

Marbella proud to host Kuwait-Spain festival



Philippines' Duterte vows no mercy in crime war



Yahoo seals \$4.8bn deal with Verizon for its core assets



Konta topples Venus for first WTA title



AMIR WARNS REGIONAL CONFLICTS AFFECT DEVELOPMENT, STABILITY

ARAB SUMMIT SLAMS TERROR WAGED IN NAME OF ISLAM



Min 32°
Max 45°
High Tide 04:08 & 16:01
Low Tide 10:20 & 22:42



40 PAGES

STRANDED IN UAE, DUPED WORKERS APPEAL FOR HELP

CHENNAI: Indians workers stranded in the United Arab Emirates with expired work permits, no pay and limited food, water and sanitation have appealed to the Indian government for immediate repatriation and financial assistance. "Please help us reunite with our families," a migrant said in a video clip, adding that there were nearly 100 workers stuck with no money or documents to get back home. Fifteen workers from southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, who are among those at a camp for migrant workers, have urged the Indian government to bring them home immediately.

"We received their complaint a few days back and sent it to our mission in Abu Dhabi asking for immediate repatriation and ensuring the companies they were working for pay their salaries," said an official in the Indian foreign ministry, who declined to be named. Government figures show there are an estimated six million Indian migrants in the six Gulf states of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Continued on Page 13



NOUAKCHOTT: HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah is seen during the 27th Arab Summit that kicked off in the Mauritanian capital yesterday. — KUNA

NOUAKCHOTT: Critical conditions, hazardous events and accelerating changes continue to undermine the stability of the region and waste time and efforts at the expense of development and the realization of peoples' expectations in Arab countries, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah stressed in a statement to the opening session of the 27th Arab Summit that kicked off in the Mauritanian capital yesterday.

They have also added fresh and dangerous dimensions to the challenges facing the joint Arab action, the Amir said. He said that the situation in Syria is getting graver and the volume of destruction, killing and homelessness is doubling, together with suffering of the "Syrian brothers". HH the Amir also referred to the efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian people. Kuwait has hosted the first, second and third international humanitarian pledging conferences for Syria, and co-chaired the fourth one, he said.

The humanitarian crisis in Syria is aggravating as the international community is watching, and has unfortunately failed to conclude a political solution to end the suffering, raise Syrians' hopes and in the meantime contribute to rid the world of the evils of terrorism that has come to pose a threat to world stability and has doubled victims, the Amir said.

On Yemen, HH the Amir referred to hopes that the conflict in the country would come to an end. Although the political consultations for peace in Yemen Kuwait has been hosting for more than two months have not reached an agreement to end the destructive conflict.

Continued on Page 13

News

in brief

Education Ministry updates curricula

KUWAIT: The upcoming scholastic year will witness 'qualitative leap' in updating the national curricula, including new materials that boost skills and implant patriotism among the students, a senior official said yesterday. New textbooks will be published for the high-school level, covering philosophy, economics, sociology and Kuwait history; the latter intended to ingrain patriotic values in the students' consciousness, said Dr Saud Al-Harbi, the assistant undersecretary for the educational curricula, in a statement today. The Ministry of Education adopts a strategy aimed at enhancing students' cultural and national awareness, in line with the approach to bringing up a good citizen, one who respects freedom of expression, works faithfully for the homeland and respects others' cultures, human rights and cares for the environment.

Madagascar fire kills 38, including 16 kids

ANTANANARIVO: A house fire during a party in Madagascar has killed 38 people including 16 children as the blaze ripped through a thatched roof, police said. The victims - the youngest only six months old - were trapped inside the house in the village of Ambalavato, in the rural center of the island, when the fire broke out on Saturday night. The partygoers, including the home owner's wife and seven of his children, were celebrating the renovation of the house. The owner himself was away at the time. The blaze is believed to have started from embers of a fire that had been used earlier to cook food for guests. It was fanned by the wind, spreading first to a bale of dry rice straw next to the house before it caught hold of the grass thatch on the roof. Due to frequent muggings and other crimes, the party guests chose to stay at the host's house rather than return home for the night. Funerals for the 38 victims were held yesterday.

World needs 31,000 new pilots a year

NEW YORK: Global airlines will need an average of 31,000 new pilots every year for the next two decades as the air transport industry expands, Boeing said yesterday. In its annual forecast of industry staffing needs, the US aircraft builder said staffing needs at carriers will also grow quickly for cabin crew - a total of 814,000 people needed through 2035 - and maintenance technicians, 679,000. Those numbers are needed to serve a global fleet Boeing has predicted will rise by nearly 40,000 aircraft in the same period. The pilot estimate was 10.5 percent higher than last year's, Boeing said in a statement. Forecast growth is strongest in the Asia-Pacific region, with 40 percent of global need due to the rise of low-cost carriers using single-aisle aircraft like the Boeing 737 and the Airbus A320. New aviation markets in Cuba and Mexico will drive stronger demand in North America, Boeing added.

ISLAMIC STATE CLAIMS NEW GERMAN ATTACK



ANSBACH, Germany: A police officer in protective gear inspects a backpack used to carry an explosive device at the scene of a suicide attack in this southern German city yesterday. — AFP

ANSBACH, Germany: A Syrian asylum seeker who blew himself up outside a German music festival had made a video pledging allegiance to the Islamic State group, authorities said yesterday, in the second attack claimed by the jihadists in Germany in a week. The 27-year-old assailant wounded 15 people, four of them seriously, near a cafe in the southern city of Ansbach on Sunday night when he set off a bomb in his rucksack, killing himself.

"A video made by the assailant was found on his mobile phone in which he threatened an attack," Bavarian state interior minister Joachim Herrmann told reporters. "After that he announced in the name of Allah that he pledged allegiance to (IS chief) Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the well-known Islamist leader, and announced an act of revenge against Germans because they were standing in the way of Islam."

IS later said via the jihadist-linked Amaq news agency that the attacker "was a soldier of the Islamic State" who had acted "in response to calls to target nations in the coalition fighting" the extremists. Europe's economic powerhouse was already reeling after four passengers and a passer-by were wounded in an axe attack on a train in Wuerzburg on July 18, which IS also claimed.

Then on Friday, nine people were killed in a shopping center shooting spree in Munich by a German-Iranian teenager with a history of psychological problems but no apparent links to Islamists. Already steeped in grief and shock, Germans were further rattled by news that a Syrian refugee had killed a 45-year-old Polish woman with a large kebab knife at a snack bar in the southwestern city of Reutlingen on Sunday. Police, who had initially said the murder weapon was a machete, concluded that the incident in which three others were injured was likely a "crime of passion".

Continued on Page 13

DEMS' CONVENTION STARTS UNDER CLOUD

PHILADELPHIA: Bernie Sanders yesterday urged his supporters to back Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in her White House bid, drawing jeers and shouts of "We want Bernie" in a show of discord as the party kicked off its national convention. The boos underscored the deeply felt anger his convention delegates feel at both Clinton's win and embarrassing emails leaked on Friday suggesting the party leadership had worked to sabotage Sanders' campaign for the nomination.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned as party chairwoman on Sunday, a day

before the start of the Philadelphia convention to formally nominate Clinton for the Nov 8 election, and yesterday she bowed to pressure and agreed not to open the convention. Speaking to his supporters, Sanders savaged Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, calling him a danger to the future of the country who "must be defeated," but some in the room booed when he said "we have got to elect Hillary Clinton" and her vice presidential running mate, US Senator Tim Kaine of Virginia.

Continued on Page 13



PHILADELPHIA: Bernie Sanders supporters gather at City Hall in preparation to march through downtown on the first day of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) yesterday. — AFP

CASSATION COURT UPHOLDS SHEIKH AHMAD ACQUITTAL

TURAJI QUESTIONS SALEH ON KIA

By B Izzak

KUWAIT: The court of cassation, the highest tribunal in the country, yesterday upheld the acquittal of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahd Al-Sabah of charges of insulting the judiciary and casting doubt over its integrity. The criminal court sentenced Sheikh Ahmad, a senior member of the ruling family and former oil minister, to six months in jail in December over the charge of insulting the public prosecutor during a television interview. The sentence was overturned by the court of appeals in January, and the acquittal was confirmed yesterday in the final ruling, which cannot be challenged.

Besides being a senior executive member of FIFA and a prominent member of the International Olympic Committee, Sheikh Ahmad is also the chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia. After the first ruling was passed, Sheikh Ahmad denied all the charges and said the sentence was a personal attack against him.

The case erupted after FIFA and the IOC in October suspended Kuwait from all sporting activities over alleged government interference in competitions in the state. The FIFA suspension

means Kuwait cannot take part in qualifying for the 2018 football World Cup and the IOC suspension means Kuwaiti athletes are barred from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics next month. Kuwait's government has separately filed a lawsuit against Sheikh Ahmad, his brother Sheikh Talal - the chairman of Kuwait Olympic Committee - and 13 other officials over the bans. It is also demanding hundreds of millions of dollars in damages. Parliament last month passed legislation introducing sweeping changes to sports laws but several MPs said the amendments were unlikely to lead to the ban being lifted.

Meanwhile, MP Abdullah Al-Turaji yesterday sent a series of questions to Finance Minister Anas Al-Saleh about the outcome of a government committee to probe allegations of violations in the Kuwait Investment Office in London and Kuwaiti investments abroad. Turaji recalled that the National Assembly's public funds protection panel had investigated the alleged violations and recommended that officials at Kuwait Investment Authority (KIA) be sent to the public prosecution for a judicial inquiry.

Continued on Page 13



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with Chief of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah meets with German Ambassador to Kuwait Ogen Volvart. The meeting was attended by head of the protocol at the Diwan of

INTERIOR MINISTER THANKS AMIR FOR EXTOLLING SECURITY FORCES

KUWAIT: Acting Prime Minister, Interior Minister and Acting Foreign and Defense Minister Sheikh Mohammad Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah yesterday expressed gratitude to His Highness the Amir for a cable, in which he extolled the efforts of security personnel in protecting the nation.



Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah

In a statement issued by the Ministry of Interior (MoI), Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled asserted that security forces will continue to "guard the nation from any attempt to threaten its security and stability."

"His Highness the Amir's acknowledgment is an incentive for security forces to uphold security and stability in the country," the statement added. Moreover, he also thanked His Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and His Highness the Prime Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah for similar cables they had sent.

"The efforts of our security forces is an obligation they are committed to," Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled said. In a major drug bust, security forces and customs officials have recently seized more than 10 million Captagon pills, an amphetamine drug that causes surges of energy.— KUNA

CROWN PRINCE RECEIVES STATE OFFICIALS

KUWAIT: His Highness the Deputy Amir and Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah received Chief

of the National Security Bureau Sheikh Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah at Seif Palace yesterday. His Highness also

received German Ambassador to Kuwait Ogen Volvart. The meeting was attended by head of the protocol at the Diwan of

Highness the Crown Prince Sheikh Mubarak Sabah Al-Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah. — KUNA



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

KUWAITI CITIZENS IN GERMANY OK, CONSULATE URGES CAUTION

KUWAIT: The State of Kuwait General Consulate in Frankfurt declares that all Kuwaiti citizens in the Federal Republic of Germany are safe, affirming their well-being in aftermath of the attack and bombing that happened in Stuttgart and Ansbach, on Sunday. The diplomatic mission is maintaining constant contact with the local security authorities to ensure that the Kuwaitis are all safe. The Consulate urges all

Kuwaiti nationals currently in Germany to take maximum precautions, avoid gatherings, abide by the local security authorities' instructions "in these delicate security circumstances" in the nation out of concern about their safety. For emergencies, the Kuwaiti Consulate in Frankfurt is reachable via the telephone number: 0049675937270. Emergency number used during no-work hours: 004915208001100. —KUNA

KUWAIT DEPLORES MUNICH SHOOTING

CABINET HOLDS WEEKLY MEETING

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday denounced the shooting rampage in the German city of Munich on Friday, which claimed scores of lives and injured several others. Kuwait deplores this 'criminal' attack, which contravenes all religious values and conveys its deepest condolences to the families of the victims, said a statement issued by the Cabinet after its weekly meeting.

Moreover, the Cabinet called on the international community to ramp up efforts to fight all forms of terrorism and to exterminate this scourge. An 18 year old teenager opened fire on shoppers in Munich's Olympia shopping mall on Friday, killing nine people and wounding 16 others, before turning the gun on himself.

Drug smuggling

The cabinet yesterday held a customary weekly meeting at Seif Palace chaired by Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah. The meeting was briefed in detail on the thwarted recent attempt to smuggle a huge amount of Captagon into Kuwait through the Shuwaikh Port. The account was offered by Acting Prime Minister and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Oil.

The attempt, the biggest in Kuwait's history, was foiled in cooperation with the security bodies and the General Administration of Customs. The cabinet hailed the achievement and highly appreciated the sincere efforts by the Interior Ministry and the General Administration of Customs to combat drugs and protect the country against their destructive impacts.

Sand dunes

Meanwhile, the meeting was offered an account by Minister of Public Works and Minister

of State for National Assembly Affairs Ali Al-Omar on the phenomenon of sand dune fields and dust accumulation on high ways. The minister said an outstanding committee would be formed from the relevant bodies to be in charge of taking the precautionary measures to counter the phenomenon. A mechanism will be set for coordination among these bodies in case of emergency.

Furthermore, the cabinet approved and referred to His Highness the Amir draft bills on endorsing the balance sheets of several state institutions for the FY 2015-2016. The bills will later find their way to the National Assembly.

Letters to Amir

At the onset of the meeting, the ministers were notified of a message from Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow inviting His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to attend the Global Sustainable Transport Conference which Ashgabat hosts on November 26-27, said Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah.

The conference will address issues related to the international partnership in sustainable transport systems as an integral element in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The meeting was also informed about messages to His Highness the Amir from Senegalese President Macky Sall, Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, on means of boosting bilateral ties, besides issues of common concern, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah added.

The cabinet was then given notice of a message from Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak inviting His Highness the Amir to attend the opening ceremony of the 12th World Islamic

Economic Forum Foundation, to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, August 2016 under the theme "Decentralizing Growth, Empowering Future Business."

Climate change

The ministers were apprised of a message from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon inviting His Highness the Amir to attend the high-profile event at the organization's headquarters in New York on September 21, to secure the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement on climate change. The event will be held on the sidelines of the 71th session of the UN General Assembly.

Afterwards, the cabinet was apprised of a written message from the King of Lesotho Letsie III of Lesotho appreciating His Highness the Amir's invitation to pay an official visit to Kuwait, which he accepted and welcomed, the cabinet affairs minister said.

In his message, the Monarch stressed the momentousness of the visit during which he will meet with His Highness the Amir to exchange views on issues of common concern, in addition to discussing means of promoting bilateral ties for the good of both countries, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah noted.

Arab Youth

Meanwhile, the cabinet welcomed the decision by the 38th session of the Council of Arab Ministers of Youth and Sports choosing Kuwait as 'Capital of Arab Youth 2017.' The cabinet tasked Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah with coordinating with the relevant bodies, as well as forming the necessary committees to realize the aspired goals. Yesterday's meeting was concluded with a review of developments on the Arab and international political arena. — KUNA

SPORTS SUSPENSION TO BE SOLVED INEVITABLY: MINISTER

KUWAIT: The solution for the pending sports suspension is "inevitably coming," Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah said, stressing that the Government has exerted all efforts and contacted all bodies, including that of the United Nations.

"Government support should be met with reliability," the Minister told the press yesterday after a tour he took around couple of sports clubs, with the company of Director General of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. Sheikh Salman Al-Humoud emphasized the importance of

following regulations, holding irresponsible people accountable for their actions and respecting every personnel working in sports. The suspension was unjustly imposed, the Minister said; nonetheless, this suspension will be lifted once international sports federations are respected and sports, in all of its fields, is progressed.

Meanwhile, PAS chief said that a maintenance contract was signed with a new company that will oversee sports clubs in the country and revamp any 'shortcomings' of pervious maintenance companies. He called on increasing sports events and activities and encouraging young people to get involved in athleticism. —KUNA



KUWAIT: Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Salem Al-Humoud Al-Sabah is seen during the tour, accompanied by Director General of the Public Authority for Sports (PAS) Sheikh Ahmad Al-Mansour Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah. — KUNA



KUWAIT: Deputy Commander of the Kuwait National Guard (KNG) Sheikh Meshaal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah honored a number of military police officers for their dedicated efforts in performing their military duties, KNG said in a statement yesterday.

HEAT WAVE TO AFFECT LOCAL FISH PRODUCTION

HUMIDITY TO CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND

By Faten Omar

KUWAIT: Temperatures in Kuwait reached 54 degrees Celsius last week, setting a record for the hottest day ever, according to several reports. The blistering temperature was recorded in Mitribah in Kuwait. The weather was not the only thing that has been affected. Acting Chairman of the Kuwait Fishermen's Union Jalal Al-Shammari told Kuwait Times that the 'abnormal' heat wave that swept Kuwait will affect fish production this summer.

Shammari said large amounts of fish were affected by the high temperatures, especially those that live on the surface of the water. "High temperatures lead to reduced amounts of oxygen that dissolves in the water, which make us lose large amounts of Kuwaiti maid fish, estimated in tons annually," he said.

About the shrimping season, he said that the heat wave will not affect large fish and shrimp and other species that live on the seabed. "The deeper you go, the more the temperature will drop," Shammari said. The Kuwait Fishermen Union said the shrimping season in international waters will start on Aug 1, adding that the union took undertakings from license owners and boat skippers to comply with the laws and Amiri decrees.

Yesterday's weather was relatively hot and humid, especially on coastal areas, according to the Kuwait Meteorological Center. Maximum temperature reached 45 degrees Celsius while the minimum temperatures was 29 degrees Celsius recorded in the morning.



KUWAIT: The beachfront pictured during a hot and humid day in Kuwait City yesterday. —KUNA

High humidity is expected to continue tomorrow and throughout the weekend, veteran meteorologist Essa Ramadan was quoted yesterday, adding that the temperatures during that period would vary between 40 and 47 degrees Celsius. The hot temperatures are expected to last until the end of August, before they start

dropping after the Canopus star appears in the night sky on September 6, Ramadan said. Kuwait reportedly recorded a temperature of 54 C degrees last Thursday; the highest temperature ever recorded in the eastern hemisphere and could be the highest temperature ever recorded on earth.

COUNCILOR CALLS FOR PROMOTING TOURISM AS NEW INCOME SOURCE

By Meshaal Al-Enezi and A Saleh

KUWAIT: Municipal Council member and chairman of the state's structural plan committee Ali Al-Mousa said tourism is one of the important sources of income in several countries, making those countries depend on tourism as a main source of income. Mousa said that although there are legislations for tourism projects that were approved in 2008 in the structural plan, but it is still in the drawers and the plan remains only on paper.

He said that based on the available capabilities in Kuwait, tourism can become a second source of income after oil. He said the problem is in the slowness of the documentation cycle and hesitation in implementing decisions due to the weak administration by some officials, despite the existence of legislations to execute tourism projects. Mousa said the Kuwaiti people are educated and knowledgeable of the most modern tourist projects and want them, but tourism development in the country is still weak and needs major support from the government.



Ali Al-Mousa

Extra burial period

Director of the funerals department at Kuwait Municipality Faisal Al-Awadhi submitted a proposal to the Assistant Director General for Municipal Services Sector Fahd Al-Musabbahi to hold burials three times a day instead of two. He said the proposed times for burials are 9 am, after Asr prayers and after Isha prayers, instead of the current 9 am and post-Asr times. Awadhi said that his proposal was made as deaths are on the rise, resulting in crowding at the cemetery due to the increased number of those attending the funerals.

Medical licenses

The Health Ministry sent letters to the Finance Ministry, requesting allocating a building for the medical licenses department. It also urged selecting a new location to replace the current one, which is made of mobile homes. The health ministry said the department receives hundreds of patrons every day, including doctors, pharmacists and their representatives. In addition, medical certificates from hospital and health centers in the private sector are being authenticated at the department.

FILIPINOS IN KUWAIT HAIL FIRST ADDRESS OF DUTERTE

NEW PRESIDENT PLANS TO IMPROVE SERVICES FOR OFWS

By Ben Garcia

KUWAIT: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte delivered his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) yesterday, and Filipinos in Kuwait applauded his three-week old government. Many Filipinos here are satisfied with the performance and quick actions under Duterte's watch, especially on issues related to drugs and corruption. Duterte vowed to show 'no mercy' in his bloody war on crime, warning criminals that priests and human rights advocates cannot protect them from being killed. A defiant Duterte devoted a large chunk of his inaugural 'State of the Nation' address to his law and order campaign, which has claimed hundreds of lives since he took office on June 30. Duterte said the crack-down on illegal drugs won't stop until the last drug lord is punished. At least 130,000 drug addicts have surrendered and almost 300 killed by authorities since he assumed the presidency on July 1, 2016.

"There will be no let-up in this campaign. Double your efforts, triple them, if needed. We will not stop until the last drug lord, the last financier and the last pusher have surrendered or put behind bars or below the ground if they wish so," the president said. Duterte, who promised to suppress crime and drugs within six months, said he is ready to kill anyone who destroys the youth and the country with illegal drugs. He also vowed to wage a "bloody" and "ruthless" campaign against the narcotics trade, alarming human rights advocates who are worried that it could lead to extralegal killings.

Very proud

"Of course I am really proud of my president! He knows how to manage the country. He is brilliant at it and has shown it to us since day one, when he decided to run as president of the country," Lea, a 35-year old Pinay saleslady, told Kuwait Times. Filipinos in Kuwait are also happy on how the Duterte government is planning to ease traffic congestions in Metro Manila. He said that he will be adding more mass transport means including a bullet train to make sure that the daily suffering of commuters will be addressed soon.

"I like his promises to ease the traffic in Metro Manila by constructing more mass-transport systems. I like the bullet train plan from Subic to Manila - we really need to have it," said Rina, a Filipino teacher. Duterte also urged the 17th Congress to pass the proposed Bangsamoro



MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (Center) delivers his State of the Nation Address at Congress in Manila yesterday. Duterte announced a unilateral ceasefire with communist rebels who are waging one of Asia's longest insurgencies, and urged them to reciprocate. — AFP

Basic Law (BBL) without provisions deemed to violate the constitution. "The only way forward is to give the BBL, minus the illegal provisions under the constitution," he said.

"I like him as my president because he never forgets people from Mindanao, the Muslim people and his roots. He said that he has the blood of Mindanao and so his heart goes to every one of us with very less opportunities in Mindanao. I liked the start of his speech, that we cannot move forward if we allow the past to pull us back. These are amazing and inspiring words for everyone, although I know he is trying to indirectly refer to Aquino, the former president," said Melvin, from Luzon.

Improved services

Duterte ordered DOLE Sec Silvestre Bello to hasten the plan to improve services for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) and plan to create a separate department dealing only with OFWs. Duterte said that the government is looking to help OFWs become financially literate by implementing "mandatory financial education for all

migrants". One of the chronic problems that beset Filipino workers, particularly in the Middle East, is running into huge debts.

The president also said that he will ask Congress to have a bill approved to create a national department for OFWs. "I think the plan for OFWs is really unique. We always wanted a president who heard the cries of people, and not someone with no empathy towards the people and the need of his constituency," a Filipina worker said. Duterte, 71, won the May election in a landslide after promising to quickly eradicate crime by unleashing security forces with shoot-to-kill orders, and vowing that tens of thousands of people would die. Meanwhile in the SONA, Duterte also announced a unilateral ceasefire with communist rebels waging one of Asia's longest insurgencies, saying it is his "dream" to end the rebellion. "To immediately stop violence on the ground and restore peace in the communities ... I am now announcing a unilateral ceasefire," Duterte told lawmakers. "We will strive to have a permanent and lasting peace before my term ends. That is my goal and my dream."



KUWAIT: The Kuwait Coastguard Department carried out cleaning campaigns at Um Al-Maradem Island, in cooperation with Kuwait Municipality and the Kuwait Dive Team. A large number of metal pieces that were damaging coral reefs were removed, the Interior Ministry said in a statement yesterday.

MAN BRIBES OFFICER TO RELEASE DEPORTEE

SIX HURT IN DHAHR HOUSE FIRE



KUWAIT: This handout photo released by the Interior Ministry yesterday shows a man accused of bribing an officer to release a detainee, along with the cash he offered.

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: Residency detectives arrested an Asian man who attempted to bribe a public employee. The relations and security information department said in a statement that a policeman at the residency detectives said an Indian man offered him KD 1,100 in order to release a detainee who is awaiting deportation.

Liquor brewery busted

Farwaniya security directorate carried out several traffic and security campaigns that resulted in the discovery of a local liquor brewery run by two Sri Lankans, in addition to arresting three Indians distrib-

uting liquor, while 150 bottles were confiscated. Traffic campaigns resulted in impounding 29 vehicles, handing citations for 67 traffic violations including 25 for parking in disabled designated areas, 25 taxi permit violations, in addition to 19 traffic obstruction violations. Separately, Farwaniya police raided a brothel where 32 men and women were arrested. They are being deported.

Workers injured

Six persons were injured following a fire in a Dhahr house yesterday. Qurain and Mubarak Al-Kabeer fire centers responded to the blaze at a labor residence made of corrugated metal on the roof of a house,

which had several cooking gas cylinders. The building was evacuated, and six Asian nationals were transferred to hospital. Another fire broke out in Zahra, and Subhan center responded. The fire was in a tent inside the house's yard. The fire was put out and no injuries were reported.

Traffic campaign

The traffic sector carried out several traffic campaigns in Kuwait's governorates in the period from July 17 to 23. The campaign resulted in issuing 39,584 violations, impounding 1,500 vehicles, six motorcycles and detaining 35 persons, while 12 expats were sent for deportation for driving without a license.



Three persons arrested yesterday with homebrewed liquor bottles.

In Brief

EPA WARNS AGAINST SUNKEN SHIPS' DANGERS

KUWAIT: The Environment Public Authority (EPA) warned yesterday against potential perils posed by a pair of sunken ships in Khor Abdullah estuary. EPA is consulting with government bodies to remedy this issue as part of efforts to ensure environmental protection, EPA Deputy Director General Mohammad Al-Enezi said. Moreover, Enezi noted that he had chaired a meeting that tackled ways to recover all sunken ships in the area, adding that the Ministry of Defense's naval force had surveyed all locations which contain those sunken vessels. — KUNA



PAY COOPERATES WITH UNDP

KUWAIT: Director General of the Public Authority for Youth (PAY) Dr Abdul-Rahman Baddah Al-Mutairi asserted yesterday keenness of PAY to enhance cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This came in a press statement following Mutairi's meeting with UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative to the State of Kuwait Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun. Mutairi said that PAY was seeking to enhance its relations with international bodies dealing with development in order to build and develop Kuwaiti youth's capabilities. — KUNA



KUWAIT PARTICIPATES IN ASIAN PARLIAMENTARY MEET

KUWAIT: A delegation of the National Assembly's Caucus is due to take part in a meeting of the permanent committee on the economy and sustainable development of the Asian Parliamentary Assembly (APA) due in Islamabad, Pakistan, today. The delegation departed the country, late on Sunday, travelling to Pakistan for the meeting due on July 26-27. — KUNA



Photo

of the day



KUWAIT: People walk as others sit on cafe terraces inside the Avenues Mall, the country's largest shopping center, yesterday as Kuwaitis limit their outdoors activities due to the high temperatures recorded in the country. — Photo by Yasser Al-Zayyat



MADRID: Speakers at the press conference, including Abrar Al-Masoud, Director General of Kuwait's Future Communications Company Global (left). — KUNA

MARBELLA CITY OFFICIALS PROUD TO HOST KUWAITI-SPANISH FESTIVAL

MADRID: Officials in Spain's southern Marbella municipality said yesterday they are proud to host the 'Kuwaiti-Spanish Festival', which kicks off Friday, describing it as an endeavor set to showcase the tight-knit bond between both nations. These remarks were made in a joint press conference to promote the event, co-organized by Kuwait's embassy in Madrid and the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters (NCCAL).

Deputy Head of Marbella's municipality Javier Porcuna said that the city is elated to host the three-day festival, a place long a hotspot for Kuwaiti tourists, adding that it would help enhance ties between both nations.

Moreover, Director General of Kuwait's Future Communications Company Global (FCCG), the sponsor of the event, Abrar Al-

Masoud described the festival as "Kuwait's gift to Spain," saying it is an opportunity "to familiarize Spaniards with Kuwaiti culture."

Further, she noted that the festival would feature a slew of exhibitions and activities that will go on well into midnight, particularly, one where visitors would get to relish on Kuwaiti and Spanish delicacies. She also revealed that an even bigger Gulf gala is in the works for next year.

Meanwhile, Marbella's tourism official Miguel Luna called on residents of the city to come out for the festival, saying it is a chance for them to get acquainted with Kuwaiti culture and civilization. The first of its kind festival, set to take place in Antonio Banderas Plaza in Puerto Banus, Marbella, will open its doors at 7 pm local time, with festivities scheduled until midnight. — KUNA

KRCS HANDS OUT CLOTHES FOR EID AL-ADHA TO DISPLACED IRAQI FAMILIES

IRBIL/BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society (KRCS) has handed out clothes for Al-Adha Eid to some 500 Iraqi displaced families in Sulaymaniyah city in Kurdistan region, Iraq. KRCS official Yousef Al-Miraj said yesterday that this came under the guidance of His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah and in line with his humanitarian initiative in aiding Iraqi people.

Miraj noted that Kuwait will continue offering all sorts of help and assistance needed to Iraqi displaced and refugees through charity organizations, and that the clothes for Eid program will be carried out in the rest of Kurdistan region. KRCS handed out 5,000 food baskets to Iraqi displaced people last week, in addition of 15,000 food baskets before the holy month of Ramadan.

Syrian refugees

Meanwhile, KRCS announced the distribution of relief aid to 250 Syrian refugee families in Habbouch town, southern Lebanon. Each family was offered food packages and cleaning materials enough for five people for a whole month, said head of the KRCS' field team Anwar Al-Ali.

Ali said the KRCS' role is part of Kuwait's humanitarian efforts and initiatives to alleviate the suffering of the Syrian refugees. Lebanon hosts more than a million Syrian refugees suffering harsh living conditions in makeshift camps in different parts of the country. — KUNA



IRBIL/BEIRUT: Kuwait Red Crescent Society workers deliver aid to Iraqi displaced families in Sulaymaniyah city in Kurdistan region, Iraq, and to Syrian refugee families in Habbouch town, southern Lebanon. —KUNA

KUWAIT OFFERS \$500,000 WORTH OF AID TO SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON

BEIRUT: The General Secretariat of Awqaf in Kuwait distributed \$500,000 worth of food packages to displaced Syrian families in Lebanon, Kuwait Society for Relief announced yesterday.

This aid dispatch has been given to those who needs it in various parts of Lebanon, including Akkar, Beqaa, Sidon, Arsal and Mount Lebanon, and is part of an immediate relief program for the Syrian people that was launched under the directive of His Highness the Amir of Kuwait

Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. Head of Kuwait Society for Relief Faisal Al-Yagout said that Kuwaiti relief campaigns will continue to go underway to provide life-saving assistance to the Syrian refugees and the displaced. He added that he is currently visiting Lebanon to get a first-hand experience on how the refugees are living to help provide for their needs. He called on other relief agencies locally and internationally to give more support. — KUNA





The Zakat House

ZAKAT HOUSE UNDERSCORES DEPTH OF KUWAITI-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS

CAIRO: Kuwait's Zakat House Director General Dr Ibrahim Al-Saleh underscored yesterday the depth of ties between Kuwait and Egypt, and what he described as fruitful cooperation between both nations. Saleh made those comments in a statement on the sidelines of the ninth meeting of the Egyptian Zakat House's Security Council, presided over by the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar Ahmed El-Tayeb.

Moreover, Saleh said he is proud of Kuwait's humanitarian and philanthropic works all across the globe, including Egypt. The meeting tackled various issues germane to philanthropy and new measures taken to alleviate the hardships of the destitute. The Security Council of the Egyptian Zakat House, made up of a bevy of specialists and economists, is tasked with drawing up plans and handling projects, in addition to regulating and dividing assets. — KUNA

KUWAIT STARTS APPLYING NEW ELECTRONIC MEDIA LAW

LAW REGULATES ALL WEB-BASED PUBLICATIONS

KUWAIT: Kuwaiti Ministry of Information started the implementation of law number 8/2016 to regulate electronic media, which was approved and published in the Official Gazette Sunday. The new law is to regulate all web-based publications including electronic news services, bulletins, websites of newspapers and televisions and the likes. Under the legislation, all these services must obtain a license from the government before they can operate.

The first article in the Electronic Media tackled the activity that includes publishing or broadcasting items and forms of a media service of electronic content that is produced, developed, upgraded, dealt with, broadcast, published or reached through the Internet or any other communications network.

The electronic media is considered one of the components of the information system in the country, and the freedom of its use is guaranteed for all according to the rules of this law, and there is no prior censorship on what is circulated of content via electronic sites and facilities.

A list of licensed websites and electronic media facilities is published at the ministry's website, providing details for the licensee, the responsible manager, employees, and purpose of the website. The executive regulations of this law shall control polls carried out by licensed websites and electronic media facilities.

Information sites

Meanwhile, the state cares for electronic

information sites and facilities that are under this law, and those working in them, and provides the necessary facilities to go along with the continued technological development of electronic media according to the organization of the executive rules of this law.

With consideration of rules of any other law, anyone who wants to establish or operate any sites or electronic information facilities mentioned in the previous article must obtain a license from the ministry, and the

validity of the license is 10 renewable years at the request of the licensee and the ministry's approval.

The license for any of the activities that are under the rules of the law must practice the activity within six months from receiving the license, and the ministry can extend this period by a maximum of an additional six months at the request of the licensee.

Any license rental will be null and void, and cannot be sold or waived without prior approval from the ministry, and the buyer

or the person who receives the waiver must meet the conditions mentioned in this law to issue the license. The heirs of the licensee can ask for transfer of the license to them within one year from the date of death or to another person if the conditions are met.

Comprehensive law

Kuwaiti Minister of Information and Minister of State for Youth Affairs Sheikh Salman Sabah Al-Salem Al-Homoud Al-Sabah asserted that Kuwait was among the first countries that have legislated a comprehensive electronic media law.

In a press statement during a tour to the electronic publishing department at the ministry, he said that the law will regulate electronic publishing, websites, blogs and social media in Kuwait. He called on all electronic media outlets to abide by law 8/2016 as to contribute to the growth of the media sector.

Moreover, the ministry called on all electronic media outlets to abide by law 8/2016, as contributors to the growth of the media sector. The ministry also underscored how helpful these media outlets can be to staving off extreme ideologies, while espousing various virtues for the betterment of the nation.

The law works to promote freedom of expression while ensuring unhindered access to information. It also aims to eliminate all impediments to the spread of information on electronic media outlets in a way that would conserve national values and interests. — KUNA



KUWAIT'S TRADE SURPLUS WITH JAPAN NARROWS

TOKYO: Kuwait's trade surplus with Japan shrank 66.2 percent from a year earlier to JPY 17.5 billion (\$164 million) in June, falling for the 13th month in a row, as exports declined more than half, the Japanese Finance Ministry said yesterday. But Kuwait maintained monthly black ink with Japan for eight years and five months, the ministry said in a preliminary report.

Kuwaiti overall exports to Japan plunged 54.5 percent year-on-year to JPY 32.2 billion (\$303 million) for the 13th straight monthly drop, and imports from Japan also decreased 23.0 percent to JPY 14.7 billion (\$138 million), down for the first time in two months.

Middle East's trade surplus with Japan also narrowed by 42.8 percent to JPY 320.5 billion (\$3.0 billion) last month, with Japan-bound exports tumbling 34.7 percent from a year earlier. Crude oil, refined products, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and other natural resources, which accounted for 94.6 percent of the region's total exports to Japan, slid 35.2 percent. The region's overall imports from Japan declined 17.8 percent, chiefly due to weak shipments of vehicle, steel and machinery.

Japan's global trade balance returned to surplus in June, reflecting a continued decline in energy prices, though both exports and imports declined. The world's third-biggest economy posted the first trade black ink in two months at JPY 692.8 billion (\$6.5 billion) last month. Overall exports fell 7.4 percent from the year before. Imports decreased 18.8 percent, with value of crude oil plunging 31.2 percent due to low prices. Deficit with China, Japan's biggest trade partner, slid 19.0 percent to 335.1 billion yen (\$3.2 billion). The trade data are measured on a customs-cleared basis before adjustment for seasonal factors. — KUNA



NAVY CARRIES OUT 'UNDERWATER EXPLOSION' DRILLS

KUWAIT: Kuwait's naval force will conduct "underwater explosion" drills today, starting at 7 am and ending at 6 pm, the Defense Ministry has announced. The drills training field is 16.5 nautical miles east of Ras Al-Julaiah to Qaruh island and 6 nautical miles east of Ras Azour to Um Al-Mirdam island, a statement by the ministry's Moral Guidance and Public Relations said yesterday. It urged sea goers to avoid the area during the announced dates for their safety. — KUNA

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News

In Brief

'Harassed' woman charged with attempted murder

KUWAIT: A Tunisian woman was detained at Nugra police station until the reasons for her stabbing a Syrian man are known. Policemen were not able to take the victim's testimony, and Hawally prosecutor are considering the case as attempted murder. Police received a call about the stabbing of a man, so police responded and found the Syrian in critical condition. The Tunisian woman was also there and claimed he had harassed her.

Rape charges

A Filipina told Khaitan police that she was raped by a person she does not know. She said that she asked her friend to send someone take her to visit a family in Sabah Al-Nasser. She said the friend told her she will send her friend, who first raped her in the car and the second time in an isolated area.

Ammo found

Detectives launched an investigation to determine the identity of those who got rid of a large quantity of ammunition and masks. A security source said that boxes were found behind an Oyoum gas station, so a police patrol went to the site. Policemen found boxes with wires inside along with live rounds and empty sleeves, in addition to sea equipment, masks, filters, ropes, empty boxes and gloves.

Purse stolen

A citizen told police her purse was stolen in an Egaila mall on Saturday. She told police that she left her purse on a table in a shop for a few minutes, but when she returned, she did not find it. She said a watch worth KD 2,000 was inside. Detectives are investigating.

Fugitive caught

A wanted citizen was referred by Ahmadi Security Secretary General Brig Abdullah Saffah to the Civil Implementation Department as she is wanted on seven cases and a debt of KD 90,000. The citizen was stopped in Mahboula. — Al-Anbaa

KFH ANNOUNCES BANKING CARDS CAMPAIGN'S 2ND DRAW WINNERS



KUWAIT: Kuwait Finance House (KFH) announced eight winners of the second draw of the new banking cards campaign themed 'Use KFH Cards and You May Win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz SUV's and Cash Prizes up to \$200,000' in an attempt to encourage clients to use KFH credit, prepaid and debit cards while making purchases in Kuwait and overseas. The winners are: Abdulaziz Albader, Ayat Alebrahim, Yousef Abdullah, Sayed Altatbae, Nawaf Alfadhli, Nadia Almutairi, Manif Aldhafiri, and Mutlaq Albathali.

For every KD 10 spent on their KFH cards, clients will gain a chance to enter a draw and win up to 2 Mercedes-Benz cars and a chance to win the value of their purchases up to \$2000 daily for 100 days ending October 11th 2016. It is worth noting that KFH Credit and Prepaid cards used in domestic and international purchases and KFH Debit cards used in international purchases are eligible for the daily draw.

Moreover, clients will gain the chance to enter 2 draws to win 2 Mercedes-Benz cars. The first draw will be for the first car Mercedes Benz GLE 400. This draw will be held after 50 days of the launch for purchasing transactions conducted from day 1 to day 50, while the second draw will be for the second car Mercedes Benz GLE 450 Coupe, and will be held after 100 days of the launch for purchasing conducted from day 51 to day 100 of the campaign.

KFH strives to continuously offer its clients new promotions and discounts in order to distinguish them among peers, not to mention to further bolster the bank's pioneering position in the field of banking cards. KFH marketing campaigns play a significant role in underlining KFH's principles that include boosting sales, while benefitting clients and merchants.

This new campaign is part of KFH's efforts to reward its clients and grant them additional value; thus achieving customer satisfaction and boosting their confidence. The campaign also aims at enhancing the bank's presence, especially that it dominates the largest market share in the field of banking cards.

KFH has won several awards in the field of banking cards which reiterates its success and efficiency in banking cards market. KFH enjoys high confidence and leadership in the market in addition to high quality products which have enabled it to achieve growth in cards market and increase the number of customers. KFH occupies the leading position as the issuer of banking cards and one of leading banks at the GCC level.



MAN BOUGHT CITIZENSHIP, SOLD IT TO EIGHT OTHERS
FOUR SUSPECTS STILL AT LARGE

KUWAIT: A Saudi national bought Kuwaiti nationality from a citizen, then he sold it to nine others. Nationality detectives found that an agreement was made between a citizen born in 1948 named A M M A and a Saudi national to have the citizen add the son of the Saudi to his nationality file for money. The citizen went to the nationality department and gave them false information, based on which he got a nationality certificate and a Kuwaiti passport.

The issue did not stop there, as after the Saudi became a Kuwaiti, and with the citizen's collusion, he went to the nationality department and added eight persons (four Saudi and four Syrian) for KD 10,000 each. Nationality detectives collected evidence that proved the forgery and gave the information to Assistant Undersecretary for Nationality and Travel Documents Affairs Major General Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah, who ordered to continue the investigations and arrest the culprits. When the information was confirmed, a warrant was obtained from the public prosecution, then the house



Sheikh Mazen Al-Jarrah Al-Sabah

of the Saudi national was raided, and he was placed under arrest.

When he was confronted about the information, he said it was true, and that his Saudi father agreed with the Kuwaiti suspect in 1986 to add him to the nationality file. He said in 2003 he agreed with another Kuwaiti citizen called M N A, born in 1982, to get a marriage contact with M A A, about whom nationality detectives' investigations did not find any information. Then based on the contract, the Kuwaiti suspect M A A provided the Saudi suspect with eight birth certificates for four Saudis and four Syrians, with the claim they were the children of the Saudi who became Kuwaiti via forgery.

The plan succeeded, when the Saudi suspect went to the nationality department with the forged birth certificates, gave false information and the eight got Kuwaiti nationalities. Nationality detectives went to the houses of the eight, arresting four of them and referred them to concerned authorities, while the other four are on scholarships out of the country, and their names were placed on the wanted list.



ABK INTRODUCES 'WE KNOW SIGN LANGUAGE' STAFF INTO BRANCHES

SIGN LANGUAGE BANKING SERVICES FOR HEARING IMPAIRED CUSTOMERS

KUWAIT: Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait (ABK) has launched one of its most community focused services yet with the introduction of staff with sign language skills in six of its branches. Twenty two members of ABK's customer service team have been specially trained in sign language to assist customers who are hearing impaired with their banking needs.

In the branches, staff with sign language skills can easily be identified by their badge which says 'We Know Sign Language'.

No appointments are needed and they are on duty during

normal business hours at the Bank's Head Office in Safat Square, and at ABK's branches in Jabriya, South Sabahiya, Shaab, Firdous and Qurain.

The service is part of ABK's commitment to providing a comprehensive retail banking service to the general community and helps the Bank give more people direct access to ABK's financial services and products than ever before. For more information about ABK please visit eahli.com or contact an ABK customer service agent via 'Ahlan Ahli' at 1899899.

INTERIOR MINISTRY SETS VIEWS TO RESOLVE DEMOGRAPHIC IMBALANCE

18,000 VIOLATORS DEPORTED IN 2015

KUWAIT: The Interior Ministry put forward its views to resolve the demographic imbalance in Kuwait. These views include setting a quota for all nationalities without exception, stopping 'inflated' nationalities and employing workers already in Kuwait instead of bringing them from abroad, in order to benefit from available expats and reduce their dependence on the family visa, which does not allow them to work. The solutions also include establishing labor cities, banning 'bachelors' from residing in family areas and continued deportation of visa violators.

The views included three comments on the population structure, saying that the number of expats is almost three million compared to 1.2 million citizens, which is cause for alarm and a real problem, in addition to a significant increase in the number of certain nationalities - 750,000 Indians and 680,000 Egyptians. The second comment is about the control of certain communities over certain economic activities including, in addition to Egyptians and Indians, 150,000 Bangladeshis, 120,000 Iranians and 170,000 Syrians controlling markets such as wholesale, food, sheep, second hand goods, technical products



and used spare parts. The third comment is the large number of visa violators from countries that are at war, with a lack of places to deport them or finding a permanent legal status to absorb them in the labor market.

Deportation

The study revealed that the Interior Ministry deported nearly 18,000 violators and loose laborers during 2015 and the first half of 2016, as well as a decision to ban citizens of seven countries from residing in or

visiting Kuwait - Iraq, Iran, Yemen, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. It also rejected sponsorship by citizens who trade in residences, while 70 cases were sent to court during the past two years.

The study proposes several solutions it sees necessary to correct the population structure despite its appreciation of political considerations, treaties and the humanitarian situation because of war in some countries.

Medical tests

In other news, high ranking sources said the interior and health ministries are coordinating with regards to expat workers in the country.

They said meetings were held by the two sides to discuss medical tests for some Arab and Asian nationals when they leave and return, among them those with article 17 (government), 18 (private) and 22 (family) residences, because of their dealings with food preparation and public places to protect the country from infectious diseases the laborers can bring in. A meeting will be held to decide which nationalities will have to undergo medical tests.

— Al-Rai, Al-Anbaa

Al-Anbaa

STOP WASTING STATE FUNDS

By Dr Nermin Al-Houti

It is 50 degrees Celsius and the temperature may go higher this summer, but our problem today is not related to the weather, but against the education minister. The education minister said that he is about to buy air conditioners and new water coolers. The question here from a Kuwaiti citizen to the minister is: Why weren't the purchases made at the start of April? Why do air conditioners at the university work only for 10 minutes during the summer semester? Why was the purchase made at the end of the summer semester with schools and universities closed? Why doesn't the supplying company carry out periodical maintenance? Why do we write volumes of enquiries to the minister of education?

A property owner protects his personal funds through the manufacturer's warranty and keenness on periodical maintenance

Here's a small example to reach to the conclusion - all houses and flats have air conditioners of various types and sizes. When buying a unit or renting a house, it is stipulated that there will be periodic maintenance of the air conditioners, and in some contracts, the conditioners are under warranty, and are also guaranteed for one full year by the manufacturer. Not only in education facilities, but also at most state ministries and authorities, one will find that before the end of the year, all purchased air conditioners break down, then committees prepare tenders to buy other units. Here we ask officials: What about the warranties and the maintenance?

A property owner protects his personal funds through the manufacturer's warranty and keenness on periodical maintenance, but government departments and the education ministry in particular waste public funds through purchasing new units every year without referring to the contracts and holding to the warranty and periodical follow-ups, resulting in squandering public funds in the name of "students". We urge them to stop messing with state funds!

— Translated by Kuwait Times



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES VALUE ACCOUNT DRAW WINNER

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank yesterday announced Shahanath Rasheed Punnadiyi as the winner of its Value Account draw. The lucky winner took home a cash prize of KD 4,000 which was presented to her by Haneen Al-Rumaihi, Assistant General Manager - Marketing and Product Development.

The Value Account has been re-launched with more added value features that have been designed for expatriates living in Kuwait. Account holders can now obtain a free credit card for one year, apply for a loan, and receive a chance to win KD 4,000 on a quarterly basis. All expatriates with salaries between KD 150 and KD 400 are eligible to be a Value account holder.

Burgan Bank's Value account presents a range of merchant discounts to the clients. Opening a Value account is simple, customers are required to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch, or simply call the bank's Call Center 1804080 for more details. For further information visit www.burgan.com.



No we can't: Hardcore Sanders fans reject Clinton

IRAQI CHARGED WITH HAVING 'TRACE' EXPLOSIVES IN POLAND



FORT MYERS: Fort Myers fire fighters hose down the pavement at the scene of a deadly shooting outside the Club Blu nightclub yesterday. — AFP

TWO YOUTHS DEAD IN SHOOTING OUTSIDE FLORIDA TEEN PARTY

MIAMI: Two youths were killed and as many as 16 other people injured early yesterday in a shooting outside a Florida nightclub as parents were picking up their children from a "teen night" event.

Police in Fort Myers, Florida identified the dead as 14-year-old Sean Archilles and 18-year-old Stefan Strawder, who was described by local media as a star high school basketball player. A "person of interest" has been detained and two other individuals were being held for questioning over the shooting at Club Blu, police said. The motive was not immediately known, but police said in a statement "this incident was not an act of terror." It came just six weeks after a gunman killed 49

people at a gay club in Orlando, Florida, the worst massacre on US soil since 9/11.

Gunfire erupted at around 12:30 am (0430 GMT) in the club parking lot as a "Swimsuit Glow Party" was breaking up, police, witnesses and the club said. "As the club was closing and parents were picking their children up ... that's when all this happened," Club Blu said in a statement. "We are deeply sorry for all involved. We tried to give the teens WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS A SAFE PLACE TO HAVE A GOOD TIME," it said, adding that there was armed security inside and outside the club.

Witnesses described people scattering at the sound of gunfire, ducking and running behind a nearby apartment building, with chil-

dren as young as 13 reportedly among the injured. "It was a young teen event. There were kids. The kid I was holding in my lap, he was 14 years old that got shot," Tatianna Nouhaioi, a neighbor, told ABC News. "And then there was a little girl who also got shot and she was 13. One of the security guard's daughter got shot, so I mean there was kids 13, 14, 15, 16."

Police said "at least 14-16" people sustained minor to life-threatening wounds during the episode. A nearby home and vehicles were also shot at, resulting in one minor injury, police said. Television images of the scene showed one of the wounded being loaded into an ambulance while police with flashlights scoured the parking lot for evidence,

marking where shell casings fell. The area has been deemed safe, but multiple streets were closed

Active scene

"The investigation is still very active as is the crime scene," a police statement said. "Investigators are working very hard to determine a motive and answer many of the questions you have submitted. However, at this time those questions will not and cannot be answered." Earlier, police said they were searching for "other persons who may be involved in this incident." An attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida on June 12 left 49 dead in the worst mass shooting in US his-

tory. Police killed the gunman, Omar Mateen, a 29-year-old US citizen of Afghan origin, after a three-hour standoff. The Islamic State jihadist group claimed responsibility for that attack, calling Mateen "one of the soldiers of the caliphate." US authorities have said he was apparently radicalized after watching jihadist propaganda online. That rampage and other recent shootings have revived the fraught debate about gun laws in the United States.

President Barack Obama, a Democrat, has repeatedly called for Republicans in Congress to confront the cost of their opposition to gun control and spending on mental health and drug treatment. "We refuse to fund drug treatment and mental health programs. — AFP

MUNICH GUNMAN 'PLANNED SHOOTING FOR A YEAR'

MUNICH: The teenager who shot dead nine people at a Munich shopping mall spent a year planning the rampage but selected his victims at random, officials said Sunday, as police arrested a 16-year-old Afghan friend of the gunman in connection with the attack.

Details are emerging of attacker David Ali Sonboly as a depressed 18-year-old who was obsessed with mass killings and had long struggled with his mental health. With Germany still steeped in grief and shock, the country was further rattled by news Sunday that a Syrian refugee had killed a woman with a machete in the city of Reutlingen. Police said that incident did not bear the hallmarks of a "terrorist attack" and was more likely to have been a crime of passion. However a string of attacks in recent months claimed by the Islamic State group has left Europe on edge. Investigators have ruled out that the Munich shooter had any link with the jihadists, though he appears to have planned the assault with chilling precision. Bavarian police chief Robert Heimberger told a press conference Sunday that Sonboly had visited the site and taken photos during a year of preparation.

Chief prosecutor Thomas Steinkraus-Koch added that the gunman had not "deliberately selected" his victims, dismissing speculation that Sonboly sought to target foreigners. Police also announced their first arrest in the case, detaining a 16-year-old friend of Sonboly who "could have been aware of the attack."

The Afghan teen reported to police shortly after the killing spree and was questioned about his relationship with the perpetrator, they said in a statement. But officers then "uncovered contradictions in his statements" and he was now being held for withholding information about a crime. Most of the dead in Friday's rampage—who were mainly teenagers—were foreign nationals. They included a Turk, two Turkish-German dual nationals, a Hungarian, a Kosovan and a Greek, according to police. Sonboly killed himself after his murderous spree with the 9mm Glock pistol he had bought on the internet. His attack, which began at a McDonald's branch, also left 35 people injured.

Bullied

Steinkraus-Koch said Sonboly had spent two months in a psychiatric unit last year. He suffered anxiety attacks and "social phobias", according to documents found in his bedroom. Police also found medication, but it was not clear whether he had been taking it. He had continued treatment as an outpatient after his release from hospital. He also appeared to have been a victim of bullying by other pupils at his school, filing a complaint against three of his tormentors in 2012. — AFP

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BRITAIN, FRANCE, US BACK UN CALL FOR TRUCE IN SYRIA'S ALEPPO

UNITED NATIONS: Britain, France and the United States yesterday backed a UN call for a humanitarian truce in Aleppo after four hospitals were bombed and civilians were killed by air strikes in the Syrian city.

Warning that food will soon run out in Aleppo, the UN aid chief urged the Security Council to push for a 48-hour weekly humanitarian truce to prevent a "medieval" siege from taking hold.

"The international community simply cannot let eastern Aleppo city become yet another-and by far the largest-besieged area," Stephen O'Brien told the council. "This is medieval and shameful. We must not allow this to happen," he added. O'Brien, the UN's

under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, said food supplies in rebel-held eastern Aleppo were expected to run out by the middle of August.

French Ambassador Francois Delattre compared Aleppo's plight to that of Sarajevo during the Bosnian war and said "the Security Council simply cannot accept such war crimes-yes war crimes-to repeat again."

Syrian regime forces seized the last remaining supply route to Aleppo this month and all humanitarian and commercial movements came to a halt on July 7. Syria and its allies are "determined to besiege, starve and bomb Aleppo until they reach their military goal: eradicating the opposition. This is

what the siege is all about," Delattre told reporters ahead of the meeting.

"France calls for an immediate humanitarian truce in Aleppo and the Ghouta, 20 years after the siege of Sarajevo," he added, referring to the eastern Ghouta region near Damascus.

Enough is enough

Over the weekend, four hospitals were bombed in Aleppo, jeopardizing medical care for more than 200,000 desperate civilians. Yesterday, air strikes and barrel bombs killed 16 civilians in Aleppo, according to the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. "Enough is enough now," British Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said.

Rycroft said the council was looking at possible action to address the crisis in Aleppo, but did not provide details. Syrian ally Russia said the so-called Castello road that was seized by regime forces was a supply route for weapons to jihadists including the Al-Qaeda linked Al-Nusra Front.

Russian Ambassador Vitaly Churkin nevertheless told the council that in Aleppo, "there is a need there to prevent humanitarian disaster." The United States put the onus on Russia to persuade Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to halt attacks and re-open the Castello road. "Russia, the Assad regime and other groups fighting around Aleppo should heed the UN call for a weekly 48-

hour pause to allow for deliveries of essential supplies," said US Ambassador Samantha Power. "Look at what people are going through," she said. Power quoted a doctor in an Aleppo hospital who witnessed screaming patients bleed to death in front of him without being able to save them.

The council raised alarm over the humanitarian crisis in Aleppo on the eve of a meeting in Geneva between top US and Russian officials to try to lay the groundwork for a resumption of peace talks. More than 280,000 people have been killed in Syria in the war, which is now in its sixth year, and more than half the country has been displaced. —AFP

SYRIA REGIME POUNDS ALEPPO ON EVE OF GENEVA MEETING

FRANCE CALLS FOR HUMANITARIAN TRUCE

ALEPPO: Syria's regime intensified air strikes on rebel-held areas of Aleppo province yesterday as a UN envoy prepared to meet top US and Russian officials to try to revive peace talks. France called for an immediate humanitarian truce in Aleppo city after civilian deaths in the provincial capital and after four hospitals were bombed there on Sunday.

Yesterday, air strikes and barrel bombs killed 22 civilians in rebel-held parts of the northern province, and rebel rocket fire on government areas killed three more, a monitor said. The bombardment came as UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura was expected to meet top US and Russian officials in Geneva on Tuesday with the aim of reviving peace talks to end the five-year conflict.

is enough now." More than 280,000 people have been killed in Syria and more than half its population has been displaced since the conflict began with the brutal repression of anti-government protests in 2011.

US mission spokesman Paul Patin said Washington's special envoy for Syria Michael Ratney would be at today's meeting in Geneva. Russia's Ria-Novosti news agency said deputy foreign minister Gennady Gatilov would represent Moscow.

Failing ceasefire

US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov were also due to meet Tuesday on the sidelines of an Asian summit in Vientiane, Laos. Earlier this month, the

been carried out by Russian warplanes, hit several locations including a market area. Russia is a key ally of President Bashar al-Assad and began air strikes in support of regime forces in September 2015. The Observatory-which relies on a network of sources inside Syria for its information-says it determines what planes carried out raids according to their type, location, flight patterns and the munitions involved.

Footage obtained by AFP of the aftermath of the strikes showed the local civil defence unit trying to put out a fire in the rubble of one collapsed building. Nearby, people combed through debris trying to extract medicine from what appeared to be the remains of a pharmacy or clinic. Elsewhere in Atareb, crushed fruit and vegetables were mixed in with pieces of broken brick and shattered concrete.

Barrel bombs

In Aleppo city itself, at least 12 civilians were killed in barrel bomb attacks by government forces on eastern rebel-held neighborhoods, the Observatory said. An AFP journalist at the scene of one of the attacks in the Al-Mashhad district earlier said civil defense workers were struggling to retrieve survivors who were still trapped under heavy debris.

He said rescuers had managed to pull one boy alive from the rubble, but the rest of his family were dead and still trapped under a collapsed building. Once Syria's economic powerhouse, Aleppo has been roughly divided between government control in the west and rebel control in the east since mid-2012.

In recent weeks, government forces seized parts of the only remaining supply route into the city's east, cutting off opposition districts from the outside world and prompting food shortages and spiraling prices.

The government regularly bombs the east of the city, and rebels often fire rockets into western districts. The Observatory said at least three civilians were killed by rebel fire on western Aleppo yesterday. Syrian state news agency SANA said a pregnant woman and her child were killed. SANA also reported that four people had been wounded on Monday in rebel rocket fire on central Damascus.

Rebel rockets also hit Old Damascus late Sunday after air raids struck four makeshift hospitals in Aleppo's rebel districts, jeopardizing medical care for more than 200,000 civilians besieged there. —AFP



ALEPPO: Syrian civil defense volunteers, known as the White Helmets, carry a young boy after they dug him out from under the rubble of buildings destroyed following reported air strikes on the rebel-held neighborhood of Al-Mashhad yesterday. —AFP

French Ambassador to the UN Francois Delattre compared Aleppo's plight to that of Sarajevo during the Bosnian war, and said "the Security Council simply cannot accept such war crimes-yes war crimes-to repeat again".

Syria and its allies are "determined to besiege, starve and bomb Aleppo until they reach their military goal-eradicating the opposition-this is what the siege is all about," Delattre said. Britain's UN Ambassador Matthew Rycroft said: "Enough

two announced an agreement on "concrete steps" to salvage a failing nationwide ceasefire in Syria, a key step before negotiations can resume.

The February ceasefire between the regime and non-jihadist rebels-which was brokered by the US and Russia-remains largely in tatters. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 10 civilians were killed in air strikes on the rebel-held town of Atareb in Aleppo early on Monday. It said the strikes, believed to have

CRANES READY TO DROP AID INTO SYRIAN CAMPS AWAIT JORDAN NOD

AMMAN, JORDAN: UN aid agencies have procured cranes to hoist large amounts of food and other supplies over an earthen barrier to tens of thousands of Syrians stranded on the border with Jordan, but are still waiting for Jordan's promised go-ahead, an official said yesterday.

The cranes are to drop a one-off shipment of 30 days' worth of food in two large encampments along a remote desert stretch on the border - an area known as the berm because of two parallel earthen mounds that roughly mark the frontier.

Final go-ahead

Jordan agreed to the shipment in mid-July, but has failed to give the final go-ahead for the operation, said a senior aid official who spoke on condition of anonymity because she was not authorized to brief reporters.

She said the logistics for the shipment are in place, including the procurement of cranes that are to hoist the heavy packages from Jordanian soil over the berm. Jordan's government spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment.

Jordan sealed the berm area more than a month ago, after a cross-border attack by Islamic State extremists killed seven Jordanian troops. The closure halted what until then had been regular aid deliveries from Jordan's territory to more than 60,000 Syrians stranded on the other side of the berm.

Jordan says its security concerns trump other considerations, including sending humanitarian aid to Syrians trying to escape civil war at home. Jordanian officials

have said Islamic State militants have infiltrated the two camps and pose a threat to Jordan's security.

Since the border closure, only sporadic water deliveries have reached the area, where most residents are women and children. Refugees have described increasingly dire conditions, including extreme heat, lawlessness, flimsy shelters, rising piles of garbage and a shortage of food and clean water.

The aid official said Monday that "the situation is really getting worse every day for these people."

The one-off shipment was meant to buy time for aid agencies to find other ways to deliver supplies to the two tent camps, though there appears to be no simple alternative. Air drops could mean aid gets into the wrong hands, including those of black market profiteers, and it's not clear

how aid convoys could safely cross front lines to reach the berm from inside Syria.

Close to 5 million Syrians have fled their homeland in five years of civil war. Increasingly, overburdened refugee host countries Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey have closed their borders, trapping many Syrians in dangerous war zones. Jordan hosts more than 650,000 refugees. —AP



JORDAN: In this Sunday, July 10, 2016 photo, trash bakes in the sun from 64,000 Syrian refugees stranded in the Ruqban border camp in northeast Jordan. —AP



BAGHDAD: Iraqis inspect the damage at the site of a suicide bomb attack at the entrance to the town of Khalis yesterday. —AFP

SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 14 AT IRAQ CHECKPOINT; 9 DIE IN BAGHDAD

BAGHDAD: A suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden car into a checkpoint outside a Shiite town north of Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 14 people, Iraqi officials said, while a string of bombings in the Iraqi capital killed nine more people.

Yesterday's checkpoint bombing took place at one of the busy entrances to the town of Khalis, about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of the Iraqi capital, a police officer said. The town is a Shiite enclave surrounded by Sunni areas in the restive Diyala province.

Eight policemen and six civilians were killed and up to 41 people were wounded, the officers said, adding that the explosion also damaged nearly 20 cars lined up at the checkpoint.

In an online statement, IS group claimed responsibility for the attack. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the statement, but it was posted on a militant website commonly used by the extremists.

In Baghdad, separate bomb explosions rocked three commercial areas - Ghazaliya, Bayaa and al-Ameen - later on Monday, killing nine and wounding 26, police said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for these attacks, which bore the hall-

marks of the extremist Islamic State group. Commercial areas and big gatherings of Shiite followers are among the most common targets for the extremist group.

Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to the media. Since late last year, the group has suffered a string of territorial losses, most recently in Fallujah, where it was driven out last month 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.

On Sunday, IS claimed responsibility for a suicide attack on a checkpoint in Baghdad that also killed 14 people and wounded 31. The Islamic State group still controls significant areas in northern and western Iraq, including the country's second-largest city of Mosul. Since its 2014 blitz, IS has declared an Islamic caliphate on the territory it holds in Iraq and Syria.

The Sunni militant group recently stepped up its attacks far from the front lines in what Iraqi officials see as an attempt to distract from their battlefield losses. —AP

ISRAEL ADVANCES PLANS FOR 770 SETTLEMENT HOMES

JERUSALEM: Israeli authorities have advanced plans for 770 new settlement homes in annexed east Jerusalem, officials and rights groups said yesterday, drawing condemnation from Palestinian leaders and the United Nations.

The homes would expand the Gilo settlement on the southern perimeter of east Jerusalem. They are part of a larger plan for around 1,200 units approved some three years ago, said Ir Amim, an NGO that monitors Israeli settlement activity.

The land where they are to be built requires technical approval known as "reparcelisation" by Jerusalem's local planning and building committee in order for the process to advance, according to Ir Amim.

The committee has now deposited the plans for public objections ahead of possible approval. "The plans in question are not new, and were approved three years ago," a statement from Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat's office said. "Recent deliberations in the municipal planning committee concerned technical details of plot distribution within the previously approved project."

The move to further advance the plans drew condemnation both from UN and Palestinian officials. Israeli settlements in east Jerusalem and the occu-

pled West Bank are viewed as illegal under international law. They are also considered major stumbling blocks to peace efforts as they are built on land Palestinians view as part of their future state.

A recent report by the diplomatic Quartet-the United States, European Union, Russia and the UN-said settlement expansion was eroding the possibility of a two-state solution to the conflict. "I strongly condemn the recent decision by Israeli authorities to advance plans to build some 770 housing units in the settlement of Gilo, built on the lands of occupied Palestinian towns and villages between Bethlehem and east Jerusalem," Nickolay Mladenov, UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, said in a statement.

Saeb Erekat, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, said the decision "further reflects the failure of the international community to stop Israel's settlement expansion". Israel occupied the West Bank and east Jerusalem in 1967. It later annexed east Jerusalem, which Palestinians view as their future capital.

The status of Jerusalem has been among the most contentious issues in peace negotiations, which have been at a standstill since April 2014. —AFP

ISRAEL HOPES TO SIGN NEW US MILITARY AID PACKAGE SOON

JERUSALEM: A senior Israeli official will travel to Washington next week in the hopes of signing a long-anticipated agreement that could result in increased US military assistance to Israel, the Israeli prime minister's office said yesterday.

The premier's office said in a statement that Brig. Gen. (Res.) Jacob Nagel, acting head of Israel's National Security Council, will meet White House officials to sign an agreement "as soon as possible."

The US gives Israel \$3.1 billion annually in an agreement expiring before the 2018 fiscal year. The Obama administration has offered Israel an enhanced decade-long

military aid package to ease Israel's concerns over the US-led Iranian nuclear deal.

Since the Iran deal was signed, the US and Israel have haggled over how much Israel would receive. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu once reportedly suggested Israel might get a better deal from the next US administration. White House officials declined to comment on Israel's announcement of Nagel's visit, but said US and Israeli officials are in regular contact to try to finalize the deal. The Israeli prime minister's office said Israel does not seek an increase in the already agreed upon \$3.1 billion for the 2017 fiscal year. —AP



PHILADELPHIA: Activist including hundreds of environmentalists and Bernie Sanders supporters gather before the start of the Democratic National Convention on Sunday. —FP

TEXAS SHERIFF: OFFICER FATALLY SHOT AT AUSTIN-AREA HOME

ROUND ROCK, TEXAS: A Texas sheriff's deputy was shot and killed at his home north of Austin before dawn yesterday in what authorities said appeared to be an attempted robbery.

Sgt. Craig Hutchinson of the Travis County Sheriff's Office used his police radio around 1:30 a.m. to report people in his backyard. Investigators arriving moments later found Hutchinson lying on the ground in his backyard in Round Rock, about 15 miles from Austin.

He was pronounced dead at a hospital. Travis County Sheriff Greg Hamilton said at a news conference that no arrests have been made but that authorities are seeking multiple suspects. He said there was evidence that the incident was an attempted robbery of Hutchinson's backyard shed, rather than someone targeting a law enforcement officer.

Tensions remain high following the fatal shooting earlier this month of five police officers in Dallas and the ambush and killing of three law enforcement officers in Louisiana.

"There's no suggestion that this was an ambush," Hamilton said. "I heard that there's

a lot of burglaries going on in this community, and I think this was just one of the burglaries." He said investigators believed items were taken from Hutchinson's shed and that the officer may have "seen individuals in the shed, and I think that's where the confrontation occurred."

Hutchinson was a 32-year veteran who had planned to retire in September. Hamilton said Hutchinson served as his field training officer and "taught me everything I know." "This is near and dear to me," Hamilton said. "This guy was a big teddy bear and everyone loved him."

The block where the shooting occurred remained ringed with yellow tape - and red tape surrounded Hutchinson's home down the street - for hours after the shooting. Investigators could be seen working in the area around the home. Police briefly closed portions of Interstate 35 heading into Austin as a long procession of police cars accompanied Hutchinson's body to the medical examiner's office.

This story has been corrected to show that Hutchinson was a 32-year veteran of law enforcement, not a 36-year veteran. —AP

PHILADELPHIA: Die-hard Bernie Sanders supporters descended on Philadelphia for this week's Democratic National Convention, many so irate with party flag bearer Hillary Clinton that they are prepared to contemplate the once-unconceivable alternative: President Donald Trump.

Most supporters of Sanders, who entered the race as an avuncular fringe candidate before gaining vast popular support, consider themselves on the opposite side of the political spectrum from the brash billionaire real estate tycoon who secured the Republican presidential nomination last week.

But several among the Sanders faithful who spoke with AFP during colorful street protests Sunday in Philadelphia offered no love for the candidate who will emerge this week as the first female presidential nominee of any major US party.

Some let it be known that they would prefer anyone-even Trump-as president rather than see Clinton gain the White House. "The system, as Trump says, is rigged," said Shana Lin, a housewife from Virginia Beach who held a sign that read "You lost me at Hillary" as fellow "Berners" flooded the streets in the shadow of City Hall.

"Actually, at this point, I think Trump is a marginal step up, because (Clinton) has proven to lie to the American people over and over," she added. "She lies, she's a warmonger, she's divisive. She is only out for herself."

Several thousand protesters, many of them ardent Sanders backers, held demonstrations in Philadelphia far larger than any seen in Cleveland during the Republican convention.

NO WE CAN'T: hardcore SANDERS FANS REJECT CLINTON

PREPARED TO SUPPORT TRUMP

It was clear the anger about Clinton winning the nomination has not abated, with Sanders supporters arguing Clinton's corraling of so-called super delegates-party grandees who can vote for whomever they wish at the convention-gave her unfair advantage.

"The democratic process was stolen from us," steamed Steffanie Greer, 42, a massage therapist from Brooklyn. The latest Clinton scandal-the leak of internal emails that signaled senior Democratic National Committee staff were trying to undermine the Sanders campaign-was the last straw for some.

Erupting on the eve of the convention, it highlighted divisions with the party at the moment Clinton was aiming to shore up unity in front of a national audience. Instead, said Sanders delegate Lauren Steiner of California, "it just proved what we have suspected all along, that this primary has been rigged against Bernie by the DNC."

'Nothing but bad'

Sanders himself has endorsed his former bitter rival in the primaries, and will likely reiterate that message Monday when he addresses the convention. But despite their candidate now backing Clinton, many say they will not hold their nose and pull the lever in November for someone they loathe.

"I'll never vote for Hillary, I'll vote for Jill Stein," said John Delahanty, 66, referring to the Green Party presumptive nominee who has openly encouraged Sanders himself to join the Green movement.

"To vote for the lesser of two evils is really a wasted vote. You're not helping the democracy by



PHILADELPHIA: Bernie Sanders supporters dance to music in Franklin Delano Roosevelt park after marching through downtown before the start of the Democratic National Convention on Sunday. —AFP

doing that," said Delahanty, a retired communications technician from Virginia.

Patty Duffy, marching through the city with thousands of others in support of pro-environmental policies, said she too is ready to cast her lot with Stein and the Greens. "I'm not scared of Trump, period," Duffy insisted. "I'm more scared of her," she said of Clinton. "We are no longer the Democratic Party we thought we were... We've got to go for somebody with principles." Would those in Bernie's camp be willing to endure a Trump presidency in order to stop Clinton?

Trump in the White House would "be so crazy," acknowledged Sanders supporter Marie Adams,

66, of Boulder, Colorado. But "I'll live with whatever for the next four years... even if it's Trump," she said. While he is an untested political quantity, "the Clinton's have been nothing but bad," Adams said, noting Bill Clinton signed the North American Free Trade Agreement and a widely criticized crime bill.

Jeremy Davis of Waco, Texas is one of the organizers of the group Black Men for Bernie, and said that despite Clinton's close ties with African-American communities, he will "never vote for her." But Davis stopped short of saying he could support Trump. "November is a long time from now, and I haven't made a for sure answer on that," he said. —AFP

OFF-DUTY DEPUTY INVOLVED IN SHOOTING IN DC SUBURB

WASHINGTON: Authorities say an off-duty sheriff's deputy was involved in a shooting when two men tried to rob him. Prince George's County police tell local media two men approached the off-duty deputy who was not in uniform while walking in the DC suburb of Largo early Sunday.

One of the men, who police say was wearing a mask and armed with a handgun, said it was a robbery and fired at the deputy.

The deputy, who was armed with his duty weapon, fired back. The two men fled in a vehicle driven by a third person. The Prince George's

County police department is investigating the assault against the deputy. The deputy, who hasn't been identified, has been placed on administrative leave. The Prince George's County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs Division will conduct an administrative investigation. —AP

CALIFORNIAN WHO TRIED JOINING ISLAMIC STATE FACES SENTENCING

SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA: A California man who aspired to join the Islamic State group in Syria and lied to get a replacement American passport to head overseas could face two decades in prison Monday when he is set to be sentenced.

Federal prosecutors are seeking a 20-year prison term for Adam Dandach, who pleaded guilty last year to attempting to provide material support to a terror group and lying on his passport application. The case is one in a series involving young men in states ranging from California to Georgia who have been charged with trying to assist Islamic State and other terrorist groups.

Prosecutors say a substantial sentence for the 22-year-old Dandach could deter him and others from supporting terrorists. The US "faces significant threat from terrorists' acts planned or committed by homegrown violent extremists like (the) defendant who become radicalized online and seek to engage in terror and support groups like ISIL," federal prosecutors wrote in court filings. Dandach, an Orange County native, praised terrorists and promoted their lectures and videos online before planning to go to Syria, prosecutors wrote in the filings.

After his mother snatched Dandach's passport to keep him from traveling abroad, he lied to get a replacement - saying he had accidentally tossed out his old passport - then booked a trip for July 2014. He was stopped at John Wayne Airport by FBI agents who found his smartphone loaded with jihadi songs supporting Islamic State fighters, maps of areas the group controlled, and Twitter updates on fighting by the terrorist group.

Prosecutors say Dandach told the agents he planned to pledge allegiance to the Islamic State and train with weapons to defend himself. Dandach could face a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison. While prosecutors are seeking 20 years, they say probation officials are recommending 15 years.

In court papers, defense lawyer Pal Lengyel-Leahu wrote that his client had been treated for a spate of psychological problems including depression and post-traumatic stress disorder after suffering an abusive childhood.

Dandach found a purpose to his life in religion and aimed to travel to a place where people professed those beliefs, the lawyer wrote. He added that Dandach never planned any terrorist acts and that his client claimed Islamic State was not a designated terrorist group when he initially planned his trip to Syria to join a charitable aid convoy in 2013.

"It is of significant relevance that ISIS/ISIL was not engaged in the wanton killing of civilian prisoners and combatants that made extraordinary public outcry until after defendant's

arrest," Lengyel-Leahu wrote in court papers.

Dandach is scheduled to be sentenced in Santa Ana by US District Judge James V. Selna. —AP

HASTERT ATTORNEY WANTS BREACH-OF-CONTRACT LAWSUIT DISMISSED

YORKVILLE, ILLINOIS: An attorney for Dennis Hastert has asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit brought by a victim of sexual abuse seeking outstanding hush-money payments from the imprisoned former US House speaker.

The 74-year-old Hastert is serving a 15-month prison sentence for violating banking laws by trying to pay \$3.5 million to silence the victim, who says he was abused when Hastert was a high

school wrestling coach decades ago. In April, the victim filed a breach-of-contract lawsuit contending Hastert still owes him \$1.8 million. The man isn't identified in court documents.

The Chicago Tribune reported day that Hastert's attorney argued in a July 15 response that it was filed beyond the statute of limitations and that the man broke the deal when he told authorities about the abuse. —AP

ALABAMA SUPERINTENDENT LIFTS BAN ON 'AMAZING GRACE'

WETUMPKA, ALABAMA: An Alabama school superintendent who banned a high school marching band from playing "Amazing Grace" is reversing his decision.

Elmore County superintendent Andre Harrison last week barred the Holtville High School marching band from playing the popular Christian hymn during its halftime show for the upcoming football season. Harrison says he made the decision in consultation with an attorney

after someone complained about the constitutionality of the band playing a religious song. But WSFA-TV reports that Harrison has reversed himself. Harrison posted an update on his official Facebook page Sunday saying the change came after complaints and additional advice from legal counsel.

Harrison's post says he was contacted by many parents who were upset by the decision to remove "Amazing Grace" from the show. —AP

ROMANIA INSTITUTE PRAISES MOLDOVA FOR CONDEMNING HOLOCAUST

BUCHAREST: The Elie Wiesel Institute for the Study of the Holocaust in Romania has praised Moldova's Parliament for condemning the Holocaust in the country.

An international commission said in a report published in 2004 that between 45,000 and 60,000 Jews were killed in regions controlled by today's Moldova in 1941, and between 105,000 and 120,000 Jews died after being transported from there to Trans-Dniester, then a region

to the east of Moldova. The report was overseen by Wiesel, the late Romanian-born Nobel-prize winner. It also said 50,000 Roma were deported to Trans-Dniester and 11,000 died.

Moldova's Parliament approved the report on July 22, condemning the "persecution and extermination of Jews" on Moldovan territory, something the Romanian institute praised yesterday. Moldova was annexed to the Soviet Union from Romania in 1940. —AP

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UK DOES NOT WANT RETURN TO N IRELAND BORDER CONTROLS, SAYS MAY

BELFAST: Britain does not want a return to border controls in Northern Ireland, Prime Minister Theresa May said on yesterday on her first visit to the British province following the United Kingdom's vote to leave the European Union.

The June 23 Brexit vote has raised a number of questions for Northern Ireland, from its impact on 18 years of peace, to billions of pounds of EU funding and the open border with the Irish Republic, which will be Britain's only land frontier with the bloc.

"We had a common travel area between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland many years before either country was a member of the European Union. Nobody wants to return to the borders of the past," May said, referring to the freedom of movement that has existed between the countries since the 1920s. "What we do want to do is to find a way through this that is going to work, deliver a practical solution for everybody to ensure that we come out of this with a deal which is in the best interests of the whole of the United Kingdom."

Northern Ireland voted to stay in the

EU, with 56 percent voting 'Remain', putting it at odds with the United Kingdom's 52-48 percent result in favor of leaving.

The border issue has arisen because those in favor of leaving the EU were adamant that Britain must be able to control its borders - and hence immigration - more closely. Any new arrangements must also be agreed by all EU member states. May was speaking after she met the province's leader, Arlene Foster, who campaigned for Britain to leave the EU, and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, a former Irish Republican Army commander who campaigned to remain.

Frank exchange

McGuinness, who has demanded a referendum to split Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom so it can remain in the European Union as part of a united Ireland, said he had a frank exchange with May emphasizing the wishes of the Northern Irish voters.

"I speak for the people of the North, who are Unionist and Nationalist, and have made it clear that they see their future in Europe ... There is no good news



BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND: British Prime Minister Theresa May (C) poses for a picture with Northern Ireland's First Minister Arlene Foster (L) and Deputy First Minister Martin Mc Guinness (R) at the beginning of their meeting at Stormont Castle yesterday. —AFP

whatsoever in Brexit for anybody in the North," said McGuinness, who also raised concerns about the future of projects that are funded by the EU. Leaders south of the

border have been seeking support across the EU to preserve freedom of movement and goods across the island but acknowledged that controls at Northern Irish ports

and airports may be required.

Foster, who is the leader of Northern Ireland's largest pro-British party, said she told May that there must be no internal borders within the United Kingdom and that the Prime Minister had responded positively to that.

Concerns have also been raised about the legal status of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which ended three decades of fighting between Catholic nationalists seeking a united Ireland and Protestant unionists who wanted to keep Northern Ireland British. Over 3,600 died in the conflict. On Monday, a coalition of Northern Ireland politicians and human rights activists threatened a legal challenge against any British government move to leave the European Union unless the province's peace process is protected.

The group, which includes members of the province's two largest Irish nationalist parties said they would apply for a judicial review if moves to exit failed to safeguard the Good Friday Agreement peace accord. The accord, which gives the Republic of Ireland a role, contains several references to the EU. —Reuters

GERMANY WARNS OF ANTI-MIGRANT BACKLASH AFTER WEEK OF BLOODSHED

EUROPE'S ECONOMIC POWERHOUSE STILL REELING

ANSBACH, GERMANY: Yesterday Germany warned of a potential backlash against migrants after a Syrian asylum seeker blew himself up outside a music festival, capping a week of attacks that has shaken the country.

The 27-year-old attacker wounded more than a dozen people in the southern city of Ansbach on Sunday night and had spent time in a psychiatric facility, regional authorities said. Berlin said there was as yet "no credible evidence" of a link to Islamic extremism.

Europe's economic powerhouse was already reeling after nine people died in a shopping center shooting rampage in Munich on Friday and four people were wounded in an axe attack on a train in Wuerzburg on July 18.

All three assaults were in Bavaria which has been a gateway for tens of thousands of refugees under Chancellor Angela Merkel's liberal asylum policy. Merkel's deputy spokeswoman

Ulrike Demmer expressed the government's "shock" after the rash of attacks but also warned against branding all refugees a security threat. "Most of the terrorists who carried out attacks in recent months in Europe were not refugees," she told reporters. "The terrorism threat (among refugees) is not larger or smaller than in the population at large."

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere also warned against placing refugees "under general suspicion," despite "individual cases that are under investigation."

Police said the man intended to target the open-air festival but was turned away as he did not have a ticket, and detonated the device outside a nearby cafe. "If he had made it inside, there would certainly



BERLIN: German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere addresses the press on the attacks in Reutlingen and Ansbach yesterday. —AFP

have been more victims," a police spokesman said. The explosion went off in the centre of the city of Ansbach, not far from where more than 2,500 people had gathered for the concert, at around 10 pm (2000 GMT). The perpetrator was killed in the blast and 15 people were wounded, four of them seriously.

Attacker known to police

Ansbach deputy police chief Roman Fertinger said there were "indications" pieces of metal had been added to the explosive device. The attacker, who came to Germany two years ago but had his asylum claim rejected after a year, had tried to kill himself twice in the past and had spent time in a psychiatric clinic, authorities said. He was facing imminent deportation to Bulgaria, where he was first registered within the European Union as an asylum seeker, a German interior ministry spokesman said. The assailant, who lived in Ansbach, was already known to police, having been linked

to a drug-related offence.

However a social worker who knew him, Reinhold Eschenbacher, described him as "friendly, inconspicuous and nice" when he came to his office pick up his welfare benefits, DPA news agency reported.

Stephan Mayer, a deputy from Merkel's conservative bloc, insisted that it was "completely wrong" to blame the government's refugee policy for the recent rash of attacks. But Mayer told the BBC that the 1.1 million migrants and refugees Germany let in last year represented a "big challenge" for law enforcement, even as the influx has dwindled in recent months. "We were not able to register and control all the migrants that crossed the German border," said Mayer.

Europe has been on edge for months after a string of deadly attacks claimed by the Islamic State jihadist group, including bombings in Brussels and carnage at Bastille Day celebrations in the southern French city of Nice.

Obsessed with mass murder

Meanwhile police released more details on Munich mall attacker David Ali Sonboly, saying the 18-year-old was depressed and had spent two months in a psychiatric unit last year. The teen, who had German and Iranian nationality, was obsessed with mass killings and spent a year preparing for the shooting spree, police said.

At least 35 people were also wounded during Sonboly's attack, which began at a McDonald's franchise and ended with him turning his 9mm Glock pistol on himself. Investigators have ruled out any link with IS jihadists, although he appeared to have planned the assault with chilling precision for a year. Police have also arrested a 16-year-old Afghan friend in connection with the shooting. The two were in psychiatric treatment together last year and allegedly met at the scene of the attack shortly before it began, prosecutors said yesterday.

Hundreds of people, many of them in tears, gathered on Sunday outside the Munich shopping centre where the attack took place to pay tribute to the victims. Already steeped in grief and shock, Germans were further rattled by news that a Syrian refugee had killed a 45-year-old Polish woman with a large kebab knife at a snack bar in the southwestern city of Reutlingen.

Police, who had initially said the murder weapon was a machete, added that Sunday's incident in which three others were injured was likely a "crime of passion."

Three people were also injured in the attack, which ended when the 21-year-old assailant was deliberately struck by a BMW driver trying to stop the man. —AFP



LONDON: In this Aug. 19, 1995 file photo, Britain's Princess Diana, left, sits next to her younger son Prince Harry during V-J Day celebrations. —AP

UK'S PRINCE HARRY WISHES HE HAD SPOKEN ABOUT MOTHER SOONER

LONDON: Britain's Prince Harry has said he wishes he had spoken sooner about the death of his mother, Princess Diana.

Harry, who was 12 when Diana died in a car crash in 1997, said in video released yesterday that it isn't a sign of weakness to speak about problems. The comments came as Harry was speaking with a group of high-profile sports stars attending a July 14 barbecue arranged by the mental health charity Heads Together.

"It's OK to suffer, as long as you talk about it," he said. "It's not a weakness. Weakness is having a problem and not recognizing it and not solving that problem."

Among others attending the event were

England soccer star Rio Ferdinand, whose wife died from cancer.

Ferdinand spoke with Harry about discussing the death of his wife with his children. "I really regret not ever talking about it,"

Harry said. Prince Harry, together with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, founded Heads Together. The three have been anxious to bring together mental health organizations to tackle the stigma around psychological issues. —AP

TRIAL OPENS OVER MURDER OF KREMLIN CRITIC NEMTSOV

MOSCOW: A Moscow military court yesterday began an initial closed-door hearing in the trial of the suspects in the shock murder of Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov last year, a lawyer said.

Nemtsov, a former deputy prime minister and one of the most prominent critics of Russia's President Vladimir Putin, was gunned down on the evening of February 27, 2015, as he walked across a bridge from the Kremlin.

Five suspects-all reportedly Chechens-are currently in detention and face up to life in jail if convicted. They deny any guilt. Russian investigators have described the killing, whose brutality horrified the world, as a hit ordered by a low-ranking Chechen official and other "unidentified" suspects.

The session began at Moscow District Military Court after Russian investigators announced last month they had completed their probe. Police closed off part of the pedestrian street next to the court and did not allow journalists or others to approach, TASS state news agency reported. Lawyer Vadim Prokhorov, who represents Nemtsov's family, told AFP he would submit "numerous requests" to the court, particularly on selecting the jury for the trial itself, which should be open to the public. Preliminary hearings were set to continue Tuesday at 1000 GMT when the court was to rule whether there will be a jury trial, as the defendants have requested. The five defendants have been named as Zaur Dadayev, Shadid and Anzor Gubashev, Bemirlan Eskerkhanov and Khamzat Bakhayev.

According to investigators, a Chechen security official named Ruslan Mukhudinov—who has been identified as the ringleader but has fled abroad—approached the other men in September 2014 and offered 15 million rubles (about \$235,000) for the murder.

Thorn in Kremlin's side

Nemtsov's family and allies say the authorities have failed to bring the masterminds to justice and point the finger of blame at Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, as well as the Kremlin itself.

Kadyrov had a long-running feud with Nemtsov and has made calls to eliminate Russia's "enemy" opposition. Lawyers representing Nemtsov's family on Monday asked for the case to be sent back to prosecutors and the charge to be reclassified as murder of a public figure aimed at halting his political activities.

Protesters held solo pickets outside the court with slogans on placards including "Question Kadyrov. Reinvestigate the case," and "Name the masterminds in Boris Nemtsov's murder," Grani.ru news website reported.

Mukhudinov has reportedly served in a

Chechen unit called Sever which supported Kadyrov, a Kremlin loyalist. Denied access to the pro-Kremlin state media, Nemtsov had become a marginal figure in Russia but he remained a thorn in the side of the authorities.

At the time of his death, he was probing Moscow's covert deployment of troops to Ukraine—and ex-colleagues are convinced he was killed to halt his political work. The trial is beginning just days after a close friend of Nemtsov, independent journalist Pavel Sheremet, was killed by a powerful car bomb in Kiev in a crime that investigators say was linked to his work. —AFP



MOSCOW: This file photo taken on March 01, 2015 shows Russia's opposition supporters carrying a banner bearing a portrait of Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov during a march. —AFP

IRAQI CHARGED WITH HAVING 'TRACE' EXPLOSIVES IN POLAND

WARSAW: An Iraqi man has been charged with possessing trace amounts of explosive material in Poland, officials said yesterday, days ahead of the pope's visit for a huge Catholic youth festival.

Poland has upped security ahead of the World Youth Day event that will draw hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from around the world to the southern city of Krakow this week.

The Iraqi man was charged in the central city of Lodz and remanded in custody for two months, local court spokesman Pawel Urbaniak told reporters. "National prosecutors have launched an investigation," he added. Prosecutor Beata Marczak added that the man was detained last week and charged Sunday with "possessing trace amounts of explosive material," which could result in up to eight years in jail. "That does not mean we found enough explosive material to cause an

explosion," she told reporters, adding that currently "there are no grounds for charging him with participating in terrorist activity." Private news channel Polsat News reported that the explosive traces were found on the man's luggage and clothes at hotels in Lodz and Krakow. It added that the man had been detained at the hotel in Lodz on Sunday and had been in possession of notes on preparing terrorist acts against French supermarkets in Poland.

Polsat News described him as a 48-year-old who arrived in Poland a couple of weeks ago after being expelled from Sweden. Earlier he had lived in Switzerland for several years. Poland will deploy more than 40,000 security personnel to protect Pope Francis, who arrives on Wednesday, and the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims meeting him during the July 26-31 youth festival. — AFP

GREECE'S CHIOS ISLAND IN STATE OF EMERGENCY AS WILDFIRE RAGES

ATHENS: Greece has declared a state of emergency on the Aegean island of Chios, which has been engulfed by a wildfire raging out of control, authorities said yesterday. Dozens of firefighters and aircraft were deployed to fight the forest fire which broke out early on Monday, burning through olive groves and mastic trees, an important source of income for the island, which has a population of about 52,000.

"It is very serious ... authorities are doing their utmost to deal with it with land and air forces," said Christiana Kalogirou, governor of the Northern Aegean Prefecture, to which Chios belongs.

The fire destroyed mastic trees in the

south of the island, just before the August harvesting season for the product. Chios Mastic, a tree resin used in the production of items as diverse as liquor to beauty products and a gum that can alleviate peptic ulcers, has a protected designation of origin status within the European Union. "Unfortunately, there is almost total destruction in some cases," a representative of the mastic producers association told a local newspaper, Politis.

Forest fires are common during the summer in Greece, where dry weather and strong winds can quickly fan fires, devastating large areas. Some 70 people were killed in 2007, during the most serious wildfire outbreak in decades. —Reuters



KATHMANDU, NEPAL: Nepalese caretaker Prime Minister KP Oli Sharma (R) and Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, known as Prachanda, (C-L) shake hands during a Parliament session on Sunday. —AFP

NEPALI PRESIDENT SEEKS CONSENSUS CANDIDATE FOR NEW PM

KATHMANDU: Nepal's president held talks with leaders of three main political parties yesterday to come up with a consensus candidate for prime minister and try to end revolving-door politics that has seen 23 governments in 26 years.

Prime Minister K.P. Oli, facing defeat in a no-confidence vote in parliament brought by his allies, the former Maoist rebels, resigned on Sunday, opening the way for a political tussle to lead the country of 28 million people.

President Vidhya Devi Bhandari had invited Oli, Maoist chief Prachanda and the leader of the Nepali Congress party, Sher Bahadur Deuba, to discuss a new government, an aide to the president said. "The meeting is to tell them to move ahead untidily," the aide, Bheshe Raj Adhikari, told Reuters. "The country has many problems and all major parties must unite to resolve them."

Nepal has been in a political crisis since September when a Constituent Assembly approved a new constitution amid a political row with minority Madhesis in the southern plains over the creation of federal states under the new system.

Ethnic Madhesis, who have long complained of neglect by a ruling elite drawn from the hill region, said the creation of the states would marginalize them by dividing

their homeland. Maoist chief Prachanda, who goes by just one name, said the outgoing administration failed to address grievances of the plains people. He is considered the frontrunner to succeed Oli, with the support of the Nepali Congress.

Oli's communist UML party said it would not support the Maoists' bid for power after they had brought down Oli's government. "There is no possibility of us joining," senior UML official Pradip Gyawali told Reuters. "We'll remain a strong opposition."

Political instability has played out against the backdrop of a contest for influence between neighbors India and China. India has long considered the Himalayan nation its area of influence, and has often faced accusations of interference from Nepal.

India rejects the allegations but has grown concerned about China's involvement in Nepal's infrastructure development. Prospects for stability remain dim, at least until elections scheduled for 2018, analysts say. "Nepal's leaders have once more demonstrated that they are obsessed with politics as usual at a time when they should be working to rescue the economy," said Kunda Dixit, editor of the Nepali Times weekly. Nepal's economy grew by 0.77 percent in the year to July 15, the lowest rate since 2001/02. —Reuters

AFGHAN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES SOAR TO RECORD HIGH, UN SAYS

CHILDREN PAYING PRICE FOR GROWING INSECURITY

KABUL: Civilian casualties in Afghanistan soared to a record high in the first half of 2016, the UN said yesterday, with children in particular paying a heavy price for growing insecurity as the conflict escalates.

The UN report, which comes days after the deadliest attack in Kabul since the Taliban were ousted from power in 2001, cited increasing ground combat around heavily populated areas as the leading cause of casualties.

Between January and June, 1,601 civilians were killed and 3,565 were wounded—a four percent increase in casualties compared to the same period last year, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said.

The casualties have reached their highest level since the UN began issuing its authoritative reports in 2009. "Every single casualty documented in this report—people killed while praying, working, studying, fetching water, recovering in hospitals—every civilian casualty represents a failure of commitment and should be a call to action for parties to the conflict to take meaningful steps to reduce suffering," UNAMA chief Tadamichi Yamamoto said.

"Platitudes not backed by meaningful action ring hollow over time." The casualties include 1,509 children—roughly one-third of the total figure the UN described as "alarming and shameful." It was the highest toll ever recorded by the UN over a six-month period. "These findings are truly shocking, and



KABUL: An Afghan mourner carries a tombstone ahead of funeral prayers for the 80 people killed in the twin suicide attack on Sunday. —AFP

represent a significant backtrack on progress for Afghan children," international charity Save the Children said. The overall statistics are a grim indicator of growing insecurity in Afghanistan as the Taliban step up their nationwide insurgency and the Islamic State group seeks to expand their foothold in the east of the country.

The UN report said insurgent groups including the Taliban were responsible for the majority — 60

percent of civilian casualties. But it also reported a 47 percent increase in the number of casualties caused by pro-government forces, compared to the same period last year.

'Protracted conflict'

"The testimony of victims and their families brings into agonizing focus the tragedy of... this protracted conflict since 2009," said Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

"The family that lost a breadwinner, forcing the children to leave school and struggle to make ends meet; the driver who lost his limbs, depriving him of his livelihood; the man who went to the bazaar to shop for his children only to return home to find them dead."

The report comes after the deadliest attack for 15 years in Kabul on Saturday killed 80 people and left hundreds maimed, an assault claimed by IS. The twin bombings tore through crowds of minority Shiite Hazaras as they 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.

Those figures are not included in the UN report. But the assault illustrates the report's finding that suicide bombings and complex attacks are now hurting more civilians than roadside bombs. "Parties to the conflict must cease the deliberate targeting of civilians and the use of heavy weaponry in civilian-populated areas," Zeid said.

"There must be an end to the prevailing impunity enjoyed by those responsible for civilian casualties—no matter who they are." The report said that growing air strikes by Afghan forces also contributed to the rise in civilian casualties as new aircraft were deployed.

It also voiced concern over the human rights violations of pro-government militia groups, which act outside the law in some Afghan provinces. —AFP

PAKISTAN URGES INDONESIA TO DELAY EXECUTION OF PAKISTANI

JAKARTA: Pakistan yesterday urged the Indonesian government to stay the execution of one of its nationals convicted of smuggling drugs, citing concerns that his 2005 trial had been unfair.

Indonesia, which is among Southeast Asia's biggest markets for narcotics, has declared a "drug emergency" and vowed no mercy for drug traffickers. It provoked international outrage in April last year with the executions of eight drug traffickers, seven foreigners among them, following the 2013 end of a five-year temporary

halt in the practice.

Indonesian authorities are preparing to execute by firing squad at least three foreign prisoners, including citizens of Nigeria and Zimbabwe, but they have not set a timeframe. They are among 16 prisoners that Indonesian officials have said are to be executed this year. "We are writing a letter to the Indonesian government to hold off on this execution because...our concern is that the trial was not fair," Syed Zahid Raza, the charge de affaires at the Pakistani embassy in Jakarta, told Reuters.

The Indonesian attorney-general's office had notified the embassy that Zulfikar Ali, convicted in 2005 for attempting to smuggle 300 grams (10.6 oz) of heroin, would be executed "in the near future" but no date had been set, Raza added.

Ali's family has also been notified, he said. Indonesian authorities have not given a breakdown of the number of foreigners who remain on death row, but citizens of France, Britain and the Philippines are known to be among them. —Reuters

ONE ARREST IN BANGLADESH OVER BOY'S GRUESOME KILLING

DHAKA: Yesterday Bangladesh police arrested a spinning mill worker for allegedly torturing a nine-year-old boy to death with an air compressor, the second such incident in less than a year, officers said.

Sagar Barman died of internal injuries in a Dhaka hospital late on Sunday after his family alleges eight workers were involved in forcing the compressor into the boy's rectum and turning on the machine.

The boy also worked at the Zubaida Textile Mills in Rugganj town, just south of the capital, one of millions of child labourers in impoverished Bangladesh, many employed in hazardous industries. "We have arrested the mill's assistant administrative officer. We've also launched a hunt for others accused including three production managers who were named in the case," Rugganj police chief Ismail Hossain told —AFP.

CHINESE ANGER AS JOURNALISTS FORCED TO LEAVE INDIA

NEW DELHI: India has refused to renew the visas of a group of journalists from China's state-run Xinhua news agency, government sources said yesterday, after they reportedly made unauthorized visits to Tibetan refugee camps.

As Beijing's official media condemned what it called a "petty" decision, a senior official in New Delhi confirmed three journalists would have to leave India within the week at the security services' instigation.

"They had come to the adverse attention of the security agencies," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity. "They were doing activities that were not compatible with their journalist status." The official said the trio were not being officially expelled but their annual visas would not be renewed and they would have to leave by July 31.

There was no official word on why the reporters had fallen foul of the Indian authorities. But a report in Monday's Hindustan Times said two of them had visited Tibetan settlements in the southern state of Karnataka last year, without securing a permit from the home ministry and while using false identities.

"The journalists had not taken the PAP (Protected Area Permit) for visiting the camps but their real identities were detected when they reached there," an official told the newspaper. India is home to thousands of Tibetan refugees who fled their Himalayan homeland when China sent in troops in 1951 to quell an uprising.

Many of those who took flight—including Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama—settled in and around the Indian northern town of Dharamsala where a Tibetan government-in-exile functions.

Others live in designated settlements elsewhere in the country that are off-limits to foreigners, such as the one in Karnataka which is home to around 40,000 Tibetans. The exile community held elections in April for the leadership of the Dharamsala government—an organization that China has consistently refused to recognize.

India's hosting of the exiled government is a long-running thorn in relations between the two neighboring countries. Often prickly tensions between the world's two most populous countries have also been inflamed recently by China's blocking of India's attempt to join a 48-nation nuclear trade group. —AFP



JAKARTA: Former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohamad talks to the media during a visit yesterday. Mahathir said talks are underway on forming a new political party and coalition to challenge Malaysia's scandal-hit leader, Prime Minister Najib Razak, who faces allegations that billions of dollars were plundered from a state-owned investment fund he founded. —AFP

SEARCHERS FAIL TO DETECT EMERGENCY SIGNAL FROM MISSING INDIAN PLANE

NEW DELHI: Indian rescuers have failed to pick up any emergency transmitter signals from an air force plane that went missing last week with 29 people on board, an official said yesterday, in the latest setback to a search operation in the Bay of Bengal.

Sixteen ships, a submarine and six aircraft have been deployed to search for the Russian-made AN-32 that disappeared on a routine re-supply flight to remote islands in the Bay of Bengal on Friday.

Rajan Bargarota, a senior coastguard official, said the absence of signals from an emergency locator transmitter (ELT) made the operation very difficult. "It is important to know why ELT has not worked as it could have helped narrow down the location of the plane," Bargarota told reporters in New Delhi.

The ELT device is meant to start transmitting the plane's location the moment it touches water or in the event of a crash. There were 21 military personnel on board the plane including six crew. The other people on board were civilians, and some family members of soldiers deployed on the islands.

Scientists at the Indian Space and Research Organization were using satellites in the search, while the navy scoured an area of about 14,400 square nautical miles. Difficulties have been compounded by stormy monsoon weathering the Bay of Bengal. —Reuters

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AUSTRALIA MOVES TO INDEFINITE DETENTION OF TERRORISTS

SYDNEY: High-risk terror offenders may be kept in jail after their sentences finish, Australian officials said yesterday as they move to tighten security laws following attacks in the United States and Europe.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the proposed changes were prompted by an increase in the frequency and severity of attacks around the world as he noted the recent mass shooting in Orlando and a lorry attack in Nice, France.

"In the wake of Orlando, Nice, and other terrorist incidents, as well as our own experience... we cannot afford for a

moment to be complacent," Turnbull said. In response to the evolving threat, he said Australia, which has already ramped up security laws since 2014, would move to keep high-risk terrorists in detention beyond the completion of their sentences. "This legislation will enable additional periods of imprisonment for terrorist offenders who have served their sentences but are still judged to present an unacceptable risk to the community," he said in a statement. The proposal, to be discussed with state and territory officials who must then pass legislation, is similar to

arrangements already in place for sex offenders and extremely violent individuals in some states.

Attorney-General George Brandis said the extension of detention would be a court supervised process with regular reviews and reassessments. "It will of course only apply to individuals who, as they approach the end of a sentence of imprisonment, continue to pose an unacceptably high risk to the community because of their failure to be rehabilitated as a result of a penal sentence," he said. Brandis said the government would also move to lower the age at which

people can be subject to a control order which aims to prevent a terror attack by limiting a person's movements, communications and activities from 16 to 14.

It would also legislate to introduce a new offence of advocacy of genocide targeting those preaching hate, he added. The prime minister said the steps were necessary but proportionate. "They balance the need to keep the community safe with our commitment to privacy and the rights of the individual," Turnbull said, stressing that ultimately it was vitally important Islamic State insurgents be defeated in the field.

But in moving to ramp up legislation, he said authorities still faced the difficulty of finding offenders who were under the radar, with no known reason for their radicalization, and tackling this required strong intelligence. He also noted that the attack in Nice, in which a lorry was driven into a crowd for two kilometers, killing 84 people, raised the prospect of better safeguarding public spaces where large numbers of people gathered. "It's important that we continue to learn from incidents everywhere because our enemies are learning from them as well," Turnbull said. —AFP

CHINA SCORES DIPLOMATIC VICTORY, AVOIDS CRITICISM FROM ASEAN

OTHER BLOC MEMBERS ARE VICTIMS

VIENTIANE, LAOS: China scored an unequivocal diplomatic victory yesterday, preventing Southeast Asia's main grouping from criticizing it for territorially expanding in the South China Sea, even though some of the bloc's members are victims of Beijing's actions.

After hectic negotiations, the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations issued a watered-down rebuke that amounted to less than a slap on the wrist, and exposed the deep divisions in a regional body that prides itself on unity.

dismissed the ruling as bogus, saying the Hague-based tribunal has no authority to rule on what Beijing calls bilateral disputes. China wants direct negotiations with the Philippines instead.

The tribunal's award "amounts to prescribing a dose of wrong medicine ... and it seems that certain countries outside the region have got worked up, keeping the fever high," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, referring to the United States. "And if the prescription is wrong it will not help cure any disease. That's why we

to some extent Laos, both of which are close friends of Beijing. ASEAN's guiding principle is to make all statements by consensus, so a veto by Cambodia would have prevented a more stinging rebuke.

"We reaffirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, security, stability, safety and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea," the joint statement said. "We further reaffirmed the need to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities and avoid actions that may further complicate the situation," it said.

Such statements have previously been issued, notably after an ASEAN US summit in California in February, and have led to criticism that ASEAN is becoming a toothless organization. Analysts say this amounted to another capitulation by ASEAN in face of China's power.

"ASEAN's failure to mention the tribunal's decision will not affect the implementation of the ruling per se, as China has already indicated that it won't recognize or accept it. But failure to even mention the landmark legal ruling once again highlights ASEAN's inability to present a united front and China's skill at using Cambodia as a proxy to further its own interests," said Ian Storey, a senior fellow at Singapore's Institute of Southeast Asian Studies think tank.

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 international rights to develop the surrounding waters. That and other findings invalidated much of what China has 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.

In recent days, China's military has staged live-firing exercises in the area and said 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. —AP



VIENTIANE, LAOS: Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, left, shakes hands with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, right before they pose for a photo during the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - China Foreign Ministers' Meeting yesterday. —AP

Joint communique

In a joint communique released after their talks, the foreign ministers of ASEAN said only that they "remain seriously concerned over recent and ongoing developments" in the South China Sea. The statement did not mention China by name in referring to the developments.

Most significantly, it failed to mention a recent ruling by an international arbitration panel in a dispute between the Philippines and China that said Beijing's claims in the South China Sea were illegal and that the Philippines was justifiably the aggrieved party. China has

urge other counties in the region to lower the temperature," he told a news conference after 90 minutes of talks with the ASEAN ministers.

Wang said about 80 percent of that time was spent on ASEAN-China relations, and only 20 percent on South China Sea. He joked that reporters had expended more than 80 percent of the question-and-answer time on South China Sea.

"Both China and ASEAN believe this page should have been turned and temperature lowered," he said. China was able to push through its stance in ASEAN with the help of Cambodia, and

PHILIPPINES' DUTERTE VOWS NO MERCY IN CRIME WAR

MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte vowed yesterday to show "no mercy" in his bloody war on crime, warning criminals that priests and human rights advocates cannot protect them from being killed.

A defiant Duterte devoted a large chunk of his inaugural "State of the Nation" address to his law and order campaign, which has claimed hundreds of lives since he took office on June 30. "Show no mercy to them because they are not showing any mercy to us anyway," Duterte told lawmakers as he summarised his orders to security forces to eliminate alleged drug lords.

Duterte, 71, won the May election in a landslide after promising to quickly eradicate crime by unleashing security forces with shoot-to-kill orders, and vowing that tens of thousands of people would die during his six-year term.

Police have reported killing more than 200 drug suspects, or an average of 11 per day, since he assumed office. They have insisted they have only killed people in self-defense. Media tallies have put the death toll far higher, taking into account the many bullet-riddled or stabbed corpses found on streets across the nation.

ABS-CBN television has recorded 544 deaths since election day. Yesterday Duterte declared there would be no let-up in the campaign, ordering police and local officials to "double your efforts, triple them if need be." "We will not stop until the last drug lord, the last financier and the last pusher have surrendered or put behind bars or below the ground if they so wish," he said to loud cheers.

Duterte's message has proved wildly popular with many Filipinos. He scored an unprecedented trust rating of 91 percent in a survey by

independent pollster Pulse Asia this month. Church groups in the largely Catholic nation, rights advocates and some sections of the media have criticised the war on crime and expressed alarm at what they have termed extrajudicial killings.

A major newspaper carried a front-page photo on Sunday of a weeping woman holding the body of a man who had been shot dead on a Manila street by unidentified gunmen. "You are portrayed in a broadsheet like Mother Mary cradling the dead cadaver of Jesus

Christ. Let's do drama here," Duterte said in Monday's speech in response to outrage by some over the photo. "If you don't want to die, if you don't want to get hurt, don't rely on priests and human rights (advocates). That won't stop death."

'Comfort, welfare'

In the 90-minute speech, Duterte also announced a unilateral ceasefire with communist rebels waging a decades-long insurgency that has claimed tens of thousands of lives.

"We will strive to have a permanent and lasting peace before my term ends. That is my goal, that is my dream," he said.

He reiterated his plans to shift to a federal form of government that devolves power from central government to the regions, saying France should be the model. Duterte also outlined a range of measures to help address many daily grievances of Filipinos, including plans for new trains and airports, as well as free internet wifi in public parks. "I am for the comfort and welfare of the Filipino," he said.

Duterte also vowed to implement a landmark law mandating the government to provide free contraceptives to poor couples and teach sex education in schools.

The law was passed during the previous administration of Benigno Aquino but opposition from the Catholic Church has helped to stifle its implementation. "The poor (must) have freedom of informed choice on the number and spacing of children they can adequately care and provide for," Duterte said. On the economic front, Duterte said he would cut personal and corporate tax rates, without giving figures. —AFP



MANILA: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, gestures to his aide who pours drinking water while delivering his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) before the joint session of the 17th Congress yesterday. —AFP



PYONGYANG: This file photo taken on September 3, 2011 by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) shows emergency aid cargo from the US NGO Samaritan's Purse arriving at Pyongyang airport for flood-hit North Korea. —AFP

SANCTIONS DISRUPT AID AGENCIES IN N KOREA

PYONGYANG: Ramped-up international sanctions on North Korea have inadvertently disrupted the already challenging work of aid agencies there, those in the field say, with risk-averse banks refusing to transfer funds needed to keep operations running.

Aid shipments have also been held up or blocked indefinitely at Chinese customs in confusion over what is covered by the significantly upgraded UN sanctions imposed in March following Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test earlier in the year.

"Importing goods-medicines, humanitarian supplies, materials for water and sanitation infrastructure-has become very difficult," said an official from an international humanitarian group with an office in Pyongyang. "What would happen if there were major floods tomorrow?" said the official, who declined to be identified because of the political sensitivity of the issue.

"We have some supplies in-country, but we wouldn't be able to get emergency goods into the country within a short period of time." Specific examples of delays include a large shipment of water-purification tablets impounded by Chinese customs because their high chlorine content flagged up a "dual use" concern.

And solar panels needed to provide a stable energy supply to a new TB diagnostic laboratory in Pyongyang were stopped after being designated "military grade".

Humanitarian exemptions

The sanctions on North Korea carry clear exemptions for aid work in a country where an estimated 18 million people need some sort of humanitarian assistance. But the international condemnation heaped on the North's nuclear program in recent years has badly shaken the agencies' support network, and a renewed sanctions enforcement drive that accompanied the March measures has scared even more partners off. "Despite the humanitarian exemption, private sector companies such as banks, shippers and other suppliers are increasingly declining or hesitating to provide services, which is affecting the ability of humanitarian agencies to operate," an aid agency working in the North told AFP. "As time passes, and a solution is not found, the operational difficulties will increase," the agency said.

Five UN agencies-FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and WHO-and four international NGOs including Save the Children have humanitarian programmes in North Korea. The International Federation of the Red Cross and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation are among others present.

Finding a solution

The effort to find a stable conduit for cash to cover transport, salaries, monitoring and other in-country costs has been taken up at the highest level at the UN headquarters in New York.

"We are working on this issue," said Farhan Haq, deputy spokesman for the UN Secretary General. Haq declined to give details, but a source with knowledge of the discussions said they were currently focused on a Russian bank that might be willing to handle UN transfers to North Korea, but only after receiving a green light from the UN sanctions committee.

From the banks' perspective, there is little upside, as the transfer sums are small, the red tape voluminous and the potential PR pitfalls of dealing with North Korea all too apparent. In June, the US Treasury Department designated North Korea a "prime money laundering concern"-meaning any bank with links to the US financial system could face sanctions if they do business with the North. This came on top of a US presidential executive order in March that significantly increased sanctions and effectively served warning on Chinese and Russian banks providing services to their North Korean equivalents.

The executive order was accompanied by a written exception for humanitarian assistance, but most foreign banks concluded that avoiding North Korea altogether was preferable to tip-toeing alone through the sanctions minefield with an exemption detector.

US Treasury help?

Aware of the problem, the US Treasury sent a letter to the United Nations in June seeking to clarify the situation. "We are deeply concerned about... the recent challenges faced by the UN and its specialized agencies trying to transfer funds in support of their humanitarian assistance programs," a Treasury official told AFP.

According to the UN's latest country report, 70 percent of North Korea's 24.9 million people are vulnerable to shortages in food production, with 10.5 million classified as "undernourished." Funding for aid programs has plunged in the past decade, partly due to donor fatigue and frustration with Pyongyang's obstinacy in implementing the programs, as well as its foreign policy provocations. And now the banking issues have "added an additional layer of complication to our operations," acknowledged Christopher de Bono, UNICEF's spokesman for East Asia and the Pacific. "But we have managed to ensure that our urgent humanitarian work for children has not been significantly compromised," De Bono said. —AFP

CHINA SAYS SOUTH KOREA DAMAGED 'MUTUAL TRUST'

SEOUL: China has blamed South Korea for damaging "mutual trust" with its planned deployment of an advanced US missile defense system in the face of Beijing's opposition, Yonhap news agency said Monday.

Seoul and Washington announced earlier this month their decision to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in the South following recent North Korean missile and nuclear tests. The plan to deploy the powerful system, which fires projectiles to smash into enemy missiles, angered Beijing and Moscow, which both see it as a US bid to flex its military muscle in the region.

"The recent behavior from South Korea has undermined the foundation for our

mutual trust," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters ahead of a meeting late Sunday with his South Korean counterpart on the sidelines of a regional forum in Vientiane, Laos. "I will hear what kind of practical actions South Korea will take to protect the unwavering relations between us," Yonhap quoted Wang as saying. China is South Korea's largest export market and also a key partner in Seoul's efforts to curb North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

At the meeting, South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-Se acknowledged challenges in bilateral relations, but stressed that the THAAD deployment was purely defensive and posed no threat to China's security interests, Yonhap said, citing an unnamed Korean government official. —AFP



ALEPPO: A Syrian man carries the body of a girl after she was trapped under the rubble following air strikes on the rebel-held neighborhood of Mashhad in this northern city yesterday. — AFP (See Page 8)

SCORES OF BABIES MAY BE BORN WITH ZIKA DISORDERS

PARIS: Tens of thousands of babies may be born with debilitating Zika-related disorders in the course of the outbreak sweeping through Latin America and the Caribbean, researchers said yesterday. Mathematical projections suggest about 93.4 million people may catch the virus - including some 1.65 million pregnant women - before the epidemic fizzles out, a team reported in the journal *Nature Microbiology*. Eighty percent of people will develop mild symptoms or never even be aware they have the virus.

But for babies in the womb Zika can be devastating - linked to a brain-damaging disorder called microcephaly that can lead to stillbirth or severely disabling

birth defects. Among women in a high-risk early term of pregnancy, anything between one and 13 percent have fetuses develop microcephaly or other Zika-related complications, said the multidisciplinary research team from the United States, Britain and Sweden.

This meant "somewhere on the order of tens of thousands across the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean who could realistically end up developing microcephaly or a related condition," said study co-author Alex Perkins of the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, and specified this referred to "live births". The projection was "a worst-case scenario" he told AFP, "but a realistic one". — AFP

CASSATION COURT UPHOLDS SHEIKH AHMAD...

Continued from Page 1

The lawmaker told the minister that following the Assembly panel report, the finance ministry formed a neutral committee to investigate the issue and decided that there was no need to refer the officials to the public prosecution because the violations were small administrative errors. Turaiji asked the minister for the full details about the chairman and members of the government committee and their CVs and a copy of the decision to form the committee.

He demanded the minutes of the committee meetings, its investigation and recommendations and whether the committee studied the report of the Assembly investigation. Turaiji also asked the minister if the Cabinet

reviewed the investigation reports of the Assembly and government's committees. He also asked if the minister has informed the speaker of the Assembly about the outcome of the government's committee findings.

MP Faisal Al-Duwaisan yesterday asked Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Al-Khaled Al-Sabah if the interior ministry has established a database for the DNA fingerprints under a law passed last year. He also asked if the interior ministry has started adding the DNA profile into passports of Kuwaiti citizens. Duwaisan said that under the DNA fingerprint law passed a year ago, the ministry must establish a database of the DNA profiles of citizens and expatriates as well. He said the law took effect more than two months ago after the Cabinet approved its bylaws.

AMIR WARNS REGIONAL CONFLICTS AFFECT...

Continued from Page 1

there so far, hopes are pinned on the Yemeni parties to conclude one that upholds national interests and spares Yemenis' blood, he said. The present war in this dear part of the Arab world will only increase destruction, killing and homelessness in Yemen, as well as pose threat to the country's national unity, the Amir said.

Referring to Iraq, Libya, Somalia and Sudan, HH the Amir said that the situation in the four countries remains a source of deep worry and threat to security and stability. Brothers' suffering in these countries and the challenges they face are tremendous, and "prompt us to stand by them and support whatever they do to put end to their suffering," he said. HH the Amir added that Kuwait intends to host an international conference on Somalia "to contribute together to providing education that helps realize the aspired stability and development" for Somalis.

On the Mideast peace process, the Amir said that Israel's intransigence and arrogance remain to constitute an obstacle to realizing the aspired comprehensive and permanent peace that goes in line with resolutions of the international community and the Arab initiative. The Amir lauded France for hosting an international conference with an initiative to relaunch peace efforts in the region, wishing it success. According to the Amir, Kuwait is planning to host an international conference on the suffering of the Palestinian children. The proposed event will shed light on Israel's violations of international conventions and norms on children's rights, he said.

The Amir referred to relations with Iran, saying that any constructive dialogue needs favorable conditions. He said that the Islamic republic needs to respect the rules and norms of international law on good neighborliness, and also sovereignty of other countries, refraining from interfering in their internal affairs.

Meanwhile, HH the Amir said terrorism, "which we are all facing, remains a threat to our security and a motive for exerting utmost efforts to face its evils and hazards." "We realize that the conformation will be fierce and requires the international community to join efforts to deter plans and criminal acts of terrorist organizations," he said. It is a comprehensive confrontation with various dimensions, educational and cultural and religious and it is "a responsibility of our countries, with their official and popular bodies, as part of the international community," the Amir concluded.

The Amir started his statement thanking Mauritania's President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz and the people for hosting the 27th Arab Summit, as well as the hospi-

talities and warm welcome they have manifested. He also thanked Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi for the efforts to enhance the joint Arab action during Egypt's presidency of the 26th Summit. He congratulated new Arab League Secretary General Ahmad Abul-Gheit for taking over the post. He also thanked the League's secretariat for their hard efforts to prepare for the Nouakchott summit. The Amir also commended the great and distinguished efforts by the Arab League's former chief Nabil Al-Arabi in support of Arab joint action.

The summit was cut back to a single day yesterday due to the absence of the heavyweight leaders of Egypt and Saudi Arabia. Sisi stayed at home because of "a busy domestic schedule", while Saudi King Salman's no-show was due to "health reasons", an Arab League source told AFP. Opening the talks, Egypt's premier Sherif Ismail called in the name of Sisi for "an Arab strategy of struggle against terrorism". "We must recast the religious language that terrorist elements exploit to their own ends to sow terror, death and destruction," he said. Terrorists were deflecting Islam's message of peace, he added.

Ould Abdel Aziz, who is hosting the summit, also slammed the "blind violence of terrorists" as well as foreign interventions that feed instability in the Arab world. The president praised Kuwait for hosting the conciliation consultations among the Yemeni parties, whose nation is threatened with partition. "We highly admire the State of Kuwait sponsorship of the consultations among the Yemeni parties and His Highness the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah's keenness on bringing together the Yemeni parties for reaching a comprehensive settlement to stop the destructive war," he stated.

The summit, originally scheduled for two full days, is to focus primarily on security and on plans for a joint force across a region fraught with tension, notably in Libya, Iraq, Yemen, Syria and the Palestinian territories. Arab nations endorsed the idea of an anti-terror force at their last summit in March 2015 in Egypt but have since failed to agree on setting it up. Continuing splits over the question led Morocco last February to give up plans to host this year's Arab League summit.

And pre-summit ministerial talks showed there were also sharp divisions over attitudes towards tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as well as over Turkey's incursions into Iraqi Kurdistan. Iraq refuses to condemn Iran while Saudi Arabia refuses to take a stand against Turkey. It is the first Arab League summit hosted by Mauritania since it joined the organization in 1973. The Mauritanian president also called for fresh efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying that regional instability would continue until the issue was settled. — Agencies

DEMS' CONVENTION STARTS UNDER CLOUD

Continued from Page 1

Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, tried to calm them down. "Brothers and sisters, this is the real world that we live in," he said, adding, "Trump is a bully and a demagogue." Members of the crowd started screaming back: "So is Hillary." "She stole the election!" someone else shouted. The leak on Friday of more than 19,000 Democratic National Committee emails by the WikiLeaks website put the spotlight back on Sanders' failed bid to win the Democratic nomination, and in particular on his complaints during the campaign that the party establishment was working to undermine him.

A democratic socialist, Sanders ran an unexpectedly tough race against former Secretary of State Clinton, galvanizing young and liberal voters with his calls to rein in Wall Street and eradicate income inequality. Yesterday, Sanders brought the loudest cheers when he noted that Wasserman Schultz, a US senator from Florida, had resigned as the Democratic National Committee chairman over the email controversy. "Her resignation opens up the possibility of new leadership at the top of the Democratic Party," Sanders said, adding that the leadership should be made up of "people who want real change."

Wasserman Schultz's resignation is effective at the end of the convention, but yesterday, she told Florida's Sun Sentinel newspaper that she would not speak as planned at the opening of the convention yesterday afternoon. "I have decided that in the interest of making sure that we can start the Democratic convention on a high note that I am not going to gavel in the convention," Wasserman Schultz said. The meeting "needs to be all about making sure that everyone knows that Hillary Clinton would make the best president," she said.

The controversy over the emails has been an embarrassing prelude to the convention, which Democratic officials had hoped would convey no-drama competence in con-

trast to the volatile campaign of Trump. The New York businessman was formally nominated for president at a chaotic Republican convention in Cleveland last week. Yesterday morning, Wasserman Schultz struggled to be heard above boos as she spoke to the Democratic delegation from her home state. Some protesters held up signs that read "Bernie" and "E-MAILS" and shouted "Shame," as she spoke.

The cache of leaked emails disclosed that DNC officials explored ways to undercut Sanders' insurgent presidential campaign, including raising questions about whether Sanders, who is Jewish, was an atheist. Sanders supporters were already dismayed last week when Clinton passed over liberal favorites like US Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts to select the more moderate Kaune as her running mate.

"They throw 'party unity' around as if we're supposed to jump for joy when they mention her name," said Manuel Zapata, a Sanders delegate from California, referring to Clinton. "What we've been saying for months is obviously true: they had the finger on the scale of the campaign," he said. The Clinton camp questioned whether Russians may have had a hand in the hack attack on the party's emails in an effort to help Trump, who has exchanged words of praise with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The FBI said yesterday it would investigate the nature and scope of the hack. Trump gloated at the Democrats' opening day disorder. "Wow, the Republican Convention went so smoothly compared to the Dems total mess," he wrote on Twitter.

The Republican gathering was overshadowed by accusations of plagiarism in a convention speech by Trump's wife, Melania, and by former presidential candidate Senator Ted Cruz's angry refusal to endorse Trump. In a post-convention "bump", Trump pulled ahead in at least one opinion poll, after lagging Clinton in most national polls for months. A CNN/ORC opinion poll yesterday gave Trump a three-point lead over Clinton, 48 percent to her 45 percent in a two-way presidential matchup. — Reuters

ISLAMIC STATE CLAIMS NEW GERMAN ATTACK

Continued from Page 1

Three of the four brutal incidents were in Bavaria, the southern state which has been a gateway for tens of thousands of refugees under Chancellor Angela Merkel's liberal asylum policy. Merkel's deputy spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer expressed the government's "shock" after the rash of attacks but also warned against branding all migrants a security threat. "Most of the terrorists who carried out attacks in recent months in Europe were not refugees," she told reporters. "The terrorism threat (among refugees) is not larger or smaller than in the population at large."

Police said the Syrian man intended to target the open-air festival attended by 2,500 people but was turned away as he did not have a ticket, and detonated the device outside a nearby cafe. "If he had made it inside, there would certainly have been more victims," a police spokesman said. The attacker, who came to Germany two years ago but had his asylum claim rejected after a year, had tried to kill himself twice in the past and had spent time in a psychiatric clinic.

He was facing imminent deportation to Bulgaria, where he was first registered within the European Union as an asylum seeker and which had granted his claim, a German interior ministry spokesman said. The assailant, who lived in Ansbach, was already known to police, having been linked to a drug-related offence. However a social worker who knew him, Reinhold Eschenbacher, described him as "friendly, inconspicuous and nice" when he came to his office pick up his welfare benefits, DPA news agency reported.

STRANDED IN UAE, DUPED WORKERS APPEAL...

Continued from Page 1

Josephine Valarmathi of the non-profit National Domestic Workers' Movement, based in Chennai, said the number of workers being trafficked to the Gulf from India was rising. But no action was being taken against the agents "sending them with false promises and no proper documentation," she said. "It's time the government investigated how workers are sent through these agencies without proper documentation," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

According to the video appeal, the workers are confined to a camp at Ghayathi in Abu Dhabi and include migrants from Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Bangladesh. "I last spoke to my husband a month back," said P Chitra, the

Stephan Mayer, a deputy from Merkel's conservative bloc, said it was "completely wrong" to blame the government's refugee policy for the spate of assaults. But Mayer told the BBC that the 1.1 million migrants and refugees Germany let in last year represented a "big challenge" for law enforcement, even as the influx has dwindled in recent months. "We were not able to register and control all the migrants that crossed the German border," Mayer admitted.

The president of a German police union, Rainer Wendt, said the government needed to do more to determine whether individual migrants and refugees "represent a danger". "We are seeing at this time how fragile psychological states, terrorism and crime are mixing," he warned. Europe has been on edge for months after a string of deadly attacks claimed by IS, including bombings in Brussels and Paris and the carnage at Bastille Day celebrations in the southern French city of Nice.

Meanwhile police released more details on Munich mall attacker David Ali Sonboly, saying the 18-year-old was depressed and had spent two months in a psychiatric unit last year. The teen, who had both German and Iranian nationality, was obsessed with mass killings - including Norwegian rightwing fanatic Anders Behring Breivik's 2011 massacre - and spent a year preparing for the shooting spree. At least 35 people were also wounded during Sonboly's attack, which began at a McDonald's restaurant and ended with him turning his 9mm Glock pistol on himself. Investigators have ruled out any link with IS jihadists, although he appeared to have planned the assault with chilling precision. — AFP

wife of one of the men who made the appeal. "He said he hadn't been paid for nine months and was finding it difficult to buy food. Since then I haven't heard from him." The UAE embassy in New Delhi did not respond to a request for comment.

The migrants say they have not been paid wages since Nov 2015. "Our employment contract, visas, labor card and the resident identity card has expired, but the sponsor has not renewed them, forcing employees to work without wages," said the video and written appeal produced by the migrants. Each migrant paid up to 200,000 rupees (\$3,000) to an agent to get a job overseas. The complaint lists the names of the agents and demands action against them, besides compensation. — Reuters

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Focus

NEW MOZAMBIQUE
HELPLINE TRIES TO
TACKLE HIV/AIDS

By Hannah McNeish

In Mozambique's Gaza province, if someone makes it to their 35th birthday, "you rejoice", said Shady Zita, an English teacher in a rural secondary school. "You know what? To see someone reaching that age of 35, 36 now, it's not a joke," he said. Most of the funerals that he goes to are for people who are even younger, as a deadly virus that no one wants to speak about keeps picking off Mozambique's youth. "We are surrounded by people who have HIV, to be frank," said Zita, who until recently also knew very little about the province's biggest killer.

But with around one in four in Gaza infected with HIV, according to the government, Zita is now taking advantage of a free and anonymous text message service to educate himself about sexual health, something that is off the regular curriculum. Since April, the UNICEF-funded 'SMS-Biz' myth-busting project aimed at 10 to 24-year-olds has been rolled out in 40 of Gaza's schools. Pupils at Shimundo secondary school, where Zita teaches, can send the most intimate questions that they can't get answers to in the dirt-track villages surrounding Xai-Xai, a provincial capital whose grand avenues speak of a former glory.

Four hours south in the capital Maputo, a dozen counsellors sit at their screens and copy and paste answers to commonly asked and often confused questions about HIV and malaria, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and sex. They hope to reach young people like 16-year-old Frederica, who doesn't want to give her real name. She is sexually active and one of many pupils still spouting the myth that you contract HIV by using an infected person's eating utensils and kissing with tongues.

She heard this first from her primary school teacher. She keeps hearing it from her mother, who is HIV-positive and still snatches the odd cup from her hands. Her mother keeps her status a secret, and Frederica has never been tested for HIV, despite her mother testing positive when pregnant with her. "I don't think I have it, because I've never done anything to get it, like eating from the same dish as someone who does," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Myths

Nationwide, around one in eight people have HIV or AIDS according to government data that is questioned by non-governmental groups working in the health sector. Gaza's officials, including the province's governor, can't provide figures for how much is being spent on fighting HIV. Without blinking, the youth ministry's director says that he thinks the average life expectancy is around 40. Mozambique has the world's eighth highest HIV prevalence. The state contributes around five percent to spending on programmes, according to 2014 data - basically paying health worker salaries and allowing donors like the United States to pick up the rest.

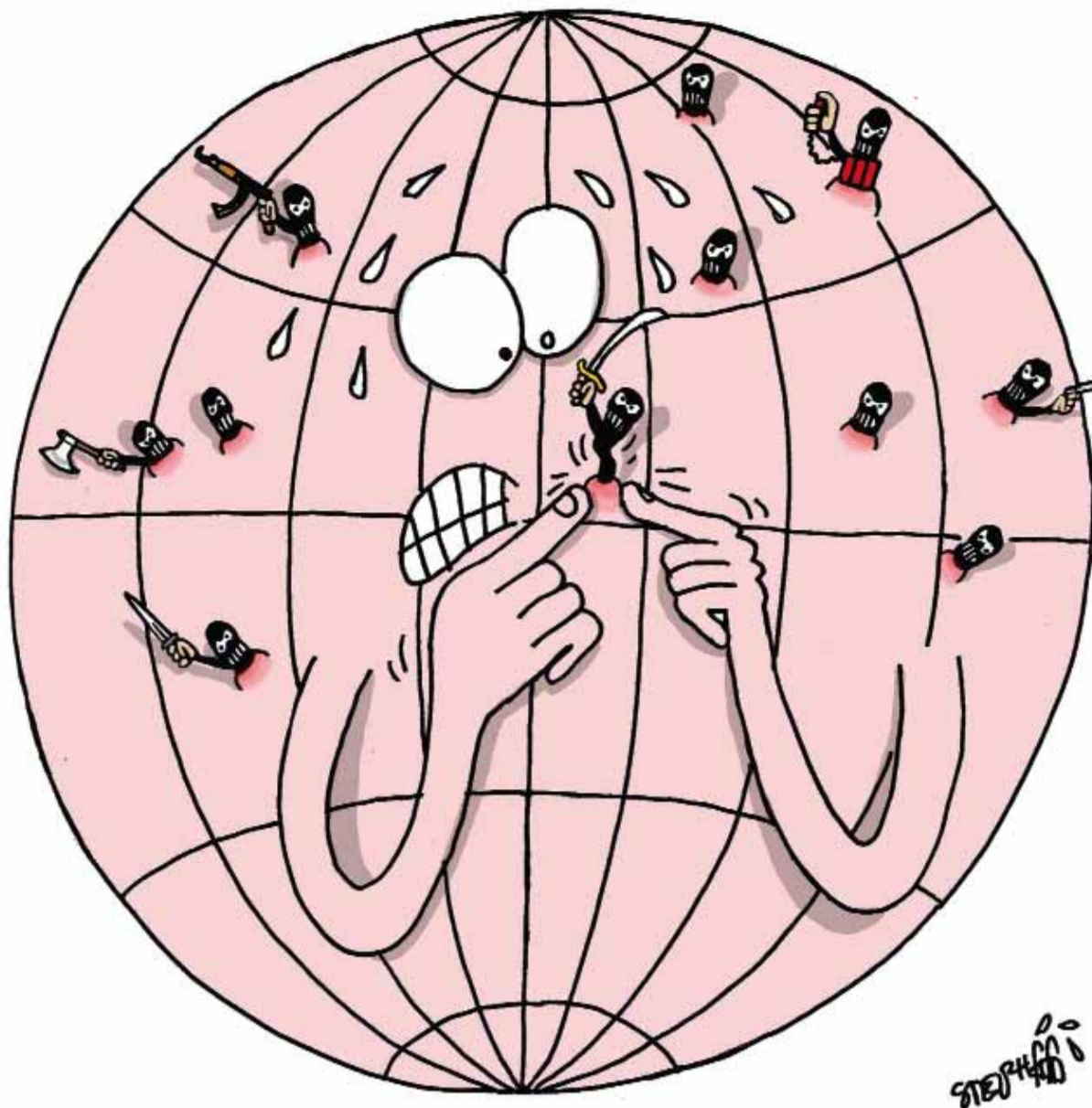
In Maputo, the team of counsellors is doing its best to chip away at the myths and misconceptions that allow the virus to thrive. They can often answer over 100 messages a day, depending on their complexity and the level of myth-busting required. "People believe that if you're circumcised you can't get HIV," says 17-year-old counsellor Alfabeto Chiloveque. He routinely corrects the callers by saying that it helps to reduce the risk, but they have to use condoms, only to come up against resistance to using what many boys and men perceive as a threat to their manhood.

"They say that the condom is not good for the health of people, like they got HIV with the condoms ... they sell us a condom that gives us HIV when you use it," said Chiloveque. Others say: "When you have spots on your face, you have to have sex to get rid of them," he added.

Counsellor Flavia Meringue still gets asked if AIDS really exists, and whether you can get it from kissing or shaking hands. She used to go to schools to speak to students who wouldn't dare ask any questions. Trying to go house to house with her message would often result in empty streets and closed doors. "When parents used to see people coming in t-shirts, they used to think that we were coming to tell their children to have sex so they would hide them, so this system is better," although the numbers using the service are still small, she said. — Reuters

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TERRORIST ATTACK OF THE DAY...



ARMIES STRUGGLE IN PUSH AGAINST BOKO HARAM

By Joe Bavier

FRAGILE PROGRESS

"You'll all be able to go home soon. Boko Haram is nearly finished," Niger's Interior Minister Mohamed Bazoum told a crowd of refugees seated quietly on dusty, sun-baked flats. His words of optimism were belied by the dozens-strong security detail required to protect him as he toured his country's southern border. Seven years into an insurgency that spread from Nigeria into Chad, Niger and Cameroon, regional armies are now in a final push to defeat Boko Haram, a once obscure Islamist sect turned deadly militant group.

But lingering divisions in the countries' multi-national joint task force (MNJTF) are complicating that mission. "If there's no strategy to attack Boko Haram together, we won't ever finish with them," Mahamadou Liman Ali, an opposition lawmaker from southern Niger, told Reuters in Niamey. At a time when the world's wealthy nations are focused on the fight against Islamic State and Al-Qaeda, financial support for the MNJTF's efforts against Boko Haram, which has pledged its allegiance to IS, have fallen short of targets.

That has left the task force's members - including Chad, the region's capable but increasingly reluctant military powerhouse - to shoulder the bulk of the costs of fighting the group. Boko Haram's victims, which include 2.4 million displaced, live in hope that this month-old offensive - dubbed Operation Gama Aiki, or "finish the job" in the local Hausa language - might succeed where others have failed. Some have doubts. From where he stays in southern Niger, refugee Usman Kanimbu sees smoke rising from the coalition's air strikes on insurgent positions in Nigeria, the home he fled. "We've fled eight times. Each time we arrive somewhere Boko Haram attacks again. We would keep running, but we can't afford to anymore," he said. "I'm not sure this will ever end."

As the sun sets over the Nigerian border, a featureless expanse of sand and scrub trees, soldiers from Niger peered over an earthen berm at territory held by Boko Haram. The skies above the borderlands now rumble daily with the sound of fighter jets. Chadian troops have ventured onto Lake Chad, a Boko Haram stronghold. Regional military officers say they are taking back ground from the insurgents. The task force may indeed be making headway against Boko Haram, which has fewer footholds than it once did. Its leader, Abubakar Shekau, may even be dead.

But the MNJTF is a far cry from what it was conceived to be, a dedicated 8,700-strong force blending soldiers from Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Benin. Instead, the nations rely on their own armies to deal with Boko Haram threats. Troops from Chad, which has the region's strongest military, reinforce when needed then head back home. "Each force is based in its country of origin. There's no integrated force with battalions moving in perfect coordination," said Vincent Foucher, West Africa researcher at International Crisis Group (ICG). The need for operational integration in the fight against an enemy that knows no borders was exposed during a similar regional offensive early last year. After troops from Chad and Niger drove Boko Haram from a string of towns in Nigeria's far north, they waited in vain for the Nigerian army to arrive and hold them. "We were there for three or four months, but the Nigerian troops that were meant to take over from us were not ready," Niger's Brigadier General Abdou Sidikou Issa told Reuters.

Niger and Chad withdrew, according to a source with knowledge of the operation, because they feared becoming an occupying force. Issa said the troops were over-stretched logistically, however. Either way, the vacuum they left allowed Boko Haram to reclaim positions and carry on cross-border raids. "That's what's created problems for us again today," Issa said. The MNJTF was

meant to prevent a repeat of those kinds of incidents.

The African Union endorsed the force in January 2015 and a headquarters was established in Chad's capital N'Djamena to coordinate forces against the ever-evolving threat of Boko Haram. The AU has struggled

to rally contributors to foot the bill for the MNJTF's \$700 million budget, however. Donors, led by Nigeria and France, pledged \$250 million in February, just over a third of what was needed, but dispersal has been slow. The United States has also aided with intelligence and training. — Reuters

DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA
HOBBLED BY 'RIGGING'

By Marie Wolfrom

In Africa, military coups and election violence are becoming rarer but poll rigging and manipulation remain rife, hobbling the continent's democratic progress, experts say. "We have this paradox where the number of elections is increasing but their quality is decreasing," said Nic Cheeseman, an associate professor of African studies at Oxford University. "Leaders are becoming more and more aware of how they can rig elections, and they are better and smarter at doing it," said the founder of journal "African Affairs" and author of "Democracy in Africa".

Around 20 presidential elections have been held across the continent since 2015, with questions hanging over half of them. In contrast with the bloody post-election crises in Kenya (2007) and Ivory Coast (2010) in which thousands died, "there have been some advances as there has been no election violence, even though results have been contested," said Malian general Siaka Sangare, an electoral expert with the International Organisation of La Francophonie. "But there are big challenges" still, he admitted. Clashes left 17 dead in Congo Brazzaville after the disputed reelection of veteran leader Denis Sassou Nguesso in April, and Burundi has been mired in

violence since President Pierre Nkurunziza won a controversial third term last July. Burkina Faso has also lived through a period of major instability, with a coup overthrowing longtime strongman Blaise Compaore in Oct 2014. Its transition government managed to survive another putsch before Roch Marc Christian Kaboré was finally elected president.

Progress

Nonetheless, Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, managed a smooth electoral handover of power as did neighbouring Benin, where the loser immediately congratulated newly elected leader, Patrice Talon. In terms of democratic progress, "we need to move away from thinking about Africa to thinking about maybe two or three or four Africas," Cheeseman said. According to the annual Economist intelligence unit rankings, last year only nine sub-Saharan countries could be considered "democratic": Botswana, Cape Verde, Ghana, Mauritius, Zambia, Lesotho, Namibia, Senegal and South Africa. More than a dozen others were said to be semi-democratic while more than 20 regimes were classified as "authoritarian". In these countries, with little in the way of opposition or checks and balances, leaders were able to use state institutions to cement their power. — AFP

UKRAINE TROVE FOR BLACK MARKET ARMS TRADE

By Alessandra Prentice and Anton Zverev

On Feb 12 last year, the same day that a ceasefire ended the worst of the fighting in eastern Ukraine between rebels and government forces, a former rebel fighter seized a chance to turn his inside knowledge of the conflict into hard cash. He travelled to a spot on the Russian-Ukrainian border where he retrieved a cache of weapons hidden there earlier by his comrades in the pro-Russian rebel movement. Four days later, shortly before 6:00 pm, he and a friend showed up in a taxi at a fuel station in western Russia where they had arranged to meet a contact ready to buy the arms, according to Russian court documents.

He and the friend opened the trunk of the taxi, and began transferring the cargo into the buyer's vehicle. Concealed in a sports bag and a rucksack were three automatic weapons, 1,258 bullets, 20 grenades, and 20 detonators for the grenades. The buyer was an undercover police officer and the former rebel, identified in the court documents as Y V Mikhailov, was sentenced this year to two and a half years in jail.

The fighting in eastern Ukraine between the Moscow-backed separatists and Ukraine's pro-Western government killed hundreds of people, displaced thousands of residents and created a Cold War-style standoff between Moscow in the West. It also had another consequence that is less visible but could in time prove equally dangerous: the conflict took huge amounts of arms out of government arsenals and put them in the hands of irregular units unable to properly control them.

Now the fighting has subsided, according to security officials and experts on the arms trade, the weapons are getting into the hands of criminals and being spirited to buyers well beyond the conflict zone. Interviews by

Reuters with security officials and rebels, as well as study of law enforcement data and court documents have shown that weapons are being channelled out of the conflict zone in eastern Ukraine in significant numbers, in some cases as part of an organized underground trade. "Of course, they have moved arms across, and they're moving them across now," Igor, a fighter with a pro-Russian rebel unit in eastern Ukraine told Reuters in an interview. "Mainly they take Kalashnikovs," he said.

Arsenals Pillaged

When, in the spring of 2014, the armed rebellion started in Ukraine's Russian-speaking regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, police and soldiers abandoned their bases. That left the rebel militias to pillage the stores where Ukraine - one of the world's biggest arms manufacturers - kept its sizable arsenal. Meanwhile on the pro-Ukrainian side, because the army was in near-collapse, irregular militias were formed, some of them only loosely part of the chain of command, and they were given, or scavenged, weapons from official supplies.

While the fighting raged, the weapons stayed in the conflict zone. In February 2015, the sides in the conflict agreed a ceasefire. The fighting did not stop, but the intensity subsided, and weapons started leaking out of the battlefield. Official data is patchy but what figures there are indicate the problem is getting worse. The number of prosecutions for weapons offences so far this year in Ukraine is double the amount for the whole of 2015, according to the general prosecutor's office.

In many cases, the cause is negligence. Irregular units often do not keep proper control of the weapons in their inventories or fail to make soldiers surrender their guns when they go on leave. "It's mostly people taking them home for the sake of it," said Serhiy Alyoshin, the chief of

police in the town of Sloviansk, which is on the edge of the conflict zone and controlled by Kiev. "Some say 'I forgot', some say 'It's for fishing' or 'It's a present for a friend' and then we hear about these things blowing up in apartments, in yards and on the street. It's a threat to national security."

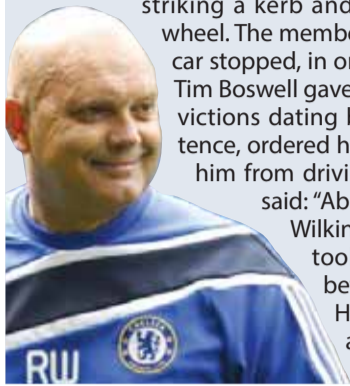
In some cases, Ukrainian security officials said, irregular pro-government units set up private weapons caches to avoid surrendering their arms to the authorities in Kiev, whom they do not trust. In March this year, the police force in Sloviansk uncovered a cache of weapons and explosives in the back of a garage filled with cardboard boxes and household junk. In police footage seen by Reuters, officers laid the weapons and explosives out on the ground. There were at least three anti-tank rocket launchers, several rockets, hundreds of bullets, around 15 hand grenades and two anti-tank mines.

Organized Crime

But there is evidence too of criminal intent to smuggle weapons out for sale to organised crime groups. "Of course, anyone who has the will and the means can get into the business - organised criminal groups have always traded weapons," said Olena Hitlyanska, a spokeswoman for Ukraine's State Security service, or SBU. "Now the channel for buying these illegal weapons has widened," she said. "In past years we seized pistols and rifles that people had in their own collections or for hunting. Now grenade launchers are seized, and blocks of TNT." Igor, the rebel fighter, said there was now a well-organised trade in illegal weapons from eastern Ukraine into Russia. "If before they shipped whatever came to hand, now it happens in a more orderly fashion, practically by appointment," said Igor, who asked to be identified only by his first name for fear of reprisals for speaking about the trade. — Reuters

EX-INTERNATIONAL WILKINS ADMITS DRINK PROBLEM

LONDON: A British court handed Ray Wilkins a four-year driving ban yesterday, as the former England international midfielder and ex-Chelsea assistant revealed his battle with alcoholism. The 59-year-old pleaded guilty at Uxbridge Magistrates' Court after being found to have been three times over the drink-drive limit. A member of the public spotted him driving his Mercedes in the middle of the road and straddling a bus lane in London on July 1. He was seen striking a kerb and swigging alcohol from the bottle behind the wheel. The member of the public then took his keys away when the car stopped, in order to prevent a possible accident. District judge Tim Boswell gave Wilkins, who has two previous drink-driving convictions dating back to 2013, a 10-week suspended prison sentence, ordered him to do 140 hours' unpaid work and disqualified him from driving for 48 months. Standing in the dock, Wilkins said: "Abstinence is the only way I can cure this situation." Wilkins enjoyed a hugely successful playing career that took in Chelsea, Manchester United and AC Milan, before returning to Stamford Bridge as an assistant. His last post was in the Premier League last season as an assistant at Aston Villa. — AFP



CAGLIARI TARGET ADEBAYOR: REPORT

MILAN: Serie A new boys Cagliari are hoping to lure out-of-contract veteran striker Emmanuel Adebayor to the club, reports said yesterday. Adebayor is without a club after scoring just one goal for Crystal Palace in a six-month spell in the Premier League last season. Cagliari have been targeting Atalanta striker Marco Borriello but according to Tuttosport are also keen on Adebayor if the move for the former Roma marksman fails to work out. Adebayor, 32, played arguably the best football of his career in the Premier League with Arsenal and Manchester City. But the towering striker fell out of favour at Roberto Mancini's City following the arrival of Edin Dzeko, Carlos Tevez and Mario Balotelli during the 2010-2011 season. He moved on loan to Real Madrid for six months in January 2011 and although he returned to City, the Togo international was subsequently sent on loan to Tottenham the following season. Adebayor secured a permanent deal in 2012 and was Spurs' top scorer with 14 goals from 25 appearances but was released by the club in September 2015, preceding his move to Crystal Palace. — AFP

EGYPTIAN TEENAGER SOBHI SIGNS FOR STOKE

LONDON: Highly-regarded Egyptian teenage winger Ramadan Sobhi became Stoke City manager Mark Hughes' first signing of the summer yesterday, joining for a £5million fee (6m euros, \$6.5m) which could rise to £6m. The 19-year-old-already capped six times at senior level-joins from Egyptian giants Al-Ahly and is expected to fly out to join his new team-mates on their pre-season tour of the United States. "We are absolutely delighted to have signed a player of Ramadan's undoubted quality and potential," Stoke chief executive Tony Scholes told the club website. "He's a special young talent who is excited about the prospect of making an impact in the Premier League and we're looking forward to giving him that platform." Sobhi, who made his professional debut as a 16-year-old and was capped for the first time a year later, helped Al Ahly win a series of domestic honours, including the 2015/16 Egyptian league title under the guidance of former Tottenham Hotspur and Fulham manager Martin Jol. Sobhi is the latest Egyptian star to try his luck in the Premier League, after former striker Mido played for Spurs, while Hull City winger Ahmed Elmohamady is a current example. — AFP



TOYOTA GAZOO ENDS LE MANS 24 HOURS WITH PODIUM FINISH
2016 FIA WORLD ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

KUWAIT: Toyota GAZOO Racing finished second in the 84th edition of the Le Mans 24 Hours held recently in France with victory and a first place finish taken from its grasp in a cruel late twist. Both the Toyota TS050 Hybrids took turns to lead the race as part of an exciting battle with their nearest competitor and were poised to win with the Toyota Hybrid vehicle #5 crew of Anthony Davidson, Sebastien Buemi and Kazuki Nakajima before incredible late drama. Toyota was taking part in the legendary Le Mans 24 Hours, the highlight of the 2016 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) season.

Starting what would have been the penultimate lap, with Kazuki at the wheel, the Toyota Hybrid vehicle #5 suffered a sudden loss of power. Despite strenuous efforts to restore drive, the car struggled round the lap and stopped on the start-finish line. It was eventually restarted and completed the final lap too slowly to be classified.

The Toyota Hybrid vehicle #6 of Stephane Sarrazin, Mike Conway and Kamui Kobayashi finished second. That marked Toyota's sixth podium finish, its fifth second place, in its 18th Le Mans since a debut entry in 1985. The race was one of the closest fights in Le Mans history,

with three cars locked in an intense battle for the entire 24 hours.

According to Takayuki Yoshitsugu, Chief Representative, Middle East and North Africa Representative Office, Toyota Motor Corporation, "Winning at Le Mans is a great challenge and unfortunately, a first place finish just eluded our grasp. In spite of that, it was a commendable performance by the entire team of drivers and support staff. We will use this experience to make further enhancements to the Toyota TS050 Hybrid as part of our constant efforts to build ever better vehicles. I would like to thank our fans for their encouragement and we look forward to their support of our racing initiatives in 2016."

IMPRESSIVE

According to Toshio Sato, Team President, "I am incredibly proud of our team effort, not just today but since Le Mans last year. The way we have responded to the pain of our 2015 disappointment, by developing an all-new chassis and powertrain in a short timeframe, has been impressive and the performance of the TS050 Hybrid was strong. We worked as one team and took part in an amazing Le Mans 24 Hours. I have no words to describe

our emotions today. It is simply heartbreaking but we will return stronger and more determined to win."

As a new car for 2016, the Toyota TS050 Hybrid with its powerful 2.4litre turbo engine, 8MJ hybrid system and redesigned chassis, did not start the race as favourite but demonstrated its potential by setting the pace throughout. Better fuel efficiency from the Toyota TS050 Hybrid allowed it to complete 14 laps per stint, while its rivals pitted one lap earlier. That reduced the number of stops required and contributed to a fascinating battle for the win. After 20 hours of flat-out racing, the top three were covered by less than 30 seconds, but soon the Toyota Hybrid vehicle #6 dropped out of the battle for second, spending nine minutes in the garage to repair bodywork. Nevertheless, it resumed in a comfortable third place. There was no respite for the team in a nervous finale as the Toyota Hybrid vehicle#5 held off its rival until, with the race seemingly heading Toyota's way, 260,000 stunned fans witnessed one of the most dramatic finales in the history of Le Mans.

The team will analyse the cause of the problem as part of its preparations for the 2017 Le Mans 24 Hours.



VIVA CONCLUDES 'VIVA MANCHESTER UNITED' TRAINING CAMP

KUWAIT: VIVA, Kuwait's fastest-growing and most developed telecom operator, announced the conclusion of "VIVA Manchester United" training camp for the 16 qualifying players who travelled to Manchester in England, to practice at Manchester United's Cliff Training Ground.

The training program included several workshops and activities educating

the players on the best maneuvers, attacks, different scenarios and conditioned games. The program also focused on different technical areas, such as dribbling, short passing, turning and finishing.

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

Kuwaiti players who engaged in this training camp and demonstrated high and significant soccer skills. We shared those players their unrivalled experience during their trip and we hope they carry on in this journey to reach more success." He added: "VIVA will keep supporting the Kuwaiti youth athletes to fulfill their dreams and accomplish their goals."

ACC GETS NEW LOOK WITH ARRIVAL OF FOUR NEW COACHES FOR 2016

CHARLOTTE: The Atlantic Coast Conference's four new coaches find very different challenges ahead for the 2016 season. Miami's Mark Richt is charged with helping a program leap into the league's upper echelon, while Virginia Tech's Justin Fuente must reverse the slide from annual 10-win seasons to also-ran status in the wide-open Coastal Division.

It's a little tougher for Syracuse's Dino Babers and Virginia's Bronco Mendenhall, who must build a new foundation for programs that have struggled for wins.

They all arrived in Charlotte for last week's ACC Kickoff preseason media days fielding questions about how they've reshaped their programs. Now it's time to think about what happens on the field with training camp nearly here. "I think you've got to wait until you go to games," Babers said. "Spring ball is one thing, two-a-days is one thing but until they actually get into a game, I don't think they truly buy in. Young people are just like old people. They can say the right things but you've got to prove it to them."

Babers inherits a Syracuse program with just seven wins - three in the league - in the last two seasons under Scott Schafer. It's part of a freefall for a program that has managed three winning seasons since winning 10 games in 2001. Babers, a former assistant to Art Briles

at Baylor, arrives after winning 18 games the past two seasons at Bowling Green. The challenge is also daunting for Mendenhall, who left BYU after 11 seasons to replace Mike London at a Virginia program with one winning record in eight years. Mendenhall went about installing an "earned, not given" approach at Virginia, down to taking away players' jersey numbers. So far, he said, he likes the way his Cavaliers have responded. "He took pictures off the walls, he took our clothes away, he took the locker room away ... he took everything from us," Virginia center Jackson Matteo said. "Earning all that back together, doing hard things together, imagine how special that bond is." The trick at Miami and Virginia Tech is more about providing a jolt. Miami arrived in the ACC in 2004 as the projected Coastal Division power opposite Florida State in the Atlantic. But the Hurricanes have yet to win a division title and spent five years under Al Golden bouncing between 5-3 and 3-5 league records.

Richt, a Miami alumnus, arrives after 15 years at Georgia and inherits a talented returning quarterback in Brad Kaaya. "The thing that people want to ask: How do you think the team is going to do? I really don't know for sure," Richt said. "The only thing I promised is that we're going to work hard and try to do things the way every-

body will be proud of us, just a team that will play hard, play physical, be a disciplined bunch, just get after it."

The Hokies won four ACC championships during a run of eight straight 10-win seasons under Frank Beamer. But they began to slide around 2012 and had finished 7-6 in each of the past two years, leading to Fuente's arrival from Memphis.

But Fuente isn't distancing himself from that past, evidenced by the decision to retain longtime defensive coordinator Bud Foster.

"We also have an obligation to build on what (Beamer) has done," Fuente said. "That does not mean doing it exactly the way he did it. That means paying great tribute to the way he did things and understanding there was a fantastic foundation there of core values, and let's build on it through our own core values."

The arrivals of Richt, Fuente and Mendenhall certainly add a new look for the seven-team Coastal Division, which hasn't had a repeat champion since 2011.

"There's going to be a difference," said Larry Fedora, coach of reigning Coastal champ North Carolina. "And every one of them is trying to make their team better than they were a year ago. If they weren't, (the schools) wouldn't have gotten rid of their coaches." —AP

ALL BLACKS COACH HANSEN SIGNS ON FOR 2019 WORLD CUP

WELLINGTON: All Blacks coach Steve Hansen yesterday re-signed with the New Zealanders until 2019, giving him the chance to defend the World Cup in Japan. Hansen has already been involved in two World Cup wins with the All Blacks, as assistant coach in 2011 and head coach in 2015, overseeing a spell of unprecedented success.

"It's good news for everyone involved in rugby in this country," New Zealand Rugby chief executive Steve Tew told reporters. Hansen's existing contract

was due to expire next year, when the British and Irish Lions tour New Zealand.

He said the recent 3-0 Test series win over Wales had confirmed he still had the passion for the job and he decided to continue after discussions with his family. Hansen added that support from the players and management for him to stay in the job was unanimous.

"Once I got over those discussions it was a real no-brainer because it's the best job going," he said, adding that he was relishing the prospect of the All

Blacks chasing three World Cups in a row. "I love what the All Blacks are, the history that comes with them and the legacy that they've created. I'm really grateful and love being part of it." During Hansen's tenure as All Blacks head coach, they have won 52 Tests, drawn two and lost just three, giving him a winning percentage of 92.1 percent. "We'll need to be better if we want to continue to improve as a team... we're capable of doing that," he said.

The 57-year-old was appointed in late

2011 after serving as assistant coach under Graham Henry for eight years, including the All Blacks World Cup victory on home soil in 2011.

He signed a contract extension in 2014 and repaid NZR's faith in him last year by guiding the All Blacks to their first World Cup title outside New Zealand. Hansen, a former policeman who played in the South Island rugby stronghold of Canterbury, also coached Wales to the quarter-finals of the 2003 World Cup. Tew said the contract extension

gave NZR time to look for a long-term successor to Hansen, ideally one who would work under him at the 2019 World Cup.

"We've got an opportunity now leading through to 2020 to make sure that we do a really good job around succession planning," he said.

"You can see with what's going on in Super Rugby and with some of our Kiwi coaches around the world that we've got some very, very good New Zealand coaches." — AFP

ENGLAND'S WORLD CUP HOPES BOOSTED BY DEAL WITH CLUBS

LONDON: England's hopes of dominating world rugby under Eddie Jones were given a boost yesterday with a new eight-year agreement between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Premiership Rugby Limited (PRL).

English clubs will take £2million (\$2.6m, 2.4m euros) per year-double the amount compared to the previous eight-year agreement—from the £200million sum agreed between the two parties.

In return, England coach Jones will gain greater access to players, who will also be rested more often by their club teams.

"This is a true partnership focussed on making English rugby the best in the world for club and country," said RFU chief executive Ian Ritchie.

Ritchie, who had to put off the two-year-old talks when he had to deal with England's first-round exit from last year's World Cup, said Jones had highlighted areas he felt he needed to be strengthened. "We feel we've got the balance right and Eddie is very happy with the access it gives him to players," said Ritchie.

Jones, who led England to a historic 3-0 series whitewash of World Cup finalists Australia after also winning the Six Nations Grand Slam, will now be able to select 45

players instead of 33 for the England Elite Player Squad (EPS), with up to 36 players able to be selected for training camps.

Jones will also be able to select his squads later than before. The additional training camps will take place in early October ahead of the autumn internationals and in January during the build-up to the Six Nations.

The clubs will also rest players from the England squad who play above a certain amount of minutes in the November Tests and during the Six Nations.

Mark McCafferty, the chief executive of PRL, said Jones—who guided Australia to the 2003 World Cup final when they lost to England—had explained his case very clearly. "Eddie has come to meet with our board on a couple of occasions to explain his view of the English game and where he was hoping to take it," said McCafferty.

"One of the things he explained very clearly having worked all over the world was that we have the best set-up in the world in terms of facilities, back-up and support. "But he also explained his frustration that because of that, and with the player base we have, that we need to be more successful at club and international level." — AFP



SHANGHAI: (L to R) Xia Xiaoyan, Managing Director of YunFeng Capital, Ching Kuo-Wu, AIBA President and Zhang Dazhong, CEO of Alisports, pose for photos during a press conference between AIBA (International Boxing Association) and Alisports (Alibaba Sports Group) in Shanghai yesterday. The International Boxing Association (AIBA) denied accusations it intends to take over the sport, following a controversial decision to allow professional boxers fight at next month's Rio Olympics. — AFP

AIBA DENIES BID TO TAKE OVER THE SPORT

SHANGHAI: The International Boxing Association (AIBA) yesterday denied accusations it is trying to take over the sport, following a controversial decision to let professional boxers fight at the Rio Olympics.

At an AIBA congress in Lausanne in Switzerland last month, 95 percent of delegates voted to allow professional boxers for the first time ever to enter the competition.

The decision was met with widespread derision in the boxing world, with many making their views clear even before the change was made. AIBA president Wu Ching-Kuo said the organisation had no plans to take over the sport and allowing professionals to compete in Olympic boxing was a great step forward for it. The official, who is Taiwanese, made the comments at a press conference to announce a joint venture to promote boxing between AIBA and Alisports, an arm of Chinese internet giant Alibaba which is owned by entrepreneur Jack Ma. "We never said we want to take over boxing. We just want to open the door because no one can stop athletes from going to the Olympics, that is a fundamental concept," Wu said.

"If the athlete says 'My dream is to go to the Olympics', then we just want to open the door." In May legendary boxing promoter Bob Arum told AFP the plan to introduce professional boxers was "total madness" and would result in "serious injuries".

Arum believed the decision was commercially orientated, with AIBA seeing more lucrative opportunities, and part of a wider power grab by the association. But Wu rejected the charges saying that "only the best AIBA boxers" would be facing professional fighters.

Speaking about the new relationship with Alibaba, Wu predicted a bright future for boxing in China, which he described as a "noble sport" that could "prepare youth for the challenges which they face in society".

Chinese President Xi Jinping has made the development of the country's ailing football team a national priority, but Wu did not see this as a barrier to the development of boxing.

"President Xi Jinping loves boxing—wait and see," he told AFP. Alibaba, which owns a 37 percent stake in Asian football champions Guangzhou Evergrande Taobao, launched Alisports last September to develop the sporting economy in "an innovative way with digital thinking", according to its website.

In the months since then Alisports has signed deals to stream NFL American football games in China and sponsor FIFA's Club World Cup, and announced a partnership with basketball's governing body FIBA.

The Chinese government said in 2014 it aimed to grow the country's sports market to more than five trillion yuan (\$760 billion) by 2025 to become "a vital driver for sustainable economic and social development". Many Chinese companies are seeking to ride the wave, with high-profile deals including property behemoth Wanda's acquisition of Swiss sports marketing group Infront and a share of Spanish football club Atletico Madrid. A consortium led by state-backed China Media Capital has bought a \$400 million stake in Premier League giants Manchester City. — AFP

BITTER LONDON LESSON DRIVES YADAV ON PATH TO RIO GAMES

NEW DELHI: Vikas Krishan Yadav has learned from the bitterest experience that he can leave nothing to chance in the Olympic ring and it is a lesson the Indian boxer will carry with him to the Rio Games.

Four years ago, the then 20-year-old welterweight thought he had clinched a place in the quarter-finals of the London Olympic tournament after beating American Errol Spence 13-11.

His joy turned quickly to outrage when amateur boxing's governing body AIBA, after reviewing video footage, overturned the result and awarded the American four additional points for fouls committed by Yadav. India subsequently took the case to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), which rejected the appeal.

Yadav has since moved up to the 75kg category, but the feeling of being wronged in London has never left him. "London taught me a big lesson," the softly-spoken boxer told Reuters in an interview, sporting a mosaic of bruises on the top half of his face and a couple of stitches over his right eye. "It taught me I can't leave anything to chance. It taught me results of close contests can go either way even after you've been declared the winner."

"Since then, I have always tried to make my bouts one-sided and win it really big. That will be my effort in Rio as well." Shattered by the London setback, Yadav largely shunned the ring for the next 18 months, undertaking training to become a policeman in the northern Indian state of Haryana instead.

"I was a lot younger and more vulnerable then. I saw no point in continuing boxing. I would wake up at nine, sleep late and be casual about my training," he recalled.

"But a boxer is like a caged bird which doesn't know what to do with freedom. I started craving the rigour of boxing."

"The time away from ring allowed me to think about boxing. Now I'm better pre-

pared to deal with any such heartbreak." He is, though, determined to ensure he does not have to deal with anything similar in Rio. "I have an unfinished business in the Olympics," he said. "My dreams were shattered in London. I want to fulfill them in Rio."

ON COMPETITION MODE

Yadav secured his Rio spot only at the end of last month at an Olympic qualifier in Baku, where he settled for bronze after a cut he sustained rendered him medically unfit for his semi-final bout.

"I qualified for London eight months before the Games and probably got a bit too casual," said the boxer who is supported, among others, by JSW Sports.

"This time I could not qualify from (last year's) world championship, so the pressure was building. It helps in a way, for I'm now in competition mode and I'm not going to relax."

For Yadav, who claimed the lightweight gold at the 2010 Asian Games and the middleweight bronze in the next edition of the continental gathering in Incheon, winning is all. He feels embarrassed when all he has to show from one of his trips abroad is a souvenir T-shirt or a bag full of duty-free.

To avoid any such embarrassment after Rio, Yadav is approaching the Games as if they were his last as he bids to emulate Vijender Singh, who won India's first boxing medal with a bronze, also in the 75kg class, at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"I'm taking it as my last attempt at an Olympic medal and I feel I'm better prepared this time," Yadav added.

"In London, I was just another clueless young boxer in his first Olympics. Four years down the line and I'm still young but I have Olympic experience behind me too. "My health is perfect, I got enough ring experience and my coaches and my family are right behind me. If I can't win a medal this time, I probably won't ever." — Reuters



Vikas Krishan Yadav

PADDLER FLORENCE ACCEPTS RIO MISSION TO WIN DOUBLE GOLD

LONDON: British canoe slalomist David Florence never got to blast off into space but the 33-year-old Scot will try to go where no Olympic paddler has gone before by winning the C1 and C2 gold medals at the Rio Games. Had things gone to plan for the mathematics and physics graduate it could have been Florence rather than Tim Peake who became the first Briton to walk in space this year. Instead he stayed on terra firma, or to be more precise, on white water, establishing himself as one of the world's top paddlers. In Brazil he will try to become the first canoeist to win the C1 and C2 golds at the same Olympics. "I think I'd been accepted (for the European Space Agency) I probably would have retired from canoeing," the three-time world champion said at the Lea Valley white-water centre where he and Richard Hounslow took C2 silver in 2012. "(Peake) was obviously far, far better qualified for it than me. A former test pilot in the military. Fair enough really." With a brain adept at problem solving and an Olympic gold still missing from his CV, you might expect him to be poring over performance data in between sessions in the gym. That is not his style, though.

His preparation for his Rio double bid takes place exclusively in amongst the spray and foam of the rapids at Britain's state-of-the-art performance centre, a far cry from the shopping trolley-choked canal of Edinburgh he once paddled. "It's nothing to do with not enjoying (the gym)," said Florence, who in 2013 became the first man in 60 years to win C1 and C2 (with partner Richard Hounslow) golds at a world championships.

"If anything, in the winter I wish I could be in the warmth of the gym rather freezing and wet. "I spend all my time now on the white water channel where you can develop your strength and fitness and learn specific skills at the same time."

FINE MARGINS

Florence knows only too well the fine margins of his sport, where paddlers have to weave between gates, battling against the

current and the clock. In London he was a medal favourite in C1 but did not even make the final.

So would he be applying his mathematical brain to the task awaiting him in Rio?

"I don't apply much science to it," he said. "There is not much point when every gate is different and the water changes all the time, it's more about using your subjective experience." The British team will be one of the best prepared in Rio having been to the venue more than any other squad. Which is why Florence thinks the double is on. "I've done it at the world championships and the World Cup before so obviously I'm capable of it," he said. "The worlds is actually a tougher field so if I can make the most of all the training we've had in Rio it's a great opportunity and I know I'm in with a great chance." While the father of two will be all alone in the C1 he will have Hounslow at his back in the C2.

They won the Rio test event against a high-quality field and have an almost telepathic understanding. "A big part of C2 is really getting to know how each of you paddle and be able to react accordingly, keeping each other in sync and get your timing together," Florence said. Florence has not ruled out going on to Tokyo in 2020, but knows Rio could be his last chance to win Olympic gold. In Beijing he took the silver in the C1 and in London he again had to settle for silver in a thrilling C2 final as he and Hounslow, the last crew down, failed to overtake compatriots Tim Baillie and Etienne Stott by 0.37 seconds. "In London initially there was disappointment to come so close to an Olympic gold," Florence said. "With a bit of time for reflection I'm really pleased with both those Olympic medals. Gold? Yes, of course I'd love to win gold." And if it mission accomplished, would his eyes turn to the stars again? "I'm not sure about that. Well have to see," he said. "I'm not ruling it out but I think that was the first time they had ever opened up applications, so I'm not sitting waiting." — Reuters



David Florence

ROYALS AT THE COURT OF THE RIO OLYMPICS

PARIS: Saudi Prince Faisal Al Shalan is an equestrian rider at Rio, the latest in a long list of kings and queens, barons and counts to throw their titles into the court of the Olympics.

The Games' deep regal roots began with Nero, the Roman Emperor and if history is to be believed the most successful Olympian of all time.

At the AD67 Games in Olympia the autocratic ruler is said to have walked away with close to 2000 medals, some attained with questionable tactics that puts modern day sporting corruption in the shade.

Nero did not care an olive wreath for the Olympic ethos of taking part - winning was his driving force, at any cost. In chariot races, he was said to have resorted to bribing rivals. In races where his

rivals were allowed four horses, he had ten. If Constantin von Liechtenstein had adopted Nero's questionable fiscal policy he would have needed to sell off a castle or two to bribe his way to the top of the medal podium.

At the 1948 Winter Games he trailed in 99th in the alpine skiing downhill.

Perhaps he was burdened by the weight of his full title - Prince Constantin Franz Nikolaus Karl Heinrich Dagobert Anton von Padua Ildefons Maria von Liechtenstein. Unlike Nero, he was the perfect embodiment of modern Olympic father Pierre de Coubertin's taking part ethos.

ALL IN A NAME
As was Prinz Maximilian Emanuel Maria Alexander Victor Bruno de la

Santsima Trinidad y Todos los Santos zu Hohenlohe-Langenburg.

Max came in a sedate 54th in the 1956 downhill. Unlike skiing, sailing has proved fertile territory for European royal households. Swiss Count Hermann Alexandre de Pourtales grabbed gold and silver at the 1900 Games, and has the distinction of being the first ever royal to win an Olympic title.

Onboard his boat he was ably assisted by his wife, Countess Helene. Crown Prince Constantine II, who became King of Greece in 1964, took Dragon class gold at the Rome Games in 1960. For good measure he possessed a black belt in karate.

In 1972, three years before he acceded to the Spanish throne, Juan Carlos I was unable to match the Greek noble's

feat, finishing 12th in the same event.

His daughter, Infanta Cristina, Duchess of Palma de Mallorca, continued the family tradition in Seoul in 1988. Her husband, handball star Inaki Urdangarin, the Duke of Palma de Mallorca, competed in the 2000 Games - his third Olympics - captaining his country's team. The couple are currently awaiting judgement on a tax evasion trial, with prosecutors calling for a 19-year prison sentence for Urdangarin.

They are among 17 suspects who went on trial in January as part of a case that involves business dealings by the Noos Institute, a not-for-profit organisation based in Palma which Urdangarin founded and chaired from 2004 to 2006.

Britain's royal family are no strangers to the Olympic arena. Princess Anne,

Queen Elizabeth II's daughter, competed for the UK equestrian team in 1976. Zara Phillips, IOC member Princess Anne's daughter, with a team silver, made a starring appearance at London 2012 - as did her gallant grandmother.

Queen Elizabeth II, or at least a stand-in, arrived at the opening ceremony at Wembley by jumping out of a helicopter with James Bond.

Prince Faisal will use a more conventional mode of transport to enter the ring in Rio - his trusted steed Talan.

At Greenwich Park in London four years ago Zara spoke for athletes both titled and non-titled through the ages when she said: "The Olympics is the greatest show on Earth and it is incredible to be here and to be competing for my country." — AFP

MLB results/standings

NY Yankees 5, San Francisco 2; Toronto 2, Seattle 0; Arizona 9, Cincinnati 8; NY Mets 3, Miami 0; Baltimore 5, Cleveland 3; Boston 8, Minnesota 7; Pittsburgh 5, Philadelphia 4; San Diego 10, Washington 6; Chicago Cubs 6, Milwaukee 5; Chicago White Sox 4, Detroit 3; Houston 13, LA Angels 3; Chicago White Sox 5, Detroit 4; Texas 2, Kansas City 1.

American League

Eastern Division

	W	L	PCT	GB
Baltimore	57	40	.588	-
Boston	55	41	.573	1.5
Toronto	55	44	.556	3
NY Yankees	50	48	.510	7.5
Tampa Bay	38	60	.388	19.5

Central Division

Cleveland	56	41	.577	-
Detroit	51	48	.515	6
Kansas City	48	49	.495	8
Chicago White Sox	48	50	.490	8.5
Minnesota	37	61	.378	19.5

Western Division

Texas	57	42	.576	-
Houston	54	44	.551	2.5
Seattle	50	48	.510	6.5
Oakland	45	54	.455	12
LA Angels	43	55	.439	13.5

National League

Eastern Division

Washington	58	41	.586	-
Miami	53	45	.541	4.5
NY Mets	52	45	.536	5
Philadelphia	45	55	.450	13.5
Atlanta	33	66	.333	25

Central Division

Chicago Cubs	59	38	.608	-
St. Louis	52	46	.531	7.5
Pittsburgh	51	47	.520	8.5
Milwaukee	41	55	.427	17.5
Cincinnati	38	60	.388	21.5

Western Division

San Francisco	58	40	.592	-
LA Dodgers	56	44	.560	3
Colorado	47	51	.480	11
San Diego	43	56	.434	15.5
Arizona	41	57	.418	17



BALTIMORE: Baltimore Orioles' Jonathan Schoop scores on a single by Manny Machado as Cleveland Indians catcher Roberto fields the throw in the fourth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, in Baltimore. — AP

REIMOLD'S HR HELPS ORIOLES BEAT INDIANS FOR THREE-GAME SWEEP

BALTIMORE: Baltimore's Nolan Reimold roped a pinch-hit, two-run homer off Cleveland's Cody Allen in the ninth inning and the Orioles completed a three-game sweep with a 5-3 victory over the Indians on Sunday. After losing three straight games to the New York Yankees that knocked them out of first place, the Orioles rebounded this series and once again sit atop the American League East. Despite the losses, the Indians are still in first in the AL Central. Jonathan Schoop gave Baltimore a 3-2 lead in the fifth with his 17th homer of the season. The Indians tied the game in the eighth on an RBI single by Mike Napoli off Brad Brach. The Orioles rallied in the ninth when Pedro Alvarez struck out but took first base when catcher Roberto Perez dropped the ball and then hit Alvarez in the back with an errant throw to first. Alvarez moved to second on a bunt by Ryan Flaherty, and two batters later, Reimold hit a 2-0 pitch off Allen (2-4) for his homer.

Yankees 5, Giants 2

Nathan Eovaldi pitched effectively into the seventh innings, Carlos Beltran and Mark Teixeira hit early home runs and New York concluded a 10-game homestand with a victory over San Francisco. Eovaldi (9-6) threw a season-high 118 pitches and allowed two runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings, highlighting the outing by getting through a bases-loaded jam in the fourth unscathed. Beltran and Teixeira hit two home runs in the opening two innings off Jeff Samardzija (9-6) before the Yankees added three runs in the fifth. Jacoby Ellsbury had a double-play grounder which scored a run, Starlin Castro added an RBI single and Didi Gregorius contributed a run-scoring double.

Red Sox 8, Twins 7

Hanley Ramirez and Travis Shaw slugged three-run home runs to help keep Rick Porcello perfect at Fenway Park as Boston beat Minnesota. It was Ramirez's 13th homer of the season and fifth in five games. He had a trio of two-run blasts Tuesday against San Francisco and hit a three-run shot Saturday. The Red Sox have homered in 15 consecutive contests dating back to July 4, second only to their 22-game homer streak from April 29 to May 22.

Mets 3, Marlins 0

Steven Matz pitched six scoreless innings and Jose Reyes drilled a go-ahead RBI triple to lead New York over Miami. Reyes' second triple since being activated on July 5 drove in the game's first run. The Mets added two in the eighth on RBI singles from Yoenis Cespedes and James Loney. Matz (8-6), who had been 0-5 with a 4.79 ERA in his previous nine outings, turned things around by striking out six and allowing just four hits and two walks. He got

eight ground ball outs and four fly-ball outs.

Blue Jays 2, Mariners 0

J.A. Happ allowed one hit over six innings and Edwin Encarnacion hit a home run as Toronto defeated Seattle. The win was the 13th of the season for Happ, a career high for one season. Happ (13-3) walked four and hit a batter besides yielding the one hit. The left-hander struck out six before being replaced by left-hander Brett Cecil to open the seventh. The Blue Jays averted a three-game sweep at the hands of the Mariners by winning the finale.

Diamondbacks 9, Reds 8

Arizona homered four times, including two by Yasmany Tomas, and held on to beat Cincinnati. Paul Goldschmidt and Wellington Castillo also homered for the Diamondbacks, who avoided being swept in a three-game series at Great American Ball Park for the first time since 2007. Arizona's bullpen shut out the Reds until the ninth, when Tyler Clippard walked the first two batters before Jay Bruce launched a three-run homer, his 21st of the season, to cut the Reds' deficit to one run.

Padres 10, Nationals 6

Yangervis Solarte had a go-ahead RBI single with two outs in the top of the ninth off closer Jonathan Papelbon as the Padres took two of three games in the series. Later in the ninth, Alexei Ramirez had his second hit, a three-run double to left off Papelbon, who had entered the game in the ninth with the score tied. Wilson Ramos was 3-for-4 with three RBIs and Daniel Murphy was 3-for-4 with two RBIs for the Nationals. Ryan Buchter (2-0), drafted by the Nationals in 2006, got the win by pitching a scoreless eighth inning while Brandon Maurer pitched the ninth for the Padres. Alex Dickerson and Ryan Schimpf hit home runs for the Padres in the eighth to tie the score at 6. Schimpf has nine homers this month—the most by any San Diego rookie in a calendar month.

Astros 13, Angels 3

Jose Altuve bashed two home runs and the Astros completed a three-game series sweep. The Astros improved to a season-best 10 games over .500 by recording their third consecutive series sweep of the Angels, who entered the series riding a six-game winning streak. Houston stretched its winning streak over Los Angeles to 11 games by clubbing a season-high five homers, with Altuve blasting his in consecutive at-bats. Altuve finished 3-for-5 with a career-high six RBIs. The first homer came off Angels right-hander Tim Lincecum, who recorded only four outs while slipping to 2-4. Luis Valbuena, Preston Tucker and Evan Gattis also homered for Houston.

Rangers 2, Royals 1

A.J. Griffin and four Texas relievers held

Kansas City Royals to seven hits in the Rangers' win. Griffin left after five innings and four hits, allowing a run on a Kendrys Morales home run. Rangers relievers Alex Claudio, Keone Kela, Jake Diekman and Sam Dyson held the Royals to one hit the final four innings. Claudio (2-1) claimed the victory. Mitch Moreland's RBI single in the sixth scored Texas's first run. Delino DeShields led off the Rangers seventh with a go-ahead homer run off Luke Hochevar (2-3). Rougnd Odor went 3-for-3 and walked for the Rangers. The loss dropped the Royals to below .500 for the first time since May 15. They have lost seven of their past 10.

Cubs 6, Brewers 5

Tommy La Stella and Anthony Rizzo hit RBI doubles in the seventh as the Cubs rallied for a victory. Cubs starter Jon Lester struggled on a sweltering and humid day, allowing four runs on four hits and five walks while striking out seven in four-plus innings of work. Milwaukee stole four bases against Lester, with three coming in the first inning. The Brewers held a 4-0 lead after four innings, but left the bases loaded in two innings and stranded 12 on the day. Rizzo slapped a three-run double during the Cubs' five-run seventh inning to take a 6-4 lead. Joe Nathan (1-0) returned to the majors for the first time since April 6, 2015 and earned the victory with a scoreless sixth.

Pirates 5, Phillies 4

Pinch-hitter Adam Frazier hit a tiebreaking home run in the seventh inning to lift the Pirates past the Philadelphia Phillies 5-4 at PNC Park. The solo shot to right, off of reliever Edubray Ramos, was Frazier's first major-league homer. The Pirates won three of their past four games and five of their past seven. They won four home series in a row. The Phillies lost eight of their past nine games at PNC Park. The Phillies' Vince Valasquez, who had been 3-0 with a 1.88 ERA in four starts since coming off the DL in late June, allowed four runs on seven hits, with four walks and five strikeouts. Neftali Feliz (4-0) pitched a scoreless seventh for the win. Mark Melancon pitched the ninth for his 30th save.

White Sox 5-4, Tigers 4-3

Melky Cabrera drilled a walk-off RBI single in the bottom of the ninth to lift Chicago to a 5-4 victory and its second win of the day against Detroit. Chicago finishing Saturday's suspended game with a 4-3 win earlier Sunday. Adam Eaton hit a walk-off single in the ninth inning to cap the first game, which was suspended by rain one night earlier with the score even at 3-3. The teams reconvened 30 minutes later to play the series finale. Detroit (51-48) dropped the final two games of the series after winning the first two. Andrew Romine, Nick Castellanos, Tyler Collins and Jared Saltalamacchia each hit solo home runs in the series finale as the Tigers

erased a four-run deficit to even the score at 4-4 in the ninth inning. White Sox right-hander David Robertson (2-2) earned the victory despite allowing three home runs in the ninth inning. Robertson had allowed three home runs all season before Sunday's meltdown.

Athletics 3, Rays 2

Billy Butler hit a tiebreaking solo home run in the bottom of the eighth inning, and Oakland held on for the win. The A's won their third consecutive series since the All-Star break, beating the Rays three straight times after dropping the series opener. Oakland went 7-3 on it homestand and will begin a nine-game road trip yesterday at Texas. With one out in the eighth, Butler sent reliever Erasmo Ramirez's 0-1 pitch over the right-center-field fence for his third home run of the season and first since June 7 at Milwaukee. Butler went 2-for-4 with two RBIs. A's right-hander Ryan Madson pitched a perfect ninth inning, striking out two, for his 21st save.

Rockies 7, Braves 2

Nolan Arenado and Trevor Story continued their home-run duel Colorado completed a four-game sweep of its series with the Braves. Arenado hit a three-run homer, his 25th of the season, in the first when the Rockies jumped on Braves starter Tyrell Jenkins for four runs. Story

belted his 27th homer in the fourth, a two-run shot that made it 7-0. It was Story's fourth homer in three games and fifth in his past seven. During that span, Story has driven in 12 runs, giving him 69 RBIs for the season. DJ LeMahieu, who had three hits, led off the fourth with his career-high-tying sixth home run, catching his 2015 total. Rockies starter Tyler Chatwood had a bizarre outing. He allowed one hit—a first-inning single—in five scoreless innings with a career-high eight walks and six strikeouts. Chatwood (9-6) threw just 51 strikes among his 97 pitches but won for the first time in five starts since June 11.

Dodgers 9, Cardinals 6

Pounding St. Louis right-hander Mike Mayers for nine runs on eight hits in 1 1/3 innings, Los Angeles established a 9-1 lead and then held on for a 9-6 win at sultry Busch Stadium. Mayers, whose contract was purchased earlier Sunday from Triple-A Memphis, was starting because St. Louis (52-46) needed a spot starter after a Tuesday night rainout forced a makeup double-header on Wednesday. It went about as badly as possible. Mayers allowed six runs in the first and three more in the second, becoming only the second MLB pitcher to allow nine earned runs and not last through two innings since ERA became an official stat in 1913. —Reuters

HAMILTON STILL FEELS MORE HUNTER THAN HUNTED

BUDAPEST: Triple world champion Lewis Hamilton still sees himself as hunter rather than hunted in the Formula One title race despite victory in Hungary putting him in the overall lead for the first time this season. The Briton seized the lead from Mercedes team mate and title rival Nico Rosberg after an unprecedented fifth victory at the Hungaroring on Sunday that opened up a six-point lead over the German.

With half the 21-race season now completed and Germany's Hockenheim circuit next up on Sunday, Hamilton, who has often spoken of how he thrives in adversity, still sees himself in hot pursuit.

"I'm just still in the same mentality of chasing, I'm still chasing," he told reporters. "(It's) been great to be able to come back with fewer engines, with the struggle that we had at the beginning of the year, so I'm very, very proud of that but conscious that there's still a long way to go."

Hamilton trailed Rosberg by a massive 43 points after May's Spanish Grand Prix following a spate of reliability problems in the early part of the season.

The 31-year-old, who singled out that Barcelona race and the collision between the Mercedes pair as the low point of his season, has hit back with a run of five wins from the last six races including victory in the last three. His early season troubles have left him short of power unit components, however, and Hamilton knows he may have to take a grid penalty or start from the back of the grid at some point later in the year. In order to limit the damage to his title hopes, Hamilton is aiming for maximum points with races like Silverstone two weeks ago, where he claimed a sensational win on home soil after dominating all weekend.

"I really would love to come out of the next race with another result like this so that when I do go to Spa or Monza, whichever one it is that I have to take my penalty...that it's minimum damage," he said.

"So I need to make sure I stay on it, like Silverstone weekends, from now on." Hockenheim is the last race before the August break, with the Belgian Grand Prix at Spa and then Italy's Monza following on after that. —Reuters

SRI LANKA CAPTAIN FRUSTRATED AS 2 MORE PLAYERS INJURED

PALLEKELE: Sri Lanka's injury problems worsened ahead of today's opening test match against Australia, with fast bowler Suranga Lakmal and allrounder Dhananjaya de Silva joining the list of possible absentees.

Fast bowlers Dhammika Prasad, Dushmantha Chameera and leg-spinner Jeffrey Vandersay were injured during Sri Lanka's recent tour to England while seamer Shaminda Eranga was suspended by the International Cricket Council after his bowling action was found to be illegal. Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews said that Lakmal, who had recovered from a knee injury he had sustained in England, has hamstring stiffness and that De Silva was hit on a finger

while bowling at practices. Both will be assessed by the team physiotherapist ahead but Lakmal's participation is the more doubtful.

Mathews spoke of his frustration at the injury problems and urged for a stronger recruitment drive. "It has been a very frustrating few months, not only one bowler, we've lost so many. You can't blame them, the workload has been very high," Mathews said. "We need to try and look for more new players and try and get them ready and fit to take up the challenge in the international level."

Sri Lanka is on a rebuilding phase with many leading players having retired, and has lost five out of six test series in the past two years.

Australia captain Steve Smith also leads an inexperienced team keen to make up for Australia's poor recent record in Asia. Since winning its last three-match test series in Sri Lanka 1-0 five years ago, Australia lost against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates and on a tour of India: 2-0 and 4-0, respectively. "We've got quite a few new players, as well having just lost about seven of our senior players less than a year ago," Smith said. "This series going to be a difficult one for us, we haven't played as well as we would have liked to in the sub-continent."

David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Nathan Lyon and Shaun Marsh are the only players who have previously played

a test match in Sri Lanka.

Both captains said that the pitch is dry and likely to offer early turn to the spinners. Sri Lanka will heavily rely on left-arm spinner Rangana Herath to keep Australia batsmen at bay supported by off spinner Dilruwan Perera.

Roshen Silva who had scored heavily at domestic level and averages more than 50 in first-class matches is likely to be handed a test cap, with Lahiru Thirimanne being dropped after some poor performances. Teenage fast bowler Asitha Fernando, who has played two first-class games, or Vishwa Fernando are likely to make their international debut.

Off spinner Lyon who thrived in Australia's last tour to Sri Lanka will part-

ner with left-arm spinner Stephen O'Keefe.

Squads:

Sri Lanka: Angelo Mathews (captain), Dinesh Chandimal, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kaushal Silva, Kusal Perera, Kusal Mendis, Dhananjaya de Silva, Roshen Silva, Nuwan Pradeep, Vishwa Fernando, Asitha Fernando, Rangana Herath, Dilruwan Perera, Lakshan Sandakan and Suranga Lakmal. Australia: Steve Smith (captain), David Warner, Joe Burns, Usman Khawaja, Adam Voges, Shaun Marsh, Mitchell Marsh, Moises Henriques, Peter Nevill, Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, Nathan Lyon, Stephen O'Keefe, Nathan Coulter-Nile, Jackson Bird. — AP

MURALI MOUNTS BLISTERING ATTACK ON SRI LANKA

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka's record-breaking spinner Muttiah Muralitharan launched a blistering attack yesterday on his former bosses after they complained about his behaviour in his new role as a mentor to Australia.

After his former employers said Muralitharan was damaging his legacy, the 44-year-old accused Sri Lanka's board of setting him up as a fall guy if the hosts lose a series to the visiting Australians.

And Muralitharan, the highest wicket-

skirts of Kandy, but said the issue had been resolved "after discussions between the two management teams". In lodging the complaint, board president Thilanga Sumathipala accused Muralitharan of insulting Sri Lanka team manager Charith Senanayake. "Muralitharan's behaviour is unacceptable and we have brought this to the notice of the Australian team management," Sumathipala told reporters. "It should not have happened. We are very disappointed." Muralitharan is a hero in Sri Lanka after taking 800 Test wickets before retiring six years ago.

But his decision to impart his local knowledge to the tourists has raised eyebrows, not least because he was once labelled a "chucker" by Australia's then-prime minister John Howard.

'LONG-TERM DAMAGE'

Sumathipala pointed out the irony of Muralitharan coaching Australia. "Professionally it is okay for Murali to coach any foreign team, but the irony is that he is supporting Australia which tried to get him out of cricket," Sumathipala said.

"He is creating long-term damage for himself among his fans. I feel sad." Sri Lankan skipper Angelo Mathews was more conciliatory, acknowledging his former teammate's expertise. "The Australians obviously saw value in his knowledge of Sri Lankan conditions," Mathews told reporters. During an 18-year Test career, Muralitharan—who was born with a partially deformed elbow—was twice cited by Australian umpires for a suspect action but was cleared both times by the game's governing body. He once refused to tour Australia but has been a regular visitor in recent years as a star of the Big Bash Twenty20 league.

In his video statement, Muralitharan said he had not received any approach from the Sri Lanka board to help the island's next generation of spinners and accused it of favouring foreign coaches over locals. "They don't give an opportunity to talented Sri Lankan coaches and prefer to bring white people from abroad," he said. "That affects our economy too because we have to pay them dollars that leave the country. That is treachery."

Sri Lanka has a history of employing foreign coaches and re-hired South Africa's Graham Ford earlier this year for a second stint. Although Sri Lanka won the World Twenty20 trophy two years ago, the team has been on the slide in recent years as it struggles to replace key players such as Muralitharan and star batsman Kumar Sangakkara. Australia are hot favourites to win the series. — AFP



Muttiah Muralitharan

taker in Test history, then accused the board president of knowing nothing about cricket and angrily denounced any suggestion of being "a traitor".

"If Sri Lanka loses, they (the board) will say it is because of Murali," he said in a recorded statement which was sent to AFP. "They have no right to accuse me of being a traitor. Have they done one hundredth of what I have contributed to cricket in Sri Lanka? "This is a political game to cover their shortcomings," he added. "I am being used as a pawn to cover their failings."

His outburst was sparked by a complaint by the board that he had bullied groundsman into letting the Australians practise on the pitch which hosts the opening match in a three-Test series from today. Cricket Australia confirmed they received a complaint about the incident at Pallekele Stadium, on the out-



ANTIGUA: India's Ravichandran Ashwin bowls against West Indies during day two of their first cricket Test match at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua. — AP

INDIA CRUSHES W INDIES BY INNINGS AND 1ST TEST

ST JOHN'S: West Indies crumbled to an innings defeat against India on the fourth day of the first test on Sunday after Ravichandran Ashwin claimed seven wickets for 83 runs with some inspired off-spin.

Having started the day on 21-1, following on and still trailing India by 302 runs, West Indies were under immense pressure from the start. After losing Darren Bravo in the first over of the day, the tone was set for their second innings, and the hosts never really recovered.

They managed 231 all out, losing by an innings and 92 runs, after a succession of ill-judged defensive strokes on a turning pitch saw off the middle order, who either pushed down the wrong line to the spinners or offered easy nicks to one of a tight cordon of close fielders.

Marlon Samuels hit a pacy 50 almost entirely in boundaries but fell victim to Ashwin's guile as the all-rounder followed up a succession of big turners with one that drifted away from Samuels' solid defensive stride to clip the off stump.

Carlos Brathwaite and Devendra Bishoo mounted an entertaining rearguard action and gave a little respectability to the hosts through their 95-run ninth-wicket partnership.

But the gulf in class between the two sides was all too evident, and Shannon Gabriel was the last man out, bowled by Ashwin.

Virat Kohli's side showed great professionalism in all departments, with the India skipper recording his maiden double century and all-

rounder Ashwin supporting with 113. It was the second time Ashwin has hit a century and taken five wickets in an innings in the same match.

West Indies will look to improve on their disappointing performance in the second test which starts July 30 in Jamaica. — AP

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard at close of play on the fourth day in the first Test between West Indies and India on Sunday in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda.

India 1st innings 566 for 8 decl (V. Kohli 200, R. Ashwin 113, S. Dhawan 84, A. Mishra 53)	C. Brathwaite not out	51
West Indies 1st innings 243 (K. Brathwaite 74, S. Dowrich 57no; U. Yadav 4-41, M. Shami 4-66)	D. Bishoo c Pujara b R. Ashwin	45
West Indies 2nd innings (Overnight: 21-1)	S. Gabriel b R. Ashwin	4
K. Brathwaite lbw b I. Sharma	Extras (nb-5)	5
R. Chandrika c Saha b R. Ashwin	Total (all out, 78 overs)	231
Da. Bravo c Rahane b U. Yadav	Fall of wickets: 1-2 K. Brathwaite, 2-21 Da. Bravo, 3-88 R. Chandrika, 4-92 J. Blackwood, 5-101 M. Samuels, 6-106 R. Chase, 7-120 S. Dowrich, 8-132 J. Holder, 9-227 D. Bishoo, 10-231 S. Gabriel	
M. Samuels b R. Ashwin	Bowling: I. Sharma 11-2-27-1 (nb-3), M. Shami 10-3-26-0 (nb-1), U. Yadav 13-4-34-1, R. Ashwin 25-8-83-7, A. Mishra 19-3-61-1 (nb-1).	
J. Blackwood c Kohli b R. Ashwin	Result: India won by an innings and 92 runs.	
R. Chase c sub b R. Ashwin		
S. Dowrich lbw b Mishra		
J. Holder b R. Ashwin		



KANDY: Australian cricket captain Steven Smith (L) receives a ICC Test Championship mace from ICC Chief Executive David Richardson (R) in Kandy yesterday. Smith received the mace for leading his side to the number-one ranking on the MRF Tyres ICC Test Team Rankings on the annual 1 April cut-off date. — AFP

KOHLI TARGETS PERIOD OF TEST DOMINATION

MUMBAI: India need to dominate test matches and players cannot be content with just looking to improve, captain Virat Kohli said after the tourists thrashed West Indies by an innings and 92 runs in the first test in Antigua on Saturday.

The margin of the victory, secured within four days, was India's largest outside Asia and gave the side a 1-0 lead in the four-match series. "We are not at a stage now where we need to come and improve," Kohli, who scored his first double hundred during the test, told reporters.

"We should be ready enough in international cricket to start dominating test matches and win those crucial situations and sessions. That's how we become a better team. "If you

think we are going to keep learning every series, learning every game, we will never get that hunger and that mindset to win games from difficult situations. "We need to challenge ourselves a little bit, which this team has been willing to do and which is a wonderful sign. The way we finished the test, it all panned out pretty nicely." While Kohli has led India to a test series win in Sri Lanka and beat South Africa 3-0 at home, their record outside South Asia in the longest format has been poor. They have lost series in South Africa, New Zealand, England and Australia on tours since late 2013, something new coach Anil Kumble has said he wants to rectify.

The 27-year-old Kohli replaced Mahendra Singh Dhoni as India's test captain after the

wicketkeeper-batsman retired from that form of cricket during the tour of Australia in late 2014. Kohli wants his side, who are currently second behind Australia on the International Cricket Council test rankings, to target consistency as well as wins.

"If we have a chance to win 4-0, then why not," Kohli said. "We don't need to get placid. If we end up getting a 2-0 lead, it's not that we would be playing for a draw in the next two tests.

"As we know, if we learn to win test matches, then we'll learn how to win tests everywhere. "We will learn how to play in different situations and we will know exactly what to do when a certain situation is going a certain way." — Reuters

INDIA'S RED LIGHT YOUNGSTERS GO FOR GOLD

KOLKATA: In a break from training for one of the world's largest football tournaments, Yakub Ali swells with pride at the idea of putting a smile on the face of his mother back in Asia's biggest red light district.

"We've grown used to people sneering about where we come from and telling us that our mothers are worthless," says 15-year-old Yakub. "So this will be a gift to all of our mothers who have to put up with discrimination, abuse and injustice every day of their life in Sonagachi." Yakub is one of eight sons of sex workers living in Kolkata's notorious Sonagachi neighbourhood who are heading in Denmark later this month to take part in the Dana Cup, an international youth tournament. His Durbar Sports Academy teammates also include youngsters drawn from other slum areas

in India's eastern metropolis. They will join hundreds of teams taking part in the tournament which runs from July 26-30. The tournament in the northern town of Hjørring will include teams of boys and girls from every corner of the globe but few will surely match the raw desire to prove their worth than the Durbar line-up. The academy is overseen by the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), a charity organisation which works for the welfare of Indian prostitutes and also runs Asia's first cooperative for sex workers.

Situated around 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Kolkata, the academy gives underprivileged youngsters an opportunity to let their hair down far away from the narrow alleys and squalid apartments of Sonagachi. An estimated 8,000 sex workers ply their trade in

Sonagachi which is home to several hundred brothels, gaining it the reputation as the largest single red light zone in Asia. Smarajit Jena, a public health scientist who founded DMSC, said the boys were routinely treated as pariahs in Sonagachi and often found themselves with no one to turn to when they encounter challenges in their daily life.

TREATED AS UNTOUCHABLES

"The kind of loneliness that the children of sex workers have to endure is hard to describe. They are treated as untouchables," Jena told AFP. "Most of them end up dropping out of school because of the stigma so we need something to focus on and bring them back into the mainstream." Yakub, a wiry centre-forward, said he had "cried tears of joy" when the team managed to qualify

for Denmark. The cost of the trip is being underwritten by several Indian and international corporations. "Football has opened doors for boys like us to prove our worth," the teenager said.

"We got a taste for victory when we won our league in Kolkata last year but now we are only looking forward."

Yakub says he never goes anywhere without a picture of his hero Lionel Messi in his pocket, but acknowledges that he will have to temper his inclination to go on mazy runs like his Argentine hero. "We are training hard and trying to stay focused. We are being trained to perform like a finely-tuned orchestra rather than as a solo act," he explains. While cricket is the number sport in India, Kolkata is often regarded as the premier football city and it is just as common to see youngsters kicking a

ball on the streets as wielding a bat.

The coach of the academy, Biswajit Majumdar, said the boys' determination to triumph against the odds made them a joy to work with on the training field. "It's wonderful that the boys dare to dream," Majumdar told AFP. "They are often treated badly and have to put up with nasty comments but they have a never-say-die attitude and hunger for success, which you can't help but be inspired by." Majumdar said that his charges would have to make sacrifices to maintain their focus while in Denmark and ensure that they do themselves proud. "We have taken away their cell phones to minimise any distractions," he said. "My task is to make use of that fire in their belly, so they push themselves even harder in training and so they can achieve their goals." —AFP

KEY WHISTLEBLOWER STEPANOVA OUT OF RIO

NEW YORK: Yulia Stepanova, the key whistleblower in the Russian doping scandal that almost led to her country being completely excluded from the Rio de Janeiro Games, will miss the Olympics after the runner was controversially ruled out due to her doping past.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) invited the middle-distance athlete and her husband to attend next month's Games as guests but denied her a competitive spot in Rio, arguing her doping-tainted past made her ineligible. Stepanova, who provided evidence of doping in a series of German broadcaster ARD documentaries, has fled Russia and is living in hiding at an undisclosed location in North America, fearing for her safety.

She was cleared to compete in Rio as a neutral athlete by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) and received praise for revealing one of the biggest doping scandals in decades.

However, the IOC ruled on Sunday that any Russian athlete with a doping past, including Stepanova, would not be allowed to compete in Rio.

"The executive board have appreciated that she came forward and she and her husband, who also played a very important role, are being invited to the Olympic Games as a guest of the IOC," IOC President Thomas Bach said.

Unfortunately she could not compete due to her doping background, Bach added. This decision is a controversial one

after part of the Olympic Charter blocking sanctioned athletes from future Games, known as the "Osaka rule", was struck down by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) in 2011. In making its decision, CAS argued that there could not be a double punishment for already-sanctioned athletes. "The IOC is taking a risk with this controversial decision but they know that with such limited time, any serious Russian challenge is extremely difficult," an Olympics insider with direct knowledge of the affair, told Reuters yesterday. "The IOC also knows that the Russian athletes affected by it would have a really good case at CAS."

A similar rule by the British Olympic Association to ban the nation's drugs cheats from Olympic participation for life was also rejected by CAS ahead of the 2012 London Games, allowing sprinter Dwain Chambers to race.

The CAS decision will allow many past doping offenders from around the world, including top US runners Justin Gatlin and LaShawn Merritt, to compete in Rio.

While there will be further discussions on the IOC verdict in the coming weeks, it is unlikely many Russians will take their case to CAS with only 10 days remaining before the Games open on Aug. 5.

"We don't have time enough to do such a thing," Russian Olympic Committee President Alexander Zhukov said on Sunday, ruling out any CAS challenge by his organisation and dashing any lingering Olympic hopes for Stepanova. —Reuters



BURTON-ON-TRENT: New England football team manager Sam Allardyce holds up an England scarf during a photocall at St George's Park, near Burton-on-Trent, central England, yesterday. Sam Allardyce said yesterday that he was "very proud" to be named the new England manager, but refused to confirm that star striker Wayne Rooney would remain as captain. — AFP

ALLARDYCE TARGETS ENGLAND FEAR FACTOR

BURTON-ON-TRENT: New England manager Sam Allardyce vowed yesterday to break the psychological barrier hindering the performance of the country's big-name players at international level.

Allardyce also revealed he has not yet made a decision on who will captain England, which leaves the Manchester United skipper Wayne Rooney heavily criticised for his performances at Euro 2016 — sweating on whether he will retain the armband.

England's campaign at last month's European Championships under predecessor Roy Hodgson culminated in a humiliating exit to Iceland in the last 16, despite boasting a squad packed with Premier League talent. Hodgson quickly quit. Allardyce, speaking at his first press conference, at St George's Park, following his appointment, will seek to address that faulty mindset as England bid to qualify for the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

"The pressure on players at international level we will be looking at in depth," said the 61-year-old Englishman, nicknamed "Big Sam", who lost out to Steve McClaren for the England job 10 years ago. "I will exploit all areas for the benefit of the players. The key element is to get among the staff in place and talk about the programme going forward, particularly psychologically. "It's not about potential now. It's about standing up and being counted even though some of those experiences have been bitter. "Potential is a word I don't like to use too much. You want the actual quality of the player producing his best immediately. "I think this group is very experienced and going forward can be producing more performances and better results. It's not just about qualifying, but going as far as we can."

'PRAGMATIC STYLE'

It is anticipated that Allardyce, a former manager of many clubs including Bolton, Newcastle, West Ham and most recently Sunderland, will not make a call on Rooney's captaincy until the players join up for the World Cup qualifier with Slovakia on September 4.

"That's far too early to make predictions in that area," Allardyce said, when asked if Rooney would continue as skipper. "I will leave that (the captaincy) until we get together and plan for the qualifiers." Allardyce, who guided Sunderland to Premier League safety last season having taken over with them in a desperate position, has never won a major trophy and acknowledged the England job is the "biggest challenge" of his managerial career.

Allardyce believes, however, he has the right credentials for the position and remains confident the "Three Lions" will progress under his stewardship. "This will be the greatest challenge for me in my long career and hopefully I will be as successful as I have in the rest of my career," said the man who has faced criticism down the years for long-ball football. Jose Mourinho famously once described Allardyce's football as "19th century".

"I can turn things around pretty quickly. I can create a successful journey and that starts with us all pulling together," added Allardyce. "What is my style? Pragmatic. Choosing styles and systems depends on who we are playing."

"My coaching technique is to win a football match-home or away, whether we are at Wembley or not-and adapt to the style we play to the opposition. "I think the bonding of the

team is exceptionally important. A game of football is to be enjoyed."

Allardyce confirmed Sammy Lee, his former assistant when he was in charge of Bolton Wanderers, will become part of his backroom

staff. He also called for the introduction of a winter break in the Premier League to help boost the national team's flagging fortunes. "I have been an advocate of that for 10 years or more." —AFP

GHANA'S FIRST OLYMPIC SWIMMERS ARE A WARNING TO THE WORLD

ACCRA: Ghana's global reputation in sport is largely based on football but Abeku Jackson and Kaya Forson wants to change that when they become the African nation's first Olympic swimmers. The 16-year-old Jackson is heading to Brazil to compete in the blue riband 50m freestyle with Forson, a 14-year-old based in Spain. Both competed in the world championships last year. Neither Jackson nor Forson met the Olympics qualifying time but both got their ticket on the universality system, which allows a country's two fastest swimmers to compete regardless.

'A FAMILY THING'

Abeku began swimming when he was three and took part in his first race at five. Both his brothers also swim competitively. "It's a family thing," the teenager told AFP, taking a break from training at a pool in the capital, Accra.

Training is twice-a-day, six days a week and since those early days, his father, Kodwo, has been ever-present. Kodwo said it was his own fear of water that got his family into the pool. He decided in 2003 to get over his phobia and started swimming lessons for himself and his children.

Since then he has become the coach of his three sons' swimming team in Accra, the GH Dolphins, and also a national team coach. Balancing the two roles of parent and coach is not a problem for him, although Abeku sometimes finds it difficult, he said. "You are in the child's face all the time," Kodwo added.

POOL SHORTAGE

Abeku's best time for the 50m freestyle is nearly four seconds off the current world record held by Brazil's Cesar Cielo, making it unlikely he will challenge the big guns in Rio. But his participation has a wider aim: inspiring other Ghanaians to compete in the future. "Swimming is a lifesaving sport,

it's a sport that keeps the kids disciplined, it gives them focus and helps them to save lives and work as a team," said Kodwo.

"I think every child of school going age should have a chance to swim, in one swimming programme or another."

But in a developing nation like Ghana, infrastructure is an issue. Accra has an Olympic-sized pool but there is a lack of swimming facilities elsewhere: swimming at the beach or in rivers can be dangerous, with strong tides and currents.

In much of Africa, competitive swimming and water safety skills are generally not a priority. According to the World Health Organization, Africans, especially young children, are up to 13 times more likely to drown than their Western European counterparts. Former Olympic swimmer Princess Charlene of Monaco is looking to change that, partnering with a school outside Accra to build a pool and developing a swimming programme. Her foundation has also run similar programmes in South Africa, Senegal and Tanzania.

FUTURE CHAMPIONS?

The president of the Ghana Swimming Association, Theophilus Edzie, hopes the country's presence in the pool in Rio will help it become known for swimming-and dispel stereotypes. In Sydney in 2000, Equatorial Guinea swimmers Eric "The Eel" Moussambani and Paula Barila Bolopa were lauded for embodying the true Olympic spirit, even as they trailed in last in qualifying. But Edzie has high hopes.

"Many people think blacks are non-swimmers but with this boy Abeku, we will prove to people one day that blacks can really swim and blacks can make it equally just like the whites," he said. "It is a story we are writing today and this story will be told in 2024 when everything has come to fruition. We are going to change the face of swimming in Ghana." —AFP



ACCRA: Ghana's swimmer Abeiku Jackson poses in Accra on July 9, 2016. Ghana's global reputation in sport is largely based on football but Abeku Jackson and Kaya Forson wants to change that when they become the African nation's first Olympic swimmers. —AFP

'DANGEROUS' PITCH SCUPPERS CHINA MANCHESTER DERBY

BEIJING: Manchester United's showpiece pre-season derby against Manchester City was cancelled just hours before kick-off yesterday because the Beijing pitch was "too dangerous" for players. Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany said club staff had been working to get the game on after days of heavy rain in the Chinese capital, but had been defeated.

"We had our groundsman working for 10 days on the pitch, but the conditions were just too dangerous for the players," said Kompany Monday on the club's website.

"The rain has made it totally unsafe to play on this pitch," added Manchester City CEO Ferran Soriano in a statement. Organisers of the International Challenge Cup tournament, which also features Borussia Dortmund, confirmed the match had been called off on grounds of player safety.

"The conditions experienced in Beijing on July 19 and July 20 were reported as being some of the most extreme weather conditions the capital of China has experienced in recent history," said a statement from the organisers. "The committee and both teams make the decision together in the interest of player safety." Both managers, Jose Mourinho of United and Pep Guardiola of City, had told reporters they were worried after training was moved Sunday because of the state of the turf. "The pitch and the conditions of my players are more important than results in pre-season," Mourinho said. "It is almost the end and we can go home and train in conditions where the players are safe."

Guardiola was blunt when asked what he wanted from the ill-fated match. "No injuries," he replied. The cancellation means fans will now have to wait until the English Premier League derby on September 10 for the bitter



BEIJING: This file photo taken on July 24, 2016 shows Manchester City players taking part in a training session a day before the 2016 International Champions Cup football match between Manchester City and Manchester United in Beijing. Manchester United's showpiece pre-season derby against Manchester City was cancelled just hours before kick-off yesterday after recent torrential rain made the Beijing pitch unsafe. —AFP

Sports

AIBA denies bid to take over the sport

16

Allardyce targets England fear factor

19

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016

ROYALS AT THE COURT OF THE RIO OLYMPICS

Page 17



STANFORD: Johanna Konta, right, of Britain, holds the winner's plate next to Venus Williams, of the United States, with the runner-up plate, after the final in the Bank of the West Classic tennis tournament Sunday, in Stanford, Calif. Konta won 7-5, 5-7, 6-2. — AP

KONTA TOPS VENUS FOR FIRST SINGLES CROWN

STANFORD: As Johanna Konta pounded the ball from every spot on the court Sunday and rarely missed, there were moments Venus Williams could do little more than applaud her opponent's stellar day as winners whipped down the line and drop shots fell perfectly.

With a crowd of 2,268 largely rooting for the American icon Williams, Konta regularly reminded herself to breathe to keep her mind on the match and not her daunting task.

The hard-hitting Konta outslugged top-seeded Williams to capture her first career singles title at last while playing for her first championship, winning the Bank of the West Classic 7-5, 5-7, 6-2.

"It's actually quite an incredibly humbling experience. It's a great validation of the hard work you've been putting in and it's a great motivator on the things you want to keep getting better at," she said. "I played her twice previously. I knew going into it I was going to be

playing against a magnitude of experience. Venus Williams doesn't need an introduction."

Her serve and return games equally solid on another unseasonably hot day at Stanford, Konta held on in the third set after squandering a 4-1 lead in the second to open the door for Williams to come back.

When Williams netted her forehand return on the third match point, Konta dropped her racket to the ground and covered her face in triumph before heading to the net for a handshake. After receiving her trophy and addressing Williams directly with a thoughtful compliment of the 36-year-old star's grace and game, Konta posed for a round of photos that this time will be all the more special. "She played at such a high level today," Williams said. "She saved her best tennis for the final, which is what you want to do."

Konta is having a blast being part of British tennis right now, everyone "riding high after Wimbledon" with

Andy Murray winning at home.

"Yeah, long live the Queen, guys," she said with a big grin. Over the 2-hour, 18-minute match, the third-seeded Konta figured out Williams' big serve for the second time this year, standing some 10 feet behind the baseline to return it and generating pace from Williams' regular serves of well higher than 100 mph.

The 25-year-old Konta also stunned Williams with the straight-set victory in the first round at this year's Australian Open. Coming into Sunday's match, Konta considered her return game a key to whether she would win.

"She plays really well against me, so maybe she comes out and doesn't feel any pressure and just swings for it," Williams said. "I tried to stay in there and fight. ... What can I say but give her credit?"

Konta became the fourth-oldest first-time titlist this year. A steady serve helped carry Konta to Sunday's

final. She nailed 11 aces and moved Williams all over the court with an array of powerful groundstrokes and timely drop shots. Konta, headed to the Olympics next month in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, also was the first British woman to reach the final at Stanford since Virginia Wade's runner-up finish in 1981.

Williams was seeking her third tournament win at Stanford and denied career singles championship No. 50 while playing for her 80th title. At 49 singles tournament wins, she remains second among active players only behind younger sister Serena's 71.

"Of course I wanted to win, but I imagine with any luck I'll have more chances to get another title," she said. Williams is projected to move up to No. 6 in the next rankings. She will play in Montreal this coming week before the Rio Olympics next month.

"See you all in Rio," she told the crowd before exiting the stadium. — AP

ENGLAND BEAT PAKISTAN TO LEVEL TEST SERIES

MANCHESTER: England beat Pakistan by 330 runs to win the second Test at Old Trafford yesterday and so level the four-match series at 1-1.

Pakistan, set a mammoth 565 to win, were bowled out for 234 in their second innings with more than a day left in the match. England, who lost the first Test at Lord's by 75 runs, bounced back with a huge first-innings total of 589 for eight declared. Joe Root made a Test-best 254 and England captain Alastair Cook 105, his 29th Test century.

Pakistan managed just 198 in reply, captain Misbah-ul-Haq top-scoring with 52 and England all-rounder Chris Woakes taking four for 67. Despite a first-innings lead of 391, Cook opted against enforcing the follow-on.

Instead Cook (76 not out) and Root (71 not out) inflicted further punishment on Pakistan's attack before the skipper declared England's second innings at 173 for one yesterday morning.

The scale of Pakistan's task could be seen from the fact that no side have made more to win in the fourth innings of a Test than the West Indies' 418 for seven against Australia at St John's in 2003.

No Pakistan batsman made a fifty in their second innings, with three England bowlers—James Anderson, Chris Woakes and Moeen Ali—all taking three wickets apiece.

The third Test at Edgbaston starts on August 3.

Brief scores

England 1st Innings 589-8 dec (J Root 254, A Cook 105, C Woakes 58, J Bairstow 58; Wahab Riaz 3-106)
Pakistan 1st Innings 198 (Misbah-ul-Haq 52; C Woakes 4-67)
England 2nd Innings 173-1 dec (A Cook 76 no, J Root 71 no)
Pakistan 2nd Innings 234 (J Anderson 3-41, C Woakes 3-41, M Ali 3-88)

Result: England won by 330 runs
Series: Four-match series level at 1-1. — AFP



MANCHESTER: England's Stuart Broad (2R) celebrates with teammates after catching Pakistan's Mohammad Amir for 29 off the bowling of Chris Woakes as England win the match by 330 runs on the fourth day of the second test at Old Trafford Cricket Ground in Manchester yesterday. — AFP

MONFILS ENDS DROUGHT WITH CITI OPEN WIN

WASHINGTON: Gael Monfils ended a 2 1/2-year title drought by overcoming Ivo Karlovic 5-7 7-6(6) 6-4 in the final of the Citi Open in Washington, D.C. on Sunday. The win was Monfils' first victory since February 2014 in Montpellier, France, and came at a place where two of the players he looked up to - Yannick Noah and Arthur Ashe - had won before him.

"I grew up with those names," Monfils told reporters. "Definitely to have my name next to them, it's priceless. It meant a lot for me. I'm very happy, very proud." Karlovic, a winner last week at the Hall of Fame Tennis Championships in Newport, Rhode Island, came close to becoming the oldest man to win back-to-back ATP singles tournaments since 43-year-old Ken Rosewall in 1973.

Karlovic was serving for the match while leading 5-4 in the second set but Monfils broke and prevailed in the tie-break. The break was the first time Karlovic failed to hold serve on 54 occasions in the tournament.

"I was serving for the match. If it was normal match, I would win it right there," Karlovic said. "My service stopped at that moment. It happens, I guess. I'm not used to that. But it happens."

"I was going to win, and then I lost my serve. That is tennis," Monfils added another service break early in the third set to take the momentum and pushed on for the win. — Reuters

Kuwait Times BUSINESS

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2016

Non-oil growth to average 3.5% in 2016-17

Page 22

Ooredoo Kuwait posts KWD 350.8m revenue

Page 23

ITALIAN MASTERPIECE: NEW FIAT 500 NOW IN KUWAIT

Page 26



Nintendo shares plunge, Warns on Pokemon Go

Pages 25



WASHINGTON DC: This file photo taken on May 31, 2016 shows people walking by a Verizon sign. (INSET) In this Feb 19, 2015, file photo, Yahoo President and CEO Marissa Mayer delivers the keynote address at the first-ever Yahoo Mobile Developer's Conference, in San Francisco. — AFP/AP photos

VERIZON BUYS YAHOO FOR \$4.83BN

LANDMARK ACQUISITION MARKS END OF AN ERA

SAN FRANCISCO: Verizon is buying Yahoo for \$4.83 billion, marking the end of an era for a company that once defined the internet. It is the second time in as many years that Verizon has snapped up the remnants of a fallen internet star as it broadens its digital reach. The nation's largest wireless carrier paid \$4.4 billion for AOL last year.

Yahoo will be rolled into Verizon's AOL operations and CEO Marissa Mayer may be reunited with AOL CEO Tim Armstrong, who worked with her as executives at Google for years and tried unsuccessfully to convince her to combine the two companies when they both remained independent. "We have enormous respect for what Yahoo has accomplished: this transaction is about unleashing Yahoo's full potential," Armstrong said in a statement.

Mayer wants to stay

Most analysts expect the deal to end the four-year reign of Yahoo's Mayer, a former Google executive who flopped in her attempts to turn around the Sunnyvale, California, company. Mayer, though, told employees in an email yesterday that she intends to stay, though she didn't say for how long. "I love Yahoo, and I believe in all of you. It's important to me to see Yahoo into its

next chapter," she wrote.

Yahoo Inc, Sunnyvale, California, is parting with its email service and still-popular websites devoted to news, finance and sports in addition to its advertising tools under pressure from shareholders fed up with a steep downturn in the company's revenue during the past eight years. The slump has been deepening even though advertisers have been pouring more money into what is now a \$160 billion market for digital advertising, according to research firm eMarketer.

Most of the money has been flowing to internet search leader Google and internet social networking leader Facebook, two companies that eclipsed Yahoo during its slide from an online sensation, once valued at \$130 billion, to a dysfunctional also ran. After the sale is completed early next year, Yahoo will become a holding company for its two stakes in China's e-commerce leader, Alibaba Group, and Yahoo Japan. Those investments, made more than a decade ago, are worth more than \$40 billion before taxes, making them by far the most valuable pieces of Yahoo. The holding company will drop the Yahoo name and adopt a new identity after Verizon takes control of the operating business. Yahoo also still has a patent portfolio that it intends to sell, and about

\$7.7 billion in cash. Verizon is buying Yahoo's real estate, along with the online operations.

Yahoo has hired a succession of CEOs to engineer a comeback, but finally gave up after the high hopes that accompanied Mayer's hiring fizzled out. The sale potentially could result in thousands of layoffs. Mayer has already jettisoned 1,900 Yahoo workers since last September. If Mayer leaves following the sale, she will be in line to receive a severance package valued at \$55 million.

As people began to flock to the internet with the advent of graphical web browsers in the 1990s, Yahoo was king. After co-founders Jerry Yang and David Filo began building a web directory at Stanford University computer graduate students in 1994, Yahoo quickly established itself as the online hub for tens of millions of people. It also proved internet companies could be profitable as other dot-com startups burned through millions of dollars.

But Yahoo strayed from internet search in an attempt to build a multimedia business, opening the door for Google to become a powerhouse. It didn't recognize the importance of social networking and was slow to make the leap into mobile devices like smartphones and tablets. Instead, Yahoo tried to buy Google and Facebook

in those companies' formative years, but it was rebuffed and then dwarfed by them.

Yahoo's troubles

Mayer believes Yahoo can still come back now it's about to join a bigger company in Verizon. "Yahoo is a company that changed the world and will continue to do so," she said during a conference call with analysts. Despite Yahoo's troubles, its operations are attractive to Verizon because the wireless carrier is looking to capitalize on the growing number of people living their digital lives on smartphones. Verizon already profits from the data plans that connect more than 100 million people using those devices to the internet; with AOL and Yahoo's services, Verizon is now looking to control more of the advertising experience on phones instead of surrendering control to Google and Facebook.

If Verizon fully owned Yahoo right now, it would generate about \$3.6 billion in US ad revenue this year to eclipse Microsoft for third place in the market, based on eMarketer's estimates. It would still be far behind in ad revenue, compared with Google's projected \$27 billion, and Facebook's projected \$10 billion. AOL is best known for the dial-up internet it popularized in

the '90s and owns popular media sites like Huffington Post and TechCrunch, but Verizon primarily wanted its ad technology.

While Verizon also wants Yahoo's ad services, it also prizes the hordes that still regularly visit to pick up their email, check the weather and catch up on current events, celebrity gossip and the stock market. The company is hoping to have a mobile audience of 2 billion people by 2020, with a goal of \$20 billion in mobile revenue by that time. Yahoo says it has more than 1 billion users, though Outsell analyst Randy Giusto believes only about 200 million are habitual visitors.

"It's the eyeballs that generate the advertising, you have to get to that viewership to get the advertisers to advertise, and that's the model that we have to follow," said Verizon CFO Francis Shammo at an investment conference in May in response to a question about Yahoo's appeal. Given Verizon already owns AOL, Giusto says Verizon is probably the best fit for Yahoo instead of the other suitors, which also included private equity firms that specialize in buying distressed companies and trying to rehabilitate them. The deal, expected to close within the first three months of next year, still needs approval from Yahoo shareholders. Yahoo's stock fell slightly at the open of trade yesterday. — AP

GERMAN OPTIMISM DOWN ONLY A BIT AFTER BREXIT

FRANKFURT: Britain's vote to leave the EU has had a limited impact on business confidence in Germany, with belief in domestic strength still strong, a key survey showed yesterday. The closely-watched business confidence index from the Ifo institute in Munich fell to 108.3 points in July from June's figure of 108.7. July's reading was the first time pollsters had taken the pulse of Europe's biggest economy since the shock British referendum result emerged on June 24.

Falling confidence was due to "far less optimistic business expectations on the part of companies," Ifo head Clemens Fuest said in a statement. But the result exceeded expectations, as analysts surveyed by Factset had forecast a decline to 107.5 points in July in the wake of the vote. Ifo calculates its headline index on the basis of companies' assessments of the current business environment and the outlook for the next six months.

The sub-index measuring current business hit 114.7, an increase of 0.2 points over June's reading. But the figure for companies' future outlook dropped, falling 0.9 points to 102.2. The Ifo index didn't plunge as sharply as investor sentiment in the ZEW survey released on July 19, buoyed by respondents' faith in domestic demand. "The German economy proves resilient" in the face of the Brexit shock, Ifo president Fuest said. There were pessimistic expectations in Germany's

mighty car industry—which exports to Britain and operates factories there—and among wholesalers.

But retailers and construction firms were looking to the future with continued confidence. The service sector also offered a brightening outlook,

with firms reporting improved expectations for the coming six months and plans to take on more staff. By 0900 GMT yesterday, Germany's DAX stock market index of 30 leading firms had gained almost one percent on the news. — AFP



FRANKFURT: The headquarters of the European Central Bank (ECB) is pictured in Frankfurt, western Germany, on July 21, 2016. — AFP

UAE REBOUNDS AS BANKS WEIGH ON SAUDI ARABIA

DUBAI: Gulf stock markets diverged yesterday, with the two main bourses in the United Arab Emirates recovering from losses in the previous session, while banks weighed on Saudi Arabia's index. Riyadh's benchmark closed 0.1 percent lower, extending Sunday's 1.2 percent decline, as the banking sub-index sagged 0.7 percent. Samba Financial Group fell 0.7 percent. But the market's other major sector, petrochemicals, edged up after Sahara Petrochemical reported that second-quarter net profit soared 746 percent to 96.4 million riyals (\$25.7 million), much higher than NCB Capital's forecast of 66.8 million riyals.

"The variance in estimates is due to lower-than-expected losses at Sahara's acrylic facility and at its joint venture with Ma'aden, SAMAPCO, and lower operating expenses," NCB Capital said in a note. Sahara also said profit jumped because some of its plants experienced scheduled shut-downs in the year-earlier period. Shares in Sahara rose 1.8 percent to 11.59 riyals; NCB has a "neutral" rating on the stock with a price target of 10.00 riyals. The biggest petrochemical producer, Saudi Basic Industries, which is expected to report earnings this week,

added 0.9 percent. Some insurers rose after posting results. Saudi United Cooperative Insurance jumped 6.8 percent after it swung to a net profit before zakat (tax) of 30.6 million riyals from a loss of 40.4 million riyals in the corresponding quarter of 2015. But the insurance sector sub-index dropped 0.8 percent.

Elsewhere in the Gulf, Abu Dhabi's index climbed 1.0 percent with real estate developer and property rental manager Eshraq Properties adding 1.4 percent after the company said it had appointed Jassim Alseddigi as chairman. Alseddigi, also chief executive of Abu Dhabi Financial Group, said he would look to expand Eshraq through strategic partnerships.

However, real estate advisory firm JLL reported that after 18 months of relatively stable conditions, Abu Dhabi's property market was starting to weaken. "During Q2 2016, we have started to see the first signs of a downward trend as the decline in the oil sector, reduced government spending and weak sentiment continues," David Dudley, head of JLL's Abu Dhabi office, said in a report. — Reuters

Chart 1: GCC Real GDP (% y/y)

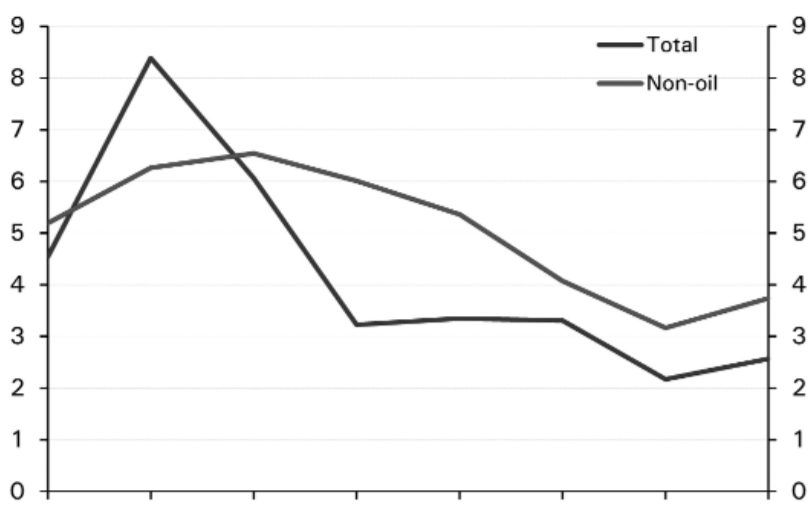
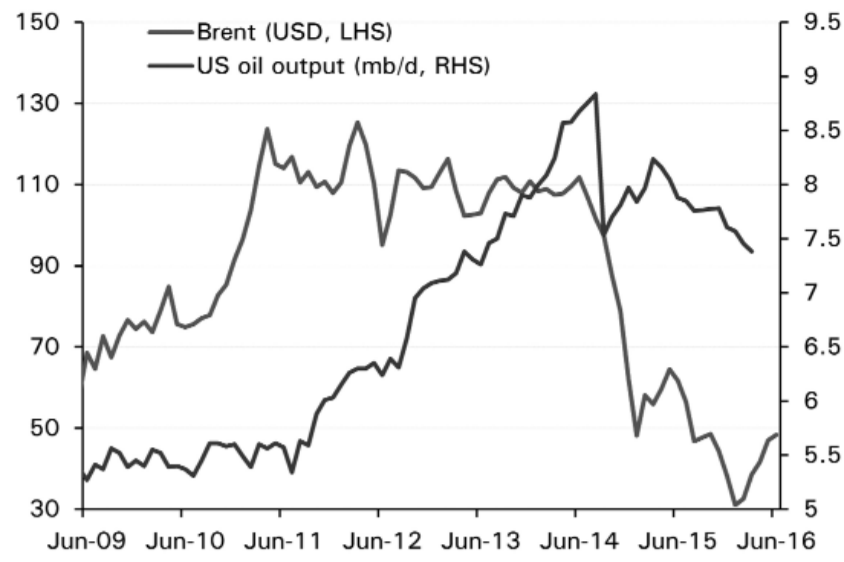


Chart 2: US oil production and Brent prices



NON-OIL GROWTH TO AVERAGE 3.5% IN 2016-17

KUWAIT: Mid-year, and though our revised outlook for 2016-17 is not qualitatively different from the earlier edition of this report, the growth numbers, world and GCC, have come down. This revised expectation is the result of slightly disappointing world growth in 1H16, primarily in emerging markets, and of heightened uncertainty stemming primarily from Brexit: the momentous decision by the UK to separate from the EU. Europe, which was on track to meet or beat expectations this year, will now be subjected to Brexit winds, with the UK flirting with recession later this year.

The GCC economies are expected to be marginally affected by all that; however, we revised their outlook somewhat because of more aggressive government action to reduce their fiscal deficits. Most GCC countries moved rather fast to enact spending rationalization and subsidy cuts, Kuwait being the exception. These new measures will eat into near-term growth but are otherwise good news. Though oil prices have recovered from recent January 2016 lows, they are still in the low \$50s or lower (Brent basis) and are not expected by anyone to return to their heady \$100 levels any time soon.

The GCC governments have thus had since mid-2014 to adjust to this new reality and are moving decisively to address it, including a vast 2030 economic plan in KSA. The KSA plan aims at diversifying the economy, raising non-oil revenues, creating jobs and even privatizing part of the oil wealth/production of the country. Kuwait is also floating the idea of privatizing some downstream oil activity.

Back to the world economy, the IMF recently revised its world

outlook for 2016, down to 3.1% from 3.2%, and 3.4% earlier in the year. Advanced economies are expected to grow 1.8% and emerging markets 4.1%. MENA is expected to grow 2.9%. We anticipate outcomes close to those numbers, though the bias and risk (acknowledged by the IMF) has to be on the downside. Because of this very moderate growth outlook, oil prices are not expected to take off, though they should firm gradually ahead. The US Federal Reserve and other central banks should continue to err on the side of caution, if not outright continued non-conventional easing (ECB, BOJ), amidst negative interest rates on a wide swathe of sovereign issues.

Brexit volatility

Mid-year, Brexit was the huge event that injected volatility in financial markets and led to some growth revisions, hitting the UK outlook, the EU outlook, and the rest of the world, in that order. Of course, the aftermath of the Brexit vote saw markets stabilize after a few days, with the realization that the actual Brexit process, though raising many question marks, will play itself out over a period of 2-3 years, under the leadership of the new Prime Minister Theresa May. Compounding the already significant political uncertainty, markets and economies will have to contend later this year with a turbulent US presidential election (November, Clinton vs. Trump) and an Italian referendum on constitutional reforms (October). Both events have the potential to raise anew the anti-establishment anti-status quo temperature, as was done in the Brexit vote.

All the while, in advanced economies, as structural reform remains mired in semi-dysfunc-

Table 1: Key economic indicators

		2014	2015e	2016f	2017f
Nominal GDP	USD tn	1.6	1.4	1.4	1.6
Real GDP growth	% y/y	3.3	3.3	2.2	2.6
Oil	% y/y	1.3	2.3	0.8	0.9
Non oil	% y/y	5.4	4.1	3.2	3.7
Inflation	% y/y	2.5	2.8	3.2	3.3
Budget balance	% of GDP	2.0	-9.6	-8.6	-3.7

tional politics, and fiscal policy remains constrained by high levels of debt, the onus to keep things going and to avoid accidents lies with the central banks. Those continue to provide liquidity via unconventional means in many cases, liquidity that is contributing to support equity markets worldwide, as well as negative interest rates in Europe and Japan.

Currencies saw their share of action so far this year, with the dollar losing some ground against the euro before recovering after Brexit (down only 1% ytd), while the yen soared in 1H16 and was up some 14% against the dollar by mid-year. Many factors were at play, but the major one was the revised expectation from several rate hikes by the Fed this year to perhaps only one 25 bps hike. The US 10-year note yield dipped under 1.5% in July, making historic lows, and driven by a benign Fed and pervasive negative rates in most sectors of the yield curve (Japan, Germany, UK, etc.). For their part, oil prices recovered from their 1Q16 lows and averaged about \$40 per barrel in 1H16 after an average of \$47 in 2H15. We expect them to move above \$50 later this year and to improve gradually into next year.

New low oil price
The new low oil price environ-

ment has forced structural reform and adjustment on many GCC countries in order to deal with this new reality.

New taxes and revenues are being sought, and subsidy cuts have been enacted with more to come. Furthermore, all GCC countries are expected to post further deficits in 2016. The total GCC deficit was \$132 billion in 2015 following a surplus of \$33 billion in 2014.

This was a deficit of 10% of GDP, which we project to fall to 9% in 2016, and then to less than 4% in 2017, as governments address the problem. As mentioned above, all GCC countries are in the process of adjusting fiscally and have already acted.

They are trying to keep the projects and infrastructure spending going in order to sustain the economy and to prepare for the future, while cautiously and gradually reducing some subsidies and benefits. GCC countries are also contemplating new revenues, a VAT tax has been widely discussed and could come in 2018 or 2019 (5%). Of course, the deficits have led to debt financing.

Sovereigns have issued some \$44 billion in bonds in 1H16 (gross) led by Saudi Arabia. The issuance started in the local domestic markets, but Abu Dhabi, Oman, and Qatar have already tapped the international

market, and the others will follow. In that context, we now expect real GDP growth of 2.2% and 2.6% for 2016 and 2017, almost 1% below our previous projections. Non-oil GDP should grow 3.2% and 3.7% in the two years, while oil GDP should grow a little under 1%. Liquidity, which tightened a bit since the Fed hiked rates 25 bps in December 2015, and since deficit financing became an issue, remains very manageable.

Since we expect that the Fed will hike rates only once this year (25 bps), most GCC countries are liable to do the same with modest impact on their liquidity. And though the individual country performances are more or less in line with the GCC numbers discussed here, we expect Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE to be the better performers, especially when considering non-oil GDP growth. Those countries happen to be the ones with more flexibility thanks to their vast financial resources.

Meanwhile, Egypt is struggling with a slowing economy as much delayed reforms and a challenging security environment take their toll. A more upbeat outlook will depend on the recent efforts by the government to revive a credible reform program and win back international investors, though the way forward remains challenging.

LONG-TERM IMPACTS OF NEGATIVE RATES

By Hayder Tawfik



There is a limit how far monetary policies can be used to create economic growth or slow it down when there is a clear threat of demand push inflation. Central banks in the developed economies have been in my opinion testing the impact of negative interest rates on economic activities as they were faced of a collapse in economic growth. Negative interest rates in the short and long end of the yield curve have not added any incremental value to economic growth. It will take much longer to assess the impact of negative rates on the economy and the business cycle.

I believe that the introduction of negative interest rates to the markets by some central banks was a shot in the dark or an act of desperation. May be as I said earlier it was a new experiment and they wanted to test it. It could have been just another new macro-economic policy put to the test. A lot of financial market participants and economists rely on increase in their analysis to find out why we suddenly have negative interest rates and their implication on the global economic growth outlook.

I can understand that if economists and students want to know more about living with negative interest rates. However, what I find difficult to understand is why central banks venture into the unknown when they can force their governments to use other policies that are at their disposal to generate economic growth and create jobs. I think negative interest rates have caused total confusion in the market place. All participants being banks, financial institutions, businessmen, investors and ordinary individuals even some governments find it difficult to make sense of it and try to avoid the unintended results of negative rates.

Now, it is quite clear that negative interest rates did not lead to increase in the aggregate demand side of economic activity. As John Maynard Keynes, the great English economist argued that aggregate demand determined the overall level of economic activity and that inadequate aggregate demand could lead to prolonged periods of high unemployment. According to Keynesian economics, state intervention was necessary to moderate any extremes in the cycles of economic activity, such as boom and bust. John Keynes advocated the use of fiscal and monetary policies to mitigate the adverse effects of economic recessions and depressions.

So, it seems to me that some governments in the developed economies did not want to carry out their responsibility of doing some economic intervention at least on some small scale or when they could afford to do so. Economic intervention can be aimed at a variety of political or economic objectives, such as promoting economic growth, increasing employment, raising wages, raising or reducing prices, promoting income equality, managing the money supply and interest rates, increasing profits, or addressing market failures.

I am personally not sure if negative interest rates can work in the long term. Most financial institutions including banks are there to provide financial services and make life easy for savers and borrowers. Their ultimate objective is to make money for their shareholders. So for them a high net interest rates margins is very important for their survivals. These financial systems in most developed economies were set up not to operate in negative interest rates environments. I am not sure if they can successfully carry on operating for much longer at times of negative interest rates environments. Also, providers of long-term financial savings, protection and assurances from pension funds to insurance companies will find it harder to meet client expectations of meaningful safe returns many years in the future.

The longer the world live with negative interest rates, the greater the pressure on individuals and companies to protect themselves and their businesses rather than rely on untested and unreliable new monetary policies i.e. long term negative interest rates. Long-term negative interest rates will have a major impact on the global foreign exchange markets too. The disappearance of interest-rate differentials as the main driver of currency values, particularly as greater attention is paid to liquidity effects, including the ability of individuals to repatriate their monies from abroad. These risky consequences will ultimately translate into slower economic activity, as well as more fragmented financial markets that are harder to monitor, influence and regulate.

WALL ST READY TO OPEN FLAT AS EARNINGS ROLL IN

NEW YORK: Wall Street was set to open little changed yesterday as investors assessed another set of corporate earnings and ahead of the Federal Reserve's policy meeting. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which has had to defer raising interest rates, will begin its two-day meeting on Tuesday to decide whether the US economy could absorb a rate increase in the near term. The FOMC is scheduled to announce its decision on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. ET (1800 GMT).

Even with recent data pointing to the US economy being on strong footing, the Fed is still cautious about pulling the trigger due to global uncertainty sparked by Britain's vote to leave the European Union. Traders have priced in a 14.7 percent chance of a rate hike in September and a 38.5 percent chance in December, according to CME Group's FedWatch tool. Low expectations of rate hikes, robust economic data and higher-

than-expected second-quarter earnings set Wall Street on a record-setting streak in the past two weeks. Investors are hopeful that companies continue a broad trend of beating analysts' expectations to justify valuations.

Wait-and-see phase

Of the 125 S&P 500 companies that have reported results so far, 68 percent have beaten earnings expectations. In a typical quarter, 63 percent of companies report above estimates, according to Thomson Reuters data. "We're in a period where the market's looking really tired," said Matthew Tuttle, chief investment officer of Tuttle Tactical Management. "I think we're going to be in a wait-and-see phase today, ahead of the Fed's decision." Wall Street marked its fourth-straight week of gains and the S&P 500 notched a new closing high on Friday, helped by telecom stocks and strong economic data.

Dow e-minis were up 8 points, or 0.04 percent at 8:23 a.m. ET, with 22,781 contracts changing hands. S&P 500 e-minis were up 0.75 points, or 0.03 percent, with 156,083 contracts traded. The benchmark index is just 0.02 percent away from its record intraday high of 2,175.63. Nasdaq 100 e-minis were down 1 point, or 0.02 percent, on volume of 18,723 contracts. Oil prices were trading near two-month lows on fears of global oversupply and economic headwinds that could hit demand.

Yahoo's shares were down 0.8 percent at \$39.05 pre-market, after agreeing to sell its core internet business to Verizon for \$4.8 billion. Verizon's shares rose 0.4 percent. Micron shares rose 4.7 percent to \$13.67 after a Credit Suisse analyst said the company's new rights agreement increased prospects of a strategic investment in the near term. The stock was the top percentage gainer among S&P components. — Reuters

EXCHANGE RATES

AL-MUZAINI EXCHANGE CO.

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
ASIAN COUNTRIES		
Japanese Yen	2.862	
Indian Rupees	4.520	
Pakistani Rupees	2.896	
Sri Lankan Rupees	2.085	
Nepali Rupees	2.827	
Singapore Dollar	225.190	
Hongkong Dollar	39.132	
Bangladesh Taka	3.870	
Philippine Peso	6.452	
Thai Baht	8.717	
GCC COUNTRIES		
Saudi Riyal	80.990	
Qatari Riyal	83.427	
ani Riyal	788.851	
Bahraini Dinar	806.560	
UAE Dirham	82.689	
ARAB COUNTRIES		
Egyptian Pound - Cash	31.250	
Egyptian Pound - Transfer	34.576	
Yemen Riyal/for 1000	1.219	
Tunisian Dinar	137.040	
Jordanian Dinar	428.560	
Lebanese Lira/for 1000	2.024	
Syrian Lira	2.0164	
Morocco Dirham	31.262	
EUROPEAN & AMERICAN COUNTRIES		
US Dollar Transfer	303.550	
Euro	336.640	

Sterling Pound	403.720
Canadian dollar	233.050
Turkish lira	99.790
Swiss Franc	311.010
Australian Dollar	229.790
US Dollar Buying	302.350
GOLD	
20 Gram	267.640
10 Gram	136.740
5 Gram	69.210

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 Frank	300.720
Bahrain 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	2.084
Indian Rupees	4.514
Pakistani Rupees	2.892
Bangladesh Taka	3.865
Philippines Peso	6.431
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
Europe		
British Pound	0.391728	0.406828
Czech Korune	0.004299	0.016299
Danish Krone	0.040677	0.045677
Euro	0.0327353	0.0336353
Norwegian Krone	0.031417	0.036617
Romanian Leu	0.087062	0.087062
Slovakia	0.009058	0.019058
Swedish Krona	0.031023	0.036023
Swiss Franc	0.300540	0.311540
Turkish Lira	0.096844	0.107144
Australasia		
Australian Dollar	0.218434	0.230434
New Zealand Dollar	0.205506	0.215006
America		
Canadian Dollar	0.225512	0.234512
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	0.037043	0.039793

Indian Rupee	0.004378	0.004788
Indonesian Rupiah	0.000019	0.000025
Japanese Yen	0.002768	0.002948
Kenyan Shilling	0.002982	0.002982
Korean Won	0.000256	0.000271
Malaysian Ringgit	0.071136	0.077136
Nepalese Rupee	0.002862	0.003032
Pakistani Rupee	0.002730	0.003020
Philippine Peso	0.006356	0.006656
Sierra Leone	0.000052	0.000058
Singapore Dollar	0.217647	0.227647
South African Rand	0.015171	0.023671
Sri Lankan Rupee	0.001678	0.002258
Taiwan	0.009317	0.009497
Thai Baht	0.008336	0.008886
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	0.000151	0.000251
Moroccan Dirhams	0.019378	0.043378
Nigerian Naira	0.000410	0.001045
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	0.132950	0.140950
Turkish Lira	0.096844	0.107144
UAE Dirhams	0.081207	0.082907
Yemeni Riyal	0.001372	0.001452

OOREDOO KUWAIT POSTS KWD 350.8M REVENUE FOR H1 2016

KUWAIT CITY: NMTC (Ooredoo), a member of Ooredoo Group, announced yesterday its financial results for the first half of 2016. Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani, Chairman of Ooredoo Kuwait - (NMTC) commented:

"Ooredoo NMTC generated good levels of profitability during the first half of the year, with net profit increasing by 30% to KWD 19 million during the period. We have also grown our customer base by over 2% to reach almost 25 million despite some the pressures the business faced during the period. Ooredoo NMTC has performed well during the period despite the challenges our businesses face. Ooredoo's high quality data networks, innovative services and pricing has meant that we have continued to perform well, delivering value to our customers and shareholders. Ooredoo Kuwait delivered growth across the business in a market which remains highly competitive. Growth was driven by postpaid wireless and wireless broadband customers, which resulted in revenue increasing by nearly 10% and a near 4% improvement in EBITDA.

Ooredoo Algeria produced an improved set of results despite the reported numbers being affected by the depreciation of the Algerian Dinar against the US Dollar. Increased revenue was up by 2%, against the overall downward trend of the market in a tough macroeconomic environment. Ooredoo's aggressive marketing of its data services based on its superior network quality saw the business capture a growing share of the 3G data market. Post period, Ooredoo Algeria finalized the pre-launch phase for 4G services with new Algerian network speed records during trials in July 2016.

Ooredoo Tunisia operates in a challenging economic and political situation. However, the business improved quarter on quarter despite the impact of currency depreciation on reported financials. ooredoo Tunisia maintained its market leading position with 7.6 million customers despite the introduction of mobile portability in April. Both Ooredoo Maldives and Wataniya Palestine performed well. Ooredoo Maldives had a strong six months, with revenues increasing by almost 40% and EBITDA by more than 60%. Wataniya Palestine increased customers by more than 10% and EBITDA was up significantly."



Sheikh Saud Bin Nasser Al-Thani

Review of Operations

The Group's operational performance can be summarized as follows:

Ooredoo - Kuwait

Ooredoo's customer base in Kuwait was 2.5 million at the end of 1H 2016, approximately in line with the same period in 2015. Revenues for 1H 2016 were KWD100.2 million, an increase of 10% compared to 2015 of KWD91.3 million. EBITDA was KWD21.3 million versus EBITDA for 1H 2015 of KWD20.5 million, an increase of 4%. Net Profit was at KWD2.1 million compared to KWD4.5 million for the same period in 2015.

Ooredoo - Tunisia

Ooredoo's Tunisia customer base was 7.6 million at the end of 1H 2016, an increase of 4% on the same period in 2015. Tunisia economy still suffering from slow tourism and the KWD results are impacted by the depreciation of the Tunisian Dinar. Revenues for 1H 2016 were KWD69.5 million compared to revenues for the

same period in 2015 of KWD75.5 million. EBITDA was KWD25.5 million compared to KWD33.9 million for the same period in 2015. The Net Attributable Profit to Ooredoo for 1H 2016 was KWD1.0 million compared to KWD6.5 million for the same period in 2015.

Ooredoo - Algeria

Ooredoo's customer base in Algeria at the end of 1H of 2016 was 13.4 million customers, an increase of 1% compared with the same period in 2015. The Algerian Dinar depreciated significantly compared with the same period last year, impacting the results reported in KWD. Revenues for 1H 2016 were KWD152.9 million compared to revenues of KWD168.8 million for the same period in 2015. EBITDA for 1H 2016 was KWD57.4 million, a decrease of 5% on KWD60.5 million for the same period in 2015. The Net Attributable Profit to Ooredoo for 1H of 2016 was KWD11.2 million compared to a Net Attributable Profit of KWD2.5 million for the same period in 2015.

Wataniya - Palestine

The total customer base for Wataniya Mobile Palestine at the end of 1H 2016 was 0.7 million, an increase of 11% from the same period of 2015. Revenues for 1H 2016 were KWD12.5 million, an increase of 4% compared to the revenues of KWD12.1 million for the same period in 2015. EBITDA for 1H 2016 was KWD3.9 million compared to an EBITDA of KWD1.7 million for the same period in 2015. The Net Attributable Profit for 1H of 2016 stood at KWD0.1 million compared to a Net Attributable Loss of KWD1.1 million for the same period in 2015.

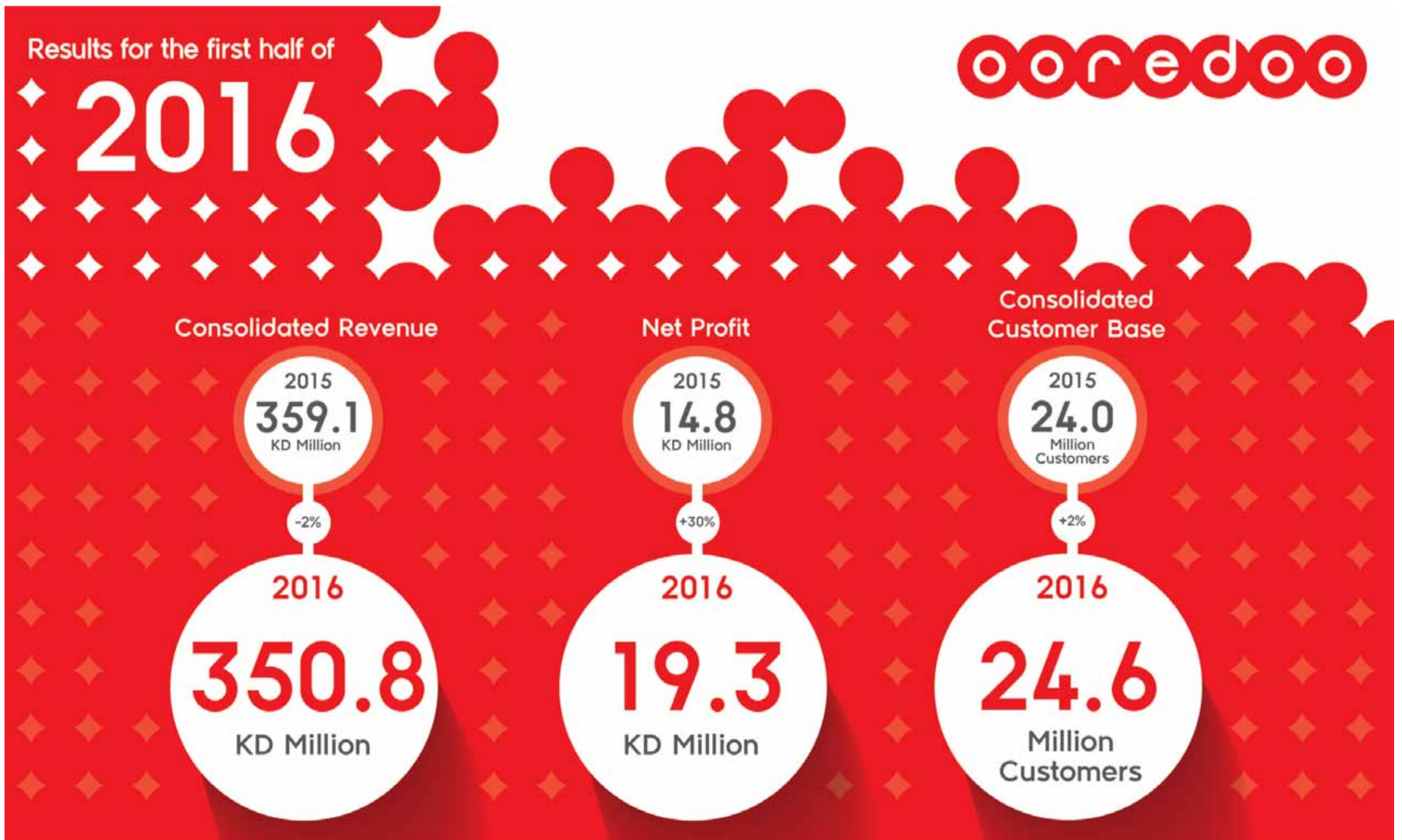
Ooredoo - Maldives

Maldives total customer base at the end of 1H 2016 was 0.4 million, an increase of 14% from the same period of 2015. Revenues for 1H 2016 were KWD15.7 million, an increase of 38% compared to KWD11.4 million for the same period 2015. EBITDA for the 1H 2016 was KWD8.7 million, an increase of 61% compared to an EBITDA of KWD5.4 million. The Net Attributable Profit for 1H 2016 was KWD4.8 million compared to the Net Attributable Profit of KWD2.6 million for the same period in 2015.



Financial Highlights:

	Quarterly Analysis			Half Year Analysis		
	Q2 2016	Q2 2015	% change	1H 2016	1H 2015	% change
Consolidated Revenue (KD m)	175.6	184.8	-5%	350.8	359.1	-2%
EBITDA (KD m)	58.9	63.5	-7%	115.8	120.9	-4%
EBITDA margin (%)	34%	34%	0%	33%	34%	0%
Net Profit attributable to NMTC (KD m)	9.1	12.6	-28%	19.3	14.8	30%
Consolidated Customers (m)	24.6	24.0	2%	24.6	24.0	2%



The Board of Directors of National Mobile Telecommunications Company K.S.C.P (Ooredoo) is pleased to announce to its shareholders that the company achieved a consolidated net profit attributable to shareholders of KD 19.3 million, translating to an earnings per share of 38.5 fils for the first half of 2016. The revenue for the first half of 2016 reached to KD 350.8 million, compared with KD 359.1 million in the same period of 2015.

The Board of Directors takes this opportunity to express their gratitude and appreciation to NMTC (Ooredoo) shareholders, customers and to all our employees for their continuous efforts.

TURKISH LIRA, SHARES ON POST-COUP REBOUND

LONDON: Turkey's lira climbed more than 1 percent yesterday as its post-coup attempt recovery continued, while emerging market stocks tested nine-month highs as a G20 vow to boost global growth helped offset backsliding oil prices. There was a broad-based rebound in Turkish markets, which sold off heavily last week following the failed coup and a subsequent crackdown by President Tayyip Erdogan. This had unnerved investors and prompted ratings cuts by S&P Global and Fitch. Alongside the rising lira, Turkish stocks rallied 2.5 percent to put them on course for their best day in more than a month, albeit a move likely to be small consolation to investors after their 13 percent plunge last week.

Murat Toprak, FX strategist at HSBC, said the stabilization had been driven by two factors: "One is that, although the situation remains fragile, it is under control, there is no big destabilization of Turkey. Also, the global backdrop is relatively favorable." Supporters of Turkey's ruling and main opposition parties rallied together in support of democracy at the weekend as deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek also gave assurances that Turkey would adhere to the rule of law.

The yield premium paid by Turkish sovereign bonds over US Treasuries on the JP Morgan EMBI Global narrowed to 327 basis points (bps) in early trading, compared with a multi-month high of 342 bps hit last week. Turkish five-year credit default swaps also

narrowed to 271 bps according to data provider Markit, having blown out to five-month highs last week. MSCI's benchmark emerging equity index meanwhile was up 0.23 percent, nudging the nine-month high it hit last week. The tick-up followed reassurances from G20 policymakers at the weekend that they would use "all policy tools" to boost global growth.

Prime driver

HSBC's Toprak said loose, accommodative monetary policy globally remained the primary driver of financial markets. "The key thing we are watching is if the European Central Bank, the Bank of England, and the Bank of Japan will deliver more - we are in an

environment where the market expects more loosening from central banks," Toprak said. Polish stocks were among the biggest gainers in emerging Europe, up 1.3 percent to a one-month high, while Hungary shares rose 0.4 percent to an 8-1/2-year high.

Russian stocks rose 0.6 percent despite a fall in oil prices toward \$45 a barrel. South African shares jumped 1.2 percent. Earlier there were gains in some Asian markets, with Chinese mainland shares up 0.18 percent and Indian stocks up around 1 percent. In currencies, China's yuan hovered near the six-year low it hit last week, as worries persisted over an economic slowdown, while the Malaysian ringgit hit a near 1-month trough amid the country's 1MDB state fund

scandal. The Russian rouble also slipped 0.3 percent, as did the Israeli shekel ahead of a central bank meeting later where it is expected to leave interest rates unchanged for a 17th straight month. Kenya's central bank is also expected to hold rates at 10.5 percent when it meets, having made a surprise cut in May.

The Kenya shilling was a touch firmer. Yields on Morocco's euro-denominated debt eased across the curve after the International Monetary Fund (IMF) granted Morocco a two-year \$3.5 billion credit line for structural reforms at the weekend. Moroccan five-year credit default swaps also narrowed to 183 bps, according to Markit, the lowest level since August 2015. — Reuters

Daily Kuwait Stock Exchange Report						Global									
Monday 25 July 2016															
Index	Change	Closing	Last Closing	High	Low										
Price Index	▲ 1.32	5,395.89	5,394.57	5,396.07	5,382.58										
Weighted Index	▲ 0.16	351.86	351.70	351.86	350.55										
KSX 15	▲ 2.19	813.90	811.71	813.95	809.35										
Trades															
Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change	Security	High	Low	Volume	Value (KD)	Trades	Last	Change
MARIN	93	93	250	23	1	93	— 0.0	SOKOUK	35.5	34.0	3469852	119,882	61	35.0	— 0.0
IKARUS	39.5	39.5	9,600	379	1	39.5	— 0.0	KRE	53	53	5,300	281	2	53	▼ -1.0
IPG	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	310	— 0.0	URC	102	100	42,700	4,282	15	102	— 0.0
NAPESCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	830	— 0.0	NRE	78	77	644,861	49,669	35	78	▲ 1.0
ENERGYH	48.0	43.5	283,802	13,293	38	48.0	▲ 2.5	SRE	360	355	6,250	2,249	2	360	▼ -5.0
GPI	41.0	40.5	1,692,649	68,645	31	41.0	— 0.0	TAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	550	— 0.0
ABAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	93	— 0.0	AREEC	138	138	1,000	138	1	138	— 0.0
Oil & Gas			1,986,301	82,340	71	794.67	▲ 2.56	MASSALEH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	41.0	— 0.0
KFOUC	170	166	105,100	17,557	9	170	▲ 4.0	ARABREC	32.0	31.5	38,786	1,224	2	32.0	▲ 0.5
BPCC	500	500	105,000	52,500	5	500	— 0.0	ERESCO	49.5	48.5	247,000	11,981	10	49.0	▼ -0.5
ALKOUT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	700	— 0.0	MABANEE	780	770	191,080	147,206	20	770	▼ -10.0
ALQURAIN	192	190	106,656	20,439	20	190	— 0.0	INJAZZAT	72	68	26,410	1,801	4	68	— 0.0
Basic Materials			318,756	90,498	34	960.54	▲ 3.51	INVESTORS	24.0	23.0	24,923,561	587,573	255	23.0	▼ -1.0
KCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	390	— 0.0	IRC	31.0	30.5	214,200	6,634	13	31.0	— 0.0
REFRI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	305	— 0.0	ALTIJARIA	77	75	141,102	10,728	11	78	▼ -1.0
CABLE	390	380	92,200	35,494	16	390	▲ 5.0	SANAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	31.0	— 0.0
SHIP	168	160	178,611	29,449	10	168	▲ 2.0	AAYANRE	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	66	— 0.0
PCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	940	— 0.0	AQAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	60	— 0.0
PAPER	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	285	— 0.0	ALAQARIA	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	24.0	— 0.0
MRC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	62	— 0.0	MAZAYA	118	116	130,000	15,280	4	118	▲ 2.0
ACICO	275	270	4,950	1,359	4	275	▼ -10.0	ADNC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	11.0	— 0.0
GGMC	300	300	8,950	2,665	1	300	▲ 25.0	THEMAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0
HCC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	130	— 0.0	TJARA	37.5	37.5	170	6	1	37.5	▲ 1.0
KBMMC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	210	— 0.0	TAAMEER	23.0	22.5	1,310,256	29,814	10	23.0	▼ -0.5
NICBM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	204	— 0.0	ARKAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	84	— 0.0
EQUIPMENT	80	56	2,302,036	193,723	115	58	— 0.0	ARGAN	152	150	10,000	1,508	2	150	▼ -4.0
NCCI	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	— 0.0	ABYAAH	23.0	22.5	2,800,954	84,322	27	23.0	— 0.0
GYPSSUM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	102	— 0.0	MUNSHAAT	57	55	2,153,553	120,542	59	57	▲ 3.0
SALBOOKH	63	61	76,413	4,750	10	63	— 0.0	FIRSTDUBAI	66	65	574,359	37,642	22	65	— 0.0
AGLTY	470	470	304,500	143,115	14	470	— 0.0	KBT	40.5	40.0	1,378,500	55,304	27	40.0	▼ -1.0
EDU	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	190	— 0.0	REAM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	166	— 0.0
CLEANING	40.0	39.5	180,000	7,118	6	39.5	▲ 0.5	MENA	22.0	21.0	10,010	220	2	22.0	▼ -0.5
KGL	45.5	45.0	14,850	673	10	45.5	▲ 1.0	ALMUDDON	29.0	29.0	258,500	7,497	11	29.0	▲ 0.5
KPC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	— 0.0	MARAKEZ	19.0	19.0	3,978	76	2	19.0	▼ -1.5
HUMANISOFT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,420	— 0.0	REMAL	32.5	32.5	278,000	9,035	6	32.5	▼ -0.5
NAFAIS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	174	— 0.0	AWJ	73	70	5,500	400	3	73	▲ 4.0
SAFWAN	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	330	— 0.0	Real Estate			38,865,982	1,285,451	607	842.12	▼ -1.34
GFC	30.5	30.5	3,969	122	1	30.5	▲ 0.5	KINV	85	83	112,838	9,577	7	85	▼ -3.0
MAYADEEN	30.0	29.0	15,601,516	457,188	129	30.0	— 0.0	FACIL	170	170	5,520	938	1	170	— 0.0
CGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	680	— 0.0	IFA	34.5	34.0	1,382,295	47,216	29	34.5	— 0.0
MTCC	58	57	574,930	32,969	24	58	— 0.0	NINV	108	99	5,030,002	520,258	141	106	▲ 7.0
UPAC	690	690	500	345	1	690	— 0.0	KPROJ	520	520	81,891	42,583	2	520	— 0.0
ALAFCO	206	206	100	21	1	206	— 0.0	COAST	45.0	42.5	4,959,917	217,781	117	44.5	▲ 2.0
MUBARRAD	80	80	50,000	3,000	1	80	▲ 1.0	SECH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	40.5	— 0.0
LOGISTICS	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	79	— 0.0	SGC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	82	— 0.0
SCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	80	— 0.0	ARZAN	33.0	31.5	580,100	18,648	10	32.5	— 0.0
GCEM	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0	MARKAZ	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	87	— 0.0
QIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	75	— 0.0	KMEFIC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	25.0	— 0.0
FCEM	75	74	520,000	38,500	10	75	— 0.0	ALAMMAN	50	49.0	508,085	25,199	18	50	▲ 0.5
RKWC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	90	— 0.0	ALOLA	52	50	342,975	17,311	9	50	▼ -2.0
SPEC	70	70	16,504	1,155	6	70	▼ -0.0	ALMAL	26.5	25.0	20,017,798	508,563	217	25.5	▲ 0.5
Industrials			19,930,059	891,874	359	1056.49	▲ 0.08	GIH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	27.0	— 0.0
KSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	170	— 0.0	AAYAN	35.0	34.0	2,877,344	98,815	31	34.5	— 0.0
NSH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	64	— 0.0	BAYANINV	35.0	34.5	619,450	21,372	22	34.5	▲ 0.5
PAPCO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	108	— 0.0	OSOUL	44.0	44.0	100,695	4,431	5	44.0	▼ -2.0
CATTL	206	204	65,000	13,360	7	206	— 0.0	KFIC	39.5	37.0	57,384	2,162	7	39.5	▲ 2.5
DANAH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	124	— 0.0	KAMCO	84	84	100	8	1	84	▲ 5.0
POULT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	176	— 0.0	NIH	58	57	20,700	1,180	2	58	▲ 1.0
FOOD	2,480	2,460	186,944	460,288	19	2,480	— 0.0	ISKAN	33.5	33.5	500,500	16,767	9	33.5	▲ 0.5
Consumer Goods			251,944	473,648	26	1196.46	— 0.00	MADAR	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	12.5	— 0.0
MHC	200	200	95,851	19,170	3	200	— 0	ALDEERA	41.0	37.5	655,036	25,397	46	38.5	▼ -1.5
ATC	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	920	— 0	ALSALAM	47.5	46.0	2,997,167	141,111	71	47.0	— 0.0
YIACO	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	240	— 0	EKTITIBAB	42.5	41.5	178,300	7,413	9	42.0	▼ -0.5
Health Care			95,851	19,170	3	1034.98	— 0.00	ALMADINA	53	51	2,940,149	152,390	54	51	— 0.0
KCIN	1,180	1,180	3,189	3,763	4	1,180	▼ -100	NOOR	49.5	42.5	1,012,000	43,282	28	43.0	▼ -1.0
KHOT	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	300	— 0	TAMINV	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	320	— 0.0
SULTAN	58	57	154,900	8,856	14	57	— 0	EXCH	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	1,500	— 0.0
CABLETV	22.0	22.0	500	11	1	22.0	▼ -1	TAIBA	0.0	0.0	0	0			

SINGAPORE TO SHAME OTHER ERRANT BANKS AFTER 1MDB

SINGAPORE: Singapore's central bank chief vowed yesterday to name and shame other banks engaged in money-laundering after a scandal involving Malaysian state fund 1MDB hurt the city-state's financial reputation. The money-laundering lapses uncovered during a 15-month investigation into fund flows linked to 1MDB are "simply unacceptable", Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) managing director Ravi Menon told a press briefing. "There is no doubt that the recent findings have made a dent on our reputation as a clean and trusted financial centre," he said.

At the time of the transactions, it was not apparent to financial regulators worldwide that the fund flows were illicit, he said, adding that clues only started to emerge in 2014 — some four years after the earliest transactions. MAS began investigations in 2015, Menon

said, declining to comment further because of continuing probes. The MAS, which regulates the financial sector and also functions as Singapore's central bank, said it would be stepping up enforcement.

While previous regulatory dealings with errant financial institutions were kept confidential, Menon said some of them would now be named in public, especially in areas concerning money-laundering and terrorism financing. "We are beginning to take a different tack because I think naming and shaming hurts them more than financial penalties," he said.

In a joint statement with the police and the Attorney-General's Chambers last week, the MAS revealed it had seized nearly \$180 million in assets through investigations into 1MDB. Half of these were linked to Low Taek Jho, a Malaysian businessman and a close family friend of



KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak speaks to members of the media after an event. — AFP

embattled Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak. It came one day after the US Justice Department moved to seize more than \$1 billion in assets allegedly bought with money stolen from 1MDB.

Singapore in May kicked out Switzerland's BSI Bank over "gross misconduct" linked to 1MDB. Swiss financial regulators later dissolved the bank for similar reasons. Singapore authorities last week also said investigations found that Singapore-based DBS Bank, Standard Chartered Bank's Singapore Branch and Swiss-based UBS had exhibited "undue delay in detecting and reporting suspicious transactions". It also noted lapses by Swiss bank Falcon PBS, saying it was still investigating them. An ex-BSI banker and another man have been charged in a Singapore court with various offences and several others are being questioned. — AFP



BURGAN BANK ANNOUNCES YAWMI ACCOUNT WINNERS

KUWAIT: Burgan Bank announced today the names of the lucky winners of its Yawmi account draw, each taking home a prize of KD 5,000. The lucky winners for the daily draws took home a cash-prize of KD 5,000 each, and they are:

1. Mohammad Arshad Lila Gholam Haidar
2. Omran Ahmed Qasem Hussain
3. Tareq Jawad Hasan Ali
4. Yasmeen Easa Naser
5. Hussain Abdulmohsen Akbar Ghareeb

In addition to the daily draw, Burgan Bank also offers a Quarterly Draw with more chances to win higher rewards, entitling one lucky customer to win KD 125,000 every three months. The Yawmi Account offers Daily and quarterly Draws, the Quarterly Draw requires customers to maintain a minimum amount of KD 500 in their account for 2 months prior to draw

date. Additionally, every KD 10 in the account, will entitle customers to one chance of winning. If the account balance is KD 500 and above, the account holder will be qualified for both the quarterly and daily draws. Burgan Bank encourages everyone to open a Yawmi account and/or increase their deposit to maximize their chances to becoming a winner. The more customers deposit, the higher the chances they receive of winning.

For more information on opening a Yawmi account or about the new quarterly draw, customers are urged to visit their nearest Burgan Bank branch and receive all the details, or simply call the bank's Call Center at 1804080 where customer service representatives will be delighted to assist with any questions on the Yawmi account or any of the bank's products and services. Customers can also log on to Burgan Bank's www.burgan.com for further information.

AL MAZAYA HOLDING'S REVENUE JUMPS BY 17.2% TO KWD 26M

KUWAIT: Al Mazaya Holding (K.S.C.P) has announced its financial results for the first half of 2016, with the company reporting a net profit of KWD 4.14million in the first half of 2016, compared to KWD4.09million in the corresponding period for 2015. Earnings Per Share (EPS) reached 6.66 fils, compared to 6.61 fils, in the first half of 2015.

Speaking after the recent meeting of the board of directors, Eng. Ibrahim Al Soqabi, Group CEO of Al Mazaya Holding, said: "Al Mazaya Holding has achieved new heights with the results for the first half of 2016 proving that our prudent strategy, comprehensive vision and well-formulated targets are continuing to drive growth across all areas of the business."

"The company was able to follow the schedules precisely and efficiently, boosting the process of sales, leasing, delivery and increasing operating revenue by 17.2 per cent to KWD25.67million, by the end of H1-2016. This is in comparison to the KWD21.9million generated over the same period last year," Al Soqabi added.

Al Mazaya's Group CEO also credited the jump in revenues to strong marketing campaigns, with huge revenues generated from sales increasing by 16.7 per cent to KWD 21.9 million, as opposed to KWD18.8 million, in H1-2015. Revenues generated from leasing activities grew by 18.2 per cent, to KWD3.6million, up from KWD3.1 million, for the same period last year. Commenting on the operational activities of Al Mazaya, Al Soqabi said that the significant increases noted in its rental revenues was due to the entry of Al Olia Tower (Riyadh, KSA) into its portfolio of income-generating projects, from Q4 2015.

Al Soqabi also added that the company continued to achieve high occupancy rates in its income-generating projects, such as the 95 per cent occupied Sky Gardens, in Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC), almost 100 per cent occupied Al Mazaya Towers (all 3 buildings), Kuwait City, and almost 100 per cent occupied projects, across KSA and Dubai. The company has also achieved revenue increase from its portfolio of properties available for sale, such as the office space in Mazaya Business Avenue. In addition, the company sold and delivered a large number of residential units in Queue Point Dubai and Ritim Istanbul, in Turkey.

Financial results

With regard to the Al Mazaya's financial results for H1-2016, Al Soqabi said: "Al Mazaya continued to grow its operational performance in the first half of the year, achieving net profits in line with well formulated targets."

He added that assets totaled KWD234million - as compared to KWD265 million achieved for the same period, in 2015, which has resulted from the handover of units in Qpoint project, which was included in the company's statement of income of H1-2016. Correspondingly, shareholders' equity amounted to KWD106.6million, in H1-2016, a 6.3 per cent growth compared to H1 2015.

Al Soqabi further clarified that the company's total short term liabilities decreased to KWD119.7million, in H1-2016, representing a 23.89 per cent fall over H1-2015 figures, attributing this decrease mainly due to the fact that company's loans are transferred to medium and long term liabilities as well as some liabilities had been transferred to revenue, with payments being received from customers after the delivery of their residential units. "Al Mazaya's success in getting its bank facilities reflects its strong financial position compared to its peers.

The company's liabilities-to-assets ratio is less than the required levels set for the Kuwaiti market. By structuring our facilities into medium and long-term maturities and managing financial costs, our periodic financial obligations have been cut," Al Soqabi said.

In conclusion, Al Soqabi said that Al Mazaya is currently studying additional investment opportunities in the region and in international markets.

The company regularly monitors the changing developments in the financial and international markets and the impact they have on the region's real estate sector.

This, according to Al Soqabi, is to examine the effect on existing projects and those currently underway, as well as to enable informed decisions to be made regarding the company's entry into new ventures. He also underlined that the company's growth in these markets will involve many strategic partnerships and joint ventures with elite investors, so as to achieve the highest returns that serve the interests of the company and investors.

NINTENDO SHARES PLUNGE, WARNS ON POKEMON GO

GAME IMPACT MODERATE AT BEST

TOKYO: Nintendo shares plunged yesterday after it warned that the Pokemon Go mania sweeping the world would not translate into bumper profits, popping a dizzying rally that more than doubled the Japanese firm's market value. The stock dived 17.7 percent to close at 23,220 yen in response to a warning after markets closed Friday that the hugely popular smartphone game would have only a "limited" impact on the Japanese videogame company's bottom line.

Markets had cheered the app's global success as a great sign for Nintendo's long-awaited move into the mobile games market. The stock soared as investors bought the narrative, pushing it above 30,000 yen at one stage-doubling Nintendo's market capitalization and making it more valuable than Sony. But analysts warned that the rally was overdone since the actual impact of the game on Nintendo's finances would be moderate at best-a point it confirmed on Friday.

Nintendo is the creator of the Pokemon franchise but the game, released on July 5, was developed and distributed by US-based Niantic, a spinoff of Google. Nintendo has invested in Niantic and owns about one-third of the Pokemon Company, which will get licensing fees for loaning out the cuddly monsters' brand. Downloading the app is also free so Nintendo and others are banking on users gravitating to paid-for services in the game itself.

While it stands to make money from a device to be used with the application called "Pokemon Go Plus", Nintendo said "the income reflected on (its) consolidated business results is limited". "The company is not modifying the consolidated financial forecast for now," its statement said. Since its launch Pokemon Go has sparked a worldwide frenzy among users who have taken to the streets with their smartphones. The app uses satellite locations, graphics and camera capabilities to overlay cartoon monsters on real-world settings, challenging players to capture and train them for battles.



TOKYO: People use their mobile phones to play Nintendo's Pokemon Go game. — AFP

'Uneasy'

Pokemon Go was seen as a shot in the arm to Nintendo-which also created the Donkey Kong, Super Mario and Legend of Zelda brands-after it abandoned a longstanding consoles-only policy and opened the door to licensing some of its characters for mobile game use. "I think Nintendo issued that statement because it was uneasy with how high the shares were rising," said Hideki Yasuda, analyst at Ace Research Institute. "There has been a view that Nintendo cannot succeed in the smartphone business. "Even if Pokemon Go does not directly contribute to Nintendo's earnings, it owns other characters like Super Mario and Zelda. These things were factored in and boosted its shares."

Yasuda added the firm's shares may rally again after an "adjustment period". The smart-

phone app has now been launched in more than 40 countries, but until last week Japan-where Nintendo started the mythical creature franchise 20 years ago-was kept waiting. Pokemon, short for "pocket monsters", has been a constant in Japan since being launched as software in 1996 for Nintendo's Game Boy console.

Authorities in a number of countries have expressed safety and other concerns about the craze. Players from San Francisco to Lagos have been warned after trespassing, including some youngsters crossing the Canada-US border. Some walked into sensitive military facilities and a nuclear power plant, while other players found themselves the victims of robbery or violent crimes. The Japanese government issued a rare safety guide warning over dangers gamers could face, from heat stroke to online scams. — AFP

AUB DECLARES PROFITS OF KD 37M FOR H1 2016

KUWAIT: Ahli United Bank announced its results and financial statements for the first half ending on 30 June 2016, following the endorsement of the statements by the Bank's Board of Directors and the approval of the Central Bank of Kuwait. The results showed improvement in the Bank's Net Operating Profit by 6% in comparison with the first half of 2015.

On this occasion, the Chairman, Dr Anwar Al-Mudhaf, said, "These encouraging results for the first half of 2016, despite the prevailing regional market conditions due predominantly to low oil prices, underscore Ahli United Bank's strength as it continues to expand its businesses." He added that, "Based on the momentum built in previous years, driven by the robustness of our balance sheet, our client base and branch network, the unique services we offer and the expertise of our staff, we will continue our success in attaining an increasing share of the domestic market through the promotion of Islamic Banking."

Net Operating Profit for the first half of 2016 has increased by 6% to KD 37Mn in comparison with KD 34.8Mn during the same period in 2015. The net profit for the first half of 2016 reached KD 25.6Mn. Ahli United Bank's profits are driven by its core businesses of Corporate Banking, Retail

Banking, Private Banking and Treasury. Operating income reached KD 53.5Mn recording an increase of 2.1%, as compared with KD 52.4Mn recorded during first half of 2015.

Dr Al-Mudhaf added, "The financing portfolio witnessed growth in all its components, reaching KD 2,774m, an increase of 3.5% since 31 Dec 2015, thereby driving the Bank's total assets to KD 3,952Mn, as compared with the total of KD 3,904Mn as at the end of 2015." Total deposits have increased from KD 3,491Mn as at the end of 2015 to KD 3,527m with a quarterly distribution of profits to depositors commensurate with the results of the Bank's operations during the reporting period. The financial statements show strong levels of liquidity and capitalization. The Capital Adequacy Ratio recorded 15.1% which is above the Central Bank of Kuwait mandatory level of 12.5%. Ahli United Bank reaffirmed its market leadership in providing consistent value to its shareholders as evident by its Key Performance Indicators. These include Earnings Per Share (EPS) of 16.4 fils, Return on Average Assets of 1.3% whilst Return on Average Equity achieved 14.1% for the first half of 2016.

The Bank re-affirmed its pre-eminent position in Islamic banking by winning the award for The Islamic Bank of the Year - Kuwait in 2016 for the

fourth consecutive year from the global specialized magazine The Banker, confirming the Bank's ability to render distinctive banking services and products. The Bank was also awarded the Second Safest Islamic Bank in Kuwait and Fifth in the GCC by the Global Finance magazine which is based on an evaluation of long-term foreign currency ratings from rating agencies and total assets of 500 largest banks worldwide.

The Bank achieved the following ratings issued by international credit rating agencies. Fitch affirmed the Bank's credit strength on the Long-Term and Short-Term as 'A+' and 'F1' respectively with a stable Outlook. Moody's affirmed 'A2' global local currency (GLC) deposit rating with a stable Outlook. Capital Intelligence has affirmed the Bank's Long-Term Foreign Currency (FC) and Short-Term FC Rating as 'A+' and 'A2' respectively with a stable Outlook. These ratings underscore Ahli United Bank's sound financial position.

Dr Al-Mudhaf concluded by saying, "We extend our thanks and appreciation to the Central Bank of Kuwait, the Capital Markets Authority and to our loyal and valued customers. I would also like to thank the management and staff for their untiring efforts to ensure the continued success of the Bank in a challenging and competitive market."



AL TIJARI NAMES WINNERS OF AL NAJMA DRAW

KUWAIT: Commercial Bank of Kuwait held the Al Najma Account daily draw on 24th July, 2016. The draw was held under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry represented by Mr Abdulaziz Ashkanani. The winners of the Al Najma Daily Draw are:-
Waleed Ibrahim Ghareeb Ali KD 7000/-
Ahmed Ibraheem A Darweesh KD 7000/-

Mahmoud Awwad Al Fantash KD 7000/-
Mohammad Ahmad Al Qallaf KD 7000/-
Tahreer Tareq Al Ansari KD 7000/-

Al Najma awards are now brighter and bigger than ever. With the revamped Al Najma account, all your dreams will be turned to reality. On top of offering the highest daily prize in Kuwait for KD 7,000, now our Mega prize draws got bigger to

reach KD 250,000. With Al Najma you have more chances to win greater prizes -

- Each KD 25 kept in your account gives you one chance to win
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for one week will give you a chance to enter the daily draw.
- Each KD 25 kept in your account for 3 months will give you chance to enter the quarterly draw.



ITALIAN MASTERPIECE: NEW FIAT 500 NOW IN KUWAIT

KUWAIT: The Fiat brand's perfect combination of Italian craftsmanship and style in a small car - the Fiat 500 - which ranks highest among City Cars in JD Power's 2016 US Vehicle Dependability StudySM (VDS) - is now available in Kuwait from Al Mulla & Behbehani Motor Company (MBMC), the sole distributor of Alfa Romeo, Chrysler, Dodge, Fiat, Fiat Professional, Jeep(r), Ram and Mopar in Kuwait.

"This is the first time the Fiat 500 has ranked highest in the City Car segment in this highly respected quality study," said Maher Abu-Shaaban, Assistant General Manager of MBMC. "The 500 has always been known for its Italian styling, functionality, efficient design and innovative technology - we're proud to now also have this dependability rating in the mix as well."

And with prices ranging from KD 6,200 to 6,600, the 500 means that Kuwaiti drivers can own one of the world's true automotive icons at incredibly affordable prices."

Beautiful Italian styling combined with functionality, efficient design and innovative technology have been hallmark attributes for the Fiat 500 (Cinquecento) - making it a timeless icon for nearly 60 years. And the latest Fiat 500 continues to deliver on these attributes with features that enhance the customer's driving experience.

The Fiat 500 lineup features the Uconnect 5.0 system with a 5-inch touch screen that enables handsfree calling via Bluetooth-equipped phones, as well as voice-command control of AM/FM, and optional navigation system. Digital music can be streamed wirelessly from compatible Bluetooth smartphones or audio players supported by a media hub equipped with an auxiliary jack and USB port that enables recharging and seamless operation of portable devices - an integrated CD player offers additional media flexibility.

Excellent Fuel Economy

For the individual who wants Italian style combined with maximum fuel efficiency, the latest Fiat 500's innovative 100hp 1.4-litre Turbo MultiAir engine ticks all the boxes. The six-speed automatic transmission with driver-selectable gear changes delivers smooth shifting and excellent fuel economy, and the driver can select Sport mode on the instrument panel for a more aggressive shift schedule and a unique throttle map for improved engine responsiveness.

Fiat 500 Lounge and 500c Convertible models

The Fiat 500 Lounge and 500c Convertible models are infused with style, technology and convenience features to make life on the go more personalized and comforting. Tailored for individuals who want their Fiat 500 to reflect their fashion-oriented lifestyles, the 2016 Fiat 500 Lounge model features premium amenities including front and rear fascia chromed accents, chrome mirror caps, fog lamps, fixed glass roof, 15-inch cast-aluminum wheels with split nine-spoke design and all-



season tyres, premium cloth seats, leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls, standard 3.5-inch TFT colour cluster display, Fiat premium audio system with six premium speakers and 276-watt amplifier and security alarm. The 500c Convertible adds an open-air experience that further enhances the sheer pleasure of driving one of the world's true automotive icons.

Fiat's successful small car formula

Like the original Cinquecento, the 2016 Fiat 500 and 500c showcase the brand's ingenuity to build world-class small cars that ignite a spirit of the times through simple design, beautiful craftsmanship and timeless value. As



a result, the Fiat 500 has continued to surprise and delight customers worldwide for more than 50 years.

Satisfying the individual mobility need for Italians and other Europeans after the Second World War, the original Fiat "Nuova" 500 became a catalyst in 1957 for the country of the "poor but beautiful" to be not quite as

poor. With almost 4 million examples produced between 1957 and 1975, the small and efficient Fiat 500 succeeded in providing an affordable, comfortable and reliable transportation solution while helping to ignite Italy's post-war economic recovery.

More than 50 years later, and thanks to its stylistic and modern technological features,

the modern Fiat 500 represents the spark of another milestone along the lasting process of expansion. And this is where its history started again. Reminiscent of the original Cinquecento, the 2016 Fiat 500 builds on the vehicle's global popularity. Since its initial launch in 2007, more than 1 million Fiat 500 vehicles have been sold in more than 110 countries around the world.

The model's unquestionable popularity is the result of the Fiat 500's great ability to deliver advanced solutions in terms of quality, engine performance and passenger comfort. In addition to success on the sales front, the Fiat 500 has earned more than 80 international awards. Delivering world-class sales and service excellence - adding value to customer relationships - has always been at the very heart of MBMC's long-term objectives.

"MBMC has a long history in serving the Kuwaiti market, where it actively works to obtain the complete customer satisfaction by raising the level of service as well as give them the utmost importance, and that by holding training courses for the team and create awareness of how good they have to deal with customers."



'PATROL: THE MOVIE' WINS PRESTIGIOUS SHORTY AWARD FOR NISSAN

DUBAI: Nissan has won a Bronze Shorty Award for its recent, highly successful activation, Patrol: The Movie, which had its global debut at the Dubai International Motor Show in November, 2015. The annual Shorty Awards, known globally as 'The Shortys', has become recognized as the social media industry's most prestigious event, paying tribute to the true talent displayed on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Snapchat and other social platforms.

The Shorty's jury members recognized the brilliance and innovation of Nissan's interactivity with Patrol: The Movie, which involved visitors to the show taking part in the filming of several short scenes to produce a movie 'trailer', featuring two secret agents - each in Nissan cars - in a desert location car chase showdown. The actor became 'Agent 23' within the trailer, as the two characters battled it out across the desert in an explosive face-off, featuring the All New Nissan Maxima and the Nissan Patrol.

David Parkinson, Nissan Head Digital Africa, Middle East and India, explained the reasoning behind the activation. "We thought long and hard about how to get customers to experience the excitement of Nissan through innovation at the motor show. This activation, normally seen in Hollywood studios or major theme parks, did exactly that, while also allowing customers to feel the amazing Nissan Patrol up close and personal as part of the action".

Renowned film directors were on hand to guide the aspiring movie stars, shooting

scenes using equipment normally used for producing Hollywood blockbusters. The resulting footage was then quickly edited into professional trailers to be shared on social media platforms, where they immediately found a worldwide audience. To complete the film star experience, participants walked out of the filming facility and onto a red carpet, where they came face-to-face with full-sized posters for 'Nissan Patrol: The Movie', having the person's photo featured alongside their name as the starring lead actor or actress. The activation received top Share of Voice at the Dubai International Motor Show 2015 with a reach of 8.4 million on Facebook, 4.4 million on Twitter, 450,000 Instagram interactions, and 3 million video views.

"Anyone who took part in this at the Dubai Motor Show would no doubt agree that this award is entirely deserved," remarks Samir Cherfan, Nissan Middle East's Managing Director. "It had a real impact, providing a rare glimpse at how action movies are made with today's technology, and it was a lot of fun - something that Nissan is known for around the world. But more importantly it was an extremely effective marketing tool, perfectly suited to social media's immediacy and global reach." Apart from making social media stars of those who became 'Agent 23', the latest Nissan Patrol featured heavily throughout. As this region's favorite full-size SUV, its inclusion struck a chord with fans of the model, helping the activation gain extra traction and more shares all over the world.

AUTOMAK WINS THE TENDER TO PROVIDE JMC TRUCKS TO MOE

KUWAIT: Automak Automotive Company, a leader in various truck services including sale, lease and maintenance of trucks, exclusive agents for the trademark of "JMC" trucks, announced that it has awarded the tender of supplying the Ministry of Electricity and Water with 15 "Half Lorry" trucks. Automak Automotive Company, at the beginning of this month, provided the Ministry of Water and Electricity with 15 "JMC" trucks having proved the efficiency of the high-performance in accordance with technical specifications.

"JMC" trucks are distinguished with Japanese manufacturing specifications and American highly safety standards and also have outstanding performance and reasonable prices. These trucks are offered for sale across 110 countries by 82 distributors as well as 485 agents around the world. Automak managed to reward the present substantial tender thanks to the high quality "JMC" trucks and its highly technical specifications in addition to competitive prices compared to the competitive products in the same industry.

Based upon its quality, (JMC) trucks gained the trust of the Ministry of Electricity and Water which pays attention to its owned equipment as per accurate terms of reference requiring high level of products in terms of efficiency and security procedures. In an unprecedented move and the only in Kuwait, Automak Automotive Company provides a warranty on all Trucks of 5 years or 200,000 KM.

"JMC" trucks are characterized by practical efficiency, strength, effectiveness and durability with Gulf specifications compatible with tempo-



rary requirements for commercial and construction works. "JMC" trade mark includes a variety of trucks starting from 1.750 tons trucks up to 6.5 tons in order to meet the needs of customers as per global specifications by providing world-class products based on the latest innovative technology and guaranteed service standards which transformed prestigious "JMC" trademark to a successful partner in the small, medium and large business.

Automak Automotive Company provides a variety of services for its customers starting with special maintenance offers for companies and business organizations from within "Automak Express" main service center in Shuwaikh and the center recently opened in Al Ahmadi by the provision of spare parts at competitive prices and all types of post-sales service up to special

line for customer service via telephone and providing all that meets their needs.

Automak rewarded the present tender which promoted strategic plans set by the company for expansion in the framework of the completion of automotive comprehensive and diversified services as one of the company's policies to provide comprehensive transport solutions that cover all sectors, including industrial transmission line, machinery and heavy equipment. In addition to the exclusive agency (JMC) trademark, "Automak Automotive Co." owns a wide portfolio of exclusive agencies for many global companies for automotive and its services including "Hercules" Tire Company, "ADNOC" oils and lubricants Co., "Landwind" Auto Passenger SUV Company, and "Higer" Pick Up Trucks and Mini Buses.

AUB ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS WEEKLY DRAW

KUWAIT CITY: Ahli United Bank held its weekly draw of Al-Hassad Islamic Saving program on July 20, 2016. This program offers the biggest prize amount to the largest number of winners. The prize program succeeded in becoming the first prize account in Kuwait compliant with the Islamic Shari'a principles. The program has been developed to fulfill the needs of the Bank customers and increase their opportunities in winning sizeable and attractive prizes in addition to enjoying the latest banking advantages that Ahli United Bank provides.

On this occasion, the bank issued the following press release: Al Hassad Islamic Saving program offers the highest amounts of prizes which amount to KD 3.4 Million per year. This program



also offers 26 weekly prizes, with the highest number of weekly winners. The Islamic Hassad Saving Account may be opened by the lowest amount to open an account, which is KD 100. The winner of the weekly grand prize in the amount of KD 25,000/- is: Abdulrahman Mohamed Al-Hajeri.

The prize program of "Al Hassad Islamic Saving" from Ahli United Bank offers a weekly grand prize worth KD 25,000/- in addition to 25 weekly prizes worth a total of KD 25,000 distributed to 25 prizes, KD 1,000 for each winner. In addition, prizes of Al Hassad Islamic saving program from Ahli United Bank offer 4 quarterly grand prizes announced in quarterly draws. Each is a "Salary for Life" prize which is worth KD 250,000/-.

In general, Ahli United Bank continues to offer innovative tools and means to meet the needs of its customers to match the Bank's long history of distinctive services which extend over 74 years during which the Bank managed to take the lead among local banks.



EGYPT: In this photo, Egyptian dentist Mark Shehata, 24, uses the 'Pokemon Go' mobile phone application while driving in Cairo, Egypt. — AP

EGYPT CLERIC WARNS, TOO MUCH POKEMON GO COULD BE DANGEROUS

CAIRO: A leading Egyptian Sunni Muslim cleric has warned against the dangers of playing too much of the wildly popular mobile phone application "Pokemon Go," adding to Mideast religious voices that have sometimes been sterner in their critique of the game. Abbas Shumman, the deputy sheikh of Egypt's Al-Azhar institute, said that the game "makes people busy with it, ignoring their main work and it might also put them in danger," but says there is no problem with people playing it in moderation if they are at home or in a safe place. He adds, "if someone is busy reading the Quran while he is walking in the street, this might make him have an accident so we would tell him not to read it this way." —AP

FAREWELL TO VCRS: JAPANESE MAKER TO SHELVES ONCE-HIT PRODUCT

TOKYO: Japanese electronics maker Funai Electric Co says it's yanking the plug on the world's last video cassette recorder. A company spokesman, who requested anonymity citing company practice, confirmed yesterday that production will end sometime this month, although he would not give a date. He said the company would like to continue production to meet customer requests, but can't because key component makers are pulling out due to shrinking demand for VCRs. Many families and libraries have content stored in the VHS format and want to convert the tapes to DVD or other digital disks.

They can do so using VHS/DVD converters, known as "combos" in Japan. Funai will be rolling out such products later this month, the spokesman said. Funai's VCR factory, which is in China, is off-limits to media coverage for security reasons because other products are made at the same plant, he said. Funai began making videotape players in 1983, and videotape recorders in 1985. The company says they were among its all-time hit products. Last year, Funai made 750,000 VHS machines that played or recorded cassette tapes. In 2000, it made 15 million, 70 percent for the U.S. market, according to the company, based in Osaka, central Japan.

Other products have also grown outdated with the advance of digital and other technology. That includes film cameras and floppy disks once used to store computer content, which were displaced by smaller memory devices with larger capacity and by cloud storage. Owners of VCRs are not as emotionally attached to their machines as are owners of Sony Corp's discontinued robotic dog Aibo, or the Boombox, the portable cassette player, with its deeply resonating speakers and cool designs, said Nobuyuki Norimatsu, nicknamed "Aibo doctor," of A-Fun, a company of engineers who do repairs for discontinued electronics goods.

Still, many VCR owners want to dub their videos on their own, rather than sending them to outside companies, because the content is so personal, he said. "To give up on keeping such records is like denying the history of humankind," said Norimatsu. "Production ending is going to present problems for some people." Panasonic Corp withdrew from making VCRs several years ago, making Funai the only manufacturer. Funai will continue selling VCRs through its subsidiary until inventory runs out and will provide maintenance services as long as it can, the company spokesman said. Videotapes can still be converted using VHS-DVD recorder-players made by other, mostly Chinese, companies. Secondhand products abound in Tokyo's electronics district as well.

But a time may come when all such options also disappear. But many are shrugging off the VCR's disappearance as inevitable. "I think only hard-core fans of old machines are going to be using VCRs," said Isao Tokuhashi, author of "My Eyes Tokyo," a book about newsmakers in Japan. Like most people, Tokuhashi invested hours 10 years ago to transfer video he wanted to keep to DVD, and these days stores video in his iPhone and computer. He no longer owns a TV and hasn't recorded any shows recently, he added. "None of my friends still has one," Tokuhashi said of the VCR. —AP



JAPAN: In this photo, a sales clerk shows high quality VHS video cassette recorders at a home and electrical appliance store in Osaka. — AP

'POKEMON GO' PLAYERS STUMBLE ON HIDDEN HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

'HOPEFULLY PEOPLE WILL READ THE HISTORICAL MARKERS'

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island: Historical markers have long dotted the landscape, often barely noticed by passers-by - until they became treasure-filled stops this month on the "Pokemon Go" trail. Players hunting for fictional creatures on their smartphones are now visiting real-life memorial plaques, statues, mosaics and landmarks, ranging from a Civil War battlefield in Chancellorsville, Virginia, to a Hells Angels clubhouse on New Zealand's North Island.

Some don't bother to linger at these Pokestops, staying just long enough to stock up on the virtual balls they'll use to bank and capture the next Pokemon. But for others, the GPS-powered "augmented reality" game is heightening awareness of the history and geography of their neighborhoods. "Before I was just going from Point A to Point B, but now I'm learning things," said 15-year-old Jaiden Cruz as he walked by a plaque Wednesday in downtown Providence, Rhode Island, marking where Abraham Lincoln spoke at an old railroad hall in 1860.

The plaque is a Pokestop, and shortly before Cruz arrived, another player dropped a "lure module" that attracts Pokemon to the site. The 380-year-old city abounds with Pokestops, including the nation's oldest Baptist church - founded by religious dissident Roger Williams in 1638 - and a stone marking where French troops camped during the Revolutionary War. "It gets you to learn about your surroundings," said 59-year-old Cheryl DiMarzio, who on the advice of her daughter ventured into an urban park to capture an owl-like Pidgey and some purple rodent Rattatas. "Different landmarks, the statues and historical places."

Pokestops

How such markers became the backbone of the wildly popular video game that launched this month is a story that goes back at least five years, when tech giant Google signed a licensing agreement to use The Historical Marker Database, a volunteer-run website that has tracked the geographic coordinates of more than 80,000 historical markers around the world, most of them in the United States.

J J Prats, founder and publisher of the Virginia-based marker database, said many but not all the Pokestops and Pokemon gyms - where players send their creatures into battle - are from his website. He's thrilled. "Hopefully people will take their eyes off the phone and read the historical markers," Prats said.

The game has delighted Anthony Golding, a middle school history teacher in Tupelo, Mississippi, who is looking forward to incorporating Pokestops into his curriculum in the fall. He has replenished his Pokemon wares where the Civil War's Battle of Tupelo was fought, at monuments to Civil Rights Movement figures, and at a pedestal that holds the Tupelo Meteorite.

But Elvis Presley holds the monopoly on Tupelo's Pokestops, from his birthplace to the Main Street store where he got his first guitar. "Pretty much every Elvis landmark has a



BOSTON: In this photo, a 'Pokemon Go' player shows his mobile phone while walking through the Boston Common, outside the Massachusetts Statehouse in Boston. — AP

Pokestop devoted to it," Golding said. Prats said his website's views have quadrupled since the game launched, possibly because gamers are looking to get ahead and find new stops.

Bogus

His editors in recent days have had to strike down a rash of "bogus" submissions for markers that have no historical significance but that he suspects might be near where players live or where businesses are hoping for foot traffic, he said. Game maker Niantic Labs, which began as an internal Google start-up, originally used the markers for its earlier game, Ingress, which attracted a smaller but dedicated community when it launched in 2012.

Niantic, which spun off from Google last year, did not respond to emails seeking comment about its "Pokemon Go" locations. But the Ingress website gives clues about how the Pokestops were created. Before closing off submissions, Ingress invited its users to identify new locations for "portals," real-life places of cultural significance that gamers try to cap-

ture and connect on the Ingress app.

The company sought spots "with a cool story, a place in history or educational value" or a "cool piece of art or unique architecture." It prized libraries and little-known gems, and welcomed places of worship because they are "a nod to the otherworldly" that amplified the game's mysterious tone.

Ingress player John Jannotti, who teaches computer science at Brown University, said he began stumbling upon the hidden history of his Providence neighborhood, including obscure stone markers showing the location of race riots where white mobs attacked black residents in the early 19th century. He even submitted some portals of his own.

Now, those markers are Pokestops attracting a whole new community. Golding, the teacher, said he frequently runs into his students in downtown Tupelo while playing the game. "It's probably more about the game for them right now," Golding said. "After the newness kind of wears off, we can start to have those conversations about the historical significance behind those Pokestops." —AP



EGYPT: This handout photo, courtesy of Solar Impulse, shows technicians preparing the Solar Impulse 2, the solar powered plane, at Cairo's International Airport in Egypt. — AFP

SOLAR PLANE NEARS END OF HISTORIC WORLD TRIP

'A REMARKABLE JOURNEY ACROSS 4 CONTINENTS, 2 OCEANS AND 3 SEAS'

ABU DHABI: Solar Impulse 2 was yesterday approaching the end of its epic bid to become the first sun-powered airplane to circle the globe without a drop of fuel to promote renewable energy. When the experimental aircraft touches down in Abu Dhabi in the early hours of Tuesday it will cap a remarkable 42,000-kilometre journey across four continents, two oceans and three seas. With Swiss explorer and project director Bertrand Piccard in the cockpit, the plane is due to land at Al-Bateen Executive Airport in the UAE capital where it launched its tour on March 9, 2015.

Yesterday Solar Impulse 2 was flying over the Saudi desert north of Riyadh, heading towards the Gulf. "After a turbulent night from extreme high temperatures, the sun rose above a desert of sand dunes above Saudi Arabia," Piccard said on Twitter. Dubbed the "paper plane," Solar Impulse 2 is circumnavigating the globe in stages, with 58-year-old Piccard and his compatriot Andre Borschberg taking turns at the controls of the single-seat aircraft. It took off from Cairo on its final leg early on Sunday, having previously crossed Asia, North America, Europe, and North Africa.

Borschberg, 63, smashed the record for the longest uninterrupted journey in aviation history with the 8,924-kilometre flight between Nagoya, Japan and Hawaii that lasted 118 hours. No heavier than a car but with the wingspan of a

Boeing 747, the four-engine battery-powered aircraft relies on around 17,000 solar cells embedded in its wings. Its broad wings and light weight make it particularly sensitive to turbulence. The plane has clocked an average speed of 80 kilometers an hour.

'Achieve the impossible'

The pilots use oxygen tanks to breathe while at high altitude and wear suits specially designed to cope with the extreme conditions. They must withstand temperatures inside the tiny cockpit ranging from minus 20 degrees C to plus 35 degrees C. The plane, equipped with a parachute and life raft in case of an accident, flew at an altitude exceeding 30,000 feet (9,144 metres) over Saudi Arabia on Sunday.

Piccard has said he launched the project in 2003 to show that renewable energy "can achieve the impossible." His dream looks set to come true but it took much longer than planned. The bid was initially expected to last five months, including 25 days of actual flying. But the aircraft was grounded in July last year when its solar-powered batteries suffered problems halfway through the trip.

The project has also been beset by bad weather conditions and illness which forced Piccard to delay the final leg. While in the air, the pilot is constantly in contact with the mission con-

trol centre in Monaco, where a team of weathermen, mathematicians and engineers monitor the route and prepare flight strategies. "It's a project for energy, for a better world," were Piccard's last words to journalists in Cairo before taking off.

'Flying laboratory'

A psychiatrist who made the first non-stop balloon flight around the world in 1999, Piccard had warned that the last leg of the Solar Impulse 2 tour would be difficult due to the high temperatures. "It's been two hours now I'm flying into high up and down drafts. And I can't even drink. It's really exhausting..." he tweeted on Sunday. Speaking to the BBC from the cockpit, Piccard described the final stage as a "fantastic moment" and likened the plane to a "flying laboratory".

"We are testing all these new, clean and modern technologies in order to fly with an endless endurance," he said. While the pilots do not expect commercial solar-powered planes any time soon, they hope the project will help spur wider progress in clean energy. "We have new insulation material, new LED lamps, we have new extremely light carbon fiber structures... All this can be used now on the ground," dividing "by two the energy consumption and therefore the CO2 emissions of the world," Piccard said. "It's a complete revolution in the protection of the environment." — AFP

CHINA HALTS ORIGINAL NEWS REPORTING BY NON-STATE MEDIA

LOS ANGELES: China has ordered the halting of news reporting by online media. Companies in the online and mobile sectors have been told to disband their reporting teams and instead carry only news content supplied by state-controlled media firms. The order is understood to have come from the Cyberspace Administration of China. Firms that received identically worded letters include Tencent, Sohu, Sina and NetEase, according to a report by Bloomberg.

State-owned publication The Paper reported Sunday that unregulated original news has "seriously violated" internet news policy and has had "huge negative effects." The move represents yet another measure to limit freedom of the press and opinion in the world's most populous country. Earlier this month the CAS told China's online media that they would not be allowed to use social media as sources for their stories unless items were verified with state sources. In February this year, China's President Xi Jinping toured state media and explained that they exist to serve the Communist Party. He said "the media bears the Party surname," and must

"speak for the Party and its propositions and protect the Party's authority and unity." China already operates wide-ranging controls over traditional media and prevents the direct operation within China of many foreign media operations. It also employs thousands of staff to police social media. Media regulators have spent recent years trying to catch up with changing technology and extending their reach into the newer, more popular and more mobile forms of communication.

Recent crackdowns have limited the import of foreign content on China's streaming video platforms, increased the censorship burden on imported series for online media and have largely banned foreign formats from being broadcast by TV channels in primetime slots. Commentators argue that the reasons for China's growing centralization of media and information include fear of dissent and disunity sparked by economic slowdown, as well as the silencing of political opponents ahead of the 2017 Communist Party congress. —Reuters

MOSCOW CITY LAUNCHES APP INSPIRED BY 'POKEMON GO'

MOSCOW: The Moscow City Hall has launched a new app based on the hit smartphone game "Pokemon Go" where users can "catch" famous Russian historical figures. The City Hall said in a statement yesterday that the app would be available next month and should encourage Muscovites to get outside more.

The virtual reality game provisionally named "Get to Know Moscow. Photo" allows players to search for national icons such as Peter the Great, Ivan the Terrible, legendary poet Alexander Pushkin, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin and Soviet rock star Viktor Tsoi. When found, players will be able to use the "selfie" function to photograph themselves with the famous characters. —AP

THE END OF THE RAT RACE? NEW ZEALAND AIMS TO BECOME RAT FREE

WELLINGTON, New Zealand: Their abilities to travel, multiply and spread disease have always made rats one of mankind's greatest pests. New Zealand says it's time to wipe them out. Every last one of them. Prime Minister John Key yesterday announced an ambitious plan to completely rid the South Pacific nation of rats and some other nuisance animals, including possums and stoats, by the year 2050.

The government is hoping a rat-free countryside will give a boost to native birds, including the iconic kiwi. Many bird species are threatened with extinction because rats and

other pests feast on their eggs and compete with them for food. New Zealand is hoping to build on its success in eradicating rats from several of its smaller islands. However, some scientists caution the goal, while laudable, will be extremely difficult to achieve in a nation that's similar in size to the United Kingdom.

Speaking from a wildlife sanctuary in Wellington, Key said the goal would require the help of everyone from philanthropists to indigenous Maori tribes. "This is the most ambitious conservation project attempted anywhere in the world, but we believe if we all work together as a country we can

achieve it," he said. He said the government would initially contribute 28 million New Zealand dollars (\$20 million) over four years toward setting up a company to run the program, and would consider partially matching money contributed by local councils and businesses.

Fantastic challenge

Key acknowledged the goal would only be achieved with scientific advances. New Zealand's Department of Conservation has eradicated rats from several small islands using traps, poisons and baits. And it has also

intensively managed some areas on the main islands to make them safer for native birds. But it would require a massive escalation of those efforts to completely wipe out the pests. Ecologist James Russell, from the University of Auckland, has written about the idea before. "I really do think it's possible," he said. "It will require people working in every nook and corner of the country." He said getting rid of the pests would make a huge difference to the health of native flora and fauna. New Zealand is unusual in that its native animals are mainly birds, some of which became flightless over time. When humans

arrived and brought rats, the rodents had few predators. Jacqueline Beggs, another ecologist from the university, said eliminating pests from small, uninhabited islands was one thing, but getting everybody from farmers to anti-government types to agree on the idea would prove much more difficult, if not impossible. "It's definitely a fantastic challenge," she said. "It will really stretch the boundaries." Beggs said she also worries the goal could distract from other important environmental issues and could even create new problems, such as an explosion in the population of mice. —AP



SINGAPORE: A gentle creature which can grow to up to 4.5 meters (15 feet) in length, manatees' natural habitats are warm coastal waters, mangrove swamps and estuaries where they graze on plants. — AFP

MANATEES HEAD TO CARIBBEAN IN FIRST EVER REPOPULATION SCHEME

SINGAPORE: Singapore's zoo said yesterday it will send two manatees to Guadeloupe as part of the world's first repopulation program for the animal, which became extinct on the French Caribbean island in the early 20th century. Males Kai, seven, and Junior, six, will be the first manatees which are also known as sea cows-on the island since the species died out. Another 13 manatees of both genders from zoos around the world will follow the pair to the Grand Cul-de-Sac Marin, a 15,000 hectare (37,000 acre) protected bay, the Asian city-state's zoo operator said.

Any offspring from the group will be reintroduced into the wild as part of the repopulation program. The species is listed as "vulnerable" on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species, with the West Indian variety becoming extinct in the Caribbean

due to overhunting. During the 30-hour journey, the mammals, from the River Safari park next to Singapore's main zoo, will be placed on canvases in custom-built open-top crates lined with thick sponge and periodically sprayed with water to keep their skin moist.

"We have been very successful in breeding manatees in our care for the past 20 years. We are very happy that this success will now contribute to restocking part of the species' historic range in the Caribbean where it has been extinct for the past century," Cheng Wen-Haur, deputy chief executive of zoo operator Wildlife Reserves Singapore, said in a statement. A gentle creature which can grow to up to 4.5 meters in length, the manatee's natural habitats are warm coastal waters, mangrove swamps and estuaries where they graze on plants. —AFP

MALARIA DRUG MAY HELP IN CANCER FIGHT: STUDY

LONDON: An off-patent malaria drug could help to destroy cancer cells by making them more susceptible to radiotherapy, according to early work that has prompted British scientists to start a clinical trial. Researchers reported yesterday that atovaquone boosted oxygen levels in tumor cells in mice, making radiotherapy more effective against a range of cancer types, including lung, bowel, brain and head and neck cancer.

Cancer cells with low oxygen levels are more difficult to treat with radiotherapy and are more likely to spread to other parts of the body. "We have now started a clinical trial ... to see if we can show the same results in cancer patients," said lead researcher Gillies McKenna of the Cancer Research UK Radiation Research Centre in Oxford. "We hope that this existing low-

cost drug will mean that resistant tumours can be re-sensitised to radiotherapy. And we're using a drug that we already know is safe." His team's findings were published in the journal Nature Communications.

The idea of repurposing existing drugs to fight cancer is gaining traction as scientists realize that older medicines can sometimes complement other therapies.

The fact that such drugs are already off patent means they are cheap, but the lack of patent protection is also a potential problem because drug companies investing in late-stage research have less certainty of a commercial payback. Atovaquone is used to both treat and prevent malaria. It is usually prescribed to travelers as Malarone, a combination of atovaquone and proguanil developed by GlaxoSmithKline. — Reuters

NASA'S NEW MISSION: IMPROVING FOOD SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

DAKAR: A drive by NASA to stream climate data to West African nations using its earth-observing satellites could boost crop production in a region hit hard by climate change, experts say. NASA last week launched a hub in Niger's capital Niamey that will use space-based observations to improve food security and better manage natural disasters, said Dan Irwin, manager of the SERVIR project, named after the Spanish word meaning "to serve".

The project, which will cover Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal and Niger, is one of four regional hubs worldwide, funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the US Agency for International Development (USAID). "The model is demand driven," said Irwin, who describes SERVIR's vision as "connecting space to village". NASA performed a study in the region two years ago and found that governments either did not have good data, or were not using it, he added. The Sahel is one of the most vulner-

able regions in the world to climate change, where rising temperatures and increasingly erratic rainfall are wreaking havoc on farmers, disrupting food production, and fueling widespread hunger and malnutrition. "The whole livelihood along the Sahel depends on a few main crops, namely millet and sorghum," UN World Food Program analyst Matthieu Tockert told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "These crops are highly dependent on rainfall, so any data that allows for proper forecasts is key," Tockert said.

Farmers in Senegal say that traditional methods of predicting the weather are no longer reliable. A program launched last month by the country's aviation and meteorology agency aims to solve the problem by sending texts to farmers. "There is an immediate need to connect available science and technology to development solutions in West Africa," said Alex Deprez, director of USAID's West Africa regional office. — Reuters

SOUTH AFRICA'S GREAT WHITE SHARKS COULD DIE OUT: STUDY

CAPE TOWN: South Africa's great white sharks could die out due to human interference, ocean pollution and a limited gene pool, a new study released yesterday showed. There are 350-520 great white sharks left off the South African coast, 50 percent fewer than previously thought, according to a six year study carried out mainly in Gansbaai, a shark hotspot 160 kilometers from Cape Town. "South Africa's white sharks faced a rapid decline in the last generation and their numbers might already be too low to ensure their survival," said Sara Andreotti, research leader and marine biologist at the University of Stellenbosch.

Scientists say there are still thousands of great white sharks off the coast of Australia, Canada and the east coast of the United States. Thousands of tourists travel to South Africa's Western Cape each year to catch a glimpse of the ocean's top predator from underwater cages, but human interaction has made the largest contribution to declining local shark numbers. Shark nets used to protect swimmers and surfers killed more than 1,000 great whites off the Durban coast in the 30 years up to 2008, while trophy hunting and pollution also killed off large numbers of a species which can trace its lineage back 14 million years. — Reuters

WATCH FOR BEHAVIOR CHANGES FOR CLUES OF DEMENTIA ONSET

'IT'S IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT NOT EVERYTHING'S FORGETFULNESS'

WASHINGTON: Memory loss may not always be the first warning sign that dementia is brewing - changes in behavior or personality might be an early clue. Researchers on Sunday outlined a syndrome called "mild behavioral impairment" that may be a harbinger of Alzheimer's or other dementias, and proposed a checklist of symptoms to alert doctors and families. Losing interest in favorite activities? Getting unusually anxious, aggressive or suspicious? Suddenly making crude comments in public?

"Historically those symptoms have been written off as a psychiatric issue, or as just part of aging," said Dr Zahinoor Ismail of the University of Calgary, who presented the checklist at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Toronto. Now, "when it comes to early detection, memory symptoms don't have the corner on the market anymore," he said. Alzheimer's, the most common form of dementia, affects more than 5 million people in the US, a number growing as the population ages. It gradually strips people of their memory and the ability to think and reason. But it creeps up, quietly ravaging the brain a decade or two before the first symptoms become noticeable.

Early memory problems called "mild cognitive impairment," or MCI, can raise the risk of later developing dementia, and worsening memory often is the trigger for potential patients or their loved ones to seek medical help. It's not uncommon for people with dementia to experience neuropsychiatric symptoms, too - problems such as depression or "sundowning," agitation that occurs at the end of the day - as the degeneration spreads into brain regions responsible for more than memory. And previous studies have found that people with mild cognitive impairment are at greater risk of decline if they also suffer more subtle behavioral symptoms.

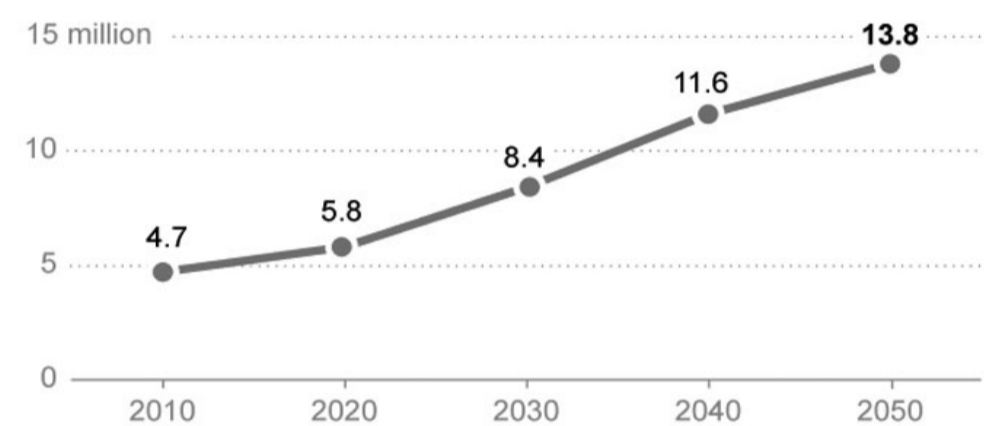
What's new

The concept of pre-dementia "mild behavioral impairment," or MBI, a term that describes specific changes in someone's prior behavior that might signal degeneration is starting in brain regions not as crucial for memory, he said. Ismail is part of an Alzheimer's Association committee tapped to draft a checklist of the symptoms that qualify - new problems that linger at least six months, not temporary symptoms or ones explained by a clear mental health diagnosis or other issues such as bereavement, he stressed.

They include apathy, anxiety about once routine events, loss of impulse control, flaunting social norms, loss of interest in food. He even cites extreme cases, like a 68-year-old who started using cocaine before anyone noticed her memory trouble. If validated, the checklist could help doctors better identify people at risk of brewing

Alzheimer's cases

The number of elderly people in the U.S. with Alzheimer's disease is projected to nearly triple by 2050:



WASHINGTON: Graphic shows projection for number of people in US with Alzheimer's disease. — AP

Alzheimer's and study changes over time.

"It's important for us to recognize that not everything's forgetfulness," said Dr Ron Petersen, the Mayo Clinic's Alzheimer's research chief. He wasn't involved in developing the behavior checklist but said it could raise awareness of the neuropsychiatric link with dementia. Technology specialist Mike Belleville of Douglas, Massachusetts, thought stress was to blame when he found himself getting easily frustrated and angry. Normally patient, he began snapping at co-workers and rolling down his window to yell at other drivers, "things I'd never done before," Belleville said.

The final red flag was a heated argument with his wife, Cheryl, who found herself wondering, "Who is this person?" When Mike Belleville didn't remember the strong words the next morning, the two headed straight for a doctor. Physicians tested for depression and a list of other suspects. Eventually Belleville, now 55, was diagnosed with an early-onset form of dementia - and with medication no longer gets angry so easily, allowing him to volunteer his computer expertise. "If you see changes, don't take it lightly and assume it's stress," Cheryl Belleville advised.

Brain training

Complex jobs that require working with people may help the brain build resilience against dementia, what's called "cognitive reserve," University of Wisconsin researchers reported.

The team tested 284 adults in late middle-age whose brain scans showed changes that have been linked to an increased risk of Alzheimer's. Comparing their cognitive ability and their careers, the researchers found those who worked primarily with people, rather than objects or data, functioned better even if brain scans showed more of that quiet damage.

Preliminary results from a study of "brain training" suggested one type might help delay cognitive impairment.

Researchers examined records from 2,785 older adults who'd participated in a previous trial that compared three cognitive training strategies - to improve memory, reasoning or reaction times - with no intervention. A decade later, that reaction-time training suggested benefit: 12 percent of people who'd completed up to 10 hours had evidence of cognitive decline or dementia compared with 14 percent in the control group, said Dr Jerri Edwards of the University of South Florida.

The figure was lower - 8 percent - for people who got some extra booster training. "It's the first hint for a cognitive training intervention like this," but more research is needed, said Dr Jonathan King of the National Institute on Aging, who wasn't involved in the new study. Take a 360 Video journey inside the brain, exploring some of the factors that contribute to Alzheimer's disease. For the best viewing experience, use a Google Cardboard and enable your Wi-Fi. —AP



MASSACHUSETTS: In this photo, water barely trickles over the spillway at Louisa Lake in Milford, Massachusetts. — AP

DROUGHT HITS NORTHEASTERN US, COULD LAST MONTHS

CONCORD, New Hampshire: At Lavoie's Farm in New Hampshire, beans and corn haven't broken through the ground yet and fields of strawberries are stunted. The drought that has taken hold in the Northeast is especially felt at John Lavoie's farm in Hollis, presenting him with some tough choices. Irrigation ponds are drying up, forcing him to choose between tomatoes and berries or apple and peach trees. Lavoie decided to hold off watering the fruit trees so he could quench the tomato and berry plants before they succumb to the heat.

"We need some rain pretty quick," Lavoie said. "There is just some corn that won't make it. A lot of things we would like to give water to, we can't." The dry blast in New Hampshire is being felt throughout the Northeast, from Maine to Pennsylvania, driven by a second year of below-average rainfall. Though not as dire as the West Coast drought of five-years running, the dry, hot weather has stressed farms and gardens, prompted water restrictions and bans in

many towns and threatened to bring more wildfires than usual. In the hardest hit areas of western New York, Massachusetts and southern parts of New Hampshire and Maine, it's been drier than in a decade or more. And national weather experts predict the drought will persist at least through the end of October. "The Northeast is a little bit of a mixed bag, but the bottom line is that the conditions have deteriorated over the past several weeks to a couple of months," said Rich Tinker, a drought specialist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. If there were a drought epicenter, it probably would be Massachusetts.

Risk of wildfires

More than 74 percent of the state, according to the United States Drought Monitor, is experiencing some degree of drought and almost the entire state is dry. Many Massachusetts farmers are hurting, said Katie Campbell-Nelson, a vegetable production spe-

cialist with the UMass Extension. Yields and quality are down, and irrigation costs are up. "Some farmers are abandoning crops because it's not worth the financial risk of harvesting them," Campbell-Nelson said. The dry conditions have raised the risk of wildfires in Massachusetts, said Dave Celino, chief forest fire warden for the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Typically, the state records about 1,600 wild land fires a year. But this year, it's already seen more than 1,000. Meanwhile, some wells are going dry in Connecticut. And the blueberry crop in Maine will be slightly smaller this year than the past two, said Nancy McBrady, executive director of the Wild Blueberry Commission of Maine. In New Hampshire, the Lavoies, like their farming neighbors, are spending twice as much and committing 90 percent of their labor to watering. They've instituted drip agriculture and other conservation measures to ensure every drop of water goes farther and lasts longer. —AP



CALIFORNIA: This photo provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, from a remote camera set by biologist Chris Stermer, shows a wolverine in the Tahoe National Forest near Truckee, California. — AP Photos

SCIENTISTS CAPTURE RARE IMAGES OF WOLVERINE IN SIERRA NEVADA

TRUCKEE, California: Scientists following up on a rare wolverine sighting in the Sierra Nevada set up cameras and captured video of the animal scurrying in the snow, scaling a tree and chewing on bait. They believe the wolverine is the same one that eight years ago became the first documented in the area since the 1920s. Chris Stermer, a wildlife biologist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, set up the remote cameras in the Tahoe National Forest after officials at a field station sent him photos in January of unusual tracks in the snow near Truckee.

Stermer told the Sierra Sun newspaper. Wolverines, a member of the weasel family that look like a small bear with big claws, once were found throughout the Rocky Mountains and as far west as the Sierra. An estimated 250 to 300 wolverines survive in remote areas of Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington state, according to wildlife officials.

Prior to the 2008 sighting, scientists were convinced fur trapping during the early 1900s had wiped out the species in California. Now, a warming planet is threatening to shrink the deep mountain snows that wolverines need to

den, scientists say. The male carnivore near Lake Tahoe apparently migrated from the Sawtooth Range in Idaho, Stermer said.

Same animal

Since then, the animal that scientists nicknamed Buddy has been detected more than 20 times over nearly 300 square miles, but it had not been sighted since November 2014, Stermer said. Video from the remote cameras soon provided additional evidence. One clip recorded the night of February 19 offers a glimpse of the wolverine before it scurries away. A second daytime clip captured

February 27 shows it climb a tree before chomping and tugging at a baited sock.

"When you see them on video, a wolverine is a pretty exciting species to have in California," Stermer said. "With the population we have in California, thinking that we can have a wild wolverine amongst us is pretty amazing. It really begins to restore our larger carnivores back in California."

Stermer is awaiting test results on DNA samples taken from saliva collected from the tree bait to confirm its identity. "I'm pretty certain - 95 percent - that it's the same animal," he said. If the DNA samples match,

Buddy is estimated to be at least 9 years old, Stermer said.

The life expectancy of a wild wolverine ranges from 6 to 10 years, he said. Talk of reintroducing wolverines in California has been put on hold while the US Fish and Wildlife Service considers its response to a federal court order in Montana that overturned its decision denying protection of the animal under the Endangered Species Act, Stermer said. US District Judge Dana Christensen ordered wildlife officials to act as quickly as possible to protect the species as it becomes vulnerable to a warming planet. —AP

SOUTH AFRICA'S GREAT WHITE SHARKS COULD DIE OUT: STUDY

CAPE TOWN: South Africa's great white sharks could die out due to human interference, ocean pollution and a limited gene pool, a new study released yesterday showed. There are 350-520 great white sharks left off the South African coast, 50 percent fewer than previously thought, according to a six year study carried out mainly in Gansbaai, a shark hotspot 160 kilometers from Cape Town. "South Africa's white sharks faced a rapid decline in the last generation and their numbers might already be too low to ensure their survival," said Sara Andreotti, research leader and marine biologist at the University of Stellenbosch.

Scientists say there are still thousands of great white sharks off the coast of Australia, Canada and the east coast of the United States. Thousands of tourists travel to South Africa's Western Cape each year to catch a glimpse of the ocean's top predator from underwater cages, but human interaction has made the largest contribution to declining local shark numbers. Shark nets used to protect swimmers and surfers killed more than 1,000 great whites off the Durban coast in the 30 years up to 2008, while trophy hunting and pollution also killed off large numbers of a species which can trace its lineage back 14 million years.

South African great white sharks also have the lowest genetic diversity of all white shark populations globally, making breeding more problematic and the likelihood of illness higher, the study, which included documenting individual sharks by their dorsal fins, showed. There are only 333 great whites capable of breeding in South African waters, below the 500 usually needed to prevent "inbreeding depression", the study found. "We are already in a situation where our number of breeders is below the minimum level required for a population to survive," Andreotti told reporters. Losing great white sharks, which have no natural predators, would have a knock-on effect on ocean ecology. Common prey, such as the Cape fur seal, could flourish in their absence and reduce fish numbers. South Africa helped pioneer great white shark conservation and in 1991 became the first in the world to declare the predator a protected species, with other countries including the US and Australia following suit. — Reuters

PRICELY DRUGS OVERWHELM MEDICARE SAFEGUARD

WASHINGTON: A safeguard for Medicare beneficiaries has become a way for drugmakers to get paid billions of dollars for pricey medications at taxpayer expense, government numbers show. The cost of Medicare's "catastrophic" prescription coverage jumped by 85 percent in three years, from \$27.7 billion in 2013 to \$51.3 billion in 2015, according to the program's number-crunching Office of the Actuary. Out of some 2,750 drugs covered by Medicare's Part D benefit, two pills for hepatitis C infection - Harvoni and Sovaldi - accounted for nearly \$7.5 billion in catastrophic drug costs in 2015.

The pharmaceutical industry questions the numbers, saying they overstate costs because they don't factor in manufacturer rebates. However, rebates are not publicly disclosed. Sen Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, is calling the rise in spending "alarming." Medicare's catastrophic coverage was originally designed to protect seniors with multiple chronic conditions from the cumulatively high costs of taking many different pills. Beneficiaries pay 5 percent after they have spent \$4,850 of their own money. With some drugs now costing more than \$1,000 per pill, that threshold can be crossed quickly.

Lawmakers who created Part D in 2003 also hoped added protection would entice insurers to participate in the program. Medicare pays 80 percent of the cost of drugs above a catastrophic threshold that combines spending by the beneficiary and the insurer. That means taxpayers, not insurers, bear the exposure for the most expensive patients. The numbers provided to The Associated Press reflect the total paid by taxpayers, insurers and beneficiaries.

They offer a glimpse into the volatile and often mysterious world of high-cost drugs: Catastrophic spending for Harvoni and Sovaldi - two hepatitis C pills from Gilead Sciences - more than doubled in two years, from about \$3.5 billion in 2014 to nearly \$7.5 billion in 2015. Harvoni topped the list of Medicare's high-cost drugs last year; Sovaldi was first in 2014. The FDA approved Sovaldi in Dec., 2013, and its \$1,000-per-pill price quickly made headlines. A congressional investigation last year found that

Gilead was focused on maximizing revenue, even as a company analysis showed that a lower price would allow more patients to be treated.

Revlimid, a cancer drug derived from 1950s thalidomide, surpassed \$1.7 billion in catastrophic costs in 2015, coming in second among high-cost drugs. Spending on the medication from biotech company Celgene increased by 50 percent in three years. Gleevec, a breakthrough drug introduced in 2001 to treat leukemia, was ensconced as 5th among the top ten pricey medications, with more than \$1 billion spent in 2015. That was a 54-percent increase from 2013. Drugmaker Novartis has been criticized for repeatedly hiking the price of Gleevec.

Catastrophic spending accounts for a fast-grow-

ing share of Medicare's drug costs, which totaled nearly \$137 billion in 2015. The catastrophic share was 37 percent, yet only about 9 percent of beneficiaries reached the threshold for such costs. For those patients, average spending jumped by 46 percent, from \$9,666 in 2013 to \$14,100 in 2015. "If the numbers continue to increase like this each year, I worry about how much the taxpayers could afford," said Sen Grassley, who plans to ask Medicare for explanations.

Incentive

"It may be that some drug companies are taking advantage of government programs to maximize their market share, and we need to know whether that's the case," he added.

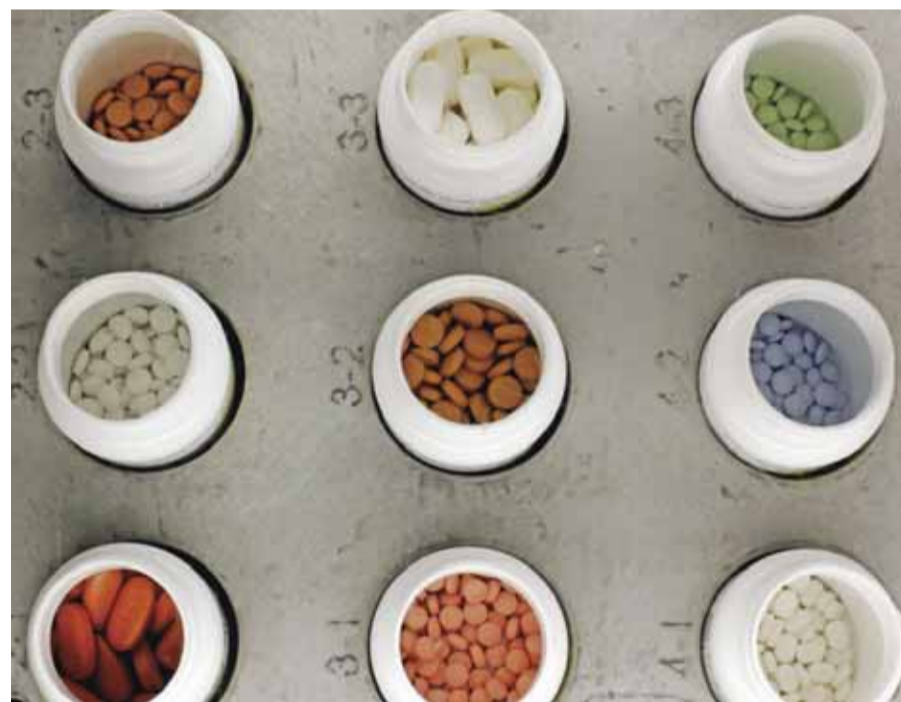
Catastrophic coverage will soon cost as much as the entire prescription program did when it launched, said Sen Ron Wyden, D-Ore. "Congress can't continue to stand idle." Experts say the rapid rise in spending for pricey drugs threatens to make the popular prescription benefit financially unsustainable. Nonpartisan congressional advisers at the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission have called for an overhaul.

The presidential candidates, as well as the Obama administration, have proposed giving Medicare legal authority to negotiate prices. The drug industry says Medicare patients are getting valuable, innovative medicines. Lisa Joldersma, policy vice president for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, also questioned the cost numbers. "I would push back on the notion that taxpayers are bearing 80 percent of the risk here because the numbers do not reflect rebates," she said.

Rebates for individual drugs are not disclosed. They averaged nearly 13 percent across the entire program in 2013, according to government figures, and were estimated at about 17 percent for 2015. Most beneficiaries haven't seen a drastic hit yet from rising drug costs, but that may be changing.

This year, average premiums went up more than 15 percent in five of the top eight drug plans, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Concerns about catastrophic costs undercut the image of Medicare's prescription program as a competitive marketplace in which private insurers bargain with drugmakers to drive down prices.

"The incentive is to price it as high as they can," said Jim Yocum, senior vice president of Connecticut, Inc, a company that tracks drug prices. Medicare is barred from negotiating prices, "so you max out your pricing and most of that risk is covered by the federal government." An architect of the program says no one anticipated \$1,000 pills. Former Medicare administrator Tom Scully said catastrophic coverage was meant to protect patients taking many different medicines over months and years. "The pricing is pretty wild," he said. — AP



NEW JERSEY: In this file photo, various prescription drugs on the automated pharmacy assembly line at Medco Health Solutions in Willingboro, New Jersey. — AP

CLINIC PAGE



Kuwait Times
248 33 199

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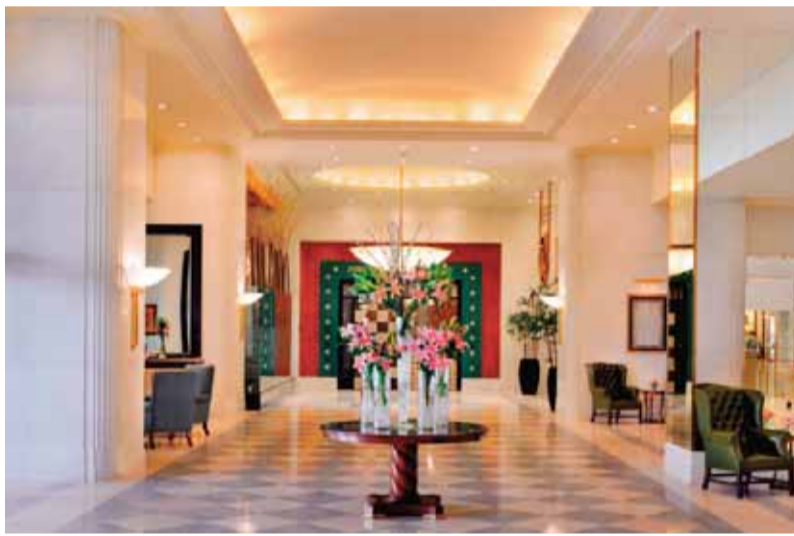
SUMMER LIKE NEVER BEFORE AT JUMEIRAH MESSILAH BEACH HOTEL AND SPA

Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa, one of the most unique getaway destinations for summer in Kuwait, invites guests and their families to make the most of the season with the launch of its special offers. The landmark hotel's ultimate stay package starts at the rate of KWD 65 (exclusive of 15% service charge) for the double occupancy in the Deluxe room.

Guests booking this package are offered a special 50% discount in the all-day dining restaurant Garden Café where the most delectable buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner are served. Children between six to 12 years old are entitled for the 50% discount while children under 6 years old are complimentary. Moreover, guests can enjoy an additional 50% discount on any beach activity available on the resort's private beach.

Children's never ending fun and entertainment continue as well in Sinbad Kids Club and the Scene Teens Club with a variety of organized activities and games.

The hotel's luxurious facilities can also be enjoyed through the Swim and Lunch day pass allowing guests an endless day of pool and beach fun in the stunning surroundings. This special promotion is available for KWD 30 per person and includes a complimentary lunch in Olio Restaurant serving authentic Italian favorites on the beachside or in Mint Café, the perfect place to enjoy refreshing cocktails, savor delicious bites and fresh salads overlooking the swimming pools. For spa indulgence, Talise, voted the Best Luxury Resort Spa in Kuwait for 2015 by the World Luxury Spa Awards, offers monthly special treatments and massages, keeping guests relaxed and rejuvenated throughout summer time. Experience Jumeirah Messilah Beach Hotel and Spa for a memorable stay with the family and an outstanding food experience with a great fun at the beach.



MARRIOTT HOTELS IN KUWAIT LAUNCH NEW OFFERS ON ROOMS AND RESTAURANTS

Marriott Hotels in Kuwait are offering their guests exclusive deals and benefits on rooms and restaurants. The exciting array of promotions include the perfect weekend escape which offers GCC nationals and residents discounts of up to 30% on rooms and suites at JW Marriott Kuwait City, Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait and Residence Inn by Marriott Kuwait City. In addition, the package also includes complimentary buffet breakfast, free WiFi, and free meals for children under 6 years old.

To add to the exclusive benefits, guests can

enjoy free access to the swimming pool and health club. Free valet parking and shared airport transfers will also be available along with early check-in and late check-out, subject to availability. It is also worthy to note that JW Marriott Hotel Kuwait and Courtyard by Marriott Kuwait have a direct exclusive entrance to "Salhia" and "Arraya" Shopping Malls, where guests can shop between an array of world-class retail brands.

A superb dining experience can be enjoyed at the "Terrace Grill" Restaurant at JW Marriott Kuwait throughout summer. The

restaurant offers certified US Angus beef and dishes like filet mignon, rib-eye steak and other premium cuts. In addition, guests can also enjoy a wide range of seafood dishes such as grilled gulf shrimps, fresh salmon and a lot more. George Aoun, Cluster General Manager at Kuwait Marriott Hotels said, "With everything from the finest dining to value-oriented hotels and ultimate shopping experiences, our goal is to offer great value for money deals and the highest level of customer service to our guests."



MEMAC OGILVY KUWAIT AWARDED MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS

Memac Ogilvy Kuwait, one of the leading multinational marketing communications agencies across the Middle East, has announced today that it has been awarded the Nissan and Renault Al Batain marketing and public relations communications business, following a lengthy competitive review. The new win is a result of Memac Ogilvy Kuwait teams' hard work and dedication in presenting a creative full-fledged proposal in line with the brands' business and communications objectives. The Nissan and Renault Al Batain win is considered to be the latest landmark win in 2016 for Memac Ogilvy Kuwait, and has resulted in positioning the agency as the only communications agency in Kuwait that retains clients from all industry segments; Automotive, Banking, Telecom, Aviation, and Retail. Memac Ogilvy Kuwait will serve as a marketing consultant to target specifically the Kuwaiti market with services focused primarily on advertising, digital media, public relations, and activations.

Makram Khater, Group General Marketing Manager at Al Batain Group said: "Memac Ogilvy Kuwait stood out against competition and convinced both group brands involved by

providing trendsetting energy in advertising and communications as a whole. We look forward to their fresh thinking as we continue growing Nissan and Renault's stature in Kuwait." Nabil Touma, Memac Ogilvy Kuwait's Managing Director said: "We're very excited about beginning a partnership with Al Batain Group.

The opportunity to market two renowned automotive brands, such as Nissan and Renault, to the Kuwaiti market is exciting. In addition to the brands' existing car-lineups, both Nissan and Renault enjoy an outstanding reputation on a global and regional scale and thus it is our job to make sure that this message is conveyed to local market segment. On behalf of Memac Ogilvy group, I would like to thank Al Batain Group for their trust and confidence in our services, hoping that this relationship will continue to prosper furthermore."

Memac Ogilvy was started by Edmond (Eddie) Moutran its operation in Bahrain in 1984. The company offers advertising, public relations, direct marketing, activation, planning and creative services to a large portfolio of clients through 15 offices across the Middle East and North Africa. This wide geographical coverage,



Makram Khater, Group General Marketing Manager at Al Batain Group

along with its group of some 500 professionals, gives the company a unique insight into different segments of the Arab markets. With its 360° philosophy, Memac Ogilvy identifies and expresses the essence of a brand and then ensures this essence is reflected everywhere the brand touches its customers.



MCDONALD'S UNVEILS ITS NEW PACKAGING STYLE

McDonald's Arabia, recently announced the new packaging roll out within the region, in line with the global vision of a modern, progressive burger and breakfast company. Giving the brand a quick refresh with the simple yet bold look, the new design will be featured on all carry-out bags, fountain beverage cups and sandwich boxes. This initiative is the latest step in the company's ongoing commitment to connect with the consumers and be at the forefront of evolving trends.

The new look and feel of the design was developed by a team of designers from agencies across the world for a culturally rich and global design. After having been introduced in US restaurants in January, the new designs are currently being rolled out across McDonald's restaurants in the region, and are set to be rolled out to the rest of the 119 international markets by the end of the year.

Sherif Coutry, Marketing Director at

McDonald's Kuwait, commented:

"McDonald's is a brand that does not shy away from trying something new. This holds true for every part of our business, from our food to our sourcing and now to our packaging. We serve millions of customers in the region, and our packaging is the one thing that virtually every customer interacts with, and we want consumers to feel good carrying it."

Not only is the packaging fun and modern, it also hopes to deliver a bigger message to its customers. The company has committed to sourcing 100% of all fiber-based packaging from recycled or certified sources by 2020. "McDonald's has a global vision to source all their food and packaging sustainably and has made significant strides in this area for more than 20 years. McDonald's has a long record of sustainability leadership action to create positive change and the new packaging design is well in line," added Coutry.



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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
Antiga	001268	Malawi	00265
Argentina	0054	Malaysia	0060
Armenia	00374	Maldives	00960
Australia	0061	Mali	00223
Austria	0043	Malta	00356
Azerbaijan	00994	Marshall Islands	00692
Bahamas	001242	Martinique	00596
Bahrain	00973	Mauritania	00222
Bangladesh	00880	Mauritius	00230
Barbados	001246	Mayotte	00269
Belarus	00375	Mexico	0052
Belgium	0032	Micronesia	00691
Belize	00501	Moldova	00373
Benin	00229	Monaco	00377
Bermuda	001441	Mongolia	00976
Bhutan	00975	Montserrat	001664
Bolivia	00591	Morocco	00212
Bosnia	00387	Mozambique	00258
Botswana	00267	Myanmar (Burma)	0095
Brazil	0055	Namibia	00264
Brunei	00673	Nepal	00977
Bulgaria	00359	Netherlands	0031
Burkina	00226	Netherlands Antilles	00599
Burundi	00257	New Caledonia	00687
Cambodia	00855	New Zealand	0064
Cameroon	00237	Nicaragua	00505
Canada	001	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

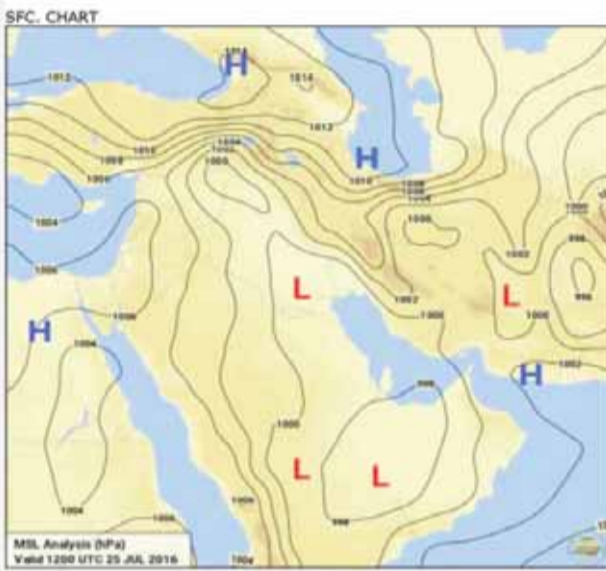


Tel: (+965) 161 Ext: 2627 - 2630
Fax: (+965) 24348714
www.met.gov.kw

Expected Weather for the Next 24 Hours
Issued 25/07/2016-19:00 LT UTC +3hr

MIN Temperature 30 °C

By Night :Relatively hot and humid especially over coastal areas with light to moderate south easterly to light variable wind, with speed of 06 - 28 km/h
By Day : Hot and relatively humid especially over coastal areas with variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly wind, with speed of 08 - 30 km/h



Four-Day Forecast

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Expected Weather	Hot + relatively humid especially over coastal areas	very hot + relatively humid especially over coastal areas	very hot	very hot
Min Temp °C	30	33	34	34
Max Temp °C	46	47	48	48
Wind Direction	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	variable wind changing to light to moderate south easterly	north westerly to light variable	north westerly
Wind Speed km/h	08 - 30	06 - 28	12 - 35	15 - 35

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	33		40
KUWAIT AIRPORT	30		42
ABDALY	27		45
BUBYAN	30		34
JAHRA	32		47
FAILAKA ISLAND	30		39
SALMIYAH	34		37
AHMADI	34		37
JAL ALIYAH	30		46
QAROH ISLAND	32		34
UMM AL-MARADEM	32		35
NUWAISIB	30		42
WAFRA	27		47
MANAGISH	28		48
SALMY	29		46
MUTRIBA	29		48

Recorded Yesterday at Kuwait Airport

Max Temp (°C)	46
Min Temp (°C)	28
Max Rel Hum (%)	31
Min Rel Hum (%)	07
Max Wind Speed (km/h) and Direction	39 SW
TOTAL RAINFALL IN 24 HR	0 mm

Prayer Times

Sunrise	05:04
Sunset	18:44
Fajr	03:34
Sunrise	05:04
Zuhr	11:54
Asr	15:30
Sunset	18:44
Isha	20:12



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-Daary	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	22636920
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 Maarouf	25713514
Dr. Pradip Gujare	23713100
Dr. Zacharias Mathew	24334282
Dermatology	
Dr. Mohammed Salam Bern University	23845955
Dentists	
Dr Anil Thomas	3729596/3729581
Dr. Shamah Al-Matar	22641071/2
Dr. Anesah Al-Rasheed	22562226
Dr. Abdallah Al-Amer	22561444
Dr. Faysal Al-Fozan	22619557
Dr. Abdalateef 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



03:25 Wildest Africa
04:15 Gator Boys
05:02 Treehouse Masters
05:49 Bondi Vet
06:36 Swamp Brothers
07:00 Swamp Brothers
07:25 Too Cute!
08:15 Bondi Vet
09:10 Treehouse Masters
10:05 Tanked
11:00 Too Cute!
11:55 Bondi Vet
12:50 Bondi Vet
13:45 Gator Boys
14:40 Treehouse Masters
15:35 Tanked
16:30 Wildest Africa
17:25 River Monsters
18:20 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
18:45 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
19:15 Tanked
20:10 Wildest Africa
21:05 Treehouse Masters
22:00 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
22:25 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
22:55 Gator Boys
23:50 River Monsters: Lair Of Giants
00:45 Monsters Inside Me
01:40 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
02:05 The Wild Life Of Tim Faulkner
02:35 Tanked

07:00 Doki
07:25 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
07:50 My Cat From Hell
08:40 How It's Made
09:05 How It's Made
09:30 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
10:20 Mythbusters
11:10 Bondi Vet
12:00 My Cat From Hell
12:50 Ultimate Survival
13:40 How It's Made
14:05 How It's Made
14:30 Dirty Jobs
15:20 Mythbusters
16:10 Doki
16:35 Dick 'n' Dom Go Wild
17:00 Deadliest Space Weather
17:25 Deadliest Space Weather
17:50 NASA's Unexplained Files
18:40 What Could Possibly Go Wrong?
19:30 Mythbusters
20:20 How It's Made
20:45 How It's Made
21:10 Deadliest Space Weather
21:35 Deadliest Space Weather
22:00 NASA's Unexplained Files
22:50 Untamed & Uncut
23:40 Ultimate Survival
00:30 Mythbusters
01:20 Deadliest Space Weather
01:45 Deadliest Space Weather
02:10 NASA's Unexplained Files



03:00 Obsession: Dark Desires
03:48 Nowhere To Hide
04:36 Nowhere To Hide
05:24 Nowhere To Hide
06:12 Nowhere To Hide
07:00 Tabloid
07:50 Tabloid
08:40 Tabloid
09:30 Tabloid
10:20 Love The Way You Lie
11:10 Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall
12:00 Nowhere To Hide
12:50 Nowhere To Hide
13:40 Nowhere To Hide
14:30 Nowhere To Hide
15:20 Love The Way You Lie
16:10 True Crime With Aphrodite Jones
17:00 Murder Comes To Town
17:50 Murder Comes To Town
18:40 Murder Comes To Town
19:30 Murder Comes To Town
20:20 Love The Way You Lie
21:10 California Investigator
21:35 California Investigator
22:00 Vanity Fair Confidential
22:50 Murder Among Friends
23:40 Disappeared
00:30 Reclaim
01:20 Vanity Fair Confidential
02:10 Murder Among Friends

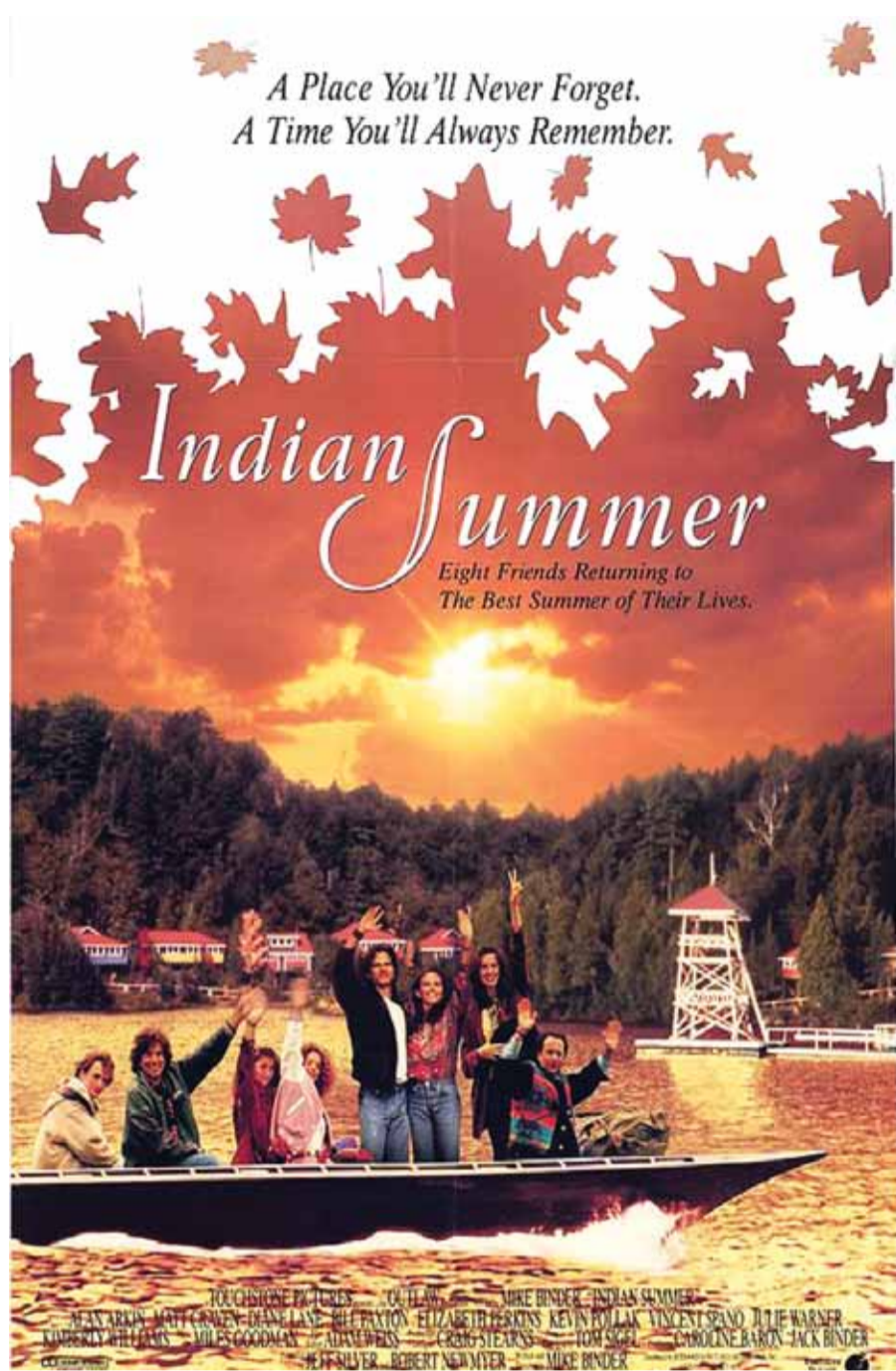


03:15 The Hive
03:20 Sabrina Secrets Of A

23:35 Binny And The Ghost
00:00 Violetta
00:45 The Hive
08:40 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:15 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
01:40 Hank Zipzer
02:05 Binny And The Ghost
02:30 Violetta



03:10 Henry Hugglemonster
03:20 Calimero
03:35 Zou
03:45 Loopydoo
04:00 Art Attack
04:25 Henry Hugglemonster
04:35 Calimero
04:50 Zou
05:00 Loopydoo
05:15 Art Attack
05:35 Henry Hugglemonster
05:50 Calimero
06:00 Zou
06:20 Loopydoo
06:35 Art Attack
07:00 The Hive
07:10 Zou
07:25 Loopydoo
07:40 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
08:05 Sofia The First
08:30 Miles From Tomorrow
08:45 PJ Masks
09:10 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
09:35 Doc McStuffins
10:00 Sofia The First
10:30 Goldie & Bear
10:55 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
11:25 The Lion Guard
11:50 Miles From Tomorrow
12:15 Henry Hugglemonster
12:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
12:55 Minnie's Bow-Toons
13:00 Sofia The First
13:30 Doc McStuffins
13:55 Miles From Tomorrow
14:25 The Lion Guard
14:50 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
15:20 Doc McStuffins
15:45 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
16:00 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
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20:00 Doc McStuffins
20:30 Sofia The First
21:00 Jake And The Never Land Pirates
21:30 PJ Masks
22:00 Mickey Mouse Clubhouse
22:30 Sheriff Callie's Wild West
22:45 Minnie's Bow-Toons
22:50 Zou
23:05 Henry Hugglemonster
23:20 Calimero
23:35 Zou
23:50 Loopydoo
00:05 Art Attack
00:30 Henry Hugglemonster
00:45 Calimero



INDIAN SUMMER ON OSN MOVIES HD COMEDY

22:10 Mighty Med
22:40 Disney Mickey Mouse
23:00 Programmes Start At 6:00am
KSA



03:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
03:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
04:00 Man Fire Food
04:30 Man Fire Food
05:00 Chopped

13:25 Emmerdale
13:50 Eggheads
14:20 Coronation Street
14:45 Come Dine With Me Couples
15:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
16:30 Code Of A Killer
17:25 It's Not Rocket Science
18:20 Emmerdale
18:45 Eggheads
19:10 Coronation Street
19:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
20:30 Code Of A Killer
21:25 It's Not Rocket Science
22:20 Coronation Street
22:50 Emmerdale
23:15 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
00:10 The Chase
01:00 Emmerdale
01:30 Eggheads
02:00 Coronation Street
02:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries



03:01 Paw Patrol
03:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
03:35 Dora The Explorer
03:59 Max & Ruby
04:07 Bubble Guppies
04:29 Little Charmers
04:41 Shimmer And Shine
05:05 Dora And Friends
05:27 Zack & Quack
05:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
06:00 Paw Patrol
06:13 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
06:36 Dora The Explorer
07:00 Wanda And The Alien
07:11 Zack & Quack
07:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
07:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
08:10 Paw Patrol
08:35 Shimmer And Shine
08:58 Dora The Explorer
09:22 Little Charmers
09:32 Paw Patrol
09:57 Bubble Guppies
10:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
10:42 Roary The Racing Car
10:52 Team Umizoomi
11:15 Louie
11:22 Louie
11:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
11:53 Olive The Ostrich
11:58 Olive The Ostrich
12:03 Max & Ruby
12:26 Wanda And The Alien
12:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
12:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
13:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
13:45 Zack & Quack
13:55 Zack & Quack
14:05 Team Umizoomi
14:28 Louie
14:35 Louie
14:40 Olive The Ostrich
14:44 Olive The Ostrich
14:49 Paw Patrol
15:01 Paw Patrol
15:24 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
15:35 Dora The Explorer
15:59 Max & Ruby
16:07 Bubble Guppies
16:29 Little Charmers
16:41 Shimmer And Shine
17:05 Dora And Friends
17:27 Zack & Quack
17:38 Blaze And The Monster Machines
18:00 Paw Patrol
18:13 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
18:36 Dora The Explorer
19:00 Wanda And The Alien
19:11 Zack & Quack
19:22 Dora And Friends: Into The City!
19:46 Blaze And The Monster Machines
20:10 Paw Patrol
20:35 Shimmer And Shine
20:58 Dora The Explorer
21:22 Little Charmers
21:32 Paw Patrol
21:57 Bubble Guppies
22:20 Fresh Beat Band Of Spies
22:42 Roary The Racing Car
22:52 Team Umizoomi
23:15 Louie
23:22 Louie
23:30 Ni Hao, Kai-Lan
23:53 Olive The Ostrich
23:58 Olive The Ostrich
00:03 Max & Ruby

00:26 Wanda And The Alien
00:37 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
00:48 Ben & Holly's Little Kingdom
01:00 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:22 Blaze And The Monster Machines
01:45 Zack & Quack
01:55 Zack & Quack
02:05 Team Umizoomi
02:28 Louie
02:35 Louie
02:40 Olive The Ostrich
02:44 Olive The Ostrich
02:49 Paw Patrol



03:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
03:48 Henry Danger
04:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
04:36 The Haunted Hathaways
05:00 Max & Shred
05:24 Henry Danger
05:48 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
06:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
06:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
07:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:24 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
07:48 Winx Club
08:12 The Loud House
08:36 SpongeBob SquarePants
09:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
09:24 Harvey Beaks
09:48 Henry Danger
10:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
10:36 The Haunted Hathaways
11:00 Winx Club
11:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
11:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
12:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
12:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
13:00 Harvey Beaks
13:24 The Loud House
13:48 Get Blake

14:12 Rabbits Invasion
14:36 100 Things To Do Before High School
15:00 Game Shakers
15:24 The Loud House
15:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
16:12 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
16:36 Harvey Beaks
17:00 Sanjay And Craig
17:24 Harvey Beaks
17:48 The Loud House
18:12 Henry Danger
18:36 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
19:00 100 Things To Do Before High School
19:24 Game Shakers
19:48 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
20:36 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:00 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
21:24 Breadwinners
21:48 Breadwinners
22:12 Sanjay And Craig
22:36 Sanjay And Craig
23:00 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:24 SpongeBob SquarePants
23:48 Henry Danger
00:12 Nicky, Ricky, Dicky & Dawn
00:36 Max & Shred
01:00 The Haunted Hathaways
01:24 Sanjay And Craig
01:48 Sanjay And Craig
02:12 SpongeBob SquarePants
02:36 SpongeBob SquarePants



03:00 Better Call Saul
04:00 Good Morning America
06:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
07:00 Rosewood
08:00 The Whispers
09:00 Code Black
10:00 Sitchers
11:00 Rosewood
12:00 The Whispers
13:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
14:00 Live Good Morning America
16:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
17:00 The Ellen DeGeneres Show
18:00 The Blacklist
19:00 Supergirl
20:00 Marvel's Agents Of S.H.I.E.L.D.
21:00 Castle
22:00 Lucifer
23:00 Better Call Saul
00:00 Rosewood
01:00 Castle
02:00 Lucifer



04:00 Reclaim
06:00 Into The Storm
08:00 The Hobbit: The Battle Of The Five Armies
11:00 Christmas Twister
13:00 Abandoned Mine
15:15 Legendary: Tomb Of The Dragon
17:30 Into The Storm
19:30 Fast & Furious
22:00 The Dead Lands
00:00 Open Windows
02:00 Reign Of Assassins



03:00 Living With Fran
03:30 Mad Love
04:00 Better With You
04:30 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
05:30 Hank
06:00 George Lopez
06:30 The Bernie Mac Show
07:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
08:00 Better With You
08:30 Hank
09:00 Living With Fran
09:30 The Last Man On Earth
10:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
10:30 The Bernie Mac Show
11:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
12:00 George Lopez
12:30 Better With You
13:00 Hank
13:30 The Bernie Mac Show
14:00 Mad Love
14:30 The Last Man On Earth
15:00 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
15:30 Dr. Ken
16:00 Modern Family
16:30 George Lopez
17:00 Late Night With Seth Meyers
18:00 Living With Fran
18:30 Mad Love
19:00 Suburgatory
19:30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine
20:00 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon
21:00 Dr. Ken
21:30 Modern Family
22:00 Ballers
22:30 Bordertown
23:00 Life In Pieces
23:30 Late Night With Seth Meyers
00:30 Dr. Ken
01:00 Modern Family
01:30 Ballers
02:00 Bordertown
02:30 Life In Pieces



03:45 Freaky Friday
05:30 Turner & Hooch
07:15 Blank Check
09:00 The Incredibles
11:00 The Santa Clause
13:00 A Far Off Place
15:00 Brave
17:00 Underdog
19:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End
21:45 Marvel's Thor: Tales Of Asgard
23:15 Underdog
01:15 Pirates Of The Caribbean: At World's End



04:00 Bubble Boy
06:00 Hope Springs
08:00 Indian Summer
10:00 Bubble Boy
12:00 Spy Hard
14:00 Garfield's Pet Force
16:00 Indian Summer
18:00 Bringing Down The House
20:00 The Foot Fist Way
22:00 Dom Hemingway
00:00 Behaving Badly
02:00 Bringing Down The House



04:30 Philomena
06:30 Walk The Line
09:00 Powder
11:00 The Horse Whisperer
14:00 Middle Of Nowhere
15:45 Reds
19:00 The Truth About Emanuel
21:00 Steve Jobs: The Man In The Machine
23:15 The Hidden Face
01:00 Powder



03:00 Cuban Fury
05:00 The Theory Of Everything
07:15 Louder Than Words
09:00 Stonehearst Asylum
11:00 The Two Faces Of January
13:00 Bears
15:00 4 Minute Mile
17:00 The Final Girls
19:00 Divergent
21:15 Inherent
23:15 Fifty Shades Of Grey
01:30 The Final Girls



03:25 Bedlam
04:15 Doctors
04:45 Eastenders
05:15 Sinbad
06:00 Doctors
06:30 Doctors
07:00 Doctors
07:30 Eastenders
08:05 Father Brown
08:55 Upstairs Downstairs
09:50 Sinbad
10:40 Doctors
11:10 Eastenders
11:40 Father Brown
12:30 Upstairs Downstairs
13:25 Sinbad
14:15 Doctors
14:45 Eastenders
15:20 Father Brown
16:15 Call The Midwife
17:10 Sinbad
18:00 Doctors
18:30 Eastenders
19:05 Father Brown
20:00 Holly City
21:00 I Want My Wife Back
21:30 Rev.
22:00 The Living And The Dead
23:00 Hebburn
23:30 Hebburn
00:00 Doctors
00:30 Eastenders
01:00 Holly City
01:55 I Want My Wife Back
02:20 Rev.



FAST & FURIOUS 6 ON OSN MOVIES ACTION



03:15 Wheels That Fall
03:40 Extreme Collectors
04:05 Auction Hunters
04:30 Storage Hunters UK
05:00 How Things Work
06:00 Alaska: The Last Frontier
06:50 Junkyard Empire
07:40 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
08:30 Extreme Collectors
08:55 Auction Hunters
09:20 Storage Hunters UK
09:45 How Things Work
10:35 Mythbusters
11:25 Man vs Expert
12:15 Incredible Engineering
Blunders: Fixed
13:05 Extreme Collectors
13:30 Auction Hunters
13:55 Storage Hunters UK
14:20 Alaska: The Last Frontier
15:10 Junkyard Empire
16:00 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
16:50 How Things Work
17:40 What On Earth?
18:30 Marooned With Ed Stafford
19:20 Kings Of The Wild
20:10 Auction Hunters
20:35 Storage Hunters UK
21:00 What On Earth?
21:50 Marooned With Ed Stafford
22:40 Manhunt With Joel Lambert
23:30 Fat N' Furious: Rolling Thunder
00:20 Junkyard Empire
01:10 What On Earth?
02:00 Marooned With Ed Stafford
02:50 Manhunt With Joel Lambert

Teenage Witch
03:45 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
04:10 Hank Zipzer
04:35 Binny And The Ghost
05:00 Violetta
05:45 The Hive
05:50 Mouk
06:00 Hank Zipzer
06:25 Sofia The First
06:50 Disney Mickey Mouse
06:55 Gravity Falls
07:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
07:45 Backstage
08:10 Bunk'd
08:35 Jessie
09:00 Jessie
09:25 Liv And Maddie
09:50 Liv And Maddie
10:15 Austin & Ally
10:40 Dog With A Blog
11:05 Dog With A Blog
11:30 Girl Meets World
11:55 Girl Meets World
12:20 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
12:45 Shake It Up
13:10 Shake It Up
13:35 Jessie
14:00 Jessie
14:25 Austin & Ally
14:50 Austin & Ally
15:15 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:20 Gravity Falls
15:45 Miraculous Tales Of Ladybug And Cat Noir
16:10 Violetta
17:00 Backstage
17:25 Alex & Co.
17:50 Girl Meets World
18:15 Liv And Maddie
18:40 Best Friends Whenever
19:05 Austin & Ally
19:30 Bunk'd
19:55 Jessie
20:20 Backstage
20:45 Good Luck Charlie
21:10 H2O: Just Add Water
21:35 H2O: Just Add Water
22:00 Binny And The Ghost
22:25 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
22:50 Sabrina Secrets Of A Teenage Witch
23:10 Hank Zipzer

01:00 Zou
01:15 Loopydoo
01:30 Art Attack
02:00 Calimero
02:15 Zou
02:30 Loopydoo
02:45 Art Attack



06:00 Boyster
06:10 Super Matrak
06:35 Super Matrak
07:00 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
07:25 K.C. Undercover
07:50 Supa Strikas
08:15 Supa Strikas
08:40 Mighty Med: There Is A Storm Coming
09:35 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
10:00 K.C. Undercover
10:25 K.C. Undercover
10:50 Supa Strikas
11:20 Supa Strikas
11:45 Kirby Buckets
12:10 Kirby Buckets
12:35 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:00 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
13:30 Mighty Med: There Is A Storm Coming
14:20 Phineas And Ferb
14:45 Phineas And Ferb
15:10 Disney Mickey Mouse
15:40 Mighty Med
15:50 The 7D
16:05 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
16:30 Pickle And Peanut
16:55 Penn Zero: Part Time Hero
17:25 K.C. Undercover
17:50 Star vs The Forces Of Evil
18:15 Lab Rats: Bionic Island
18:40 K.C. Undercover
19:05 Disney Mickey Mouse
19:10 Annedroids
19:35 Phineas And Ferb
20:00 Kirby Buckets
20:25 Gamer's Guide To Pretty Much Everything
20:55 K.C. Undercover
21:20 Pickle And Peanut
21:45 Lab Rats: Bionic Island

06:00 Guy's Grocery Games
07:00 Man Fire Food
07:30 Man Fire Food
08:00 Chopped
09:00 Barefoot Contessa
09:30 Barefoot Contessa
10:00 The Kitchen
11:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
11:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
12:00 Chopped
13:00 Guy's Big Bite
13:30 Guy's Big Bite
14:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
14:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
15:00 Man Fire Food
15:30 Man Fire Food
16:00 Chopped
17:00 The Kitchen
18:00 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
18:30 Trisha's Southern Kitchen
19:00 Chopped
20:00 Andy Bates American Street Feasts
20:30 Andy Bates American Street Feasts
21:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
21:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
22:00 Man v Food
22:30 Man v Food
23:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
23:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
00:00 Iron Chef America
01:00 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
01:30 Diners, Drive-Ins And Dives
02:00 Man v Food
02:30 Man v Food

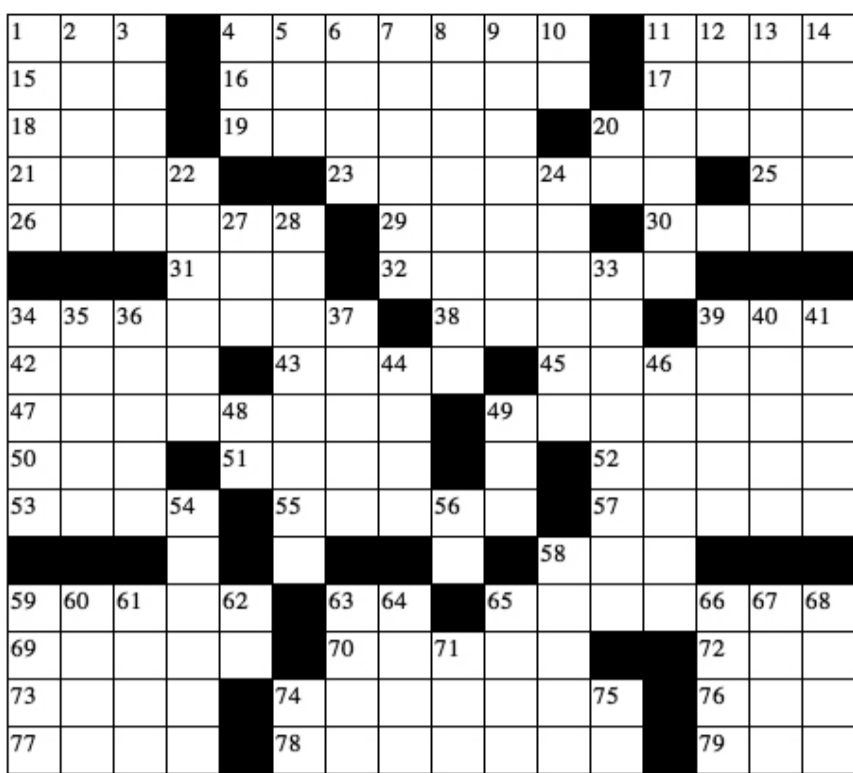


03:25 Together
03:55 Tracey Ullman's Show
04:20 Don't Tell The Bride
05:15 Come Dine With Me Couples
06:10 The Doctor Blake Mysteries
07:05 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
08:00 Together
08:30 Tracey Ullman's Show
08:55 Don't Tell The Bride
09:50 Come Dine With Me Couples
10:40 The Chase
11:35 Masterpiece With Alan Titchmarsh
12:30 The Doctor Blake Mysteries



4 MINUTE MILE ON OSN MOVIES HD

CROSSWORD 1323



ACROSS

1. The longer of the two telegraphic signals used in Morse code.
4. Walk or tramp about.
11. Wading birds of warm regions having long slender down-curved bills.
15. An inflated feeling of pride in your superiority to others.
16. A lawyer who pleads cases in court.
17. The arch of bone beneath the eye that forms the prominence of the cheek.
18. Irritate or vex.
19. A human being.
21. Wild or seedling sweet cherry used as stock for grafting.
23. An abnormal condition in which a normal opening or tube in the body (as the urethra) is closed or absent.
25. Informal terms for a mother.
26. A Uralic language spoken by a Samoyed people of northern Siberia.
29. (used of count nouns) Every one considered individually.
30. Of or relating to or characteristic of the Republic of Chad or its people or language.
31. A period of time spent sleeping.
32. A written statement of the grounds of complaint made to court law asking for the grievance to be redressed.
34. Famous chief of the Ottawa who led an unsuccessful rebellion against the British (1715-1769).
38. (Sumerian) Water god and god of wisdom.
42. Type genus of the Apidae.
43. Avatar of Vishnu.
45. A Chadic language spoken in Chad.
47. Common European grape cultivated in many varieties.
50. Black tropical American cuckoo.
51. Fleshy and usually brightly colored cover of some seeds that develops from the ovule stalk and partially or entirely envelopes the seed.
52. A long noosed rope used to catch animals.
53. The compass point that is one point east of northeast.
55. Realistic Norwegian author who wrote plays on social and political themes (1828-1906).
57. Wood of any of various alder trees.
59. A person to whom money is paid.
69. Large west African tree having large palmately lobed leaves and axillary cymose panicles of small white flowers and one-winged seeds.
70. The capital and largest city of Yemen.
72. A boy or man.
73. Any of numerous local fertility and nature deities worshipped by ancient Semitic peoples.
76. A benevolent aspect of Devi.
77. United States tennis player who was the first Black to win United States and English singles championships (1943-1993).
78. Solid and liquid nourishment taken into the body through the mouth.
79. A member of a Mayan people of southwestern Guatemala.

8. Widely distributed genus of herbs or shrubs with glandular compound leaves and spicate or racemose purple or white flowers.
9. Of or relating to or like or in the manner of the Roman Seneca.
10. Angular distance above the horizon (especially of a celestial object).
11. The striking of one body against another.
12. (Scotland) A small loaf or roll of soft bread.
13. Tropical American tree grown in southern United States having a whitish pink-tinged fruit.
14. Food mixtures either arranged on a plate or tossed and served with a moist dressing.
20. The branch of computer science that deal with writing computer programs that can solve problems creatively.
22. A Uralic language spoken by a Samoyed people of northern Siberia.
24. A derogatory term used by Jews to refer to non-Jewish women.
27. Of or relating to or characteristic of Thailand of its people.
28. A cut of pork ribs with much of the meat trimmed off.
33. A tributary of the Missouri River.
35. Speak one's opinion without fear or hesitation.
36. (Sumerian and Babylonian) A solar deity.
37. A member of an American Indian peoples of NE South America and the Lesser Antilles.
39. The cardinal number that is the sum of one and one and one.
40. Overly eager speed (and possible carelessness).
41. A state of northeastern India.
44. A master's degree in library science.
46. Of or relating to the spinal cord.
48. The syllable naming the fourth (subdominant) note of the diatonic scale in solmization.
49. (in Scotland or Ireland) A mountain or tall hill.
54. United States swimmer who in 1926 became the first woman to swim the English Channel (1903-).
56. An international organization of European countries formed after World War II to reduce trade barriers and increase cooperation among its members.
58. A ceremonial dinner party for many people.
60. A river that rises in northeastern Turkey (near the source of the Euphrates) and flows generally eastward through Armenia to the Caspian Sea.
61. Not only so, but.
62. The branch of engineering science that studies the uses of electricity and the equipment for power generation and distribution and the control of machines and communication.
63. The seventh month of the Hindu calendar.
64. Open-heart surgery in which the rib cage is opened and a section of a blood vessel is grafted from the aorta to the coronary artery to bypass the blocked section of the coronary artery and improve the blood supply to the heart.
65. A member of the Pueblo people living in northern New Mexico.
66. A white crystalline double sulfate of aluminum.
67. God of love and erotic desire.
68. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls.
71. The compass point that is one point east (clockwise) of due north.
74. Of or relating to the stomach and intestines.
75. (Akkadian) God of wisdom.

DOWN

1. Do something that one considers to be below one's dignity.
2. Be in accord.
3. A family of Amerindian languages spoken in California.
4. A protocol developed for the internet to get data from one network device to another.
5. Fish eggs or egg-filled ovary.
6. A sensation (as of a cold breeze or bright light) that precedes the onset of certain disorders such as a migraine attack or epileptic seizure.
7. The arch of the foot.

Yesterday's Solution

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

STAR TRACK



Aries (March 21-April 19)

Fresh insight comes to you through mass media—perhaps broadcasting, publishing, advertising—giving you a whole new outlook. You may not appreciate someone's methods, the way he or she gets things done. Police officers in one state are no longer required to have a warrant in order to have a brief search your home or business. You can see that this would be a situation that some would take advantage of and you may find ways to speak up and gather people together to keep this from happening in other states. You may even be stirred by the conflict. You may come to realize that part of your work in this lifetime is to provoke others into thought and reassessments or change when necessary. You will make a positive difference in your quest.



Taurus (April 20-May 20)

You may have created a beautiful backdrop for a performance on a stage or platform today or you may have created the perfect setting for guests to enjoy the day at your place or even a nearby park. Do not worry about what they do not say; look at how they enjoy the results of your preparations. Working this day keeps you busy but knowing you have company, or will soon have company, you will be creative in some way—company will notice. There will be plenty of compliments and conversations. A last-minute invitation may have you planning your next shopping trip. A friend may help guide you with a list of what you need for the event. This evening you look back on the day and see that life seems to be going your way. Enjoy.



Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You love to see young people make new discoveries, especially if you are a teacher or guide. Sports, camping, fishing or a number of other activities can be enjoyed with friends and young people soon. Perhaps you are part owner of a junior camp. You may use your talents and this time to advertise for a future camp event that the kids in your neighborhood might enjoy. This could bring them to the attention of your latest drive to help improve conditions around your city. You may volunteer to be on the "safe and drug-free schools program" at your neighborhood school this fall. You are the best person to talk with kids. You are beginning to really see that this is a time of possibilities where you can make a difference and see the positive changes.



Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This morning you may see that something you have wanted for a long time and worked toward having can be yours soon. You feel confident that you took the right approach, even if sacrifices were necessary. Adventure is the name of the game after work this afternoon... Climbing mountains, canoeing or photographing wild animals. If you are not on an adventure, you are planning one, writing about one or reading about one today. You feel exceedingly positive and that sets up a chain reaction that could best be described as luck this afternoon. This evening, if you are not fishing, a gathering of friends can be enjoyed. You could find that you are fascinated with stories of the occult or psychic realm. You have the ability to enchant others.



Leo (July 23-August 22)

You may be celebrating more than your birthday today. Gifted with strong powers of concentration, you have the ability to be an impressive speaker. You may find yourself speaking or performing this day. You are inspired and your words and ideas seem to enchant the listeners. Your sense of inner direction is good and should lead you to many opportunities. Perhaps you will consider a manager for your speaking presentations. Have a camera ready this afternoon; you never know when an opportunity to use it will occur. A list of errands may have you searching for some special item later but be careful not to shop for too long. Surprises and fun times with friends could end this very special day.



Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Looking down on water or land from a plane is where you might want to be today. You could also be traveling by car. Whatever the case you may not be on the move and wish you were. You are ready to explore or set new records with some sports activity—perhaps racecars or hot air balloons. As you reach the workplace you finalize some specific activity you may want to schedule in for next weekend and this sort of thinking moves you quickly through the week. Mass communications can also be financially rewarding in some way—you may dive into some vision of advertising, broadcasting or publishing that will help your company move forward. Finally, a run with a friend or dressing just in time for a concert makes for a happy person.



Libra (September 23-October 22)

Things you own tend to be in need of repair or perhaps it is just now that you have taken the time to take inventory and update some of your equipment. It may be time to look for a new lawnmower or a new refrigerator, etc. At work you have a lot to talk about during the break time. What do others do to repair items and do they like their lawnmower wise move would be to look for a review of whatever merchandise it is that you would like to update. You and a family member will probably enjoy an art show after work today. A quick stop at a fast meal restaurant should suffice before the event begins. You love the good communication that comes from being with a loved one and always find something new to discover when the communication is easy.



Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You may decide that your educational plans need changing. Anything connected with publishing, advertising or broadcasting requires reexamination; a change of plans or perspectives gives you the upper hand. A lack of information can hold you back—educate yourself to what is happening in your particular industry. You have a knack for communicating in a variety of ways and although today may not be a workday for you, you could find yourself completing a research or project paper, communicating using a computer or telephone or writing many letters. You may also have volunteered to care for young people while their parents are busy. There are lessons to learn when one listens and today you may find messages of caring.



Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

In a crowded room or area today, you may get the feeling that you have to speak to impress others. Avoid being redundant on issues with which you may be insufficiently familiar. When you talk about more familiar subjects, put more emotion into your voice; this makes for much more convincing manner of speech. Today you may want to encourage others in developing some recycling habits—patience is a necessity. You could be in situations that would cause you to listen to complaints of the public or city workers. You are willing to listen to others, take cues, and then reflect and build upon that information. Others find you gentle, steady and kind. You have a listening attitude. Get-togethers with your friends later just make your day.



Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

You may have taken advantage of this day to really enjoy the out-of-doors at an early hour. Perhaps by swimming, walking or whatever else moves the blood along. You can really soak up the good energies before work this morning. You are also very communicative, by any means: talking, writing and broadcasting may be included today. Going beyond convention into whatever is new, exciting and spicy—you find happiness when you become caught up in the complexity of life. You naturally are a giving person, sacrificing your own interests for the sake of an inner vision. You may be rushing around this afternoon getting supplies needed for a neighborhood party this evening. You love a party and that is what you are planning for tonight.



Aquarius (January 20- February 18)

Your way of working today may be that you are working from home. It doesn't take long before you realize a command over temptation is important. People call, dogs bark and a mind can wander. After taking a break from reading you may decide working in an office has its benefits. An alarm will help when you are at home working; when the alarm goes off you could take some time for a little fun activity. Comedy magazines, hobbies and all sorts of self-motivated entertainment may keep you busy this afternoon. Of course, you would be happy to attend a party later today. A young child may need your help with a difficult classmate. If the problem is just a matter of words, suggest that the child consider using his or her sense of humor.



Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Busy, busy, busy, you could not be busier than if you were arranging for some dignity to come and make a speech, as well as celebrating a birthday party for your mom or some other family member at the same time. Pull in the favors today and work a trade as well... Much can be accomplished with many hands. Some sort of offer or interest in real estate may pique your curiosity for a short while today but you have little time for follow-through. Note taking may be in order, so keep pad and pen available. Fortunately, this is keeping you busy—as much as you want to tend to business, this is not the time to sign any deals, so to speak. Pat yourself on the back—you have accomplished much. Today is about growth, fun activities and a little insight.

Wordsearch Puzzle

Fish 1

Find the words hidden in the grid of letters.

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

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| BARRACUDA | GRUNT | SAUGER |
| BONEFISH | HALIBUT | SHARK |
| BULLHEAD | MUSKELLUNGE | SMELT |
| CATFISH | PARROTFISH | STURGEON |
| COD | PIKE | SWORDFISH |
| CRAPPIE | REDFISH | TRIPLETAIL |
| DOLLY VARDEN | SALMON | WARMOUTH |
| GAR | SAND DAB | |

Yesterday's Solution

World Currencies 3 - Solution

E	K	Q	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	R	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	P	A	H	A	U	O	A	A	S	R	L	A	T	K
U	L	F	O	R	I	N	T	K	C	P	A	K	I	I	I	N
A	R	T	R	O	A	L	A	S	I	R	J	R	P	N	M	A
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 | PATACA | ZLOTY |
| KORUNA | PESO | |

Daily SuDoku

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

Yesterday's Solution

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



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

SUDOKU

Solution

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



Color me!



Did you know?

- Olympic gold medals are actually made mostly of silver.
- Dimples on a golf ball help reduce drag, allowing the ball to fly further than a ball without dimples.
- Anaerobic exercise refers to high intensity activities over a short duration (e.g. sprinting) while aerobic exercise refers to physical activity performed at a moderate level over longer periods of time (e.g. jogging).
- Regular exercise helps boost the immune system.
- The string tension of most tennis racquets is around 50 to 70 pounds. With lower tension a tennis racquet produces less control and more power while higher tension produces more control and less power.
- The official distance of a marathon is 42.195 kilometers.
- The tallest basketball players to ever play in the NBA were Manute Bol (from Sudan) and Gheorghe Muresan (from Romania). They were both 7 ft 7 in tall.
- Common sports injuries include muscle cramps, muscle pulls, back strains, shin splints, tennis elbow (tendonitis), sprained ankles and plantar fasciitis (foot pain).
- The fastest recorded tennis serves are over 155 mph.
- Regulation Major League baseball's feature exactly 108 stitches.
- Snowboarders and ice skaters glide on a thin layer of water as their skates and boards heat the snow beneath them.
- Modern swimwear has developed to the point where the fabric and designs are actually faster through the water than human skin. Controversial neck to ankle suits have been one of the reasons behind the consistent breaking of world record times since they were introduced around the year 2000.
- Curling stones used in the Olympic sport of curling are made from granite.
- Astronaut Alan Shepard played golf on the Moon after he smuggled a golf ball and club on to the NASA Apollo 14 mission to the Moon in 1971.
- The diameter of a full sized basketball is half the diameter of a basketball hoop.

JOKES

Knock knock
Who's there?
Ice cream!
Ice cream who?
Ice cream if you don't let me in!

Knock knock
Who's there?
Cows!
Cows who?
Cows go 'moo' not who!

Knock knock
Who's there?
A titch!
A titch who?
Bless you!

ACTIVITY



Cute bunny puppet

What you need

- free bunny puppet template
- printer and paper (to print out bunny template)
- an old light-colored woolen sweater that has been felted in hot water so it won't unravel when cut.
- pink felt scraps for the ears
- wool roving or yarn to make pom pom tail
- embroidery or sewing thread for nose and eyes
- sewing needle
- scissors

Activity

- Using the bunny puppet template cut two pieces, aligning the ribbed edge of the sweater at the bottom to form the cuff of the puppet.
- Cut two ears out of the pink felt.
- Using your sewing machine zig zag (or hand stitch) around the edges of the puppet, leaving the bottom open where your hand will go.
- To shape the puppet's ears, fold the edges of the felt into the center and hand stitch to fasten. Do this for both ears.
- Either make a small pom pom with the yarn, or needle felt some roving to make a fluffy tail. Hand stitch onto the puppet.
- Use black thread to stitch on the bunny's eyes and nose where indicated on the template.
- All done! Enjoy your new bunny puppet.

RECIPES FOR KIDS



Rock melon and strawberry rockets

Ingredients:

- 4 bamboo skewers, halved
- 1kg rock melon, peeled, seeded
- 8 large strawberries
- 16 vanilla marshmallows

Method:

- Cut rock melon into eight 2cm x 8cm pieces. Trim 2 long sides of each piece to form a rocket tail shape.
- Thickly slice strawberries horizontally into three pieces.
- Using the picture as a guide, thread rock melon, strawberry pieces and marshmallows onto skewers to form a rocket ship. Serve.



DISNEY

THE QUIZ

- Who performs the voice-over of Dory the fish in Disney's Finding Nemo?
- In which Disney film will you hear the song 'You Can Fly'?
- Name the well known Disney pair, Woody and (whom)?
- Who played Mary Poppins in the Disney film?
- Which film will you hear 'Colours of the Wind' sung?
- What is Aladdin's main type of magical transport?
- 'Once Upon a Dream' is a song from which Disney film?
- Name the well known Disney pair, Chip and (whom)?
- What song contains the lyrics 'Up where they walk, up where they run, up where they spend all day in the sun'?
- Which film will you find the characters the Lost Boys?



ANSWERS

- Ellen De Generes
- Peter Pan
- Buzz Lightyear
- Julie Andrews
- Pocahontas
- Magic Carpet
- Sleeping Beauty
- Dale
- Part of Your World - The Little Mermaid
- Peter Pan



Steve Irwin's daughter Bindi pays tribute to her father

Steve Irwin's daughter Bindi has paid tribute to her father on her 18th birthday. The 'Dancing With The Stars' winner reached the milestone age yesterday and marked the occasion by sharing a baby picture of herself with her late dad and mother Terri, thanking her loved ones for her "unforgettable journey" so far. She wrote on Instagram: "Hello lovelies. Well today marks 18 years of life for me, here in Australia and I really don't know where to begin in thanking so many people for an unforgettable journey so far. So I think that I'll start here, with this photograph. "This photo was taken within the first year of my life. To be perfectly honest life has changed in a million ways since this photograph was taken. Along the way we gained another incredible part of our family, my brother Robert. "Our conservation work with Wildlife Warriors took off around the world. Our home, Australia Zoo continued to expand and has become the greatest zoological facility on planet earth.(sic)" Steve was famous for his show, 'The

Crocodile Hunter', and whilst filming for an ocean documentary in 2006, the 44-year-old conservationist was stung in the chest by a stingray barb, which killed him. Bindi, although only eight at the time, spoke at her father's funeral, and 10 years later she wrote of what a "superhero" he was to their family. She continued: "Our Dad, Mum's soulmate and a superhero for us all, passed away. However, since this photo was taken, 18 years ago, one life ingredient has remained, unchanged, unbreakable. That is the unconditional love that is shared between my beautiful little family and the loyalty we have to each other and everyone else who has taken this journey with us. "I don't think that when this photo was taken even my beautiful parents could have known what life would evolve. I know that I am endlessly grateful for the love and light I have been given since Day 1 of my life.(sic)"

Eva Longoria not changed by relationship

Eva Longoria insists marriage hasn't changed her relationship. The 41-year-old actress tied the knot with TV boss Jose 'Pepe' Baston in May but she doesn't think things feel any different because they were already "well established" as a couple. She said: "The truth is I feel the same. We've been together for three years and the wedding hasn't changed us much because we were already well established as a couple." The former 'Desperate Housewives' star is smitten with her spouse - who has three children from his first marriage - and learns a lot from him. She said: "He is a gentleman, very elegant... and I'm more casual. And he's an excellent father. "Every day gets better and I'm excited just thinking about the future." Eva - who has been married twice before - and Pepe are currently working hard renovating their new home in Hollywood. She told Britain's HELLO! magazine: "It is a lot of work for us. At the moment we're living in Mexico City, although I'm always travelling to Los Angeles." The brunette beauty has a hectic schedule in place, with her charity work, upcoming TV series 'Decline and Fall' and her debut clothing line, but she insists she isn't doing much planning for the future. She said: "I live in the moment. I don't think about the future that much. I'm focused on my husband, my family, my work and now on my new clothes line." Despite being close friends with Victoria Beckham, Eva hasn't asked her for help with her clothing line. Asked if she's got advice from her pal, she explained: "No, because these garments are very different to the ones she designs. Victoria is a genius, a one-off. I love her designs."



Kourtney Kardashian holidaying with Scott Disick

Kourtney Kardashian and Scott Disick have been holidaying together. The 'Keeping Up With The Kardashians' star has rented out a seven-bedroom house in Nantucket, Massachusetts, for all of July, and has been staying there with her and Scott's three children,



Mason, six, Penelope, four, and 19-month-old Reign. And despite splitting up with Scott last summer, she has allowed her ex to join in their summer fun. According to gossip website TMZ, the house rents out for \$6,600 a night, but Airbnb offered Kourtney a deal. Kourtney has been loving her time on the island just off Cape Cod and has been keeping her fans up-to-date with regular Instagram posts. As well as the stunning views and beaches, she posted an adorable picture of her and Penelope relaxing in their swimwear in the grounds of the house. This is not the first holiday Scott, 33, has joined Kourtney, 37, since they split. He recently joined the Kardashian family on their Cuba vacation and he admitted he was on his best behavior so he could impress his former love. He said on the show: "One of the biggest issues between Kourtney and I is me drinking. I get overly emotional when I drink and I just want her to see that I can keep it together." And his plan seemed to work as Kourtney was very impressed by Scott. Speaking to sister Kim Kardashian West, she revealed: "I'm really glad he came, he's been so good. He has been fine. I'm glad that he could be here. "It was a great decision to have Scott on the trip and it's great for him to know that he's always going to be a part of the family."

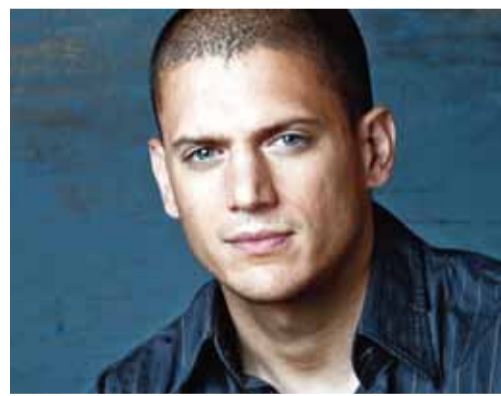
Dominic West to open a hotel

Dominic West is turning his Irish castle into a hotel. The 'Affair' actor and his wife Catherine Fitzgerald were devastated when they were forced to put Glin Castle - which has been in Catherine's family for 700 years - up for sale because of the cost of its upkeep. turn it into a boutique hotel. The 46-year-old star said: "Selling up was absolutely heart-breaking for all of us, especially my mother-in-law and my wife and luckily, we're reopening it as a hotel, all going well, sometime next year." The couple - who have three children, Dora, nine, Senan, seven, Francis, six, and Rose, two, together, as Dominic's 17-year-old daughter Martha, from a previous relationship - married at Glin Castle in 2010. But they were forced to put it on the market in April last year after Catherine's father, the 29th and last Knight of Glin, Desmond Fitzgerald, died in 2011. Before his death, Desmond attempted to turn the castle into a hotel in 2002, but failed and was forced to close it down seven years later due to the However, that has not put Dominic off and he is going to manage the hotel as much as he can. He told the Daily Mail newspaper: "I'm going to manage it. I want to be in charge or as much as my schedule will allow. Obviously there will be someone in place far more experienced and qualified than I coping with the day-to-day. But we want to be there. We're going to be heavily involved. That's why we're moving home to Ireland. "We spend a large amount of time there already. It is for all intents and purposes home for us."



Wentworth Miller is too old for stunts

Wentworth Miller has joked that he's too old to do his own stunts. The 44-year-old actor is reprising his role as Michael Scofield for a 'Prison Break' revival but he admits filming the action scenes is a lot harder now. He said: "[Stunts are] a lot different at 44 than they were at 34. I do what I can, but if I need my character to look cool and like he knows what he's doing and my stunt double can execute that better, then I'm happy to step aside. It's just in service of telling the best story possible." Wentworth was speaking at Comic-Con in San Diego and although he'd been at the event before, he admitted he doesn't remember it. He said: "[My co-star] Dominic [Purcell] tells me that we did a Prison Break [panel] at Comic-Con when the show was originally airing. I have no recollection of that, but I just trust that he's telling me the truth. "It's nice to be back, even though I don't remember what happened before. But it makes sense to me in a strange way that Prison Break is at Comic-Con, because it's got kind of a comic book element to it and always has, so in that way, it feels like a marriage." 'Prison Break' ran from 2005 to 2009.



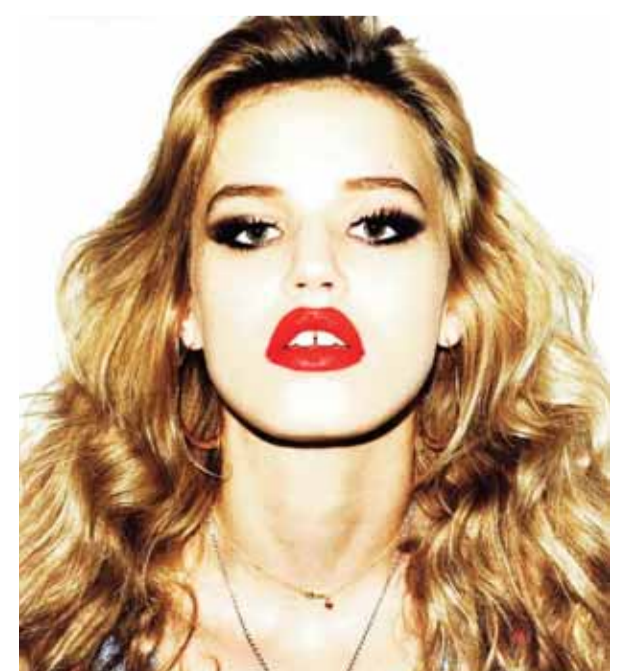
Joe Jonas : Demi Lovato is the 'best version of herself' right now

Joe Jonas says Demi Lovato is the "best version of herself" he's ever known her to be. The 26-year-old pop star dated the 'Cool for the Summer' singer in 2010, and following her battles with addictions and an eating disorder, Joe thinks Demi is currently in a very healthy frame of mind. Asked about his one-time lover and fellow former Disney star, Joe said: "She's the best version of herself I've ever known. She's healthy and that's obviously something a lot of the world knows now, but she's gotten over [the really hard part]. "I know a lot of friends who've gone through similar things and it's when you have to live with your new self for a few years - that comes with a lot of struggle. And being a pop star on top of that, that's a lot of pressure, but she's amazing at speaking truth to what she believes." Joe admitted he is envious of Demi's candid nature and her ability to be so accepting of herself. He told Billboard: "I wish I could have a bit more of that. Excuse my language, but she doesn't care. She goes out there and says, 'This is who I am.' Considering what we've all come from, it's not always easy. We feel like we have to be cautious." Joe's younger brother Nick, 23, is touring with Demi and he says it's "cool" to see how the two of them have grown up together. Asked if he's surprised they have remained so tight, Joe shared: "It's surprising just in the world we live in-it's tough to stay friends with people who are in the industry over this much time. But they are two of the closest. They've seen each other go through so much, personally and in their careers. "It's cool to see this bond now that they're adults. I think it's nice for an audience as well - they get to watch Nick and Demi grow up, not only together, but also musically."

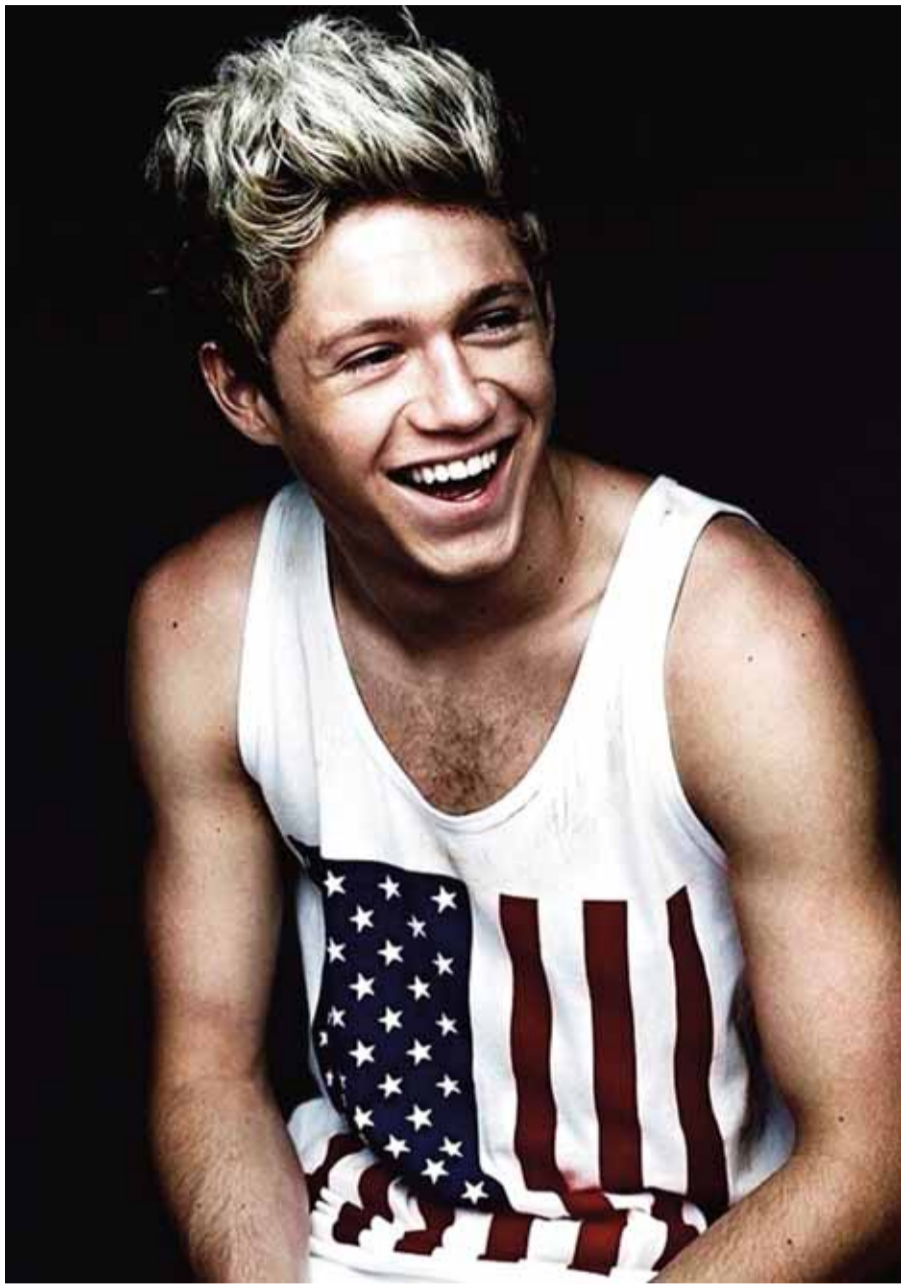
Georgia May Jagger steals from her mother's wardrobe

Georgia May Jagger admits she's stolen pieces from her mum's jewelry collection. The 24-year-old beauty - daughter of Rolling Stones legend Sir Mick Jagger and supermodel Jerry Hall - says she can't resist taking a few items from her mother because they're such great pieces. She said: "I have a lot of her costume jewelry from when she was modeling, like stuff from Chanel. It was funny because I asked her the other day, 'When you first worked for Chanel, who was the designer there?' She was like, 'Coco Chanel.' I was like, 'Oh my god, really?' It's quite amazing." Talking about her latest steal, she told InStyle: "They're like gold chains and, you know, big bangles. The '80s was kind of all about that big, chunky costume jewelry and I think that's going to come back." Georgia is currently

the face of Thomas Sabo jewelry and she says every girl should own a nice pair of earrings. When asked about essential pieces, she said: "I think a great pair of earrings like hoops or studs, and a cocktail ring, which is always nice for an evening." She added: "Choose something that isn't just a fad, something that you feel that you would wear all of the time that goes with your style. I kind of think that more is merrier, so I don't have a problem with wearing gold with silver, but some people prefer one or the other."



GOSSIP



Niall Horan's new house is haunted

Property previously owned by Hollywood star Gia Scala - whose 1972 death was attributed to an overdose, despite her bruised body being found on a blood-stained pillow - and a former resident believes the 'Guns of Navarone' actress' presence can still be detected there. Jack Krane, who grew up in the house, said: "I always asked if someone died in one of these houses, and my parents said no. 'I have always felt something strange. 'That house is haunted, for sure. I've had a few ghost stories over there. It's creepy.' The 22-year-old singer, who also owns a house in London, bought the five-bedroom, six-bathroom property last December but hasn't moved in yet as he's been having extensive renovations done. A source told The Sun newspaper: "Niall loves the house and his offer went through

at the end of last year. It's got everything he needs and isn't too flashy. 'The place is a construction site at the moment as he is having a lot of work done before he moves in.' While Niall will be able to relax in his new outdoor swimming pool and rooftop deck, he recently revealed his favorite way to de-stress is with a round of golf. He said: "I've got into it more over the past four or five years and appreciate it more. When I was on the road with One Direction it allowed me to escape the hotel for a few hours and relax. Harry [Styles] and I used to play a fair bit and travelling so much has allowed me to play some amazing courses all over the world. It's a great way to escape from everything for a few hours."

Benedict Cumberbatch inspired by fans

Benedict Cumberbatch finds his fans' devotion "overwhelming and utterly humbling". The 40-year-old actor was stunned to find a huge queue of people waiting overnight for his 'Doctor Strange' panel at San Diego Comic-Con and insisted on getting the chance to spend time with them because they are the reason he's in the position he is. He said: "I came out and saw this huge line of people and said, 'Is that for some event?' And they said, 'No, it's for what you're doing tomorrow.' I was like, 'How long have they been there? What? All day? In this heat? Have they got water?' And they said, 'Yeah some of them have, some of them haven't?' 'Are they going to be on the street tonight? Can I go and talk to them?' 'There were furtive looks between the security [and they said] 'We can make that happen if you really want to.' And I said 'Hell I do.' 'I want to meet the people who make this possible because it's all about them and their enthusiasm and their devotion, it's overwhelming and utterly humbling, whether they've come from miles [away] or put all that effort into cosplay, it's really inspiring and humbling

and reminds you what it's all about." The British star - who has a 13-month-old son, Christopher, with wife Sophie - plays neurosurgeon Stephen Strange, who develops into the titular superhero following a shocking accident, in the upcoming Marvel movie and while he was "hooked in" from the moment he was told about the role, he insisted on adding more humor to the script so that people would care more about his character. He explained to USA Today newspaper: "Once Scott [Derrickson, director] and Kevin [Feige, producer] explained what the full vision for the character was, I was completely hooked and I went through the script with them and said it was very important to bring a level of humor in, which wasn't there in the script or the comics. "Yes he takes himself seriously we need that for the fall he suffers which is major before his rise to becoming a superhero, but you've got to care about the guy, not just because he's having all kinds of trauma inflicted on him, but because he's fun."



Gwen Stefani planning Disney trip

Gwen Stefani is planning a trip to Walt Disney World. The 46-year-old singer - who has three children, Kingston, 10, Zuma, seven, and two-year-old Apollo, with ex-husband Gavin Rossdale - will be visiting the resort in Orlando, Florida, but doesn't have much time there so will only go to one park. Writing on Twitter she asked her followers: "What's the best park to go to at Disney world if U only have time for one? Gx (sic)" She was met with lots of responses and the majority suggested that she took her boys to the Magic Kingdom as they would all have a great time there. It is not known when Gwen intends to visit Disney World but some said that if she goes in the next few weeks, she might want to consider going to the water parks as it will be so hot. Gwen recently revealed how she worries about embarrassing her children so tries to think carefully about the things she is saying publicly. She said: "It's because I have children. As a famous person, you start to think, 'I can't say all that because I'll embarrass them or hurt them in some way.' And especially now because they can see everything and hear everything. But I've done nothing I'm ashamed of... Well, we all have a few things we're ashamed of." Following her divorce from Gavin, Gwen is now dating Blake Shelton and recently gushed about her new lover. She shared: "I'm our biggest fan. I actually feel like I'm not in my



own life, because I'm not. I'm in a different life all of a sudden. I'm so blessed and I feel like I believe in my path. Now there's all these miracles around me! Trust me, I still can't believe that happened and is still happening"

Lohan's accuses fiance of strangling her

Lindsay Lohan's front door was knocked down by police after she accused her fiance of "trying to kill her". Officers were called to the 30-year-old actress's London flat after concerned neighbors witnessed her suffer a meltdown on the balcony during a furious bust-up with her Russian lover Egor Tarabasov. In footage, which was taken by a neighbor and obtained by The Sun newspaper, the 'Mean Girls' star can be heard begging for help in the early hours of Saturday morning. Screaming her name and address across the street, she shouted: "Please please please. He

just strangled me. He almost killed me. Everybody will know. Get out of my house." She added: "Do it. I dare you again. You're crazy. You sick. You need help. It's my house get out of my house." Lindsay was also heard shouting to 22-year-old Egor, who was also near the balcony: "I'm done. I don't love you anymore. You tried to kill me. You're a psycho". Her screams were so loud that she woke up most of her street, prompting somebody to call the police. Officers arrived 10 minutes later and had to break down the door, but the flat was empty. A spokesman for the Met police said: "Officers attended and following concerns for the welfare of the occupants inside they forced entry into the address." There was no one inside but enquiries were made and the occupants were traced and found to be safe and well. "One neighbor, who did not want to be named, told The Sun: "I was about to pick up the phone and call the police but somebody else in the street had already beaten me to it. "She woke our whole house up with her screaming. I was really concerned about her safety - it sounded like she needed help. "Loads of police cars then arrived and the whole road was awake, looking out their windows to see what the commotion was. "We couldn't get back to sleep afterwards. It was such a fuss for what is normally a quiet area." Another resident of the street in upmarket Knightsbridge, said: "I thought maybe something serious had happened. The silence of night was broken with this dreadful shouting and swearing and crying. Dear me." The bust-up came just hours before Lindsay took to Instagram to accuse Egor of cheating on her with Russian prostitutes.



Aniston gives empowering speech to teenage girls

Jennifer Aniston worries she can't take the heartache she has suffered. The 47-year-old actress made the candid confession to a teenage fan at the Giffoni Film Festival in Italy, where she was reduced to tears after being asked if she ever woke up in the morning and didn't know who she was. Jennifer replied: "There are not enough fingers and toes in this entire room to count how many times that moment has happened to me. "We're all human beings at the end of the day, whether we're a waitress or a baker or a student or whatever we are, at the end of the day you kind of can hit walls and think I can't go any farther. Or this is too much. My heart can't take it or the pain is too great, or am I good enough? Will I survive? "And you just have to sort of somehow miraculously overcome. You just go, 'I can't, yes I can, yes you can.'" Meanwhile, the former 'Friends' star - who accepted a Lifetime Achievement award at the event, which is Europe's largest festival for children and teens - urged young people to take "social media breaks", suggesting society's obsession with image is detrimental to their general wellbeing. Jennifer told The Hollywood Reporter: "I think we need to empower women to not just be about dresses and beauty and selfies. We need to start having conversations and put our phones down and get out of social media, take social media brakes. "That's why we're not seeing the right stories being told because everyone is stuck in their phones." This comes shortly after the 'Cake' actress - who is married to Justin Theroux - slammed the way women are judged by society. She said earlier this month: "The objectification and scrutiny we put women through is absurd and disturbing."

Jamie Hince to move to Los Angeles

Kate Moss' estranged husband Jamie Hince is moving to Los Angeles. The Kills frontman - who reportedly split from the supermodel last year after four years of marriage - is keen for a fresh start and sees America as the perfect place to do that. He is quoted by the Daily Mail newspaper as saying: "My biggest dream is to buy a house in LA and live there, and now I'm going to. I'm not going to wait any longer as I already have a visa. "I've lived in England for so long that I want a change of scene. London's changed a lot over the past few years, it's lost its energy and soul." The 47-year-old rocker - who lived in Highgate, North London, with Kate and her 13-year-old daughter Lila Grace - also admitted he had made a "lot of mistakes" in the past. He said: "My wedding was the biggest party I've ever had. It was completely mad. "Obviously I've made a lot of mistakes, but I don't have a problem with that. "In a sense, I like making mistakes, because it allows you to experience things you wouldn't have experienced otherwise." Kate, 42, and Jamie married in July 2011 with a huge three-day party at her home in the Cotswolds. Their marriage was said to be on the rocks last summer as they were living separate lives, with Jamie

spending more and more time in the US. Although neither has confirmed the split, Kate is now dating aristocrat count Nikolai von Bismarck and divorce proceedings are reportedly going ahead.



Rihanna doesn't want fans to play 'Pokemon Go' during her concert



Rihanna doesn't want her fans to play 'Pokemon Go' at her concerts. The 28-year-old beauty performed at the Grand Stade in Lille, France on Saturday night and warned the crowd that she doesn't want them to be using their phones for texting their loved ones or playing the smash-hit Nintendo smartphone game. According to The Hollywood Reporter, she told the audience: "I don't want to see you texting your boyfriends or your girlfriends. I don't want to see you catching any Pokemons up in this bitch." And Rihanna's not the only celebrity not impressed with the new craze. Director Oliver Stone thinks the game is no laughing matter and considers the app to be an example of the new invasive levels undertaken by large corporations who are interested in mining the public's data. Speaking at the San Diego Comic-Con event to promote his forthcoming film 'Snowden' - which is about the NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden - Stone was asked what he thought the security concerns surrounding 'Pokemon Go' were, to which he replied: "It's not funny. What's happening is a new level of invasion. "The profits are enormous here for places like Google. They've invested a huge amount of money in data mining what you are buying, what you like, your behavior. It's what some people call surveillance capitalism." However, several stars are massive fans of the game including Justin Bieber, Chrissy Teigen and Lily Allen. — Bang Showbiz

FEATURES



File photo shows Drake performs at the FADER FORT Presented by Converse during the South by Southwest Music Festival, in Austin, Texas.

U2, Drake, Britney Spears to perform at iHeartRadio festival

U2, Drake, Britney Spears and Sting will perform at the 2016 iHeartRadio Music Festival in September. Sia, Billy Idol, Ariana Grande, Usher, Sam Hunt and Florida Georgia Line will also perform during the two-day event at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas on Sept 23-24, iHeartMedia announced yesterday. Tickets go on sale Saturday. Pitbull, Zedd, twenty one pilots, OneRepublic, Cage the Elephant and Tears for Fears will also perform on the main stage. The festival will also include its daytime performances, dubbed Daytime Village, at the Las Vegas Village. It will feature Sam Hunt, Panic! at the Disco, Alessia Cara, Troye Sivan, Hailee Steinfeld, Good Charlotte, Jeremih and Bryson Tiller. The CW Network will air a two-day televised special Oct 6-7. — AP



In this file photo Britney Spears performs at the Billboard Music Awards at the T-Mobile Arena, in Las Vegas. — AP photos

A guide for out-of-towners on top bagels and schmear



Sharelle Robbins tests a bagel before sliding it back in the oven atop a burlap-covered wooden plank at Kossar's Bagels and Bialys in New York.



Bagel maker Sam Ung rolls dough into a bagel in the basement of Ess-a-Bagel.



Baker Sharelle Robbins removes a pastry mat laden with egg bagels fresh from the oven at Kossar's Bagels and Bialys.

At street carts and bodegas, diners and supermarkets, nowhere is the bagel more ubiquitous than New York City. So exactly what makes a New York City bagel good and, more importantly, where can an eager out-of-towner find the best? A few ideas:

Black seed bagels

These 2-year-old entries are rolled by hand, boiled in honey water and baked in wood-fired ovens at three downtown Manhattan locations. They're smaller and flatter than many of the humongous, puffy bagels around today. Black Seed is the brain child of Noah Bernamoff, who hails from Montreal, and Matt Kliegman, a native New Yorker. The idea was to bring a touch of the Montreal bagel to New York. So what makes the Big Apple the bagel capital? "It's the millions of Jews that have lived and passed through the city and ultimately have taken its cultural foodstuffs to other parts of the country and the world," said Bernamoff.

There's no salt in their bagel dough, and using honey water instead of barley malt when kettle boiling is a Montreal tradition. And there's no yeast. Like other top shops, the bagels are all natural. Bernamoff considers 99 percent of the bagels in New York "poorly made," whipped up in large commissary factories in the outer boroughs. "They're not very fresh. It's round bread with barely a hole in the middle," he said. The two have tapped into that artisanal thing that's happening in foodie culture overall.

"A New York bagel purist may not appreciate our bagels," Bernamoff said. "Because they're baked in a wood-burning oven the exterior can be somewhat, not crispy but snappy, kind of burnished, so some people think the bagels are over-



Bagel maker Sharelle Robbins carefully places boiled bagels on burlap-covered wooden planks before placing them in the oven at Kossar's Bagels and Bialys in New York.



Korean tourist Marcus Choi holds his plain bagel with blueberry cream cheese at Ess-a-Bagel in New York.

baked, but they're not." If you're in search of a cinnamon raisin or a blueberry bagel, go elsewhere.

Ess-a-bagel

This business has been around for nearly 40 years but has only one location at the moment, in Midtown, though they're opening a second shop farther south on the East Side near their original spot close to Stuyvesant Town, said Melanie Frost, the chief operating officer. Her late aunt, teacher Florence Wilpon, co-founded Ess-A-Bagel after Florence's brother, Aaron Wenzelberg, lost his lease on a doughnut shop and needed a new venture. "She combed the papers and found a bagel shop and said, eh, bagels, doughnuts. They both have holes. We'll figure it out," Frost laughed.

Now, Frost and her mother, Muriel Frost, are in charge. Their workers also hand roll. The holes are small but the bagels are big. The large size is somewhat of an accident after the family found a baker who shared his recipe, Frost said. "They put them in the oven and for whatever reason they rose and became these huge bagels, but they worked," she said.

Are tourists bagel-schooled? "I think a lot of them don't necessarily understand the menu," she said. Like Black Seed and other hot bagel spots, lines in the mornings and on weekends can be long.

Kossar's bagels & bialys

Take a trip to the Lower East Side for a taste of 1800s Bialystok, Poland. The neighborhood is where people from the old country settled with their local bread, called a bialy and eaten at every meal. Bialys are bagel cousins, sort of, and this is one of the oldest bialy houses in the city. So what's the difference? A bagel contains malt or some form of sugar. Bialys have no sugar. Bagels are more dense and are boiled. Bialys go straight into the oven. Bialys are flatter and often topped with grated onions.

Kossar's does bagels, too, under the watchful eye of owners who bought the place in 2013. One, David Zablocki, is a classically trained French chef who went in search of an old-school baker when he was testing recipes. "A New York bagel is really a magical thing," he said, "partly because of the water and the mineral content we have in the water. It is also the fact that we have some of the oldest recipes. There was a bagel union up until 1973 here in New York. Those trade secrets were really passed down over and over and are still alive today."

Kossar's bagels are baked on burlap-covered wood planks that have been soaked through in water. Other makers do that, too, but some use stainless steel forms. Zablocki said the wood helps the bagels achieve a crispy bottom and nicely browned top. The shop, which still sells more bialys than bagels, is a stop on many guided bus tours. Sandwich options at Kossar's include an inverted grilled bagel stuffed with schmear with the insides out. Among his schmears is a cream cheese made with borscht.

Absolute bagels

These Upper West Side bagels consistently earn raves for owner Sam Thongkrieng. The 70-year-old arrived from



Ess-a-Bagel chief operating officer Melanie Frost discusses the finer points of a traditional bagel sandwich smeared with cream cheese, smoked salmon, red onion, lettuce, tomato, and capers at her family's midtown Manhattan bagel store.

Thailand in 1979 and soon sampled his first bagel. He remembers his order: a plain bagel, toasted, with butter. Thongkrieng, who had worked as a cook back home, trained at Ess-A-Bagel before opening Absolute. He had some stiff competition in the neighborhood from the well-established H&H Bagels, which closed in its original iteration back in 2012. Now, with other closings, he's got the territory pretty much to himself. This is a no-nonsense bagel environment. No small talk. You're in, you're out.

Thongkrieng said he considers his bagels, also hand rolled on site, softer and a tad crispier than other traditional fare. And he serves egg bagels, unlike other shops. In fact, they're one of his top sellers. "They taste like Chinese bun, sort of," he said.

By the way ...

Once the largest bagel maker in the city and among the largest in the world, making roughly 80,000 bagels a day and shipping around the globe, H&H Bagels closed amid a high-profile bankruptcy, tax case and jail sentence for owner Helmer Toro. Under different ownership, there's an H&H Midtown Bagels East at 1551 2nd Ave Zabar's, the gourmet goods, grocer, deli and food bazaar on Broadway at 80th Street, is on the tourist track and sells a heck of a lot of bagels, using a proprietary recipe general manager Scott Goldshine said was at least 30 years old.

"They come to us three-quarters baked according to our recipe and then we finish it over here," he said. Exactly where are Zabar's bagels made? It's one of NYC's biggest mysteries. Well, no more. Since 1998, they've been made in the Bronx - Hunts Point to be exact - by Davidovich Bakery, said Marc Fintz, the bakery's director of business development. Before that, H&H had the honors.

Another bagel entry has grabbed attention recently. It's a "rainbow" bagel made by The Bagel Shop in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, using swirls of dough dyed in bright Play-Doh colors - at \$3.95 a pop. The recommended schmear for what is billed as the world's most beautiful bagel? A super-sweet Funfetti cream cheese. — AP



Various bagel toppings, including cream cheeses and smoked fish choices, are displayed at Ess-as-Bagel in New York. — AP photos

Luminor 8 Days Set

For collectors and lovers of the pre-Vend me references, Officine Panerai presents a new set composed of two watches inspired by models created in 1996: a left-handed version of the Luminor black seal and a very rare Luminor daylight with a white dial and blue markers.

Officine Panerai continues looking into its own past to relate fascinating new stories to its enthusiastic collectors. A new Luminor 8 Days Set available in only 500 examples contains two watches inspired by models created in the pre-Vend me era, that is, that stage in the history of the brand running from 1993, the year of the first collection made for the public, and 1997, the year in which Panerai was acquired by Vend me, part of the Richemont Group. In those years, a very small number of watch was produced and they quickly became highly sought after in the collectors market. Notably, in 1996 Panerai made a few small series of watches commissioned by Sylvester Stallone.

The new Luminor 8 Days Set takes two models originally created for the American actor: a Luminor Black Seal, here presented for the first time in a left-handed version, and a Luminor Daylight with an original, extremely rare white dial with blue markers and numerals. The two watches are supplied in a box inspired by those used for vintage Luminor

watches, made of pear wood with a teak base and containing a model of the human torpedo (Siluro a Lenta Corsa slow speed torpedo), together with a rare publication about the military equipment of the special forces of the Royal Italian Navy, in which Panerai watches and instruments appear.

The Luminor Black Seal Left-Handed 8 Days is the version with the winding crown and the lever device protecting it on the left side of the case of the historic Luminor Black Seal. The tradition of making watches for left-handers had already been started by Panerai in the 1940s, when some models were made in this way to enable the watches to be worn on a frogman's right wrist, while the compass and depth gauge were worn on the left. The Luminor Case, 44 mm in diameter, is made of stainless steel coated with DLC (Diamond-Like Carbon). The Luminor Daylight 8 Days, the other watch in the Luminor 8 Days Set, is the reproduction of a model of 1996 of which only a very few examples exist.

The striking detail of the historic example, faithfully reproduced in the new model, is the white dial as in the Daylight models of the time on which, unusually, all the markers and the hands are an intense blue color. It is likely that this version was replaced after the delivery of the first prototypes, so

the few surviving examples have become extremely rare. The hands, including the small seconds hand at 9 o'clock, are blue, as are the large markers indicating the hours. In this model the case 44 mm in diameter is made of AISI316L stainless steel with a

polished finish, as is the winder-protecting device placed traditionally on the right side. In keeping with the dial the strap is blue alligator, and the steel tongue buckle is sewn-in, as in the vintage models.

The Luminor case of both watches of the



Luminor 8 Days Set (PAM00786) is closed by a screw back, engraved with the words Officine Panerai Firenze and the OP logo, and each of them has a hand-wound movement with a power reserve of at least eight days, stored in two spring barrels connected in series. The P5000 calibre, entirely made in the Panerai Manufacture in Neuchatel, recalls many of the historic characteristics of the calibres used in the watches at the time such as the hand winding and the long power reserve but it meets the standards of contemporary high quality watchmaking in the purest Panerai style, the structure of the movement being remarkably strong with its large bridges protecting the mechanism and the balance bridge with twin supports.

Both watches are water-resistant to 30 bar (equivalent to a depth of about 300 meters) and the special box in which they are supplied also includes a spare strap for each model and a screwdriver.

FEATURES



A Princess Awesome dress at co-owner Rebecca Melsky's home in Washington.

Photo shows details from Princess Awesome dresses at co-owner Rebecca Melsky's home.

Martine Zoer poses for a photo with her sons Tyler, 8, left, and Tristan, 5, as they wear and display some of the gender-neutral clothing she creates, in Mill Creek, Wash.

Breaking down the gender stereotypes in kids' clothing

Pink for girls. Truck motifs for boys. A growing number of parents want to get outside those parameters when it comes to dressing their kids. Kristin Higgins was adamant about not pushing "girly" stereotypes on her daughter, and painted her room in shades of green. Higgins later dressed her up in superhero costumes. But as her daughter got older, it took more work to locate items that broke the mold. For "Star Wars"-themed pajamas, she had to go to the boys' section.

"It's hard to find gender-neutral clothing," said Higgins, 35, of Little Rock, whose daughter is now 6. "I want her to just get up and put on the clothing without thinking of putting on a costume, an identity." Shopping for her 7-month-old son, Higgins finds clothes mainly have pictures like fire engines or sharks. What about cats, cupcakes or hearts, she wonders.

and jeans. Experts and parents also notice that some images like dinosaurs are popping up on girls' clothing under the Boden brand and others.

More has changed for girls' clothes than for boys, but the vast majority of children's clothing is still gender-specific, says Marshal Cohen, chief industry analyst at market research group NPD Group Inc. Martine Zoer, who founded Seattle-based Quirkie Kids because her sons wanted to wear pink, said that in response to her selling unisex shirts in that hue, she says she got emails saying "boys should not wear pink as it would turn them gay." A good portion of children's clothing buyers are grandparents who tend to embrace more traditional ideas, says Cohen, who doesn't expect large-scale change until the next generation starts having children.

'Pink-washing was widespread'

"Once we get past the cultural discussion, that's when you'll see the (major) brands step out," Cohen said. "No one wants to risk the chance of rocking the boat." Chris Guerin of Portland, Oregon, says teaching his mother-in-law to buy clothes that don't reinforce gender stereotypes is a work in progress. "When she goes shopping with Nana, she comes back with princess (outfits and tiaras)," Guerin says of his 3-year-old daughter. "We don't care for that. But it's hard to bring up the issue." The differences crystallized in the late 1980s, according to Jo B Paoletti, a professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland and author of "Pink and Blue: Telling the Girls from the Boys in America." Paoletti noticed it when buying clothing for her daughter, who was born in 1982, and her son, four years later. By the mid-1990s, "pink-washing was widespread," she said. Even disposable diapers came in blue and pink.



Photo shows Eva St Clair, left, and Rebecca Melsky pose for a portrait at Melsky's home in Washington. — AP photos



Photo shows Courtney Hartman shows off her basement silkscreen printer operation where she creates gender-neutral clothing, in Seattle.



Photo shows detail on a Princess Awesome dress at co-owner Rebecca Melsky's home.

For parents looking for clothes that defy gender norms, the options for back-to-school shopping are still limited - but they're growing. Some big retailers like Lands' End and Zara are making small changes to their offerings, while some frustrated parents have launched their own companies to make the items they wanted to find. "There is really a sharp divide between what is considered girls' stuff and what's considered boys' stuff," said Courtney Hartman. She started Seattle-based Jessy & Jack, a collection of unisex T-shirts for kids that have robots and dinosaurs, and Free to Be Kids, where a shirt with the slogan, "I'm a Cat Guy" comes in blue, gray and yellow.



Photo shows Tyler Zoer, 8, left, and his brother Tristan, 5, pose for a photo as they wear some of the gender-neutral clothing created by their mother, Martine Zoer, in Mill Creek, Wash.

'Future Astronaut'

Companies like Jessy & Jack and a collection called Princess Awesome, where dresses have trains and planes, are among nearly 20 online brands that formed a campaign called Clothes Without Limits last year that they're reprising for the back-to-school season. Still, many of the items are not cheap - T-shirts at \$20 can be pricey for growing kids. Bigger companies are offering some options, after similar shifts in the toy and bedding aisles to more neutral signs and products. Lands' End launched a line of science T-shirts two years ago after a customer complained on social media that there was only one version for boys.

As part of its new Cat & Jack brand of children's clothing that kids helped design, Target offers unisex-fit T-shirts online with slogans like, "Smart & Strong" and "Future Astronaut." And fast-fashion chain Zara launched a collection in March for teens and older called "Ungendered" under its TRF line, which focuses on basics like T-shirts, sweatshirts

In part, manufacturers and marketers wanted to boost sales to American couples having fewer kids, Paoletti said. She also reasoned that parents were rebelling against the more unisex fashions like corduroy pants they grew up with. But Paoletti said the change is harmful. "It encourages very young children - as young as 2 - to judge and interact with others in highly stereotyped ways," she said. "We know, based on nearly 50 years of social science research, that stereotyped thinking hurts all of us, whether we are dealing with racial, gender, or any other form of stereotype."

Macy's says kids' clothes are generally separated into boys' and girls' sections, but with an array of colors and styles in each. "A lot of kids' apparel today is active - sweatpants and sweatshirts, graphic Ts, etc. - and are inherently unisex," spokeswoman Holly Thomas said in an email. Stores like J.C. Penney and Nordstrom say they listen to shoppers, but aren't getting customer requests to blur the gender lines. Those behind the new brands say they're seeing the demand. Hartman said annual sales are pushing six-digit figures. Higgins recalled that when her daughter was in day care, she came home crying because some boys made fun of her navy blue sneakers, calling them "boy shoes." She often puts together kid outfits from thrift shops, and as she thumbs through the racks reminds her daughter: "There are no boy colors. There are no girl colors." — AP

El Corte Ingles teams up with Yalda Golsharifi to showcase their latest collections and Bespoke Services

El Corte Ingles, Spain's leading department store and the fourth-largest worldwide, is working with Kuwaiti social-media sensation Yalda Golsharifi, as she reviews and critiques the store's bespoke luxury services and exclusive designer collections in preparation for the arrival of GCC travellers for their summer holidays. At the forefront of the fashion industry for over 75 years, the retail giant continually redefines what an exceptional fashion destination is by taking the shopping experience to a whole new level with VIP services. Discerning international shoppers are guaranteed unique new looks for their wardrobes, thanks to El Corte Ingles' array of private labels such as Gloria Ortiz, Jorge Vazquez and Juano Oliva, which can be complemented with beautiful jewellery from Streets of Luxury, and the ability to personalise favourite bags with initials - Golsharifi was taken on an extensive journey of these offerings during her visit.

Upon arrival, Golsharifi was escorted to the luxurious Hotel Villa Magna, a stone's throw from El Corte Ingles, for a quick refresh from the flight. As she relaxed the hotel's concierge booked her appointment with El Corte Ingles' personal shoppers and arranged for her transfer. Spending an afternoon with shopping experts, she tried a selection of different outfits that were chosen based on a morphological analysis that identified her ideal colour palette and fashion cuts.

After choosing her personalised looks, Golsharifi visited a specialised beautician in the beauty area for a quick make-up tutorial that advised on the best colours for her skin tone, and which brush strokes would best highlight her unique features. She then stopped by the VIP Desk & Tourist Desk where an Arabic speaker was designated to assist her with a tax refund and deliver her 10% reward card. Speaking on her experience, Golsharifi said: "It felt incredibly personal, yet was extremely efficient, my personal shopper made it feel like nothing was too much trouble. Trying out a number of their luxury home brands,



with so many beautiful designs, it was just a pure pleasure, and is a true haven for fashion lovers."

Her husband, Hassan Al-Mosawi, soon followed in another transfer to receive his own personalised experience at Serrano 52MAN, El Corte Ingles' shopping destination dedicated to men. Working up an appetite, the couple then enjoyed a tantalising meal at El Corte Ingles' gastronomic zone, Gourmet Experience, laden with savoury local tapas and three Michelin-star-chef managed restaurants.

As for Al-Mosawi, he noted: "Men find it difficult to shop for themselves and in turn don't like to shop, I was surprised to find that I can get a personal shopper at

Serrano 52MAN and it was actually enjoyable. I didn't have to worry about trying on several items that won't suit me, in a very short time span I had everything I needed that fit perfectly and I felt happy about it, El Corte Ingles does cater to every customer's needs."

At the end of their journey, the couple flew home free of shopping baggage thanks to El Corte Ingles' hands-free shopping - which not only delivered the shoppers' purchases straight to their hotel, but also directly to their home in Kuwait.

In celebration of Eid with the Muslim community, El Corte Ingles team have incorporated Eid Mubarak across



all store displays and are offering exclusive promotions and gifts from renowned brands. The promotions are running in their stores in Madrif, Barcelona and Marbella, some of the brands include Armani, Dior, Givenchy and Jo Malone. Now, all shopping lovers can enjoy Yalda and Hassan's bespoke experience at El Corte Ingles this Eid. Whether looking for a shopping spree, a gourmet experience or simply a visit to an iconic store, El Corte Ingles boasts a memorable experience to suit every taste.



The Caracalla Dance Theatre performs during the Baalbek international festival in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, near the border with Syria. — AFP

Fans hunt real places in Japan featured in anime

Everyone's surprised that "Pokemon Go" is getting people out from behind their screens and out of the house. But Japanese animated creations have a much longer tradition of sending people on real-world adventures, although in a very different way. The settings of Japanese anime series are often closely based on real locations. Places like shrines and train stations featured in these cartoons are often hunted down by fans on visits called seichijunrei, which translates as "holy land pilgrimage." Local governments and businesses sometimes even promote the connections to well-known places, decorating train stations with characters or selling souvenirs at shrines.

But there's a more challenging version of the pursuit: a subculture of hobbyists who hunt for everyday streetscapes, shops and train stations reproduced in these cartoons in exquisite detail. Called butaitanbou, which translates as "scene hunting," it's not as simple as it might sound. Town and neighborhood names are often unmentioned or even changed in shows, so that's the first thing to figure out. Then, it's not just about identifying a big landmark, but finding specific, often very mundane places. Imagine that your own local dry cleaner and playground were featured in a cartoon and someone from out of town had to find them. "Butaitanbou implies that the hunter is doing his or her own location identification," says Michael Vito, an American who often visits Japan for anime tourism and who is one of the few English speakers who writes about the hobby. "To do butaitanbou is to be a pioneer of sorts."

'Love Live! School Idol Project'

Photos are taken of sites exactly as they appear in the show. "Butaitanbou generally requires composing and cropping photographs to precisely match the way they appear in the art," says Vito. The photos are then displayed next to corresponding screenshots in blog posts. An easy place to experience seichijunrei is Kanda Shrine. It's a short walk from the fan hub of Akihabara, where anime fans typically go on their first trip to Tokyo. A central setting for the anime "Love Live! School Idol Project," the shrine has capitalized on this connection with



Photo shows a visitor's notebook for fans of the anime series 'Tamako Market'.

various items for sale. Prayer plaques, which you'll see at other shrines illustrated with seasonal motifs or religious imagery, here have illustrations of characters. And fans don't settle for just that: Many add their own drawings to the blank side where people write their prayers.

Of course a location like that is so easy to find that it lacks the thrill of discovery. Vito says serious butaitanbou fans of that series visited the Akihabara locations mainly for the sake of completeness. What sparked more enthusiasm was an episode in the second season where characters take a spur-of-the-moment train trip to the shore town of Odawara in Kanagawa prefecture. "The trip to Odawara requires a much higher commitment and confers greater bragging rights," he says. Japan's other tourist capital, Kyoto, offers an example of how a very ordinary place can become an attraction. Demachi Masugata Shotengai is a traditional shopping street where locals go to the fishmonger, produce vendor or pharmacy, or eat at a neighborhood restaurant. But it's also the model for the shopping street that was the setting for "Tamako Market."

Real Kyoto locations

Three years after the series ended, fans still visit a fish shop there. A notebook is left outside for visitors to sign; they've filled 11 notebooks already. These notebooks are commonly installed near some significant location where fans can get a local to take custody of them. "The custodian and site are often a commercial business, like a cafe or shop, but shrines and other historic sites and even countryside train stations are known to lend a hand," says Vito. Voice actors and animators sometimes visit and leave an entry, and these pages get marked for visitors to find.

Even fantasy series are often set in precise real locations. Kyoto is also the setting for "Uchoten Kazoku" (released in English as "The Eccentric Family"), about a family of mythological shape-shifting animals called tanuki. Their fantastic escapades are set in real Kyoto locations, and fans may visit the shrine where they lived in their animal form and a billiard parlor they frequented when disguised as humans. One episode included a surreal fantasy trip on a car from the Eizan Electric Railway, which in real life regularly does tie-ins with anime series, and at one point used the characters on signs reminding riders to watch the closing doors.

Despite the rise in overseas visitors to Japan and increased access to translated anime online, English-language material about visiting anime locations is scarce. One place to start is Vito's blog, where he writes about current series and reports on discoveries from butaitanbou pioneers. Another blog, by Mike Hattsu - includes maps for locations he's visited, along with screenshots and photos. If you want to try to delve into Japanese language blogs, Vito recommends starting with the Butaitanbou Archive. You can usually find the Japanese name of a series in its English Wikipedia entry, which you can paste into the search box.

Warning: If you've got the slightest interest in Japan and animation, you may find yourself sucked into hours of looking at photos - even if you aren't planning a trip.



Photo shows a visitor's notebook for fans of the anime series 'Tamako Market' at the Demachi Masugata Shotengai in Kyoto.



Photo shows fan art from the anime series 'Tamako Market' at the Demachi Masugata Shotengai in Kyoto, Japan.



This photo shows characters from the anime series 'The Eccentric Family' on a sign from an Eizan Electric Railway train in Kyoto, Japan. — AP photos



Photo taken at Kanda Shrine in Tokyo shows anime-related items for sale at the shrine, a setting for the series 'Love Live! School Idol Project'.



Photo taken at Kanda Shrine in Tokyo shows prayer plaques decorated with anime fan art at the shrine, a setting for the series 'Love Live! School Idol Project'.



Photos shows fan art from the anime series 'Tamako Market' on a blackboard at the Demachi Masugata Shotengai in Kyoto, Japan.