw his phone in the sea, she looked absolutely furious. "The security at the beach club had to pull them apart and Lindsay left in her car while Egor went back to the party." Egor's mother was left unimpressed by the incident and she was overheard urging her son to end their volatile romance.

Williams and Field want more children

The couple - who already have children Teddy, three, and 21-month-old Charlton together - are reportedly keen to expand their family and are already working on it. A source told The Sun on Sunday: "Robbie's been telling people he and Ayda are trying for another child - and that they have been practicing a lot. "They've made no secret of the fact that they want to expand their brood. "Now they've decided the time is absolutely right." Ayda recently revealed that Teddy finally likes her younger brother after being "unhappy" about his arrival. The American actress admitted that Teddy was "not impressed" with Charlton at first, but she has finally gotten over her sibling jealousy and now they are best friends. She said: "When Charlie was born, Teddy was not impressed. I think she was indifferent bordering on unhappy about it. Now they just love to do everything together, I was tucking them in last night and I had one on each arm as they had their stories book and they were tickling each other's faces and that's just the best feeling as a mother." Ayda has also praised Robbie's fathering skills and said he loves taking time out from being a pop star to care for his kids. She said: "Oh, he's great. That's what is so amazing is that he's getting to see his kids. He's so supportive, for a long time I've been by his side doing the wife and mom thing, and now he's doing a bit of Mr Field stuff."



Tinashe is a 'good distraction' for Harris

The 32-year-old DJ recently started casually seeing the 23-year-old R&B singer and friends say she has been taking his mind off his recent break-up with Taylor Swift and her new relationship with Tom Hiddleston. A source told E! News: "Calvin has been hanging out with Tinashe a little more. He likes her but made it very clear to her he is not looking for anything serious. "She is a hot girl and a good distraction from all the past drama Calvin had this month." Another insider explained that Tinashe and Calvin have kept in touch since working together on his 2014 song 'Dollar Signs' but he is not

ready for another serious relationship. The source said: "He is not looking for anything serious at this time. He just wants to chill. He thinks she is a cool chick and pretty. "They have always kept in touch but recently more since his breakup with Taylor. Work and feeling healthy is number one for him now. He wants the storm to pass with Taylor before he can even think of dating another woman seriously." Calvin recently lashed out at Taylor on Twitter after her team confirmed that she had co-written his recent single, 'This Is What You Came For', under a pseudonym. He wrote: "And

she sings on a little bit of it too. Amazing lyric writer and she smashed it as usual. "Hurtful to me at this point that her and her team would go so far out of their way to try and make ME look bad at this stage though "I figure if you're happy in your new relationship you should focus on that instead of trying to tear your ex bf down for something to do "I know you're off tour and you need someone new to try and bury like Katy ETC but I'm not that guy, sorry. I won't allow it "Please focus on the positive aspects of YOUR life because you've earned a great one "God bless everyone have a beautiful day (sic)".

Gigi Hadid's sister thinks Zayn Malik should propose



Although the 23-year-old singer has only been dating model Gigi, 21, for seven months, her younger sibling Bella, 19, believes the pair should tie the knot. A source told the Sunday Mirror: "Bella's been joking with Zayn that he's being slow and drawn out, and needs to look after her big sister as she's one of the world's highest-paid models and has taken his career to new heights of cool. She gets on really well with Zayn and has told him she'd love him as a brother in law." However, Zayn is likely to be reluctant to rush into another engagement after his relationship with former fiancée Perrie Edwards ended last year. Zayn reportedly dumped Perrie via text after four years together but later penned the single 'It's You' about the 'Black Magic' hitmaker. He said at the time: "I just felt like I needed to put myself out there on

that just because it was a form of therapy for me and it did help get me through some stuff." Zayn and Gigi split briefly earlier this year but it wasn't long before they reconciled and they are now closer than ever. An insider previously said: "Things are back to normal with them. "They got through a rough patch that Zayn was facing personally and it started to put a dark cloud on their relationship. Gigi was there for him when he needed her the most and that brought them closer than ever." Gigi supported Zayn after he went public with his anxiety issues, and a source said: "[Zayn] opened up to Gigi about his anxiety. [They] have been through a lot these past few months, but they are really trying to communicate better going forward." Zayn really appreciates Gigi even more after this because he sees how much Gigi is there for him."

Gadot's Wonder Woman is inspired by Princess Diana



Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman was inspired by Princess Diana. Warner Bros unveiled the 'Wonder Woman' trailer at San Diego Comic Con on Saturday and Gal, who stars as Diana, warrior princess of the Amazons, revealed she took inspiration from the real-life Princess Diana, after watching a documentary on the late British royal. She said: "She leads from her heart not from her head. And that describes this Diana." The trailer's official description says: "Before she was Wonder Woman, she was Diana, princess of the Amazons, trained to be an unconquerable warrior. "Raised on a sheltered island paradise, when an American pilot crashes on their shores and tells of a massive conflict raging in the outside world, Diana leaves her home, convinced she can stop the threat. "Fighting alongside man in a war to end all wars, Diana will discover her full powers...and her true destiny." 'Wonder Woman' also stars Chris Pine, Robin Wright, Connie Nielsen, David Thewlis, Danny Huston, Elena Anaya and Ewen Bremner. Zach Snyder is a producer on the 'Wonder Woman' and he joined the stars of his 'Justice League' movie, including Gal, Ben Affleck, Ezra Miller, Jason Momoa, Henry Cavill, and Ray Fisher, for a panel at Comic Con. A teaser for 'Justice League' was also shown.



'The Vampire Diaries' has been cancelled

The CW has announced that the show's upcoming eighth season will be its last and stars including Ian Somerhalder and Paul Wesley, who play vampire brothers Damon and Stefan Salvatore, have paid tribute to the show. Ian said in a statement: "The sun, the moon and stars aligned for me one day in March when I got the official call that I had been cast in this very special role as Damon Salvatore. "I'm so very grateful to those who fought for me to have this opportunity (you know who you are), for those that have worked so hard to make this show happen, and to those that have loyally watched it, making it part of their lives. "This show has enriched my life greater than anything I've done in my career and it will live in my heart. We are a fam-

ily and I will miss you. Thank you again to this amazing cast and crew, Kevin, Julie, Warner Bros., The CW and the most loyal fan base the world has ever seen. Wow, what a ride." Paul added: "Being cast in 'THE VAMPIRE DIARIES' has changed the trajectory of my life, to say the very least. I'm beyond fortunate for the experiences I've had and lessons I've learned over the last seven years. I want to thank Kevin and Julie, as well as Peter Roth and Warner Bros., Mark Pedowitz and The CW, our incredible cast and crew, and especially the TVD fans all around the world who are the reason this show became such a worldwide success. I am beyond grateful to have been a part of it." The final 16 episodes will begin on Friday, October 21 in the US.

Saint West's first word was 'Dada'

Kim Kardashian West revealed that her and Kanye West's son - who was born in December - has started to say "Dada", although she is disappointed that he didn't say "Momma" first. Speaking to PEOPLE at MGM Grand's Hakkasan nightclub in Las Vegas on Friday, she said: "He said 'Dada' today, three times and I was like 'what?' Kanye was so excited. He was like 'I told him to say that.' I was like, 'I just really wanted him to say 'Momma' first.'" Meanwhile, just hours before Kim was due to leave for Las Vegas for a girls' trip with friends, she chipped her tooth and had to squeeze in a trip to her dentist, Dr Kevin Sands. Kim, 35, shared a video of herself with Dr Sands on Snapchat and explained that she had chipped her "front tooth". However, he was able to work his magic in order to ensure that Kim made it to Vegas, where she hosted a bash at Hakkasan. The star was joined by pals including Maria Menounos, Larsa Pippen and Carla DiBello, where they celebrated their friend Ariana's bachelorette party. No doubt Kim was happy to let her hair down after an action-packed week. Last weekend she took to Snapchat to leak a conversation between her husband and Taylor Swift talking about his controversial song 'Famous' - which features lyrics where he calls the 'Shake It Off' singer a b**ch. The track includes the lines 'I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex / I made that bitch famous,' in reference to Kanye interrupting her acceptance speech at the MTV VMAs in 2009 and Taylor previously insisted she had never given her approval to the song. Following the release of the tapes, when people accused her of lying, the 'Shake It Off' hitmaker argued that Kanye never told her he'd call her a "b**ch." She wrote on Instagram: "Where is the video of Kanye telling me he was going to call me 'that bitch' in his song? It doesn't exist because it never happened. You don't get to control someone's emotional response to being called 'that bitch' in front of the entire world." Since the very public war of words between the trio, various celebrities - including Ruby Rose, Chloe Grace Moretz, Selena Gomez, Khloe Kardashian and Katy Perry - have weighed in on the argument with their own opinions.



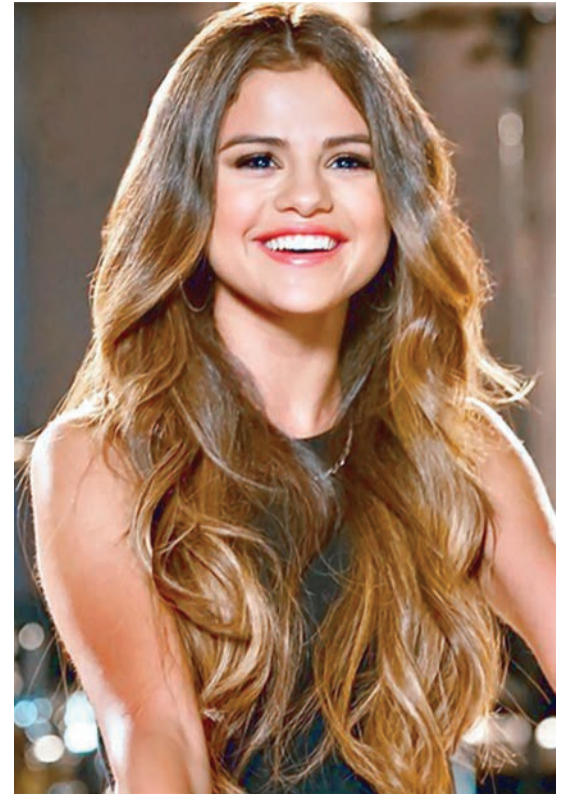
Christina Grimmie's autopsy results revealed

Christina Grimmie's autopsy report reveals that she died from "gunshot wounds of head and chest". The 22-year-old singer was gunned down by a deranged fan following a concert performance in Orlando last month and her autopsy results have now been revealed. According to E! News, the document states: "In consideration of the circumstances surrounding the death, and after examination of the body, toxicology analysis, and review of the available medical records it is my opinion that the death of Christina Grimmie, a 22-year-old white female witnessed to have been shot by another and subsequently transported to the hospital, is the result of a gunshot wounds of the head and chest. The manner of death is homicide." Christina's brother Marcus tacked gunman Kevin James Loibl and was praised for preventing further injury or loss of life. Earlier this month, her parents Tina and Bud and brother Marcus paid tribute to her "joyful heart and beautiful voice". In a joint statement on a GoFundMe page, they said: "The outpouring of love

and generosity that has been displayed to our family throughout these last few weeks has far exceeded anything we could have ever imagined. "As we have always known, Christina's life was so very special, not only to us, but to everyone she touched with her joyful heart, beautiful voice and love for life and the Lord." The family went on to thank those who had recognized the former 'Voice' contestant with donations and various other tributes, and confirmed they are discussing plans to "honor" her in future. They added: "Words cannot express what the many memorials, donations and tributes shared by Christina's fans and those in the media and entertainment industry mean to us. "She will live on in our hearts forever. We will take our time in determining the best ways to honor Christina moving forward. Thank you." The GoFundMe page was launched by LH7 Management - which is operated by Christina's manager, Selena Gomez's stepfather Brian Teeffey - to help the singer's family during their "time of need".



Selena Gomez says she needs a 'rethink'



Selena Gomez says she needs to "rethink some areas of my life creatively and personally". The 24-year-old singer took to Instagram after her gig in Jakarta, Indonesia on Friday, which was also her birthday, to explain that she is planning some major changes. She included a screenshot of a message from her iPhone notes app, which read: "Tonight I felt extremely unauthentic, unconnected to both my myself and my music. I've never really felt like my materials, wardrobe or a video could define me. I act on a moment and fear something that hasn't happened. I'm stagnant, I stay still and don't just sit with myself first and ask, 'Is this where I am, whole heartedly?' I've always told the truth. I'm always true to my word, I've shown who I am but I need to rethink some areas of my life creative-

ly and personally. Had to get that out." Selena captioned the screenshot: "Not being negative about anything I've done. I'm grateful for every single moment I get here - Indonesia you were LOUD and clearly inspiring. Love you so much." And earlier on stage, Selena got emotional before performing 'Kill 'Em With Kindness'. She said: "The next song, before I go home, is a song that's so important to me. Because I get really frustrated, I get stupid sometimes, I say things that I don't mean. Or that come out wrong just because I care so badly. "But the thing is, at the end of the day, no war in anger was ever won. I do know that deep down in my heart that I have to believe that we can love each other and always be kind no matter what it takes in us. I believe that we can do that, no matter what."

Odom walked out of family intervention

Lamar Odom reportedly walked out of an attempted intervention by his family. The 36-year-old basketball star - who collapsed and almost died at a Nevada brothel last year after a drugs and alcohol binge - was not impressed when several family members tried to convince him to enter rehab at the Darryl Strawberry Recovery Center in St. Cloud, Florida. The facility has a number of drug and alcohol rehab and detox programs and treats individuals and athletes with alcohol, drug and prescription addictions. Extra reports that Lamar's aunt JaNeen Mercer, cousin Alvina Alston, ex-wife Liza Morales and children were all involved in the intervention and former Major League Baseball player Darryl joined in via Skype. However, Lamar would not take their concerns seriously and walked out. Earlier this month it was claimed that Lamar was removed from a flight for being "wasted" after he downed beers and whisky at Los Angeles International Airport. He has reportedly returned to his former ways by binge drinking more than he back to health last year, devastated. A source previously said: "[Lamar] is back to treating his body worse than ever. She put her life on hold for weeks to be by Lamar's side at the hospital" For days, she didn't know if he was going to make it. It infuriates her hospital experience would have a positive effect on Lamar, but it's really been the opposite."



Simon Cowell: 'I thought my son hated me'



The 56-year-old music mogul and his partner Lauren Silverman, 38, welcomed their son Eric two years ago and Simon admitted that it took him some time to get used to being a dad. Speaking to chat show host Jimmy Fallon, Simon said: "I wasn't good to begin with. I thought he was going to be like a puppy. Like you could throw things and he would retrieve them.. "After eight months I thought he hated me "Then one day he was watching me on TV and then he kind of got me, and he started talking to me and now we're buddies." Simon previously revealed Eric is already a good "critic" and he likes having him at the 'America's Got Talent' auditions. He said: "I've got to tell you, he's going to be my little right-hand man - anything he likes I like. "He's brilliant, he comes down to the auditions and really enjoys the acts. He's very good to watch, funnily enough, because I can see when he's bored and when he's up dancing. He's a good critic already. He's unpaid, but he's helping me!" Simon's former girlfriend Sinita, who is still a close pal of the star, recently said she thinks it would be "amazing" if he and Lauren had more children but she believes they are happy as they are with two-year-old Eric. She said: "Eric is so perfect. I think it's all perfect how it is. But if more children came it would also be amazing."

Harry Styles and Louis Tomlinson thank fans

One Direction's Harry Styles and Louis Tomlinson have paid tribute to fans on the band's sixth anniversary. The pair both took to Twitter to celebrate six years since the group - which also features Niall Horan, 22, and Liam Payne, 22 - was formed on the UK 'X Factor'. One Direction's official account shared a video of Louis, 24, in which he said: "I just wanted to film a little message to say thank you, because you guys are incredible. "Your continued support is remarkable really. And every single one of you had a hand in changing our lives and I hope you're as proud as we are." Harry, 22, tweeted: "Six years. I have no idea how to say thank you for all your support. For everything you are, and everything you've done. Thank you. H (sic)." Louis' mother, Johannah Deakin, shared the first ever picture she took of the boyband - which originally also featured Zayn Malik, 23 - and



tweeted: "6 beautiful years. Thank you to all you lovely people that have been just amazing (sic)." And Harry's mother, Anne Twist,

Ciara: 'Future costs me a 500k deal'

Ciara alleges that the angry messages Future wrote about her damaged her "positive reputation" and portrayed her as "controlling, dishonest, malicious, unreasonable, evil, and conniving". Future, 32 - whose real name is Nayvadius DeMun Wilburn - previously took to social media to launch a furious rant against Ciara, claiming that she was denying him access to their son. He wrote: "This b**ch got control problems... I gotta go through lawyers to see babyfuture...the for 15k a month. (sic)." After claiming that he pays \$15,000 in child support every month, Future went on to insist that he just wants to see his son and has run out of patience. He said: "I just want baby future that's all. I been silent for a year & a half. I ran outta patience "Get ready for this classic. Handling my business staying focus making music surrounded by real love & family (sic)." However, Ciara believes that Future - who has four children with four different women - is slamming her in order to get publicity and is just annoyed that she has moved on with Russell Wilson, 27, who she married earlier

this month. A source said: "Ciara has said that Future uses the situation to promote his music by staying in the press using her name. "He is jealous she has moved on and is happy. He is unable to move on and coparent in a healthy way. Future has told her he hopes she fails in everything she does and that's just being evil."



ed there is more to come. She wrote: "@onedirection Huge hell done on everything you have achieved so far! (sic)." Six years ago Harry, Louis, Niall, Liam and Zayn all auditioned for the UK 'X Factor' as solo artists. However, after they were unsuccessful, Simon Cowell put them together to form a boyband and they went on to top the charts all over the world. Zayn quit the band in March 2015 to become a solo artist and earlier this year the group went on an indefinite hiatus. Liam has signed a solo deal with Capitol UK, while Harry - who is filming Christopher Nolan's 'Dunkirk' - and Niall have reportedly signed deals with Columbia and One Direction's label Syco, respectively. Louis is believed to be planning to focus on his record label and TV work during the break, as well as spending time with his son Freddie, who was born in January. — Bang Showbiz



Writer and director James Cameron, from left, producer Gale Anne Hurd, and actors Sigourney Weaver, Bill Paxton, Lance Henriksen, Michael Biehn, and Paul Reiser attend the "Aliens: 30th Anniversary" panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International. — AP/AFP photos



Actress Sigourney Weaver attends the "Aliens: 30th Anniversary" panel during Comic-Con International 2016.

'Aliens' marks 30th anniversary with marriage proposal

Filmmaker James Cameron and Hollywood star Sigourney Weaver were surprised by a fan proposing to his girlfriend as they celebrated the 30th anniversary of sci-fi classic "Aliens" on Saturday. The pair were swapping nostalgia and behind-the-scenes anecdotes at San Diego Comic-Con when the man got down on one knee during the audience Q&A section and popped the question. The lucky lady said yes, prompting Cameron, 61, to remark: "May

you be happy and have many spawn." Cameron and Weaver, 66, were joined by other cast members including Lance Henriksen, Michael Biehn, Paul Reiser and Bill Paxton as well as producer Gale Anne Hurd.

The panel was asked for details of progress on an upcoming fifth "Alien" film to be made by "District 9" and "Elysium" director Neill Blomkamp. Although it has not been officially announced, Blomkamp himself has given inter-

views confirming that he plans at least one sequel with Weaver in the lead role. The filmmaker announced on Twitter last October that the project had been put on hold while "Alien" director Ridley Scott worked on "Alien: Paradise Lost," the sequel to his "Alien" prequel "Prometheus." Weaver told Comic-Con however that a script had been completed and that Blomkamp "has work to do and I have work to do, but I'm hoping when we finish those jobs we'll circle back and

do it." The pair started developing ideas while Weaver was shooting Blomkamp's 2015 robot movie "Chappie," she said.

"That whole first day we spent talking about it, and four months later, I got a script that was so amazing and gives the fans everything they are looking for, plus innovates in a lot of ways that immediately, to me, became a part of the world," Weaver added. Weaver made her name and received an Oscar nomination for playing

Ellen Ripley, a tough-as-nails warrant officer and pop culture icon widely viewed as one of the most significant female protagonists in cinema history. But the actress admitted to the Hall H audience she can't bear to watch Hurd's hit horror series "The Walking Dead." Carrie Henn, who played young survivor Rebecca "Newt" Jorden in her only film role and is now a fourth grade teacher, said students' parents show up with DVDs for her to sign. — AFP



File photo shows (from left) Writer/director Oliver Stone, actors Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Shailene Woodley and Zachary Quinto attend the "Snowden" panel during Comic-Con International 2016 at San Diego Convention Center in San Diego, California. — AFP

Snowden film 'almost killed' by self-censorship

It was the largest data leak in United States history, fueling a firestorm over the issue of mass surveillance that resonated with Americans and ignited around the world. Oliver Stone's hotly-anticipated "Snowden" tells the story of NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden in dramatic form for the first time-but the movie almost never made it to theaters. "Frankly, it was turned down by every major studio. The script was good, the budget was good, the cast was good. It was definitely... self-censorship," Stone, 69, told San Diego fan convention Comic-Con International on Thursday.

"I don't believe there was an enemy such as the NSA lurking in the background. But definitely self-censorship is a huge issue in this industry, and it blocks so much of the truth from coming out. "Every studio, every corporate board that runs the studio, more than the studio people, said no." "Snowden was charged by US authorities with espionage and theft of state secrets after releasing thousands of classified NSA documents to journalists Glenn Greenwald, Laura Poitras and Ewen MacAskill in 2013.

Considered a traitor by some and a hero by others, the 33-year-old fled to Hong Kong and was given political asylum in Russia after the US revoked his passport. He now leads a reclusive life there. The documents he leaked revealed the extent of surveillance programs run by the NSA and started a debate about privacy and the role of state security agencies which still rages today.

'Old-fashioned gentleman'

Stone was joined on stage at Comic-Con by cast members Zachary Quinto, Shailene Woodley and Joseph Gordon-Levitt—who plays Snowden and accompanied the director to Moscow to meet the exiled security contractor. Gordon-Levitt describes Snowden as "very polite... almost an old-fashioned gentleman" who came across as warm and optimistic about how technology can strengthen democracy. "We sat and talked for hours. It was interesting because I think most people that sit down and talk with him are approaching him from the position of politics,"

the actor said. "I was trying to get to know him on a different level because I can read about his politics. I wanted to understand who he was. We got to sit down and have a meal. I think you can tell a lot about a person by how they are when you sit and eat with them." Stone, a trenchant critic of the American political establishment, bought the movie rights to "The Snowden Files," a chronicle of the affair by Luke Harding of Britain's Guardian newspaper. He also based his screenplay on political thriller "The Time of the Octopus" penned by Snowden's Russian lawyer, Anatoly Kucherena. The Moscow-based attorney told AFP in 2014 he had written the novel-which Stone likens to George Orwell's 1984 — because he could not remain indifferent to his client's ethical dilemma.

'Rules broken in secret'

"I have become a witness to the moral paradox, so to speak. I have become imbued with his emotional state, he transported me into his world," said Kucherena. Gordon-Levitt believes comparisons of the NSA scandal with the totalitarianism Orwell wrote about might be missing a "more complicated and subtle" issue thrown up by the Snowden case. "To me, the question is not about whether you need privacy or whether you don't need privacy," the 35-year-old Californian told the Comic-Con panel. "The question is that we are promised privacy in the constitution and if the government is going to change those rules, then they have to be open about that.

"That to me is actually even more important than the questions of privacy and mass surveillance in the Snowden story-the question of government transparency." Gordon-Levitt says he would welcome an open, public debate about whether mass surveillance of the population is a good idea, or even an affective bulwark against security threats. "The problem was that decision wasn't made out in the open. The rules were broken in secret, and then lied about," he added. Independent production company Open Road, which picked up a best film Oscar for "Spotlight" in February, agreed to distribute the movie in the United States, with its release scheduled for September 16. — AFP

Warner wows Comic-Con with blockbuster previews

Warner Brothers pulled back the curtain on its slate of upcoming blockbusters on Saturday at a star-studded presentation to thousands of die-hard San Diego Comic-Con fans. The studio took over the fanfest for two hours, with Conan O'Brien as host, to premiere its hotly anticipated DC Comics movies and non-superhero offerings. Stars onstage at the 6,500-seat Hall H included "Wonder Woman" lead Gal Gadot and Ben Affleck, who reprises his turn as Batman in "Justice League." A beat-boxing Will Smith was joined by Jared Leto, Margot Robbie and director David Ayer for "Suicide Squad." Next spring's "Kong: Skull Island" was presented by Tom Hiddleston, Brie Larson and John Goodman and there was a first look at Harry Potter spin-off "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" with Eddie Redmayne and Colin Farrell.



Eddie Redmayne waves a wand at the "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them".

Warner's first exclusive of the session was a sneak peek at "Wonder Woman," which saw the Amazonian-alias Diana Prince-moving away from the lush island of Themyscira into modern civilization. Near the start of the action-packed trailer soldier Steve Trevor, played by Chris Pine, asks Prince: "Have you never met a man before? But what about your father?" "I had no father. I was brought to life by Zeus," Wonder Woman replies. The movie is scheduled to hit theaters on June 2, 2017, focusing on a character introduced earlier this year in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice."



Director David Yates, from left, and actors Eddie Redmayne, Katherine Waterston, Alison Sudol, Dan Fogler, Colin Farrell, and Ezra Miller attend the "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International. — AP/AFP photos

'Good versus evil'

"It's an honor and a privilege," a visibly trembling Gadot told the Comic-Con devotees about bringing the character to the big screen. "She has the heart of a human and the strength of a goddess." Robbie's comic book baddie Harley Quinn is one of the most hotly-anticipated characters among all the films due to emerge from Warner's "DC Extended Universe" films. The studio pre-



Ezra Miller, dressed as a wizard, attends the "Justice League".

miered the first trailer for "Suicide Squad," which comes out on August 5, at last year's Comic-Con and has since released plenty of footage.

Fans were ecstatic nevertheless when they were shown the film's final trailer, which featured the bubblegum-popping Quinn using her martial arts skills to dispatch an adversary in an elevator. "Everyone was doing all this action-I was doing it wearing heels," Robbie said of the shoot, which took place last year in Toronto and Chicago. Will Smith appeared to be having the most fun, joking with fans and telling the hall: "This is not a movie about good versus evil. This is a movie about bad versus evil."

Zack Snyder took to the stage to treat fans to an unexpected first trailer for his latest movie "Justice League," which is due for release on November 17 next year. The movie reunites all three "meta-humans" in Snyder's "Batman v Superman": Wonder Woman, played again by Gadot; Batman, Ben Affleck's second outing as the Caped Crusader; and Henry Cavill's Superman.

'Lumos maximal!'

The Flash (Ezra Miller), Cyborg (Ray Fisher) and Aquaman (Jason Momoa) make up the remaining members of the crime-fighting team. The joke-laden trailer is a marked contrast from "Batman v Superman," which was heavily criticized for its dark tone and taking itself too seriously. At one point in the preview, Batman turns to Aquaman, smiling mischievously and asks: "I hear you can talk to fish?" Superheroes may have dominated the day, but a first look at next year's "Kong: Skull Island," drew the loudest gasps from the Comic-Conners. The movie, like previous incarnations, focuses on an expedition to Kong's home island but this time is set in the 1970s.

The trailer hinted at a distinctly military flavor to Jordan Vogt-Roberts' take on Kong, offering a split-second first look at the giant ape after two minutes of helicopters and explosions. "What's not cool about choppers and napalm and King Kong?" the director said. Finally, Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne hit the stage alongside Colin Farrell to show off a new trailer for "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," which comes out on November 18. For a few minutes there was magic in the room as Redmayne handed out wands to the entire audience, leading them in shouting "lumos maximal!" to light up the hall. In previous years much of the footage shown at Comic-Con, America's largest pop-culture convention, has been exclusive to the fans present in Hall H Studios have begun dropping footage online simultaneously, however, in response to leaks of bootlegged footage at previous conventions. — AFP



Director Zack Snyder, from left, and actors Ben Affleck, Gal Gadot, Ray Fisher, Ezra Miller, Jason Momoa, and Henry Cavill attend the "Justice League".



Sara Maldonado, of Denver, left, and Alison Sumo, of Placentia, Calif, dress as characters from the film, "Ghostbusters".



Fans dressed as Star Wars characters walk in front of the convention center.



Katherine Masiewicz, dressed as a monster hunter, faces off against a group of dinosaurs as they pose for photographers outside of the convention center.



William Shatner, from left, Brent Spiner, Michael Dorn, and Jeri Ryan attend the "Star Trek" panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International. — AP/AFP photos

New 'Star Trek' series to be called 'Discovery'

US television network CBS celebrated the 50th anniversary of "Star Trek" at San Diego Comic-Con on Saturday, revealing that the keenly-awaited new series is to be called "Star Trek: Discovery." The name was revealed at the end of a 76-second teaser trailer shown at the sci-fi and fantasy festival which showed a starship pulling out of its mooring inside an asteroid. Bryan Fuller, a "Star Trek" veteran who started out in the 1990s writing for "Deep Space Nine" and "Voyager," is to return as co-creator and executive producer of the new show.

"We're telling stories in a new way. We're not so much episodic. We're going to be telling stories like a novel," he told the Comic-Con audience. He didn't elaborate, but "non-episodic" series typically have story arcs which run across a whole season or even longer, unlike the previous five "Star Trek" shows, which were mainly made up of self-contained episodes. The new series, which begins filming in Toronto in September ahead of a premiere planned for January next year, will be the franchise's first new outing in more than a decade. The premiere will be broadcast on CBS's main channel, with the rest showing on subscription service CBS All Access in North America and Netflix-with a delay of 24 hours-in the rest of the world.

The original "Star Trek" told the story of the flight crew aboard the USS Enterprise spaceship, which ventured around the galaxy exploring new worlds. It snowballed into a cultural phenomenon in the 1970s and 80s, making household names of the late Leonard Nimoy, who played the half-human, half-Vulcan "Mr Spock," and William Shatner, who played Captain James T Kirk. Shatner was joined onstage for the panel by other actors in the "Star Trek" canon, including Scott Bakula Michael Dorn and Jeri Ryan. Shatner described the "Star Trek"

ethos as "the basis of law and order" and "the basis of civilization."

"I think Star Trek in general has been about individual rights and about respecting everyone, no matter who or what the are," said Brett Spiner, who played the android Data in the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" television and film series. "A lot of our politicians and our fellow citizens could take a page from 'Star Trek' and have a bit more respect for each other and for all of us," he added. — AFP



Jeri Ryan walks on stage at the "Star Trek" panel on day 3 of Comic-Con International.



Margot Robbie, left, with Jared Leto who points to the audience at the "Suicide Squad".



Jessica Chancellor, dressed as Batgirl, waits in line for her credential on Preview Night.



Will Smith walks on stage at the "Suicide Squad" panel.



Kathy Green and David McClow, dressed as characters from Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas.



The audience waves their wands at the "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them".

Wahran trading company and Bvlgari present Bvlgari Man Black cologne and Bvlgari Man Black Orient

Following the success of Bvlgari Man in Black, Bvlgari signs two new exceptional olfactory creations: Bvlgari Man Black Cologne, an unexpected oriental fresh composition, to be launched for the next summer season, and Bvlgari Man Black Orient, an opulent oriental essence, for the fall season.

Become iconic amongst masculine fragrances, Bvlgari Man in Black has anchored its notoriety between raw audacity and telluric elegance. This unique, powerful, sensual, magnetic neo-oriental trail is a new writing of virile charisma. An exaltation of masculinity, this essence still enralls across the globe.

In 2016, the mysteries of Bvlgari Man in Black gives birth to two new unprecedented creations. In this revolutionary wake, Bvlgari introduces a new Eau de Toilette Bvlgari Man Black Cologne and a Parfum Bvlgari Man Black Orient. Complementary but distinctive, the new scents revisit the same epic and olfactory history combining power and elegance, virility and refinement. From their predecessor, they retain sensuality, power and magnetism, while affirming new complementary and distinctive traits. An olfactory

reinvention, which redefines the boundaries of a masculine seduction, tinged with raw sophistication and hypnotic power.

Bvlgari Man Black Cologne, a detonating fusion of cold and heat:

Dedicated to men of authentic personality, Bvlgari Man Black Cologne blends sensuality with oriental freshness. Shaped in contrasts, this "burning water" brings an alternative sensation of pleasure, a wind of vegetal airiness in the heat of summer.

Bvlgari Man Black Orient, a concentrate of incandescent mystery:

Extreme concentrate of oriental sophistication, Bvlgari Man Black Orient is a black essence of precious and raw materials, made for connoisseurs. Bewitching way to reconnect with the original nature of man, the fragrance is aimed at men in quest of subtle elegance and absolute virility.

Bvlgari man in black The Odyssey
On the Eolian islands - a land covered in



ash, hostile by definition - one of the most legendary heroes of Antiquity, Vulcan started the most important human adventure by giving

mankind the divine fire he stole from his father, Jupiter. Very simply, it made life on Earth possible. An eternal myth, which mir-

rors contemporary popular imagination.

Vulcan, or the journey of a fallen god who has been thrown down to Earth and has become, thanks to the power of his talents and his courage, the Roman god of fire, of silver and of gold who fascinated the philosophers. For the Greeks he was the companion of the goddess Charis - the symbol of absolute grace - who gave us the word charisma. For the Romans, he was the husband of Venus, the goddess of love, which Caesar later claimed as an ancestor.

Vulcan, the "master of fire". Or energy becomes man: that of a hero who transcends daily life, as a true "God from Earth", mastering the most hostile elements. Under his impulsion, ore becomes metal, magma becomes mineral and crystal, water becomes vapour and essence. Bvlgari has translated this extraordinary saga in olfactory and visual terms. The neo-oriental signature of the Bvlgari Man in Black trilogy thus draws from the sources of the Mediterranean, the mother-sea linking the West and the Orient and making possible olfactory exchanges in which aesthetics hold their ground against the sacred.

Lifestyle

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Fans dressed as "Chewie's Angels" pose for a photo on day two of Comic-Con International held at the San Diego Convention Center Friday in San Diego. — AP

Art with heart: Making children's health wards less scary

For Dorkas Kaya and other young patients with HIV, seeing the walls of their residential treatment facility transformed with broad splashes of color and graffiti-like scribbles brought a singular reaction: "Whoa!" Artist Jose Parla spent several days last week decorating bedrooms, hallways and common areas of the Incarnation Children's Center in his signature improvisational style, the latest project in a charitable effort that commissions top contemporary artists to make pediatric health facilities less intimidating. "We were all like 'whoa,' yelling, 'cause it's so different," said Kaya, a 19-year-old who has been in the center for three years. "I like the colors. It brings life to the place." The nonprofit RxArt's simple mission is to help children heal through the power of art by taking their mind off their surroundings, even for just a little while. They've brought in an impres-

sive roster of artists to pediatric wards across the country to create original works on walls, ceilings, floors, even medical equipment. In fact, former art dealer Diane Brown founded RxArt 15 years ago out of her own claustrophobia of CAT scan machines. "I was having a CAT scan and I was terrified," she recalled. Her only escape was using her imagination to think about a painting by one of her favorite artists, Matthew Ritchie. When the test was over, she realized she had hardly been aware of it. She decided, "I'd like to do this for other people, but in case they didn't have my imagination or background, I would have to be more concrete." RxArt has since worked with such artists as Jeff Koons at Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois; Kenny Scharf at Kings County Hospital Center in Brooklyn; Urs Fischer at the Cedar Sinai Maxine Dunitz

Children's Health Center in Los Angeles; and John Monti at Children's Hospital Boston. Thirty-two projects are complete. Seven more are in the pipeline. **'It's a free-flowing piece'** Koons' project decorated a CAT scan machine with decals of his iconic monkey images. "Having the monkey faces on the scanner ... feels more like this would be like an amusement park ride, something that's a fun experience, not something to be frightened of," the celebrated pop artist says in a RxArt video of his project created in 2010. Brooklyn artist Parla, whose exuberant works hang in One World Trade Center and the Brooklyn Academy of Music, created a mural in the rooftop garden of the 21-bed Incarnation center in upper Manhattan. "It's a free-flowing piece" with posi-

tive words over it such as "incarnation" and "love," said Parla, who also decorated rooms with specially designed wallpaper with his signature graffiti-like motifs. A recent \$1 million grant from the Gerard B. Lambert Foundation has allowed RxArt to secure artists for more ambitious projects and expand to more cities. There is no cost to the institutions, and while the artists are offered \$10,000 honorariums, Brown said it's insignificant when compared with what they can make in their studios. Turner Simkins, whose 14-year-old son Brennan spent three years at St Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, with acute myeloid leukemia, said the large panda paintings by Rob Pruitt in the hospital's multipurpose room are a cheerful respite from despair. Simkins, who lives in North Augusta, South

Carolina, said Pruitt's work, made of shimmering mirrored discs the children can touch, "gives the kids something to think about besides their condition. Something cheerful ... affects your spirit, demeanor and how you start the day." RxArt is in the midst of designing studies to assess whether visual art can also help children heal. Some past medical research has suggested that pleasant environmental stimuli, like natural sunlight and music, might affect patient well-being or help motivate health care workers to deliver better care, though there isn't evidence yet of a strong correlation. "A positive and comforting environment can have a major impact on patients' experiences," said Dr Barry Collier, physician-in-chief at Rockefeller University Hospital. "This is especially true for pediatric patients who are a particularly vulnerable population." — AP



Syrian singer Lena Chamamyan (center) performs on stage with oud masters Iraqi Naseer Shamma (right) and Lebanese Charbel Rouhana (left) during the Yamal El Sham concert at the Beiteddine Palace in Lebanon's Chouf mountains, south of Beirut, during the Beiteddine International Art Festival on July 23, 2016. Yamal el Sham, the title of a Syrian folkloric medley, is a performance that brings together Lena Chamamyan, Naseer Shamma and Charbel Rouhana alongside Lebanese oriental orchestra and Canadian ensemble OktoEcho. — AFP photos

Beiteddine Palace — Concerts —



Iraqi oud master Naseer Shamma performs on stage during the Yamal El Sham concert at the Beiteddine Palace.



Lebanese oud master Charbel Rouhana performs on stage.



Syrian singer Lena Chamamyan (second left), Lebanese-Canadian composer and director Katia Makdissi-Warren (second right), oud masters Iraqi Naseer Shamma (right) and Lebanese Charbel Rouhana (left) greet the audience at the end of their Yamal El Sham concert.



Lebanese singer Najwa Karam performs during the International Carthage Festival at the Roman Theatre of Carthage, near Tunis. — AFP